

## CTC Cambridge Permanent: (A Little) Eleanor Cross Stamford 100km

In 1290, Queen Eleanor of Castile died whilst on a royal visit to Harby in Nottinghamshire. Although their marriage was (as was typical of the time) of strategic importance, King Edward I and Queen Eleanor were devoted to each other. Eleanor's funeral cortège headed south, and Edward I had a stone memorial erected in each place the cortège rested overnight. Of the original twelve, three remain; Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham Cross. Today's visit is to the modern recreation at Stamford. The Stamford monument is a bit odd and has absolutely none of the grandeur of the other crosses. However, Stamford is a rather pretty town and it's a good reason for a day out.

More info:

<https://bitaboutbritain.com/eleanors-cross-hardingstone/>



The controls are placed in order to make the route very flexible. You can do it in either direction, or start at a train station en route. Different routes can be taken, such as using the old Great North Road parallel with the A1 (although this is unpleasant at evening rush hour, and finding the cycle path at the Norman Cross memorial (well worth a look) is difficult in the dark. You can use e-brevet to start the route at a different point - instructions here:

<https://www.audax.uk/media/2285/ebridors.pdf>

### Controls:

**0km** Sawtry Services

**9.8km** Winwick

**45.5km** Wing

[no control at Stamford, although do have a look around - it's a pretty town]

**72.7km** nr Willow Brook Farm Shop (has cafe and plenty of parking – you could ask about leaving a car here all day)

**97.3km** Glatton

**101.9km** Sawtry Services

### Useful train stations:

Stamford

Peterborough

[continues overleaf]

## Cafes/toilets/water etc:

- 0 / 101.9km** Sawtry Services: all the usual motorway services. Can be busy at the weekend.
- 20km** Barnwell country park just before Oundle: public toilets with handy tap outside, cafe further into park.
- 21km** Oundle: Beans cafe, Tesco Express. Off route: Waitrose, Coop & public toilets.
- 32km** Bulwick: village shop and cafe open Tues-Sat 9.30am to 3.30pm.
- 61km** Stamford: Wetherspoons opposite Eleanor Cross. Cafes, shops etc most slightly off route
- 64km** Burghley House: private stately home but with National Trust-style cafes and toilets.
- 80km** Ferry Meadows country park, Peterborough: toilets, cafes, taps just off route.
- 81km** Peterborough: Left onto Wistow Way for Tesco Express
- 100km** Sawtry village: Co-op, fish and chip shop

## Points of interest and things to watch out for:

**9.8km** Winwick to Thurning: Road can be very icy in winter (stream drains down sheltered section of road). Consider B662 to Clopton (gritted), straight over A605, and R for road through Stoke Doyle instead.

**39km** Harringworth: Longest masonry viaduct in the UK. Now used infrequently.

**45.5km** Wing: Turf maze on left. One of eight in England, apparently this is a labyrinth in a standard Chartres design.

**55km** Ketton: mainly interesting because of what's no longer here – Ketton Stone. This pretty creamy, yellowy, sometimes pink limestone was used extensively in notable buildings including many Cambridge colleges (eg Wren library at Trinity [best viewed from a punt], buildings at Clare College, and the frontage at Emmanuel College), Burghley House and at Sandringham as well as plenty of local buildings in Ketton and Stamford. Also look out for buildings using local Collyweston stone slate for roofing (also used on the Round Church in Cambridge). At one time, winter frosts were used to split the slate.

**61km** Stamford: Eleanor Cross on left. Tall pointy modern recreation of original. There's a Wetherspoons opposite.

**64km** Burghley House on right: enormous 16th century stately home made of Barnack limestone and Ketton stone in Capability Brown-designed parkland. Cafes, toilets.

**67km** Barnack: nature reserve on right in village called Hills and Holes. Barnack limestone first quarried here by the Romans. Used in the building of Peterborough and Ely cathedral, many Cambridge colleges, widely throughout Fenland including Crowland bridge, Bury St Edmunds and odd places in London such as within the Tower of London and Roman remains of London Wall. Would be a great picnic spot.

**79km** Path runs alongside Nene Valley Railway. Steam trains at the weekend. Choo choo!

**80km** Ferry Meadows park in Peterborough: may be some flooding in spring. Not my local patch, please report back if changes needed.

