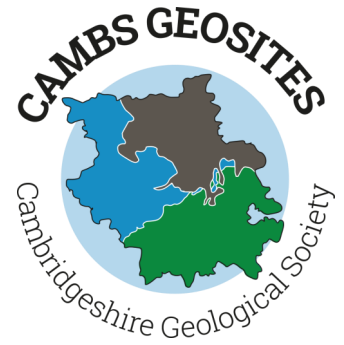




www.fenedgetrail.org
info@cambsgeology.org



Information for groups/organisations

The **Fen Edge Trail** will provide a walking route around the Cambridgeshire Fens, roughly following the land that is 5 metres above sea level (5 metre contour), where the low-lying fenland meets the surrounding higher land. With short detours to visit nearby viewpoints, historical and cultural sites and areas good for wildlife, the Trail will enable people to enjoy this fascinating area that has been of strategic importance for the local inhabitants since their first arrival.

The aim of the project is to promote interest in the landscape by directly linking its character, including its geology, formation and current features, to its human history and development and the local wildlife, both past and present.

The **Cambridgeshire Geological Society** (CGS) created the Fen Edge Trail as part of its **Geosites** initiative, which aims to ensure that local sites of landscape and geological interest are identified and protected, and that their importance and interest is shared with the general public. **The Fenland Trust** is working in partnership with the CGS, particularly in developing the Fen Edge Trail website and liaison with community groups. A number of other local organisations, including **The Great Fen/The Wildlife Trust** are involved in various sections of the Trail and we hope that your group/organisation would like to join us, either in helping to plan the route itself or to contribute information on interesting features along it.

The Trail route starts in Peterborough in the north west of the county and finishes on the border with Suffolk in the east. For the purpose of describing the route (e.g. on the website), we have initially divided the route into 4 main sections, each with smaller sections within them. Local groups/organisations can choose to be involved in specific parts of the route (that may be within a particular section or may extend into more than one). It is envisaged that the interest of some groups/organisations may overlap but it will be possible (desirable in some areas) to have route options and there will also be detours to sites of interest.

Although the 5 metre contour is being used as a guide for the route, it will follow the most interesting and practical way e.g. to ensure it follows public rights of way and is safe for walking. For time and transport reasons, it is anticipated that people may wish to walk a part of the route or simply to visit individual places along it.

The objectives are:

- to develop and maintain a **website** containing details of the route, the features of interest, news and links to other relevant websites
- to produce **downloadable leaflets** for each section that can be used as walking guides, and other leaflets on specific local features or topics of interest (some may be printed if resources are available)
- to enable **other organisations/groups to contribute to the project** in ways that suit their own objectives and to have Fen Edge Trail sections on their own website and in their own displays.
- to run **events (such as talks)** for the general public and local groups and to participate in relevant events organised by others
- to generally **promote interest in the Fen Edge** to local people and visitors and to encourage membership or support of the participating groups



The Route

The route will pass through or near the following (some of which are on the 5 m contour and some are slight detours):

Section 1 Peterborough to Ramsey Peterborough, Stanground, Farcet, Yaxley, Stilton, Holme, Conington, Sawtry, Woodwalton, Ramsey Heights, Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey

Section 2 Ramsey to St Ives Bury, Warboys, Pidley, Somersham, Earith, Bluntisham, Needingworth, St Ives

Section 3 St Ives to Cambridge Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Over, Willingham, Rampton, Cottenham, Landbeach, Waterbeach, Milton, Cambridge (Fulbourn)

Section 4 Cambridge to Islesham Fen Ditton, Horningsea, Stow cum Quy, Lode, Swafham Bulbeck, Prior, Reach, Burwell, Fordham, Upware, Wicken, Soham, Isleham

Islands Whittlesea, March-Doddington-Wimblington, Chatteris, Ely-Witchford-Sutton-Wilburton-Haddenham-Chettisham, Manea, Stretham, Stuntney, Littleport

This is not a complete list of the settlements on the Trail but shows the approximate route (see map overleaf).

Join the project

Depending on your group's own interests, you can join the project in a number of ways:

- help us to explore a particular area to decide on the best route for the trail, and the local features of interest
- collect information on specific sites or subjects of interest around the fen edge
- produce a local display to provide information on the fen edge for your local community
- join us for talks and other events focusing on the Fen Edge

The project covers a wide range of interests, with the common theme of links to the local landscape. Your group may be interested in one or more:

- local geology that shows the underlying rocks and the history of their formation, together with the fossils they contain
- landforms including those formed during the ice ages or recent changes in waterways and those created by man
- wildlife and ecology – the common and rare animals and plants, many of which are typical of the fenland and surrounding areas especially of the many bogs, fens, meres and water channels of the past
- locations of historic settlements from ancient sites (Neolithic and Bronze Age) to medieval and more recent (e.g. Victorian)
- farming, gardening and soils
- the building stones used locally, whether from nearby sources or from much further away
- livelihoods – quarrying, brickmaking, stonemasons, reed cutting, peat cutting, thatching, milling, wildfowling, village crafts
- waterways - ferries, water mills, fishing
- ancient routes – droves, pathways, related to landscape features
- events – battles, ceremonies, disasters
- local culture - family names to pub names, songs, poetry

Share your photos

We would be grateful for relevant photos for the website and leaflets.

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How to be involved

We will supply you with some background information on the part of the route that you are interested in. This will include some basic details and a map of the local geology and landforms, a map showing the 5 metre contour, the suggestions (if not yet decided) or plans (if already agreed) for the local route, and local features of interest already identified. We will also give you information on other local organisations that may be involved in the project.

You can decide, depending on the interests of your group, how you will contribute to the project and the time scale that you will be working to. Participation is very flexible and can suit the resources and wishes of the group. We will produce maps and information for the website and leaflets using a standard format but how you provide the details to be included is also flexible and will depend on what suits your group (e.g. manually or digitally produced material). Photographs will be an important contribution to the project.

To help with planning the route

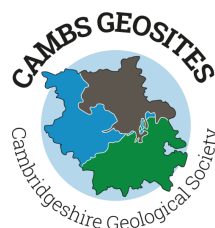
If you would like to be involved in planning the route itself, we will supply you with guidelines and general suggestions. The 5 metre contour has been chosen as it reflects the transition from the Fen Basin, often at 0 metres or below, and the surrounding higher land. In some areas the land rises to 10 metres and more within a short distance of the Fen Edge but, in other area, there is a significant amount of land between 5 and 10 metres. The 5 metre contour is a guide but the route needs to follow legal rights of way and take into account other practical considerations. It should make use of established footpaths and link in with other published walks where possible. Unless there is specific local funding, the route may not be waymarked but can be followed by use of the leaflets that will be produced to describe each practical section. Detours to nearby features and sites of interest can be included. Due to the complexity of keeping up to date with local public transport and parking information, it is not envisaged that anything more than general advice can be supplied for each section. Local businesses that can offer relevant services (e.g. food, drink, rest stops, local information) should be encouraged to participate and promote the Trail.

To focus on a local feature of the Fen Edge

You may prefer to focus on a specific aspect such as local building stones and materials, a local 'industry' or craft, or the history of a local area and its links to the landscape. We will let you know the agreed or planned local route and discuss with you how we can link your part of the project into the Trail. This type of participation is more flexible than involvement in planning the route itself and different types of contribution are possible. The key theme is to link the topic you are working on to the character and resources provided by the landscape. Human history of the local area is of particular interest where linked to locations of resources, strategic opportunities and other practicalities.

Promotion of the Trail

It is hoped that, at some stage, it will be possible to print some general leaflets on the Trail that can be provided along the route, and in other suitable locations, to promote it. The main way of communicating the details of the Trail will be by use of the website, although printing of leaflets will be considered when resources allow.



Note: Members of CGS are covered by the society's insurance. Members and volunteers from other organisations must be covered by the organisation's own insurance if participating in the project. Risk assessments will need to be carried out in accordance with the relevant organisation.



www.cambsgeology.org

www.fen.land



The route will roughly follow the 5 metre contour yellow = 5 m contour red = 10 m contour

