

The Rothschild Way

The Route

The route follows public footpaths and is signposted as such. There is some way-marking for the Rothschild Way (see illustration below) and for a considerable distance the route follows the Fen Rivers Way (between the A1123 and West River Bridge), the Ouse Valley Way (between West River Bridge and Brownhill Stauch) and the Pathfinder Long Distance Path (between Brownhill Stauch and Broughton). On these sections the way-marking for these routes can be followed (NB. The Pathfinder March will have been held the week before and so this part of the route is well marked with distinctive Pathfinder 'Mosquito' aeroplane way-markers).

Rothschild Way Markers



These are in two formats. Small adhesive stickers (above left), which can be seen along most of the route on existing public footpath signs. On the fingerposts they tend to be in the point of the white arrow, while on circular way-markers they may be seen in the centre. They can be hard to spot so please look carefully for them.

The second format are larger roundels (above right) and these can be seen on way-marker posts. Fewer in number they are easier to spot but again, please look out for them.

Directions

- 1) You can park in the Wicken Fen car park. Please remember that this belongs to the National Trust and charges apply unless you are a National Trust member. For more details <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen/>
- 2) The start of the route is at the fingerpost at the end of BREED FEN DROVE.
- 3) Follow this path as far as a stile on the left. Go over the stile and take the path (SPINNEY DROVE) keeping the nature reserve on the left. The path bends right and follow it to a stile just before UPWARE ROAD.
- 4) Go over the stile, cross the road and carry straight on across fields along a well-defined path or track indicated by a fingerpost. Follow this path to the end.
- 5) At the end of the path turn right onto FODDERFEN DROVE, thereby joining the Fen Rivers Way. You can follow Fen Rivers Way way-markers as far as the Fish & Duck marina.
- 6) Follow the track to the end where it emerges onto the A1123 opposite an entrance to a quarry.
- 7) Turn left and follow the main road to the road bridge over the River Cam, ignoring the

by-way off to the right (**Beware this is a HAZARDOUS Road and Crossing - high speed traffic**).

- 8) Cross the road bridge and turn right at the fingerpost. Continue along the path on the bank with the river to your right. Proceed along the river bank as far as the Fish & Duck marina. You may see cattle on the path along this section.
- 9) At the Fish & Duck marina, where the River Cam meets the Great Ouse, leave the Fen Rivers Way and cross the large footbridge over the Great Ouse to reach the north bank (West River Bridge). Turn left.
- 10) *It is possible to stay on the south side of the river, following the Ouse Valley Way but there are no Rothschild Way way-markers on this side of the river and you must be cautious in crossing the railway line just beyond the Fish & Duck marina.*
- 11) On the north bank, at the railway bridge, descend towards the river, pass under the bridge and climb back up to the path on the top of the bank. Turn left and continue along the river path keeping the river on your left.
- 12) Pass through a number of kissing gates and stiles to the A1123. You may see cattle on the path along this section.
- 13) Climb over a stile before the A1123 and cross the road (**Beware this is a HAZARDOUS Crossing - high speed traffic**). Pass through a kissing gate on the other side of the road and pick up the path once more.
- 14) Continue and pass Streatham Old Engine on your left before crossing another minor road (GREEN END) and taking a driveway to the left of a house. Pass through a small gate alongside the private fishery sign. Continue along the path through private land with the river on your left.
- 15) If you are on the north side of the river, you will pass by a marina and through the gardens of the Lazy Otter pub. Continue through the gardens and let yourself out through the wooden gate and onto the road. Turn left over the road bridge to the fingerpost and the lay-by on the left hand side of the road.
- 16) *If you are on the south side of the river, you will join the road under the fingerpost and by the lay-by. The bridge, marina and the Lazy Otter pub will be to your right.*
- 17) Follow the road walking away from the pub to the T-junction with the A10. Turn right (heading north) along the side of the road (**Beware this is a HAZARDOUS Road and Crossing - high speed traffic**), and cross a road bridge over the river. Cross the road, step over the metal crash barrier at the fingerpost and rejoin the footpath (to the left of the road when facing north), descend the slope, pass through a kissing gate and continue with the river on your left. You can follow Ouse Valley Way way-markers as far as Brownhill Staunch.
- 18) Follow the path alongside the Ouse and the footpath signs for a number of miles keeping the Ouse on your left. You will pass numerous herds of cattle. The small Rothschild Way way-markers should be in evidence.
- 19) At Twenty Pence Marina bear right to skirt the moorings and then left again. After walking through the marina, the path bends back up onto the bank above the Ouse (which is on the left) and passes through a narrow, short stretch to Twenty Pence Road, which you should cross (**Beware Traffic**) to rejoin the footpath through a gap and past a gate opposite. Keep to the track on the left past a house and carry on.
- 20) Pass through double kissing gates at Haddenham Engine Pumping Station.
- 21) On the outskirts of Earith you will enter Hermitage Marina. Keep to the left and go over the substantial footbridge before climbing up to a narrow path, which leads to Shelford's Road (B1050).
- 22) Cross the road (**Beware Traffic**) and bear left. Look out for the Environment Agency hut at the lock now on your right (virtually opposite you as you emerge from the marina). Proceed up the small road/driveway to the left of the hut to a kissing gate.
- 23) Pass through the gate to the left of the driveway and follow the Ouse Valley Way once more for approximately 2 miles, passing through a number of kissing gates, to Brownhill Staunch. As you near this, you will see a large overhead pipeline/conveyor for gravel, which is just beyond the lock.

- 24) Cross over the footbridge and then go over the sluice and take the track to the left along the bank of the river to Brownhill Staunch where you should cross the river, over a lock (the lock is hidden by the Staunch) and turn right towards Bluntisham. You are now leaving the Ouse Valley Way and joining the Pathfinder Long Distance Path. You can follow the distinctive 'Mosquito' way-markers as far as Broughton.
- 25) After 400m the route turns away from the river.
- 26) On reaching Bluntisham walk down side of farm buildings to main road A1123. Cross over (**Beware Traffic**) &, turning right, head to junction with the HIGH STREET (signposted Colne and Somersham). Turn left and follow road for 200m past a Hairdressers. Follow road to the right, round the corner and then turn left towards Colne (signposted Colne). After 400m you will see St Helens Primary School on the right.
- 27) On the opposite side of the road to the school, bear right towards Colne and in 300m, just before the corner, take the footpath off to the left. This path almost immediately (20m) then goes right in front of a ramshackle barn, through farm buildings and up alongside the edge of a field.
- 28) After approx 450m you will come to the top end of the field, and through a gap you will see a minor tarmac road. Bear left, and take this road for about 150m in the direction of Somersham.
- 29) At the end, where the road curves to the left, keep straight on, passing to the right of the buildings at Church Farm.
- 30) Continue on towards a line of tall trees. At the end of the trees, go right and then left towards Somersham church. On reaching the next field ahead of you, go left for 100m and then right, back in the direction of Somersham.
- 31) As you approach Somersham you will pass through a set of kissing gates before heading up over an old railway embankment via a second set of gates. Once over the embankment descend by a set of steps coming to another kissing gate by some houses.
- 32) Go through the farm gate and then left up minor road, past Cranbrook House, and follow track right to the HIGH STREET where you will find the Bandstand and shops. You will have crossed the Greenwich Meridian in Somersham!
- 33) Turn left along the HIGH STREET for 150m before crossing the road to the right to head up a cul-de-sac (KING STREET) and then immediately left up RECTORY LANE. Turn right at the end of the track, continue for a further 100m and then follow the track to the left. In another 100m there is a junction with a footpath. Take the lesser track to the left (i.e. straight on).
- 34) Follow the signs round the field to the curve of the farm track where you should go right. In about 300m take track to the left but this should curve round almost at once to head back towards the right hand edge of the trees 500m ahead of you.
- 35) At the trees go straight into the woods, through a dip, and at the far side bear left onto Pidley Golf Course. **Keeping left**, follow the footpath through the woods along the edge of the course to emerge on a broad straight track, which runs through the remainder of the golf course for 1km.
- 36) At the end of track turn left and walk past Sidings Farm to footpath on right. Follow track for 500m passing small reservoir on the right. Turn right on to GAULT DRAIN and continue for 1km to 'T' junction.
- 37) Turn right for 100m and then left onto track along edge of tree-line. After 500m turn left and look for small wooden foot bridge, several metres on right, to cross over into fields heading in direction of Warboys to the West.
- 38) At the top of the fields, pass through tree line until main road. Cross A141 through kissing-gates, on either side of main road (**Beware this is a HAZARDOUS Crossing - high speed traffic**), and head into Warboys and enter the housing estate. Take the road ahead straight down to the main town road..
- 39) Just before the Royal Oak pub, take care crossing over the road and turn right to enter the HIGH STREET & pick up the B1040 through the town. At the clock tower at the end of the HIGH STREET, turn left down road signposted Huntingdon/St. Ives.
- 40) Go past Warboys Parish Church and cemetery as you depart Warboys. After 400m turn right

on to concrete perimeter track from the former RAF Warboys airfield.

- 41) At the end of the track turn left and follow the route but behind the Warboys Model Aero Club. **(Please remain clear of the Club and its grass runways)**. Keep the Club on your left at all times. Follow track for 500m then turn left and head towards disused buildings for 100m.
- 42) Head west to follow the concrete track around the former airfield perimeter. After 1000m turn right across fields towards Broughton. Follow the path to Broughton crossing two foot bridges and a stile and, as you approach the village, earthworks remaining from the Abbey Manor moat.
- 43) At the entrance to the village and after the stile at Illing's Farm, turn sharp right (ILLING'S LANE) and follow the farm track towards Wistow (signposted 2 miles). You are now leaving the Pathfinder Long Distance Path.
- 44) Follow the farm track for some distance (ignoring a small footbridge and footpaths off to your left) and at the end of the track, where it fades away to the right, carry straight on along a footpath through the trees. At the end of this path turn right over a small wooden bridge and almost immediately left along the side of a field.
- 45) Carry on along the side of fields until you see a footbridge to your left. Cross this and head diagonally across more fields, crossing another footbridge and eventually passing along the edge of yet another field – you should be able to see Wistow ahead and to your right.
- 46) The path narrows before emerging between buildings into the village. Turn right at the road and enter the village passing the Three Horseshoes pub on your left and the church on your right.
- 47) Turn right into BRIDGE STREET and follow the road to cross the road bridge and take a sharp left along the footpath along the side of a field towards Bury.
- 48) After a few hundred yards bear right across the fields (the path isn't always obvious due to the crop and the way-markers are off to your left at this point and maybe hard to see). Continue across the next field also before emerging through a gap in the hedge and turning sharp right along the edge of another field.
- 49) Follow the field edge by turning left at the corner to the top of the next field where you turn right again.
- 50) Turn left along the path between the fields and follow the path down to Bury Brook where you turn right. After a short distance cross the footbridge on your left.
- 51) Turn right and follow the field, turning left in the corner before passing through a gap in the hedge and following the path along the side of another field.
- 52) At the end of this field, carry straight on along the farm track (CHEVERIL LANE), ignoring a small cut through to houses on your left.
- 53) Just before the end of the lane/track, turn right along a narrow mown path just beyond a grassy paddock and pass between houses into a cul-de-sac (BROOKFIELD WAY). Just ahead will be Bury Village Hall.
- 54) On leaving the checkpoint, pass through the park with the school to your left to the gate at the end. Cross the road **(Beware traffic)** and turn left following the road past Bury Stores and bending right then left to the junction with Upwood Road. The White Lion pub will be on your left and Burton Brothers garage on the right.
- 55) Turn left into UPWOOD ROAD and cross **(Beware traffic)** before turning right into GRENFELL ROAD.
- 56) Almost immediately pass through the kissing gate on the left and follow the footpath to the right along the edge of fields, eventually passing through a new planting of trees to a concrete road.
- 57) Turn sharp right and follow the road to the end, turning right along a trodden path just before the locked metal gates. Follow this path as it bears left through the hedge to emerge onto BIGGIN LANE.
- 58) Turn sharp left (ignoring the footpath straight on) and continue along the track and follow it for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile until it bends left (signposted 'Woodwalton Nature Res 2½ ') and passes Bury Green Farm **(Beware farm animals)**. Carry on along this track (BURY LANE). The track passes another farm and eventually fades out, but carry

straight on along the footpath.

- 59) The path emerges onto the old Upwood Road, which is disused other than for industry. Turn right and follow the old road to where it emerges onto LONGHOLME ROAD. Follow this road in the same direction (**Caution: there is no footpath**) and after a sharp right bend, turn left into CHAPEL ROAD.
- 60) Follow the road to the very end and enter WOODWALTON FEN.
- 61) Follow the path through the Fen before turning right to the ROTHSCHILD BUNGALOW and the FINISH!