

Ride 2

Cyclist comment: This route includes a few short sections of cross-field BW. The cross field sections at point 6 can be missed by turning right on the road at 5 and then left (signed Sharnbrook) to regain the route at the next bend (7).

KEYSOE and RISELEY

Approx. length 11½ miles (with options to shorten; can be extended by using Rides 1 or 3, or both)

Ride described clockwise, as this provides best canter opportunities, but can be ridden either way. This ride is mostly on field headlands and farm tracks with several grassy canters. The route has about 1½ miles of roadwork, on generally quiet lanes, though traffic near The College may be heavy if there is a big event being held. The second short cut is on quite a busy road and increases the road distance to about 2½ miles. Parking is available at The College Equestrian Centre in Keysoe (www.thecollegeec.com) – please phone 01234 708400 in advance. The Centre is well signed from the B660, and has a tack shop, café and toilet facilities.

1. Start from The College (GR 071616). Turn left out of car park and follow road to junction in about 300 yards. Turn right here and follow the road to the airfield perimeter fence.
2. Turn right here and follow track through Buryfields Farm to road. Turn left on road, through a small group of trees to the right of gate.

Option: Turn left before the Farm, following the perimeter fence. This option may not be suitable if the Motorsports venue is operating (you will hear the noise; it does not operate on Sundays) unless your horse is steady in traffic. Follow the perimeter Bridleway (BW) and then Byway to the road at 5 below. This shortens ride by about ¾ mile.

3. Follow road for about ½ mile (fairly quiet road but with some bends) and take BW on left (signed) through small woodland to field headland. Take care of rabbit holes by hedge at start of this headland.
4. Follow BW up hill and across farm track. Continue to follow headland until you reach the airfield perimeter fence. Turn right onto BW (signed) and follow it to end, then turn right onto concrete Byway down to road.

Option: Turn right on road and ride through the village of Riseley (quite busy road with several parked cars). Two pubs and a village shop: Five Bells is horse friendly but does not serve food; Fox and Hounds also welcomes horses and serves food daily. Past school on right and garage on left at end of village. Rejoin route at drive to Coldham Lodge Farm – see 9 below. Shortens route by about 3 miles.

5. At road, turn left. After about 100 yards, take BW on right (signed). Watch out for rabbit holes on this section.
6. After crossing bridge, turn right and then, very shortly after that, left (signed), across field to

hedgeline. At hedgeline, turn right and follow BW (signed) across field and bridge to a BW gate out on to road.

7. Cross the road and take the quiet lane opposite. After about 300 yards, take the BW (signed) alongside the drive to Lodge Farm. The BW skirts the farm and follows field headlands to emerge eventually onto the drive leading to Haring's Farm. Proceed straight on up this drive to Haring's Farm and through the farmyard; the track turns right on the far side of the farmyard.
8. Follow this BW straight on (ignore BW to left unless you are joining Ride 1) through Worley's Wood. As you exit the wood, turn right and follow this BW along field edge to woods on your right until you reach concrete track.
9. Turn right onto this track and follow it for about a mile to the road. Turn left (quite busy road at peak times) and then after 100 yards turn right on BW up drive to Coldham Lodge Farm (signed). Do not use the verge on the left – there are large holes.
10. Follow the BW on the farm track around Coldham Lodge Farm and around fields, keeping hedge on your left. When track finishes continue straight ahead on field edge. The BW crosses two ditch culverts. After the second, turn right onto another farm track (ditch and hedge now on your right).
11. Follow this track and then continue straight on across field and through copse, across narrow bridge (in wet weather you may wish to dismount and lead) to road by Valbrook Farm.
12. Turn right and after 300 yards take BW (signed) on left, up hill towards church. Turn right at road and return to The College, which will be on your left. (Traffic is mostly horseboxes, can be heavy if big event on at the College).

Ride 2

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