

Once you reach the end of Hostage Wood drop down to Blatherwycke past the Keepers Cottage. When you get to the road turn right and cycle on through Blatherwycke, enjoying the beautiful views of the lake as you go over the bridge.



Keep going up a hill where the road bears right out of the village and carries on for about 3 miles back to Kings Cliffe. Watch out for game birds along this road, they appear to have little common sense and are wont to fly straight into your path!

WILDLIFE TO WATCH FOR:

- ⇒ Red Kites—you'll be unlucky if you don't see several of these while you pedal.
- ⇒ Deer—abundant on the Blatherwycke Estate.
- ⇒ Hare—again, sighted often on the Blatherwycke Estate.

TKC TRANSPORT GROUP

Free bikefix for the community; Bikes & bike spares available; Bike ride leaflets; Other cycling initiatives; Community minibus.

[kirk or kate@transitionkingscliffe.org.uk](mailto:kirk_or_kate@transitionkingscliffe.org.uk)

kingscliffe.org.uk/transition/transport

LOCAL BIKE SHOPS

KINGS CLIFFE BIKEFIX

A TKC spin-off. 01780 470876 or check out kingscliffebikefix.co.uk.

FINESHADE CYCLING

Top Lodge, Fineshade Woods, 01780 440899. Bikes for hire.

PETERBOROUGH

BRISTOWS: 46 Church Drive, Orton Waterville, P'boro 01733 231755

TERRY WRIGHT CYCLES: 102 Bridge St, Deeping St James, Pboro 01778 344051

STAMFORD

ALL GEARED UP: 2 Marigold Close, Stamford 07837 495478

RICHARDSONS: 7 North St, Stamford 01780 480455

RUTLAND CYCLING

Whitwell Liesure Park, Whitwell, Rutland, 01780 460705. Bikes for hire.

USEFUL CYCLING WEB SITES

SUSTRANS: A leading UK charity enabling people to travel by bike: sustrans.org.uk

NCN: The UK's national cyclist's network: ctc.org.uk



Get On Your Bike...

Route TKC1

*Kings Cliffe
Apethorpe
Blatherwycke Estate
Kings Cliffe*



Length: 13km/8miles
Category: On & Off Road
Difficulty: Moderate
Duration: 1.5 hours
Best Time: Spring/Summer
Bike Type: Mountain
(not road bike, bmx, folding bike, or hybrids with slick narrow tyres)

TRANSITION KINGS CLIFFE
KINGSCLIFFE.ORG.UK/TRANSITION

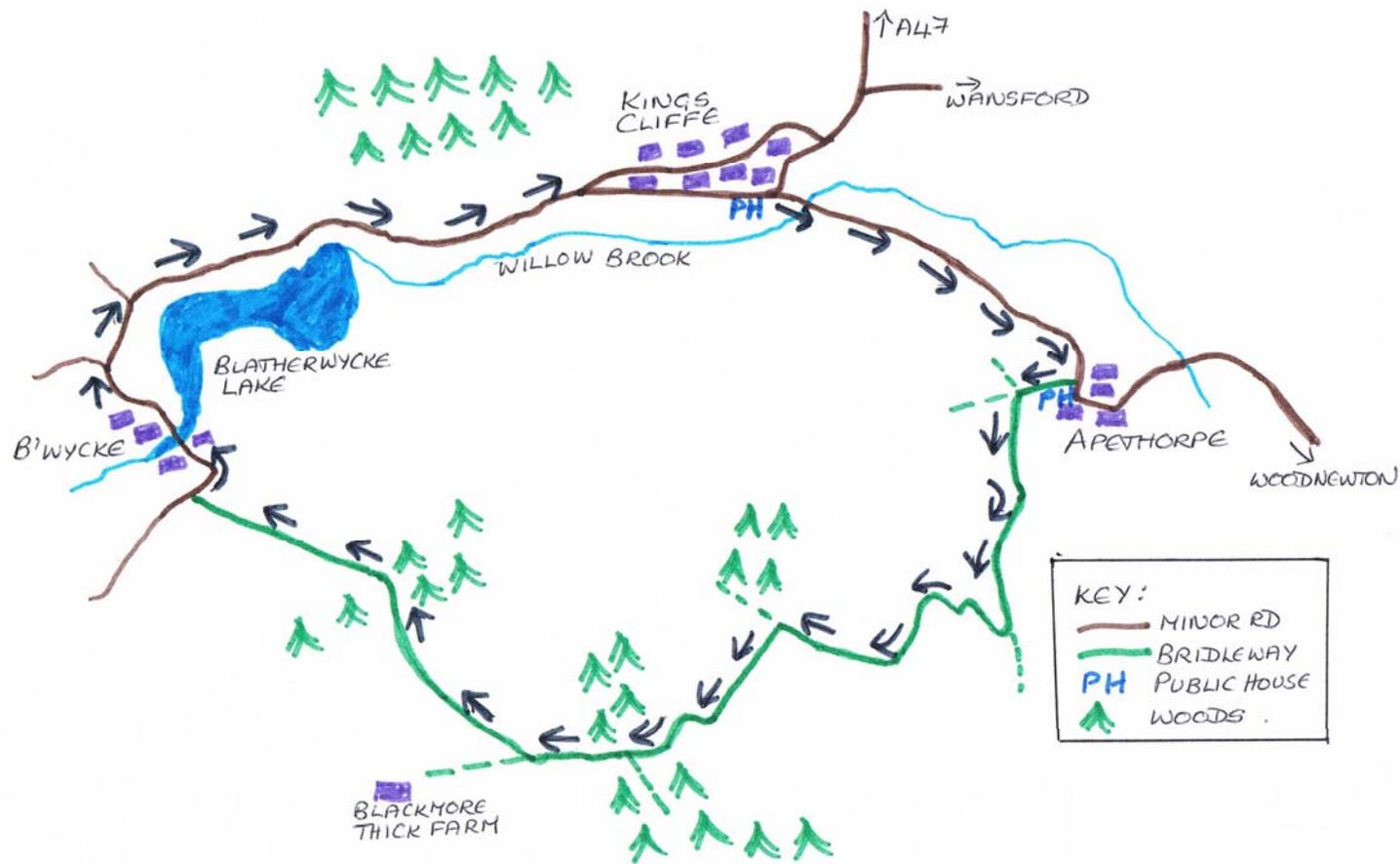


THE ROUTE

This ride is best done in dry weather during spring/summer, as at other times of year (especially Sept/Oct) bridleways across farmed land can be less reliable, and can get very muddy.

Set off from Kings Cliffe along Apethorpe Rd and after about 1.5 miles of slightly undulating terrain you'll come to the pretty village of Apethorpe. Turn right just before you get to the Kings Head pub, where you'll cycle past the pub car park on your right and lovely old houses on your left. After a short distance turn left along a marked bridleway, at this stage still tarmac.

Enjoy a gentle pedal until you get to a point where the tarmac runs out and a diverted bridleway branches (below) off to the right. Follow the bridleway, which wiggles around a rather lovely property.



Once you get to Lodge Farm bear right along a tarmac estate road for 1/3 mile, and at the corner of a small wood to the right bear diagonally left across a field. You will then briefly hit some more tarmac but go left and right onto the bridleway down a steep but short grassy slope.



This will take you down to a small bridge (left) over a brook and up a gentle incline to a cross-roads in a small area of woodland. Go straight on up a further short bumpy incline. As you exit the woods you'll reach a fork, make sure you bear diagonally right through the gap and across the field towards a further gap in the hedge, which you'll be able to see. If you get to Blackmore Thick Farm you've gone wrong!



The bridleway now follows the edge of a field for a little while to a gate in the hedge in front of you (left). Drop down a short distance to a gated bridge across a brook and then go straight across the field ahead towards woodland, which you keep to your right. Cycle along a good track following the edge of the woods for a while, and enjoy the beautiful views.