

Variations

The following three variations each saves a bit of time/effort, but the second and fourth involve extra traffic. Take them if you're in a hurry or exhausted, but not if you want to maximise the charm and low traffic character of the ride.

Variation 1 – start of Avenue Verte

What: Continue on road an extra mile before starting Avenue Verte

Why: It's a mile shorter, and misses a bit of Av Verte which is slow with tight turns, sometimes clogged by walkers, rollerbladers etc.

Why not: You'll miss a charming bit of the route, going past parkland lakes

Recommendation: Speed or charm? Your choice

Directions: At point C on sheet 1, carry straight on along D1 for just under a mile. Turn right on small road marked Av Verte and shortly left onto disused railway



Variation 2 – La Belliere to Saumont La Poterie (2 miles after Forges les Eaux)

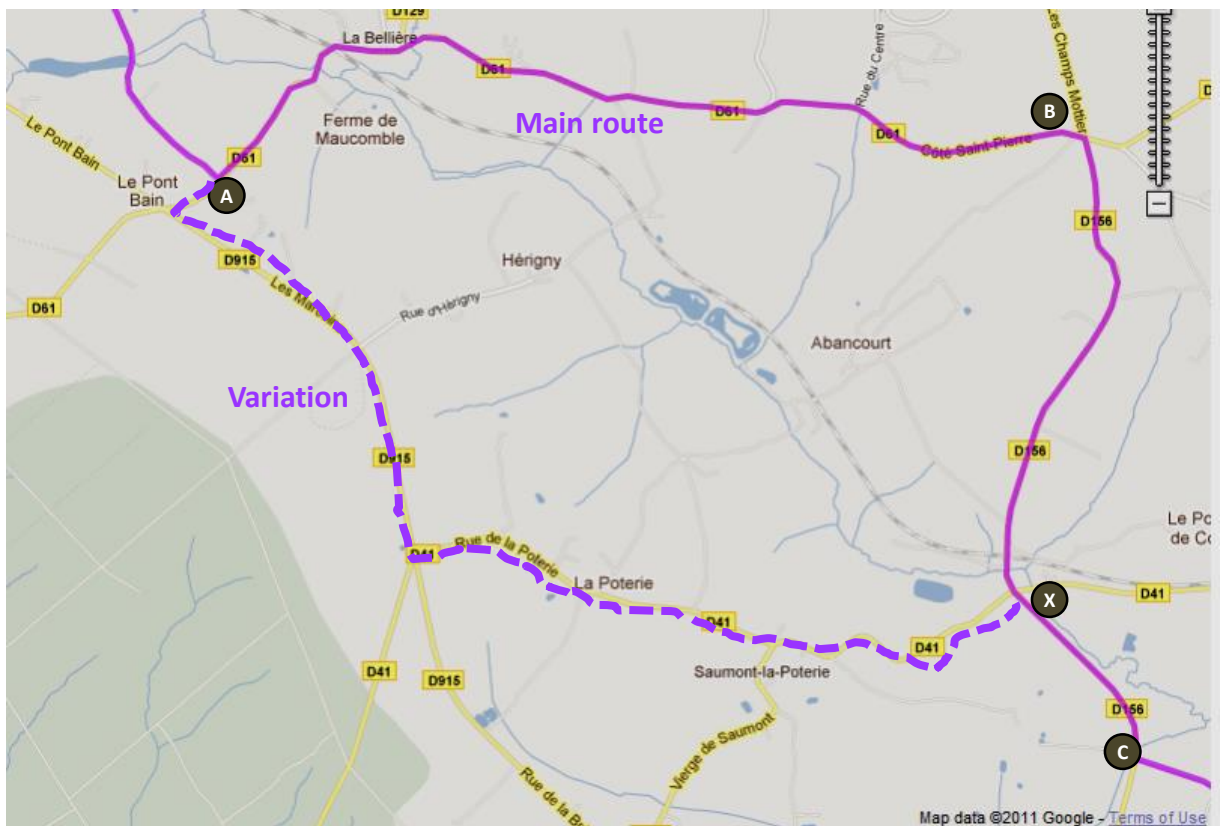
What: Avoid significant hill via main road

Why: This is the start of a hilly section and you can make it less so by using a busy-ish road for just over a mile.: it cuts out a 50m climb.

Why not: Even though there's not a huge amount of traffic on this road the cars come fast. It doesn't save any distance.

Recommendation: Not for unconfident riders, but worth considering if you're near the end of a long day!

Directions: At point A on sheet 3, turn right to main road. Left along it for just over a mile. Left where signed to Saumont la Poterie. Straight ahead until you pick up signs to Menerval, rejoining route where you turn right to Menerval, point X.



Variation 3 –Saumont La Poterie to Dampiere (2 miles after Forges les Eaux)

What: Avoid a hill taking you up to Menerval

Why: Though the hill is relatively short, it can be quite a knee-cruncher if you're doing this late in the day on your first day off the ferry. The main route comes down from the hill soon, so the variation involves less climbing overall.

Why not: The variation is 1km longer and you miss out on some wide views of the surrounding countryside.

Recommendation: If you think it's going to be a stretch to get from the ferry to a B and B in Dampierre, Gournay or beyond, use the variation.

Directions: At point C on sheet 3, do not turn left to Menerval but instead stay on D156 for just over 2 miles, until 200m before it reaches a main road. Left here into an unmarked road, taking small roads into Dampierre by following signs marked "Centre". When you reach the church, merge with the main village road coming in from the right, and head uphill to a roundabout, where turn right on D16 to continue on main route towards Gournay.

