

Cambridge Randonnées Saturday 5 July 2025: 150km route information

Controls and route information:

1. 16km Fulbourn: manned checkpoint. Collect stamp in brevet card or scan QR code in E-Brevet app. Chelsea buns for all!

The 200km riders pass through here, but will likely be ahead of you.

2. 51km Thurston End: info control on a tight left-hand bend at a grass triangle. Answer question on brevet card or click in app.

- Shortly after, there is a deep ford; don't worry, the road goes over the ford.

3. 66km Maglia Rosso: info control.

- There is a loop up to Maglia Rosso. No shortcuts please!

- The 200km route are going the opposite direction to you at this point; give a friendly wave!

4. 113km Near Great Saling, at right-hand bend with cream house called "Hyde Cottage": info control. Easily missed! Shortly after Shalford Green.

5. 118km Bardfield The Blue Egg cafe/farm shop: info control.

6. 145km Arkesden: info control.

7. 161km Whittlesford: info control.

8. 169km Arrivée Haslingfield

Route available in all the usual formats here: <https://ctccambridge.org.uk/routes/668>

Route sheet attached separately. However, this route is best ridden by GPX as there's a lot going on and many junctions have no signposts.

E-Brevet: download brevet 25-704

Cafes/village shops/toilets/water:

42km Cafe 33 and shop

80km Glemsford: shops. 82.5km Willow Tree cafe just outside Glemsford.

96km Great Yeldham: shop just off route round corner from Essex Pizza

111.5km Shalford Green: shop including benches outside for a nice sit down

119km Bardfield Blue Egg: shop, cafe. Toilets on right of front door for customer use only. Tap round the back in the hedge. Track pumps by back door.

120.7km Great Bardfield: Co-op

128km Thaxted: petrol station, shop, bakery (closes 4pm), chip shop.

139.7km Newport: bakery (closes 3.30pm), cafe (closes 3.30pm), shop near turning to Wicken Road.

In-ride trivia:

Our route was a staple of the audax calendar about 20-25 years ago; a tradition from then is serving you Chelsea buns en route! So you can look forward to a bun at the Fulbourn control. East Anglia is strange and beautiful. This route takes you through pretty backwaters of Suffolk, well-to-do ancient wool villages, up more hills than you might expect for East Anglia (you'll be near the highest point in Suffolk), along a bit of the 2014 Tour de France route, and back through great plains of Essex. It is a cracking route and (shh!) my favourite.

0km just opposite our base is the fantastic Portrait House. There's also a sundial on the village green here where you get to be the gnomon.

13.5km on your way up the first hill of the day, look to your left; not only can you see Cambridge, but on a clear day you can also see Ely Cathedral. Look out for a tall bobble and a shorter bobble on the horizon; the West Tower and the Octagon respectively. (PTO)

20km After your first control, a long straight line of trees off to your left brings to mind an old railway line running parallel to the road. It is actually Fleam Dyke, a linear earthwork predating the industrial revolution by possibly as much as 1500 years. Cor.

57.5km Hartest: as well as pretty houses, there is a fabulous large lump of granite at the north end of the village green just off our route. The stone was dug up at Somerton (which you've just cycled up, sorry about that) in 1713 and moved on a specially-constructed sledge pulled by 45 horses. Internet folk lore about the stone includes sitting on the stone at midnight leading to possible marriage or fortune (but not both).

80km Glemsford Former Horsehair factory; Glemsford had quite the industrial past, and was also home to coir mat making, a flax factory and silk mill. Later on, you will go past a field of blue flowers – this is flax, or linseed, used to make linen. Production of linen likely went up in the area during wartime, as extra linen was needed for sheeting and bandages etc.

96km Great Yeldham The Great Oak: on grass triangle just before main road is the remains of this tree, bound together with iron bands and concrete. The plaque is worth a quick look; Leila Stone of California, USA must have been quite a character.

112km Shalford Green was on the Tour de France route 2014. Photo opportunity with the sign!

128km Thaxted: lots of interesting older buildings. Past residents include a well-known composer (answer to another BCQ, easily visible on your left) and author Diana Wynne Jones.

128.5km as you leave Thaxted: there is a most peculiar tree, which looks to be straight ahead as you go up hill. It is actually an impressively poorly-disguised mobile phone mast.

145km Arkesden: the subject of the info control were a couple who lived in Arkesden for the years specified. Nearby, the war memorial in front of the church is a fantastic bit of puddingstone; it looks like concrete, but is a naturally-occurring conglomerate sedimentary rock which is reputed to have various exciting supernatural powers. Hopefully those include giving you an extra burst of power over the last couple of hills on the way back to Haslingfield...