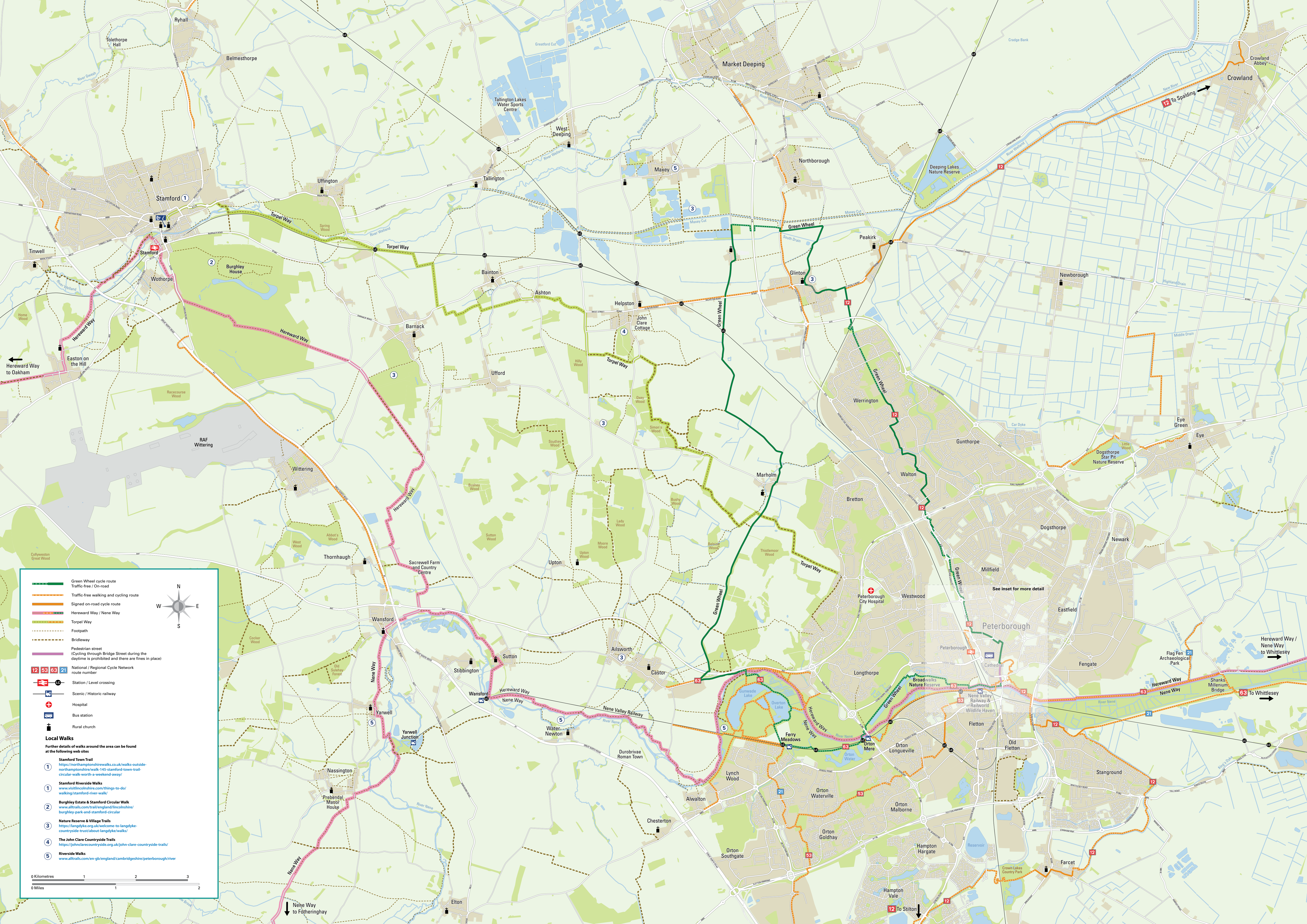
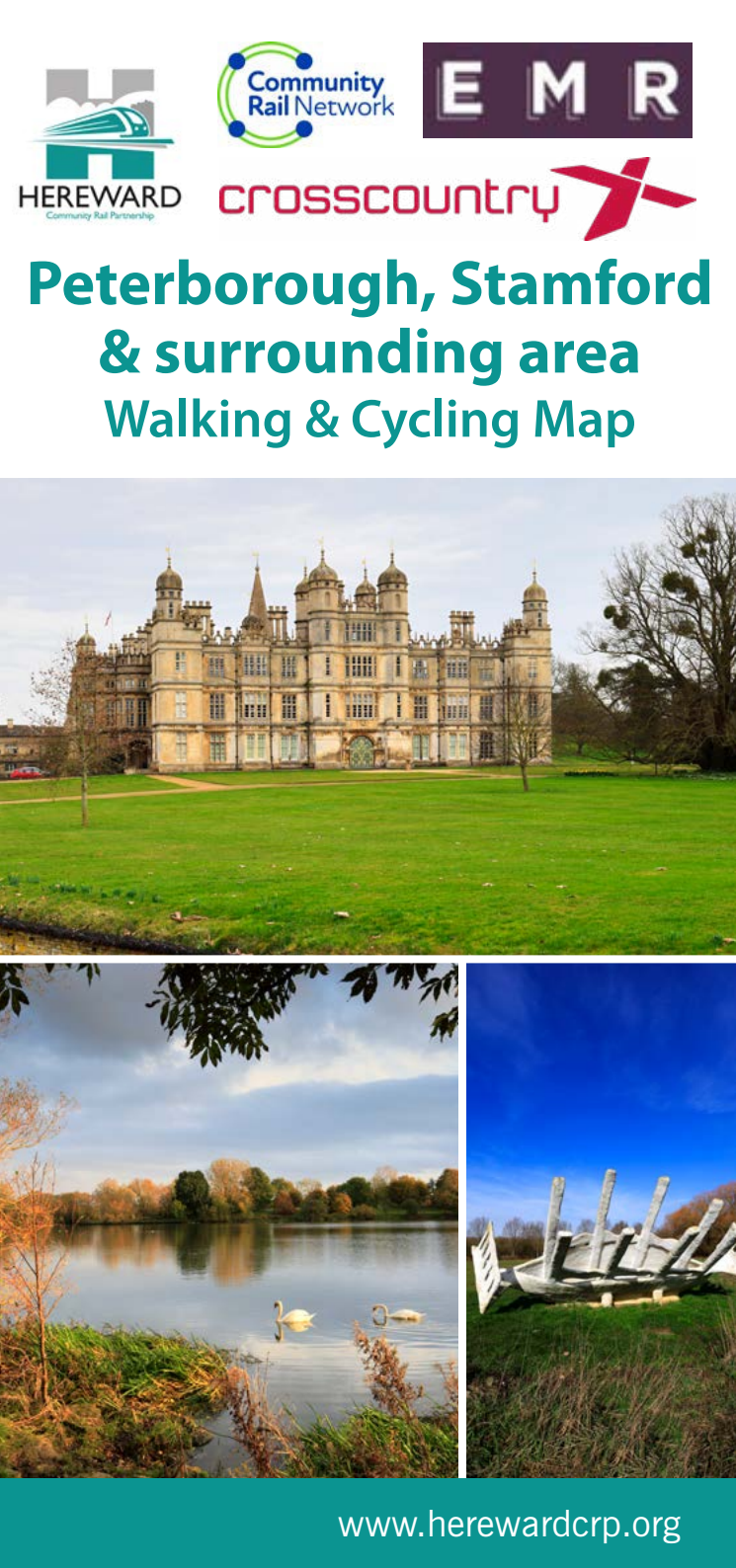






PETERBOROUGH, STAMFORD & SURROUNDING AREA A GUIDE TO WALKING & CYCLING

Useful information and numbers

Sustrans East of England (for details of walking and cycling routes, including NCNs)
01733 319981
www.sustrans.org.uk

Peterborough Civic Society (for details of city centre maps and trails etc.)
www.peterboroughcivicsociety.org.uk

Peterborough events etc
www.visitpeterborough.com
www.peterboroughpositive.co.uk

Fenland Tourism
www.visitcambridgeshirefens.org

National Rail (for train service information)
03457 48 49 50
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Traveline (for bus service information – this page provides details of all bus service providers in the city)
www.traveline.info/

Cambridgeshire County Council Cycling Information
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling

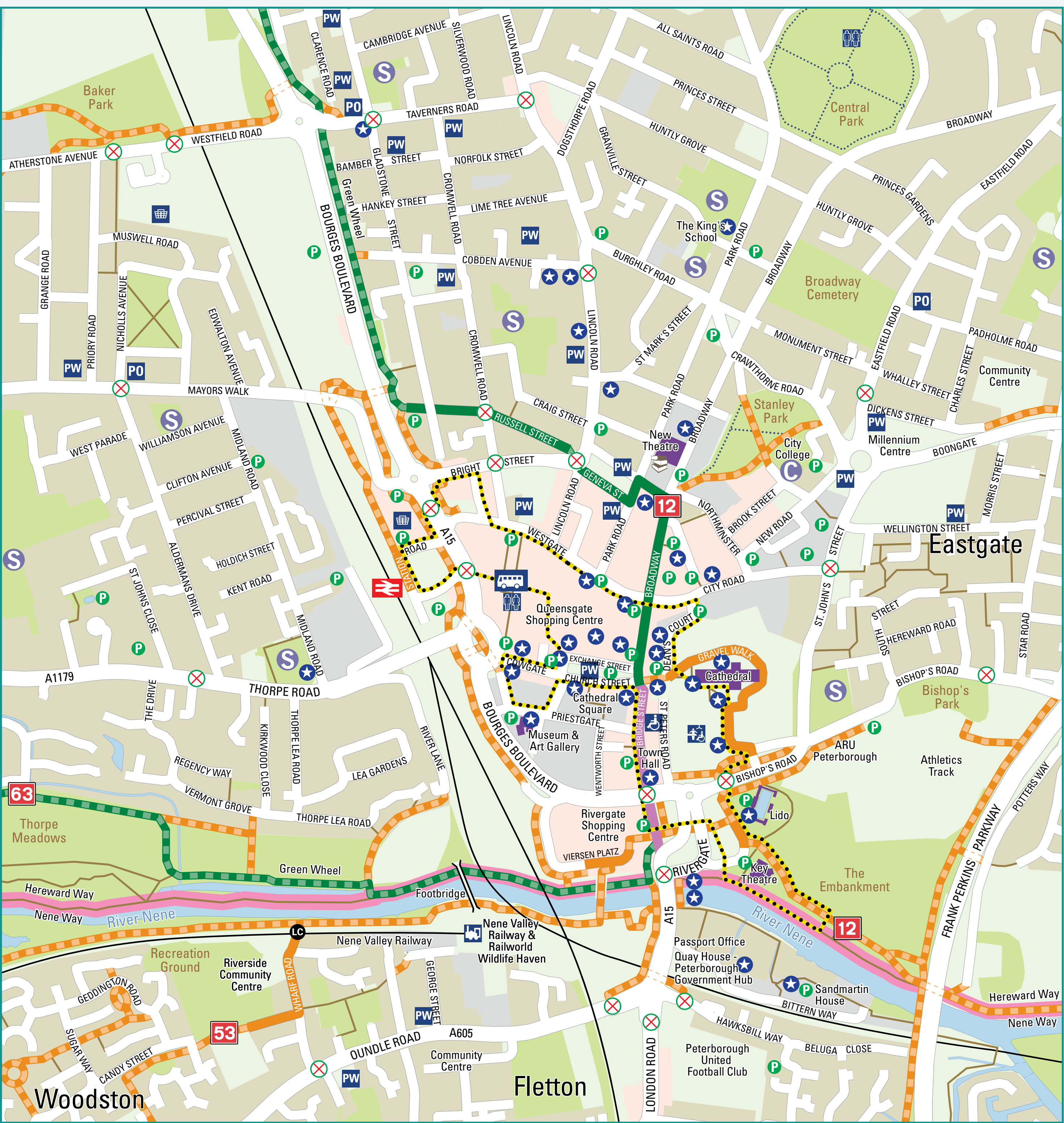
Cambridgeshire County Council Fault Reporting (paths and roads)
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults

Cambridgeshire Policing Team 101 (non-urgent)
www.cambs.police.uk

Hereford Community Rail Partnership
www.herewardcrp.org

Produced by Hereford Community Rail Partnership – 2025.
We would like to acknowledge the assistance received from Peterborough Civic Society.

Designed by FourPoint Mapping for Fenland District Council.
Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these maps, Fenland District Council, their partners, OpenStreetMap cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. March 2025
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- Green Wheel cycle route
 - Traffic-free walking and cycling route
 - Signed on-road cycle route
 - Footpaths
 - No cycling. Useful walk your bike links
 - Hereford Way / Nene Way
 - Art Trail
 - Green spaces / Park walks
 - Pedestrian street (Cycling through Bridge Street during the daytime is prohibited and there are fines in place)
 - Underpass / Subway
 - National Cycle Network route number
 - Station / Level crossing
 - Scenic / Historic railway
 - Light controlled crossing
 - Library
 - Bus station
 - Place of worship
 - Post office
 - Superstore / Supermarket
 - Public / Disabled / Changing places toilet
 - School / College
 - Blue plaque
 - Cycle parking
 - Parks, pitches and green spaces
 - Industrial areas
 - Urban areas
 - Shopping areas
- Cycle parking**
(For up to date details of all cycle parking facilities, please visit: www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/travelchoice-traveland-transport/cycling)
- For details of car parks, please visit:**
www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/parking/car-park-locations
www.queensgate-shopping.co.uk/parking/
www.queensgate-shopping.co.uk/parking/

Know your signs

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

Peterborough & the surrounding area

Peterborough is a thriving city, resting on the edge of the Fens.

Land which was reclaimed and drained hundreds of years ago has now made way for a network of man-made rivers and drains which are managed to support a rich and diverse eco-system to enable a diverse range of species to thrive in this low-lying marshland environment.

Without this managed flooding, the land would be liable to heavy and unpredictable flooding during the winter season especially.



Whittlesey Washes

Beginning life during the Saxon period, Peterborough city centre's design still bears signs of its early days when it was a "gated" town and its focus was on the thriving market area which was evident right through the Middle Ages.

Streets like Rivergate and Cowgate were born out of this "gated street" design and continue to thrive today.

On arriving in Peterborough city centre, whether this be by public transport, car, or bicycle, you will find an array of onward journey, walking and cycling opportunities, all with good links to the city centre.

The city centre bus station located in Queensgate shopping centre, offers regular and connecting services in and around the city, and further afield.

For details of bus services in and out of Peterborough, visit: www.traveline.info/

This website provides details of all operators who service the station.

If you choose to arrive by train, then the city's railway station is located a short 5 minute walk from The Queensgate Shopping Centre, and a 10-minute walk from the city's attractions, including Railworld Wildlife Haven, The Nene Valley Railway, City Museum, Cathedral, and you'll find an array of shopping and dining options in the city.

If you arrive into the city centre on two wheels, then you are able to make use of the many local cycle ways which form part of the NCN Network.

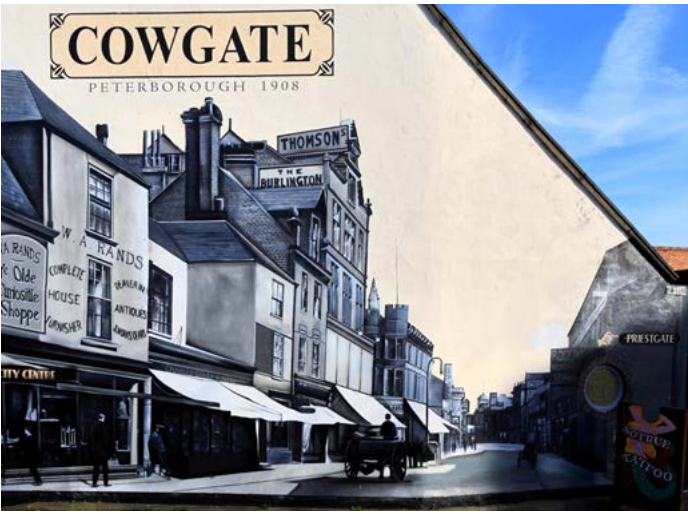
The **Peterborough Green Wheel** is a popular ride, totalling approximately 35km, and circling a route around the city which can start right in the heart of the city centre, taking in sights such as **Peterborough Cathedral** and **Ferry Meadows Country Park**. Sections of this route interlink with the NCN route 12.

For details of this route, visit the SUSTRANS website: www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/peterborough-green-wheel/

Additionally, if you prefer to travel further out of the city, then the National Cycle Route number 63 passes through the city along the riverbank and into **Thorpe Meadows**, before it continues on towards Rutland and Leicestershire.

If you want to rest your wheels here for a while, you could always take a wander off along into the **Boardwalks Nature Reserve** to enjoy some more peace and quiet.

Within **Thorpe Meadows**, you will also find 14 of the 25 sculpture and artworks which form part of **Peterborough's Sculpture Trail**. The trail features a total of 25 pieces of art, with a further 5 being housed in **Ferry Meadows Country Park**.



Peterborough Art Trail

For details of the trail and locations of the artworks, please visit: www.nenepark.org.uk/peterborough-sculpture-collection

A little further on from **Thorpe Meadows** and you will arrive at **Ferry Meadows Country Park**.

As well as continuing on two wheels, there are plenty of shorter walks and trails to be found within the confines of the park. Details of all those trails and walks can be found at: www.nenepark.org.uk/Pages/Category/walks-and-trails

The park is home to a variety of species including resident grey herons, wintering teal, widgeon and snipe, and, after a long absence, sand martins returned to the park in 2017. There are also a small number of parakeets who are resident of the park and who can often be spotted by the bird feeder at the main car park or at Ham Mere.

In addition to an array of bird species, foxes, badgers and muntjac deer are all known to live in and around Bluebell Wood. In Springtime, on the rural estate area, you may also spot a brown hare boxing!

If you're looking for something a little different, and enjoy water sports, then this is also the place for you!

A range of "Pay and Play" water-based activities are available within the park, including pedalos, rowing boats, paddle boards, canoes, kayaks and dinghys.

Archery sessions and climbing walls are also regular features in the park, and activities can either be pre-booked or you can just turn up (subject to availability). Check out the website for details: www.nenepark.org.uk/Pages/Category/pay-and-play



Ferry Meadows

Close by **Ferry Meadows**, in the village of Longthorpe, stands **Longthorpe Tower**. The stone tower, which is the only remaining part of a fortified manor house is thought to have been built somewhere between 1290 – 1300.

The Tower is managed by the Nene Park Trust and is cared for by English Heritage and on its first floor room, added in around 1330 are fine examples of medieval domestic wall paintings, believed to be some of the finest examples in northern Europe. The paintings give a glimpse into the medieval mind, with a mix of religious and secular themes, including the Wheel of Life, the story of King David, and the Nativity of Christ.

The Tower is open for tours most weekends, but please check the website before planning a visit, or to book a tour: www.nenepark.org.uk/longthorpe-tower



Hereward the Wake

For those seeking a more challenging walk, you could plan to walk one or many sections of **The Hereward Way**. The sectioned walk starts in Oakham, Rutland, and winds its way eastwards to Harling Road in Thetford, taking in some 110 miles of countryside, ranging from pretty villages with limestone cottages in the west, through the flat Fenslands with their big open skies, finishing in the Breckland terrain, skirting around Thetford Forest.

The trail is named after local hero, **Hereward the Wake**, who, in 1071, held out in the area for almost eight years with his army of men to try and defeat William The Conqueror in the Isle of Ely.

There are conflicting tales of how Hereward continued after the fall of Ely, but it has been suggested that some of his tales have either influenced or mutated into tales about Robin Hood.

Further evidence of Norman and Saxon habitation can be found to the north and north-west of Peterborough in the surrounding area known as **John Clare Countryside**.

The area covers 21 parishes spanning from Castor in the south, to Wothorpe in the west, Maxey and Peakirk in the north and Glington and Marholm in the east.

There are numerous walks and trails to be enjoyed in the area, all of which have been collated by local residents, who together with The John Clare Countryside organisation, have created a vision of doubling nature and species in the area, championing sustainability and land management, and promoting health and wellbeing and providing open green spaces for everybody to enjoy.

Details of all of the walks and trails, plus local cycling routes in the area can be found by visiting: <https://johnclarecountryside.org.uk/john-clare-countryside-trails/>

One of the key routes through this countryside is The **Torpel Way**, which links Peterborough with Stamford, winding its way through the stunning landscape spanning just over 19km long.

One of the villages the way passes through is Helpston, which was home to English poet **John Clare** for forty years between 1793 – 1892.

Clare Cottage was purchased by The John Clare trust in 2005 and has been preserved for all to enjoy.



Clare Cottage

As well as displaying how local people lived, the cottage displays some of the poet's works, some of which outlasted the works of Keats during their heyday.

Peterborough & the surrounding area

As well as the preservation of the interior, the cottage gardens have been restored to display a stunning range of food and flowers which would typically have been seen in an early 19th century cottage garden.

Continuing along the **Torpel Way**, you arrive in the beautiful market town of **Stamford**.

The pretty stone town was once declared by Sir Walter Scott as "the finest sight on the road between London and Edinburgh".

More recently it has been named as by the Sunday Times one of Britain's top places to live!

Home to over 600 listed buildings around the town, many of which are built in the recognisable mallow stone, Stamford has much to explore and enjoy.



A fine example of the mallow stone coloured buildings which can be seen in Stamford town, and which form part of its heritage trail.

The town offers a wonderful range of independent shops and restaurants, many of which are tucked away in quaint narrow passageways. The **River Welland** flows through water meadows in the centre of the town and offers peaceful place to sit and relax.

Visitors travel from afar to the town for market day, and this takes place every Friday in the town's Broad Street and Ironmonger Street. A smaller market is held on Saturdays in Red Lion Square and High Street.



Riverside Walk

For those wanting to delve deeper into Stamford's fascinating heritage, the town's circular heritage trail is ideal and it takes in much of the lovely architecture and covers a walk spanning approximately 4.8km.

Details of the trial can be found on: <https://northamptonshirewalks.co.uk/walks-outside-northamptonshire/walk-145-stamford-town-trail-circular-walk-worth-a-weekend-away/>

The route takes in many of the town's landmarks and buildings and showcases many of the blue plaques on display. The full map, showing the locations of the six plaques in the town can be found by visiting Stamford Civic Society's website: www.stamfordcivicsociety.org.uk/plaques-in-stamford.html

Located a short walk from the town centre is Stamford railway station, which is an ideal choice for those wanting to visit for a day and enjoy the town. Also housed in a pretty mallow stone building, the station has great connectivity from Birmingham and Leicester to the west and Peterborough and Cambridge to the south and east.

From the town centre or railway station, one of Stamford's gems can easily be uncovered.

Burghley House sits in a total of around 10,000 acres across 15 farms and parkland.

The house is one of the finest examples of 16th Century country houses which was built, and still lived in, by The Cecil family. The house is Grade I listed and is now run by The Burghley House Preservation Trust and overseen by The Cecil Family. It is home to one of the finest Italian Old Master private art collections known.

As well as the exquisite architecture of the house itself, the grounds offer a plethora of exploring among two spectacular gardens – **The Sensory Garden** and **Garden of Surprises**.

Much of the parkland on display now was designed by Lancelot Capability Brown and it has been designed with natural vistas towards Burghley in one direction and the spires of Stamford in the other.



Sculpture Gardens Burghley

As well as being open for regular visits and tours, Burghley plays host to an array of special events, including the hugely popular, and world-famous, Burghley Horse Trials, which are held each September.

For details of everything happening at Burghley, visit their website: <https://burghley.co.uk/>

Why walk or cycle?

Peterborough and the surrounding areas naturally lend themselves to walking and cycling, particularly for the less-abled, as the terrain is relatively flat.

- Walking and cycling are both great for your health, and within the city and at some of the nearby country parks, you are sure to find a walk or trail for all abilities.
- For the avid cyclist, a more detailed selection of cycling routes can be found on the City Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/travelchoice-travel-and-transport/cycling

Here you can also find maps showing local cycle parking facilities.



Boardwalks Reserve

- The vast open Fenland landscapes and big skies are easily enjoyed when walking or cycling and, as well as the many formal routes in the area, due to its easy navigation, Peterborough and its outlying villages can often provide walkers and cyclists with easily enjoyable "off route" trails (please be sure to check public rights of way before crossing land if you are unsure). The city also offers well-maintained links to NCN routes.
- Peterborough is easily accessible by public transport as well as by car, and the city's railway station has ample cycle racks if you choose to travel on the train and want to leave your cycles parked there.

- Remember that you can also take your cycles on the train (check in advance as although there is usually no charge, pre-booking with the train operator is essential to guarantee space).



Fields Farset Fen

- Peterborough station is easily accessible from most parts of the UK with only one change of train, or sometimes, direct services.

Tips / general rules

- Always give your bicycle the "once over" before going out check tyres, pedals, brakes, gears and seat height.
- Wear a quality, well-fitted cycle helmet.
- Ride confidently – secure your spot on the road, well away from the kerb, and stay there.
- Be aware of parked / stopped vehicle doors opening as you pass them.
- Check behind you regularly when planning to turn right or overtake.
- Remember that large vehicles have blind spots on the inside, so don't try and overtake them on the left.
- During hours of darkness or in poor visibility, ensure that you can be seen – high visibility clothing is essential. Road rules apply to cyclists too.
- Do not ride on paths, unless blue signs indicate that it is allowed.
- Remember that weather conditions can change quickly, especially in the Fens. Please check the weather forecast and allow sufficient time for walking. Due to the peaty nature of the ground in the Fens, conditions can often be heavy so appropriate footwear is essential.
- Please remember that landscapes in rural areas can be fragile and careful management is necessary to protect species and habitats. If you are unsure of any of the regulations, please check The Countryside Code: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code