

# Cider Cycling

## Route 3: Mortimer Country Cider Cycling Route



An easy cycle ride on quiet country lanes following the River Teme. Distance 5 or 10 miles. You can start this tour from Leintwardine – or from Elton if you need to hire bikes from Wheely Wonderful Cycling.

This is a great family cycle ride – all around the orchards & estate of Thomas Andrew Knighton of Downton & Elton.

Thomas Andrew Knight was a leading 18<sup>th</sup> century horticulturist & botanist who helped develop many of the fruit & vegetable varieties that we still eat today. He later went on to become president of the Royal Horticultural Society and 200 years ago to publish *Pomona Herefordiensis*, the first colour illustrated Pomona (Book of Apples) in the world.

You can extend this tour to explore more of the Teme Valley (Total 23 miles). Details in route.

1. Start from the green (and picnic area) in Leintwardine. Leintwardine was once a major Roman settlement dating back to AD70. A Roman fort was constructed in AD160. The grand Norman church has a unique misericord celebrating the life the former landlady of The Sun Inn.
2. Turn left over the bridge (next to the Lion Hotel), and then take the immediate left along Paytoe Lane. You are now travelling along the Roman road to Paytoe, look out for the site of the Roman encampment on the ridge to your right.
3. Turn left at the next junction, signposted for Ludlow. This is just before the black and white building of “Paytoe Hall” and easy to miss. Cross the River Teme, and at the top of the hill, turn right signed Ludlow. (for the short route turn left and return to Leintwardine)
3. Continue downhill to Burrington Bridge (look out for kingfishers & dippers). Immediately after the bridge turn right, signed to Leinthall Starkes.

You can extend your tour by turning right at this point to visit Wigmore Castle managed by English Heritage, this romantic ruin was once the home of the Mortimer Family, their powerful connections extended across Wales and the Marches to the throne of England. Return to the original route, by retracing your route to Leinthall Starkes.



4. At Leinthall Starkes (windmill above), turn left signed Ludlow. Cycle past Wheely Wonderful Cycling to Elton. Visit the Norman church, next to Elton Hall, former home of the great Horticulturist Thomas Andrew Knight, who published the Herefordshire Pomona 200 years ago.

5. After Elton, take the next left to Burrington. Keep on this road, without turning off, past Burrington Bridge and following the signs to Leintwardine. Detour to Burrington to see the six very early cast iron tomb slabs in the churchyard, one is for Richard Knight (1659 - 1745), this is all that's left of the iron industry of Downton gorge.

6. Follow this same road all the way back to Leintwardine, with great views of the River Teme, up into Wales. Pass by The Sun Inn to finish your ride. (remember to stop at the Sun Inn, a unique historic Parlour pub - the only one of its kind left in the UK).



Explore more of the Teme Valley, using an OS map - by cycling from Leintwardine to – Walford – Buckton – Detour to Brampton Bryan with its café & historic church) – Bucknell – Bedstone – Hopton Castle – Three Ashes – Abcott (Rocke cottage Tearoom) – Beckjay – Broadward Hall – Heath House – Jays Lane to Leintwardine Manor – Leintwardine. (13 miles)

#### **Refreshment Opportunities and Local Produce for Sale**

**Leintwardine:** The Lion Hotel, riverside pub (01547 540203 )  
The Sun Inn, unique Parlour pub (01547 540705)

	Jolly Frog, country restaurant.(01547 540298)
	Griffiths Butchers – local pies & produce (01547 540231)
	Shop ice creams & local food, picnic area by river
	Fiddlers elbow fish & chip shop (01547 540610)
<b>Wigmore:</b>	The Compasses (01568 770203)
	The Olde Oake (01568 770247)
	Mortimer Country Stores, specialises in local food (01568 770307)
	Brook Farm Cider (01568 770562 )independent cider maker – by appointment – but bottles available from Mortimer Country Stores.
<b>Walford</b>	Soup Dragons Kitchen: (01547 540570)
<b>Brampton Bryan</b>	Aardvark Books Café (01547 530888).
<b>Bucknell</b>	Baron of Beef, (01547 530549).
	Shop and picnic area next to the river.
<b>Abcott</b>	Rocke Cottage award winning tea room (01588 660631).
<b>Local accommodation</b>	<a href="http://www.exploremortimercountry.com">www.exploremortimercountry.com</a>
<b>Cycle Hire</b>	<a href="http://www.wheelywonderfulcycling.co.uk">www.wheelywonderfulcycling.co.uk</a> (01568 770755)

## Mortimer Country Food Fair

Brampton Bryan 31 July

An array of local food and craft businesses and much more.

For further details, Aardvark Books Café (01547 530888).

## Sun Inn Beer & cider Festival

Leintwardine 28 August

Real ales, ciders, food and music..

For further details, The Sun Inn, unique Parlour pub (01547 540705)

## Community Juicing with Kingsland Millennium Green Trust

September 2011, Kingsland Millennium Green (indoors if wet)

Community Apple juicing, sampling and picnic with family games. In 1999 KMGT planted a new 'derelict' orchard with many ancient varieties. 12 years on the trees are fruiting well. This will be an opportunity to sample some of these fruit - Golden Noble, Peasgood Nonsuch, Scots Bridget, Golden Harvey and others - bring along your own apples to be juiced too! Open to all - don't forget your picnic and be prepared for autumnal family games!

No admission charge, but charges for juicing.

For further details, please email Katie Eastaugh on [katie.eastaugh@btinternet.com](mailto:katie.eastaugh@btinternet.com)