

# Cycle Hertfordshire's Countryside



## A Circular Ride in Dacorum from Kings Langley visiting Felden, Bovington and Flaunden



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

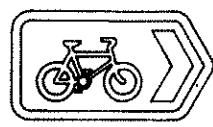


### ROUTE DESCRIPTION

By picking up this leaflet you can now plan an enjoyable day out discovering the hidden delights of just some of Hertfordshire's countryside which can only be fully appreciated in the open air. What better way than to enjoy it than by bicycle. This is one of a series of countryside rides starting in towns and large villages across Hertfordshire taking you into quiet villages and along country lanes.

This ride starts in Kings Langley taking you up a steady climb onto the edge of the rolling Chilterns. You will ride past farms and then up into the quiet villages steeped in centuries of history. You can begin your ride at any points of the route following the waymark signs. This ride can be comfortably completed within half a day but does include some steep climbs in places. The ride covers a distance of about 13 miles all of which is based on tarmac roads. Certain sections of the route may be busy at times, so extra care should be taken. Please read this leaflet before starting your ride and follow the safety tips below.

### WAYMARKING



The route is designed to be ridden in an anti-clockwise direction, making the majority of the turns left turns, thus your journey will be a little safer. The waymarking is positioned to guide you around the route in the same anti-clockwise direction. The signs to look for and follow are displayed above.

### SAFETY

- This is not an off road route - you will meet cars and other vehicles on these roads during your trip.
- Wear a safety helmet.
- Ensure your bike is safe to ride.
- After dark you are required by law to display working lights.
- Wear brightly coloured clothes with reflective material.
- Treat pedestrians and horses with the respect you expect to get from car drivers.
- Get a bell and use it to warn others of your approach.
- Always ride in single file when roads are narrow or busy, and never more than two abreast.
- Always follow the advice for cyclists given in the Highway Code.

### A SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

All of the ride in this leaflet is based on existing tarmac roads. You will pass many Rights of Way along the route signposted from the road. If you do deviate from the route in this leaflet please observe the following:

- Byways open to all traffic (BOAT) open to cyclists, walkers and motor vehicles.
- Roads used as public paths (RUPP) open to cyclists, horses, walkers and possibly motor vehicles.
- Bridleways open to walkers, horses and cyclists.
- Footpaths open to walkers only.

Remember without specific permission you cannot legally cycle on a footpath. On other rights of way it is good practice to give others warning of your approach e.g. a bell or a spoken warning. In addition you have to give way to walkers and horse riders. A horse cannot recognise a bicycle and may view the cyclist as a predator and be startled, endangering the horserider and cyclist.

### OTHER CYCLE RIDES

In addition to this ride there are many other similar circular rides across Hertfordshire. For details of other leaflets please contact the Countryside Management Service on (01727)848168. If you have enjoyed this route why not plan your own ride using an Ordnance Survey 'Pathfinder' or Landranger map (no. 166 and 165). It's a great way of visiting the countryside. For information on further sport and recreation opportunities in Dacorum contact the Borough Council's Community and Leisure Department on (01442) 228497.

### THE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Countryside Management Service works throughout Hertfordshire and north London to enhance and promote the enjoyment of the countryside. We provide practical assistance from pond clearance to woodland work and we offer grant aid and advice from tree and hedge planting to pond restoration. We increase opportunities for informal recreation including self-guided trails and a guided walks programme. The service is sponsored by Hertfordshire County Council, District and Borough Councils and the London Borough of Barnet. For further information please contact; Countryside Management Service Old Nursery Site Hixberry Lane St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0TZ Tel: (01727) 848168

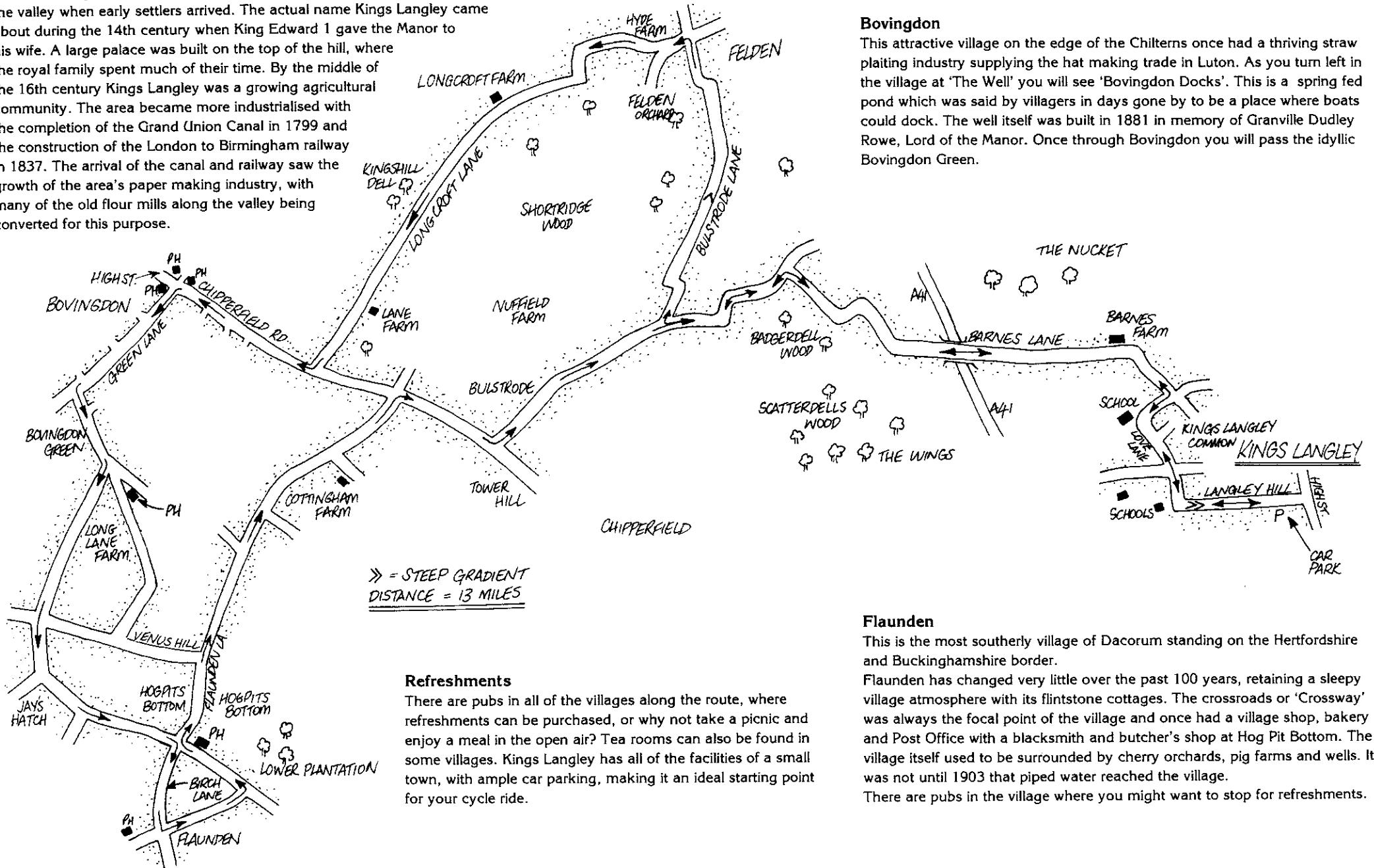
### PARTNERS

This cycle ride and leaflet has been produced with the support of Hertfordshire County Council's Environment Department, Dacorum Borough Council and with the kind assistance of Hertfordshire Wheelers, the Cyclists Touring Club, and local parish and town councils.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Kings Langley

The largest village in Dacorum, Kings Langley's name is thought to derive from the word 'Langelei' meaning long clearing in the thick woods that covered all of the valley when early settlers arrived. The actual name Kings Langley came about during the 14th century when King Edward 1 gave the Manor to his wife. A large palace was built on the top of the hill, where the royal family spent much of their time. By the middle of the 16th century Kings Langley was a growing agricultural community. The area became more industrialised with the completion of the Grand Union Canal in 1799 and the construction of the London to Birmingham railway in 1837. The arrival of the canal and railway saw the growth of the area's paper making industry, with many of the old flour mills along the valley being converted for this purpose.



» = STEEP GRADIENT  
 DISTANCE = 13 MILES

### Refreshments

There are pubs in all of the villages along the route, where refreshments can be purchased, or why not take a picnic and enjoy a meal in the open air? Tea rooms can also be found in some villages. Kings Langley has all of the facilities of a small town, with ample car parking, making it an ideal starting point for your cycle ride.

### FelDEN

Originally a small agricultural hamlet FelDEN rapidly expanded after the coming of the railway to Hemel Hempstead in July 1837 when houses were built for the first railway commuters. London business men were offered the inducement of a year of first class travel to move to the area.

### Bovingdon

This attractive village on the edge of the Chilterns once had a thriving straw plaiting industry supplying the hat making trade in Luton. As you turn left in the village at 'The Well' you will see 'Bovingdon Docks'. This is a spring fed pond which was said by villagers in days gone by to be a place where boats could dock. The well itself was built in 1881 in memory of Granville Dudley Rowe, Lord of the Manor. Once through Bovingdon you will pass the idyllic Bovingdon Green.

### Flaunden

This is the most southerly village of Dacorum standing on the Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire border. Flaunden has changed very little over the past 100 years, retaining a sleepy village atmosphere with its flintstone cottages. The crossroads or 'Crossway' was always the focal point of the village and once had a village shop, bakery and Post Office with a blacksmith and butcher's shop at Hog Pit Bottom. The village itself used to be surrounded by cherry orchards, pig farms and wells. It was not until 1903 that piped water reached the village. There are pubs in the village where you might want to stop for refreshments.