

Welcome to the River Great Ouse

The River Great Ouse and its tributaries including the Rivers Cam, Lark, Little Ouse and Wissey provide approximately 255km / 158 miles of navigable waterway. The upper reaches of this river flow through one of the most peaceful and unspoilt water environments in Britain. They offer a wide range of natural and historical sites and pretty rural towns to visit.

Important Information

Speed Limits

A number of speed limits apply throughout the navigation. However, care must be taken at all times in the interests of safety as well as to protect the water environment and wildlife. The speed limits that exist on the River Great Ouse navigation vary between 6.4 km/h (4 mph) on busier sections of the river, 11.2 km/h (7 mph) elsewhere and 24.1 km/h (15 mph) on the tidal river.

Moorings

Boats must not be moored within 36 metres (118ft) of any lock, sluice, weir or water intake except when navigating through a lock. In some cases such as Denver Sluice and A.C. Wright Sluice at Denver, mooring is prohibited for 100 metres (328ft) on both sides of the structure.

Within this guide where visitor moorings are referred to in association with marinas and public houses, please note you may be required to pay for usage of facilities at the marina or be a patron of the Public House. You will also find numerous Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) private moorings listed within this guide.

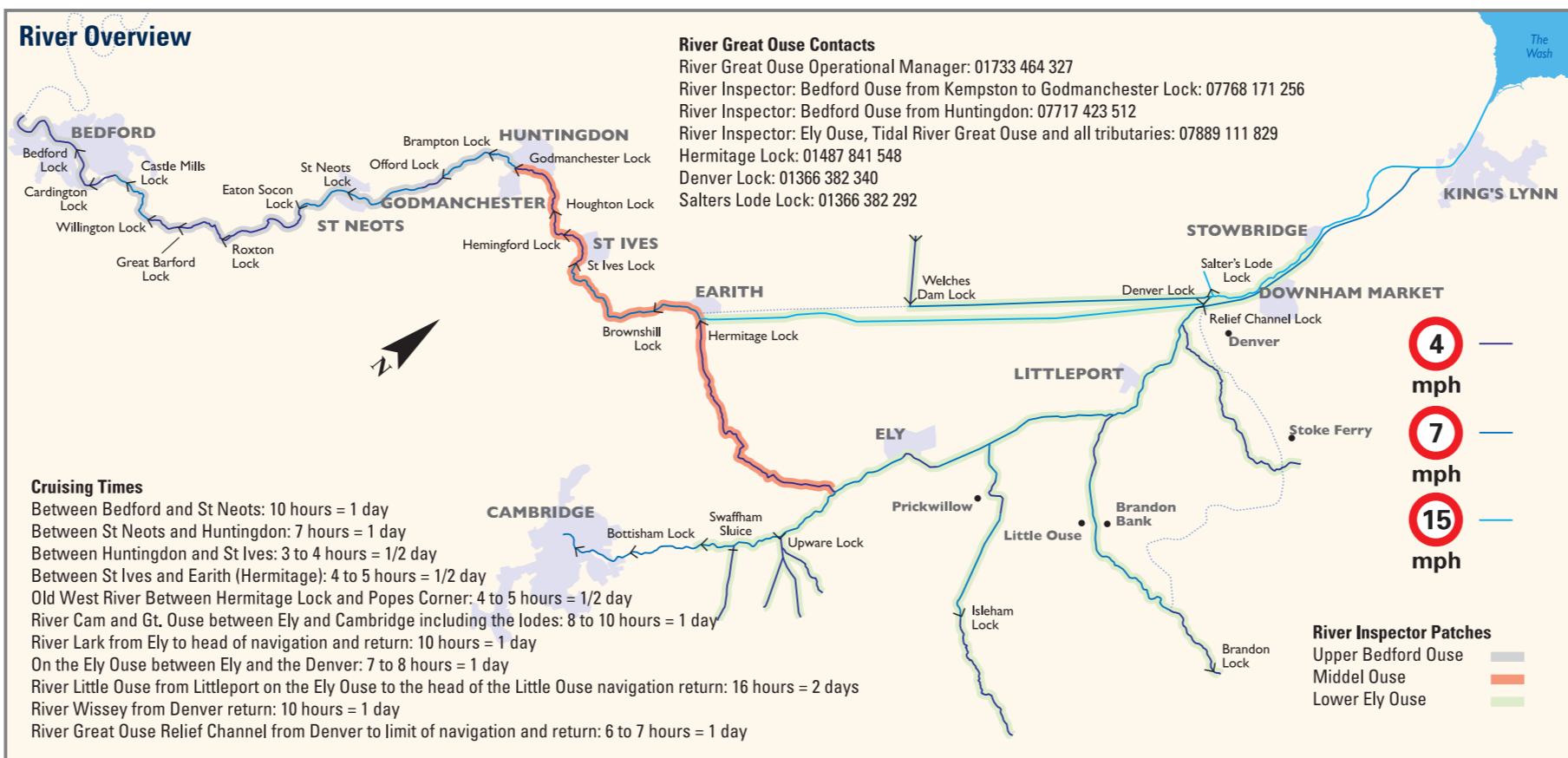
Tidal Passage

The River Great Ouse is tidal for 26kms (16 miles) downstream of Denver Lock. Environment Agency navigation on the tidal river ends at Stowbridge where after the Port of Kings Lynn Conservancy Board and Fort Authority take over.

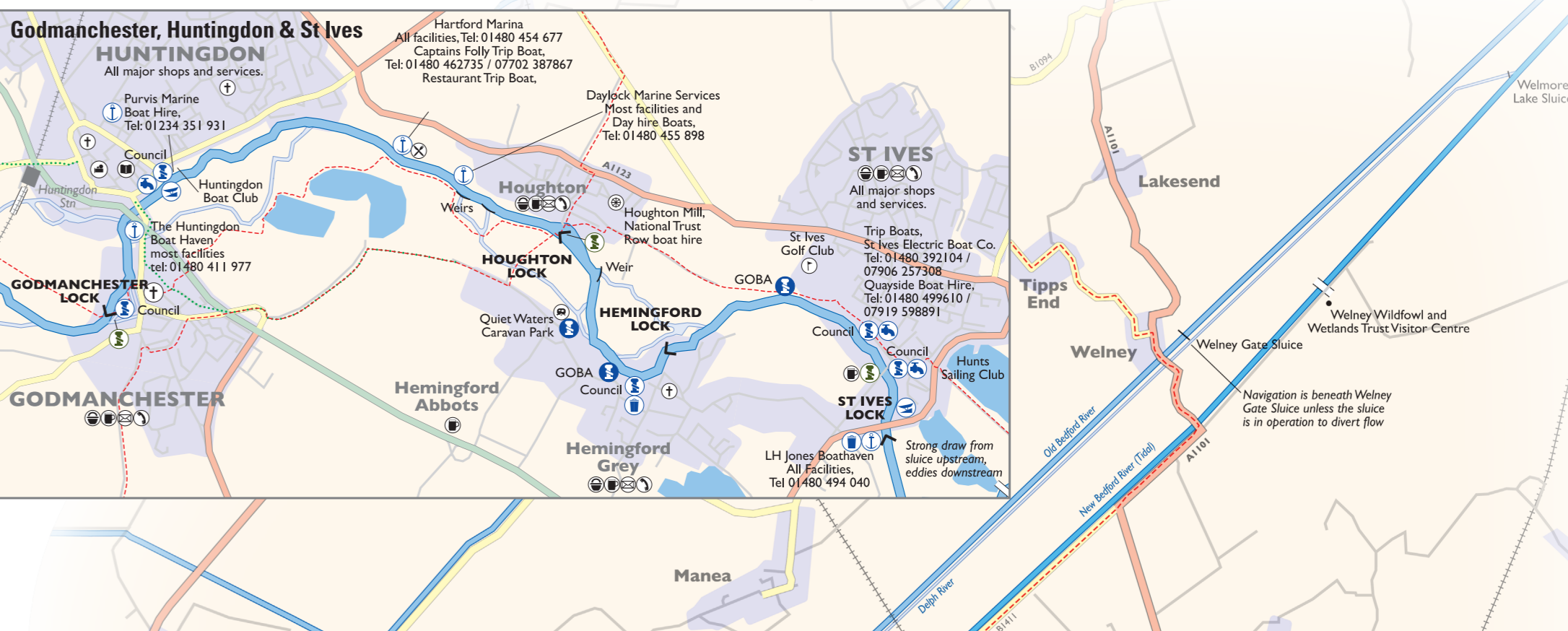
The majority of inland waterway vessels tend to only make the short 500 metre stretch between Denver Lock on the River Great Ouse and Salters Lode Lock on Well Creek on the Middle Level.

The Bedford River Ouse is also tidally influenced between Brownhill Sluice and Hermitage Lock for a distance of 3.6kms (2.2 miles), however levels do not affect passage between these two locks.

If you do wish to navigate the Tidal New Bedford (Hundred Foot) River we strongly advise you to contact our Denver Lock Keeping staff before attempting to make the passage.

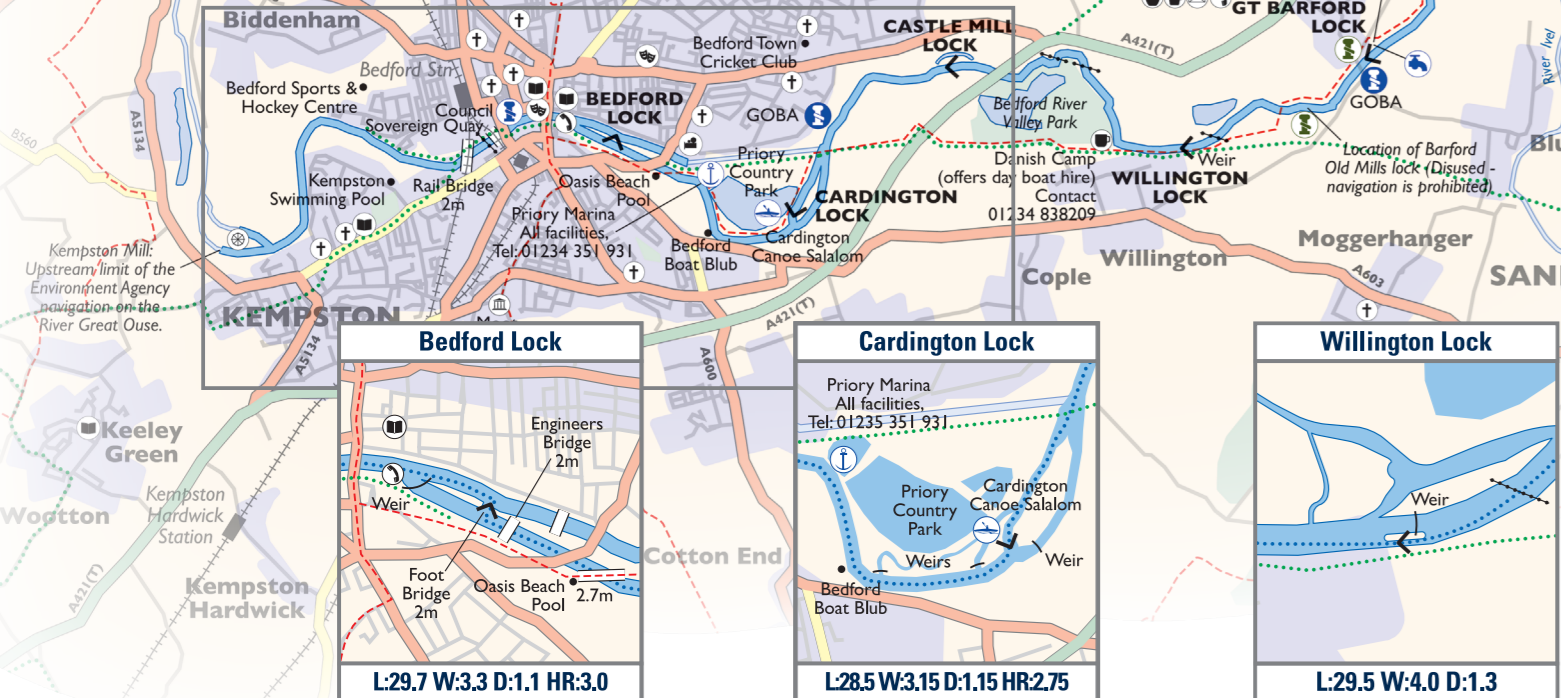
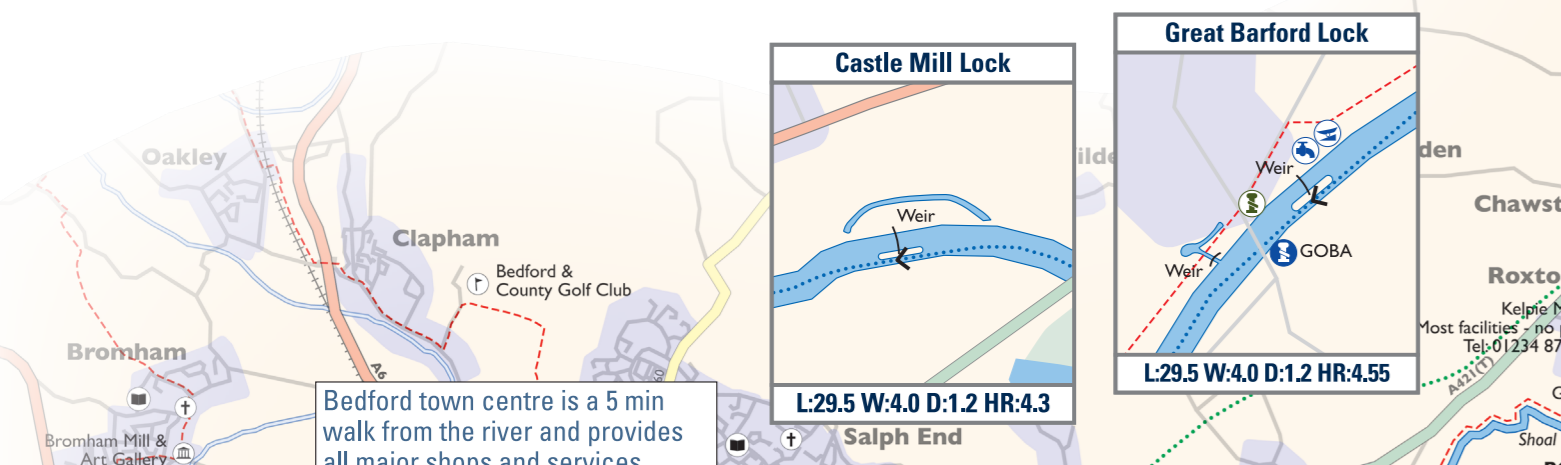
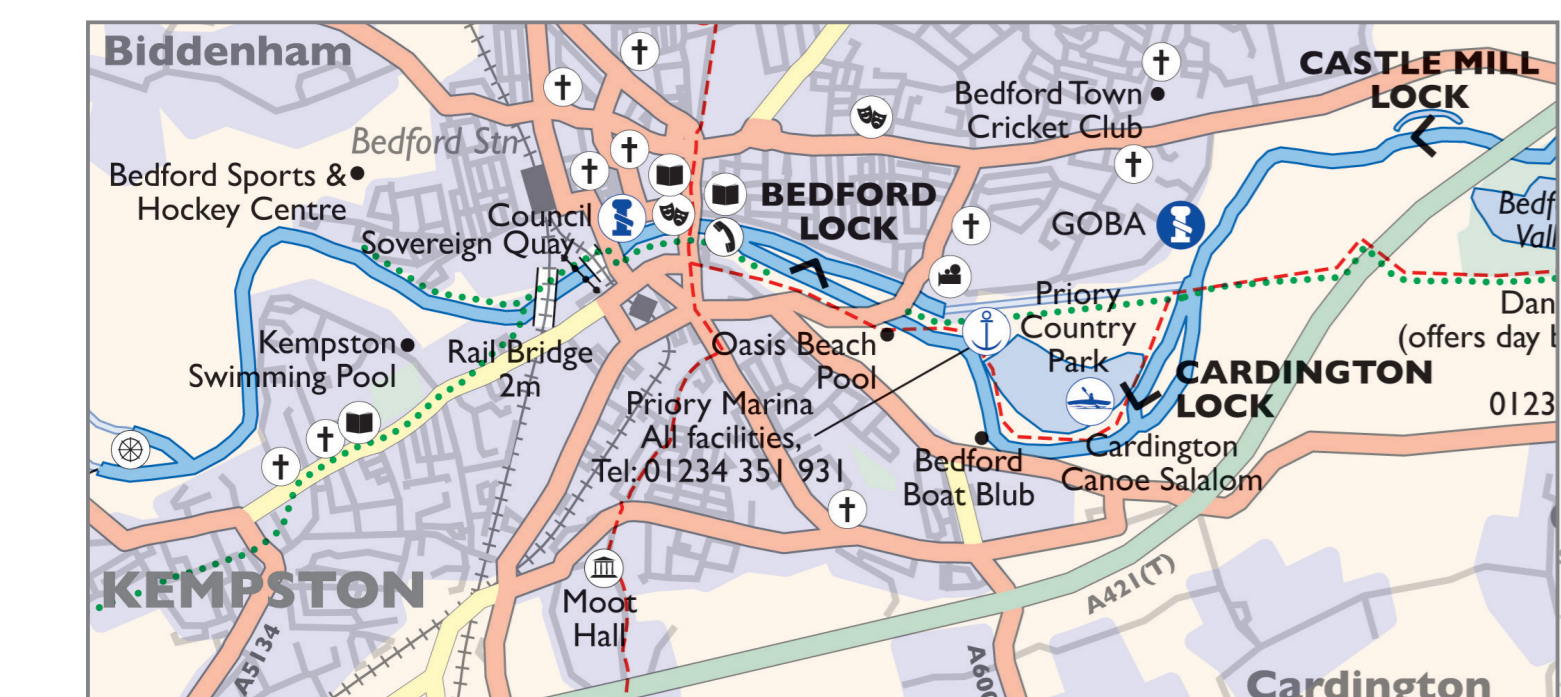
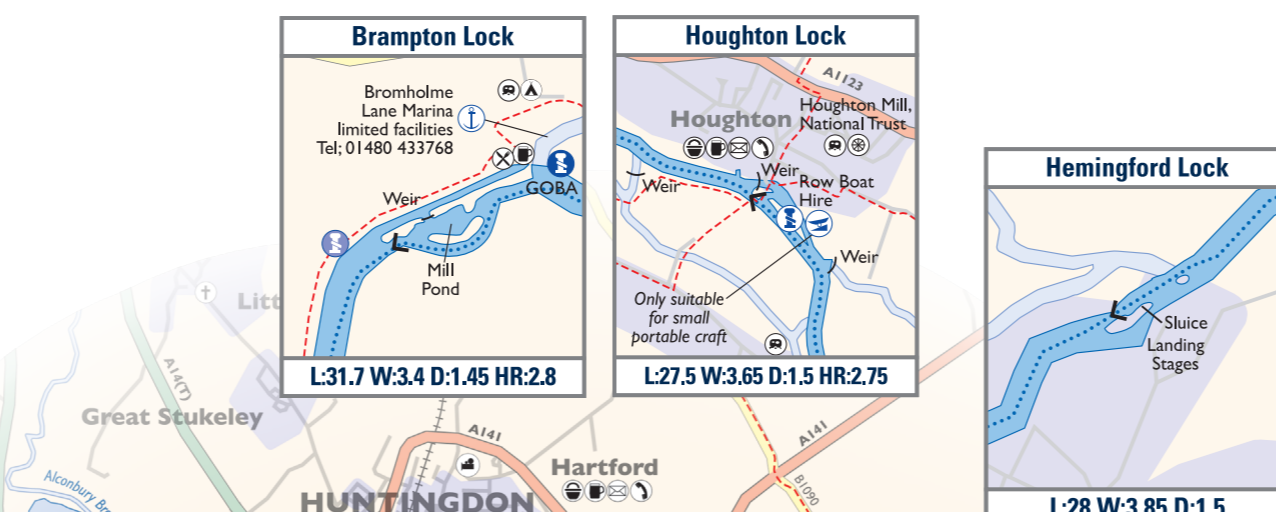


Hermitage Lock - River Great Ouse
From 1st April 2011, the lock opening times are as follows:
October - March: 9am - 4pm
April - September 9am - 7pm
Lock gates open until 8pm on Friday during June, July and August

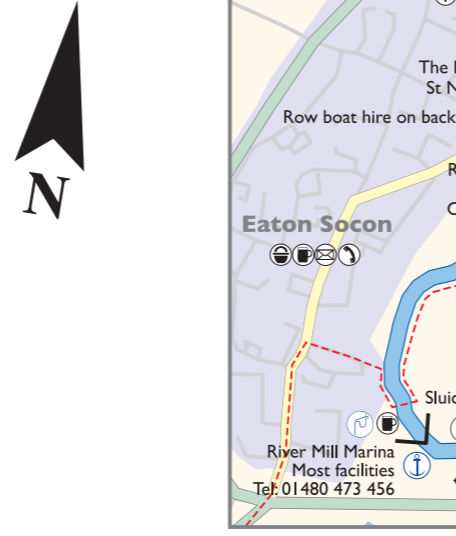
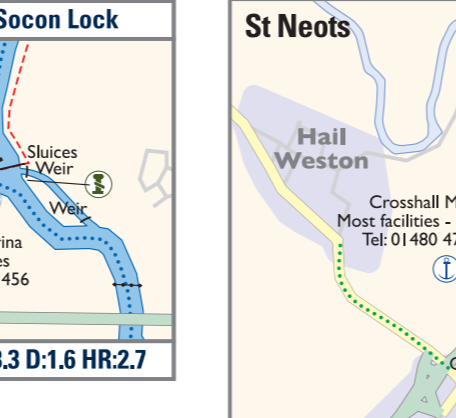
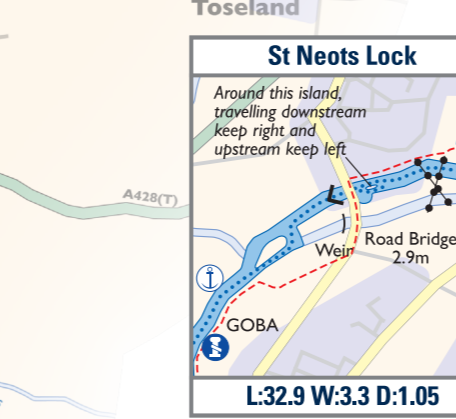


Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): Ouse Washes

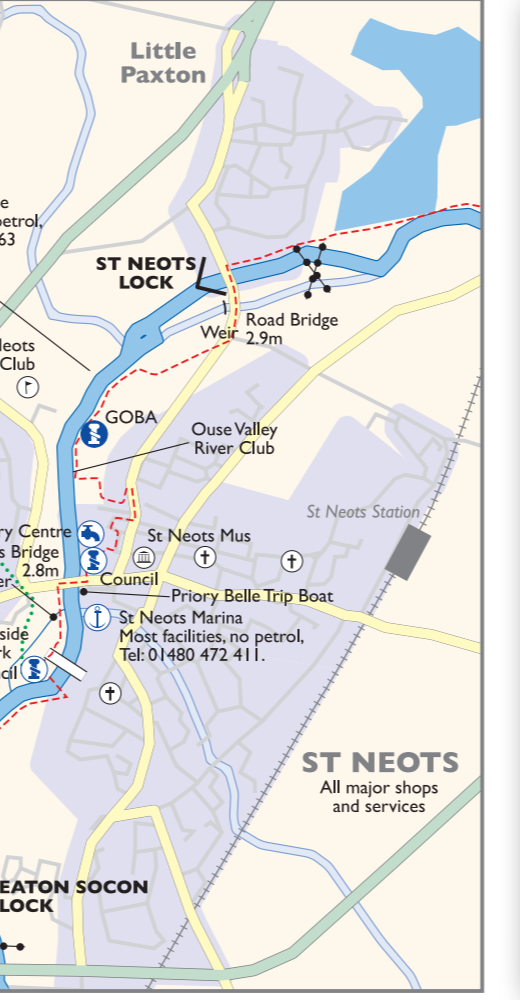
The Ouse Washes is a stunning example of lowland wet grassland habitat, the largest in the UK. In winter, the reserve is used by tens of thousands of ducks as well as the largest concentration of Bewick's and whooper swans anywhere in the UK.



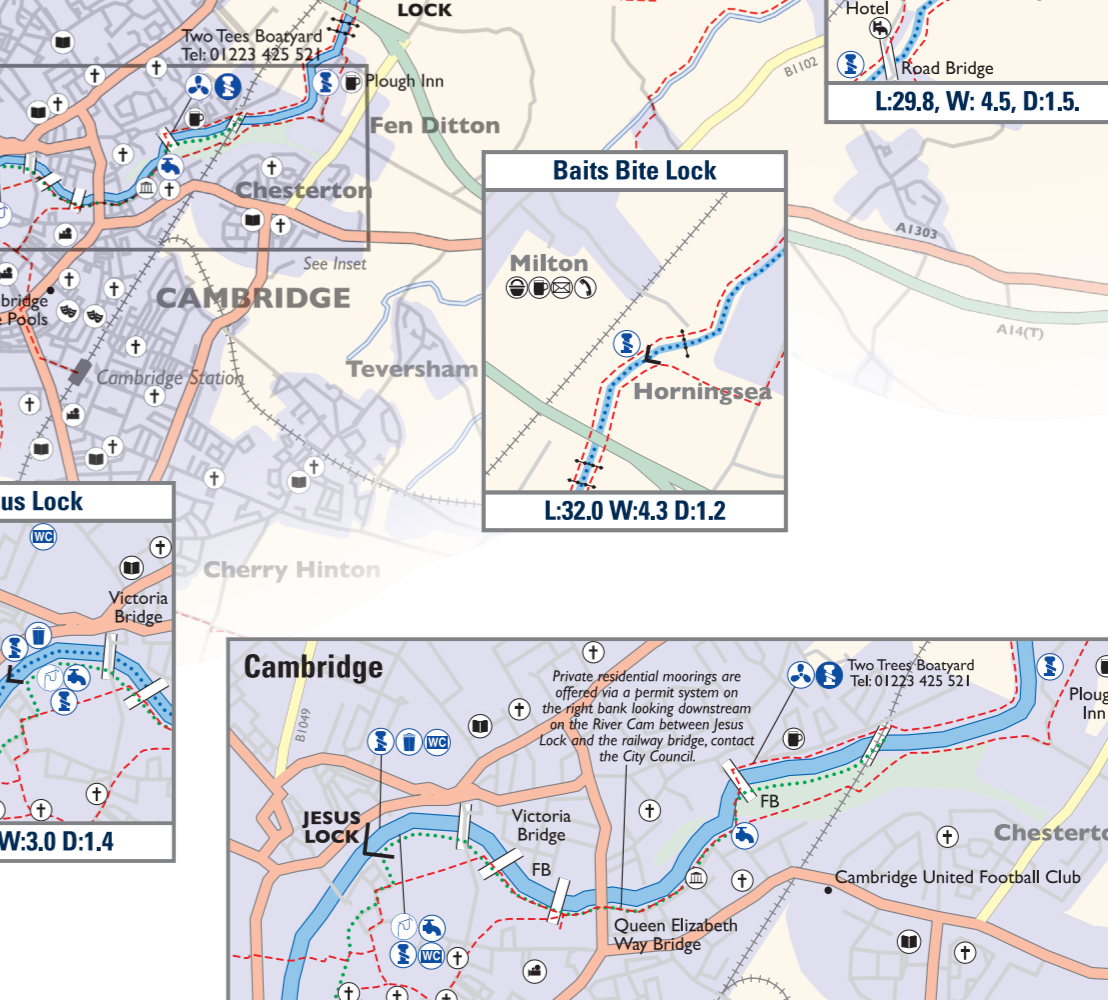
Priry Country Park and Cardington Canoe Slalom
206 acres of open country. Lake and river walks, angling, wildlife conservation areas. Visitor centre, including 'Wildlife Shop'. Open Mondays to Fridays, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Sundays 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Ample parking.



Paxton Pits
Paxton Pits is a superb place for wildlife valued by local people, and by visitors from far and wide. Famous for its wonderful nightingales, notified by the Government for its wintering waterbirds and a riot of colour in summer when the wild flowers bloom.



John Bunyan
Bedford's Community Boat. Owned by the B&MK Waterway Trust the 'John Bunyan' offers both Public Cruises and Private Hire Charters on the Great Ouse at Bedford.



River Cam - Conservators of the River Cam
The River Cam links the Ely Diocese to the City of Cambridge and has several locks that offerfoot, some of which are navigable. The Environment Agency are the Navigation Authority to Botolph Claydon, upstream of which the Conservators of the River Cam take over as the Authority.

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