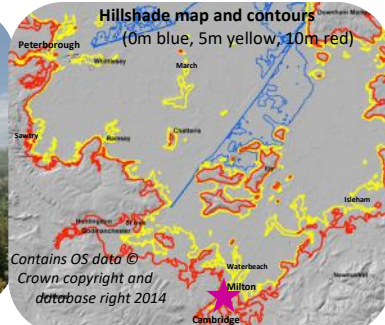


The Fen Edge Trail Milton to Cambridge (Castle Hill) via Chesterton 5.5 miles (8.9 km)

*'I just love the
river here and all
of the history
that you find
along it'*

**Penny, Cambridgeshire
Geological Society
Geosites team**



The route: 'along the River Cam to the ancient castle on a hill'

This is the **last walk** on the Trail between **St Ives** and the **fen edge settlement** that became the city of **Cambridge**. Having arrived in Milton from Waterbeach, the Trail returns to follow it upriver again - as it flows slowly out of the city on its way north to join the River Great Ouse. From the village (now suburb) of **Milton**, the walk passes **Milton Country Park** to arrive at the river near **Baits Bite Lock**. A leisurely stroll up the river takes you along the tow-path with its many pollarded willows, past rowers gliding through tranquil waters, including those of the famous 'Bumps'. There is much of historical interest as you walk through the **'village' of Chesterton** and past riverside meadows. The river has eroded the Gault clay at the base of the Chalk and you pass sites that were dug for **clay for brickmaking**, **coprolites**, or the extensive river gravels. Finally, you reach the Medieval trading heart of the town at the wharves, the main docks for merchants transporting cargo along the river to the sea and beyond. Approaching the ancient river crossing, the view ahead from the bend in the river, near **Jesus Lock**, would once have been dominated by **Castle Hill**, with its **Roman encampment** and, later, its **Norman Castle**, strategically positioned to oversee all river traffic into the town. There are still iconic views over the modern city to the south from **Castle Mound**.



Photos: 16.2f View from Castle Hill; 4.1f Baits Bite Lock; 2a.3f Walk through Milton Country Park; 1.1f All Saints Church, Milton; 13.1f Boats near Jesus Lock; 3.1f Grade II listed cottage along Fen Road, Milton; 5.5f Riverside towpath near Chesterton.

Practicalities As with all of the walks along the Fen Edge Trail, you can complete the full length of any walk or choose a short or long round trip option, or just visit some of the places on the route. The walk is divided into numbered parts as shown on the two maps. Photos are shown in the order they are seen except for those on this front page (f). For a map of paths within Milton Country Park, see www.miltoncountrypark.org. A circular walk could be taken from Milton, returning via Fen Ditton on the other side of the river or from Castle Hill through Chesterton to get to the river. The walk links with the **Fen Rivers Way** and the **Harcamlow Way**. The **Sedgwick Museum** (www.sedgwickmuseum.org) has many local fossils from areas mentioned on this walk. For details of Cambridge history see www.museumofcambridge.org.uk. For details of Victoria Bridge and local brickworks see www.museumoftechnology.com.

Length of walk (one way) approx. 5.5 miles (8.9 km). Guide time 2hrs 30mins plus stops. Grid ref for start TL479628. Maps O.S. Explorer 209 & 226. Free, easy to use online geology map viewer on www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer.

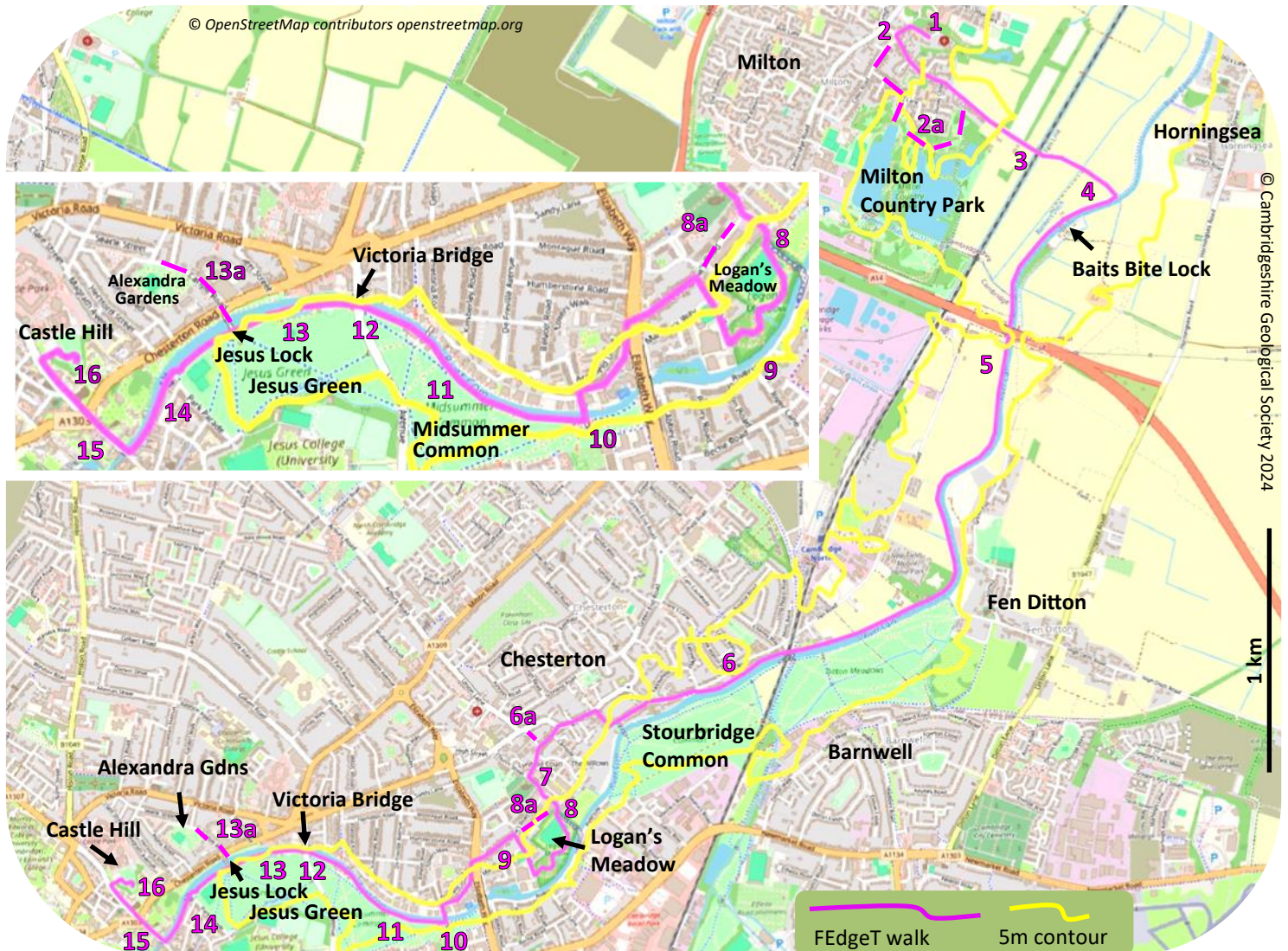
Transport and services There are **buses** between Milton and Cambridge (www.stagecoachbus.com) and **train services** to Cambridge. Parking is available in several Cambridge car parks (e.g. Castle Hill), and at Milton Country Park. Please park only where permitted and in consideration of others. There are shops, cafes and pubs in the city and a few in Milton.

Safety Be aware of risks you may encounter and take note of warnings by landowners or on paths. The terrain is generally flat, with potentially wet paths along the river. Take particular care on uneven terrain and soft or slippery ground, near water, in the presence of livestock or walking along roads. Ensure dogs are kept under control as needed. All Fen Edge Trail walks are on publicly accessible routes. **Anyone undertaking Fen Edge Trail walks does so at their own risk, these notes are for general guidance only.**

The Fen Edge Trail

Milton to Cambridge Castle Hill

Directions map (5.5 miles / 8.9 km)



- 1 Start at All Saints Church, in Church Lane, Milton and walk right out of the gate to the Brewers Inn at the end of the lane.
- 2 Turn left onto Fen Rd which will take you to the river. 2a To visit Milton Country Park, turn right down Coles Road, take 1st left down Old School Lane, then 2nd right into the park. Take path left and then left again to exit park at the (only) gate lying further (east) along Fen Road. Of go for longer walk following directions map on site (or on website www.miltoncountrypark.org).
- 3 Walk over railway crossing on Fen Road when safe to do so, and turn right at the river.
- 4 Continue along tow-path passing Bait's Bite Lock and pass under the A14 flyover. 5 Continue along the riverbank on the tow-path.
- 6 At the very end of the tow-path walk away from the river to turn left along Water St, continuing through bollards on the left to stay on Water St which bends right to become Ferry Lane. Turn left onto High St and then turn left onto Church St.
- 6a To view Chesterton Towers, turn right before the church into Chapel St. The Towers are c.40 yds upon the left. Return same way.
- 7 Turn left at church onto St Andrew's Rd. After c.50yds, having passed Scholar's Walk on left, turn left onto cycle path signposted 'City Centre' alongside Ransome Close, between buildings, towards river.
- 8 Descend steps on right into Logan's Meadow and walk diagonally across the grass to the far corner footbridge. Walk over footbridge and through the wooded area and exit onto quiet cul de sac, turning right along this (Logan's Way) to walk to end to turn left onto St Andrew's Rd once again. 8a If Logan's Meadow is flooded, return to St Andrew's Rd to turn left to walk to the end and rejoin at 9.
- 9 Walk to end of St Andrew's Rd and, at bollards on left, go left onto the cycle path alongside flyover (Elizabeth Way Bridge) to the underpass (not crossing the main road). Go right, through the underpass then left onto Cutter Ferry Path to cross river on footbridge.
- 10 Turn right along tow-path past Midsummer Common, opposite the boathouses.
- 11 Continue along under footbridge passing behind the Fort-St-George pub and then walking on towards Victoria Bridge.
- 12 Pass under Victoria Bridge, staying on the same side of the river.
- 13 Continue on tow-path past Jesus Green Lido to Jesus Lock until you pass onto the boardwalk to the right of the Mimosa restaurant, 13a To visit Alexandra Gardens, the site of a clay pit but now a pleasant green space in the city, cross river on footbridge over lock and then cross road via the crossing. Turn briefly right to go left up Carlyle Road. After about 50 m turn left into the Gardens. Retrace steps.
- 14 Follow the boardwalk along the river and walk on to where punts can be hired to then turn right over Magdalene Bridge.
- 15 Carry on up past Magdalene College, straight over at the crossroads (the road can be very busy), uphill past St Giles' Church. Just past The Castle pub take the footpath right to climb up path to the viewpoint at the top of Castle Mound, the end of the walk 16.

Walk: Milton to Cambridge Castle Hill - geology and landscape map

Ages of the rocks (in years)

'Superficial':

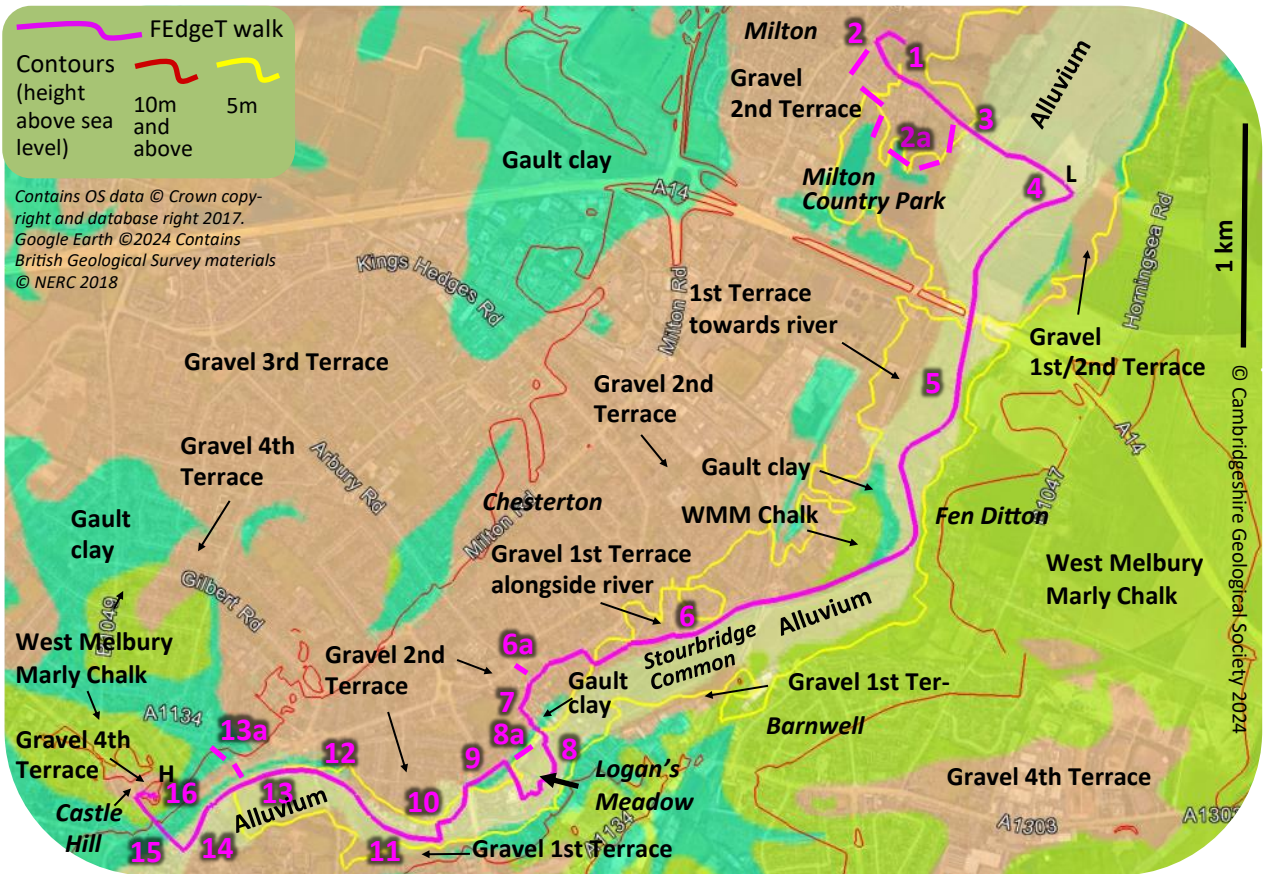
Alluvium (Holocene)
Less than 11,700 (some only hundreds of years, or more recent)

River Gravels (Pleistocene)

Terrace 1 c.20,000
Terrace 2 c.50,000
Terrace 3 c.80,000 -180,000
Terrace 4 c.200,000 - 300,000

Bedrock (Cretaceous):

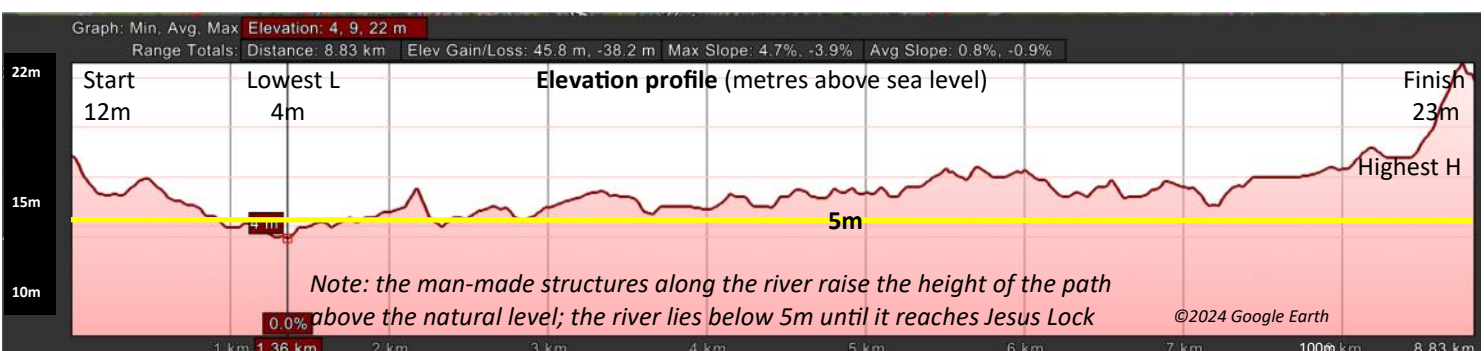
West Melbury Marly Chalk c.94 - c.101 million
Gault clay c.101 - c.113 million



Except for a small stretch by the river and on Castle Hill, the bedrock under the entire walk is **mudstone (clay)** of the **Gault Formation**. This sedimentary rock was formed in warm shallow seas c.113 to c.101 million years ago in the **Cretaceous** Period. The younger **West Melbury Marly Chalk** lies over the Chalk and forms the (relatively) **high ridge** on which Castle Hill sits. The Marly Chalk is a relatively impermeable Chalk, lying at the base of the Gog Magog Hills. It formed c.101 to c.94 million years ago when sea level was high and the climate much warmer than today. It was once dug for '**coprolites**' (phosphate), particularly from the **fossil-rich Cambridge Greensand** at its base. Many of these fossils are from fish or molluscs but also many **Pterosaur bones** were found in Cambridge.

During the late **Pleistocene** 'Ice Age', from **c.480,000 years ago**, the forces of ice and water created a gradually deepening river valley with an often-changing pattern of channels. This has resulted in the deposition of a complex collection of, mostly, **sands and gravels** that roughly form a series of **River Terraces**, although in some places older gravels have been 'reworked' (mixed) with younger. At present 4 terraces of the Cam have been identified, representing different stages in the river's history, with the oldest (the 4th) lying furthest from the river and at the highest elevation. The **4th Terrace** gravels date to 300,000 to 200,000 years ago whilst those of the **3rd Terrace** are from c.180,000 to 80,000. Those of the **2nd Terrace** are probably from the middle of the last glaciation, the Devensian, and c.50,000 years old whilst the youngest, the **1st**, date from towards the end of the Devensian c.20,000 years ago. The remains of many '**Ice-Age**' mammals, such as **Reindeer, Woolly rhino, Woolly mammoth and horse**, have been found in the gravels. During the **Holocene** (the last 11,700 years), fine **Alluvium** has been deposited along the valley, especially in times of flood, and, when waterlogging has occurred for long enough, **Peat** has formed in lower areas; it was found under **Jesus Green**, a reflection of the city's '**fen edge**' character.

Apart from the ascent up **Castle Hill** at the start of the walk, the main feature of the topography in this area is the low lying, relatively **flat valley of the River Cam** with its succession of (now barely discernible) terraces. The river here flows approximately south west to north east, at a **low gradient**. The river is fed mostly by chalk streams, known for their clear water, but the water quality is affected by various pollutants, even before it reaches the city. Its current course runs along the edge of the Gault clay. The walk **starts on the 2nd Terrace** and crosses the **narrow band of Terrace 1** before reaching Alluvium which it stays on for most of the route. It skirts an exposure of **Gault clay and Chalk** opposite Fen Ditton and crosses a **narrow band of Gault** before and after passing through Logan's Meadow Nature Reserve. Finally, it crosses narrow bands of **Gault and Terrace 2** gravels before climbing the **Chalk of Castle Hill** to reach the small patch of **Terrace 4** gravels on the top.



Places of interest along the Trail

1 The village of **Milton** developed on the **river gravels and sands of the Cam** that lie on top of **Gault clay**. These gravels raised the land a little higher (mostly above 5 metres above sea level), providing drier, free-draining areas in the river valley. Here in the village, the gravels are from the **2nd Terrace**, which formed c.50,000 years ago when the river was much more powerful, flowing across the frozen tundra and carrying huge amounts of sand and stone eroded from distant areas, including **flint from the Chalk** to the south. The Grade II listed **All Saint's Church Milton (1.1f)** is on one of the highest and oldest parts of the village. Built after the Norman Conquest, probably by Sheriff Picot of Cambridgeshire in the late 11th century, it has a later tower of freestone, sandstone and **Barnack Stone (1.2)**. The latter is a high-quality, **Jurassic limestone** quarried in Barnack near Stamford and used extensively in important buildings in Cambridgeshire, including Peterborough and Ely Cathedrals.

2 The **Brewers Inn (2.1)** dates from the late 17th/early 18th century and is Grade II listed. The **War Memorial (2.2)** is on the opposite corner.

2a **Milton Country Park (2a.1)** was first dug for **(Gault) clay** by the Romans, then was arable and pastureland until 1930 when it was excavated for sands and gravels until 1960. Finally in 1990 the City Council turned it into a Country Park. Cycle tracks and paths have been laid out and water birds can be seen on the flooded pits (2a.2). It also has many good maturing trees (2a.3f).

3 **Fen Road**, now planted with ornamental hawthorns, leads down to the River Cam. It has some characteristic houses, including some which are Grade II listed (3.1f) such as the timber-framed, pink-plastered **Milton House**. Nearer the river there is a narrow band of gravels that form the younger **1st Terrace**, dating from the end of the last glaciation (the Devensian) c.20,000 years ago. As you approach the level crossing over the railway, you walk off of the gravels and onto land covered by **Alluvium**. This fine material is found along the bottom of the river valley having been deposited in times of flood. It forms very fertile riverside, summer pastures.

4 A 1699 Act led to construction of four sluices to regulate water-flow in the river, which were replaced a year later by a series of locks beginning with **Baits Bite (previously Backsbite) Lock (4.1f)**. The lock and the area around it were designated a conservation area in 1990. **The Cam Conservators**, established in 1702, have had responsibility for protecting the river from Bottisham up to the Mill Pond in the city ever since. **Wildfowl Cottage** (Grade II listed), on the opposite bank across the white bridge (4.2), used to be a pub called the Pike and Eel. Further along on the opposite bank, before the A14 road bridge, you can see the 14th-century **Biggin Abbey**, the summer residence of the bishops of Ely, but never an abbey, housing various kings on their travels to Ely.

5 After passing under the A14 road bridge, the sloping fields opposite, beyond the farm cottage, were the site of a large and important **coprolite** (phosphate nodule) processing yard for the coprolites dug all along the river. As in other parts of the city where the phosphate-rich **Cambridgeshire Greensand** (at the base of the Chalk) is near the surface, the **coprolite** industry exploited this rich source of phosphate nodules for fertilizer. There was a round brick washing pit, stabling for the horses, and a large sunken slurry pit at river-level. The coprolites were shipped to London, and later to Ipswich for the Fisons factory there.

There are many old, pollarded willows along this part of the river (5.1). The River Cam is designated a **County Wildlife Site** as it is 'a major river (together with adjacent semi-natural habitat) that has not been grossly modified by canalisation ... Additionally, it has areas with concentrations of mature pollard willows.' Even this near to the city, this area is still very much 'fenland', albeit part of the floodplain of the Cam. You pass Chesterton Fen on your right, covered in **Alluvium** from the flooding of the river. As the river bends to the right, you reach **First Post Corner** and from here, all along the towpath (5.2) and riverbank down to the railway bridge is a good place to watch the termly **Bumps** rowing races, particularly from **The Plough at Fen Ditton (5.3)** which you will see on the opposite bank. The church in the village (5.4) can be seen once past the pub. **Ditton Meadows**, a little further on past the village, is a **City Wildlife Site** due to its position in the flood plain. Its central drain is particularly species-rich. You pass under the new **Chisholm cycle bridge** linking Barnwell and the Newmarket Road area of the city (to the south of the river) to the new Cambridge North Railway Station (to the north of the bridge). The new station is on the site of what was a large area of sidings between the **Ely line and the St Ives line**. Passenger trains on the latter ran until 1970 and freight until 1992 and it is now the route of the guided busway). Previously part of an area of ballast pits, taking sand



Photos: 1.2 Church walls; 2.1 Brewers Inn; 2.2 War memorial; 2a.1 Milton CP Info board; 2a.2 Milton Country Park lake; 4.2 Baits Bite Lock; 5.1 Pollarded willows; 5.2 The Bumps; 5.3 The Plough, Fen Ditton; 5.4 Fen Ditton church.



and gravel from the river terrace, it was, at times, very good for wildlife, particularly birds (including rarities) and colonising plants. It had also been part of **extensive reed beds** stretching north along the river, no doubt once an important area for sourcing thatching material for the town. The **railway bridge** was built in 1930 and, with its massive girders, weighs 400 tons! Once under the bridges, whilst walking along the towpath (5.5f), look to the other side of the river to see **Stourbridge Common**, once the site of one of the largest medieval fairs in Europe. Underlain by the rich **Alluvium** from the river, it was also an important **riverside pasture**, and is still grazed by cattle. The Common qualifies as a **City Wildlife Site** as it is an area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the river.



6 Along **Water St** is the **Green Dragon Inn**, (6.1) the oldest coach house and pub in Cambridge. It stands opposite the footbridge which, in 1935, replaced the **Horse Grind ferry** across to Stourbridge Common, the licence for which was first granted in 1630. The inn, frequented by **Oliver Cromwell** and **JRR Tolkien** where Cromwell and his men practised knife-throwing into the hearth lintel. Tolkien was said to often find inspiration there for stories such as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. One of the inns of the Shire in **Lord of the Rings** is also called **The Green Dragon**, supposedly named after the pub. He was known to visit the city to see friends; as a fellow of Merton College, he visited the college's estates in Cambridge. There is a sign in the pub which tells the fascinating story of these famous guests and their link to The Green Dragon.



Chesterton ('the settlement by the Roman town') was named after the Roman occupied area on what is now Castle Hill. Walking through the once 'small village' of Chesterton, you will see the different colours of building bricks reflecting the sequential periods of construction of the houses, from the **Victorian 'Cambridge Whites'** (made from the calcareous Gault clay) through to modern reds, blacks and greens. Note **Pye Terrace** (6.2) in Church St built in 1911 by the owners of Pye Electricals to house their workers, the factory being further round in St Andrew's Rd. This area is now part of **Ferry Lane Conservation Area**. You are now walking over the **2nd Terrace river gravels** which underlie most of Chesterton.

6a **Chesterton 'Towers'** (6a.1) is an agreeable, squarish house of brown ragstone with turrets that was built in the mid-14th century as the residence of the abbey procurator (now **Grade I listed**),

7 **St Andrew's Church** was given to the Canons Regular of **St Andrew's Abbey in Vercelli near Turin** in the 13th century. Following the death of King John, the Barons, who had been in constant strife with the king, invited a foreign prince, Louis of France, to take the throne instead of the young 7-year-old Prince Henry. The Pope sent a legate to arbitrate who settled in favour of the prince; he, in gratitude, gave the royal manor of Chesterton to the legate Cardinal Guala himself, the arbitrator, by whom it was finally gifted to the abbey at Vercelli. They owned and administered the parish for the next two centuries until the gift was passed to **Trinity College**, its



current patrons. The church (7.1) is built of freestone and ragstone, originally in 1250 in the new Early English Gothic style, to be replaced in c.1330 by most of the current building. On the external north wall, behind the porch, is a curious inscription stone to the daughter, Anna Maria Vassa, of **Olaudah Equiano** otherwise known as Gustavus Vassa, a freed slave who went on to become a leading campaigner for the abolition of slavery. The land around the church is designated a **City Wildlife Site** as it has five or more neutral grassland indicator species (7.2), being on the 2nd Terrace gravels. You drop below 5 metres as you walk toward the river.



8 You have now left the gravels and are on **Alluvium overlying Gault clay**, producing wetter conditions. **Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve** (8.1) is a former grazing marsh. It has been managed since 2005 by the City Council as a meadow and reedbed with wet woodland and is now a haven for wildlife. It is designated a **City Wildlife Site** as it is an area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the River Cam County Wildlife Site. It is below the 5 metre contour and can flood if there has been heavy rain.

9 **Cutter Ferry footbridge** replaced an older ferry that operated across the river at this point.

10 Over the river, **Midsummer Common**, to the left of the path, was once water meadows that were often flooded, as shown by the broad band of **Alluvium** (fine material carried by the river and deposited in times of flood). A **Community Orchard** is at the top of the steps above the steep slope to the left, on higher land formed by the **1st Terrace river gravels**. The orchard was established in 2009 by the **Friends of Midsummer Common** and is run by volunteers for the benefit of the community; 50 different fruit trees were planted. The Common was drained in the 1870s to provide recreational space for the town with common grazing. Although the city's fireworks displays and fairs are regularly held on the common, the management is now aimed at increasing the biodiversity of the area. As you walk along the tow-path you see boathouses (owned by the colleges or the 'town') on the opposite bank (a few are Grade II listed).



11 Just before the next footbridge is **Midsummer House restaurant** (Michelin-starred) and then the **Fort St George pub** (Grade II listed) where there used to be a **ferry**.

12 The area of Chesterton parish opposite Midsummer Common and Jesus Green was enclosed in 1837/8 and developed rather piecemeal up until the 1880s, when it was decided to build a bridge across from the city to replace the **ferry**. The first was built in 1889 and opened to traffic in 1891. It was a prestigious design and built to project the image of a proud, growing town. An original six elliptical arches were founded on a sloping stratum of **Gault clay** with different foundations for the north and south abutments. The south, where the clay is deeper, was on 65 pitch pine piles. However, by the late 1980s the integrity of the structure was in serious jeopardy and it had to be replaced. Most parts were re-purposed but on the south side the pine piles had to be reinforced with 115 small concrete piles much deeper into the clay. **Victoria Bridge** (12.1) is Grade II listed. Almost 75 yd north of the bridge was the old Cambridge city football pitch

Photos: 6.1 Green Dragon Inn; 6.2 Pye Terrace; 6a.1 Chesterton Towers; 7.1 St Andrew's Church; 7.2 Church wildlife board; 8.1 Logan's Meadow board.

(now a housing estate) on the site of **Swans Pit**, an important city gravel and sand pit. The remains of cold-tolerant animals such as **Giant deer, Mammoth, Woolly rhino and Horse** were found here, possibly from a mix of more than one gravel terrace.

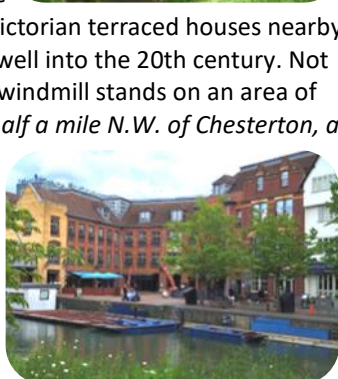
13 Jesus Green was created when Victoria Bridge and Avenue were constructed, dividing Midsummer Common. Cattle are excluded, and more recreational activities are catered for. **The Lido** was opened in 1923, one of the few remaining examples of lidos built across the country in the 1920s, its excess length resulting from the joining end-to-end of the male and female bathing pools. Since 1956 it has been fed by mains' rather than river water. As you reach **Jesus Lock (13.1f)** you cross the 5 metre contour for the last time, and begin to gradually walk up above the low land that surrounds the fen edge. Although modified slightly by the river, this transition is significant but note how close it is to the city centre. In boreholes by the lido, **7ft of Peat** was found underneath the Alluvium and on top of the Terrace gravels, showing that this area was, for no doubt hundreds of years at least, a **water-logged, freshwater marsh**. The lock (13.2), the only one in the city itself, was built (together with the sluice) in 1836. It was renovated in 2024, but the adjacent lock-keeper's cottage (in public ownership) is now unused, although Grade II listed, as is the lock. The sluice is controlled by the **Cam Conservators** and regulates the level of water along 'The Backs' of the colleges as well as the volume of water arriving downstream.

13a Alexandra Gardens (13a.1), opened in 1907, is an attractive green space with lines of large London Plane trees. From the 1840s onwards, the site was part of an area of **clay pits** dug in the **Gault clay** (at the surface here), with **kilns and brickworks** producing the typical '**Cambridge Whites**' which furnished the Victorian terraced houses nearby but the pits were worked out by the 1890s. This area was recorded as still having a 'rural' character until well into the 20th century. Not far to the north is **Chesterton Windmill**, once used to ground corn. But now used as an office space. The windmill stands on an area of **Chalk** that covers the older Gault clay and, the Geological Memoir for Cambridge says, '*By the windmill, half a mile N.W. of Chesterton, a small patch of Chalk Marl occurs, from which the coprolites have been extracted, and extends from the top of the clay pits to the back of Rose Cottage, where it underlies the gravel.*'

14 The quayside lying opposite Magdalene College (which owns the land and many buildings along the waterside) was the **Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Medieval wharf** area of the town. There is evidence from c.900AD of **Danish traders** occupying this area, then known as **the Hulme**, a Danish word indicating an island in a marshy area. The **Liber Eliensis** refers to Cambridge in the 10th century as a **port** ranking in equal importance with Norwich, Ipswich and Thetford. Following development of the area in 1989, which incorporated the **old wharves**, the **ironworks** and a **brewery**, a fine public space for eating and punt hire has been created. The Roman wharves are likely to have lain under the Magdalene College frontage. The **Great Bridge** - Magdalene Bridge - is on the approximate site of the **ancient crossing**, which the Romans then utilised, though probably not with a bridge. It is thought that King Penda erected a **wooden bridge in 634 AD**, uniting the settlement around the perimeter of the Roman fort with that of the Market Hill area. The last timber bridge was replaced in 1724 by one in stone, since when several rebuilds in ashlar stone and cast-iron have taken place, in 1823, 1923 and 1982.

15 A core was drilled in the road at the road crossing and the findings are represented on the bronze pillar erected at the corner before you cross. On the opposite corner is the **Museum of Cambridge** which has displays on the history of the city. Next to it is the famous '**Kettle's Yard**' art gallery. Once over Chesterton Road, you enter what was the **Roman military station**. The hill beneath you is the southern end of a small Chalk ridge that stretches to the north-west, across Huntingdon Rd. Here at its southern end, the ridge has a capping of **4th Terrace river gravels**. Dating back 300,000 years, they were deposited by an older version of the Cam, a large, powerful river that flowed north to join with a precursor of the River Ouse near Over. The geology provides a strategic high point on the edge of the Fens, enhanced by the adjacent, narrow river crossing - an important link on a valuable transport route around the extensive marshes to the north. The station was not taken over by the Anglo-Saxons who colonised the land around the Market 'Hill', though there was a later medieval presence in the castle area. Many of the stones from the abandoned castle were used in some of the University colleges. Down the slope to the north-east (out of sight from the hill) is all that remains of the **ring of earthworks and a bastion** that **Oliver Cromwell** had constructed to strengthen his defences when he took control of the town at the start of the Civil War. The area behind you, as you walk up the hill, was used to carry out **executions** until 1913; in 1850, a large crowd (c.40,000) watched the hanging of an infamous couple, guilty of poisoning.

16 The **Castle Mound (16.1)** was not a Roman construction but is the Motte of the **Norman Motte and Bailey castle** built here in 1068. From the top there is a fine overview of the city below with its various landmarks (16.2f). There would have been a very clear view from here of the river-crossing since the area immediately below had small, low dwellings. The medieval town grew up on both sides of the river overlooked by the castle on the hill.



Photos: 12.1 Victoria Bridge.
13.2 Jesus Lock; 13a.1 Alexandra
Gardens; 15.1 Museum of
Cambridge; 16.1 Castle Mound.

