


Cycling clubs

March Vintage & Veteran Cycle Club
 Formed in 1983, the group enjoys meeting up and sharing their love of vintage cycling. They regularly attend local events and rallies and enjoy showing their cycles off and participating in local and national events which are all advertised locally.

Chatteris Cycling Club
www.chatteriscycling.com
 Chatteris Cycling Club and was founded in 2015 and attracts cyclists of all ages and disciplines. For more information, please contact using the contact form found on the above website, join their community Facebook page, or just go along to the Chatteris War Memorial at 8:30am (9:00am during winter months) on a Sunday morning and join one of their rides.




National Cycle Network route Traffic-free / On-road	Museums and attractions	One way street
National Cycle Network route number	Community centres	School / College
Suggested local routes Traffic-free / On-road	Library (E7 and inset)	Parks, pitches and green spaces
Fair weather route only	Post office (E7 and inset, E5)	Industrial areas
Pedestrian streets / Footpaths No cycling. Useful walk your bike links	Church	Urban areas
Station / Level crossing	Theatre (E7 and inset)	Shopping areas
Take care	Toilets	Car parks
Light controlled crossing	Supermarket	
Zebra crossing	Refreshments	
Cycle parking	Accommodation	
Cycle shop	Camping / Caravanning	
	Boating	
	Canoeing	
	Fishing	

Map correct at time of production. Future updates will include improvements carried out as part of the March Future High Street Project being delivered by FDC (see www.fenland.gov.uk/MFHS for further information).



March

Walking & Cycling Map

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cycling

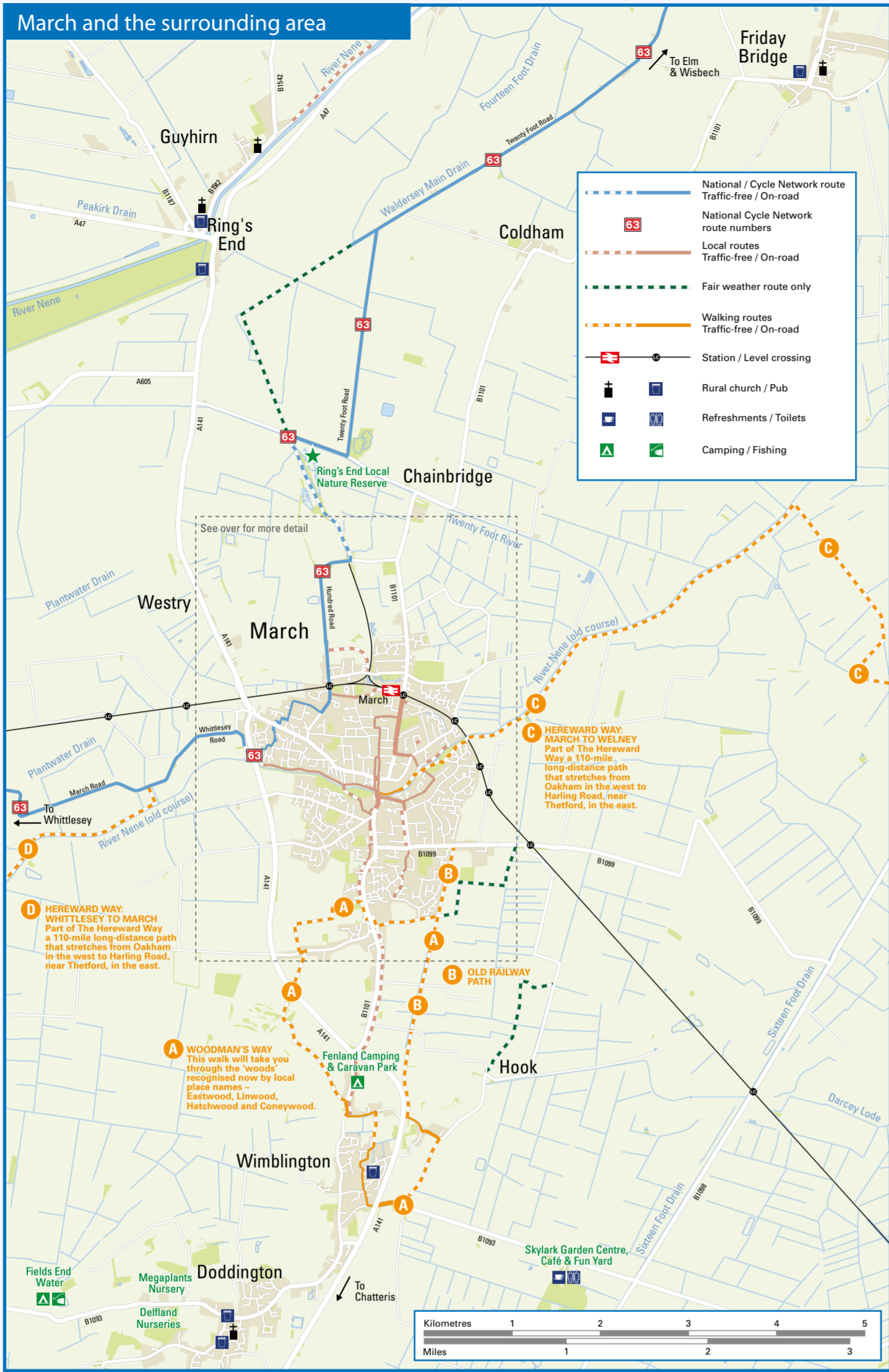
A GUIDE TO WALKING & CYCLING AROUND MARCH

Useful information and numbers

- Highway Maintenance**
To report potholes, faulty traffic signals, overhanging vegetation, winter gritting etc:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults
- Cambridgeshire County Council: Cycling**
Transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cycling information and online maps: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cycling
- Rights of Way**
To report a problem: highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/
Queries about public RoW: highwaysassetmanagement@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- Fenland Policing Team**
101 (non-urgent)
www.cambs.police.uk
- Bus Services**
For the latest bus information and operators etc, please visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/article/15121/Local-Transport-Services
- Fenland Tourism**
www.visitcambridgeshirefens.org
- March Library and Learning Centre**
City Road, March, PE15 9LT
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/listings/march-library
0345 045 5225

Produced by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with Fenland District Council and March Town Council March 2023

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Why walk or cycle

- Parking your cycle is free and there is ample space to park up whenever you feel like it!
- 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.

West End in March – one of several quieter “off-route” cycle trails

Campbell Leisure Centre pictured beyond the popular skate park

- Walking and cycling are both great for your health and can often be quicker than other modes of transport, especially around town.
- March is a great hub for starting and / or finishing a day trip, whether cycling or walking, with easy connections to the town by train and bus and easy and well-maintained links to NCN routes.
- 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, March and the surrounding villages can also provide walkers and cyclists with easily enjoyable “off-route” trails.

Index to streets and places on main map overlaid

Index table listing streets and places with grid references (e.g., Abbeygate Court E7,E8, Chandler's Way E8, Gaol Road B7,C7,D7,E7).

Walking and 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.
- Remember that weather conditions can change quickly, and especially in the Fens.
- Please remember to check the forecast and allow sufficient time if walking any distance, to return in the event of changing weather.
- Also, due to the peaty nature of the ground in the Fens, ground conditions can often be heavy, even after only a little rain, and so appropriate footwear is essential.
- Please take care when using roads to walk on and be especially careful when crossing sections of the busy main roads around March.

Know your signs

- No Entry signs** always apply to cyclists too ...
- Except cycles** ... unless there is an exception shown underneath, or ...
- Cycle bypass sign** ... 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...
- Segregated route** ... or this one indicating a segregated route, where you must keep to the side designated for cyclists.
- Direction sign** showing National Cycle Network route.

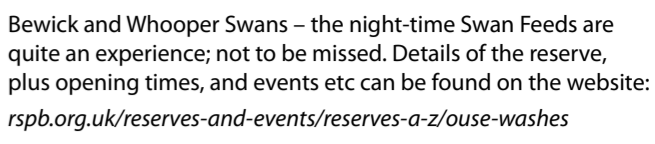
March

March is a bustling market town in the centre of Fenland, situated on the banks of the River Nene. At one point, shipping along the River Nene was crucial for the town's survival, but this changed as the popularity of the railway grew during the 19th Century and to this day, March remains an important destination for both passenger services as well as goods.

During the 1920's and 30's, at their peak, the Whitmore marshall yards were the largest in Britain and second largest in Europe and parts of the yard remain in operation today after redevelopment by Network Rail in 2002.

March was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and it is thought that it takes its name from the Old English word “mearc”, meaning boundary. This is perhaps because March lies on the course of the Fen Causeway, an old Roman road, and there is evidence of Roman settlements in and around the town.

The town may also owe its origin to the ford on the course of the River Nene (where the road runs between Ely and Wisbech) where the river crosses the river.



Bird Watching at The Ouse Washes Friends of March Railway Station



Autumn on the River Nene in the centre of March

In 1850, a single arch bridge was built over the river, slightly to the north of the town. High Street continues over the bridge to Broad Street, which lies on the north side of the Nene and The Causeway is now a tree-lined route in and out of the town.

A Market Cross hints at there being existence of a market in the town from as early as the 16th Century, and whilst the existence of the market has varied across the centuries, to this day, the town's market remains a steady fixture on the weekly calendar. Held each Wednesday and Saturday in the Market Square, the small local market sits under the watchful gaze of the historic Town Hall's bell tower.

Within the centre of town there are an excellent selection of food and drink outlets, including cafés and tea rooms, takeaways, restaurants, and local pubs. There is also a good choice of options for local guest accommodation in the town, ranging from small guest houses to inns with rooms and hotels, so an ideal place to consider staying and using as a base to explore the local Fenland area from.

St Wendreda's Church is the only known Church to be dedicated to the saint, an Anglo-Saxon princess who lived in March during the 7th century and who dedicated most of her life to ministry and healing. A papal indulgence enabled the Church to be rebuilt in 1343 when it became a shrine and place of pilgrimage, it was then that medieval carvers began work on making the Church spectacularly beautiful.

The building has a mix of 13th, 14th, 16th and 19th century architecture, though most of the Church dates from the 14th Century onwards with the famous roof being constructed during the early 16th century. Its tower is unusual in having a right of way running through its base and there is a sanctus bell turret, where the nave and chancel meet.

St Wendreda's Church has a fine steeple and the roof is famous and easily recognisable. It has a double hammer beam design featuring 118 beautifully carved angels, most of which are attached to the hammer beams and appear to be flying but others are in relief and it is believed to be one of the finest timber roofs in Britain. The entire roof is decorated with 2,700 fleur de lys.



March Market

In addition to a large leisure centre and swimming pool, March has an array of sports clubs and groups, including football and rugby clubs, athletics and cricket.

Throughout the year, March plays host to several significant events, all of which attract large crowds both locally and from outside of the town.

St George's Fayre is held in April each year and forms one of the “Four Seasons” events held across the Fenland market towns. The Summer and warmer days play host to March's Summer Festival - a lively musical event bringing together lots of local musicians, groups and acts to put on a weekend long of music for all to enjoy: www.marchsummerfestival.com.

In late Summer, the town hosts March's Armed Forces Festival - a day event attracting many serving and ex-serving personnel along with local dignitaries and those wishing to join in the event and “Remember, Connect and Inspire”: <https://maff2023.com>.

As well as its much-loved Christmas Lights display, the festive season really comes to life at March's Christmas Market. The event attracts thousands of people who come along to enjoy the huge array of stalls, attractions and shows and soak up the festive atmosphere - the event now rivals any European market.

To the east of March lies The Ouse Washes Nature Reserve, the largest area of washland in the UK.

The Welney Wetland Trust occupies over 1000 acres at the northernmost part of the Ouse Washes and is a mecca for those wishing to enjoy a variety of wildlife species, including resident Skylark, Marsh Harrier, Godwit and Avocet, to name but a few. In Winter, many thousands more species join the residents and the area is home to thousands of migrating wintering birds including



Narrowboats near the marina

The interior is light and spacious. The 12th century font pre-dates the main building and originally square, it was later re-cut to become octagonal. Also inside the building, visitors will find an interesting brass dedicated to Sir Anthony Hansart - this brass dates from 1507 and shows two figures in period dress.

Under the tower the visitor will find a memorial to Jim Hocking, a young 21-year-old Trainee Royal Australian Air Force Pilot who saved the town of March from obliteration towards the end of WW2. Whilst on a training flight, he was sadly killed when his aircraft crashed, though he bravely navigated it away from the town, having commanded his crew to evacuate to safety. The pilot officer's uniform and copies of his medals, including Australia's Star of Courage, posthumously awarded to him, can be found on display in the town's museum, in the North Room.

March & District Museum (map square E7)
A small museum in the centre of the town hosting an array of interesting collections including a Victorian kitchen, nursery and parlour set up, railway memorabilia, maps and formal documentation plus school memorabilia, details of the drainage of the Fens across the ages, as well as wartime memorabilia from The Boer, First and Second World Wars. The Jim Hocking display can also be seen in the museum.

The museum is free of charge to visit, but donations are welcome. Free car parking is available nearby and the museum is fully accessible. Check the website for opening times: www.marchmuseum.co.uk.

Fox Narrowboats (map square B6)
A modern marina situated in the heart of The Middle Level Navigation System on the outskirts of the town and strategically centred between Peterborough, Ely and Cambridge. As well as narrowboat building, servicing and sales services, the marina offers boats for day hire and holiday hire. www.foxboats.co.uk