

Via Beata

Way of Blessing

Section VBG11 Stretham to Bluntisham - 12 miles

Overview

An easy walk mostly along the bank of the Great Ouse following the Ouse Valley Way. Where it crosses the B1049, take care as no footpath. The entry into Earith is also dangerous along the verge of A1123.

Plenty of birdlife, with cattle and horses.



Points of interest

Stretham Old Engine is the last survivor in the southern Fenland of over 100 steam-powered pumping stations applied to fen drainage in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is also the largest and most complete example of any of these, and one of the earliest, having been erected in 1831. Further information and Open Days: Tel. **01353 648578**


MAPS AND REFERENCE

OS Explorer 226 - Ely and Newmarket
OS Explorer 225 - Huntingdon & St Ives
Stretham TL 527745
Bluntisham TL373745

Leave St James. Turn R towards A123.
Turn L along main road
Turn R down Green End.
At bridge join Ouse Valley Way. Turn R

Continue along path to marina.


Turn L still on Ouse Valley Way.
Turn L on Ouse Valley Way.
Turn R

Cross main road  keeping to right hand side of road to bridge.

Turn L onto Ouse Valley Way

Follow Way to marina.

Skirt marina, down road.

Turn L  onto main road. Very dangerous!!


Turn R at brow of hill (FP sign under arrow sign)

With Twenty pence cottage on your right, keep to bank by river.

Keep to path. (At some times of year, one mile of the path is difficult to walk through)

At Hermitage Marina, go over metal bridge, following FP signs Ouse Valley Way. At top of wooden steps, go L over fence down to Hermitage Lock as FP blocked by nettles. Up stairs by lock.

Turn R to main road on path following Ouse Valley Way.

 Cross main road and, using the verge, walk towards Earith. (Road carries fast moving traffic).

In Earith, turn R onto Bridge End.
Turn R onto Colne Road
L onto FP down Whybrows Lane.

Through metal gate
Cross field to metal gate

Follow path. Turn L through trees. Skirt field.
Go straight ahead through metal gate.
Past allotments.
Join lane (East End)
Past playing field on R
Turn L Hollidays Road towards church.
Turn L down main road.

Way station is the artwork in the church porch over the arch.