

# 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

## Route

Leave St James. Turn right towards A1123. Turn left along main road. Turn right down Green End. At bridge join Ouse Valley Way. Turn right. Continue along path to marina. Turn left still on Ouse Valley Way. Turn left on Ouse Valley Way. Turn right.

Cross A10 keeping to right hand side of road to bridge. Turn left onto Ouse Valley Way. Follow Way to marina.

Skirt marina, down road. Turn left onto main road. (Very dangerous!!). Turn right at brow of hill (footpath 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 footpath signs Ouse Valley Way. At top of wooden steps, go left over fence down to Hermitage Lock as footpath blocked by nettles. Up stairs by lock.

Turn right 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 right onto Bridge End. Turn right onto Colne Road. Left onto footpath down Whybrows Lane. Through metal gate. Cross field to metal gate. Follow path. Turn left through trees. Skirt field. Go straight ahead through metal gate. Past allotments. Join lane (East End)

Past playing field on right. Turn left Hollidays Road towards church. Turn left down main road.

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

Ref: STM to BLT