

Whittlesey forms part of the National Cycle Network's Route 63 which weaves its way from Burton-on-Trent through to Wisbech. For more details visit www.sustrans.org.uk



Look out for these signs to follow the route through the town and the surrounding area.

To Peterborough & Flag Fen Archaeological Park

To Eastrea, Coates and March

	National Cycle Network route Traffic-free / On-road		Signalled crossing		School / College
	Local Routes Traffic-free / Bridleway		Zebra crossing		Parks, pitches and green spaces
	Pedestrian streets / Footpaths No cycling. Useful walk your bike links		Library		Industrial areas
	Whittlesey Heritage Walk		Post office		Urban areas
	Station / Level crossing		Church		Shopping areas
	Cycle parking		Toilets		Car parks
			Supermarket		
			One way street		

Whittlesey Heritage Walk

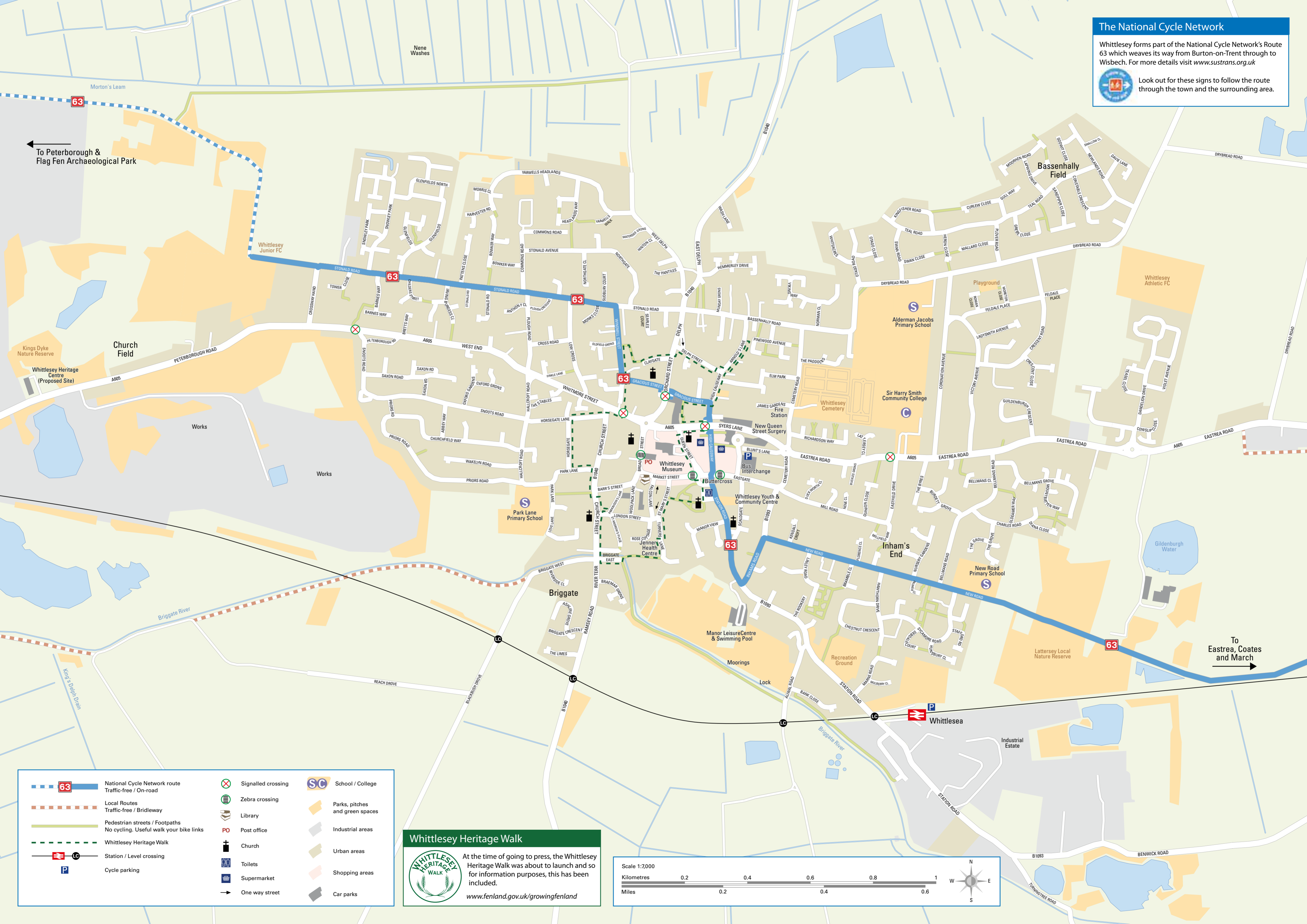
At the time of going to press, the Whittlesey Heritage Walk was about to launch and so for information purposes, this has been included.

www.fenland.gov.uk/growingfenland

Scale 1:7,000

Kilometres 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

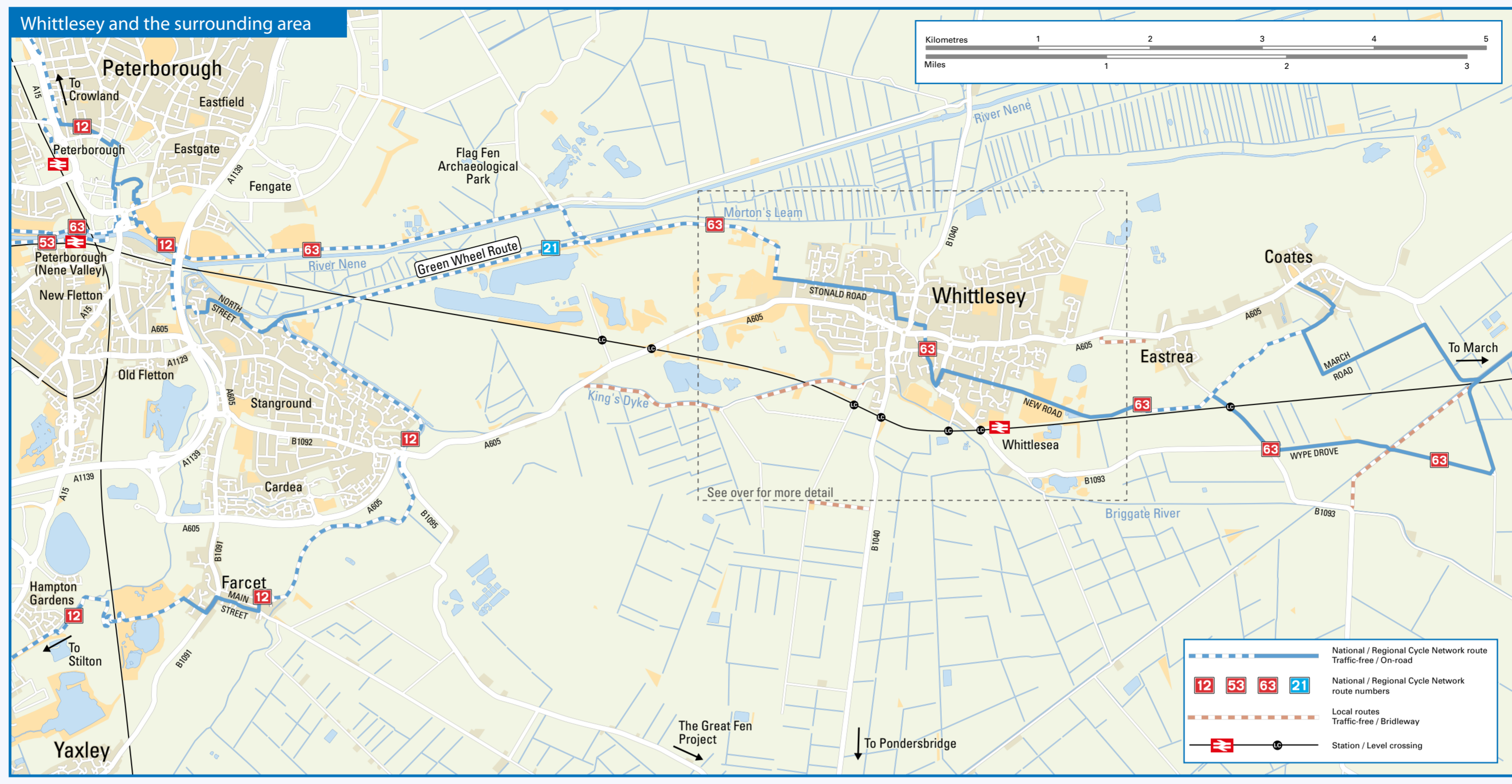
Miles 0.2 0.4 0.6



Whittlesey

Walking & Cycling Map

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cycling



Why walk or cycle

- The Fens naturally lend themselves to walking and cycling much more easily and to the less-abled as they are relatively flat and provide easy terrain for all abilities.
- Walking and cycling are both great for your health and can often be quicker than other modes of transport, especially around town.
- Parking your cycle is free and there is ample space to park up whenever you feel like it!
- The vast open Fenland landscapes and big skies are easily enjoyed when walking or cycling and as well as the many formal routes which are set out, due to its easy navigation, Whittlesey can often provide walkers and cyclists with easily enjoyable "off route" trails.
- Whittlesey is easily accessible by public transport as well as by car and the town's train and bus stations both house ample cycle racks.

A GUIDE TO WALKING & CYCLING AROUND WHITTLESEY

Useful information and numbers

- Sustrans East of England**
01733 319 981
eastofengland@sustrans.org.uk
www.sustrans.org.uk
- Fenland Tourism**
www.visitcambridgeshirefens.org
- National Rail (for train service information)**
03457 48 49 50
www.nationalrail.co.uk
- Stagecoach Bus (for bus service information)**
www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables
- Cambridgeshire County Council Cycling Information**
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling
- Cambridgeshire County Council Fault Reporting (paths and roads)**
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults
- Cambridgeshire Policing Team**
101 (non-urgent)
www.cambs.police.uk
- Hereward Community Rail Partnership**
www.herewardcrp.org

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Whittlesey

Whittlesey sits on the very Western edge of the fens, approximately six miles east of Peterborough.

Before the fens were drained, Whittlesey was an island and the town's name has notes dating back to 973 where it was known as "Witlesig" in the Cartularium Saxonum and then later on, in 1086, mentioned in the Domesday Book as "Witesie". The meaning is "Wit(t)el's island", deriving from either Witel, "the name of a moneyer", or a diminutive of Witta, a personal name; "eg", meaning "island", also used of a piece of firm land in a fen.

The name evolved first into Whittlesea and then the version we know today - Whittlesey.

Whittlesey has a varied and interesting mix of streets with architecture and historical notes ranging across the centuries.



Sir Harry Smith

Whittlesey was linked to both Peterborough in the west and March in the east by a Roman Fen Causeway. Excavations of the nearby Flag Fen show that there were thriving settlements nearby dating as far back as 1000 BCE. St Mary's Church, located in the town, houses Sir Harry Smith's Memorial and contains evidence of 15th Century work.

The Bronze Age settlement at Must Farm unearthed evidence of Whittlesey's importance as a trade route with artefacts found dating back to 1100 - 800 BCE. Additionally, the stunning Buttercross has notable interest between the mid 1600's-1800.

Tourist attractions

Buttercross (The Butter Cross), PE7 1AB

Buttercross was a central point for the selling of goods and trading between 1680 and the 1800's. The structure still remains to this day in the central Market Square with weekly markets still held at the site. It remains a permanent reminder of Whittlesey's rich trading and agricultural history.



Buttercross

St Mary's Church, PE7 1BG

Sir Harry George Waklyn Smith, son of a surgeon and Major in the Wisbech, Whittlesey and Thorney United Battalion, originated from Whittlesey and went on to become a successful rifleman in his own right after successful campaigns in the Napoleonic wars. Rising through the ranks militarily to become a hugely respected Major General, Sir Harry also became Baronet of Alival and the governor of Cape Colony, South Africa. He was notable for his leadership of the British forces during the battle of Alival in 1846 when he led Britain to victory against the Sikh army. His memorial bust is housed in St Mary's Church which underwent restoration in his memory in 1862. The town's Community College was also named after the local hero when it opened in 1953.



St Mary's Church

The Must Farm Project

The Must Farm project is the first landscape scale archaeological investigation of deep Fenland.
www.mustfarm.com

Kings Dyke Nature Reserve, PE7 1PD

The history of the site dates back to the 1920's when clay was dug by pick-axe and shovel. The site was worked out in the 1970's and was finally restored in 1995. It now offers a wonderful example of how industrial land can be transformed to benefit both wildlife and the local community. Disabled access is also available to part of the reserve.
www.kingsdykenaturereserve.com



Kings Dyke, Whittlesey

Whittlesey Museum, PE7 1BD

Founded in 1976 and located on the ground floor of the town's 19th-Century Town Hall, the museum houses collections highlighting the town's social history and development of the local area.
www.whittleseymuseum.co.uk

Flag Fen Archaeological Park, PE6 7QJ

Visit Flag Fen Archaeology Park to explore how the prehistoric people of the fen lived over 3000 years ago. Wander through a Bronze Age village, sit within the reconstructed roundhouses, and stand where our ancestors once stood by the ritual causeway.

Special events

Every January (barring a few exceptions) visitors have flocked to Whittlesey to witness its annual Straw Bear Festival. Traditionally, on Plough Tuesday, the day after the first Monday after twelfth night, a man or boy was covered in straw and led from house to house to dance in exchange for gifts of money, food, tobacco or beer! Today, the festival takes place the first weekend after Plough Monday and the "bear" is led around the town on the Saturday followed by a huge procession including dancers and musicians, before the "bears" straw costume is "burned" on the Sunday. This then leaves the way open for a new bear to be created from the next season's straw harvest. The town is alive with music dancing and celebrations and throughout the procession, various public houses are visited and entertainment provided for those in the establishments!

Cycling

Tips / general rules

- Always give your bicycle the "once over" before going out - check that tyre pressures are correct, the pedals turn easily, brakes and gears are in good working order and that the saddle is the right height.
- Wear a quality, well-fitted cycle helmet - whilst this would not prevent an accident, it would certainly minimise injury.



- Ride confidently - secure your spot on the road, well away from the kerb, and stay there; don't swerve to make room for vehicles to pass, as this can be a danger and is difficult for other road users to predict.
- Be aware of parked / stopped vehicle doors opening as you pass them.
- Check behind you regularly when planning to turn right or overtake and make sure you can do this confidently and without wobbling.
- Remember that large vehicles have blind spots on the inside, so don't try and overtake them on the left.
- During hours of darkness (including cloudy and less bright days), ensure you can be seen - hi visibility clothing and lights are essential for trips out at these times.
- Remember to be considerate to pedestrians, especially in areas of shared use; they have priority on shared paths. Use your bell if necessary.
- Road rules apply to cycles too - do not ride on paths (unless blue signs indicate that it is allowed) and always ride the correct way up one-way streets etc.

Know your signs

- No Entry** signs always apply to cyclists too ... unless there is an exception shown underneath, or ...
- Except cycles** ... you can bypass No Entry signs if there is a gap alongside with this **route for cyclists** sign.
- Route for cyclists** ... you can bypass No Entry signs if there is a gap alongside with this **route for cyclists** sign.
- No cycling** Typically used on a footpath away from a road. You can still wheel your bike.
- No motor vehicles** A cycle is not a motor vehicle. Cyclists are allowed to pass these signs where motorists cannot.
- Shared route for cyclists and pedestrians together** The only time cyclists are allowed to ride on a pavement alongside a road is where you see this sign...
- ... or this one indicating a **segregated route**, where you must keep to the side designated for cyclists.
- Direction sign showing National Cycle Network route.**