

A SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The ride in this leaflet is based on tarmac roads and the Nicky Line footpath and cycle way. Along the route you will pass many Rights of Way, signposted from the road. If you do deviate from the route in this leaflet please observe the following:

- Byways open to all traffic (BOAT) are open to cyclists, walkers and motor vehicles
- Roads used as public paths (RUPP) are open to cyclists, horses, walkers and possibly motor vehicles
- Bridleways are open to walkers, horses and cyclists
- Footpaths are 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 spoken word. 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 threat 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 ride why not plan your own using an Ordnance Survey 'Pathfinder' or Landranger map (No.166)? Its a great way of visiting the countryside.

THE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Countryside Management Service works throughout Hertfordshire and London to promote and enhance the enjoyment of the countryside. We provide practical assistance from pond clearance to woodland work and we offer grant aid and advice from tree planting to pond restoration. We increase opportunities for informal recreation including self-guided trails and guided walks. 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, St. Albans City and District Council and with the kind assistance of the Cyclists Touring Club, Hertfordshire Wheelers and local parish and town councils.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

This is one of a series of countryside cycle rides starting in towns and large villages across Hertfordshire. This ride starts in Redbourn where car parking can be found on Redbourn Common. Leaving Redbourn, the ride will take you into the open countryside and onto Redbournbury. **Please read the advice on reaching Redbournbury as you will need to dismount and walk for a small distance along the footway next to the A5183.**

From Redbournbury you will cycle along quiet lanes towards the edges of Harpenden. **Take extra care when turning right from Wheathampstead Road into Leasey Bridge Lane - less experienced cyclists may wish to dismount on the verge before crossing.** When leaving the disused railway line into Crabtree Lane you will need to dismount and lift your bicycle over a low bridge parapet before joining residential streets. Take care cycling in Harpenden as some roads may be busy. The Nicky Line footpath and cycleway provides pleasant car free stretches back towards Redbourn, where again care should be taken on busier road sections. The route covers a distance of **15 miles (24 Km)** based on tarmac roads and the Nicky Line. Please read this leaflet carefully before starting your ride noting in particular details on safety advice. It is advisable to use an Ordnance Survey Landranger map (no.166) to make the most of your cycle ride.

WAYMARKING

Signs like this on the right are positioned to guide you round the route in an anti-clockwise direction. This will make the majority of the turns left turns, this means your journey will be a little safer.



SAFETY

- This is not an off road route, you will meet cars and other vehicles on the road 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. We recommend you cycle this route in daylight
- 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 warn others of your approach
- Always ride in single file on roads which are narrow or busy, and never more than two abreast
- Always follow the advice for cyclists given in the Highway Code.

A circular cycle ride from Redbourn visiting Redbournbury, Harpenden and the Nicky Line



Cycle Hertfordshire's Countryside



POINTS OF INTEREST

Refreshments

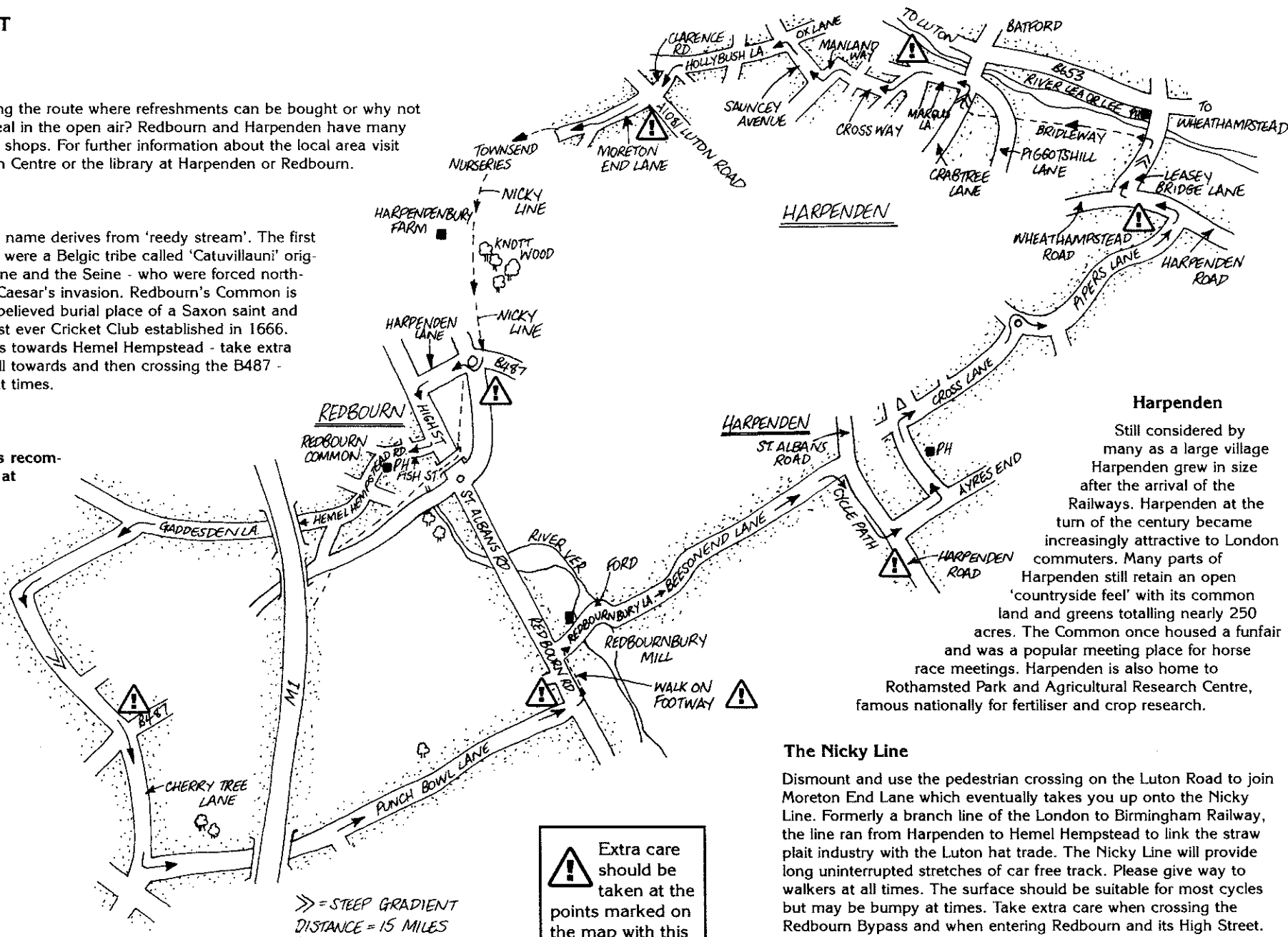
There are plenty of pubs along the route where refreshments can be bought or why not take a picnic and enjoy a meal in the open air? Redbourn and Harpenden have many facilities including banks and shops. For further information about the local area visit St. Albans Tourist Information Centre or the library at Harpenden or Redbourn.

Redbourn

It is believed that Redbourn's name derives from 'reedy stream'. The first settlers to arrive in Redbourn were a Belgic tribe called 'Catuvillauni' originating from between the Rhine and the Seine - who were forced northwards from St. Albans after Caesar's invasion. Redbourn's Common is steeped in history being the believed burial place of a Saxon saint and the home of the country's first ever Cricket Club established in 1666. The ride takes you westwards towards Hemel Hempstead - take extra care when descending the hill towards and then crossing the B487 - this junction does get busy at times.

Redbournbury

To get to Redbournbury it is recommended that you dismount at the junction of Punchbowl Lane, cross the A5183 to the opposite footway, and walk upto Redbournbury Lane. Remember it is against the law to cycle on any footway. Take extra care when crossing as this is a fast section of road. Redbournbury's original water mill is included in the Domesday Book. The mill which you see today has been recently restored to full working order by its owners. Refreshments are available during the summer when the mill is open with displays and exhibition areas. As you cross the bridge over the mill stream notice the 'spiling' carried out by the Countryside Management Service in 1995. This is an ancient form of bank stabilisation using poles cut from willows on the River bank. You will need to dismount to cross the narrow footbridges across the fords of the River Ver.



Harpenden

Still considered by many as a large village Harpenden grew in size after the arrival of the Railways. Harpenden at the turn of the century became increasingly attractive to London commuters. Many parts of Harpenden still retain an open 'countryside feel' with its common land and greens totalling nearly 250 acres. The Common once housed a funfair and was a popular meeting place for horse race meetings. Harpenden is also home to Rothamsted Park and Agricultural Research Centre, famous nationally for fertiliser and crop research.

The Nicky Line

Dismount and use the pedestrian crossing on the Luton Road to join Moreton End Lane which eventually takes you up onto the Nicky Line. Formerly a branch line of the London to Birmingham Railway, the line ran from Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead to link the straw plait industry with the Luton hat trade. The Nicky Line will provide long uninterrupted stretches of car free track. Please give way to walkers at all times. The surface should be suitable for most cycles but may be bumpy at times. Take extra care when crossing the Redbourn Bypass and when entering Redbourn and its High Street.