

Countryside Code

Respect other people:

- ✓ Consider the local community, landowners and other people enjoying the outdoors
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- ✓ Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- ✓ Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- ✓ Plan ahead and be prepared
- ✓ Follow advice and local signs

Please respect all users of the Green Wheel

Walkers & Joggers:

- ✓ Allow cyclists to pass
- ✓ If you have a dog, please keep it away from other users and always clean up after it

Cyclists:

- ✓ Use your bell or say 'excuse me' when approaching others
- ✓ Keep your speed down, pass other users wide and slowly; and be prepared to stop if needed
- ✓ Ride in single file when near other users

If you would like more information on the Potton Green Wheel please visit: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/pottongreenwheel

If you would like more information about how you can help care for and improve the Potton Green Wheel, either individually or as part of a group, please email: GreenWheel@bedsrcc.org.uk

The creation of the Potton Green Wheel has been led by the Potton Green Wheel Development Group made up of local residents and the key partners below:



The production of this leaflet has been sponsored by:



with a contribution from Sutton Parish Council.

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Enjoy the Potton Green Wheel



The Potton Green Wheel is being developed as a walking and cycling route around the town, passing through areas of landscape, heritage and wildlife interest. The Green Wheel is now in place as a walking route. While some routes can also be ridden, new cycling routes will be created in the coming years. Start enjoying the Green Wheel now, and look out for further routes.



Version 1 | 2023

About the Wheel

The Potton Green Wheel is a response to an increased desire for more, better quality opportunities to walk and cycle in the local area. Having a 'wheel' rim around the area, with a number of 'spokes' leading from the 'hub' of the town centre, enables people to access the route close to their homes and follow the whole wheel, or just part of it.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Central Bedfordshire Council, Potton Town Council and representatives of Sutton Parish Council have produced a Potton Green Wheel Masterplan. This Masterplan identifies routes and details the works required to create a fully accessible Green Wheel for walkers and cyclists. Initially, the Green Wheel is primarily a walking route, but it is hoped that through the adopted Masterplan sufficient funding and landowner consent can be secured to create and upgrade other sections to enable the whole route to be used for cycling too.

The route of the Potton Green Wheel for walkers is shown overleaf; and also highlights those sections which can already be cycled. At present, the route includes some on-road sections – the long term vision is for the complete Green Wheel to use only off-road paths. On the ground, a combination of Green Wheel signposts and waymarker discs will help you navigate your way around the Wheel.

At present, the main rim of the Potton Green Wheel is 6-7 miles / 10-11km long. (Depending on which route options are taken)

Around the wheel, a range of open spaces, attractive views, heritage sites and interesting natural habitats add to the enjoyment of the route. These can be seen while following the Green Wheel or by taking short diversions.

To the south east of Potton is Pegnut Wood an extensive poplar plantation with areas of native tree and shrubs. The woodland was planted between 1993 and 1995 by the Co-op Wholesale Society for producing high quality timber. Ancient maps show this area as 'pignut wood' referring to the edible 'earth nuts', or roots, of a locally common plant, which pigs were trained to uproot for human consumption.

Further south is the village of Sutton with its attractive houses, pub and mediaeval packhorse bridge and ford. Continue west along the High Street, go over the packhorse bridge and you will discover Church Field, where you can enjoy a picnic and young children can enjoy the play equipment. Just beyond the Church Field you will find the beautiful 13th Century church of All Saints, which is always open and well worth a visit.

To the south west of Potton are the disused Deepdale Quarry and the John O'Gaunt Golf Course. The quarry is on the edge of the Greensand Ridge which runs diagonally across Bedfordshire, through Potton from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay. More information about the heritage, wildlife and access routes of the Greensand Ridge can be found at greensandcountry.com. The bridleway between the golf course and the disused Deepdale Quarry is a County Wildlife Site valued for an unusual species of butterfly and moth.



The northern boundary of the quarry is formed by the now-disused Bedford – Cambridge railway which linked Potton to Sandy until it closed under the Beeching Cuts.

To the west of Potton is the small community of Deepdale, and the adjacent Sandy Heath Quarry. While still an active quarry, the eastern end has been restored for wildlife. Walking routes around the perimeter of the quarry also provide links to the RSPB's The Lodge nature reserve.

To the north west of Potton, an old windmill lies on Mill Lane. Built in c1770 and working up until 1927 when a storm damaged the sails, the mill is now part of a private property.

North of Potton is Potton Quarry – an active quarry with its eastern end restored for wildlife. Further east are a former quarry and Sheepsbridge Wood which has permitted access for walkers.

To the east of Potton is Potton Brook and the Henry Smith Playing Field. The well equipped Playing Fields were originally presented to the town by Miss L E Smith of Potton Manor on behalf of her cousin Henry, to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary in 1935.

Keep an eye out for QR codes on the marker posts which you can scan for information on the go.

Get out, get fit, have fun!

A. Anderson