

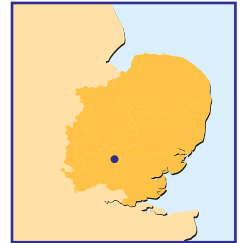
# CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



**Starting point:** Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex/Hertfordshire borders

**Distance:** 29 miles/47 km (or with short cut 22 miles/35 km)

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



## CUTLERS' WAY

This cycle ride starts from the historic village of Stansted Mountfitchet. From here the route heads east, into an attractive landscape of gently rolling countryside - set on the borders of Essex and Hertfordshire. Explore quiet narrow lanes leading to pretty villages, with thatched and tiled houses set around greens and ponds. Stop off at Thaxted - noted for its 15th C. Guildhall. Look out for the ancient art of pargetting (raised decorative plasterwork). Along this route you can travel back in time to a reconstructed motte and bailey castle, discover a medieval timber-framed barn and visit John Webb's 19th C. windmill.



John Webb's Windmill, Thaxted

### Essential information

<b>Starting point:</b>	Stansted Mountfitchet - Lower Street car park.
<b>Alternative starting point:</b>	Thaxted - Margaret Street car park. See 'K Thaxted' for information. Join the route by turning R from the car park exit. Take the next L onto Bell Lane (NS), then at the T-j (with the church in front of you), turn R (NS). Start from 'direction no. 12'.
<b>Car parking:</b>	Stansted Mountfitchet - Lower Street car park (charge made, free on Sun and Bank Hols). Thaxted - Margaret Street car park (free).
<b>Nearest railway station:</b>	Stansted Mountfitchet. Join the route by going SA from the front of the station building (along Station Road). Then at the T-j, turn R onto Church Road, SP 'Dunmow 10, Stansted Airport'. Start from 'direction no. 2'.
<b>Type of route:</b>	Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads.
<b>Summary of route:</b>	Stansted Mountfitchet - Burton End - Tye Green - Elsenham - Brick End Broxton - Great Easton - Tilty - Duton Hill - Thaxted - Debden - Widdington - Ugley Green - Stansted Mountfitchet.
<b>Distance:</b>	29 miles/47 km.
<b>Short cut:</b>	From Elsenham, north along unclassified road (via Henham) to Debden Green, 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> miles (8 km). Total route with short cut, 22 miles (35 km).
<b>Terrain:</b>	Gently rolling. Some fairly steep hills. Lowest point - 240 feet (73 metres) between Duton Hill and Thaxted, then again later between Widdington and Little Henham. Highest point - 374 feet (114 metres) between Elsenham and Brick End Broxton.
<b>Cycle hire:</b>	None available on this route. Nearest are 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> miles south (from Stansted Mountfitchet) at Bishop's Stortford - Planet Bikes, Silver Leys, Hadham Road (01279) 651111.
<b>Cycle repair:</b>	None available on this route. Nearest are 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> miles south (from Stansted Mountfitchet) at Bishop's Stortford - Abel Baker Cycles, Unit 11, Southmill Trading Centre, Southmill Road (01279) 758718; Planet Bikes (see cycle hire above). Also 3 miles north (from Debden) at Saffron Walden - Newdales, 7 Market Walk (01799) 513980.
<b>Ordnance Survey map area:</b>	Landrangers 167 - Chelmsford; and 154 - Cambridge & Newmarket.
<b>National Cycle Network links:</b>	Route 11. This ride follows the NCN at Stansted Mountfitchet.

### Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

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

The Guildhall, Thaxted



# 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.

This map (no. 5) is one of two (no. 8) cycle routes which start from the historic village of Stansted Mountfitchet on the Essex/Hertfordshire borders.

**A Stansted Mountfitchet** - dates from Saxon times. 16/17th C. buildings. Under the Normans it passed to the Mountfitchet family who built a timber castle here. 🏰

🏠 **House on the Hill Toy and Rock/Roll Museum** - animated toy museum, with items from Victorian times to the 1990s. Also rock/roll memorabilia. Open all year. Admission charge. (01279) 813237.

**Mountfitchet Castle** - reconstructed Norman motte and bailey castle, built on its original site. Depicts life 900 years ago. Open Mar-Nov. Admission charge. (01279) 813237. ✂️ 🚰

**St. Mary's Church** - knight effigy (c.1300), probably Richard de Mountfitchet who built 12th C. castle.

**Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill** - fine example of brick tower mill, built in 1787, and last worked in 1910. Open selected dates Mar-Oct. Admission charge. (01279) 647213. 🚰

✂️ Wide selection throughout town.

🚰 Lower Street car park (automatic).

**B Burton End** - picturesque village, with thatched and tiled houses.

✂️ **The Ash** (01279) 814841. 🚰

**C Tye Green** - pretty hamlet set around a large green.

**D Elsenham** - large village. Mentioned in the Domesday Book. 🏰

🏠 **Elsenham Hall** - late Georgian mansion. Former home of Sir Walter Gilbey (1831-1914), a successful businessman, wine merchant and founder of the jam-making company in 1889. *Not open to the public.*

**St. Mary's Church** - fine Norman doorway, 15th C. oak roof and unusual double piscina.

**Village Pump** - octagonal well-house, with gilded dome. Built by Sir Walter Gilbey in memory of his wife.

✂️ **The Crown** (01279) 812827. 🚰

**E Just off the route** - Henham (1/2 mile north of route). Picturesque village set around greens and ponds.

Famous 17th C. dragon story (depicted on village sign and in church). 🏰

🏠 **St. Mary's Church** - mainly 14th C. Fine screen, wall paintings and connections to Norman FitzWalter family.

✂️ **The Cock Inn** (01279) 850347. 🚰

**F Brick End Broxted** - scattering of houses.

✂️ **The Prince of Wales** (01279) 850256. 🚰

**G Just off the route** - Little Easton (1 mile south of route). Attractive village. Small lake with wildfowl.

🏠 **The Gardens of Easton Lodge** - historical gardens, designed in 1902 by Harold Peto, for 'Daisy', the Countess of Warwick. Dovecote with exhibition. Contact for opening times. Admission charge. (01371) 876979. ✂️ 🚰

**St. Mary's Church** - Maynard family monuments and 12th C. wall paintings. Memorial windows to USAAF 386th Bombardment Group.

**H Great Easton** - hillside village. Little green with war memorial. Remains of castle.

🏠 **Church of St. John and St. Giles** - Norman nave and 19th C. belfry.

✂️ **The Swan** (01371) 870359. 🚰

**I Tilty** - scattered settlement. Fragments remain of the important Cistercian abbey founded in the 12th C.

🏠 **St. Mary's Church** - former gatehouse chapel of abbey. Magnificent east window and brasses.

**J Duton Hill** - small hillside village overlooking the River Chelmer.

✂️ **The Three Horseshoes** (01371) 870681.

**K Thaxted** - small country town, which prospered from the cutlery industry in the 14th C. Fine medieval buildings.

Former home of composer Gustav Holst and highwayman Dick Turpin. Market - Fri. 🏰

🏠 **Church of St. John the Baptist** - dates from 14/15th C. with pinnacled font cover, medieval stained glass and 181ft high spire.

**John Webb's Windmill** - built by local farmer in 1804.

Recently undergone an extensive restoration. Museum of local artefacts. Open Easter-Sept (Sat, Sun and BH Mon). Admission charge. (01371) 830285.

**Thaxted Guildhall** - 15th C. with massive timbering. Built by the Guild of Cutlers'. Houses old photographs and objects relating to history of town. Open Easter-Sept. Admission charge. (01371) 831281.

✂️ Wide selection throughout town.

🚰 Margaret Street car park.

**L Debden** - pretty village on one long main road. To the north east is the location of an historic Second World War airfield (now MOD Army Base). 🏰

🏠 **Debden Antiques** - housed in 17th C. Essex barn. Open all year. Admission free. (01799) 543007.

**St. Mary's Church** - 13th C. but partly rebuilt in 1793.

Coade stone font, painted glass window and tomb chest.

✂️ **The Plough** (01799) 541899. 🚰

**The White Hart** (01799) 540659. 🚰

**M Widdington** - mixture of old and new housing (some thatched).

🏠 **Mole Hall Wildlife Park** - otters, chimps, flamingos and butterfly pavilion. Open all year. Admission charge. (01799) 540400. ✂️ 🚰

**Prior's Hall Barn** - 14th C. aisled barn of eight bays,

with a timber roof supported by king posts. English Heritage. Open Apr-Sept (weekends only, 1000-1800). Admission free.

**St. Mary's Church** - built in 12th C. Stained glass (c.1664) shows sundial, hourglass and crown.

✂️ **Fleur de Lys** (01799) 543280. 🚰

**N Ugley Green** - picturesque village set around a large green.



The White Hart, Debden

# ROUTE DIRECTIONS

**STARTING POINT:** Stansted Mountfitchet (Lower Street car park).

**A** Stansted Mountfitchet - historic village, dating from Saxon times. 🏠 ✂ 🏠 📶

**1** At the car park entrance/exit, turn L, and then immediately L at the T-j, to go up Church Road, SP 'Dunmow 10, Stansted Airport'. Shortly on your L is the Neo-Jacobean Stansted Hall (c.1871), no public access. ⚠

**2** Immediately after crossing the bridge over the M11 motorway, turn L, SP 'Burton End 1/2, Tye Green 1 1/2'.

**B** Burton End - thatched and tiled houses. ✂

**C** Tye Green - pretty hamlet around green.

**3** Bear R around the corner, SP 'Elsenham 1, Molehill Green 2'.

**4** Turn L (NS). In front of you is the entrance to Elsenham Hall. ⚠

**D** Elsenham - large village. 🏠 ✂ 🏠

**5** At the T-j, turn R, SP 'Thaxted 6'. ⚠

**Short cut** (43/4 miles). Total route with short cut - 22 miles.

Turn L, SP 'Henham 1'. At the triangle of grass in the village of Henham (with the war memorial), turn R, SP 'Sibley's 1 1/2, Hamperden End 2 1/2, Debden 6 1/4'. The route then passes through the hamlets of Hamperden End and Debden Green. Turn L, SP 'Debden, Saffron Walden'.

**Please now continue from 'L Debden'.**

**E** Just off the route - Henham (turn L, SP 'Henham 1'). Set around greens and ponds. 🏠 ✂ 🏠

**6** Turn R, SP 'Pledgdon Green 1/4, Brick End 1 1/4'. ⚠

**F** Brick End Broxted - scattering of houses. ✂

**7** Bear R around the corner onto Brown's End Road.

**8** Bear R up hill at Broxted Hill (NS).

**9** Turn L in front of Kings Barn Farm, SP 'Gt Easton, Duton Hill, Thaxted'. Remain on this road to Stanbrook.

**G** Just off the route - Little Easton (turn R, SP 'Lt Easton, Dunmow'). Then take the next R along the little lane (NS). After 3/4 mile, at the T-j, turn R to visit The Gardens of Easton Lodge, or L to visit the village of Little Easton (NS). Attractive village. 🏠

**H** Great Easton - little green with war memorial. 🏠 ✂ 🏠

**I** Tilty - scattered settlement. 🏠

**J** Duton Hill - hillside village. ✂

**10** Turn R onto the B1051, SP 'Thaxted 1'. ⚠

**K** Thaxted - small country town, which prospered from the cutlery industry in the 14<sup>th</sup> C. 🏠 ✂ 🏠 📶

**11** At the T-j, turn L onto Mill End, SP 'Saffron Walden B184 (Haverhill B1051)'.

**12** Turn L, SP 'Cutlers Gn 1, Debden 4'. ⚠

**L** Debden - pretty village on one long main road. 🏠 ✂ 🏠



*Countess of Warwick Show, Little Easton*

**Alternative route** (13/4 miles). Please note, part of this route is off-road. It can be muddy and rutted in places, and is really only suitable for mountain and hybrid bikes. Total route with this option - 28 miles. Turn L onto Rook End Lane (NS). This leads down to the small hamlet of Rook End. After about 3/4 mile, the surfaced road ends. Turn R, in front of the thatched cottage, SP 'Public Byway'. This track is easy to miss and has the appearance of turning into a private driveway to the cottage. After about 1 mile, the byway exits beside Waldegraves Farm, where you go SA back onto the road (NS).

**Please now continue from 'direction no. 15'.**

**13** At the staggered X-roads, turn L, SP 'Newport'. ⚠

**14** Turn L (effectively SA), SP 'Widdington 1'. ⚠

**15** Turn L at the T-j, SP 'Widdington'.

**M** Widdington - mixture of old and new housing. 🏠 ✂

**16** The road bears R around the corner onto Hollow Road.

**17** Go under the railway line, then at the T-j, turn L (NS). This road runs between the M11 motorway on your R, and the railway line on your L.

**18** Turn L, SP 'Lt Henham' - going back under the railway bridge.

**19** Bear R around the corner (NS).

**20** Bear R around the corner, with Little Henham Hall in front of you (NS).

**21** Turn L, SP 'Henham, Elsenham'. ⚠

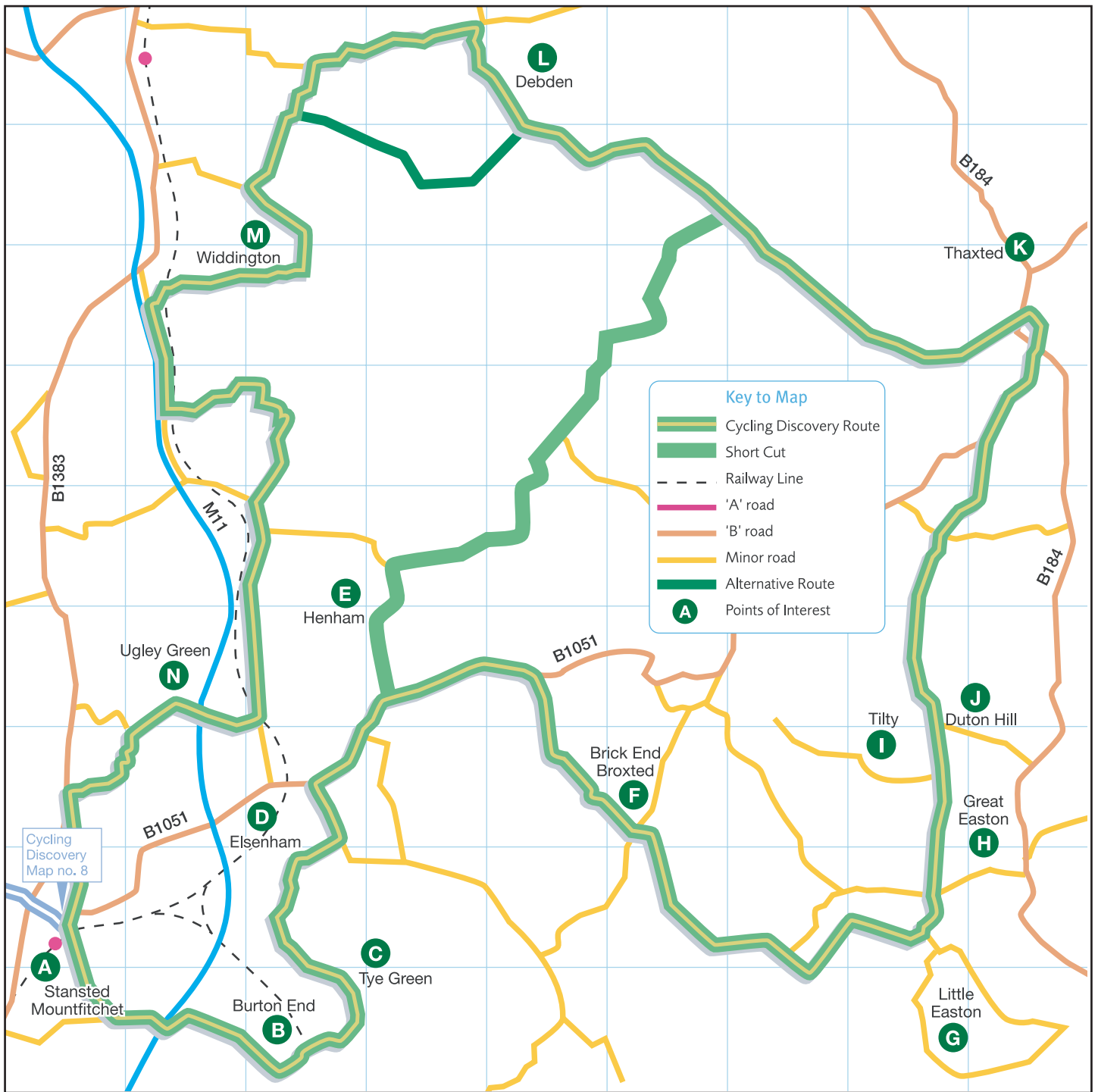
**22** After crossing the railway line, turn R, SP 'Ugley Green'. ⚠

**N** Ugley Green - picturesque village set around a large green.

**23** As the road bears around to the R, go SA onto Snakes Lane (light traffic only).

**24** When you reach the T-j with the B1383 - it is advisable to dismount from your cycle and walk along the small stretch of pavement to your L. This avoids cycling with fast-moving traffic. Almost immediately, you turn L again onto High Road (NS), beside the Stansted Mountfitchet village sign. ⚠

**25** Follow the road back into the village of Stansted Mountfitchet. Turn R at the T-j (NS), then L to return to the car park. ⚠



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: Landrangers 167 - Chelmsford; and 154 - Cambridge & Newmarket. '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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