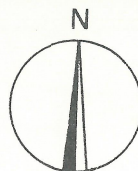
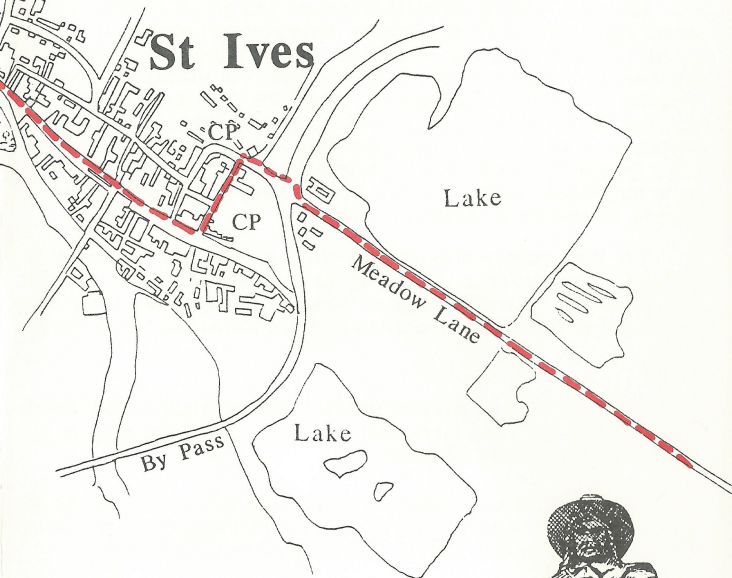
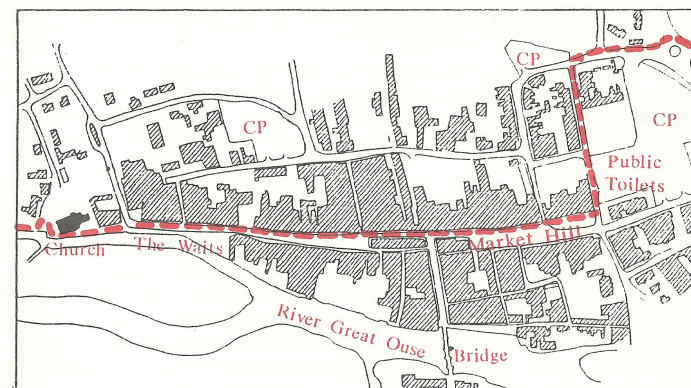
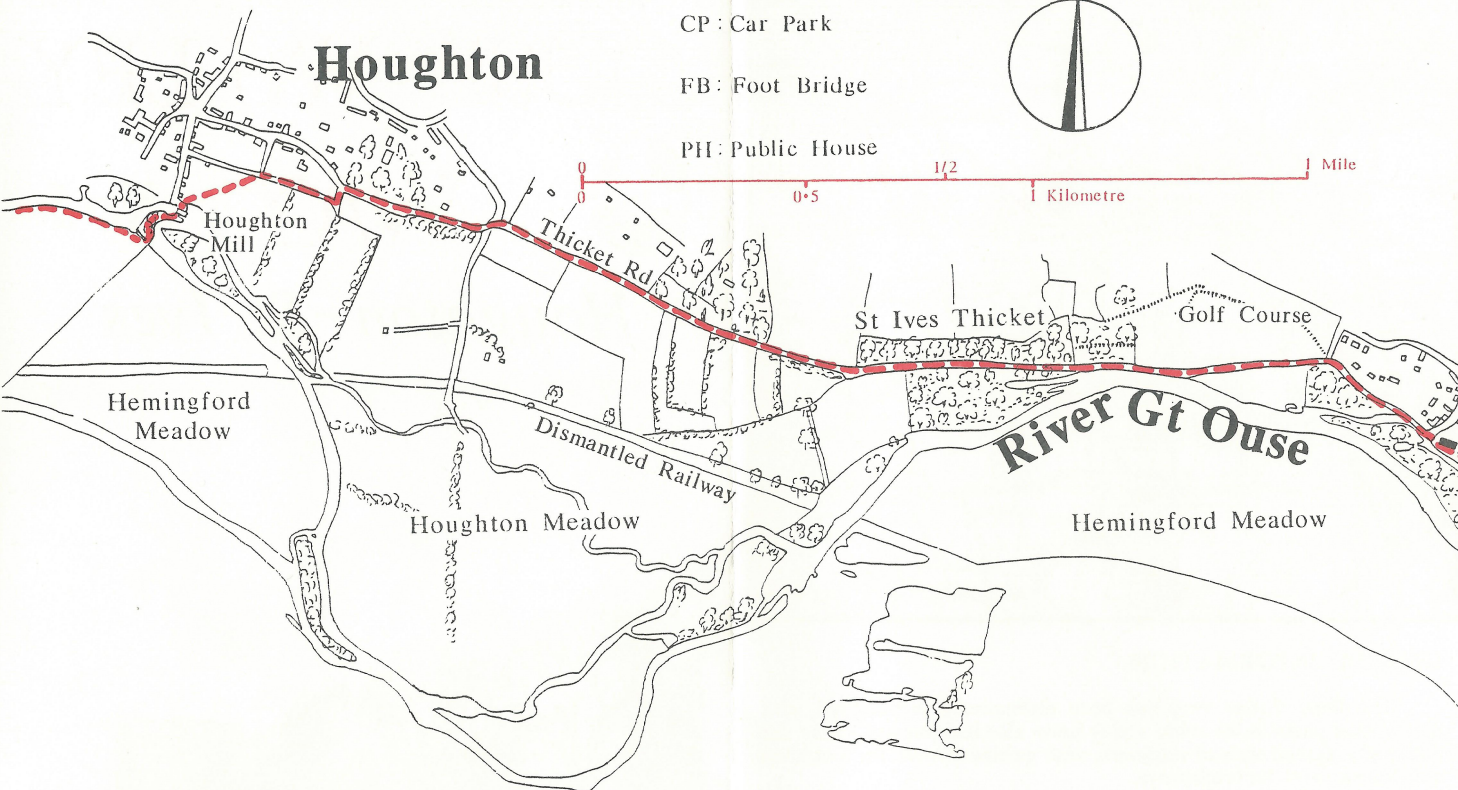


# Houghton

KEY  
CP: Car Park  
FB: Foot Bridge  
PH: Public House



0 0.5 1/2 1 Kilometre  
0 0.5 1 Mile



## HOUGHTON - ST. IVES

(2.75 miles) - O.S. Pathfinder Series Sheet No. 960

This section of the Ouse Valley Way starts at Houghton Mill, which is owned by the National Trust. There are car parking and refreshment facilities available in the village of Houghton. From Houghton Mill, follow the Ouse Valley waymarks through the short, narrow pathway into and around the camping site to the north of the Mill. This path leads into Love Lane, then continues into Thicket Road, which you should follow eastwards towards St. Ives. This is possibly the most popular walk in Huntingdonshire. Its level surface and variety of scenery make it particularly popular for families with young children.

After following the narrow tarmac roadway for 0.5 mile, you will enter The Thicket, unusual for Huntingdonshire because of the steep hill on one side and woods on the other. This area is enjoyed by observers of both flora and fauna as its varied wildlife is so accessible. After passing through The Thicket, the path runs alongside the river for a short distance, with a golf course on the other side. The golf course is on the site of an 18th century brickpit and the uneven ground created by excavation has been put to good use for recreation. Continue along until the track turns sharp left opposite the Cromwell District Scout Headquarters, where you continue straight on along Barnes Walk footpath to run into St. Ives.

The town is named after the legendary Persian Bishop St. Ivo who, around A.D.600 came to this area (then called Slepe - indicating that the settlement stood on a muddy slipway or ford) and subsequently died and was buried. His remains were discovered in 1001, and the area developed into a pilgrimage centre and significant market town. Note the interesting stone bridge (built c1425) with a chapel in the centre. This is only one of three remaining buildings of this type in England. The two elegant spires of the 14/15th Century Parish Church and the Free Church (built in 1863) stand out as landmarks for miles around.

St. Ives has many fine buildings and it well worth exploring the charms of its town centre roads and passageways.

The Ouse Valley Way runs alongside The Waits, where visiting boats moor, and passes the Norris Museum, rich in local history exhibits, to continue along the aptly named Broadway, overlooked by 18th and early 19th Century buildings. The narrow Crown Street then leads into Market Hill, the hub of the old town, with its central statue of Oliver Cromwell. Weekly markets and an annual fair are still held in these town centre streets. There are public conveniences, car parks and refreshment facilities available in the town. A Town Trail leaflet has been produced.



Crown St.



Statue of Cromwell