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FET walk 5m contour

For a walk to **Bottisham**, and for other walks in the area see the local walks designed as part of the Parish Paths Initiative and available in a leaflet downloadable from www.lode.org.uk.

1 **Start at St Mary's Church, Stow cum Quy** (*ph1.1*). After visiting the church, cross road at nearby crossing and walk, right, along **Church Road** to where Orchard Street emerges from the left.

2 By bus shelter, turn left down concrete track, which narrows at end. To see the centre of **Quy** (*ph2.2*), take a short detour along **Stow Rd** and walk up **Main St.** **2a**

3 Turn right by **yellow waymarker** through kissing gate, then immediately left to another gate and go through to keep fence on right.

4 Exit through two kissing gates and turn left down **Station Rd**, past the duck pond (*ph4.1f*) to **Stone Bridge**.

5 Cross bridge and turn right along footpath next to river (**Quy Water**) until reaching **Anglesey Abbey Mill**.

6 Cross river behind **Mill** (*ph6.4*) and go up footpath straight ahead. To visit the Abbey take footpath to right to B1102 and turn right. To continue on Trail, keep to left, with allotments on right. Exit onto Lode **High St.** **6a**

7 Cross road to go down **Fassage Close**, before church. Follow footpath sign right around edge of playing field and follow path across open fields.

8 At **Long Meadow**, turn left then right. Ignore left turn. Follow white arrow - take right fork across field at bend in track (*ph8.1*).

9 At track, turn right then left and head over **Cow Bridge** (*ph9.1*). Road curves to right.

10 Keep on road (*ph10.1*) and turn into **Commercial End**. Follow road until a black barn on right. Take footpath into **Swaffham Bulbeck**.

11 Go through park and use crossing to walk up **High St** to **church**.

12 Retrace steps from church and take next right up **Quarry Lane**.

13 As you go uphill (*ph13.1*) you gradually get a view back across the fenland. The **quarry** was on the left side of Quarry Rd as it curves left. The **walk ends at junction with Swaffham Heath Road**, which leads up onto the chalk hills.

8.1 Direction of path across field
aim for end of hedge

Walk: Stow cum Quy to Swaffham Bulbeck - geology and contours map

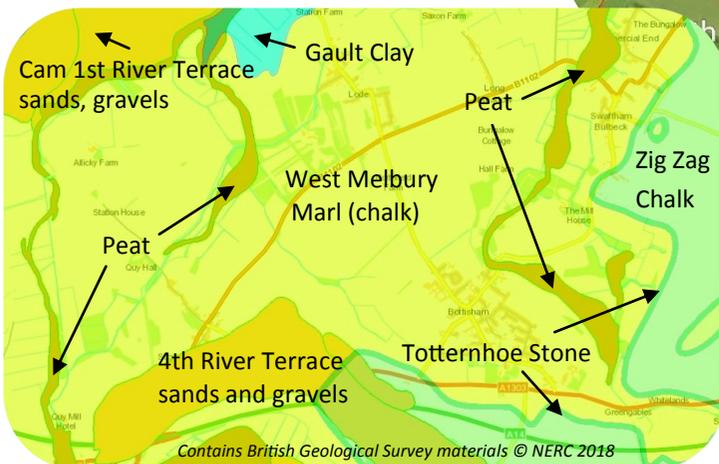
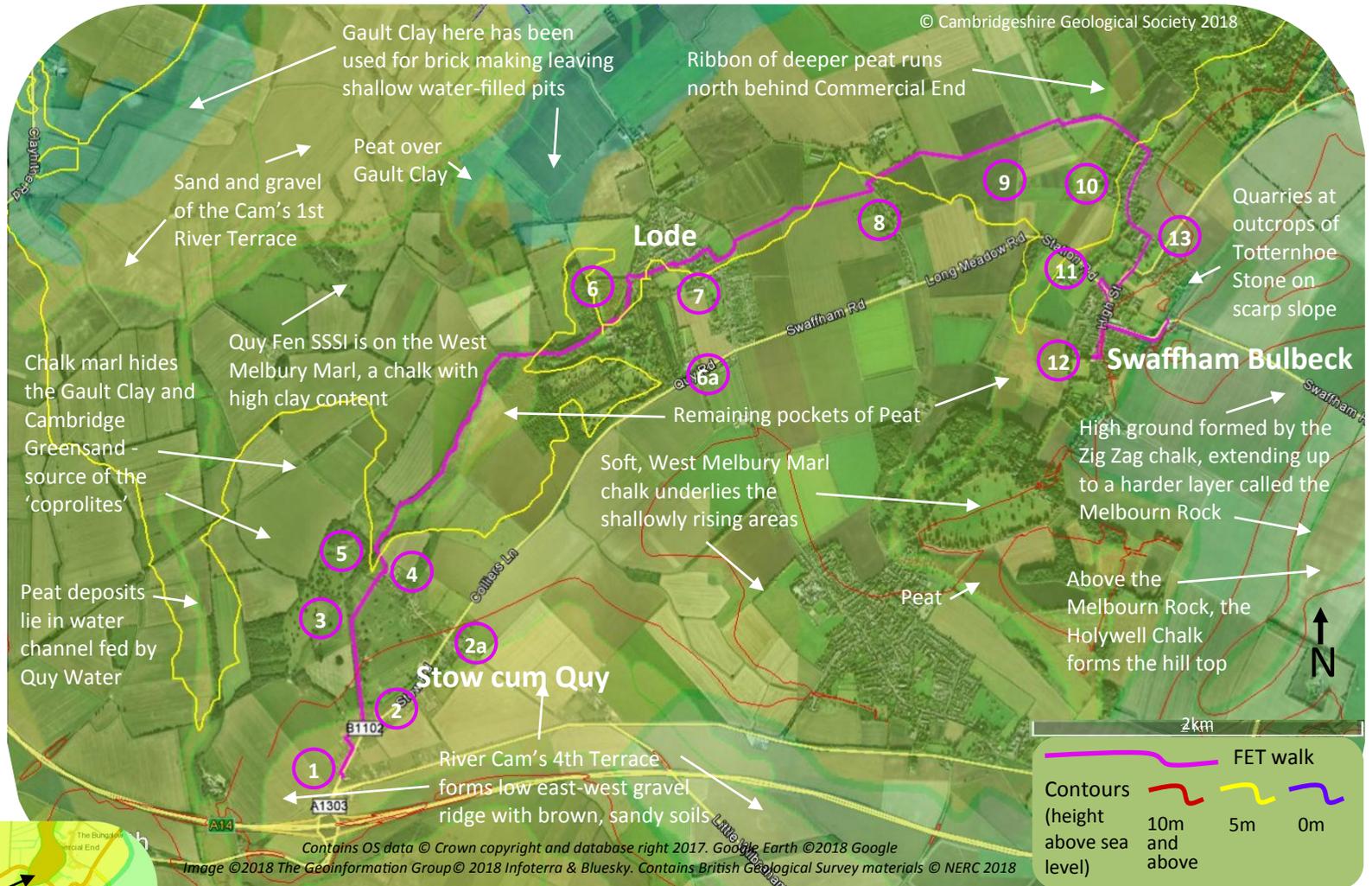
Landscape and Geology

(see website for more details)

The bedrock in this area is of Lower Cretaceous age, the **Gault Clay** being the oldest and the **Zig Zag Chalk** the youngest. The **strata** (layers) dip shallowly to the south east with the chalk forming the low scarp (steep) face to the east of the Trail. The strike (direction) of the rocks is shown by the orientation of the scarp edge (south west to north east). The lowest chalk layer is the **West Melbury Marl** (a soft, impure chalk), above which is a band of **Totternhoe Stone** - a harder chalk much used as building stone (e.g. from quarries behind Swaffham Bulbeck *phg.3*). The Zig Zag Chalk overlies this layer and forms most of the top of the scarp.

The thin bed of **Cambridge Greensand** lying at the base of the chalk and the Gault Clay below it were the source of the phosphatic nodules (coprolites) which were extensively mined along this part of the fen edge.

The covering of **Peat** in the fenland here is much reduced and in places the underlying clay, greensand and chalk can be ploughed up to the surface. Small flint pebbles are ubiquitous in the soils - they are very resilient to wear and were probably dropped by glaciers.



The start of the walk is on one of the old **River Terraces** of the Cam (the 4th), consisting of poorly bedded (jumbled up) chalky sands and gravels. This may account for the rich brown soils seen in the fields across the road from the church, where the view north east looks down from the terrace at over 10m above sea level to the 5m contour where a small river valley leads north to the Cam.

As you walk past ploughed fields, notice how the soil colour changes: whiteish when on the West Melbury Marl (chalk), greyish brown on areas small pockets where the Cambridge Greensand is exposed, almost black on the small areas of residual Peat and light orange-brown on the fine **Alluvium** deposited along water channels.

