



8 Turn right at the road to **Hemingford Grey Church**. The church was built in 1160 with a spire but either a hurricane or lightning destroyed it in 1741 since when it has remained spire-less.

9 Turn abruptly left alongside the graveyard to follow a path along the riverbank. Follow the path keeping the river on your right to the far end of the High Street then turn right to continue along the riverbank.

10 Along this stretch of the path the Manor House can be seen on your left set in its magnificent gardens. The house was built in 1130 and is the oldest continuously inhabited house in England. One famous owner was the author of the Green Knowe books - Lucy Boston, her daughter-in-law now allows visits to the house but by appointment only. The gardens are open most days. The path crosses two meadows then leads alongside a mobile home park into **Hemingford Abbots**.

11 Turn right along the road until you reach the Axe and Compass pub.

12 Take the next road on the right after the pub beside the post box and follow this over the **Black Bridge**.

13 Cross **Hemingford Meadow** to a lock and follow the road back into **Houghton**.

Distances

Ouse Valley Way
Houghton to St. Ives
(1. to 5.)
2 miles / 3.2 km

Circular Walk Back
St. Ives to Houghton
(5. to 1.)
3 miles / 4.8 km

Key

- Ouse Valley Way
- Circular Walk
- Church
- Public House
- Toilets
- Car Park
- Camping/Caravan Site
- Museum

Scale

0 mile 0.5 mile 1 mile
0m 500m 1km

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5 To take the circular route back to Houghton, take the first right hand turn down **Bridge Street, St. Ives** just before you get to Market Hill. Go over the fine **Chapel Bridge** where you have a great view of the quay with old buildings dating mainly from the 18th Century. The bridge was built between 1415 and 1426 and the chapel is now one of only 3 surviving bridge chapels in the country. During the Civil War a drawbridge replaced the southern most span.

6 Turn right through The Dolphin car park and out onto **Hemingford Meadow**. Walk across the meadow following the path diagonally left to a stile at the far side. Follow Meadow Lane until it bends sharply left and a track comes in from the right.

7 Take a small path straight ahead that comes out on a road. If you would like to visit the shops or The Cock pub turn left until you reach the High Street, one shop is to the left and the pub is to the right. To continue on the walk follow the path ahead until you reach another road.



The River Great Ouse

3 Continue on this path alongside the river to **St. Ives** to come out opposite the church. **Holt Island Nature Reserve** is over the bridge on your right (see over for details).

4 Walk through the churchyard, to the right of the church, and straight on into the centre of St. Ives. The Norris Museum is on your right just at the end of the quay, this is well worth a visit to discover about local history. The present town was originally called Slepe, meaning muddy slipway or ford. The name of St. Ives came from the Persian Bishop St Ivo who came to the area in 600 AD. His remains were found buried here in 1001, and the many pilgrims who came to the area helped to make St. Ives a thriving Market Town.

To continue along the Ouse Valley Way from **Market Hill** in St. Ives, turn left into Market Road, continue along Cromwell Place and turn right towards the St. Ives Bypass. Cross the roundabout and walk down Meadow Lane. Go to leaflet No. 6.

1 To join the Ouse Valley Way follow signs from the centre of Houghton to **Houghton Mill**. The National Trust now owns the mill and opens it for visitors (see leaflet No. 4. for further details). Just before and opposite the mill, is a path on the left. Take this through the Caravan Park, following the waymarks carefully. Turn right at a narrow path called Love Lane; follow this round to the left to Thicket Road.

2 Turn right at Thicket Road and follow it straight on until it becomes a path. There is a hard surface path from Thicket Road to St. Ives which provides all ability access.

START

START

WYTON

HOUGHTON

A1123

ST IVES

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS

HEMINGFORD GREY

A1096



Houghton Mill
Lock
Boat Hire

Hemingford Meadow

Black Bridge

Houghton Meadow

Manor House

High Street

St Ives Thicket

Hemingford Meadow

Holt Island

Bridge & Chapel

Wilhorn Meadow

St Ivo Recreation Centre

Norris Museum

Bus Station