

The Fen Edge Trail Wood Walton to Ramsey via Upwood

6.4 miles (10.2 km)

In partnership with
Warboys Archaeology Group

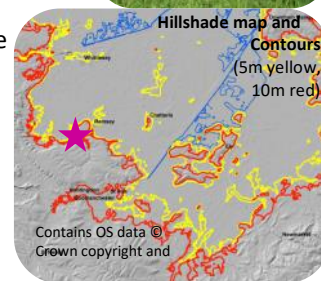
*'A lovely walk,
especially in
spring when the
nature reserves
are in flower'*

**Mike, Warboys
Archaeology Group**



The route: 'past fen edge woods and meadows towards an ancient Abbey'

This is the last walk on the part of the Trail that connects Peterborough with Ramsey. It has some great views down over the fenland and includes **historic sites**, finishing at one of the most famous in the Fens, and several small, **fen edge nature reserves**. **Wood Walton village** lies at about 20 metres above sea level on the slopes of a high ridge that encloses a deep basin on this far western edge of the Fens. The walk starts close to a **medieval motte and bailey** in Wood Walton village and passes through quiet farming countryside as you descend the ridge, with extensive views north over **Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve** in the **Great Fen**. You pass **Gamsey Wood** and **Lady's Wood Nature Reserves** and then **Upwood Meadows**, another **National Nature Reserve**, famous for its orchids. The walk then goes through the small village of **Upwood**, which was once home to an important Saxon nobleman, Ailwyn, who founded Ramsey Abbey. Leaving Upwood, the Trail climbs a hill next to the former **RAF Upwood site**, which hosted Pathfinder squadrons during WWII, before descending into **Bury** to follow the 5m contour near **Bury Brook** into Ramsey. Winding through the lanes and streets of this historic town, you finish at the former site of **Ramsey Abbey**. The next walk on the Trail heads south to take you to the River Great Ouse and St Ives.



Photos: 2.1f The moated site; 5.4f Footbridge in hedgerow; 8.1f St Peter's Church, Upwood; 4.5f Hawthorn hedge and willow tree; 1.2f Wood Walton Green; 3a.2f Gamsey Wood; 4.6f Footbridge with arrow; 7.2f Cowslips and orchids, Upwood Meadows NNR.

Practicalities As with all of the walks along the Fen Edge Trail, you can complete the full length of any walk or choose a short or long round trip option, or just visit some of the places on the route. A shorter walk can be made by finishing (or starting) at Upwood. The walk is divided into numbered parts as shown on the two maps. Photos are shown in the order seen except for those on this front page (f). In Bury, the walk links with the **Rothschild Way**. **NB Some paths across fields may not be obvious or well marked but follow directions as all are on Rights Of Way**. Some grid references are given if you wish to use them. Check www.wildlifebcn.org for closures of **Lady's Wood, Gamsey Wood and Upwood Meadows NRs** if visiting these are an essential part of your walk.

Length of walk (one way) approx. 6.4 miles (10.2 km). Walking guide time 3hrs 30mins minimum plus stops. Grid ref for start TL 214808. Maps O.S. Explorer 227. Free, easy to use online geology map viewer on www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer.

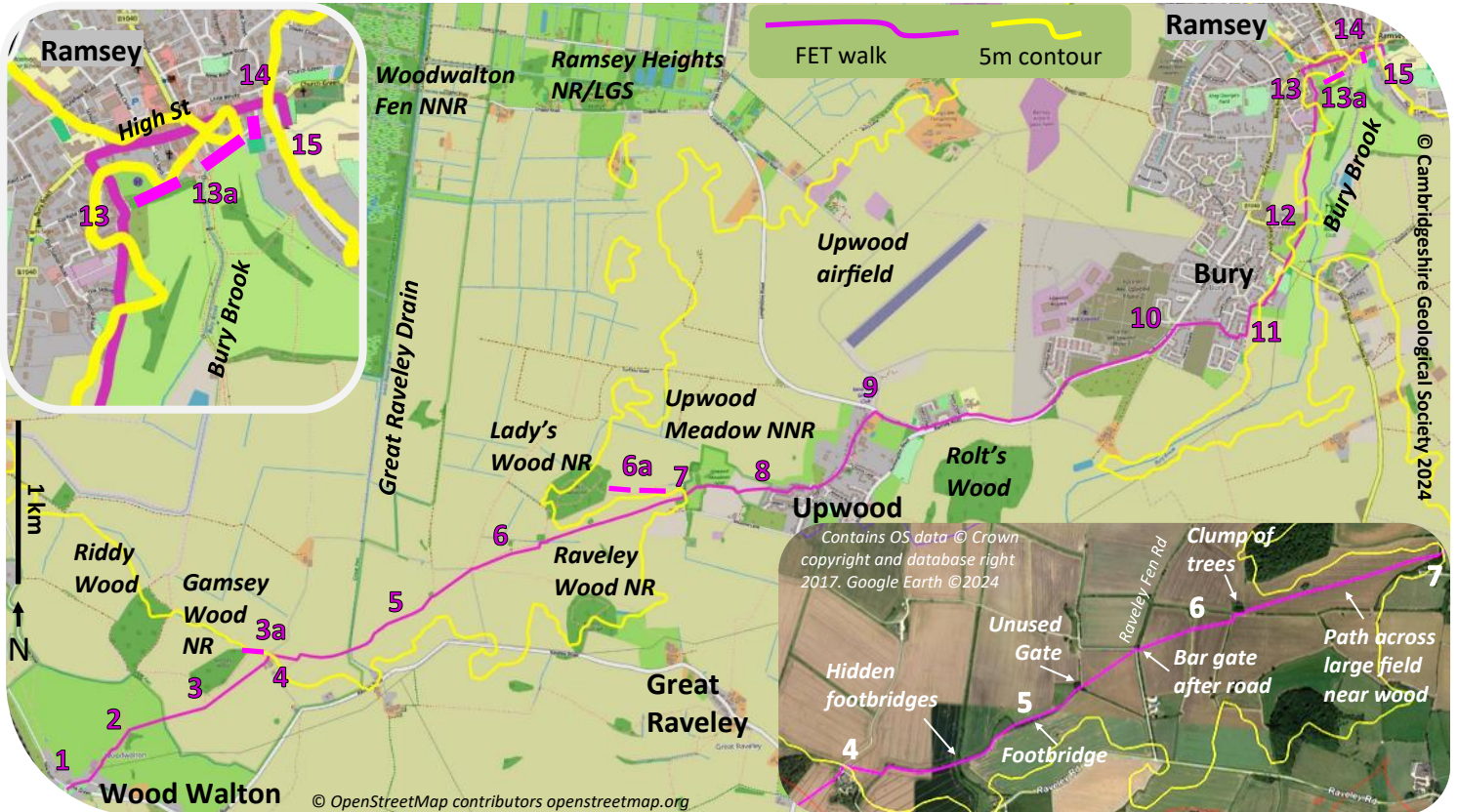
Transport and services There are **buses** to Ramsey and Upwood from Huntingdon or Peterborough but very few to Wood Walton (e.g. only 1 weekly) Check www.stagecoachbus.com www.ramseybus.org.uk and www.dews-coaches.com. **Train services** to Huntingdon and Peterborough. Roadside parking is available in Wood Walton and Ramsey. Please only park where allowed and in consideration of others. There is a pub in Wood Walton (limited opening), Upwood and Bury, shops in Bury and Ramsey, and cafes in Ramsey.

Safety Be aware of risks you may encounter and take note of warnings given by landowners or on path. The terrain is gently undulating, with potentially muddy ground in autumn and winter. Take particular care with uneven terrain, when near water, on soft or slippery ground, in the presence of livestock or walking along or crossing roads. Ensure your dog is kept under control as needed. All Fen Edge Trail walks are on publicly accessible routes. **Anyone undertaking walks on the Fen Edge Trail does so at their own risk, these notes are for general guidance only.**

The Fen Edge Trail

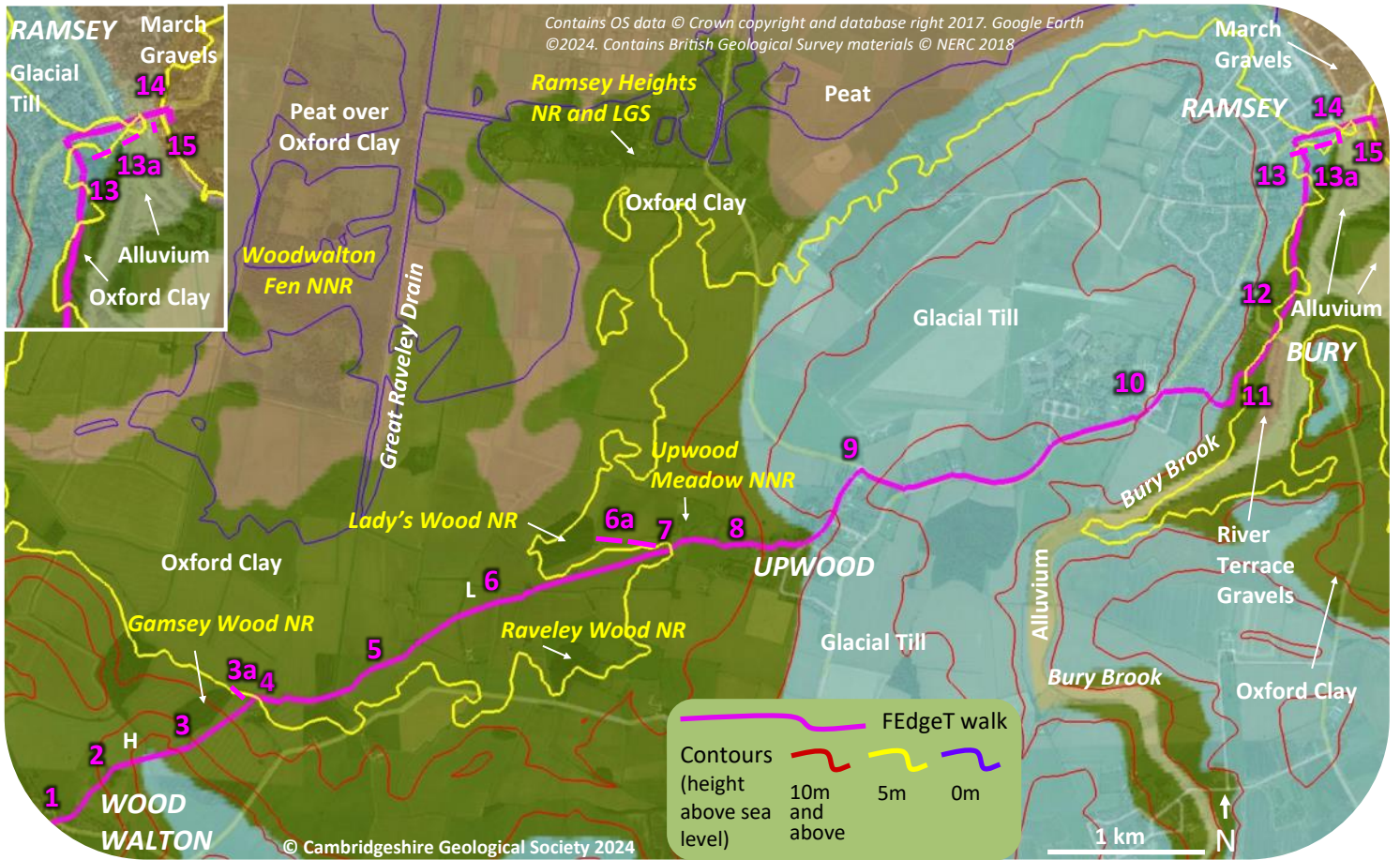
Wood Walton to Ramsey via Upwood

Directions map (6.4 miles / 10.2 km)



- 1** Start at the Village sign on **Wood Walton village green**. Head away from the railway bridge and, just past a disused bus shelter, turn left into **Beville** (by information board) and left again into **The Cross**. Walk uphill to the end of the road and go through two gates.
- 2** Follow the hedge on the right-hand side and turn right at the end of it. Go under the power line and turn left up the footpath that is parallel to the poles. On the other side of the hill, TL 2200 8125, follow the line of the poles along the footpath at the field edge.
- 3** When the hedge turns left, follow the path downhill with the wood on your left (3.1), towards the left side of the farm buildings (**Keeler Farm**). **3a** To see the wood, walk left from the farm buildings along a hedgeline (3a.1), returning the same way.
- 4** Cross the concrete farm road at the bend, walking straight ahead to cross field on (unsigned) path (4.1) heading to footbridge to right of hedgerow in field (4.2). Cross **wooden footbridge** (4.3) and turn left to follow path along hedgerow. At corner cross two (hidden) **footbridges** (4.4) (TL 2307 8166). Follow path with ditch and hedge to left then head for gap in hedge after about 275 m (path cuts across field corner). Cross footbridge with direction arrow (4.6f) (TL 2329 8180).
- 5** Follow hedge to right. At end, in right corner of field, go through clump of trees, past disused **gate** (5.1) (TL 2356 8197) to cross field diagonally towards **tree to right of double electricity pole** in opposite corner (5.2). Go through **gate** in corner by tree. Note sign to **Lady's Wood** and **Upwood** and follow direction across **Raveley Fen Rd** and then diagonally across field (NB not the hedge-lined path with the small 'Public Footpath sign) by going round **bar gate** (5.3) towards **footbridge in far hedge** (5.4).
- 6** Once over footbridge, follow path straight across another field in same direction (6.1) to go through gap in hedge turning left to clump of trees, then right (6.2) to cross ditch to right of trees and then go right to follow path across a large field with **Lady's Wood** to left. Path goes to right of trees in middle of field (6.3). On other side of field, go over footbridge entering **Upwood Meadows**. **6a** If Lady's Wood is open you can visit by turning left before footbridge and walking field edge to wood. **Please keep to paths within wood.**
- 7** Carry on straight ahead through kissing gate (ignoring paths to sides) through **Upwood Meadows NNR**. Take right-hand kissing gate and **footbridge** (7.3) and follow path to turn left to cross next **footbridge** and go through another kissing gate. Cross field between two wire fences and exit through final kissing gate to walk between two bungalows. You are now entering Upwood.
- 8** Keep to left to take road straight ahead and through **Play Area** at end. Turn left when you reach High St and pass **the church**. To see the village sign, turn right into Church Lane and walk to end (and back). Continue on High St past **Cross Keys pub** (8.4) to reach end.
- 9** Turn right at junction and then left at next junction - signed '**Bury**' and '**Ramsey**'. Follow footpath all the way up the hill past **Upwood Primary Academy** and the former site of **RAF Upwood**. Cross road at top of hill to keep to footpath. You are now entering **Bury**.
- 10** Take first right at red telephone box into **Tunkers Lane**. Follow unmade road to end. Keep same direction down **Buryfield** straight ahead; follow round to left at end, then right down footpath between house (no 36) and grassy area. At end, turn left onto **grass track**.
- 11** Take the next right, down a public footpath next to a **paddock** (11.1) TL 2827 8362. Exit at the end and continue straight ahead and across the playing field to cross the **Warboys-Ramsey road**. **11a** Turn right along the road to visit **Bury Church** at the top of the hill.
- 12** Take the **footpath** opposite, alongside the **Old School House** and follow it in the same direction for some way.
- 13** After double bend, by white house, go straight on along lane (**Mugglestone Lane**). At end go right on **High St** to the **Green**. **13a** Or take **footpath to right before High St** (13a.1), over **Bury Brook** (13a.2), through **Abbey Rooms Lane** to **High St** and turn right.
- 14** At the **Green**, turn right, with **St Thomas a Becket Church** on the left, to reach **the Abbey Gatehouse**, the end of the walk **15**.

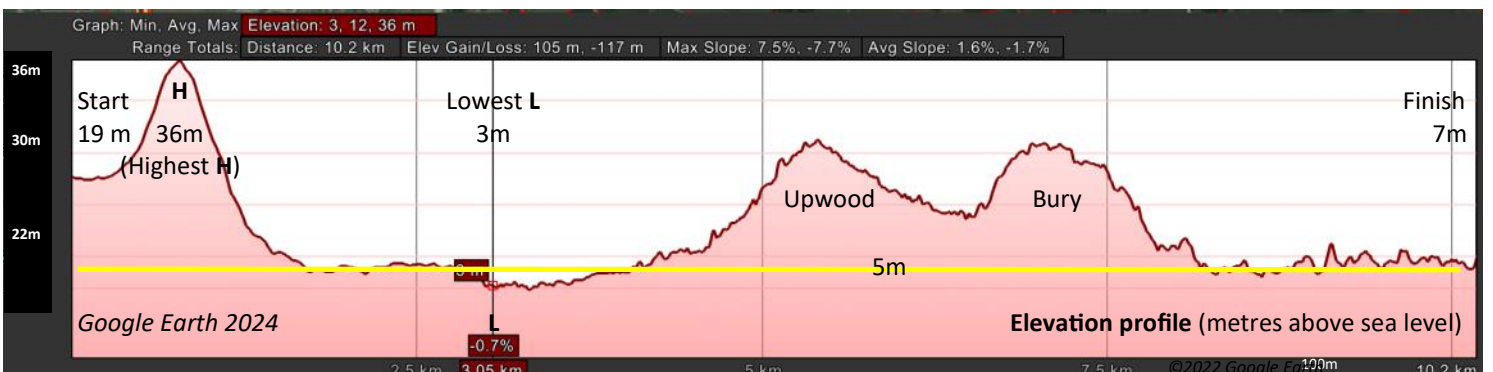
Walk: Wood Walton to Ramsey via Upwood - geology and landscape



Ages of the rocks - Alluvium & Peat less than 11,700 years (**Holocene**); **River Terrace Gravels** c.30,000 years, **March Gravels** c.60 - 120,000 years and **Glacial Till** c.125,000 - 425,000 years (**Pleistocene 'Ice Age'**); **Bedrock - Oxford Clay** c.160 million years (**Jurassic**)

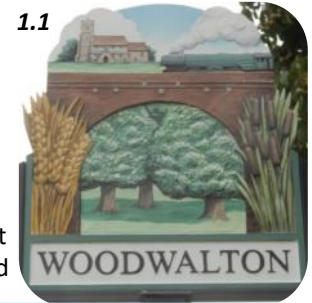
On this walk you there are 'rocks' of three different ages - two very 'recent' (in geological terms) and one that is much older. The oldest by far is the 'bedrock', the **Oxford Clay**, which is about 160 million years old (from the **Jurassic Period**). An extensive sea covered this part of Britain at the time with the clay forming from fine material deposited on the sea floor that subsequently became compressed to form a soft rock (a mudstone). The Oxford Clay is famous for its fossils of marine reptiles, such as large **Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs and Pliosaurus**. It is also known for its use in brickmaking, especially in the Peterborough area but also, in small brickworks such as those at Ramsey Heights (where the nature reserve now is). Over the last c.480,000 years (the later part of the **Pleistocene**) the forces of ice and water eroded much of the clay and deposited **Glacial Till**, a mix of material carried here by glaciers, often from far away. The Till covers the clay forming a ridge on the southern edge of the basin. The **March Gravels** (named after the fenland town) were deposited later, originating from both cold and warm environments, with some marine influence. They have created the low island where the Abbey was established. The **Terrace Gravels** were left by a **much stronger flowing river** than remains today. Over the last several thousand years, **Peat** formed in the freshwater marshes of the fen and fine, river **Alluvium** was left by the brook along its valley.

The start of the walk, in Wood Walton village, is at the southern end of a large **fen edge basin** underlain by the **Oxford Clay**, with large areas of **Peat** still remaining on the lower ground to the north. Most of the first half is over the Oxford Clay, where it forms the lower slopes of the ridge and the adjacent low fenland. Just after leaving the village, however, you do pass over a small area of **Glacial Till** on the end of a small peninsula that extends out from the ridge, and this is the highest point of the walk (at 36m above sea level). You **drop below the 5m contour**, passing Lady's Wood, a very wet wood on land only just above the fen, with **Peat** reaching just to the north of the walk. The **land rises again as you near Upwood** which, as its name suggests, is on higher land, reaching over 20m in places - as you turn onto the High St you are **almost at 25m**. The land drops a little but then, as you reach Bury, you go back up to 23m. This higher **peninsula of Glacial Till** extends north as far as Ramsey but this walk drops down into the valley of the **Bury Brook** where the Till has been eroded and the Oxford Clay is covered by a band of **Alluvium**. As you approach the Green you walk down to 5m again before walking slightly up onto the 'island' of Ramsey where you are on the **March Gravels at about 7m above sea level**.



Places of interest along the Trail

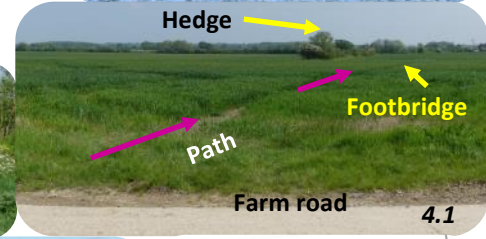
Wood Walton was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) as having 19 households and one church. The medieval settlement was dispersed over a considerable area. Approximately 2km to the north is **Church End** with the **Castle Hill motte and bailey castle**, and a further area of settlement has been identified some 500m to the north of the castle in the vicinity of **Higney Grange**. A moated site lies towards the south-eastern limit of the extended settlement - an area which subsequently developed as the post-medieval and modern village. The medieval **Church of St Andrew's**, a well-known landmark to travellers on the East Coast main line, stands in isolation in the area between the moated site and the castle. It might have been located there in order to serve both parts of the settlement.



1 The **village sign** (1.1) shows the Green with its impressive stand of tall trees (1.2f). On the opposite side of the road is a **war memorial** with a stone cross and base. An **information board about the village** is on the corner as you walk left off the road to go along Beville.



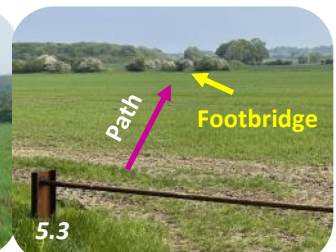
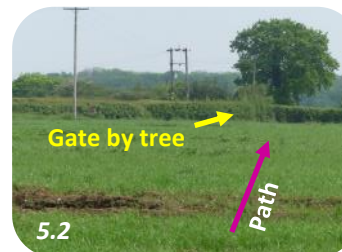
2 Shortly after leaving The Cross you will notice 'lumps and bumps' in the field to the right (2.1f). This is a triangular **moated site** (a scheduled monument) that may have formed part of the **manor of Woodwalton**, which was held by the Norman 'de Bolbec' family from 1086 and which was granted to **Ramsey Abbey** in 1134. A 50m-square level platform, slightly raised above the general ground surface, is considered to be the site of the principal dwelling. It is characteristically placed on the opposite side of the island from the entrance. A group of three fishponds lies to the north of the platform and a windmill mound stands in the western corner of the island. A slight depression in the centre of the mound indicates the position of the central post which would have allowed the superstructure to be turned into the wind. You walk over the highest point on the walk, at 36m, where a peninsula covered in Glacial Till extends out from the ridge. There are views to the left over **Riddy Wood** (privately owned) and, further north, to **Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve**. This is one of the very few remaining undrained fens and therefore of **international ecological importance** (SSSI, Ramsar site and part of a **Special Area of Conservation**). It lies in the southern part of the **Great Fen**, a landscape restoration area owned and managed by **The Wildlife Trust BCN** and **Natural England** (www.greatfen.org). The low, fenland 'bay' that stretches from here, west to Sawtry and north to Yaxley, contains some of the **deepest and most well-preserved peat** in the Fens, including former areas of 'raised bog'.



3 Looking down the hill ahead (3.1), you see Keeler Farm with **Gamsey Wood** to its left. **3a** The wood (3a.1) is a **nature reserve** owned by the **Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants** (3a.2f) and is believed to be a fragment of the ancient forest that covered much of this area in Saxon times. Note any restrictions on access on signs at the entrance - it may be closed due to conservation work being carried out or for other practical reasons such as very muddy paths. Being on the **Oxford Clay** and on the **5 metre contour**, it is a low lying and poorly drained fen edge wood that can be very waterlogged at times. It is known for its displays of spring flowers including **Bluebells**, **Wood anemones** and **Yellow archangel**. In the wood, there are several **Wild service trees**, the speckled berries of which were used to flavour ale before hops were introduced. The bitter berries were blotted (sweetened by being allowed to over-ripen) before being added. The drink was called **chequers**, another name for the tree, probably due to the bark peeling away to leave brown square patches, like a chequer board. The site is home to the **White-letter hairstreak** butterfly and **White-spotted pinion moth**, both **elm dependent** species. As you continue the walk, you drop down below the 5m contour and are now in the low fen.



4 The first footbridge (of two) crosses what becomes the **Great Raveley Drain** further north, becoming navigable after flowing along the eastern side of **Woodwalton Fen NNR**. In spring, the hedgerows in this area (4.5f) are full of hawthorn flowers, new, bright green tree growth and birdsong.



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Photos: 1.1 Village sign; 3.1 Looking ahead along path with Gamsey Wood on left and farm on right; 3a.1 Path along hedgeline into Gamsey Wood; 4.1 Path from road to footbridge right of hedge; 4.2 Winter view to footbridge to right of hedge; 4.3 Footbridge to right of tall hedgerow; 4.4 Hidden footbridges; 5.1 Path past (disused) gate in trees; 5.2 Path to tree to right of double electricity pole; 5.3 Signed path from bar gate to footbridge in hedge; 6.1 Path across field after bridge in hedge; 6.2 Path around trees to ditch; 6.3 Path across large field next to Lady's Wood.

5 As you walk towards the wood, across **Great Raveley Fen**, you reach the **lowest point of the walk, 3 metres above sea level**. The impermeable (Oxford) clay under your feet produces wet conditions and is likely to once have been covered in peat which now only remains to the north. The soil is challenging to farm and the major settlements are all located up on the ridge.

6 On the lower slopes of the ridge to the right (south) you can see **Raveley Wood**, another Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Behind it is the **moated site of the Manor of Moynes (a scheduled monument)** that once had fishponds and a windmill. Its history is connected to **Ramsey Abbey**; **Great Raveley village** lies just beyond it. **Lady's Wood**, a short distance to your left, is just above the 5 m contour. It is a 7.1 hectare nature reserve managed by the **Wildlife Trust**. **Ancient** in origin, it was managed historically as a traditional coppice although many trees were felled in 1951. Some trees were left lying in the wood and provide a habitat for insects and fungi.



6a Lady's Wood is a rare Bluebell wood - Bluebells being an indicator of ancient woodland. During April into May the wood has a very good display of them but entry might be closed to protect them from trampling and illegal picking. As with Gamsey Wood, it is only about **5 metres above sea level** and on **Oxford Clay** so may also be closed due to very muddy conditions. Many of the standing trees are old, coppiced ash trees. Lesser celandine, Greater stitchwort and Dog's mercury may also be seen. **Many birds** have been recorded, including Tawny owl and all three resident British **woodpeckers**: Green, Great spotted and the much rarer Lesser spotted.



7 Upwood Meadows, a 'Coronation Meadow', is another nature reserve managed by the **Wildlife Trust**. It was designated a **National Nature Reserve** for its floristic diversity. The greatest display is in one of its compartments called **Bentley Meadow** where medieval ridge-and-furrow and the many anthills (7.1) provide differing microhabitats for plants and invertebrates. The anthills (yellow meadow ant) are an indicator of ancient, untouched meadowland. Plants, including Cowslip, Saw-wort, Dropwort, Sulphur clover and Dyer's greenweed, provide plenty of colour and nectar sources for bees and butterflies. It is particularly noted for its population of **Green-winged orchids** (7.2f) which have been studied for many years. Go through the kissing gate **on the left** (7.3) to see orchids in April/May. The mature hedgerows and veteran trees provide nesting habitats for many birds including **Turtle dove**, Blackcap and Whitethroat and food for winter visitors such as Fieldfare and Redwing. Dew ponds dug in each field originally for watering livestock, are now breeding grounds for **Great crested newts**, dragonflies and damselflies.



8 Ailwyn, a **Saxon earldorman** who lived in Upwood, **founded Ramsey Abbey** in 974 AD. His family held vast properties in East Anglia, Essex, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire but Upwood was their main residence. Ailwyn's mother fostered the future King Edgar, who became king of all England in AD 959 and was known as "King of the English". Ailwyn and Edgar were foster brothers and grew up together. The site of Ailwyn's hall has yet to be found. In 1086, **Upwood** had a population of 35 households (122-175 people) putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded in Domesday. There was just one manor and a church, which was probably of timber. Nothing remains of the latter, but about the year 1100, a stone church, **St Peter's** (8.1f), consisting of a chancel and an aisle-less nave was built. It is built of fieldstone and rubblestone (probably using cobbles found on the hills to the south) and dressed limestone, and has since been widened and expanded (now Grade I listed). There are several 17th-century cottages on the right as you walk along High St, including three Grade II listed: the thatched timber and brick no 67, thatched (possibly 15th-century) no 63 and the timber-framed **Carlton House** (no 53) before the church. The, mostly 17th-century, long wall on the left opposite the church has a 'brick coping with sawtooth cornice' and is also Grade II. There is a village information board next to it (8.2). The **village sign** (8.3), on the main road, at the end of Church Lane (detour there and back), includes the **cross keys**, also the name of the pub on the **High St** (8.4). Note the fine, late 18th-century, Grade II listed **Georgian farmhouse** (no 11) at the end of the High St on the right (8.5).



9 As you go up the hill along the Bury/Ramsey road, look right to see **Rolls Wood**. There was once considerably more woodland around Upwood; this and Lady's Wood are virtually all that remain. In September 1917, the Royal Air Force started work on **RAF Upwood** (9.1), a large airfield near the village. It was used by the RAF in both the First and Second World Wars. In the latter, it was mainly used for training and later by the Pathfinders in 1944 and 1945. On the bend at the top of the hill there is a memorial to 139 and 156 Squadrons of No 8 (**Pathfinder**) Group who were based here (9.2). The United States Air Force took control of the site as a non-flying station from 1981 as part of a "Tri-Base Area" with RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury, due to their close geographic proximity, and interdependency. RAF Upwood was returned to British government control in 1995; most of the station was vacated and the land and buildings were sold off to civil ownership.



10 As you reach the grassy track, you join the **Rothschild Way**, a 38 mile (61 km) long distance path between Woodwalton Fen and Wicken Fen. These two nature reserves are on land purchased by **Charles Rothschild** in 1910 and 1899 to conserve both the land and its flora and fauna. Rothschild was an important pioneer in the wildlife conservation movement and the Way



11.1 Footpath next to paddock



Photos: 7.1 Anthills at Upwood Meadows NNR; 7.3 Left kissing gate to orchids, right for path to Upwood; 8.2 Upwood village board; 8.3 Village sign; 8.4 Cross Keys pub; 8.5 Georgian house; 9.1 RAF Upwood; 9.2 Memorial; 11.1 Footpath next to paddock.

was devised to commemorate his life and achievements. For a short time, from here to **12**, you are also following the next walk on the Trail, from Ramsey to Wistow (but in reverse). Having now come off the higher land underlain by **Glacial Till**, you are again very **close to the 5 m contour** and will be for most of the way to the end of the walk. You are walking roughly parallel to **Bury Brook**, which flows on the right between about 60 and 200m away.

11 The brook eroded the **Glacial Till** and cut down into the Oxford Clay forming a valley in which it deposited **Terrace gravels during the 'Ice Age'** and, more recently, **Alluvium** in the lowest parts. Buildings, such as the primary school, were built high up on the river terrace to the left. Below, to the right is a patch of gravels before a band of **Alluvium**, showing the river was **once much wider and stronger** than today.

11a At the road, you can see, up the hill to the right, **Bury Church**, which overlooks the fen on the other side, with views all the way to Chatteris. **Bury Church of the Holy Cross** sits on a remnant of Glacial Till elevating it above the fen. The church dates from the 12th Century and is of stone rubble with dressings of Barnack Stone. (This church is on the walk from Ramsey to Wistow - see the Walk Guide.)

12 Across the road, next to the footpath is the **Old School House**. Its walls are made of an **orange-coloured sandstone**, probably originating in Northamptonshire or Norfolk. As you walk, to the right is **Bury Brook** whilst to the left the land rises gently up the valley sides. By the two farm fields, the road into Ramsey is noticeably elevated above the floodplain, at the top of the slope. As you reach the start of houses, you cross where the railway track ran, with **Ramsey East Station** not far along the track to the left. Opened in 1888, trains ran from here to Somersham with passengers until 1930 and freight until 1956.

13 Along the **High St**, on the left, is the **Methodist chapel**. As in other parts of the town, some of the buildings here are made of '**gault**' bricks (gault meaning locally dug clay, usually with high lime content producing bricks of a pale colour). Note a couple of old street lights hanging on the right and the **Salem Baptist church** further along. You come to the junction with **the Great Whyte** leading off to the left. Now a very broad street, it was created when the **High Lode** (the continuation of Bury Brook) was culverted and covered in the 19th century. Previously, the Lode was an open waterway navigable by small boats, with houses set back from its banks. Note the buildings on the right (**the old bank**, now the Rotary Club, and a pub next door) **underneath which High Lode now passes** on its way north, running under the Great Whyte. Some buildings on the High St (as elsewhere in the town) are **17th-century** including **part of the pub** (Grade II listed, previously the George Hotel), whilst others are 18th and 19th-century. Note the **neo-classical door** on the bank building, with fanlight above. Once past the **Great Whyte**, you have walked off of the higher land of the Glacial Till and you **descend below 5 metres** to the lower land of the valley.

13a The metalled footpath follows the **flood defences** built to protect houses on the left (Ramsey High St) if Bury Brook floods. On its latter stages, the path is built on top of the **flood bank** itself (**13a.1**). **Bury Brook** (**13a.2**) drains a large area of high land to the south and its valley has been flooded in recent years.

14 The church of **St Thomas a Becket** (**14.1**) is thought to have been built as a hospitium (guest house), without the west tower, not as a church. It would have been used to accommodate visitors, merchants or pilgrims who were not allowed to stay in the main abbey with the monks. The hospitium was founded c.1180 but was converted into the parish church in 1222.

15 On the far side of **the Green** is the Grade I listed, late 15th-century ruined **Ramsey Abbey gatehouse** (**15.1**). Ramsey Abbey was known as "Ramsey the Rich" or "Ramsey the Golden" when it became the fourth richest abbey in the country by 1087. The Abbey was built on a gravel island in the Fens and was accessed by boat but as the amount of business and traffic increased the monks built a causeway between the island and the 'mainland' to the west, with a 1-arch medieval bridge over Bury Brook. Reflecting their importance, the Abbey buildings and the church were built with good quality **Barnack Stone**, a **Jurassic limestone** quarried in north Cambridgeshire near Stamford. It was used for many important local buildings including Peterborough and Ely Cathedrals. The stone was brought along the fenland waterways via **Whittlesey Mere** and the **River Nene**, which was connected to the town by the **High Lode**. A waterway that branched off from the Lode, to run up what is now the **Little Whyte** (parallel to the High St), was used to carry stone to the Abbey itself. In 1140-1144 during the Anarchy, **Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex**, expelled all the monks from the Abbey, used it as a fortress and stabled his horses there. The abbey was dissolved in 1539, when the **Cromwell family** bought its land, titles and buildings. They dismantled all the stone and sold it to several Cambridge colleges. There is nothing to be seen of the abbey now except for **the gatehouse**. **To see more of Ramsey**, walk back along the High St and turn right up the **Great Whyte** to walk through the town to where High Lode emerges from under the street to join the channel that connects it to the Old Nene further north. Ramsey North Station was also in this part of town. Opened in 1863, it linked to the Great Northern Railway via Holme, closing in 1973 (but to passengers in 1947).

See www.discoverramsey.co.uk for more walks. For more about Ramsey, see the **Fen Edge Trail Walk Guide for Ramsey to Wistow**.

Photos: 13a.1 Footpath on flood bank; 13a.2 Bury Brook; 14.1 St Thomas a Becket Church; 15.1 Ramsey Abbey Gatehouse.



www.fenedgetrail.org

