

START

To do the circular walk start at **Paxton Pits Nature Reserve** car park. If you are

following the Ouse Valley Way you will start from point **2**, near the moorings at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. From point **1**, cross over the footbridge at the end of the car park to a gate. A kissing gate here allows access by manual wheelchairs and push chairs, and the gate is fitted with a RADAR lock for electric wheelchair users. Continue straight on through the gate to a gravel track which is suitable for all ability access. Follow this track until you reach a public footpath sign. Turn left into a meadow next to some moorings.

2 Follow the path through the meadow and between hedgerows. Keep right to follow the riverbank with the river on your right, for about 2 miles / 3.2 km. You will reach the **Water Pumping works**, which takes water from the Ouse to fill Grafham Water Reservoir, about 4 miles / 6.4 km away. Look out for old willow trees that were traditionally pollarded. This is when the treetop is cut off and long straight branches grow from shoots. After a year these were harvested for basket making.

3 Continue along the riverbank for about half a mile / 0.8 km, then follow the waymarks away from the river, across a meadow to a bridge.

4 Once over the bridge turn right, through fields, across another bridge and out onto the road, near **Offord Mill**.

To continue on the next leg of the Ouse Valley Way (Offords to Godmanchester), turn left here along the road for about 200 metres to a small opening on the right which leads into **Buckden Marina**. Go to leaflet No. 3.

5 This marks the point where circular walkers return to Little Paxton. Before you return you may need refreshments in the village of Offord Cluny which is about half a mile / 0.8 km along the road to the right (across the railway). To begin the circular walk go back through the kissing gate near Offord Mill and over the small bridge. After about 100 metres turn right to follow a path that skirts a field, runs beside a hedge and passes through a copse with a small disused pit on your left.

6 Cross the road you come to taking the path that bears right alongside a field with a hedge on your right to join another track.

7 Turn left towards **Diddington** and follow the road past a row of houses. Where the road bends sharply right continue ahead to **Manor Farm**.

8 Take a footpath beside Manor Farm which bears left across a meadow, and follow the waymarkers past some quarry workings.



Mooring on the Ouse

9 Turn right through a small wooded area and on past the site of the Medieval **Village of Boughton Lodge Farm**. Cross the farm track and carry on along the path the other side until you reach another track. At the track turn right then almost immediately left again to continue along the path until you reach yet another track.

10 Turn left here to come out at some gravel works. To continue on the walk to point **11**, carefully cross the roadway to take the track heading towards the river with a lake on your right. Alternatively, to return directly to point **1**, from here, bear right along a grassy track to follow the Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Heron Trail. A hard surface road suitable for wheelchair users runs alongside this track. Beware of gravel lorries using this road.



Oxeye daisies

As the track swings left take the path on your right by the river to retrace your steps for a short way past the moorings. Rather than taking the path to continue alongside the river follow the track to take you beside the lake (on your right) to take you back to the car park near the **Visitors' Centre**.

Distances

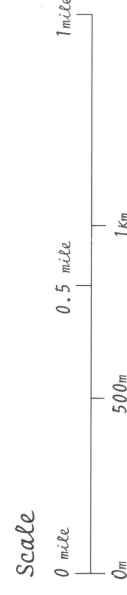
Ouse Valley Way - Little Paxton to Offord (**1** to **5**)
3 miles / 4.8 km from car park

Circular Walk Back - Offord Cluny to Little Paxton (**5** to **1**)
4 miles / 6.4 km or 3¾ miles / 6 km using shortcut



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Key	
Ouse Valley Way	—
Circular Walk	- - -
Public Footpath	- · -
Church	⛪
Public House	🍺
Toilets	WC
Car Park	P
Railway Line	+++++



The bridge at Offord Mill