

# Ride 3

*Cyclist comment: Cyclists may prefer to ride this route anti-clockwise so that up-hill sections are generally on harder surfaces. The route has no cross-field sections.*

## KEYSOE and BOLNHURST

**Approximately 13 miles (with options to shorten; can be extended by using Ride 2)**

Ride described clockwise, as this provides best canter opportunities, but can be ridden either way. One gate which may require you to dismount. This ride is also mostly on field headlands and farm tracks and includes several places for a good canter. The route includes about 2 miles of roadwork (increased to 3 miles if you take the first option to shorten), some quite busy, as described in the text.

Parking is available at The College Equestrian Centre in Keysoe ([www.thecollegeec.com](http://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 right on the road for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. (Traffic mostly horseboxes, can be heavy if big event on at The College). At junction with B660 cross straight ahead down Mill Lane (Bridleway (BW) signed) continue on this BW about one mile to road.
2. Cross the road (slight stagger to right) to join Byway (signed). After about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, take care to bear right where a BW forks off to the left (signed) – watch out for rabbit hole at this junction. Follow this Byway for another mile to Wood End Farm. At this farm, the Byway follows a grassy track to the left of farm drive – do not use the drive – to the road.  
*First option to shorten: Turn right on the road and continue to cross B660 into School Lane. Continue on this lane, which becomes BW (farm track) until you pass Mount Pleasant Farm and come to road at 8 below. This shortens ride by 2½ miles.*
3. Turn right on the road, for about 500yds. Turn left on BW (signed), past Westwood Farm on your left and continue along BW for about 1¼ miles, past Cherry Orchard Farm to the B660. This is a fast road but traffic is slowed at this point by two sharp bends and 40mph speed restriction.
4. Turn right on to road (at bend) and continue for about 300yds (wide grass verge for most of this).
5. Ignore first BW on left and take the second one (signed) through small gate next to main gates at Gate Cottage. You may need to dismount, unless the main gates are open. Follow this BW for about one mile past Brook Farm.
6. Past wood copses on right and then on left, take BW (signed) to right past Crowhill Farm (excellent view of the isolated Bolnhurst church).
7. At road, turn right (this is a quiet road but you are on a sharp bend so take care). After about 200yds, go straight ahead up drive to Greensbury Farm (BW signed). Follow this BW (farm track) for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to a T-junction near Mount Pleasant Farm – turn left here and follow the BW past the farm and out to road.
8. Turn left and follow road (quiet road, traffic generally considerate to horses) for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. You will see the perimeter of Thurleigh Airfield Business Park to your right. Just past this is the entrance, on your right, to a BW around the perimeter fence. Take this new BW for about one mile until you emerge onto a dead-end road at the Hatch End gate.  
*Second option to shorten: Turn right here and follow the road (very little traffic) to a T junction – turn left and the College is on your right after another 200yds. This will shorten ride by 2 miles.*
9. Continue to follow perimeter fence onto BW (farm track) ahead. But where fence turns left in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile DO NOT continue on the perimeter BW, instead follow the track for a further one mile through Buryfields Farm and down to road.
10. Turn right through small group of trees onto road. After about 200yds, take Byway (signed) to right and follow this for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to road. Turn left and then left again at T-junction. The College is on your right after another 200yds.

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