



PIKE AND EEL INN - BLUNTISHAM OR EARITH

(Bluntisham 2.5 miles - Earith 3.5 miles) O.S. Pathfinder Series Sheet No. 960.

This section of the Ouse Valley Way starts at the Pike and Eel Inn, situated alongside the River at the end of Overcote Lane, approximately 1 mile east of Needingworth village. Look for the embankment where the Ouse Valley Way crosses the road at the rear of the Inn, about 200 yards from the river.

Follow the path eastwards along the top of the floodbank, towards the river. The Ouse Valley Way continues along this bank, with meadows in the strip of land between the floodbank and the main course of the river. On your left you will soon see a gravel works in the distance, a reminder that our countryside landscape is under constant pressure for change.

This path passes from flood plain meadows to a predominantly fenland landscape. The wide sky, open landscape and distant horizon of fenland are a unique experience, and the largely man-made landscape is itself a tribute to bygone days.

After about a mile you will arrive at Brownhill Stauch, a significant feature in this otherwise uncluttered landscape.

Brownhill Stauch is one of the 10 locks along the length of the Huntingdonshire Ouse and performs the essential function of regulating the flow of water in the river as well as assisting the navigation of boats.

At this point choose one of the two alternative destinations described below:-

To Bluntisham

Stay on the same side of the river and continue along the path until you come to a stile alongside a small pumping station. Soon after the

stile the path forks. The more obvious right hand track continues along the top of the floodbank, and the left hand route, which you follow, runs inland alongside a hedge towards Bluntisham.

Walk in a straight line along the edge of the field until you come to a farm track, then follow this track through two bends to end your walk on the A1123 road into Bluntisham. The village of Bluntisham contains an interesting mediaeval church built of local brown cobbles. Car parking and refreshments are available in the village of Bluntisham.

To Earith

To walk to Earith, cross the lock footbridge and proceed inland for about 100 yards. Turn left and follow the path which runs along the top of the Bedford Level Corporation Barrier Bank for about 2 miles, until you meet the road near Hermitage Lock. If you wish to walk into Earith village, you should cross over the river at the nearby road bridge, and follow the A1123 road back into the village. This is the most easterly village in Huntingdonshire and is located at the beginning of the Old and New Bedford Rivers which are two of the major drainage channels of the Fens. Close to the village there are remains of a Civil War earthwork called 'The Bulwark'. Car parking and refreshments are available in the village of Earith.

Ice Skating at Earith