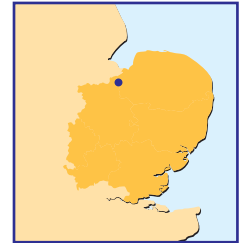


# CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



**Starting point:** Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

**Distance:** 13 miles/21 km (or with short cut 11 miles/18 km)

**Type of route:** Day ride - easy, circular; on roads

## APPLES AND ALE

This cycle ride starts from the busy market town of Wisbech, the capital of the surrounding Fens. From here the route heads west into rich farmland, past waterways, ancient sea banks and tiny Fenland villages, which are surrounded by hundreds of acres of orchards. In springtime these are enriched with the colour and scent of blossom, and in autumn, by delicious fruit. Along this route you can wander amongst the 100 year old apple trees in an old orchard, discover the treasures of ancient churches and taste the real ales at a Georgian brewery.



North Brink, Wisbech

### Essential information

**Starting point:** Wisbech - Bridge Street, beside Clarkson Memorial.

**Car parking:** Wisbech - Church Terrace (free); Somers Road (free).

**Nearest railway station:** March (10 miles south of Wisbech).

**Type of route:** Day ride - easy, circular; on roads.

**Summary of route:** Wisbech - Elgood's Brewery and Garden - Fenland Orchards - Willcock's Farm Orchards (Wisbech St. Mary) - Wisbech St. Mary - Gorefield - Fitton End - Leverington - Wisbech.

**Distance:** 13 miles/21 km.

**Short cut:** From North Brink (Wisbech), north along unclassified road to Wisbech St. Mary, 1 1/2 miles (2 km). Total route with short cut, 11 miles (18 km).

**Terrain:** Flat - no hills. Lowest point - 7 feet (2 metres) at various points along route. Highest point - 16 feet (5 metres) at Wisbech.

**Cycle repair:** Wisbech - The Bike Shop, 5 Market Street (01945) 589509; Discount Cycles and Repairs, 115 Norfolk Street (01945) 474635.

**Ordnance Survey map area:** Landranger 143 - Ely & Wisbech.

**National Cycle Network links:** Route 1. This ride follows the NCN from Fitton End to Wisbech.

### Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

	Cycle Parking
	Places of Interest
	Refreshments
	Children Welcome
	Picnic Site
	Shop
	Toilets
	Tourist Information
	Caution/Take care
	Left Turn
	Right Turn
	T-junction
	Straight Across/Ahead
	Cross roads
	Sign-posted
	Not Sign-posted



The Crescent, Wisbech

## Points of Interest (listed as you would find them along the route)

Please note: within this map there is only room to list basic details regarding opening times. In this respect, if you are planning to visit any of the places of interest on this route, we advise you to telephone in advance to confirm exact opening days and times. Refreshment establishments listed on this map are just a small selection of those available. For further information, please contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre.

**A Wisbech** - Georgian market town, with some of the finest street architecture in Britain. The town grew up around its port, trading from medieval times, and now stands at the heart of a fruit and flower growing area.

Market - Thurs and Sat. 🗺️

🚲 Bridge Street (outside Tourist Information Centre); Market Place; Old Market.

🏰 **All Saints Church** (11/4 miles north east of Bridge Street, at Walsoken) - late Norman/Early English, with parts dating back before 1146. Hammerbeam roof, carved stalls and 450 year old Seven Sacraments font.

**The Crescent and the Castle** - the foundations of a Norman castle lie beneath today's Regency Villa (built 1816). Two wings of Georgian houses follow the circular shape of the castle moat. *Open selected dates throughout the year.*

**Church of St. Peter and St. Paul** (Church Terrace) - parts date from the late 12th C. Features include a double nave, separate tower (c.1520) and Victorian glass. Annual Rose Fair.

**Clarkson Memorial** (junction of Bridge/High Street) - memorial commemorating Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846), pioneer in the fight against slavery.

**Fenland and West Norfolk Aviation Museum** (21/4 miles north east of Bridge Street, along B198) - aircraft, aviation artefacts and memorabilia. Open Mar-Oct. Admission charge. (01945) 461771. 🗺️

**Lilian Ream Photographic Gallery** (Tourist Information Centre, Bridge Street) - story of town (until 1960's) through photographic collection. Open all year. Admission free. (01945) 583263.

**Octavia Hill Birthplace House** (South Brink) - life and work of social reformer and co-founder of The National Trust. Open Mar-Oct. Admission charge. (01945) 476358.



*Octavia Hill Birthplace House, Wisbech*

**Peckover House and Garden** (North Brink) - Georgian merchant's house built 1722. Fine panelled rooms and outstanding Victorian garden with roses, summerhouses and orangery. The National Trust. Open Apr-Oct. Admission charge. (01945) 583463. ✖️

**Wisbech and Fenland Museum** (Museum Square) - local history and art. Original manuscript of Dickens' 'Great Expectations'. Open all year. Admission free. (01945) 583817. 🗺️

✖️ Wide selection throughout town.

🗺️ Horsefair; Church Terrace; Exchange Square.

🗺️ 2-3 Bridge Street (01945) 583263. Open all year.

**B Just off the route** - West Walton (3 miles north of Wisbech, via National Cycle Network Route 1). 'Marshland' village which developed around the ancient sea wall. 🗺️

🏰 **St. Mary's Church** - one of the finest Early English churches, built around 1240. Superb detached tower, wall paintings and hammerbeam roof.

✖️ **The King of Hearts** (01945) 584785. 🗺️

**C Elgood's Brewery and Garden** - classic Georgian brewery dominating the southern end of North Brink. It has stood almost unchanged for more than 200 years. The present owners, the Elgood family, mashed their first brew here in 1878 and have continued to produce fine traditional ales. Guided tours and tastings. Adjacent is a 4 acre garden with unusual trees and maze. Open May-Sept. Admission charge. (01945) 583160. ✖️



*Elgood's Brewery and Garden*

**D Fenland Orchards** - the Fenland District covers about 50,000 hectares of the most productive soil in the country, which has resulted from the continued drainage of The Fens by man. Most of this rich, dark peat is used for farming, to grow cereals, root crops, vegetables, plants, flowers and, of course, fruit. The orchards are particularly noted for Bramley apples and soft fruit such as strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. During certain times of the year, some of the fruit farms are open to the public or offer roadside stalls selling fresh produce.

**E Willock's Farm Orchards** (Wisbech St. Mary) - 22 acres of old orchard, containing at least twenty traditional Fenland varieties. Waymarked walks guide you around the site. Open all year. Admission free.

**F Wisbech St. Mary** - large village surrounded by apple orchards. 🗺️

🏰 **St. Mary's Church** - 14/15th C. with a wealth of fittings, mainly in the baroque taste or foreign. Also various artefacts collected by a former pastor.

✖️ **The Bridge Inn** (01945) 410555. 🗺️

**The Railway Bell** (01945) 410073. 🗺️

**The Wheel Inn** (01945) 410504. 🗺️

**G Gorefield** - agricultural village. Nearby is an ancient watercourse known as 'Bones Gote'. 🗺️

🏰 **St. Paul's Church** - built (c.1870) of flint and stone in Early English style. Painted walls and ceiling. Embroidered banners. Attractive churchyard.

✖️ **Woodman's Cottage** (01945) 870669. 🗺️

**H Fitton End** - scattered hamlet with an attractive old hall.

**I Leverington** - pretty village set in the middle of hundreds of acres of orchards. 17/18th C. houses and red brick Elizabethan hall. A restored dovecote stands in the grounds of Beechwood. The old sea bank can be seen. 🗺️

🏰 **Park House** - mixing both Tudor and Georgian architecture, this house sits in parkland. It is reputed that Oliver Goldsmith wrote 'She Stoops to Conquer' here. *Not open to the public.*

**St. Leonard's Church** - impressive tower (with later spire), dating from about 1250. Two-storey decorated south porch and renowned 15th C. stained glass Jesse Window.

✖️ **The Rising Sun** (01945) 583754. 🗺️

# ROUTE DIRECTIONS

**STARTING POINT:** Wisbech (Bridge Street, beside Clarkson Memorial).

- A** Wisbech - Georgian market town. 🚲 🏠 ✂ 🗺 📶 📱
- B** Just off the route - West Walton (3 miles north of Wisbech, via National Cycle Network Route 1). 'Marshland' village. 🏠 ✂ 🗺

**1** For the first part of this route, we suggest you walk with your cycle. From the memorial, cross over the road using the pedestrian crossing, then go over the river bridge. On the other side, turn immediately L into North Brink, SP 'Peckover House and North Brink'. You can now start to cycle. This street (and South Brink opposite) has superb examples of Georgian architecture. It was in the 18th C. that wealthy merchants and warehouse owners built their rows of elegant houses alongside the banks (Brinks) of the River Nene.

**2** Bear L (NS). Then after a short distance, turn L again remaining on North Brink (NS).

**C** Elgood's Brewery and Garden - 200 year old brewery. 🏠

**3** Remain on the road out of Wisbech, passing Cox's Lane, Mile Tree Lane and Lords Lane (all on your R). On your L is the embankment of the River Nene.



**G** Gorefield - ancient watercourse. 🏠 ✂ 🗺

**12** Turn L onto High Road (NS).

**13** Turn R onto Gote Lane, SP 'Newton 2 1/2'.

**14** Turn R onto Fitton End Road, SP 'Newton 2'.

**H** Fitton End - scattered hamlet

**15** Turn R, SP 'Leverington 1 1/4, Wisbech 3'. To your L is the ancient sea bank.

**I** Leverington - 17/18th C. houses and Elizabethan hall. 🏠 ✂ 🗺

**16** At the T-j beside the church, go SA, SP 'Wisbech 13/4'.

**17** Turn L onto the B1169, SP 'Wisbech'. ⚠

**18** Just before the T-j and traffic lights with the A1101, turn R onto Pickards Way. Watch out for traffic joining the B1169 from the A1101. ⚠

**19** Turn R onto Harecroft Road (B1122). ⚠

**20** Follow the road around the corner into Chapel Road.

**21** Turn R into the Old Market Place. Until the 13th C. this was the trading centre for local farmers (and their produce). It contained banks, implement and seed shops. ⚠

**22** Bear L back across the bridge to the memorial. You may wish to dismount and walk the final stretch using the pedestrian crossing.



Peckover House and Garden, Wisbech

**Short cut** (1 1/2 miles). Total route with short cut - 11 miles. 1 1/4 miles after passing Elgood's Brewery, turn R onto Lords Lane (NS). 1/2 mile later, turn L onto Cross Lane. When you reach the T-j, turn R onto Bevis Lane (NS). Follow this to Wisbech St. Mary (see 'F Wisbech St. Mary' for information), where at the staggered X-roads, go SA onto Station Road, SP 'Gorefield, Leverington and Parson Drove'. Please now continue from 'direction 9'.

**4** Turn R onto Bevis Lane (NS). At this junction there is a red post box.

**D** Fenland Orchards - apples and soft fruit.

**5** Turn L along New Drove (NS).



Elgood's Brewery and Garden

**6** Turn R in front of the bungalow along Rummers Lane (NS).

**E** Willcock's Farm Orchards (Wisbech St. Mary) - traditional Fenland varieties. Waymarked walks. 🏠

**7** Turn R, SP 'Wisbech 4'. ⚠

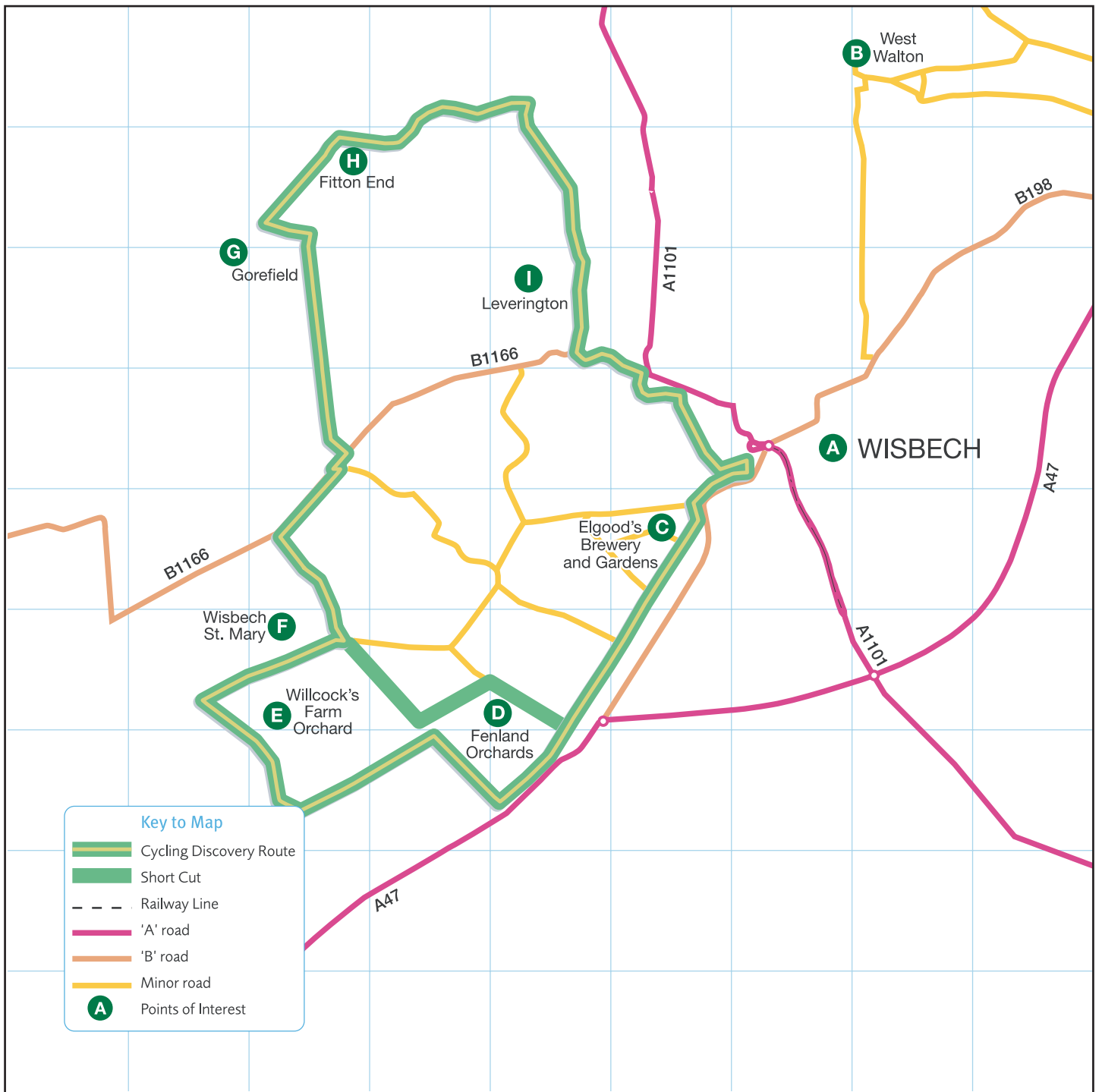
**F** Wisbech St. Mary - large village. 🏠 ✂ 🗺

**8** At the staggered X-roads (just past The Wheel Inn), turn L onto Station Road, SP 'Gorefield, Leverington and Parson Drove'.

**9** Just before the T-j with the B1169, turn R onto Garden Lane. This runs directly parallel to the B1169, with a dyke separating the two roads.

**10** Turn L onto Panswell Lane (NS). Immediately you come to the T-j with the B1169, where you turn R, SP 'Wisbech 2, Leverington 1 1/2'. ⚠

**11** Turn L onto Wolf Lane, SP 'Gorefield'.



The Map shown in this route provides just a general outline - In this respect, we recommend that you purchase the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map which covers the area. Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 143 - Ely & Wisbech. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.

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