FLINT AND FORGE

This cycle ride starts from the historic village of Stansted Mountfitchet. From here the route heads west, into an attractive landscape of low hills, rich farmland, woods and river valleys - set on the borders of Hertfordshire and Essex. Explore leafy lanes, leading to picturesque villages of plaster, timber, flint and thatch, such as Manuden, Braughing and Much Hadham - the former country seat of the Bishops of London. 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 working blacksmith’s forge and visit the former home of sculptor Henry Moore.
This map (no. 8) is one of two (no. 5) cycle routes which start from the historic village of Stansted Mountfitchet on the Hertfordshire/Essex 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 1990's. 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.
- **Wide selection throughout town.**

B **Manuden** - pretty riverside village with timbered and plastered houses.

- **St. Mary's Church** - 13th C. but restored. Superb screen. Monument to Sir William Waad, a former Lieutenant of the Tower of London. 🏰
- **The Yew Tree Inn** (01279) 812888. 🍃

C **Furneux Pelham** - largest of three Pelham villages, once owned by 13th C. family. Thatched/pargetted houses.

- **The Hall** - home of Lord Monteaule who helped foil the Gunpowder Plot (1605). Not open to the public.
- **St. Mary's Church** - 15th C. but restored. Windows by Morris and Burne-Jones. Unusual inscription on tower clock “Time flies. Mind your business”.
- **The Brewery Tap** (01279) 777280. 🍃

D **Braughing** - once important Roman centre. 16/17th C. buildings and ford. Noted for its sausages. 🍔

- **St. Mary's Church** - mainly 15th C. with imposing spire. Tower contains the county's oldest bell (c.1562).
- **The Brown Bear** (01920) 821600. 🍃


- **Crown and Falcon** (01920) 821561.
- **The White Hart** (01920) 821309. 🍃

F **Standon** - former market town, with a wide main street. Set on a flint base (opposite the church) is a large piece of puddingstone, a rare natural rock (made up of rounded flint pebbles) found in Hertfordshire. 🌿

- **St. Mary's Church** - 13th C. built by the Knights of St. John. Detached tower. Monument to Sir Ralph Sadleir, custodian of Mary Queen of Scots.
- **The Bell** (01920) 821639.
- **The Star** (01920) 821258.

G **Much Hadham** - long High Street with well-preserved timber/brick houses. Former country seat of the Bishops of London. Edmund Tudor, father of Henry VII was born here in 1430. 🌿

- **St. Andrew's Church** - mainly 15th C. Two carved head stops (a king and queen) by sculptor Henry Moore.
- **The Bull Inn** (01279) 842668. 🍃
- **The Jolly Waggoners** (01279) 842102. 🍃
- **The Old Crown** (01279) 842753. 🍃

H **Perry Green** - set around a green. Sculptor Henry Moore is buried at St. Thomas' Church.


I **Little Hadham** - straddles A120 beside River Ash. Timber-framed cottages and farmhouses. Ruined windmill.

- **Hadham Hall** - dates from 1575. Former home of Capel family. Queen Elizabeth I stayed in 1578. Not open to the public.
- **St. Cecilia's Church** - memorials to Lord Arthur Capel, a royalist in the Civil War, who was hanged for treason in 1649; and William Harvey who accompanied Captain James Cook on three of his expeditions around the world.
- **Kick and Dicky** (Wellpond Green) (01920) 821424. 🍃

J **Albury** - scattered village. The former hall (demolished 1950) was a top secret wartime military installation.

- **Patmore Heath** - outstanding and scarce example of grass heathland. Rich in flora and insects. Open all year. Admission free. (01277) 858901.
- **St. Mary's Church** - 13th C. Altar tomb with knight and his lady effigies.

K **Just off the route** - Bishop's Stortford (2¼ miles south of route). Set on the River Stort, this market town grew wealthy as a centre for malting, then as a coaching stop. Fine 16/17th C. buildings. Visit the historic market held on Thurs and Sat. 🌿

- **Council Offices (The Causeway); Opposite Railway Station (off Station Road); Library (The Causeway).**
- **Cecil Rhodes** (1853-1902) - statesman and empire builder born in the town. He found his fortune in the South Africa diamond industry, and also founded Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1893.
- **Rhodes Arts Complex and Bishop's Stortford Museum** (South Road) - birthplace of Cecil Rhodes. Local history, archaeology and Southern Africa displays. Open all year. Admission free. (01279) 651746.
- **Castle Mound** (Castle Gardens) - mound of former castle, built by William the Conqueror. Key to gate from Tourist Information Centre. Open all year. Admission free. (01279) 655831.
- **St. Michael's Church** (Windhill) - 15th C. with tall spire and Norman font. Memorial to Cecil Rhodes.
- **Wide selection throughout town.**
- **Castle Gardens; Jackson Square; Market Square; Riverside Walk.**
- **The Old Monastery, Windhill (01279) 655831. Open all year.**

L **Hazel End** - tiny hamlet. Scattering of buildings and pub.

- **The Three Horseshoes** (01279) 813429.
ROUTE DIRECTIONS

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

1. At the car park entrance/exit, turn L, and then immediately R at the T-j, to go up Chapel Hill, SP ‘Bishop’s Stortford 3 B1051’.
2. At the X-roads with the B1383, go SA onto Bentfield Road (NS).
3. Turn L onto Bentfield End Causeway, SP ‘Manuden’.
4. The road passes through the hamlet of Bentfield Green. Bear L around the corner, SP ‘Manuden’.
5. At the T-j, turn R, SP ‘Manuden 1/2, Clavering 4 1/4’.
6. Bear L around the church, SP ‘Berden, Clavering’. Then after a short distance (just after the railings of the big houses), turn L onto Butt Lane (NS).
7. At the T-j, turn R (NS).
8. At the T-j, turn L (NS). This lane passes through the hamlets of Maggots End and East End.
9. Turn R, SP ‘Stocking Pelham, Berden’.
10. Turn L, SP ‘Furneux Pelham, Great Hormead’.
12. At the T-j, turn R, SP ‘Braughing’.
13. Braughing - once important Roman centre.
14. At the T-j with Station Road (B1368), turn L, SP ‘Puckeridge A10’.
15. Turn L, SP ‘Puckeridge’.
17. Turn L, beside the Crown and Falcon onto Station Road (NS).
19. Turn R onto South Road (NS).
20. At the T-j with the A120, go SA, SP ‘Barwick - light vehicles only’. Please take extra care at this point.
21. As the road bears R around the corner (beside the cemetery), bear L onto the little lane (NS).
22. Bear L around the corner (NS).
23. After passing through the ford, turn R (NS).
24. At the T-j with the B1004, turn R (NS).
25. Just after passing the Ash Valley Golf Course, bear L onto a small uphill lane (NS).
27. Turn L, SP ‘Bishop’s Stortford 4 1/2, Puckeridge 4 3/4’.
28. At the staggered X-roads with the A120, turn R at the traffic lights, then immediately L (NS).
30. Turn R, SP ‘Upwick Grn 1/2’.
31. Turn R at the large triangle of grass (NS), then immediately R again, SP ‘Bishop’s Stortford’.
32. As the road bears around to the R, turn L, SP ‘Farnham Green’.
33. Just off the route - Bishop’s Stortford (go SA, SP ‘Bishop’s Stortford’). After crossing over the A120, you reach a T-j where you turn R onto the B1004, SP ‘Town Centre’.
34. Market town, birthplace of Cecil Rhodes.
35. Turn R (NS).
36. Turn R, SP ‘Bishop’s Stortford’, then immediately L onto Watermill Lane, SP ‘Stansted - light traffic only’.
37. At the X-roads with the B1383, go SA onto Chapel Hill, SP ‘Elsenham 2, Thaxted 9 B1051’. Follow the road back down the hill 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 166 - Luton & Hertford. '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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