

Weekend ride

SULLEY CHALLENGE RIDE

• **Route name:** Sulley Challenge Ride 100km • **Start/finish:** Lutterworth Town Hall (SP544 844) on 12 March 2023. Riders can start from 9-10am, to finish by 4pm • **Maps/guides:** a route sheet can be downloaded from ctc.leic.org.uk • **Ride Length:** 100km/63 miles • **Climbing:** 820m • **Bike type:** Road, touring, or anything with low enough gearing • **Ride level:** Regular • **More info:** Contact organiser Robert Sulley, sulleyride@ctclr.org.uk • **GPX file:** ctc.leic.org.uk and cyclinguk.org/weekender-sulley-ride

1 Gumley

As you approach Gumley, you'll find yourself on a ridge in open parkland. If you ride here nearer to summer, you'll end up in the middle of the local village cricket pitch. Gumley Hall, built in 1764, was once a fashionable place to visit for Leicester's gentry.

2 Foxton

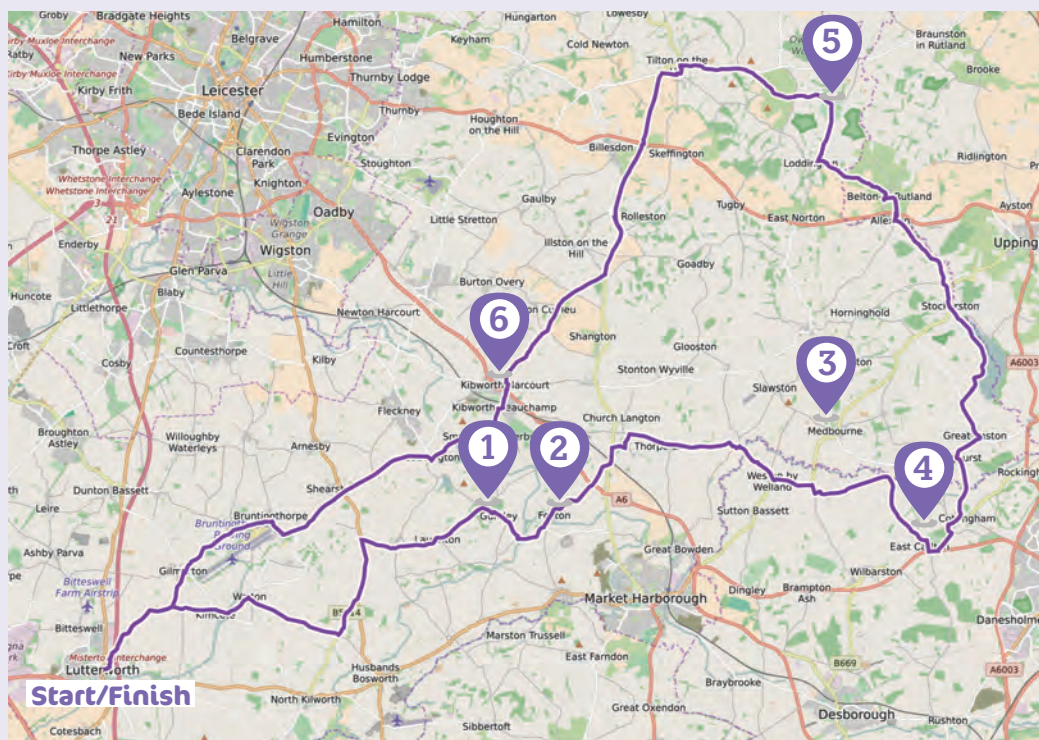
The village of Foxton is a bit of a local tourist trap in the summer, due to its position on the Leicester branch of the Grand Union Canal. There's a flight of 10 locks, plus the adjacent Foxton Inclined Plane, built in 1900 as a way of speeding boats through the bottleneck of the lock system.

3 MEDBOURNE

The 70km route visits Medbourne, which has a pretty stream and ford. The village is peaceful but becomes boisterous on Easter Monday, when the traditional bottle-kicking competition with rival village Hallaton takes place. Bruising and occasional broken limbs result from this ancient battle to get a barrel (the bottle) across to the other team's side of the stream.

**4** EAST CARLTON COUNTRY PARK

The 100km route instead crosses briefly into Northamptonshire and heads for East Carlton Country Park. Situated on a hill above the River Welland, the park was once owned by the nearby Corby Steel Industry, before being bought by the local council for recreational use. It has several interesting historical displays, as well as our most important facility: a café.

**5** Launde Abbey

Launde Abbey is one of the most picturesque spots in Leicestershire. Surrounded on all sides by hills, this Elizabethan manor house functions as a conference/retreat centre for the Dioceses of Leicester and Peterborough. It has extensive grounds, as well as a very nice café.

6 Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp

The conjoined villages of Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp may appear to be of little significance, yet their entire history was explored in the BBC series 'Michael Wood's Story of England'. There's a book of the same name.