

**INFORMATION ONLY  
MAYBE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



By kind permission of the Station Commander,  
Group Captain B Walcot MA BA RAF,  
the *Pathfinder March* Committee is  
pleased to welcome you to



# *The 12th Pathfinder March*

## *Saturday 19 June 2010*



*A long distance, cross-country endurance event in memory of the  
Royal Air Force Pathfinder Force*

*46 miles in 20 hours*

*\*Open to Service, MOD personnel and civilians\**

**THIS LEAFLET CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION. PLEASE READ BEFORE THE MARCH.  
To be read in conjunction with the relevant Ordnance Survey Maps:  
(Please ensure you have your OS map with you on the day).**

# USEFUL INFORMATION

**Description.** The *Pathfinder March* is a 46 mile circular route in Cambridgeshire designed to perpetuate the name of the Royal Air Force Pathfinder Force. When the Pathfinder Force was first formed (in 1942), it was based at RAF Wyton and RAF Oakington, with two satellite airfields at Graveley and Warboys. The *Pathfinder March* links these four historic stations to create one of the toughest annual events in the RAF's sporting calendar.

**The challenge.** To complete the route of the *Pathfinder March*, either individually or as part of a relay team, inside 20 hours.

**Start.** The start (and finish) is at RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire. All walkers are to check-in on the day of the *March*. Registration is open from 0400-0800 hours. The booking-in times for speed walkers and runners are from 0700-0800 hours. All participants are expected to finish by 2359 hours. Walkers making insufficient progress will be asked to withdraw.

**Booking-in.** When booking-in, please hand in your registration card - please complete the details on the card prior to registering. We will give you a progress card (a Pathfinder Walkers Passport). As you get to a checkpoint, this will be marked to allow us to monitor your progress round the route.

## Essential equipment.

(1) Ordnance Survey Explorer Series 225 and/or Landranger Series 142, 153 and 154. Note. Map 225 covers 98% of the route; the missing section is shown on the insert to this brochure.

**The maps in this brochure are shown for guidance only. They are not to be used for map reading. Walkers should be in possession of a map.**

(2) Sensible cross-country & road-walking dress (ie. stout footwear, waterproofs, high visibility clothing, etc).

(3) Water and sufficient rations to last you the day. Water stops are provided at checkpoints, but emergency rations as well as more substantial food (ie. sandwiches/chocolate) are strongly recommended.

**NB. Drink plenty of water - Do NOT dehydrate.**

## Also recommended.

(4) A small amount of money (for emergency phone calls and for food/drink purchases in the pubs and village shops en route).

(5) A mobile telephone. Highly recommended. **Please put the number on your registration card.**

(6) A back-up team. Although not vital, a supporting team is highly recommended. However, to avoid vehicular congestion at checkpoints, supporters are asked not to park within 250m of any checkpoint.

(7) A torch (in case you're stuck out after dark).

(8) Suncream, sunhat, sunglasses, etc (- tempting fate, I know!).

**Charity.** Entrants to the *Pathfinder March* are encouraged to walk for charity - therefore feel free to walk for the charity of your choice. However this is an entirely voluntary choice; just turning up on the day is all the support we need to honour the Pathfinders.

**Waymarks.** The *Pathfinder March* mostly follows the route of the *Pathfinder Long Distance Walk*. The LDW is **partially** waymarked. Walkers are reminded that the waymarks are guides only and should complement **but not replace** normal map reading.

**Post-event.** Four things. Firstly, very very well done. It wasn't easy, was it! Secondly, make a considerable effort to stay warm. Thirdly, **AVOID DRIVING** - it's all too easy to fall asleep at the wheel. And finally, if you can face a well deserved drink and hot food, there should be some on hand (at a reasonable price) straight after you finish.

**Certificate.** An attractive colour certificate, based on the Pathfinder painting by Frank Wootton OBE, will be issued to all individuals or relay teams who complete the *Pathfinder March*. Grateful thanks are extended to Mrs Wootton for her kind permission to use the Pathfinder painting in support of the *Pathfinder March*.

**Security.** RAF Wyton is an operational military establishment.

All personnel are therefore required to positively identify themselves as they enter the Station. **For non-government employees, a passport or driving license will be required.** Visitors should note that there is day/night capable CCTV in operation on the Station and that security is effected by armed mobile police and security units. Visitors should not stray from the sports' pitch and adjacent car park reserved for walkers' cars.

**Toilet Facilities.** There are limited toilet facilities round the route. There are ablutions at the start and finish, and pub toilets once you get into the walk. The Poacher at Elsworth has kindly offered to open up its facilities, as has the Royal Oak at Warboys. However, just about all the other pubs on route have understandably insisted that walkers buy a drink first before they pop into the ladies/gents. Other than at Elsworth and Warboys, checkpoints are not sited adjacent to any 'rest facilities'.

**Food.** There are a few shops/pubs on the route. Snacks will also be available at a number of the checkpoints. However, all walkers are advised to carry some rations themselves.

**Accommodation.** For military personnel and other government employees, a limited amount of accommodation may be available in the Wyton or Brampton Messes. There is also transit accommodation available at Brampton (bookable through the Eurest Office on RAF Brampton ext 7323). In addition, a tented area will be set up on the sports' pitch. Private tents are welcome. There is also a range of camp sites, B&Bs and hotels in the local area (contact Huntingdon Tourist Office on 01480 388588). The other option is to gatecrash any friend who might live within about a 30 mile radius of RAF Wyton!

**Pathfinder History.** The Pathfinders were an elite unit created to lead bombing raids and mark targets across enemy-held territory. Despite suffering considerable losses, they made an invaluable contribution to the Allied war effort and played a key role in the liberation of Europe. Their main aircraft types were the Lancaster and Mosquito, and by 1945 the Force had grown to some 19 squadrons operating from a total of 9 airfields. The Force was disbanded soon after the end of the war, but the memory of this most famous unit will continue to live on for generations to come.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The organisers of the Pathfinder March can accept no liability whatsoever for any injury or illness caused to any person undertaking, or as a result of having undertaken, the Pathfinder March. The Pathfinder March is tackled entirely at one's own risk, having full regard to the nature of the terrain (including public roads), the prevailing weather conditions and the distances involved. The Pathfinder March is a tough challenge and should not be under-estimated. All participants are strongly advised to take out appropriate insurance for the event.

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**For further information and advice, please do not hesitate to call**

**Squadron Leader Paul F Tuite RAF on  
01480 52451 ext 7610**

**Mr Andy Garton on  
01462 851515 ext 4014**

# CHECKPOINTS.

**NB. You must report to all checkpoints.**

All walkers are required to check-in at the following checkpoints as they proceed around the route:

- (1) GR 2395 6490. The memorial at Graveley Airfield (at the entrance to Cotton Farm).
- (2) GR 3155 6360. The Poacher public house in Elsworth (in the beer garden).
- (3) GR 3819 6214. Dry Drayton Primary School (adjacent to the Black Horse Pub).
- (4) GR 3930 6680. Longstanton Sports & Social Club.
- (5) GR 3700 7525. St Helen's Primary School, Bluntisham.
- (6) GR 3119 8028. The Royal Oak public house in Warboys.
- (7) GR 2910 7925. Near the Ramsey Model Aero Club (building out on Warboys Airfield).
- (8) GR 2615 7655. Kings Ripton Village Hall.

**Safety.** Walkers are to be particularly careful when walking on public roads. Please ensure you wear high visibility clothing, walk in single file and face the oncoming traffic. In most areas, the verge is quite sufficient to step onto as cars approach.

**Medical.** There is medical cover allocated to the March, and medical support will be given to any individual requiring it. However, walkers are also requested to take responsibility for their own wellbeing. Please ensure you have water, suncream, sunglasses and hats (to combat heat exhaustion), waterproofs, jumpers, etc (to prevent hypothermia) and changes of socks, shoes, plasters, vaseline, talcum powder, etc (to look after your feet). Physical exhaustion, and associated hypothermia, is a distinct possibility for the unwary.  
**Drink lots of water. Do not drink alcohol or stimulant drinks (eg Redbull).**

**Transport.** Emergency transport will be available for all walkers throughout the event. However, this is a limited resource. If you are planning to drop out before the end, we would be grateful if you would also plan your own transport. **If you drop out, it is imperative you inform the nearest checkpoint or March Control.**

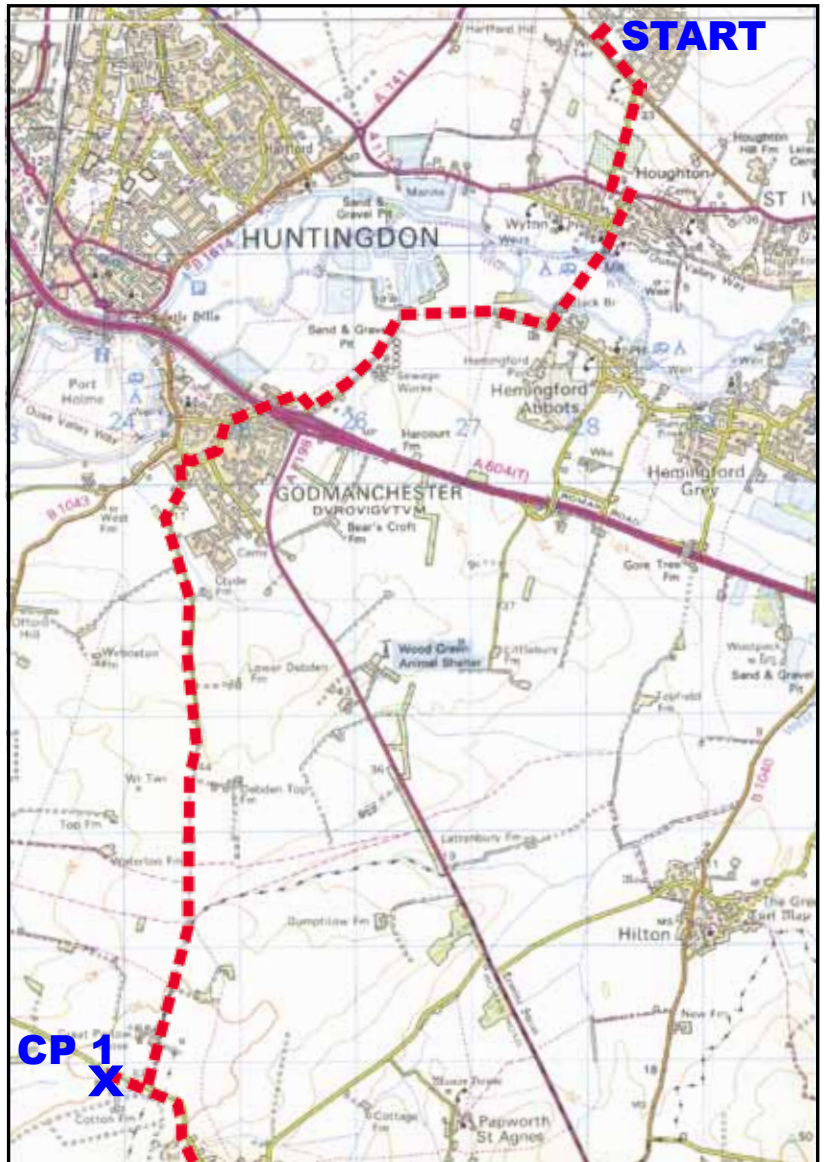
**Training.** The Pathfinder March is a tough walk and pre-event training is certainly required. The best training to undertake will vary from person to person, but all walkers are strongly advised to complete a range of long distance walks before the event to build up their stamina and fitness.

**WITHDRAWALS.** If you withdraw from the March, please inform either one of the checkpoints or March Control - this helps us to ensure the safety of all walkers whilst taking part.

# THE ROUTE

## Leg 1 (Start to CPI)

1. On leaving RAF Wyton go to the roundabout and turn left.
2. After 500m turn right down **MERE WAY** to Houghton. At the 'T' junction at the bottom of the hill, turn left, then right and head into Houghton village. **Please be quiet when walking through built-up areas in the early hours.**
3. Walk through the village down the side of the church towards the Great River Ouse and Houghton Mill (National Trust). Pass through the Mill and follow the path, crossing the bridge/locks, to Hemingford Meadow.
4. Cross Hemingford Meadow by the tarmac path and head toward T-junction with minor road through Hemingford Abbots. Turn right into **COMMON LANE** and walk about 500m to the field at the end.
5. Take the track for 800m curving up to the gate.
6. Turn left onto minor road **COW LANE** and follow until 'T' junction by A14 intersection. Turn right and head toward Godmanchester.
7. Follow the pavement under the A14, and walk a few hundred metres before turning left down **EARNING STREET**.
8. After 200m bear right into **LONDON STREET**. Follow road for further 200m round right-hand bend into **OLD COURT HALL** road.
9. Turn sharp left (back on yourself) down **SILVER STREET** and then set out on the direct track to Graveley. (Beware the route curving to the left as you approach Debden Top Farm: you need to keep straight on.)



**Leg 1 - RAF Wyton to Graveley Airfield (CPI)**  
**Distance - 8.2 miles**

10. On reaching the road by Graveley Airfield, turn right and go to the entrance to Cotton Farm where you will find the Pathfinder Memorial, enter the farm where you will find (Checkpoint 1).

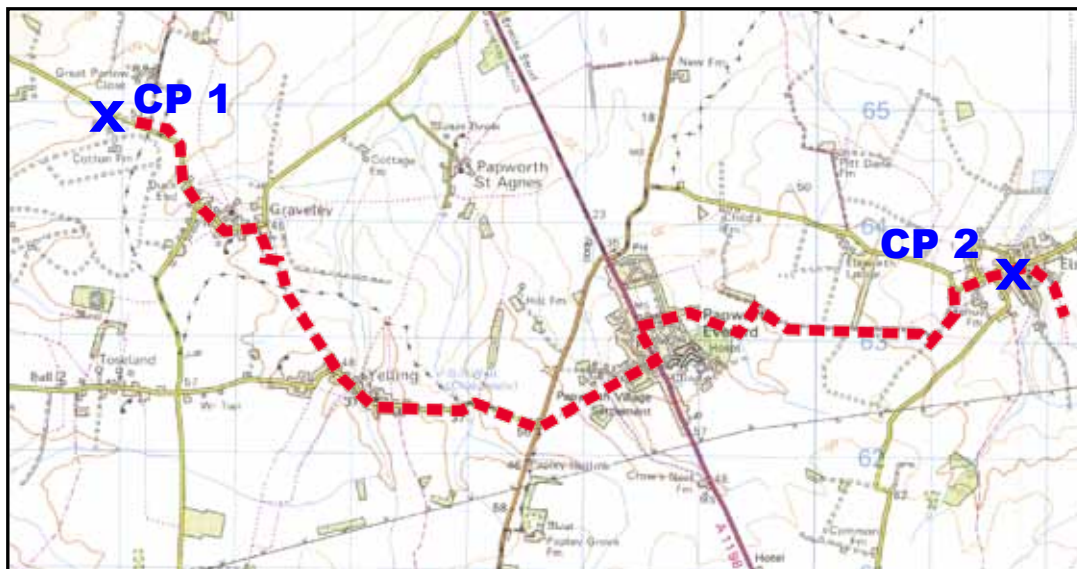
## Leg 2 (CPI to CP2)

11. Retrace your steps to Graveley and walk through the village (**Beware of traffic through village**) to Home Farm where you should turn right and take the track to Yelling. (This track is often very muddy.)
12. Turn left onto minor road at Yelling and follow this to the B1040 **ST. IVES ROAD**.
13. At the B1040 turn left and walk along footpath, parallel to the road, until the Papworth Everard bypass, north of roundabout. Cross over bypass (A1198) and pass through kissing gate on side of field. Proceed across field heading for the church directly in front. The church sits on top of a grassy knoll beside footpath and can be obscured by trees. At the bottom of the hill pass over footbridge before climbing to church.
14. Walk down **CHURCH LANE** to the main road (old A1198) **ERMINE STREET NORTH** and turn left. After 300m cross the road at pedestrian traffic lights.

15. Turn right into **CHEQUERS LANE**. Pass **THE CLOSE** and **BARON'S WAY**, and continue on into **HAMDEN WAY**.

16. Once in **HAMDEN WAY** follow curve of path to the right until gate in fence on the left-hand side. Go through gate and follow path through the woods.

17. After 200m, at field edge, turn right. Follow footpath through woods for 500m and turn left. After a further 100m exit wood. Continue along edge of wood until



**Leg 2 - Graveley Airfield (CP1) to Elsworth (CP2) Distance - 6.6 miles**

'T' junction with track, (approx 300m) turn right and head towards Elsworth.

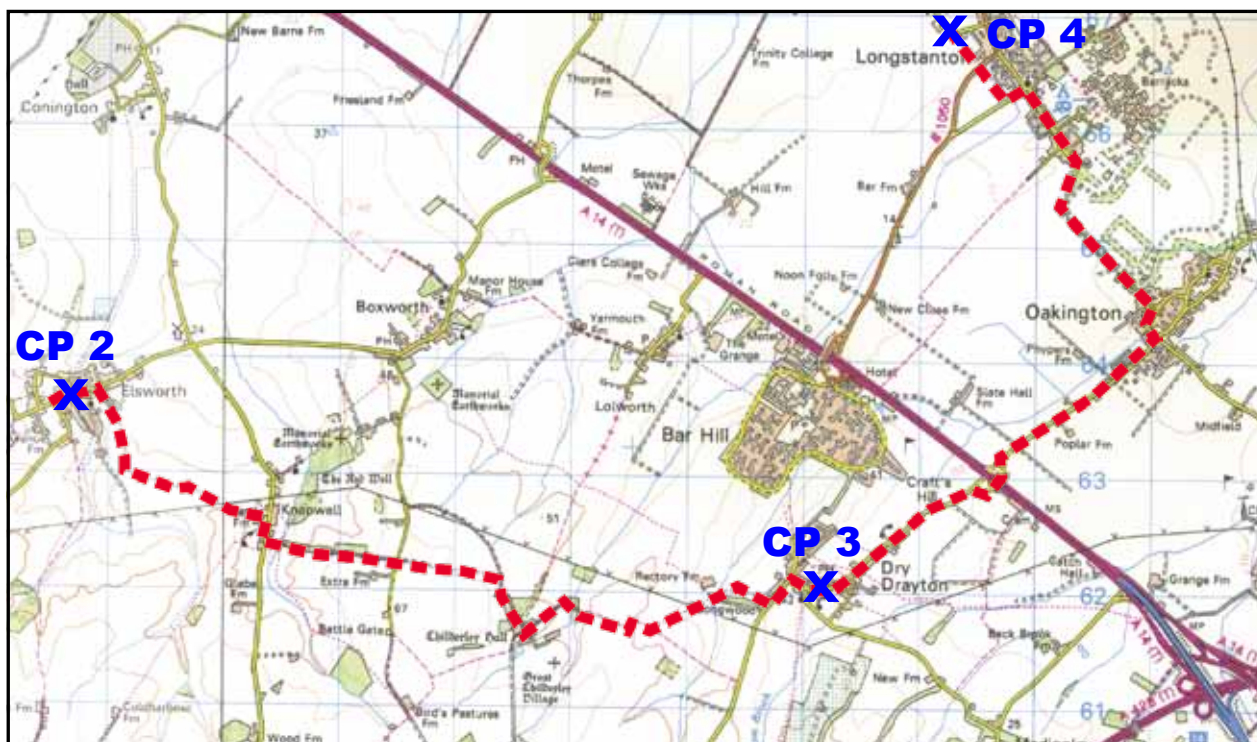
18. Follow well defined track for 1500m until 'T' junction. Turn left for 200m and take left fork to Elsworth. (Avoid fork to Avenue Farm).

19. Head towards main road and turn right through Elsworth. (where the Rev Wilbert Awdry was rector from 1946-53). Pass through the village to The Poacher public house. (Checkpoint 2).

### Leg 3 (CP2 to CP4)

20. On leaving CP2 follow road through village for approx 200m, turn right into **THE DRIFT**. Follow path to Knapwell (on reaching Knapwell turn left through opening past wooden sign (DO NOT enter Grange Farm)).

21. Turn right on to main road and continue through village for 200m, then turn left opposite Thorofare End cottage and head down by-way. Follow track to Childerley Hall, crossing **BATTLE GATE ROAD** (1000m) until the 'T' junction (2000m in total). Turn right and head into Childerley cutting down through the farm buildings to 'T' junction.



**Leg 3 - Elsworth (CP2) to Dry Drayton (CP3) Distance - 5.4 miles**  
**Leg 4 Dry Drayton (CP3) to Longstanton (CP4) Distance - 4.7 miles**

22. Turn left passing cottages and follow tarmac track. After 1500m track deviates left across field up to Rectory Farm. Cross tarmac lane and footbridge. Head up field to boundary of Dry Drayton. Follow narrow path emerging onto **SCOTLAND ROAD**.

23. Turn left and follow road through Dry Drayton for 300m then take third turning left down minor lane leading to Primary School and Black Horse Pub (**Checkpoint 3**).

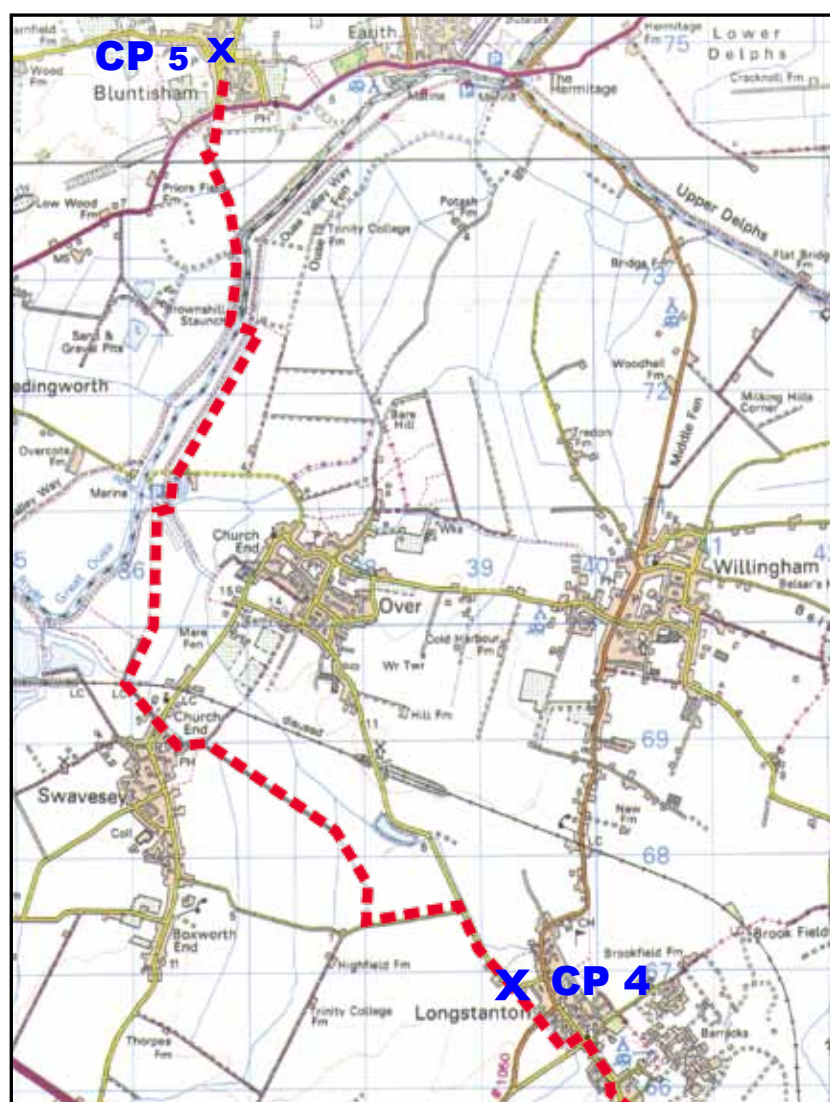
24. Retrace steps onto main road, turn left following road to Oakington crossing A14 using road bridge. **Beware this is a HAZARDOUS ROAD and should be walked with extreme caution.** Turn left at crossroads in Oakington and take minor track **LONGSTANTON ROAD** to Longstanton. This track runs near western end of the former RAF Oakington airfield.

25. Continue on to Longstanton where you should stop to see the memorial stained glass window at All Saints' Church. From the Church head down **SCHOOL LANE** (signposted Cambridge A14). After 100m, just past **STOKES CLOSE**, take the footpath to the right along field edge. Cross over metal road and follow track until it reaches roundabout. Turn right towards Longstanton, after 50m enter sports ground on right (**Checkpoint 4**).

## Leg 4 (CP4 to CP5)

26. Leave CP4 and retrace steps to roundabout and turn right towards Over. **Note: New By-pass has cut across old road.** Walk 600m until you reach new by-pass. Turn right and continue along side of road until roundabout. Take left turn down minor road **RAMPER ROAD** (signposted Swavesey/Fen Drayton). After 1800m turn right onto footpath heading north and then northwest across 'Cow Fen' towards kissing gate on left handside of field.

27. Follow the track into Swavesey, turning right close by the village, down through an overgrown footpath past one footbridge and then over the second to follow the right of way to the main road.



28. Turn left on the main road and then almost immediately go right (next to no 47, **STATION ROAD**) on to track. This runs north-west up to a crossing over the new **Guided Bus Route** and then curves round to the right.

29. Follow track for 300m then turn left along **RIVER DROVE TRACK**, and head for the embankment that runs alongside the **RIVER GREAT OUSE**. This will avoid boggy conditions when it rains. At the river turn right and walk adjacent to the river for 1km until a footbridge.

30. Cross over the footbridge and then go over the sluice and take the track to the left along the bank of the river to Brownhill Stauch where you should cross the river (over a lock) and turn right towards Bluntisham. After 400m route turns away from the river.

31. On reaching Bluntisham walk down side of farm buildings to main road A1123. Cross over and turning right head to junction with the **HIGH STREET** (signposted Colne and Somersham). Turn right and follow road for 200m past a Newsagents. Follow road to the right, round the corner and then turn left towards Colne (signposted Colne). After 400m you will have reached St Helens Primary School on the right. (**Checkpoint 5**).

**Leg 4 - Longstanton (CP4) to Bluntisham (CP5)**  
**Distance - 7.5 miles**

## Leg 5 (CP5 to CP6)

32. On leaving CP5, cross back over road, bear right towards Colne and in 300m, just before the corner, cross over and take the footpath off to the left. This path almost immediately (20m) then goes right, through farm buildings and up alongside the edge of the field.

33. After approx 450m you will come to the top end of the field, and through a gap you will see a minor tarmac road. Bear left, and take this road for about 150m in the direction of Somersham.

34. At the end, where the road curves to the left, keep straight on passing to the right of the buildings at Church Farm.

35. Continue on towards a line of tall trees. At the end of the trees, go right and then left towards Somersham church. On reaching the next field ahead of you, go left for 100m and then right, back in the direction of Somersham.

36. As you approach Somersham you will pass through a set of 'kissing gates' before heading up over an old railway embankment via a second set of gates. Once over the embankment descend by a set of steps coming to another kissing gate by some houses. Go through farm gate and then left up minor road, past Cranbrook House, and follow track right to the **HIGH STREET** where you should find shops open for sustenance.

37. Turn left along the **HIGH STREET** for 150m before crossing the road to the right to head up a cul-de-sac (**KING STREET**) and then immediately left up **RECTORY LANE**. Turn right at the end of the track, continue for a further 100m and then follow the track to the left. In another 100m there is a junction with a footpath. Take the lesser track to the left (ie straight on).

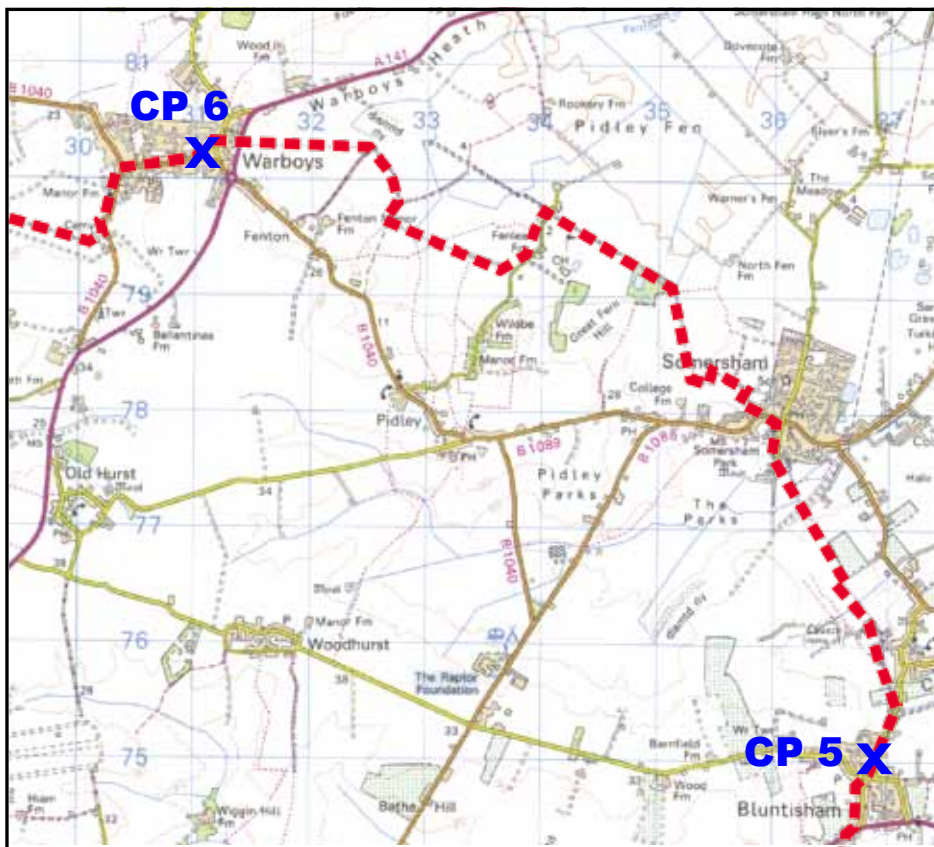
38. Follow the way marked signs round the field to the curve of the farm track where you should go right. In about 300m take track to the left but this should curve round almost at once to head back towards the right hand edge of the trees 500m ahead of you.

39. At the trees go straight into the woods, through a dip, and at the far side bear left onto Pidley Golf Course. **Keeping left**, follow the footpath through the woods along the edge of the course to emerge on a broad straight track, which runs through the remainder of the golf course for 1km.

40. At the end of track turn left and walk past Sidings Farm to footpath on right. Follow track for 500m passing small reservoir on the right. Turn right on to **GAULT DRAIN** and continue for 1km to 'T' junction.

41. Turn right for 100m and then left onto track along edge of tree-line. After 500m pass through metal gate. Turn left and look for small wooden foot bridge, several metres on right, to cross over into fields heading in direction of Warboys to the West.

42. At the top of the fields pass through tree line until main road. Cross A141 through kissing-gates, on either side of main road (**Beware this is a HAZARDOUS Crossing - high speed traffic**), and head into Warboys and enter the housing estate. Take the road to the one o'clock straight down to the main town road. Turn left to the 'Y'-junction. At the Royal Oak pub can be found on the left. (**Checkpoint 6**).

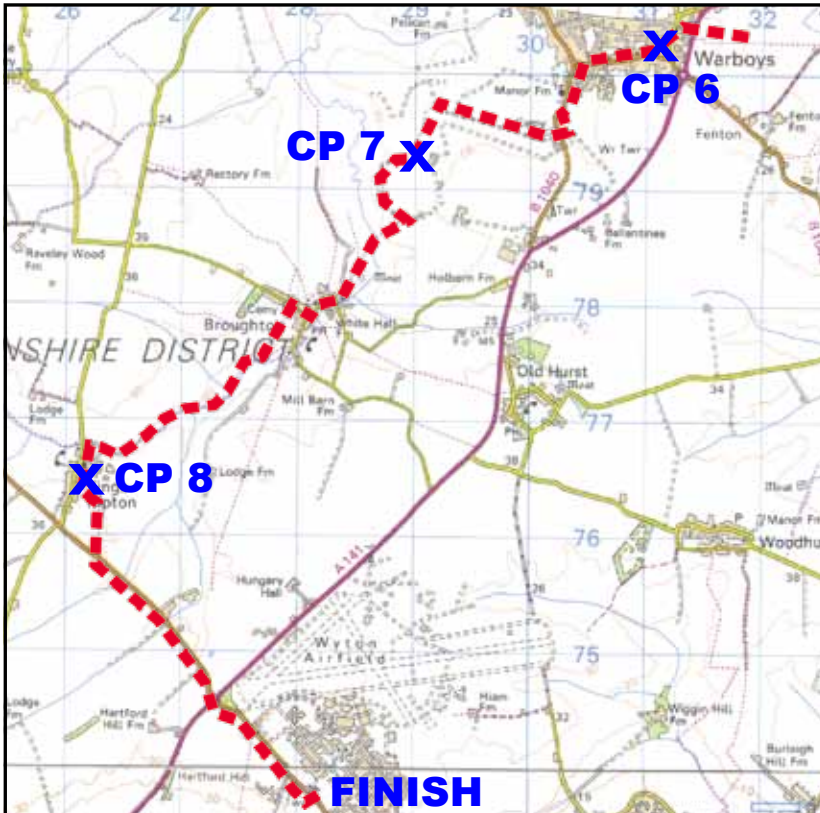


Leg 5 - Bluntisham (CP5) to Warboys (CP6)  
Distance - 6.6 miles

## Leg 6 (CP6 to Finish)

43. On leaving the checkpoint take care crossing over the road and enter the **HIGH STREET** to pick up the B1040 through the town. At the tower at the end of the **HIGH STREET**, turn left down minor road signposted Huntingdon/St. Ives.
44. Go past St Mary Magdalene's Church (with stained glass memorial window on far side of church) and cemetery as you depart Warboys. After 400m turn right on to concrete perimeter track from the former RAF Warboys airfield. At the end of the track turn left and follow waymarker signs along the route but behind the Warboys Model Aero Club. **(Please remain clear of the Club and its grass runways)** Keep the Club on your left at all times. Follow track for 500m then turn left and head towards disused buildings for 100m. **(Checkpoint 7)**.
45. From the checkpoint retrace steps and head west to follow the concrete track around the former airfield perimeter. After 1000m turn right across fields towards Broughton.
46. Follow the path to Broughton. Enter the village by taking the path past Illing's Farm and turn right at the Bull Bridge towards All Saints Church. At the Church turn right down **SCHOOL ROAD**. After 100m take the footpath on the left.
47. Go through the metal gate and follow the line of the three stiles to the bottom of the hill by the stream. Follow the meandering path with the stream on the left. Pass a concrete bridge and turn left across wooden bridge. Follow the footpath for 200m to Kings Ripton Village Hall. Enter the hall. **(Checkpoint 8)**.
48. Take footpath opposite the village hall across the field towards track to Glebe Farm. After crossing a double stile follow the track to the B1090 and turn left towards RAF Wyton. Follow the road. **BEWARE this is a HAZARDOUS ROAD and dusk will be setting in for later walkers - use extreme caution.** Cross A141 and head towards RAF Wyton.
49. Enter RAF Wyton near the base of the water tower. Report to the Finish line tent near the sports pavilion. Many congratulations on your achievement today! Now, have plenty of fluids and stay warm.

**See you next year!**



**Leg 6 - Warboys (CP6) to RAF Wyton (end)**  
**Distance - 7.4 miles**