

Parking is available at **Great Fen Information Point**, **New Decoy** (Point 1).



The route crosses the former site of Whittlesea Mere, the largest lowland lake south of the Lake District before it was drained in 1851.

The Last of the Meres Trail is a circular walk connecting the northern parts of the Great Fen.

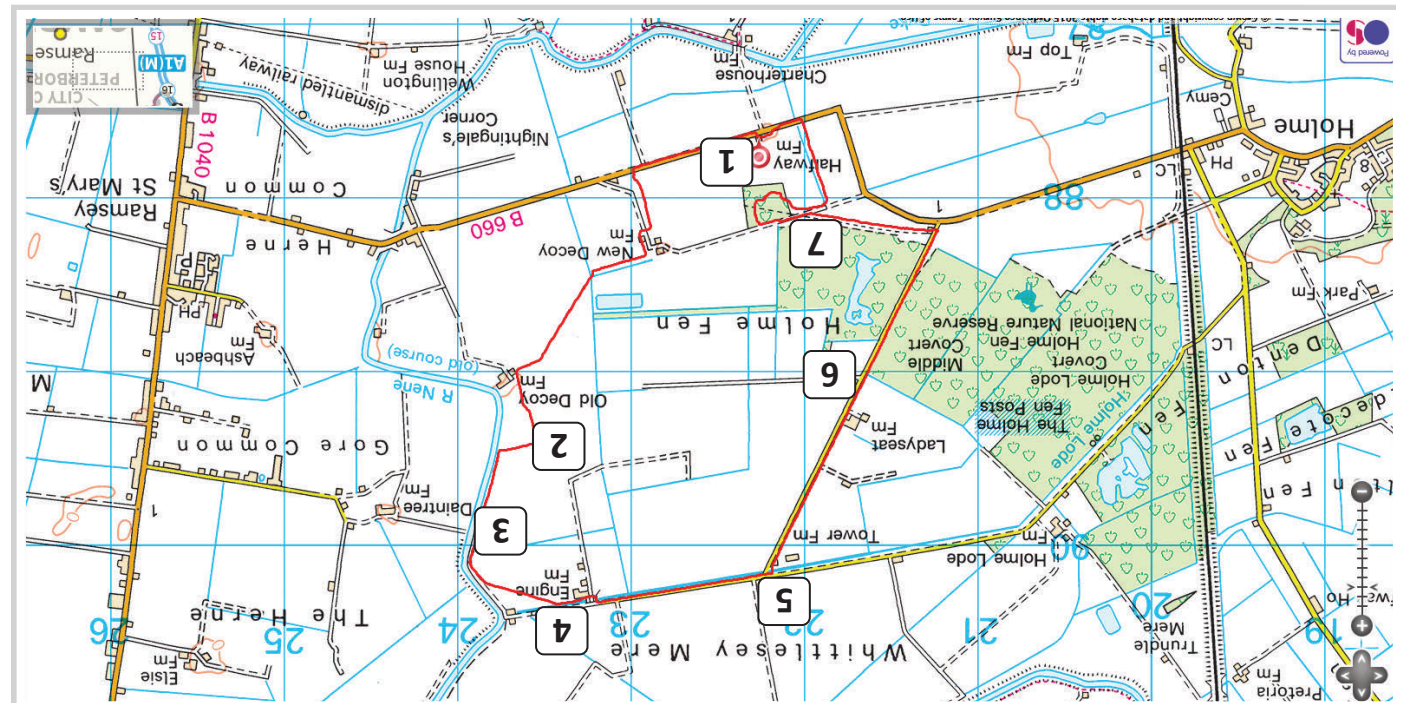
2 The boundary between **Old Decoy** and **Engine Farms** indicates the edge of **Whittlesea Mere** and you will notice the change beneath your feet as sandy and calcareous soil becomes more apparent.



1 The walk begins at the **Great Fen Information Point New Decoy** on the Dragonfly Trail, where parking is available.

In 2010, restoration began here. Look out for an array of dragonflies in the summer.

Last of the Meres Trail Highlights



7 Finally the trail cuts across a disused railway line, through **Railway Cover** and **New Decoy Farm**, re-joining the Dragonfly Trail and back to the **Great Fen Information Point**.



6 Follow the road passing the eastern part of **Holme Fen NNR** - a rich silver birch woodland.

5 Look out across **Kesters Docking** an area where major habitat creation is underway. Look out for flocks of lapwing (below).

can still be seen at **Engine Farm** today (below). Barnack to build Ramsey Abbey. Four of the blocks were recovered from the quarries at



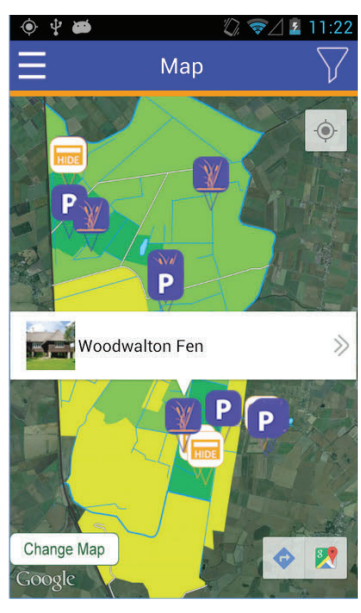
presumably on their way from stone blocks drained 17 Mere was

3 Why not take a rest on the carved bench on route to **Engine Farm**.

Great Fen App

This app will help you to explore and discover one of the largest restoration projects of its type in Europe.

With fascinating information guiding you on your exploration, bringing together trails, species information, heritage conservation and social interaction features.



The app is available to download from Google Play and the App Store now.

Talks, Walks, Schools and Volunteering

We offer a range of services for local communities and schools including:

- Education services for all ages
- Talks and guided walks for groups
- Chat and Chuckle sessions
- Local Heritage Group
- Local Group
- Volunteering
- Wildlife Trust Workshops



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Images by H.Bailey, R.Burkmar, B.Galpin, D.Holliday, A.Lewis, S.New, G.Pilkington, H.Stanier, L.Stonebridge, M.Taylor, Audio Trails.

Discover more trails, local stories, photos and film on the Great Fen website, or please get in touch with the team.



6.5 miles



2.2 miles



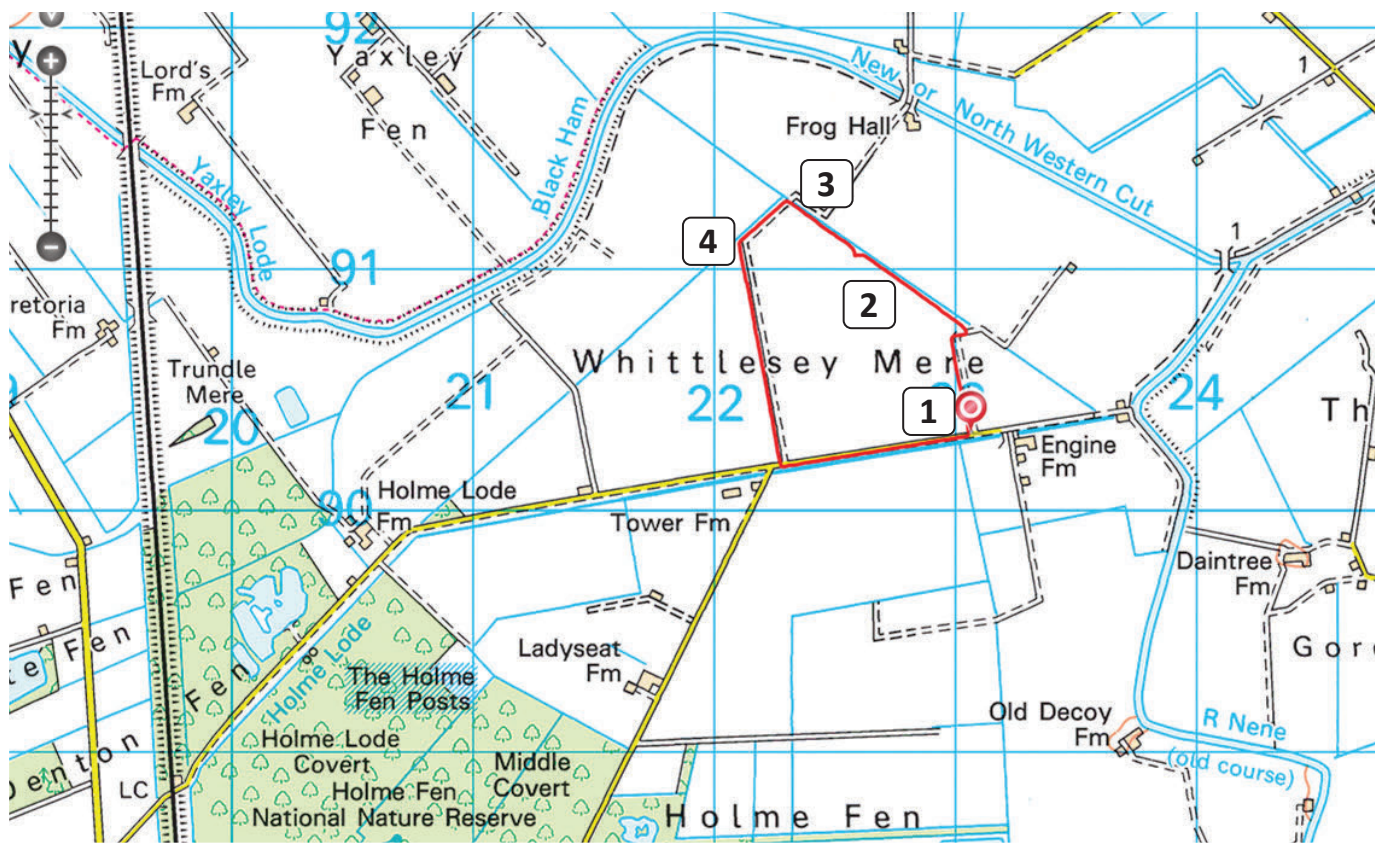
This trail is Heritage Lottery Funded

The Great Fen is delivered by:



Great Fen

www.greatfen.org.uk



The Last of the Meres Northern Loop

is a circular trail extending the existing Last of the Meres Trail.



The route follows **new paths** in the northern section of the Great Fen project area.

There is a **disabled car park** at the start of the route (point 1) (close to Engine Farm) alternatively parking is available by the Holme Posts 0.5miles away.

Northern Loop Trail Highlights

- 1 The first part of this route, from the car park area, goes between **fields sown with wildflowers**, including corn marigold, ox-eyed daisy, yellow rattle and finer grass species which can all be seen during the summer months.



Wildflower meadow

- 2 All along the route look out for **large flocks of lapwing, goldfinch and linnet** (below) which can be spotted against the beautiful three quarter fenland skies.



Linnet

- 3 Listen out for **skylarks** as you look out over the grassland – their beautiful and distinctive song flights can last for up to an hour and the birds can reach 300m before descending.

- 4 Spot the field situated behind a nesting box for kestrels (below) which contains an enhanced **bird seed mix** that is sown every two years and includes; quinoa, kale, linseed and mustard seed.



Kestrel

Information for Walkers

- Please keep to the waymarked paths and respect the neighbouring farms and residents.
- Paths are uneven and grassy at times.
- Please be aware of deep water next to paths.
- Look out for vehicles / farm traffic.
- Dogs are welcome but must be on leads and under close control at all times due to grazing livestock.
- No vehicles are allowed at Engine Farm except for farm vehicles and residents.
- For a more detailed route, for both trails, we suggest you refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 227.
- **Parking** for the **Last of the Meres Trail** is at Great Fen Information Point, New Decoy.
- **Parking** for the **Northern Loop Trail** is available at the start of the trail (disabled only) or at the Holme Posts.

Download the Great Fen App for route information, images, sounds and poetry.

Wildlife Highlights

Both trails encompass a mosaic of different habitats giving the walker a fantastic opportunity to observe some stunning wildlife.



LOOK out for

barn owl, little owl & short eared owl.



LISTEN out for

the 'plop' of **water voles**, you might be lucky enough to see one!



LOOK out for

an array of **butterflies** and **wild flowers**.

LOOK out for

the change in soil on the bed of the former **Whittlesea Mere** - shells are still visible today.

