

A Walking Guide to the Fulbourn Area



Fulbourn Forum for community action
Fulbourn Village History Society
Fulbourn Village Library

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Disclaimer: All distances and times given for walks are approximate. Please take them as a rough guide only. Information given was accurate at the time of publishing, but both buildings and countryside will change over the years.

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Front cover: Bridleway from Church Lane to Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve

Back cover (clockwise from top left): Fulbourn Manor and village sign; gateway from Long Fen to East Fen; The Old House; Bee Orchid



Fulbourn Village
History Society



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Top to bottom: Manor parkland from Stonebridge Lane; footpath to Great Wilbraham; Nature Reserve, Long Fen; Mill Lane





The village from St Vigor's Church tower

Waterlogged land along Little Wilbraham River (below right)

Weathervane on Townley Hall (below)



Introduction

There is no better way of getting to know an area than by walking. The landscape is as alive as we are, and constantly changing. There is always something new to discover and enjoy. This book sets out to describe 12 walks within reach of Fulbourn, some within the village and some throughout the surrounding countryside. It is not intended to be a complete guide to all possible routes in the area – we know there are more, and would love others to find them. Most of the starting points can be reached easily on foot, but occasionally you may wish to take a bus, car or cycle before starting to walk. Please make sure you can leave the latter two safely and securely before you walk.

This book has been written by a group of Fulbourn residents and we hope it will inspire and interest readers to try the walks for themselves, make changes, even get lost occasionally, but most of all to look around – see the differences in buildings, imagine the place in years gone by, watch the birds in flight, smell the flowers and wonder at the trees.

Where you can walk

People have been walking in the Fulbourn area since pre-Roman times, and many of the paths used today originate from ancient times. Although this is now a village of approximately 5,000 inhabitants, ever closer to the city of Cambridge, there is still a good network of public footpaths in the area. Walkers have a legally protected right of way on such paths, and landowners and the County Council have a duty to keep them accessible. However, it's worth remembering that arable farming is still an



important part of the local economy – there is no ‘right to roam’ through cultivated land – and walkers have responsibilities as well as rights, so stay on the path and always follow the **Countryside Code** (see insert).

Permissive paths are those where the landowner allows access to the land without dedicating a right of way. Fulbourn has a number of such paths, especially across Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve.

Public bridleways and byways are again legal rights of way, and may be used by cyclists, as long as they give way to walkers and horse-riders. There are also parts of a designated long distance walk in the area –the Roman Road/Fleam Dyke Walk. This is waymarked with named signs along the route, and has a published guide that is well worth reading (see References).

Routes within the village, and occasionally part of routes around it, use normal surfaced roads. While there is usually a pavement within the village, outside this may not be the case. Always face the on-coming traffic when walking, i.e. walk on the right. If there is a sharp corner where traffic would not see you until you are round the corner, it is sensible to cross over to the left. Be alert when near traffic; make sure you are visible and take care when crossing roads.

Finally, remember to follow the Countryside Code.

Find out more

For several walks we have suggested extensions, where you could make a full day’s walk, perhaps stopping for lunch at a pub (see Places to eat and drink). For these it would be sensible to buy the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:25,000 Explorer map 209, where public rights of way are marked in green.

Walking leads to questions –

When did the first shops open on the High Street?

How did Haggis Gap gets its name?

Why is the Old School no longer a school?

Why are there so many flowers in one place – none in another?

What tree, shrub, flower, bird is that?

This book cannot answer all these, but almost always someone in the village can. There is the Fulbourn History Society archive, based in Fulbourn Centre. The Library has a good ‘Local Studies’ section. The local Wildlife Trust has a working party for the Nature Reserve. We have included references and contact details of relevant organisations at the end of the book. Follow up the answers to your questions, talk about them to friends, check out the websites, and your walks will become ever more interesting to you and others.

The Countryside Code:

Respect other people

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

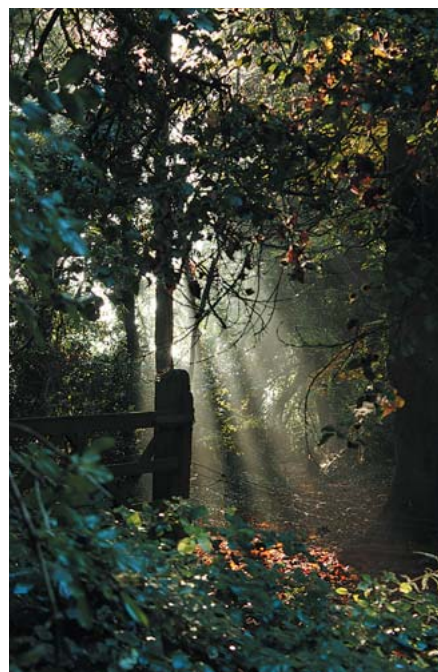
Protect the natural environment

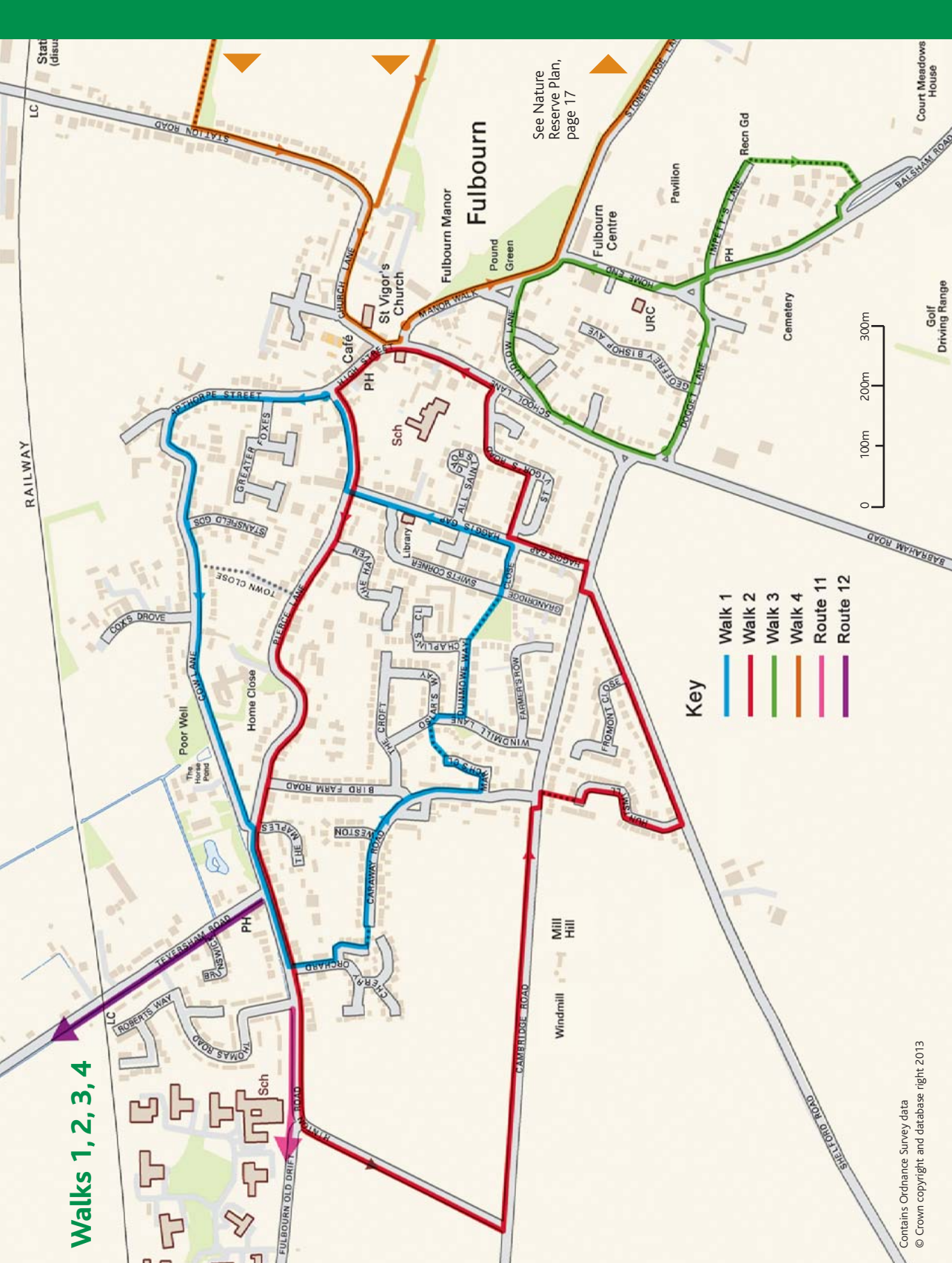
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

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

Early morning, Ansett’s Wood





Walks 1, 2, 3, 4

Walk 1: The Horse Pond

Distance: 2.6 km (1.6 miles)

Walking Time: 45 minutes

Map: page 4

This walk starts outside The Fruit Shop at the corner of High Street, Pierce Lane and Apthorpe Street. The Fruit Shop was formerly a blacksmith's forge, then a Cambridge Co-operative grocery shop. Next on the left, down Apthorpe Street, is a white house (No 5) set back from the road, built in the 17th century. At one time this was a public house called The Harrow, then in the 1960s it was owned by the village GP who used to see patients in a small surgery at the back of the house.

The door in the wall on the opposite side of the road was formerly the back entrance to the original Rectory in Church Lane. The new rectory was built in 1953 on part of the old rectory garden. Along from this is the first row of terrace houses built in the village, known as Chafy Row after Dr William Chafy, Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University in the early 19th century. He owned Northfield Farm to the rear of the cottages and built the houses for his farm labourers.

Keeping to the left you pass Highfield Farm House on the corner with Greater Foxes. This is one of Fulbourn's earliest buildings – a 14th century hall house. After crossing Greater Foxes, you pass No 27, also originally a public house, the Rising Sun, from the middle of the 19th century until 1950. Around 1910 there were



*Highfield Farm House,
11 Apthorpe Street*



*The Poor Well and Horse Pond in
summer (left) and in winter
(above)*

ten or eleven licensed premises in Fulbourn, one for every 120 inhabitants! Between Nos 29 and 31 is a shed which is the last remaining 'hovel' in the village; it was once thatched and was occupied as late as the 1930s. On the right-hand side of the road St Martin's Cottage (No 36) has the date of 1661 over the porch.

At the next left hand bend the road becomes Cow Lane, so named because cows used to be driven along the Lane from Highfield Farm to pasture on fields by Cox's Drove.. As you continue, just after Highfield Gate on your right, there is a row of white tiled cottages (Nos 2-6), probably once thatched, dating back to the early 19th century. The road bends sharply to the right, and continuing, on the left is the turning into Stansfield Gardens. These houses were built around 1987 on the site of nursery gardens belonging to Stan Hardwick. Next there is a public footpath, Town Close, which contains a row of four cottages built on land originally in the estate of Geoffrey Bishop, who left it to the village in 1474. Bishop's Charity administered this until 1950, when the cottages were sold to private individuals.

On the right side of the road, Rose Cottage (no 34) dates from the 17th century and is the only listed building in Cow Lane. Staying on the left, you pass Home Close, built in 1974 to house 40 residents, and now in private ownership, still looking after the elderly.

Rose Cottage, Cow Lane



The line of houses ceases further down on your right, where there is a row of balsam poplar trees which give off a lovely scent when in flower. Behind these is Poor Well where the poorer farmers could wash and water their carts and cattle. The land is mostly dry now, but a spring gives rise to a stream still running through the area and behind the buildings to Teversham Road.

Next to Poor Well is the Horse Pond. There is an information panel explaining the origins of this area following the Waterworks Act in 1886. The Act allowed the building of a Pumping Station, with provision for a pond and a standpipe to fill water carts. This was because it was thought that the existing Poor Well would dry up when the pumping started.

Some of the land originally owned by Cambridge Water has been sold for new houses, including the Pines. The pumping station itself follows – opened in 1891 and closed in 1923. It was reopened in 1941 for emergency use during the war, then refurbished in 1954 and finally closed in 1988. It is now called Telford House and is occupied by Hannah Reed, consulting engineers.

When you reach the junction with Hinton Road, cross over (opposite the Maples) and turn right. In a document dated 1425 this is referred to as Hyntonwalway (the road across Hynton common) and is one of the few village roads to have kept its mediaeval name. On the right you will see The Bakers Arms, one of the village's three remaining public houses. On the left there are two cottages, built in the 18th and 19th centuries. There used to be a row of clunch cottages here, and a public house called The Asylum, changed to The Windmill after the second World War.

Turn left into Cherry Orchard and where the road divides, bear left. Continue to the end and take the left hand footpath leading to Caraway Road. Follow this road past the junction on the left with Bird Farm Road. A few yards further on turn left into March's Close. At the end of this Close in the far right-hand corner take a short footpath leading to Windmill Lane. Turn right. On your right after some brick-built houses, there is a row of grey concrete flat-topped houses built in 1966. They are all that is left of the large Windmill Estate of factory built houses "sponsored by an enthusiastic council chairman", using an experimental construction with a 30 year life, to provide much needed social housing. In fact the estate lasted until 2008, when the ongoing regeneration began.

During the months of May to July, it is common to see numbers of swifts soaring above and around this area (see insert).

Turn left between two new blocks of flats into Dunmowe Way. When this road bears left, continue straight ahead onto the footpath. On your right is a grassy area which includes the

Fulbourn Swifts Group



If you are doing this walk between May and July, you may well see swifts circling above and swooping down to their nests. The old Windmill Estate houses provided homes for a large colony of swifts – 72 pairs in 2009 – and there are still 5-6 active nests in the remaining row of houses on Windmill Lane. When the regeneration began, the South Cambs District Council environmental officer assisted the developers in providing new nesting sites either in the roof space or as external boxes throughout the new buildings.

A group of interested individuals has been monitoring the swifts in the village since 2010, and were pleased to record that 27 of these new boxes were used in 2012, as opposed to 10 in 2011. Obviously the extent of demolition and building has affected the swifts, but it seems they are still coming! As they winter as far away as Mozambique, it is amazing that they return to the village.

There are other nesting sites – especially the church and the Old Manor. A number of the group have put up new boxes on their own houses and on the school and played the swifts' calls through CDs.

If you are interested, contact the Swifts Group through the Fulbourn Forum – details in the Contacts list at the end of the book.



The Fulbourn Life Wall

This fine new monument, made of black granite from Zimbabwe, is part of the public art required within any large new housing development. The artist commissioned for this was Andrew Tanser, a member of the Master Carvers Association. After consultation with the Residents Association, the design for a Life Wall was chosen to represent village life and history. The design includes what the artist, in conjunction with the Village History Society, judged to be the most significant and symbolic sites of Fulbourn.

The west side covers the village's early history under its Anglo-Saxon name FUGOLBURNA, starting with the stone age and ending in 1790. On the east side, FULBOURN is given its modern spelling and dates included are those of both World Wars, as well as of the arrival of TV and the invention of the internet.

Read more on the Village History Society's website; Newsletter 37, Spring 2013

*Fulbourn Village Library,
The Swifts*

Windmill Estate Play Park. There is also a human sundial and Fulbourn Life Wall (see insert).

Continue past the Wall straight into Grandridge Close; a few yards ahead turn left into Haggis Gap. There is a will dated 1659 detailing conditions under which Richard Haggis of Bottisham left land here to his son Richard Haggis of Fulbourn – read more in 'Highways and Byways of Fulbourn' by D. Crane. Until 1953 Haggis Gap remained a muddy track with just one bungalow on it. All the current housing is post-war. Walk on, and on your left there is the village surgery built in 1973. Note the Community Herb Bed outside this, maintained by Fulbourn Forum for community action.

Next you will see a block of green Cumbrian slate, naming the Swifts Library and meeting rooms. This building was opened in 2009 in the first phase of regeneration of the area, and the name stone is again the work of Andrew Tanser. The Library moved here from the Old School, where in 2003 it was taken over from the County Council by a group of volunteers, who now run the Library with support from the Friends of Fulbourn Library and the Parish Council.

Turn right at the end of the road, opposite the 1066 Piano Shop (1066 being a jokey reference to the owners, the Norman family) and you will shortly come full circle to The Fruit Shop on Apthorpe Street.



Walk 2: The Windmill

Distance: 3.6 km (2.25 miles)

Walking Time: 1 hour

Map: page 4

The top of the High Street is the start for this walk. Although it may, as rumoured, be the shortest High Street in the country, it is packed with interest and is a vital, treasured and much used centre for **shopping** (see insert) and conversation. The current Co-op store, butcher, green-grocer, pharmacy and other outlets provide residents with almost everything they need. Let's hope we can keep it that way! Take in the variety as you walk down the street, and try to imagine it 100 years ago (see insert).

The Six Bells is the oldest public house in the village, dating from the 16th century. It was originally the Plough and Crown, but when the church bought a new peal of six bells in 1876, the name was changed to celebrate. It seems fitting that the present publicans are still responsible for winding the clock in the church tower. A number of buildings on the Street remain residential, the oldest of which is probably No 8, originally an open hall house in the 15th Century.

Turning left at the bottom of the street, you pass into Pierce Lane, which before the 'New' Cambridge Road, was the main route from the village into Cambridge. It has a real mix of old and new buildings, now almost all residential. At the corner, both Yew Lodge and Nos 2-4 opposite have housed shops in the

Shopping

There used to be shops scattered around the village; cooks, leatherworkers, seamstresses, farmers and the blacksmith sold their goods from their homes, so within living memory there was a baker and harness-maker in Pierce Lane; a cycle shop in Station Road; a sweet shop in Home End, and many more.

Shops changed location even around the High Street: for instance the first Post Office was probably in Yew Lodge around 1840; then it moved into the High Street and for 75 years was in the building that is now Sawos Takeaway, before moving in 1965 round the corner into No 2 School Lane. It closed in 2011, and a reduced service Post Office returned to the High Street in the Co-op in 2012.

Trace the changes using Crane's book 'The Highways and Byways of Fulbourn', and the Village History Society archive in Fulbourn Centre.



Top of High Street

Fulbourn Hospital Building

The large Victorian building on Cambridge Road to the west of the village, which now forms the central part of Capital Park, opened in 1858 as Fulbourn Asylum, one of several large public asylums for the mentally ill built at that time. The name changed to Fulbourn Hospital in 1917, and after the 2nd World War, as methods of treating the mentally ill changed, it became a renowned Open Door Hospital. Gradually patients were moved out of the old building into the community or smaller wards. By the 1990s a new use of the building was needed, and it was sold to Capital Park. Current use of the building reflects its past, as it provides offices for the NHS, and a teaching centre for Anglia Ruskin University Department of Health and Social Care. New office buildings have been developed on the site, but the gardens and sports fields to the south remain, and the building is still an imposing landmark.

Read 'The Story of a Mental Hospital – Fulbourn 1858-1983' by David H Clark for a full and fascinating history.

past. The second house on the left is the Old Manse, built in 1896 for £450 as the home of the then Congregational Church minister, and where Mary Wilson, the wife of Harold Wilson, Labour Prime Minister in the 1960s and 70s, grew up. On the right is a Joinery Workshop and further on, the 1066 Piano Shop.

Continuing along the left side of the street, you pass first Haggis Gap, then a second turning called The Haven, a close of houses built in the 1990s in the garden of the big Victorian house, now known as Field House. This was built in 1857 as the vicarage for All Saints parish. When this merged with St Vigor's in 1875 the property was sold off. On the right, you pass the entrance to Town Close, and the grounds of Home Close (see Walk 1).

After a sharp turn left, facing you is No 41, the Old Mangle, which was a public house called the Mangle from the 1830s to 1963. Next door, set back from the road and now part of the Old Mangle's garden, is a little building that once served as a Baptist chapel, with a small graveyard in front of it. Moving on, the mixture of houses includes another close of modern bungalows called The Cornway, a terrace of brickbuilt houses, and a thatched and tiled house end on to the road that once housed the Townley Arms (No 63).

Cross over the junction with Bird Farm Road and you come to the junction with Cow Lane and the Maples. From here the road becomes Hinton Road (see Walk 1). Keep walking past the Cherry Orchard turning, crossing to the right when you reach a field and the pavement stops. Soon Hinton Road turns sharp left, while the road continuing straight ahead is Fulbourn Old Drift – the ancient route through Cherry Hinton and into Cambridge. Just before the turning, you pass signs for the Windmill Hydrotherapy Pool, then for the Steiner School on your right. Both buildings were originally part of the Ida Darwin Hospital, built in the 1960s for people with learning disabilities. The rest of the Ida Darwin site is subject to development proposals.

Hinton Road itself continues between arable fields to meet the Cambridge Road. On the left is an attractive hedge of blackthorn, hawthorn and cherry plum, with hedgerow trees spaced along it. Looking right, you see the tower of the old **Fulbourn Hospital** building rising above the trees (see insert).

Turn left into Cambridge Road, where there is a pavement. This became a public highway in 1806, initially called the New Road. Until 1930, the Windmill was the only building along it. Walk up the hill, with the **Windmill** to your right (see insert p. 11). If you cross the road to the mill, take care as traffic is fast here. Continuing your walk, as you pass over the brow of the hill you have a good view of the 13 turbines of Wadlow Wind Farm, shining white if the sun is on them. Old and new ways to use the wind!

Walking downhill now, cross to the right at the junction with Caraway Road, and take the small path between the houses to the right, with two red garage doors at the end of it. You come into Huntsmill, a close built between 1996-8. Cross to the footpath by the garages, and continue out of Huntsmill into Shelford Road. Turn left here to complete your circuit of the south-west edge of the village. Facing you soon are the three storey flats with solar-panelled roofs of the new Windmill Estate.

Reaching Cambridge Road again, cross and turn first right then left into Haggis Gap (see Walk 1). Take the first right, St Vigor's Road, and cross the attractive open grass patch with shrubs and trees. Follow the road round to the green railings and brick pillars of the Primary School entrance. The oldest part of the school is on the right, with new extensions added to the left. Opposite is Holman's Close Day Centre. Thus this road providing facilities for both old and young.

Continue along St Vigor's Road and turn left into School Lane. After what was once the headteacher's house, now a private home, you reach the Old School. This was built in 1859 as a National Schoolroom, and has served a number of purposes over the years - an Assembly Room; a Hospital for convalescent soldiers of the First World War; the County Branch Library; a youth club and after-school club. Now it is sadly empty and needing repair – we hope for some future village use.

On the right is Hall Farm, while on your left is the site of its former stack yard, now a close of new houses named Stack Yard Court. Finally, after Home Farm, is No 2 School Lane which was originally built around 1700, and until recently, housed the Post Office. You are back at the top of the High Street.



Fulbourn Windmill

The windmill was built in 1808 by John Chaplin, a Fulbourn farmer. It remained in use until 1937, when it was struck by lightning. In 1974 restoration was begun to preserve it, and it is now in the hands of a Trust.

Restoration and the necessary financing are undertaken by volunteer members of the Fulbourn Windmill Society.

The mill consists of a wooden tower, the smock, on a brick base, surmounted by a cap and sails which can be turned to face the wind. Working parties have restored or replaced much of the fabric and treated the mill against damp and decay. Work on the sails, begun in 1980, continues at the time of writing.

There are a number of Open Days through the year for public viewing; for more information contact harrisons@oneservice.co.uk



The Old School, School Lane

Walk 3: A Recreation Ground figure-of-eight

Distance: 1.9 km (1.2 miles)

Walking time: 45 minutes

Map: page 4



*Cobble faced wall,
Impett's Lane.*

Begin your walk at the junction of Dogget Lane and School Lane and walk down Dogget Lane on the left. This road is very old, the earliest reference to it being 1297. After passing several bungalows you reach Geoffrey Bishop Avenue. This land was, for many years, a beautiful meadow with 52 mature walnut trees; children played there and it was often used for Sunday school treats. Eventually it was sold to a builder, and despite strong protests from the Parish Council, the road and houses were built in 1959.

Continuing, you reach a building now called Cedar. This was the Crown and Thistle public house until the late 1970s and was a favourite with the local championship darts team. Opposite is Sanders Lane, leading to the Village Cemetery.

Cross the grass triangle on Home End and aim directly ahead down Impetts Lane. On the right is The White Hart. This pub received a licence to sell beer in 1810, when the first publican John Matthews was allowed to sell only his own brewed beer. Failure to do this resulted in a fine of £100 to be paid to the churchwardens. The public house has now undergone extensive renovation and is mainly a restaurant.

Now walk down Impetts Lane. This very ancient lane is mentioned in 1435 as Ympey which may be derived from the Middle English word for sapling. The three cobble faced houses which stand sideways to the road were once a barn. Look on the north facing gable of the end house where you can still see the loading and unloading door.

*A cricket match on the
Recreation Ground*



On your left is the Recreation Ground; the original plot was given to the village by Reverend C. F. Townley shortly after World War 1. Later, more land was purchased by the Parish Council, the Pavilion was improved, and a bowling-green and tennis courts added, together with a multi-use floodlit games area. In 1967 the Ground was extended further with the purchase of the land at the end of the lane for £690. At the bottom of Impetts Lane turn right onto the Recreation Ground and walk to the corner where you come to a gravelled footpath. Follow this back onto Balsham Road, turning right onto the Tuppeny Green lay-by and passing Barnsfield and Jeeves Acre.

Cross Balsham Road near the lay-by and walk along the left hand side. The second house you pass is Old Shardelowes (no 18). Originally a fifteenth century hall house, it was added to over the next two centuries. The next building of note is Honeysuckle Cottage (No 16) which is one of the oldest houses in the village, the oldest section being the part with the thatched roof. Look up to the roof and you will see a thatched dog perched on top. Soon you reach College Farmhouse, set back from the road and previously known as Peterhouse Farm after its former owner, the Cambridge College. It is an impressive 15th century hall house which has been extensively added to over the years. The original farmyard was sold for building in 1984. Finally on this side of the road is The Bury, whose origins go back at least to the 18th century.

Cross the road at this point (take care with traffic on a difficult corner) and walk along Home End on the left. Opposite, on the corner with Impetts Lane, you will see a long low building painted white. This was known as The Lolly Shop and within living memory sold sweets and treats to local children. The adjacent cottages, known as Hope Terrace, were built on the site of the Royal Oak public house, demolished in 1910; you can see the date on the front wall of the middle cottage. The one nearest to the White Hart was Hope Hall, where Band of Hope meetings were held. On the left, you reach the **United Reformed Church**, set back from the road with a small burial ground (see insert).

Next on the right is the entrance to the Fulbourn Centre car park, followed by the black and white frontage of Townley Hall, given to the village in 1925 by Reverend C. F. Townley, who paid for its construction, furnishings and fittings. In 2006 this became part of Fulbourn Centre, run by a Village Trust, when a large new extension was added with a bar area and meeting rooms. At the time of writing a new multipurpose hall beyond this is under construction.

The road takes a left turn as you pass The Old House. This has 15th century origins but was almost completely rebuilt in the 17th century. It has been known as The Great House Homestead

The United Reformed Church

Begun in 1810, it was known first as The Dissenting Meeting House. Before that time those who did not want to attend the established church had to meet where they could, often in sheds or barns. One of them, Mr Joseph Hancock a gentleman farmer, paid for the chapel to be built, and Mr Joseph Chaplin was the first church member. As the congregation grew the building was extended and often 100 people would attend morning and evening services





The old maltings

The village war memorial and Ludlow Lane

and The Limes in the past; look up to see the fire bell at the base of the chimney stack. Turn the corner, and you see the village war memorial, standing on the immaculately mown grass of Pound Green. The memorial is of Aberdeen granite and is in the form of a Celtic cross. It contains the names of those who died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars, and the Gulf War.

Keep to the left into Ludlow Lane. The first house on the left hand side is Flendyshe House which dates from the early 17th century with later additions. Opposite and almost obscured by trees, stands Ludlows, which has 15th century origins. Owned by several generations of the Chaplin family, it was once a farmstead with extensive outbuildings and barns. The old maltings alongside the Lane were once thatched and have been used for various purposes since malting ceased. Chickens have been kept there, seed dressing carried out, and even rifle practice during the 1st World War. As you walk along Ludlow Lane you will see the Maltsters Cottage tucked away behind the maltings.

The house opposite the maltings was once a post office and public house called The Dog and Partridge, and within living memory motor spirit was sold from a pump on the footpath just outside the house. Finally, on Ludlow Lane you will pass some modern houses before reaching School Lane. On your left as you turn onto School Lane is a thatched cottage (No 19), which was originally built as two houses in the late 17th century. A short walk along School Lane will take you back to your starting point.



Walk 4:

Stonebridge Lane and Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve

Distance: 1 - 3 km (0.6 - 1.9 miles)

Walking time: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Maps: pages 4 and 17

Start at St Vigor's Church (see insert), at the junction of School Lane and Manor Walk. Opposite the lych-gate is the Village Sign, erected in 1981 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. This was designed by Richard Sell and illustrates the ancient name of the village - 'a stream frequented by birds' - and the surrounding farmland. Next to the church is **Fulbourn Manor** (see insert p. 16), with a statue of William III in the forecourt, and a pair of stone falcons on the gateposts, thought to date to the 16th century and acquired by the Townleys after the demolition in 1966 of Beaupre Hall in Norfolk, once a Townley property. Continue down Manor Walk past Pound Green with its tall trees and seats; in the 17th century there was a public house here and animals found straying in the village were held in a pound.

Turn left into Stonebridge Lane, known as Broad Green until recently. To the right is the Recreation Ground affording possibilities for playing football, cricket, tennis or bowls, and children's play parks. Standing back from the lane are several thatched cottages, dating from the eighteenth century and built mainly for agricultural workers. Turn left onto the bridleway

St Vigor's Church

There may have been a church on this spot since Saxon times, as a Saxon cross-head was found under the floor of the nave when the church was being restored in 1869. Under the tower arch there is a coffin-lid also thought to be Saxon. In Norman times there were two churches on the present site: St Vigor's and All Saints. All Saints fell into ruins when its tower tumbled into the nave and chancel, and was finally pulled down in 1776. St Vigor's has been much altered since its foundation. There are several items of interest, some thought to be from All Saints. The cadaver tomb of John Caraway, Rector of St Vigor's 1395-1441 is the only stone cadaver in a wooden tomb and the earliest in any parish church. The two recumbent figures of clunch stone (early 17th century) are thought to be Edward Wood and his wife Elizabeth.

More information on St Vigor's can be seen on www.fulbournandthewilbrahams.org, a print-out of which is kept inside the church. It is open in daylight hours all the year round.

THE wildlife TRUSTS

Your local Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and countryside for people to enjoy in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We are a charity dependent on voluntary contributions.

To contact us about this reserve or about how you can support us please write to: The Wildlife Trust, The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Camboorne, Cambridge CB23 6DH, or telephone: 01954 713500. E-mail: cambridgeshire@wildlifecbnp.org Website: www.wildlifecbnp.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Registered charity no: 1000412

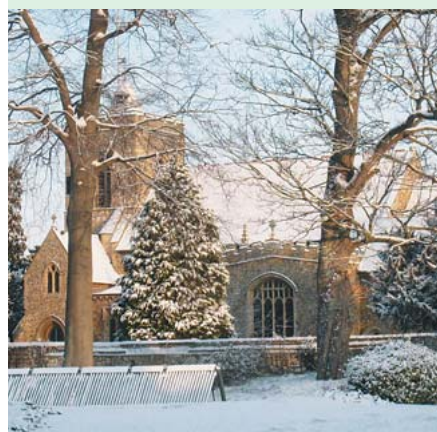
Welcome to Fulbourn F

This nature reserve is important for its areas of grassland have never been treated with fertilisers or pesticides. It is an excellent habitat for rare plants and insects. The site has a rich history. The remains of a medieval manor house lie within the reserve, and this area was once the end point of the sixteenth century workings of Fleam Dyke.

What to look for

During spring you can see cowslips throughout the meadows, while in summer there are bees, butterflies and southern marsh harrows.

During the summer months across the site and kestrels hunt small prey. Look out for turtle doves in the nearby woodland. In late spring you can see the first of the new yearlings.



Fulbourn Manor

There is no conclusive evidence that a manor house existed on the present site of the Manor before the 18th century, though foundations exposed in the early 20th century indicated the existence of an earlier building of 16th or early 17th century origins. The present building, based on a medium-sized country house of the early to mid 18th century, has been enlarged and adapted over the following 250 years to meet the changing needs of the Townley family. They inherited the property from William Greaves, Commissary of Cambridge University, who acquired it in the 1740's. He created the Park, built the ha-ha and erected the statue of William III in the forecourt.

The Manor gateway



*Snowdrops in
Ansett's Wood*

known as Mill Lane and immediately right into the **Nature Reserve** woods. There is an information board here about the Reserve and its woodlands.

The mixed deciduous trees give dappled shade and offer pleasant walking conditions for most of the year. In February, carpets of snowdrops are to be found, mostly towards the Scout Hut, and later in spring there are patches of bluebells. Make your way to the Scout Hut, choosing any of the various paths through the woods. Leave Ansett's wood through the kissing gate here. (If you want a short walk, turn left along Mill Lane and keep straight on, along the bridleway towards Church Lane. Turn left again here to return to St Vigor's Church.) But the main walk simply crosses Mill Lane and enters Ox Meadow, with its fine oak trees spreading over the pastureland. The largest oak is thought to be at least 300 years old. The flora on these chalk grasslands is very special, particularly the cowslips found here



Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve





The Almshouses in Church Lane

Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve

The Nature Reserve was established in 1967 as the Fulbourn Educational Nature Reserve, following the earlier designation of most of the 31ha (76 acre) site as being a national Site of Special Scientific Interest. Since that time the Reserve has been managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire. Though the scientific interest is primarily botanical, the Reserve also contains a range of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. One particular feature is the old meadows that have never been ploughed or treated with pesticides or fertilisers. For more information, see the Wildlife Trust website (see contacts list).

Regular volunteer work parties through the winter help to maintain the Reserve. If you would like to get involved, contact the Wildlife Trust via cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

and the orchids in the further fen pastures. Dog owners are asked to keep their pets on the lead at all times. In the summer and autumn months, cows and calves graze here.

Cross to the gate, keeping the woodland to your right and the oaks to your left. Enter the second field (Long Fen) and continue northwards with the rough hedge on your left. When the path reaches a gate in the fence, go through it and follow the path in a loop, eventually crossing a ditch by a bridge and coming into the broad margin of an arable field. Turn to the left towards the ancient moated site of Dunmowes Manor, crossing it and emerging on the other side, where an information board relates the history of the site. Then take the left-hand fork over Moat Meadow and cross back into Ox Meadow through a metal gate, keeping to the right across the top of the field back into Mill Lane. Turn right into the bridleway and follow it to the corner of Station Road and Church Lane.

Alternatively, for a slightly longer walk, do not enter the moated site, but turn right along the edge of the field towards the Fulbourn Silo. At the corner of this field, cross the little bridge through the trees and turn left along a broad farm track, towards the houses on Station Road. At the end of this track, cross the stile into Station Road and turn left.

Both these routes then continue along Church Lane, passing the Almshouses on the right, built by public subscription in 1864 on land donated by the Townley family. Continue past the top of the High Street to your starting point.

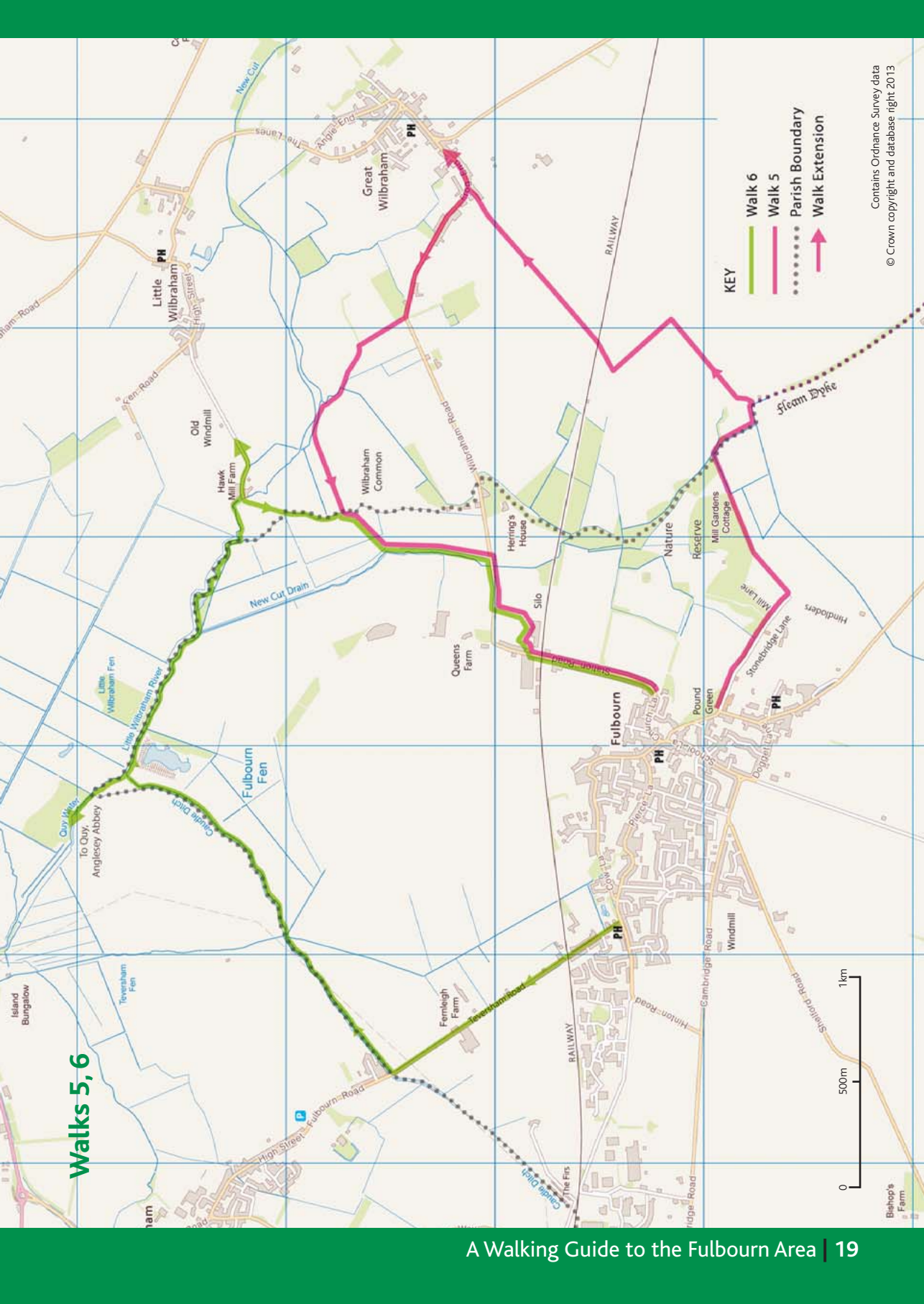
Walks 5, 6

KEY

- Walk 6
- Walk 5
- Parish Boundary
- Walk Extension

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Walk 5: Great Wilbraham and Wilbraham Common

Distance: 8 km (5 miles)

Walking time: 2 hours

Map: page 19



*The footpath at the end of
Stonebridge Lane*

Leaving the village along Stonebridge Lane, the route continues past the Recreation Ground on the right, with a glimpse over a gate into sheep pasture on the left, to the end of the tarmacked roadway. Here the road surface becomes rough and is often rutted in winter. At the junction with Hindloders turn left, following the signposted public right of way.

As you follow the path beside the arable field you can see the first glimpses of Wadlow Wind Farm on the horizon, and the line of Fleam Dyke can be made out. Large poplar and ash trees are in the mixed hedge beside the path. Passing over the first of three bridges you reach the meadows recently sown with wild flowers and fenced, so that they can be grazed by sheep. Cross the second bridge over a chalk stream, which can be dry in summer, and emerge into the second, larger meadow. Follow the stream past the entrance to the Nature Reserve on the left, and where the path turns to the right glimpses of the confluence of three streams can be observed, all being fed by springs (when they are running) at the 15metre contour. Glancing to the right as you continue along the path you may be able to see one of four ponds dug in the fenced meadows to provide habitat for wildlife. At the third bridge, through the hedges, turn left onto the farm track.

Follow the track past the remains of an old stockyard at the foot of Fleam Dyke, where the footpath sign to Great Wilbraham indicates a left, then right turn onto a long grassy path across the arable field. The tower of St Nicholas' Church, Great Wilbraham can be clearly seen ahead. The path here crosses a site where signs of Roman occupation, thought to have been a villa, have been found. As the path meets the hedge line the roof of Wilbraham Home Farm comes into view straight ahead.

Turn left on the track beyond the hedge and continue for several hundred yards, to a sign where you turn to the right across an arable field (through the crops or plough depending on the season) till you reach the Cambridge –Newmarket Railway. Cross the railway, looking out for the infrequent trains, and then follow the path alongside another hedge on your right. Great Wilbraham village can be seen ahead. About halfway along, the hedge disappears and the Wind Farm can again be seen to the right.



As you approach the village, you pass through a piece of overgrown grassland on to a narrow tree and hedge lined path which emerges onto a surfaced private driveway with houses on the right, leading to the open green of Frog End.

At this point, you could extend your walk by continuing straight ahead into Great Wilbraham village, where a pub, post office, church and Village Green provide more to see.

For this walk, turn left and follow the road out of Great Wilbraham village. Where the pavement ends, cross to the right of the road, facing the traffic, onto the grass verge that is just wide enough for single file walkers. Continue along this about 400m, where a public footpath to the right is signposted, and turn into the path. In many places this can be a muddy track where you have to squeeze along the side by the hedges and ivy-covered trees. The attraction lies in the size of the hedges, which in spring can attract warblers as well as resident blackbirds, robins and chaffinches. On one side a deep ditch drains into a stream which joins the Little Wilbraham River.

A turn or two brings you to a gate signed as Great Wilbraham Common – and a warning about cattle, not always present. There is an information board explaining why this is an *uncommon* common, with much to see. A small pond promises aquatic life. Overhead a buzzard may be circling. On the ground mole hills are everywhere, some with owl pellets lying on top.

Walk straight ahead along the clear pathway in the grass. When you come to a kissing gate and bridge over the Little Wilbraham River on your left, it is possible to leave the Common and take a

Crossing the railway line on the way to Great Wilbraham

Signs at the old stockyard near Fleam Dyke





Wilbraham Common

broad, well-marked path beside arable fields, through Hawk Mill Farm yard and back to Fulbourn. However, this walk continues across the Common along a pathway, just visible when the grass is long, through another kissing gate next to a large farm gate, across another section of the Common and over a stile to the footpath which leads towards the village.

Stile from Wilbraham Common



Turning left, the path cuts diagonally across the arable fields, with the Silo ahead of you. Reaching a farm track turn left again, and walk towards Cole's Bridge sluice and the Fulbourn Road. A thin sliver of cultivated land separates this path from the deep New Cut Drain as it moves towards Little Wilbraham River.

When you reach the Fulbourn – Gt Wilbraham Road again at Cole's Bridge, turn right and then cross at the footpath sign. You walk across another field and alongside the huge Silo, where the path is fenced in by wire-netting. You leave this and turn left onto the road, then over the railway at the level crossing. This was the site of Fulbourn Station until it was closed in 1960 after the Beeching Report. There were sidings and a platform to the left and station buildings to the right, now replaced by various industrial buildings.

Continue along Station Road into the village.

Walk 6:

Fulbourn Fen and Little Wilbraham River

Distance: 8 km (5 miles)

Walking time: 2 hours

Map: page 19

This walk passes through or around the **fens of Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams** (see insert) and is one of streams, rivers, ditches, drains and small lakes with their attendant flora and fauna. You leave the village along Teversham Road, over the railway at the level crossing where the old gatekeeper's cottage still stands on the right. Continue along the pavement until you reach the first traffic calming point. Here the path to the right is marked by a public footpath sign.

The path begins by following the Caudle Ditch, an old stream a good 3-4m deep with a chalk bed; previously called Caldwell (13th Century), a locational surname of Anglo-Saxon origin. The

Fulbourn, Little Wilbraham and Teversham Fens

Over towards the Newmarket Road, the reed beds and scrub of Little Wilbraham, Teversham and Fulbourn Fens, crossed by their two ancient droveways, form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated mainly for fen meadow and reed bed plants and grasses. In summer, the wet areas hold good numbers of noisy breeding reed and sedge warblers while the drier scrub is an important county site for grasshopper warblers. Marsh harriers, buzzards and hobbies are regularly seen overhead, the latter usually hawking for dragonflies. In winter, flocks of winter thrushes and particularly fieldfare, feast on the hedgerow hips and haws, and a starling roost can provide something of a spectacle on winter evenings. Migrant short-eared and resident barn owls hunt at dusk over the rougher grassland.



Little Wilbraham River



Remains of the old watermill near Hawk Mill Farm

path is well enclosed on your left with a wide belt of bushes and small trees; in spring cowslips, violets and butterflies abound. To the right, the view over the stream gives onto paddocks, with the Fulbourn Silo in Wilbraham Road beyond and the Wadlow Wind Farm in the distance.

After 15 minutes, pass over two bridges and continue to follow the main path with tall hedges on both sides, still with the Caudle Ditch on your right. After about 35 minutes (from the road) the path enters open land, alive with movement, colour and insects in summer, then forks to the left and right. Continue with the right hand path, keeping the stream on your right – you will see a Cambridge Green Belt Project post ahead. You soon arrive at the Little Wilbraham River at the point where it becomes Quy Water. If followed to the left, the path will take you to Stow-cum-Quy, Anglesey Abbey, Lode and beyond. Earlier versions of the OS map refer to this path as the Harcamlow Way (Harlow to Cambridge), but the designation of this route has now been removed.

Your walk is to the right, following the Little Wilbraham River with Little Wilbraham Fen on the other side (see insert). The Caudle Ditch doesn't join the river but also turns right so that the path continues on a picturesque raised pathway, with the river on your left, and the Ditch on your right. The lake beyond the Ditch to your right, clearly identifiable on the map, cannot be seen as it is surrounded by raised banks. Before long, on an open stretch of the path, you can again glimpse the wind turbines in the far distance which, in a wintry blue/grey East Anglian sky, appear ghost-like.

Just past a tall poplar tree on the left bank of the river, your path now turns left onto a small bridge over the New Cut Drain. This junction is easily identified by its interesting grouping of several deep ditches, drains and the river, maybe enticing unsuspecting

Lake near Little Wilbraham River





The old windmill, Little Wilbraham

walkers to venture off-route (look for the PRIVATE signs). But if you keep the river on your left you will enter a very attractive, wooded, twisting path, with adjacent marshy area. In one place this extends onto the path, but is always passable with the right footwear. You pass a small private lake on the right hand side, with its accompanying chalet and jetty, before the pathway opens out and you reach the gateway to Hawk Mill Farm. Here you will see the remains of the old watermill building which went out of use in 1937. Ten years earlier, the river flow was already much reduced due to abstraction from the new borehole at Fleam Dyke and the derelict state of the watercourses. It was finally deprived of all water power after alterations to various water courses in an unsuccessful attempt to resolve an area of flooding.

The waymark sign on your left indicates a route through the farm yard, which then passes the old windmill, and leads to Little Wilbraham. However, you follow the track to the right, heading straight for the Fulbourn Silo in the distance. You soon leave the track to follow a grassy path (unmarked in 2013) with a tall hedge on your right. When you reach the stile into Wilbraham Common on your left, continue on the path across two arable fields, before reaching another farm track where you turn left.

Field path to Fulbourn Silo

On your right, a small strip of arable land separates this track from a watercourse which carries water which originates from springs in Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve. As you approach the Fulbourn to Great Wilbraham Road, Herrings House can be sighted behind trees on the left and the Environment Agency Gauging Station and sluice at Cole's Bridge interrupts the water course on your right

Turn right onto the Wilbraham Road towards Fulbourn, where it is wise to walk on the wide grass verge even if it is a little uneven. After 200 metres a footpath can be found on the left hand side of the road which crosses the open, sometimes muddy, arable field, bringing you to the side of the Fulbourn Silo. Turn right onto a narrow footpath between fencing which will take you through to the Wilbraham Road, near to the railway crossing. A brisk walk along Station Road will take you quickly back to the centre of the village.



Walk 7: Fleam Dyke – a Scheduled Ancient Monument

Distance: 7 km (4.3 miles)

Walking Time: 2 hours

Maps: pages 26 and 17

This walk starts on Stonebridge Lane, first following the same route as Walk 5 towards Great Wilbraham, turning left when you reach the sign to Fleam Dyke and following this footpath along the field edges onto the farm track. On reaching the tall footpath sign at the bend in this track, you now turn right along a narrow path towards the steps leading to Fleam Dyke itself.

At the foot of the steps there is a board with a map of the whole length of Fleam Dyke, and at the top an information board describing its archaeology, history and flora. The path, which starts at 15 m above sea level, is a single track in some places and leads to Balsham some 5 miles distant. This walk only goes as far as Mutlow Hill, a Bronze Age burial mound (50 m above sea level). It is usually dry underfoot, but bumpy in places and with steep steps where there are cuts in the dyke. Spring and summer are the best seasons to observe wild flowers and butterflies. The elevation offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.



The steps up to Fleam Dyke

Fleam Dyke in winter



Orchids on the Reserve

Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve is home to several orchids: early marsh, southern marsh, common spotted, twayblade, and bee orchids may be found most commonly in May and June. An orchid count in East Fen Pasture has been organised by the Wildlife Trust annually during this century. In 2000, there were only some 200 orchids but by 2012 there were 1,881. Twayblades were not included in the count. Bee orchids are quite hard to find as the flowers are small but exquisite.

If you would like to help with the orchid count, contact the Wildlife Trust, details at the end of the book.



Southern Marsh Orchid



Bee Orchid

The boardwalk, East Fen Pasture

Halfway to Mutlow Hill, you pass on your right Fleam Dyke pumping station, built between 1912 and 1921. The station was electrified in 1976 but parts of the original steam machinery were preserved. A little further on you come to the cutting of a disused railway line, where rifle practice is said to have taken place in the second World War. The railway was the Great Chesterford to Newmarket branch line, specifically constructed and opened in 1848 at the behest of the Jockey Club to enable pundits easy access to the races, but only in use until 1851 when the main Cambridge to Newmarket line was opened.

At Mutlow Hill there is another information board outlining its history, and a bench for weary walkers. Those wishing to progress further must first walk through a wooded section, across the A11 by the footbridge, and uphill to Balsham (110 m above sea level), where you could stop for refreshment before returning to Fulbourn.

On this walk you now retrace your steps, descending from Fleam Dyke to the narrow path, then turning left along the farm track before crossing the little bridge through a gap in the hedge on the right. Follow this path around the fenced field until you find another gap in the hedge on the right, with a bridge over the ditch. Pass through the kissing gate into Four Acre field, part of Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve.

There is an information board here about the wildlife which may be seen, and see also information about the Reserve in Walk 4 of





*One of the great oak trees in
Ox Meadow*

this book. The public are asked to keep their dogs on leads to protect rare wild flowers and because cattle graze these meadows at times, an important part of the Wildlife Trust's management practice for the Reserve .

Crossing into East Fen Pasture, just to the right of the path you will see a fenced off area that was once a pond. Yellow flag irises still bloom, but an invasion of New Zealand pygmy pond weed has led to its isolation. The water level is kept sufficiently high in these meadows to maintain the wild life, and the path continues along a boardwalk across the wettest part. As the boardwalk ends, there is a device monitoring ground water levels for the Environment Agency.

Proceed across Long Fen and into the next field, Ox Meadow, with the entrance marked by a tall dead ash tree which woodpeckers claim as their own. The two great oak trees in Ox Meadow are thought to be at least 300 years old, and the cowslips and buttercups here are spectacular in spring. Cross the meadow diagonally, keeping the oaks on the right. Exit through the double gates into Mill Lane, either turning right up the bridle path to the corner of Church Lane and Station Road, or straight ahead to Stonebridge Lane and the end of this walk.

For more information on the archaeology, wild flowers, butterflies, mammals, reptiles and birds, use the references and contacts at the end of the book.

Walk 8: Hindloders and the Roman Road

Distance: 8 km (5 miles)

Walking Time: 2.25 hours

Map: page 26

Hindloders

The ancient name Hindloders is derived from two Old English words – 'hiwan or hine' meaning community and 'loddere' meaning beggar. It is a site where gypsies and travellers gathered for centuries, perhaps for events such as Stourbridge Fair held at Barnwell on the banks of the River Cam every summer from 1211.

Hindloders



Leave the village along Stonebridge Lane, continuing past Mill Lane to a junction where you turn right, signposted towards the Roman Road, along the path known as **Hindloders** (see insert). Turning into it you will see a grassy track running through a green tunnel with steep ivy-clad sides, the over-arching trees meeting above you. The track is about 2 metres wide, and on the right is a thicket of 3-4 metres width where the hedgerow has extended its original purpose as a field boundary. Hawthorn, blackthorn, elm, maple and ash have spread and grown upwards, to provide support for the ivy, brambles and dog-rose which now smother branches and dead wood alike. On the left the hedge is narrower, but the trees are higher. Here a few crab-apples drop their yellow fruit in autumn, providing food for the small mammals around. There are rabbit burrows in the raised hedge bank. Birds abound above and you may see a flock of long-tailed tits flitting among the branches.

The presence of elm saplings reaching up above the ivy indicates that there would have been tall elm trees here before elm disease in the 1970s-80s. There is a large white poplar leaning over the path halfway along, with another further on, on the other side of the path. Nearing the end of the track it widens and you get a clear view of fields on both sides. Ahead is the Balsham Road where the track ends in a parking area, with room for farm vehicles to enter the gates on each side.

Cross the road to the footpath sign on the opposite side of the road and enter an arable field with a hedge and steep ditch on your left. The mixed hedge of hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, bramble and dog rose, broken in places and mostly on the far side of the ditch, continues along this field and briefly into the next. Then hedge and ditch slowly peter out to leave an open grassy path across a wide expanse of cultivated land. On reaching a small bank, cross into the next field with a patchy hedge on your right. Continue up a slight incline to a new tree belt some 50 metres wide of beech, ash, field maple, yew and holly, planted in the 1990s by the County Council. It has grown well, and the path enters the middle of the belt, narrow and grassy between the trees. Occasionally there are small tracks from the field on the left, probably made by rabbits, muntjac and hares, and this



View to Wadlow Wind Farm

wood is used for pheasant and partridge rearing by the local gamekeepers. Keep to the path, but you can see through these tracks that more tree-planting is still going on, completely shielding Valley Farm from view.

Cross a farm track into a second section of the wood, then emerge onto a downward slope and bear right to follow a field-edge path across the slight dip in the land. Now the hedge on your right is tall and thick, varied with some guelder rose among the blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble. Where the path reaches the corner of the field there is a wooden bench, and it's worth looking back at this point over the undulating chalk hills and Valley Farm woodland. On the horizon you can see the turbines of Wadlow Wind Farm. In autumn the maples and beech add their colours to the picture.

Then go through the gap in the hedge onto the **Roman Road** (see insert p.32) and turn right. Continue along the wide pathway with a line of tall beech trees on your right. To the left a band of rough grassland full of flowers in spring and summer is bordered by a strong mixed hedge. The track is wide and level enough here for cyclists, runners, even strong pushchairs. After about 60 metres you reach a turning off to the left; although there is no waymark, this is a public footpath and leads past **Copley Hill** (see insert p.32).

The Roman Road

The Roman Road extends from Wort's Causeway (see Walk 10) almost to Horseheath. It was part of the Roman road network but in places probably follows the route of prehistoric tracks. Like Fleam Dyke, it is of national importance and parts are scheduled monuments.

See the Fleam Dyke and Roman Road booklet in the References section for more information.

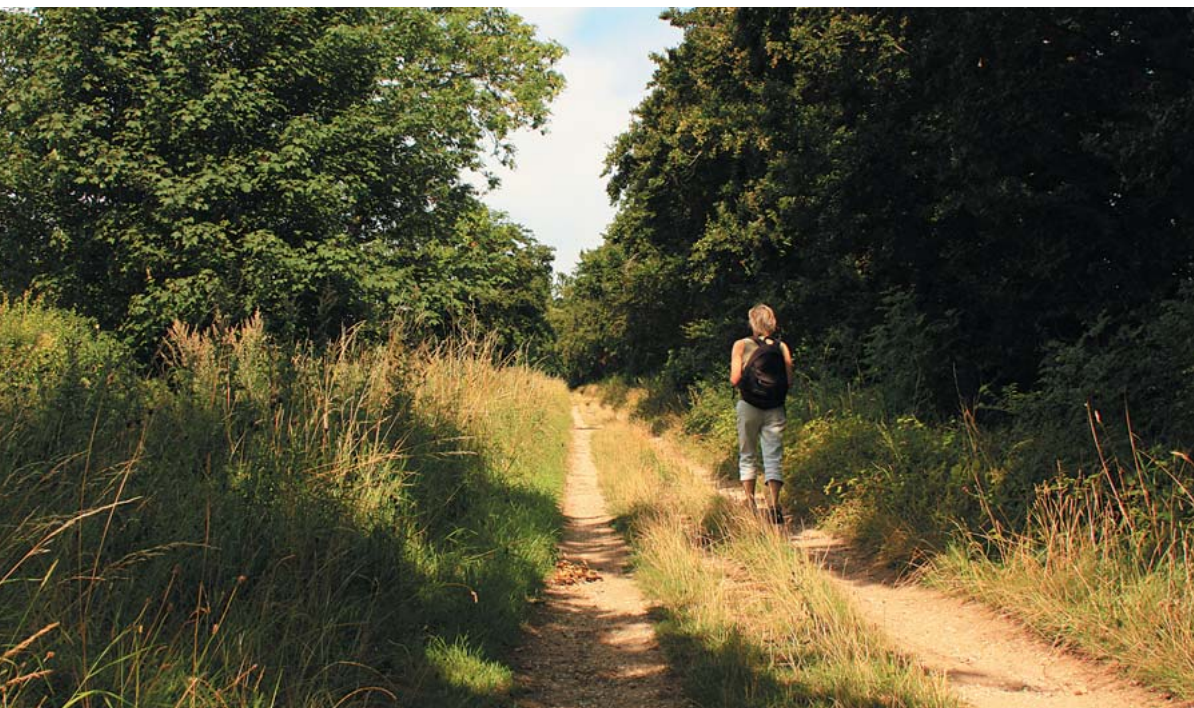
Copley Hill

Copley Hill is a round barrow (burial ground) from the Bronze Age, on private land. The foot path continues across farmland to the A1307, with possible routes to Babraham village, or returning to the Roman Road along the eastern border of Wandlebury Country Park.

Continuing along the Roman Road, a slight downhill slope leads to one of the Road's information panels with local detail of wildlife. At this point, turn right into a wide grassy stretch between hedges, with a line of young trees planted in the grass. After some 50 metres you reach a made-up road with a turning to the right marked Lodge Farm; note this is a private road. Just beyond, there is space on the roadside for a small number of parked cars, providing an alternative access point near to the Roman Road.

Ahead is the absolutely straight Babraham Road (so called because in time past it was the most direct route from Fulbourn to Babraham), now lined with a mixture of beech, maple and small-leaved lime trees. The distance back to Fulbourn, along a straight tarmacked road for almost exactly 1 mile, could be regarded as a bit tedious, but there are slight variations in level and a number of buildings along the route as well as the trees to break up the journey. On the right a considerable space is used for industrial waste, but to the left the view over fields to the Gog Magog hills is attractive. You pass a small Cambridge Water Company building, and then an entrance to Rectory Farm. Halfway along on the right is a small industrial park, home to several small companies. Approaching the village, you have a good view of Fulbourn Windmill to the left, then pass the farm shop and play barn, and site of Sunday car boot sales on the right. Finally you are back in the village, at the junction of Doggett Lane, Cambridge Road and School Lane.

The Roman Road



Walk 9: Wandlebury Country Park and the Roman Road

Distance: 11.5 km (7 miles)

Walking Time: 3 hours

Map: page 26

From the Doggett Lane/School Lane junction, follow the Babraham Road to reach the Roman Road (see Walk 8). Turn right into the Roman Road, and continue to the next information panel and footpath sign where you turn left, marked to Wandlebury Ring. The route described here through the Country Park takes in the Old Stable Court, the Banyard Hide and a view across the Fens to Ely. You could use the plan and information provided by Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CambridgePPF) to plan your own alternatives (see page 36).

The footpath from the Roman Road begins as a wide avenue through woodland with tall beeches meeting overhead. There are some snowdrops here in spring; it remains beautifully cool in summer; wonderful colours emerge in autumn; and it's a great Boxing Day walk in winter. When you reach a lodge (Woolstreet Cottage) the path winds right, then left around the lodge garden, and continues past a 5-bar gate. Here the path forks; keep to the left with hedges on both sides and a belt of new woodland to the left.

*The Beech Avenue at
Wandlebury*





Walking in the ring ditch

As the pasture on each side ends, the path bears right along the edge of the wood with a stepped grass area with picnic tables on the left, soon meeting a tarmac-surfaced track (from this point it is easy to access **Magog Down** – see insert p.35). Go right here and cross a bridge over the dry ring-ditch (5th century BC Iron Age). The track leads into the Old Stable Yard, but if you bear right you will see a small information panel giving the buildings' history. Cross the grassed foundations of the old mansion house (now hosting a sundial) and in the building ahead you will find the visitor foyer and offices of CambridgePPE, where free information about events in the Park is always available. Note there are toilets under the cupola, just beyond this office.

From this building, head north across the grass towards a long brick wall. Pass a sunken pond on your right and go through a gateway in the wall, with an iron kissing gate. You enter the Top Paddock, with a second kissing gate directly ahead. This brings you to a point where the ring-ditch has been levelled, and you cross to see a large meadow ahead – Varley's Field. Turn left and almost immediately right, to enter a pathway with beeches on the left and a well-laid hedge on the right, through pastures where a small herd of Highland cattle and/or Texel sheep may well be grazing.

At the end of this pasture turn right through the trees. Soon you will see the entrance to Banyard Hide marked, and it is worth entering this – a two-storey timber structure with ground level and first floor windows looking onto the pasture, arable patch and woodland. At the time of writing it is a new building and the surrounding vegetation is not yet fully grown, but eventually it will be a wonderful viewing point for meadow and woodland birds and mammals.

Below right: Banyard Hide

Below: The cupola



From the Hide carry on past the small arable patch and Varley's Field, then bear left into the woodland at orienteering post 25. Soon you can see the Gog Magog golf-course on your left, and as the path nears this boundary, two benches give you a full view to the north-west, where on a good day Ely Cathedral can be seen. Continue through the woodland, taking a left turn at post 24, and eventually you meet your original pathway at the fork mentioned earlier. Proceed past Woolstreet Cottage and along the beech avenue back to the Roman Road.

Here you now turn left, slightly uphill, to follow the Roman Road in a north-west direction. On the left, the golf-course can be seen through trees and a tall thicket of hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble and ivy. To the right, tall trees mark the edge of farmland. There are some fine beeches along this stretch. Occasional breaks in the hedging on the right give access to the view over chalk farmland to the Fens. When you reach a wooden bench overlooking Hill Farm the woodland widens and there are some alternative pathways through the beeches. At the final beech tree these combine again into one track, which finishes in a car park next to the Shelford Road.

From the car park turn right onto the Shelford Road and walk back into the village. There is sufficient verge space on each side for you to keep off-road, but we still recommend that you face oncoming traffic, as it is easier to judge speed this way. The distance to the village is about 2.5km from the car park, and the views over the farmland and of the windmill make it a pleasant summer walk. In addition the hedges are good for blackberrying in autumn. As you reach the first house on the left there is a pavement for the final stretch into the village.

Magog Down

This 66ha (163.5 acre) area of previously intensively farmed arable land is owned and managed by the Magog Trust who bought it in 1989. It is freely open to the public, all year round. It has two meadows, sown with wild flowers and grasses native to chalk grassland, and six woods, planted between 1990 and 1992 with 24,000 native British trees. It is seeing the return of ground-nesting birds, like the skylark, and native flowering plants like the cowslip. Therefore it is essential to keep dogs on the lead at all times on the downland.

To access this area from Wandlebury walk through the car park, cross the A1307, and enter Magog Down. There is a map showing all footpaths on the Magog Trust website (see contacts at the end of this Guide) under the section on Woods.

Highland cattle at Wandlebury



Wandlebury Country Park

Wandlebury Country Park is open to the public for quiet recreation from dawn until dusk, every day of the year.

Please respect the Park and its environment and enjoy your visit!



- 1 Information foyer and Charity's office
- 2 Stable Rooms (Education Centre)
- 3 Disabled car park
- 4 Picnic area
- 5 Designated BBQ area (pre-booking required)
- 6 Iron Age ring ditch (C.5th BC)
- 7 Old stableblock with cupola (C.18th) and grave of the Godolphin Arabian horse (in archway - mid C.18th)
- 8 Foundations of mansion house (C.18th)
- 9 Tadlow Granary (early C.15th)
- 10 Pet cemetery
- 11 Banyard Hide (shelter/lookout/bird hide)

Walk 10: The Wildlife Trust Beechwoods Nature Reserve

Distance: 3.2 km (2 miles)

Walking Time: 50 minutes

Map: see below

It is difficult to reach the Beechwoods Reserve on foot. It lies on Worts Causeway (a continuation of Shelford Road), a short distance beyond the Roman Road car park (see Walk 9), but there are several sharp corners and very little verge between the two. It's probably better to drive there. Once in the car, why not pass the parking bay opposite the entrance to the reserve, which is often full anyway, and start this walk by using the Babraham Road Park & Ride.

Park near the picnic tables on the right of the entrance. There is an information board here relating to Hobson's Conduit, outlining the history of the first water supply to Cambridge city, and detailing a walking route through the Nine Wells Reserve in Shelford (try this at a later date), and on to the city centre. You start the walk through the picnic tables, taking a footpath beside and slightly below the road towards Worts Causeway. The Causeway was built when Sir William Worts, a wealthy 17th century landowner and member of St Catherine's College, left funds for its establishment in his will. On reaching the Causeway, do not follow the path to the left, but turn right, leaving the shelter of the hedges briefly, to cross the road you took to reach the P&R. Ahead you can see the Beechwoods up on the Gog Magog hills, and the footpath continues on the right of the road,



The footpath from Worts Causeway (above) is filled with cowslips (below) in spring



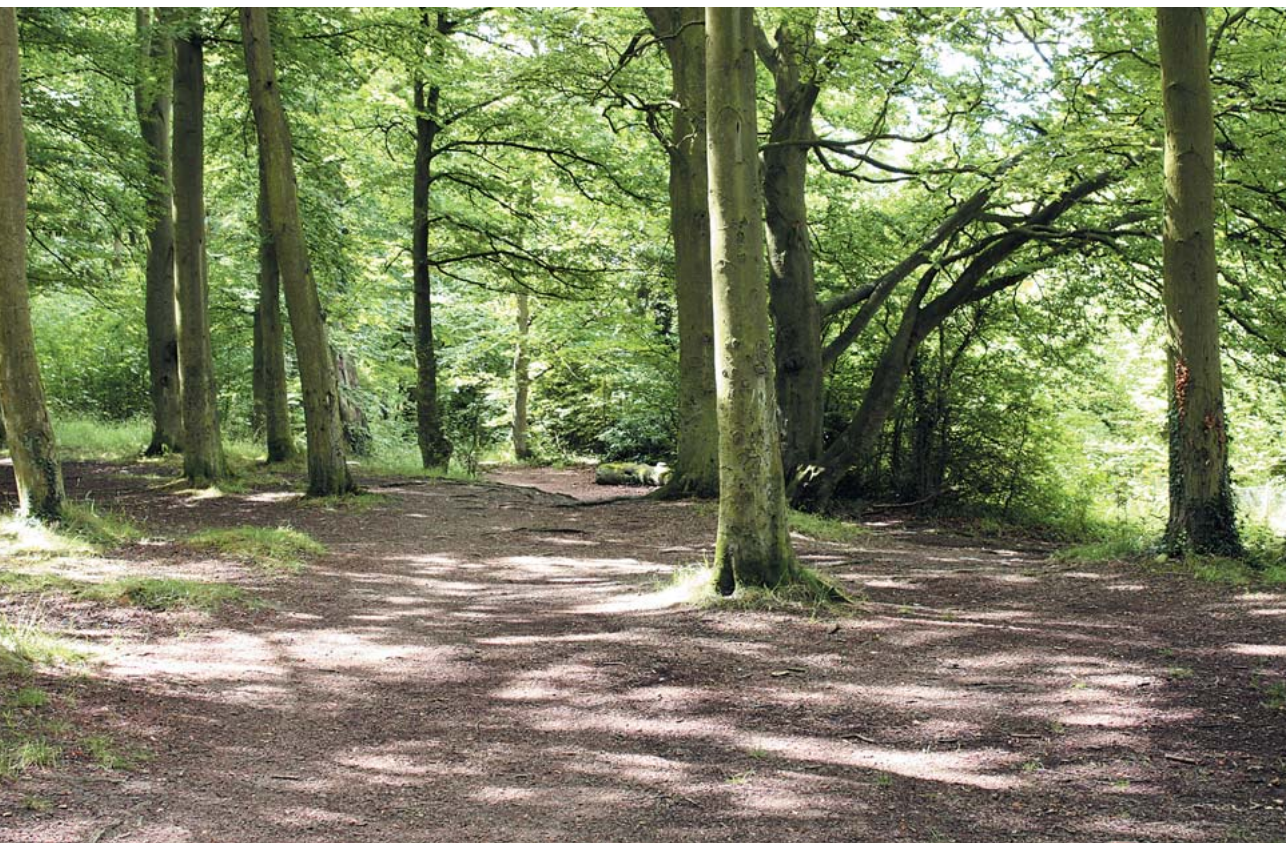


Farmland near the Beechwoods

again a sheltered pathway along the field edge. It is hedged on both sides with blackthorn, maple, hawthorn and bramble, and cowslips planted along the path have multiplied to provide a brilliant spring display.

When you meet a gateway into the Reserve (managed by the Wildlife Trust), you have a number of alternatives, and it is a great place to explore with many pathways through the two parts of the woodland. On this walk, continue straight ahead through this gate and the next and you will find a second information board, close to the main entrance, which explains the origins of the Reserve, and its two distinct parts. The higher, older woods - almost entirely beech - were planted originally in the 1840s, on arable land now owned by the County Council. The woodland did suffer from the storms in 1986, but has since recovered. Then in 1992 the area of woodland was doubled on the western edge by planting a further five hectares of native broadleaf trees mixed with yew and holly. Walk as far as you can into the woodland, passing through a wooden gate, and you soon meet the boundary with the Gog Magog Golf Club. Then follow this boundary with extensive views to Magog Down, Addenbrooke's and the City skyline. It is bordered by red-stemmed dogwood for the last section, before you meet the entrance to the hedged footpath again. Take the same path back to the Park & Ride.

The Beechwoods



Route 11:

Walk/cycle through Cherry Hinton and into Cambridge

This circular walk uses mainly off-road footpaths and cycle routes. To continue from Brookside into Cambridge, a variety of cycle routes using quiet roads lead into the city centre.

Heading west from the Bakers Arms on Hinton Road, turn right into Fulbourn Old Drift. The road climbs gently and curves left, arriving at the old railway crossing; Fulbourn Hospital grounds are on the left, with rabbits and the fitness course in evidence. The public footpath marked to Cherry Hinton skirts the perimeter of the local supermarket (where there is a useful bus service back to Fulbourn). At Yarrow Road turn right, walk over the level crossing and immediately take the footpath on the left marked to Cherry Hinton Church. Go down shallow concrete steps, then along a short length of narrow unmade footpath (muddy when wet) which soon widens to a well lit, hard surface. Housing on the right gives way to a children's play area, followed by Cherry Hinton Junior School then Cherry Hinton High Street.

Here, cross the road into Railway Street. Ten metres on, bear right then left along the cycle route. This route, leading to Brookside and upgraded as a lit cycle route in 2011-12, is known as 'the Tins.' Passing commercial buildings on the left, the track swerves left, up and over the railway, then between the old chalk pits fishing lake and the Territorial Army grounds. Cross the wide red metal bridge over the brook at Burnside and ahead of you is Brookside and the Mill Road/Coldhams Lane road junction.

To complete the walk back to Fulbourn via Cherry Hinton, the picturesque Snakey Path provides the ideal route. With your back to the red bridge at Burnside, turn left. Snakey Path runs along the side of **Cherry Hinton Brook** (see insert) linking a string of city wildlife sites, an important route for pedestrians, cyclists and for recreation.

The path leaves the Brook at a long, narrow metal-railed bridge, where it forks left, to continue the walk into the wooded Daws Lane. (The right fork to Cherry Hinton Hall grounds leads to a return bus route.) At Daws Close, follow the on-road cycle path signs to Cherry Hinton High Street. From there take Colville Road (beside the library) to the T junction. Turn right into Bridewell Road and immediately left into Primrose Close. On the right, concrete bollards mark a short footpath through to Lucerne Close from where the cycle route brings you back to the Yarrow Road roundabout. Just before the level crossing, turn right down the footpath signed to Fulbourn, to return to the Bakers Arms.

Cherry Hinton Brook

The clear chalk stream supports stickleback, chub and perch. Common water birds include moorhens and mallards, with the occasional blue flash of kingfisher; water voles may also be seen. In summer the hedgerows along the Brook and beyond are bright with dog rose, elderflower and flag iris; autumn brings rose hips and blackberries. Cambridge City Council signboards near the allotments provide more details of the area.





Route 12:

Newmarket Road Park & Ride into Cambridge using footpath/cycleway 51



Footbridge to Chesterton

This Jubilee path is surfaced and waymarked for cyclists and walkers all the way. It skirts Marshall's workshops and housing development to the north of Newmarket Road, crosses the B1047 link road to the A14 near Fen Ditton and then follows the meadows and commons along the River Cam right into the middle of Cambridge.

The path starts at the northern end of the Newmarket Road Park and Ride Car Park. You pass under a steel gateway in the form of a bicycle and follow the path beside a large arable field to Tiptree Close, a cul-de-sac that leads on to Thorpe Way and Fison Road. Though you can hear the rumble of the A14 it is well screened from view. In Fison Road you pass the bus terminus for Citi 3 to Fulbourn.

Crossing the B1047 at a light-controlled crossing, you now proceed down a narrow path beside two grassy paddocks before coming to a small wooded area where the cycle path to Fen Ditton joins on the northern side. Just beyond this you bear to the right past a wayside seat and soon reach open meadows. The surfaced path skirts the southern edge of the meadows before turning northwards, but you can take a diagonal grass path towards the railway bridge across the River Cam, though this might become boggy in parts in the winter months. Cattle may be grazing freely.

Passing beneath the railway bridge, you now follow the line of the river across Stourbridge Common, then beneath Elizabeth Way to Midsummer Common and Jesus Green, to Magdalene Bridge and thence to the City centre.

*The start of
Cycleway 51 at
Newmarket Road
Park & Ride*



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Contacts

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust
The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne CB23 6DH
www.wildlifebcn.org

Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Wandlebury Ring, Gog Magog Hills, Babraham CB22 3AE
www.cambridgeppf.org

Cambridgeshire County Council, Countryside Access Team
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/countryside

Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke
www.frrfd.org.uk

Fulbourn Forum for Community Action
www.fulbournforum.org

Fulbourn Village History Society
The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn, Cambs CB21 5BS
www.fulbournhistory.org.uk

Fulbourn Village Library
The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn, Cambs CB21 5HD
www.fulbournlibrary.co.uk

The Magog Trust
www.magogtrust.org

Places to eat & drink

Fulbourn

Amanda's
10 High Street
01223 880090

The Six Bells
9 High Street
01223 880244

The Bakers Arms
4 Hinton Road
01223 880606

The White Hart
1 Balsham Road
01223 880264

Babraham

The George Inn
High Street
01223 833800

Balsham

The Bell
West Wickham Road
01223 894415

The Black Bull
27 High Street
01223 893844

Great Wilbraham

The Carpenters Arms
10 High Street
01223 882093

Little Wilbraham

The Hole in the Wall
2 High Street
01223 812282

Stapleford

The Rose
81 London Road
01223 843349

Shelford Bottom

Gog Magog Farm Shop & Cafe
off A1307, near Wandlebury
01223 348352

Twelve walks in and around the village of Fulbourn, described to encourage interest and understanding of the human and natural landscape and history. Illustrated with maps and photographs.



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