

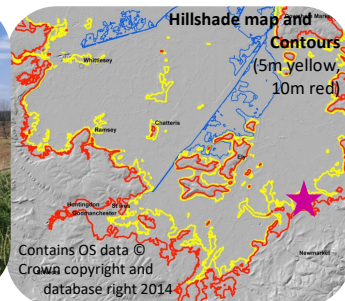
The Fen Edge Trail Soham to Fordham

4.3 miles (6.9 km)

addition to Fordham Woods 0.8 m 1.3 (km)
addition to Chippenham Fen/Snailwell 2.5 m (4.1 km)
(missing the end of the walk in Fordham)

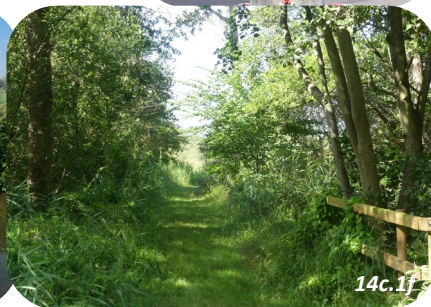
*'Plenty of flora and
fauna to see by scenic
Soham Lode, as well as
the River Snail and two
Grade 1 churches'*

**Ian,
CGS Geosites team**



The route: 'From the mereside town, along the lode and up onto the Chalk and a village on the River Snail'

Having arrived in **Soham** from the west, across the **famous mere**, the **Trail continues towards the Suffolk border** on this, the penultimate, walk. Connecting the villages of **Soham and Fordham**, the walk follows **Soham Lode**, passing one of Soham's several **Commons**, before crossing this significant waterway that now carries the waters of the **River Snail towards the Cam**. You head south and, in Fordham, re-cross the channel, now flowing as the River Snail itself, **a chalk stream**. An optional additional walk takes you to the internationally important **Chippenham Fen National Nature Reserve** and on to the village of **Snailwell**.



Photos: 5.1f Soham Lode from footbridge; 7b.1f Path before fence, Soham; 7e.3f Water Tower in distance; 17.1f War memorial, Fordham; 11.2f Looking across reservoir to Downhill Mill from Small Path Hill; 4.1f Soham from Lode footpath; 14c.1f Right of Way path across Chippenham Fen.

Practicalities As with all walks on the Fen Edge Trail, you can complete the full walk using transport one way or choose a short or long round trip option, or just visit some places on the route. The walk is divided into numbered parts as shown on the two maps. Photos are shown in the order seen except for those on this front page (f). The walk can be split into two circular walks by walking from Soham to the north of Fordham (point 12) and returning via the option) or taking a shorter route just around Fordham, including the option to Fordham Woods. **Chippenham Fen National Nature Reserve deserves a longer visit** (especially in summer) but a **permit is needed to walk off the main Right of Way**. See www.naturalengland.org.uk and search for National Nature Reserves. For more information on Fordham Woods NR or Soham Meadow NR see www.wildlifebcn.org/nature-reserves.

Length of walk (one way) 4.3 miles (6.9 km). Option via bridge over A142 an extra 0.4 m (0.7 km). **Fordham Woods Nature Reserve** additional 0.8 m (1.3 km) round trip. Addition to **Chippenham Fen and on to Snailwell village** an extra 2.5 m (4.1 km), missing the last 0.6 m (9 km) of the walk through Fordham. Walking guide time 2hrs 30 mins plus stops (or 4hrs to Snailwell). Grid ref for start TL5932 7323 Maps O.S. Explorer 226. Free, easy to use online geology map viewer on www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer.

Transport and services Soham is well served by bus and train. There is a good Greater Anglia train service between Ipswich and Ely, stopping at Soham. There is a good service from Soham to Ely and Newmarket and a bus from Cambridge to Fordham. **There is also a bus between Soham and Fordham** (see **Stephensons of Essex and A2B Bus and Coach**). On-street parking is possible in both villages (easiest in Soham as there is a free car park at the start). In Fordham there is a free carpark at the end near Memorial Park. Please only park where allowed and in consideration of others. There are pubs, cafes and shops in both Soham and Fordham.

Safety Be aware of risks you may encounter; take note of warnings given by landowners or on paths. The terrain is **generally flat**, but can be muddy in places. There are **deep water lodes or ditches** along much of the route. **There is one stile**. **Particular care is needed where the route crosses the busy A142 road**. Part of the walk is **along country roads** (no pavement) where **extra care is needed** even if there is not much traffic. Take particular care with uneven terrain, when near water, on soft or slippery ground, in the presence of livestock or walking along or crossing roads. Ensure your dog is kept under control as needed. All Fen Edge Trail walks are on Rights of Way or other publicly accessible routes. **Anyone undertaking walks on the Fen Edge Trail does so at their own risk, these notes are for general guidance only.**

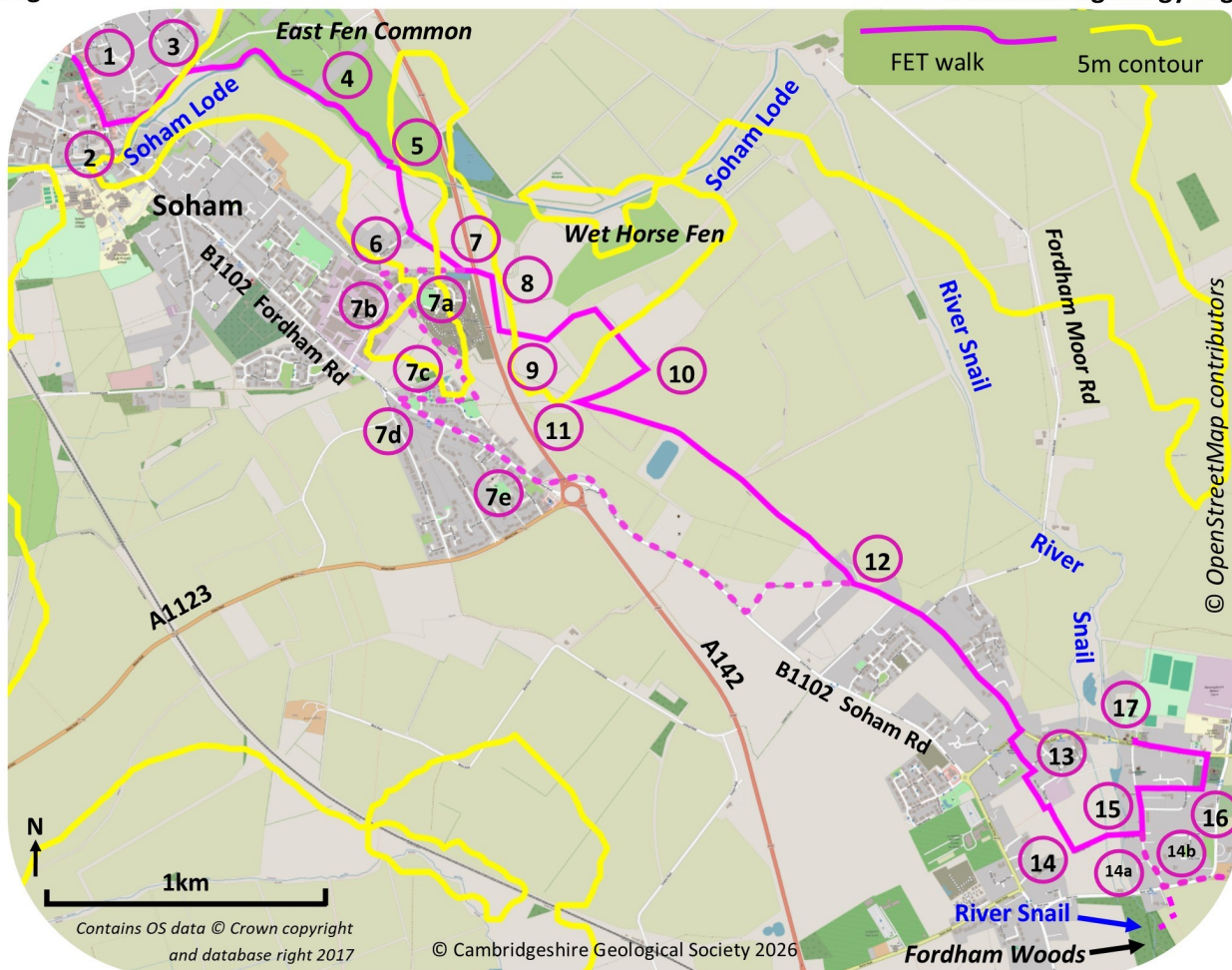
Soham to Fordham

Directions map (4.3 miles / 6.9 km)

option via bridge over A142 an extra 0.4 m (0.7 km).
addition to Fordham Woodsan extra 0.8 m 1.3 (km)

1 Start at **St Andrew's Church** and follow **High St** past Co-Op store on right and café on left to junction of **Brook Dam Lane** opposite Red Lion pub.
2 Turn left along **Brook Dam Lane** up to where road bends to left. **Take left hand path** between brown fence and house gates (**not path to right** along Soham Lode).
3 When path reaches road at **Paddock St** continue on path to right at footpath sign, with houses on left and **Soham Lode** visible on right. Passing through kissing gate, the path widens and **follows the lode**, around a bend to the right.

4 Pass through gate into large common (**East Fen Common**) and continue to follow the lode path to a footbridge (**Lofty's Bridge**)
5 **Cross footbridge**, then turn immediately left with lode now on left to pass through gate in hedge ahead and turn right along track.
6 Just before track turns to right take path to left through open gate to right of dividing hedge (not through large gate just before it to left). Cross field and pass through gate to cross a second field. Pass through second gate and turn left onto wide track that arrives after a few metres at the A142. **NB Do not take this route if you are not confident of walking across the very busy A142 safely - see 7a.**
7 **With great care cross the very busy A142.** On other side follow path straight ahead, ignoring gates on right, passing a riding school.
7a - 7e To take an alternative (but less interesting) route **to cross the A142 via a footbridge see page 4.**
8 Just before the path bends to the left, **cross over stile** on right, which is to left of gate with large fallen tree trunk behind it. Cross field heading straight ahead for gap in hedge to left of the large trees (marked by a distinctive fallen tree).
9 Follow path diagonally left between large bushes. At hedge ahead pass through **kissing gate** with footpath marker post. Turn immediately left and after a few metres **pass through second kissing gate**. Continue along edge of field with hedge to left until corner of a fenced off tree plantation. Turn right and follow edge of field with fence to left until fence ends at wide track crossing in front.
10 Turn right onto track (**Clipsall Road**) and follow until a track branches off to left. Note water tower in distance to left.
11 Turn left along track left in the general direction of the water tower (**11.3**) and follow path (which currently doglegs left around large bank containing a reservoir). Continue along track (**Small Path Hill**) between fields. The path bears right, passing agricultural/light industrial buildings to emerges on the edge of Fordham.
12 Turn left onto **Carter Street** and follow, passing Moor Road and other streets, to the road junction with **Sharman's Road**, the B1102.
13 At junction turn right onto **Sharman's Road** and after a few metres cross road to turn left to follow path running to left of the **old Methodist chapel**. When path ends with fence ahead turn right. Follow path as it turns left, passing entrance to **Townsend Wood** on right. When this path ends turn left and then immediately right to continue along path with a meadow on left and high hedge on right.
14 At end of this path turn left and follow path between meadows across a ditch and across a small iron bridge to arrive at **Mill Lane**.
14a To visit **Fordham Woods Nature Reserve** turn right along **Mill Lane**. At the junction with **River Lane** cross the road and follow the lane opposite signposted 'Nature Reserve' passing alongside **Hall Yard Wood**. At the end of the lane the path goes right and crosses a footbridge into the nature reserve. Walk as far as you wish and then return by the same route to rejoin the walk at **15**.
14b To take an extended walk to **Chippenham Fen NNR and Snailwell**, turn right along **Collins Hill** to take path on bend (see page 6).
15 Turn left along **Mill Lane**, continue past **Hillside Meadow**, then cross road to take path between houses with litter bin on left wall (on opposite side of road to Felton Manor). Continue along this path with the cemetery on left.
16 At end of path turn left and follow path to side of **St Peter and St Mary Magdelene Church**. The path emerges at the A1102 road. Turn left to follow road past Royal British Legion to end at **war memorial** (next to entrance to playing field), the end of the walk **17**.



Walk: Soham to Fordham - geology and landscape map

Ages of the rocks

Quaternary (Superficial)

Holocene:

Under 11,700 years
River Alluvium and Peat

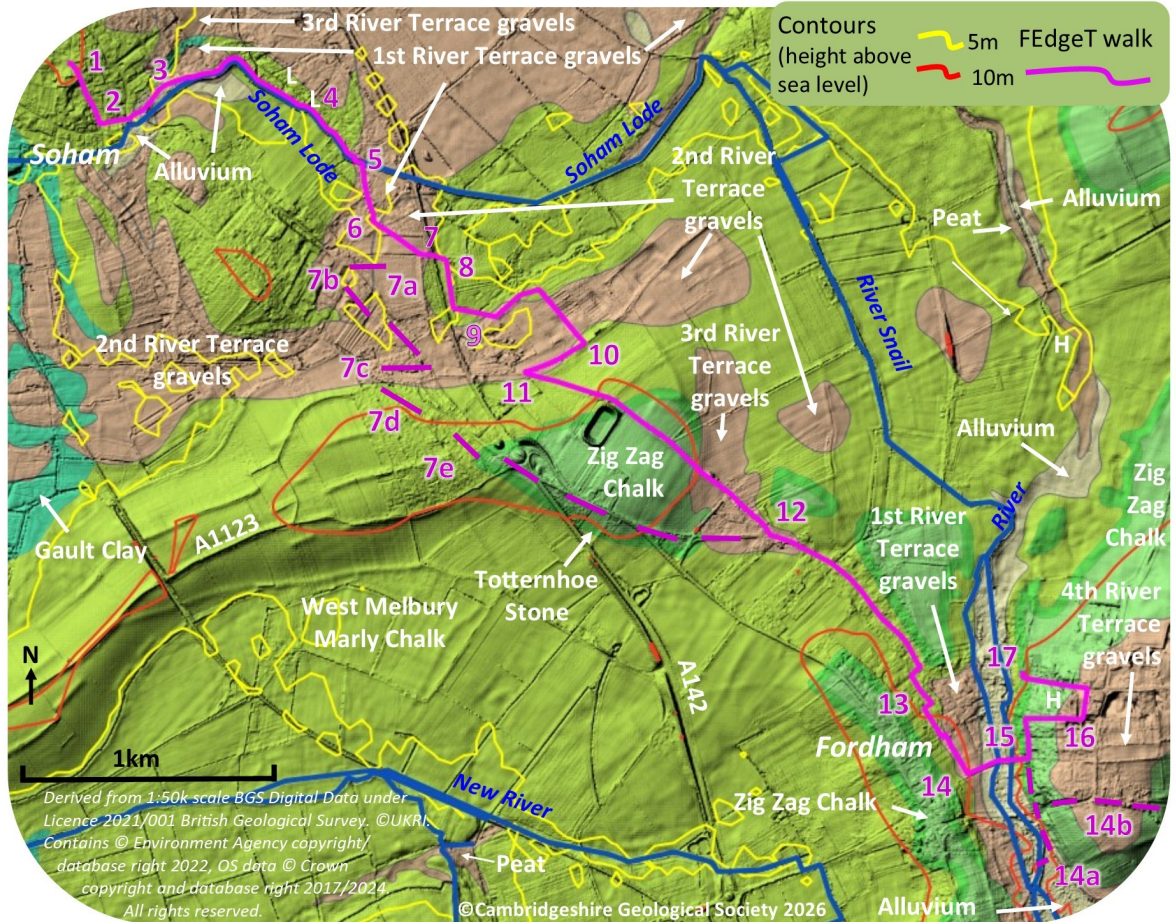
Pleistocene 'Ice Age':

River Terraces sands and gravels (very approx. ages)
1st c.20,000 years
2nd c.50,000 years
3rd under 200,000 years
4th c.300,000 years

Bedrock (millions of years)

Cretaceous:

Holywell Nodular Chalk (including the Melbourn Rock near its base)
c.94 - c.90 my
Zig Zag Chalk (including the Totternhoe Stone at its base)
c.96 - c.94 my
West Melbury Marly Chalk
c.100 - c.96 my
Gault Clay
c.113 - c.100 my



There is some **Gault Clay** in the west, dug to make **local bricks** that have a pale colour due to their **high calcium content**. The bedrock that underlies the walk itself is **Chalk**, formed in the **Cretaceous Period** about 100 million years ago. Chalk consists of the **calcareous remains of plants (mostly algae) and animals** that were deposited on the sea floor and then compressed for many years. The type of Chalk in this area, the **West Melbury Marly Chalk (WMMC)**, has a relatively high amount of clay in it, which would have been washed into the shallow sea from a nearby landmass. The fairly impermeable (marly/clayey) nature of this Chalk results in poorly drained soil in some places. The WMMC forms the lowest, gentle slopes of the Chalk escarpment along the south eastern fen edge. Younger Chalk overlies it to the south east forming higher land, the next horizon being the **Zig Zag Chalk**. Between the two is a band of **hard Chalk** called the **Totternhoe Stone**, quarried for use as building stone (known locally as '**Burwell Rock**'). It is highly fissured and therefore a conduit for water so springs occur along its outcrop and are the source of **chalk streams including the River Snail**. Higher still, and younger, is the Holywell Nodular Chalk that occurs further south.

Much **younger deposits**, from the **Pleistocene 'Ice Age'** and the recent **Holocene** (current temperate period), overlie the Chalk in a few places on the walk. The **River Terrace sands and gravels of the Cam** consist of material left by rivers that occurred during the cold stages of the Pleistocene, when the melting of ice produced strongly flowing channels across wide areas of lowland. A complex mixture of deposits form a **series of 'terraces', four in the case of the Cam-Ouse system**, each representing a former course of the Cam system. The youngest deposits are bands of **Alluvium**, fine material left by smaller rivers since the end of the Ice Age, and several patches of **Peat** that developed where freshwater marshes once occurred.

The start of the walk is on the **West Melbury Marly Chalk**, which underlies most of Soham. Along **Soham Lode**, you walk along a stretch where **Alluvium** has been deposited in the past, presumably by a much larger channel (probably a natural water course that pre-dated the lode), which has also eroded a shallow valley. Here, and again a little further along the Lode, you are at **only 3m above sea level**, the lowest point on the walk. and you then walk over patches of River Sands and Gravels (you may notice the sandy colour of the soil) where the land rises to over 5 metres before some more Chalk, reaching **over 10 metres** when you cross an area of **Zig Zag Chalk** which covers the older WMMC. The land rises again when you reach the **1st Terrace gravels** along the valley of the River Snail before walking across **Alluvium**. Finally, you walk again on the higher **Zig Zag Chalk** and even higher where it is covered by **4th River Terrace** sands and gravels, reaching **18 metres above sea level** in Fordham near the church.



Places of interest along the Trail

Soham developed on the edge of **Soham Mere**, one of the **large, shallow lakes** that developed **on the fen edge around 2,000 years ago**. It was a relatively substantial settlement by the 11th century with a wealthy **Saxon Palace and Cathedral**. In medieval times, the town expanded as a linear development along the route from **Fordham to Ely** and the partial canalisation of the River Snail was associated with its development as a **flourishing inland port** on Soham Mere. Despite the resistance of local people, the fens and meres were drained through the 17th to 19th centuries, creating vast tracts of fertile land that were ideal for arable farming on a large, almost industrial scale. However, **Soham's medieval open field system** surrounding the urban core was never enclosed and the town also remains surrounded by **several historic commons** to the east and west. Soham's connections northward by navigation along **Soham Lode** and through the **Great Ouse to Kings Lynn** were still important until the mid 19th century, providing a channel for the export of farm produce and the import of coal. The **Ely-Newmarket railway** arrived in 1879 but closed in 1965. Train services restarted, on the **Ely - Ipswich** line, in 2021. Soham is now a hub for agri-tech, transport and light engineering and is a commuter town for Cambridge.

1 Built on the site of the **Saxon Cathedral**, the medieval **Church of St Andrew** has its origins in the 12th century and was altered and expanded in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. It boasts carved angels and a tie beam roof and the **abolitionist and former slave Olaudah Equiano** married Susannah Cullen here in 1792. At the junction of Fountain Lane and the High Street is **The Fountain** public house and the **Steelyard** behind it, both **Grade II listed**. The Steelyard is a device for weighing wagons, probably 18th century in origin. Part of the main arm and post seen from the street, are original.

2 **Brook Dam**, where there used to be a weir, is the part of **Soham Lode** that runs through the town from the east, fed by the **River Snail**, which flows north from **Fordham**. The name of this watercourse changes to **The Moat**, until, near the **Water Mill** at **Lion Mills**, it is called Soham Lode again as it flows to the west of the town. Once emptying into Soham Mere, its navigation ended at Lion Mills.

3 From **Fordham Moor**, where it connects with the **River Snail**, **Soham Lode** runs for about 7 miles to the **River Great Ouse** about 1 mile (1.6 km) downstream from the junction with the **River Cam**. The lode probably dates from the 1790s when it was built to reduce flooding in the Soham and Fordham area, by carrying water from the **Snail**, a chalk stream that formerly flowed into the **River Lark**.

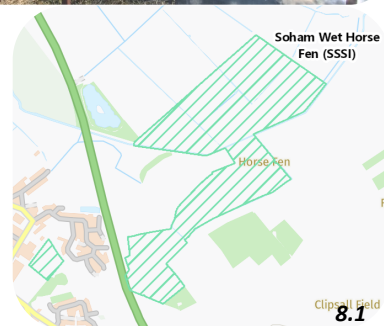
4 The lode (**4.1f and 4.2**) runs along the west side of **East Fen Common**, which, along with **Qua Fen and Angle Commons**, are part of the historic commons network in Soham. Traditionally, local residents used the commons for grazing livestock whilst the majority of the drained fenland had been converted to arable farming. This right continues today, now under management of the local council. The **Bedford Level Act of 1663** had the goal to improve drainage and navigation in low-lying areas prone to flooding but also provided a means for the villagers to divide the fen commons in their own interest which they did in 1664. **East Fen Common** is a **County Wildlife Site**, designated for its Crested dog's-tail - Black knapweed **species-rich neutral grassland**. It also has several **mature pollarded willows**.

5 After crossing Lofty's (or Loftus) footbridge (**5.1f**), over the lode, you walk down a track called '**The Wash**'. This is part of the **County Wildlife Site**, as are the fields to either side.

6 Here, the fields are underlain by **River sands and gravels** of the **2nd Terrace**.

7 See **7a** for an alternative route that avoids walking across the very busy **A142 road**, which should not be attempted unless you are confident to do so. This road runs from **Newmarket in Suffolk to Chatteris in Cambridgeshire**. This Soham bypass section was opened in 1981.

8 The path skirts the western edge of **Wet Horse Fen (8.1)**, an 84-acre biological **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** on both sides of the lode. The site is **neutral grassland** with a diverse fauna and flora. Wetter areas have herbs such as green-winged orchid and adder's tongue fern, and cowslip, milkwort and stemless thistle occur in the drier parts. Snipe breed in the wet pastures. The SSSI is made up of a number of meadows including the **Wildlife Trust's Soham Meadow Nature Reserve**, which lies just to the north of Soham Lode. The land here is underlain by the **West Melbury Marly Chalk**, the relatively clay-rich, and oldest, stratum of the Chalk. It creates **calcareous loam pastures** and also has elements of **alluvial meadow and calcareous clay pastures**, with the vegetation communities found here being restricted to the south of the country. Such species-rich grassland occurs infrequently in Cambridgeshire and represents habitats which are now rare in the country as a whole. Traditionally these grasslands are managed for hay and for grazing.



Alternative route to cross the busy A142 via a footbridge

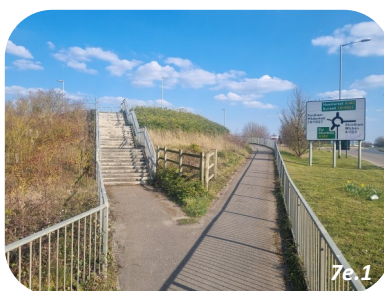
7a Having crossed the meadows at the second gate turn right onto the wide track and walk away from the A142.

7b When the track meets the road turn left and follow for a few metres until the road bends right. Here take the track straight ahead. Where the path meets a fence line turn right (**7b.1f**) for a few metres and then continue straight ahead towards the new houses.

7c When reaching the new houses take the path in front of you to the right before trees and head towards Fordham Road (a shorter path goes straight ahead but is later blocked next to the horse paddocks by a fence which is falling across it).

7d At **Fordham Road** turn left and walk along the pavement passing **Downfield Windmill** on the right.

7e Just before the roundabout cross the **footbridge over the A142 (7e.1 and 7e.2)** and continue to follow Fordham Rd on the other side passing the water tower (**7e.3f**). Just beyond, turn left onto **Carter Street** and follow the road rejoining the main walk at **12**.



9 This area is unusual in that there are **trees and thick hedgerows**, in a landscape that is, in general, noted for its lack of trees. There is an abundance of flora and fauna in these non-arable meadows; birds such as **fieldfare, redwing, sedge and willow warblers**, along with the rare plants **marsh valerian, adder's-tongue fern and pepper-saxifrage**. Ditches and drains provide important wildlife corridors with **water vole and otter** recorded.

10 The track here is known as **Clipsall Road**; a local name for Soham Lode was the **Clipsall River**. The **water tower** in the distance to the right (**10.1**) was built in 1922 (now owned by Anglian Water).

11 As you walk past a reservoir on your right, you may notice the slight incline as you cross **Small Path Hill**, slightly higher land formed by a patch of younger Chalk, the **Zig Zag Chalk**, that still remains overlying the lower Marly Chalk. At its base is a band of hard Chalk, the **Totternhoe Stone**, which you walk across here, just as you reach about **10 metres above sea level**. This is the hard Chalk '**clunch**', quarried along the southern fen edge for use as a building stone. Across the main road to the west (behind the reservoir) is the Grade II listed **Downfield Windmill (11.1f)**. Originally built as a smock mill in 1726, the newer top section was rebuilt as an octagonal brick tower in 1890 after being destroyed in a storm. After becoming run-down it was restored to its current working operation in the 1990s and is occasionally open to the public. As you walk down off the hill you cross a patch of **1st terrace River gravels** producing very sandy soil (**11.2**). You will see the Water Tower on your right (**11.3**).

12 As you start to walk along **Carter Street**, you pass on to the **West Melbury Marly Chalk**. Fordham's population was initially concentrated along this one long main street, which leads into **Church Street**, on the route running from **Mildenhall through Soham to Ely**. **Grove Farm** was located east of Carter Street and included a number of wooden and **flint barns**. In the 1980s the farm was developed for housing with the flint barns converted into four individual properties, retaining the barns' appearance and features with high arches and **gault brick (probably made from the local Gault Clay)** or **clunch (Chalk)** detailing. At the junction with Moor Road is the Grade II listed **Cromwell House** and to the left of the junction with Sharman's Road is the former coaching inn **The Chequers** (now an Indian restaurant).

13 The former **Wesleyan Chapel** on Sharman's Road was built in 1849 but is now residential accommodation. You pass **Townsend Wood**, an attractive site once the ornamental and nursery garden for **Charles Townsend**, the famous nurseryman and seed merchant who lived in the neighbouring house, '**Shrublands**'. His nursey, established in 1864 was on Market St, to the west. The wood is managed by the **Woodland Trust**, with public access. It has trees that are over 100 years old with several **rare specimens** surviving including Weeping elm, Colorado spruce and Copper cedar of Lebanon. **John Golding** bred his '**Goldingensis**' variety of the **scabious *Lomelosia caucasica*** in 1887 in the area; with large blue flowers, it won **an RHS Gold Medal**; this '**Fordham Flower**' is on the badge of the football, cricket and bowls clubs. The plant growing industry continued and from the 1930's to the 1970's boxes of flowers were sent to Covent Garden in London and other large cities daily. At one point, 12,000 and 26,000 boxes a week were sent in May and June, reaching 37,000 in 1953.

14 The wrought-iron foot bridge crossing the **River Snail** was constructed in the 19th century. The path leads past the Grade II listed **Brook House**, an early 19th century house of **gault brick** (the bricks probably being made from the local Gault Clay).

14a **Fordham Woods Nature Reserve**, managed by the **Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants**, is a wet valley woodland with stands of alder trees interspersed with willows, poplars and ash; it is designated a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** (called Brackland Rough). This habitat, now rare in Cambridgeshire, once formed part of the fen stretching north past Fordham. Alder, specially adapted to waterlogged ground, dominates the wettest areas. It is the UK's only native broadleaved tree to produce cones, and supports more than 90 insect species and many different fungi. The wood is also known as **Hall Yard Wood**. Backing on to the nature reserve is **Fordham Abbey**, originally Fordham Priory, a Gilbertine priory that was founded in the 13th century, in the reign of King Henry III, by Robert de Fordham. A manor house was built on the site of the Priory in the 18th century and this beautiful Georgian house (Grade II* listed) and gardens is now owned by the Japanese Dojima Sake Brewery who brew sake on site. There are a few public tour dates each year (access is not via the nature reserve but from Newmarket Rd on the other side).

14b To walk to **Chippenham Fen and Snailwell**, walk east along road to take path on bend (see page 6).

15 **Mill Lane** is named after a **corn mill** that was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The mill was rebuilt around 1780, with a house later added in the 19th century. The mill itself was demolished in 1903, leaving the unlisted house, known as '**Island House**' on the left towards the top of the road (beyond the path entrance). Some of the walls on Mill Lane have clunch in them as well as bricks (**15.1**). As you reach the cemetery you are now on the **4th River Terrace gravels**.

16 At the **highest point on the walk (18 metres)** is **St Peter and St Mary Magdelene Church (16.1)**; it is **Grade I listed**, the earliest parts of the building dating from the 12th century, and stonework suggesting that by 1200 it was already at its present size. The majority of the current structure dates from an extensive rebuild in the 13th century, the walls consisting of knapped flint with some field stone. The church is noted for its fine 14th century north chapel, unusual in having an upper floor and undercroft.

17 **Located on the River Snail**, the village has a significant history; polished **flint axes** from the **Palaeolithic and Mesolithic** have been recovered from along the river valley and there have been finds from the **Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman times**. There is evidence of **three phases of Anglo-Saxon occupation**. Most of the village is on the higher Zig Zag Chalk, elevating it above the low valley; the Memorial Gardens being located on the **hard band of Totternhoe Stone**. **Fordham WWI War Memorial (17.1f)** is Grade II listed; unveiled in 1921, it was designed by **Sir Edwin Lutyens** with a sculpture of **St George** by Sir George Frampton.



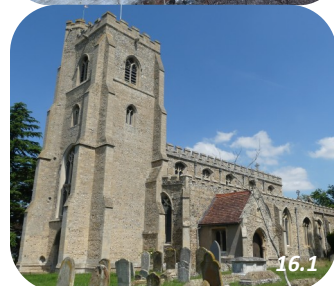
11.2



11.3



15.1



16.1

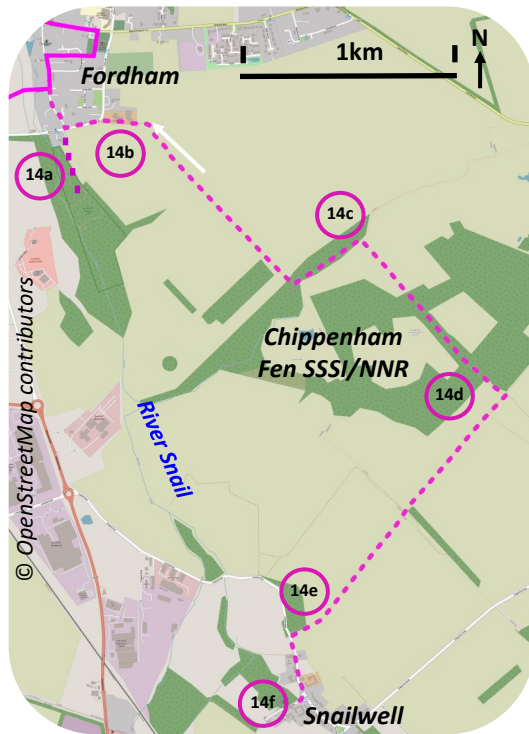
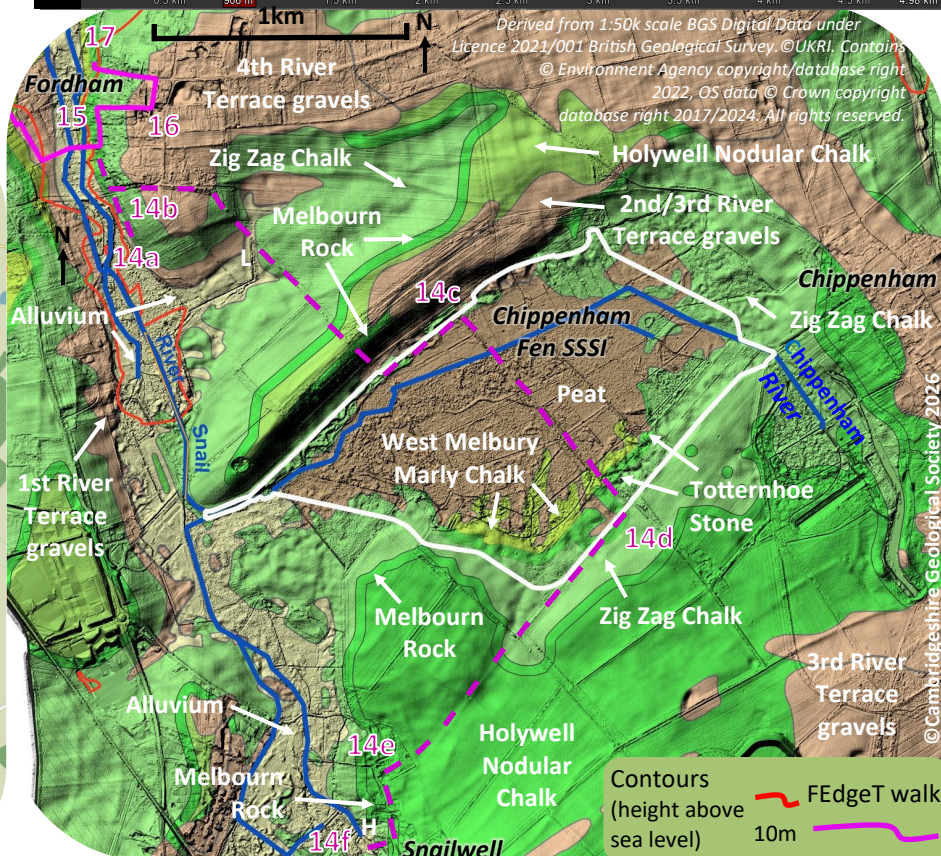
Extension to Chippenham Fen NNR and Snailwell village (14b to 14f)

Directions: **14b** Turn right along **Mill Lane** and then turn left along **Collins Hill** to take track on right of bend. (If coming from Fordham Woods NR, turn right to walk east along **Collins Hill**). Follow track (**King's Track**) past farm buildings. Take path to right once past buildings. Keep to path past fields, walking down and then up over a low ridge, then follow path left. **14c** Turn right to take the **main Right of Way path** through the fen (**14c.1f**), passing the **lowest point** on the walk **11m**). Walk straight ahead past a barn on the left to go through a footpath gate to left of main gate. Keep on main track passing field on right. **14d** Turn right at track by bend (currently unsigned) to walk west through field (on edge of the SSSI), going through hedgeline to walk straight across another (possibly cultivated) field. **14e** The path skirts an area of scrub and trees to reach the road where you turn right to enter the village, climbing uphill onto the hard band of the **Melbourn Rock**. Turn right in the village to **finish at 22m at St Peter's Church (14f.2)**



Chippenham Fen is an **SSSI** (biological), a **Ramsar Site** (European important wetland site) and part of the **Fenland Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**. Most of it (a slightly smaller area than the SSSI) is also a **National Nature Reserve**. It has a **Right of Way** across the Fen (from the north west to the south east. An extended visit can be made by obtaining a permit (in advance from **Natural England**) to access paths that take you through the biodiverse wetland habitat, one of the best remaining areas of undrained, semi-natural fen in Europe. Sitting in a **depression in the Chalk**, a fold in the bedrock has resulted in an **inlier of older Marly Chalk** forming its base, surrounded by a ring of **Totternhoe Stone**. From this highly fractured hard band, **chalk springs** arise, creating **calcareous fen** conditions (**14c.2**). The limited drainage allowed a large area of **Peat** to develop, which varies from a few centimetres to 2m deep.

The village of **Snailwell** (recorded as **Sneillewelle** c.1050) is named after the snails that were once common in its pools; here, the chalk springs arise from below the **Melbourn Rock**, a hard band of Chalk that is younger than the Totternhoe Stone and lies near the base of the **Holywell Nodular Chalk**. A clay layer called the '**Plenus Marls**' lies below it, impeding downward flow of water through the Chalk. The springs around Snailwell are the main source of the **River Snail**; the **pool** next to the church is a **County Wildlife Site (14f.1)**. **St Peter's Church (14f.2)** is Grade II* listed and is one of only two in the county to have a **round tower**, which is the oldest part of the church, built in the 11th century. There is plenty of **flint** in its walls no doubt sourced from the local Chalk.



Photos: 14c.2 Chippenham Fen path (paths of the main Right of Way need a permit); 14f.1 Snailwell pool with springs; 14f.2 St Peter's Church.

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