



Something for everyone

- Sandy Town Walk
- Pushchair Walk
- Sandy-Everton Cycle Ride
- The Squires Walk
- Lowfield Walk
- River and Lakes Walk (Sandy-Beeston-Blunham)

to commemorate the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

Six walks around Sandy

JUBILEE WALKS

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are a number of public buses from the local towns and villages which stop at Sandy. This includes a bus from Sandy Town Centre to the RSPB Headquarters at The Lodge. For details and copies of timetables please contact Sandy Tourist Information Centre – as services and timetables change occasionally or contact Travelling on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.travelling.info

Sandy has a main line station on the First Capital Connect railway line from Peterborough to London King's Cross – again please contact the Centre for an up to date timetable or enquire of National Rail Enquiries (08457 48 49 50 – www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Sandy Tourist Information Centre

To find our more about walks and rides, places of interest and places can be found to the rear of the Town Council Office.

Email: tourism@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk
Fax: 01767 692527
Tel: 01767 682728

Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy SG19 1JE
Tel: 01767 681491
Fax: 01767 692527
Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



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Working in partnership

LOWFIELD WALK

L Approx 1 hour 30 mins

This walk takes you from the town of Sandy into its countryside with a varied landscape of arable fields, woods, parklands and low greensand hills.

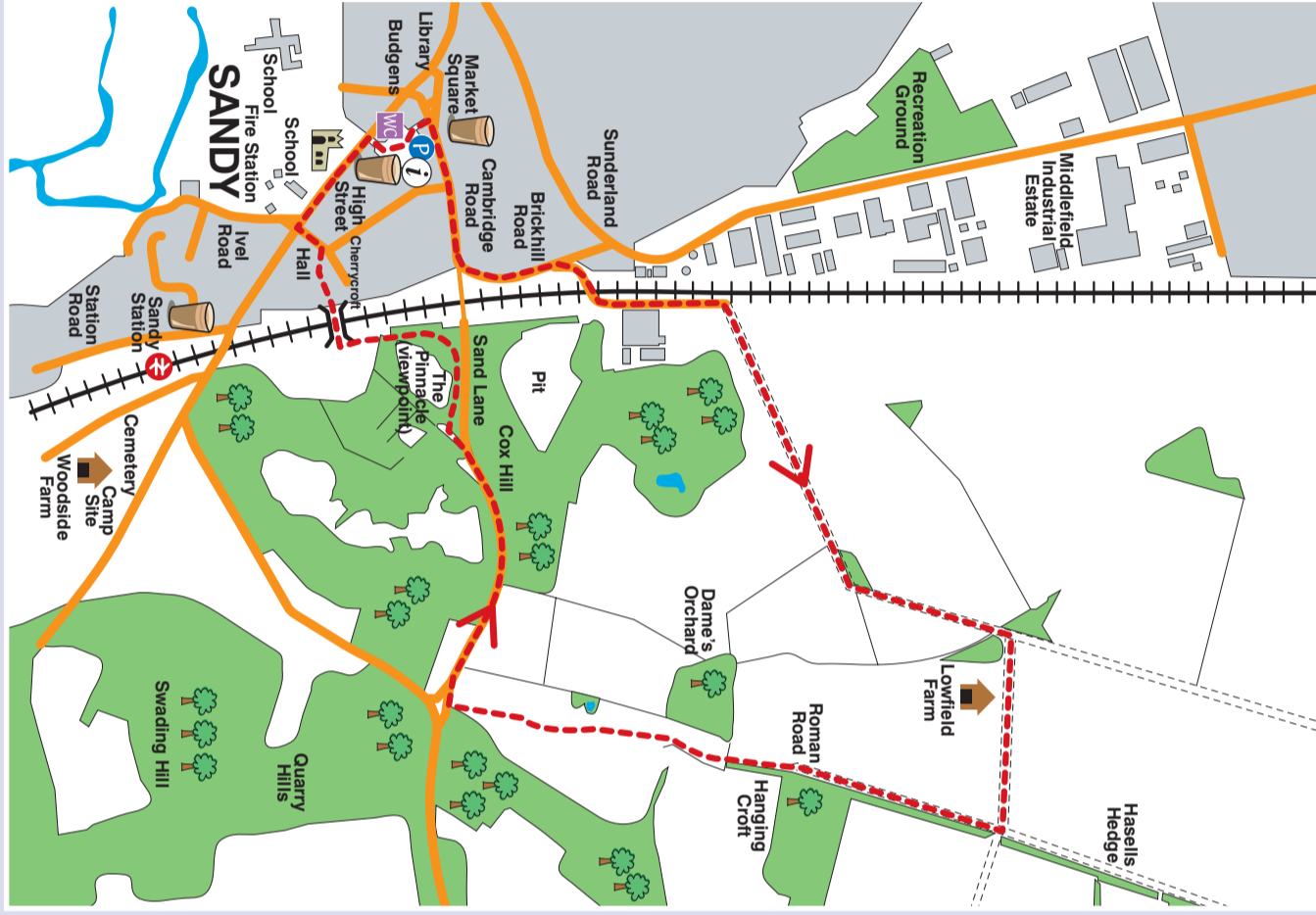
Leave the car park at the Cambridge Road exit and turn right. At the end of this road turn left and walk along Brickhill Road until you reach a bridge over the railway. Follow the bridge to the right, cross over the railway bridge and continue along the track.

At the first junction turn right and head along the field edge path. Continue on, walking past Lowfield Farm and then follow the surfaced bridleway round to the right. At the 'crossroads' turn right along a track and follow the Greensand Ridge Walk signs all the way to Sand Lane. At the lane turn right, first dropping downhill and then climbing towards the woods.

Continue along Sand Lane and turn left at a gateway (signposted Public Footpath Greensand Ridge Walk) and then immediately turn right onto the sandy track leading to the top of the Pinnacle.

From the summit of the Pinnacle turn left and walk down the steps that lead to the field at the bottom of the hill.

Follow the right hand (lower) boundary of the field and turn right across the railway footbridge. Keep straight on to the end of the path, turn right and then left into St Swithun's Way. At the High Street turn right and keep going until you arrive back at the car park.



SANDY PUSHCHAIR WALK

L Approx 45 mins

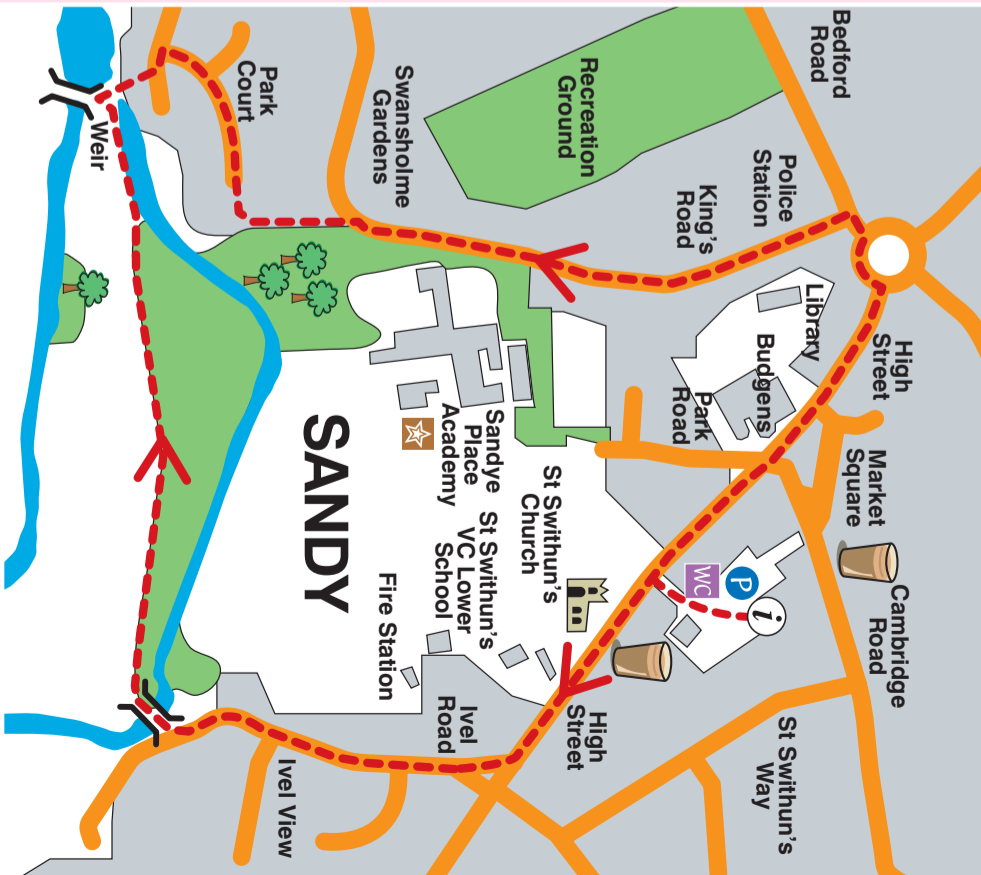
This walk is suitable for pushchairs. The route is flat and follows tarmac paths and pavements through the town and alongside water meadows, woodlands and the river.

From the car park's main entrance turn left and head along the High Street until you reach Ivel Road. Turn right and follow Ivel Road to the bend and bear right along the bridleway, crossing the metal bridge over the River Ivel.

Turn right along the Sandcast bridleway; turn right again crossing the bridge over the weir and then right into Park Court.

At the end of this road continue on along the narrow footpath to Swanshorne Gardens. Bear right, walk past the bollards to Kings Road and then turn right into Bedford Road.

From the Market Square - which is in fact triangular - keep going along the High Street and back to the car park.



THE RIVER AND LAKES WALK (Sandy-Beeston-Blunham)

L Approx 3 hours

This lovely walk takes you around Sandy, Beeston and Blunham, along the banks of the River Ivel and past the water meadows and man-made lakes.

right.

From the car park turn left and head along the High Street until you reach Ivel Road. Turn right, follow Ivel Road to the bend and bear right along the bridleway.

Cross the metal bridge over the River Ivel and turn

right.

Follow the Sandcast bridleway until you reach the weir

and former mill pool. Turn left over the bridge and head

along the bridleway, passing the Riddy Nature Reserve

on the right and crossing the wooden bridge over the

Riddy stream (you are now in the hamlet of Beeston)

Turn left and walk along the A1 footpath, cross the

metal footbridge and then follow the footpath between

the houses to The Crescent which then leads you to

the attractive Village Green.

At the Green turn left and walk clockwise around its

perimeter until you reach the road that leads to the A1.

Turn right and take this road, bear left and walk along

the footpath of the A1 slip road.

Continue along the slip road until you reach a gate

across the meadow until you reach a footbridge, then

turn right along the road and walk over Girtford Bridge.

Support from Central Bedfordshire Council, with support from Sandy Town Council, is provided. Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Immediately after the bridge, cross the road and take the riverside path towards Blunham. Cross Blunham the river opposite the fishing lakes, turn right in the road. Follow the path and then turn right onto South Mills.

Continue along the road from the factory entrance and turn right just before the cottages at the bend in the road. Follow the path and then turn right onto the former Bedford to Cambridge railway line, which is now part of the National Cycle Route (Route 51).

Continue along Route 51 towards Sandy. Cross the roundabout and head under the A1 bridge. Follow the cycleway signs (Route 12) towards the Town Centre through Sandy's more recent housing developments (crossing Engayne Avenue and Sunderland Road), until you reach Cambridge Road.

Turn right and just before the junction with the High Street take a left turn and return to the car park.

Street take a left turn and return to the car park.

Turn right and take this road, bear left and walk along

the footpath of the A1 slip road.

Continue along the slip road until you reach a gate

across the meadow until you reach a footbridge, then

turn right along the road and walk over Girtford Bridge.



WELCOME TO JUBILEE WALKS

SANDY is a town in north east Bedfordshire and lies some 8 miles east of the county town of Bedford. Its history dates back to the Iron Age and there are two hill forts dating from this era on the greensand hills that form a backdrop to the town. During Roman times Sandy was a thriving settlement and many relics, including pots, coins, sculpture, etc have been found over the centuries. Some can be seen in the Roman Sandy Story' exhibition in the Town Council Offices and in other museums throughout the country. Sandy also had thriving Saxon and Norman communities.

From the early 16th century until recent years Sandy was the centre of market gardening. With the coming of the railways in 1850 and the ease of access to London with Sandy's famous produce, the village gradually grew into a small town.

The parish of Sandy covers some 4,362 acres and the countryside is particularly beautiful with the low greensand hills, woodlands, parklands and heath. The River Ivel meanders through water meadows and rich agricultural fields.

This leaflet was published to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty became Queen on the death of her father, King George VI in February 1952.

During Queen Elizabeth's reign Sandy has undergone great expansion and many changes.

THEN AND NOW

	1952	2012
POPULATION	3,700	12,000
EMPLOYMENT	Market gardening	Market gardening
SHOPS	Approximately 12 fewer small shops, one supermarket in the middle of town, two smaller ones, 5 butchers, 6 bakeries, 5 cobblers	Approximately 12 fewer small shops, one supermarket in the middle of town, two smaller ones, 5 cobblers, 6 bakeries, 5 butchers, 5 opticians, some light industry and other businesses also occur
PUBS	Over 12	4

- KEY**
- Tourist Info Centre/start of route
 - Route
 - Optional route/short cut
 - Road
 - Village or housing
 - Lake or water
 - Woodland
 - Railway
 - Church
 - Public house
 - Historic building
 - Farm
 - Parking
 - Public toilets

All walks start at the Tourist Information Centre in Sandy, near the town centre car park, parking is free.

SANDY TOWN WALK

L Approx 1 hour

This route passes a number of interesting buildings in the town and includes a varied landscape of water meadows, woods and hills.

From the car park turn left and head along the High Street until you reach Wel Road. Turn right, follow Wel Road to the bend and bear right along the bridleway, crossing the metal bridge over the River Wel.

Turn right along the Sandcast bridleway, turn right crossing the bridge over the weir and turn left into Mill Lane. Follow the bend round to the right, turn left into Swan Lane and then right into Bedford Road. At the large roundabout turn right into the Market Square. Turn left into Cambridge Road, passing the Queens Head pub and the offices of Sandy Town Council. Walk to the end of Cambridge Road.

SHORTER OPTION: If you do not wish to climb the Pinnacle, just before reaching the old railway bridge there is a narrow track on your right. Walk to the end of this track and turn right onto a surfaced pathway. At the end of this path turn right into St Swithun's Way. Turn left and then on reaching the High Street turn right and keep going until you arrive back at the car park.



CONTINUING THE MAIN WALK: At the end of Cambridge Road cross the old railway bridge to Sand Lane. Follow the lane, turn right at a wooden gate and then immediately right again along a sandy track leading to the top of the Pinnacle.

From the summit bear left and walk down the steps that lead to the field at the bottom of the hill. Follow the right hand side of the field (above the railway), cross over the footbridge on the right and continue along the pathway.

At the end of the path turn right and then left into Cherry Croft. At the High Street turn right and keep going until you arrive back at the car park.



THE SQUIRES WALK

L Approx 2 hours

The Squires Walk is so named because much of the route passes through the estate of the Pym family, who as Squires of Sandy have resided on their Hazels Hall estate since 1761.

From the car park's main entrance turn left and proceed along the High Street. Turn left into St Swithun's Way and after a short distance turn right into the woodland follow the path (signposted Greensand Ridge Walk) to the summit of the hill. Keep to the fence line for a short distance and bear left through the birches to the open grass area. Follow the left boundary of the grass area, passing the viewpoint and the steep stepped paths until you reach a track with a few shallow steps leading back into the woodland and then down to a wooden gate at Sand Lane.



Turn right along Sand Lane to the road junction. Lords Wood Lodge and then turn right onto a bridleway opposite the next cottage. Follow the woodland track until you reach the B1042 Sandy - Potton Road. Cross this road and walk through the gates of The Lodge, the national headquarters of the RSPB. Head straight along the High Street and then turn right into the woodland, following the bridleway downhill through the woodland. Pass between the ironstone gate pillars at the reserve's exit gate, turn right entering Stratford Road (a Roman road) which leads back to Sandy. Pass Sandy Cemetery on your right, then turn left and follow the High Street back to the car park.



SANDY-EVERTON CYCLE RIDE

L Approx 1 hr 30 mins (not including the optional route)

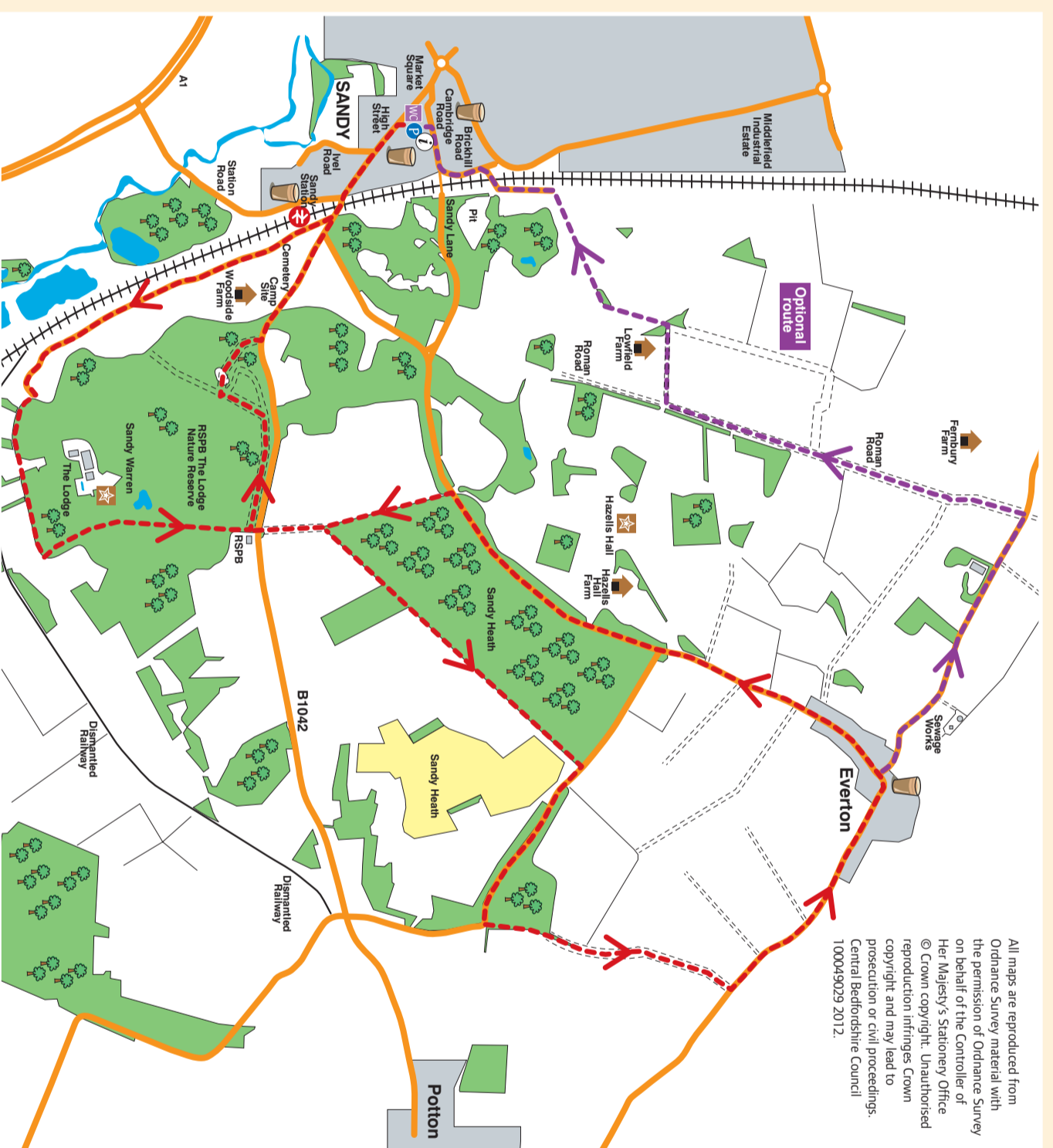
A lovely cycle ride in the countryside around Sandy and Everton. Please note that some of this route is over narrow, uneven and sometimes muddy paths.

From the car park's main entrance turn left and proceed along the High Street. On reaching the mini roundabout go straight ahead and over the railway bridge. Turn right at the next mini roundabout and enter Stratford Road (National Cycle Network Route 12).

After the double bend the road becomes an unmade track. Turn left through the ironstone gate pillars into the grounds of the national headquarters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Follow the bridleway through the woods and then bear right onto the driveway passing the Gatehouse (which now houses the RSPB's shop and reception) on your right. Pass through the Lodge gates, cross the busy B1042 road and go straight ahead along the woodland edged bridleway opposite. In due course you will come to another bridleway branching to your right. Follow this until you reach a narrow track where you turn right again and proceed along an unmade surfaced lane.

After passing some gates, the lane has a made up surface. At the right hand bend in the lane turn left onto a signposted byway. Keep straight ahead until you reach the road, and then turn left towards the village of Everton. Continue on past the recreation ground on your left and follow the road round to the left, through the village along Sandy Road.



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OPTIONAL ROUTE - For the experienced mountain biker - as part of this route can be very muddy - you can try this optional route from Everton to Sandy.

After the left hand bend in the road in Everton village continue for a short distance on the Sandy Road until you come to the road on your right leading to the A1 (Tempsford Road). Please bear in mind that this road is very steep and should not be undertaken by inexperienced cyclists or young children. After about half a mile take the first bridleway to your left passing the farm buildings at Fernbury Farm.

Continue along this bridleway to another bridleway to your right, called the Concrete Road. Turn right here until you reach Lowfield Farm and turn left, passing the farm buildings. After a while the bridleway bears right - continue on until you reach the railway line and then turn left. Proceed past the factory complex on your left and on reaching the end of the track turn right over the railway bridge and then left into Brickhill Road. At the end of this road turn right into Cambridge Road. Before you reach the junction with the High Street take a left turn back into the car park.

MAIN ROUTE - Leave the village of Everton and follow the wood lined road that leads to Sandy (Everton Road). Opposite the second hatched cottage on your right, turn left onto the signed bridleway and continue straight ahead until you reach the Sandy to Potton Road (B1042). Cross this busy road into the RSPB reserve. Opposite The Gatehouse, turn right onto the narrow track and continue along this. Pass through the gates at the end of the track and join the B1042. Turn left towards Sandy, past the cemetery on your left. Cross over the railway bridge into the High Street and follow this back to the car park.

