

Hemingford Abbots is well served by public footpaths and bridleways offering a combination of interesting and pleasant rural and riverside walks. There are both short and more demanding longer walks to be enjoyed. Walking is mainly over fairly level ground, either over tarmac path or agricultural or meadow land. The more demanding walks involve circular routes which make use of footpaths and bridleways of neighbouring parishes linking Hemingford Abbots with St Ives, Godmanchester, Houghton, Hemingford Grey and Hilton. The map shows our own village paths with some of the linking paths to neighbouring places of interest.

FP denotes Footpath. **BR** denotes Bridleway.
Metre distances for each Footpath or Bridleway are approximate.

FP 1 (1001m) and **FP 6** (143m)

FP 1 leads off New Road after exiting the village, cutting across the corner of the arable field before branching off **FP 6** and continuing to head south until it meets a dyke. The dyke can be crossed by turning left along the farm track. **FP 1** terminates at the A1307. **FP 6** branches off **FP 1** and runs along the hedgerow to end at The Thorpe in Hemingford Grey, from where it is possible to link up with Hemingford Grey footpaths (as shown on the map) to achieve circular walks.

FP 2 (572m)

Turn off the High Street by Beechers House and, after a short walk behind the houses of Chapmans, cross two riverside fields where there are often cattle grazing. This is a very attractive walk with views across the river and the meadows to Houghton. The path joins the tow path walk in Hemingford Grey which passes the C12th Manor House.

FP 3 (143m)

At Forge Corner, the boundary of Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey, turn towards the river for a short walk across the field to link with **FP 2**. **FP 3** combined with **FP 2** makes possible a circular walk from the village.

FP 4 (1430m)

At the westerly end of Common Lane (before entering the Common), **FP 4** links the village to the Cambridge Road (now the dual carriageway of the A1307). This is a rural walk over arable and pasture land where there are often grazing animals, so it is important to close gates if opened for access. There is no linking footpath at the A1307 end, so it is necessary to retrace one's steps.

BR 5 (429m)

From Meadow Lane, **BR 5** links Hemingford Abbots with Houghton. This is a very attractive walk, along a tarmac path, across a large area of water meadows, first crossing the backwater of the River Great Ouse over the Bailey Bridge. The path crosses the main course of the river at Houghton Lock leading to National Trust Water Mill and into the old village centre of Houghton.

From here take a circular route along "The Thicket" path to St Ives and return to Hemingford Abbots via a path next to the Dolphin Hotel. (Please note that the water meadows on both sides of the river are prone to flooding.) **BR 5** is accessible to wheelchair users, but there are 2 gates where manoeuvrability is limited.

FP 7 (715m)

Is a riverside footpath which joins the end of **BR 5**. At Houghton lock turn westwards along the river and the edge of the attractive water meadow. This footpath ends at the sluice and is part of 'The Ouse Valley Way' which can be continued by following Godmanchester footpaths (as shown on the map) to continue this attractive walk.

FP 8 (429m)

Turning eastwards from **BR 5** near Houghton, this path follows the river through the water meadows, terminating where it meets the old railway line. There is no linking path so it is necessary to retrace one's steps.

BR 9 (858m) and **BR 10** (2145m)

These paths are more remote from the village since they are located on the southerly side of the A14. Access to them is gained from **FPs 1** and **6**, followed by taking the Hemingford Grey footpath to Gore Tree Road, turn right and walk towards the A1307 where there is a footbridge to Mere Way. Both paths are located at the end of Mere Way after crossing another bridge over the A14. These are delightful rural walks in open countryside giving extensive views southwards.

BR 9 leads to Hilton and can be used as a circular walk.

BR 10 runs along the southerly side of the A14 before following farm tracks that lead to the Papworth to Godmanchester road, from where one can either retrace one's steps or cross the road and carry on towards the Offords.

To all users of Footpaths and Bridleways

Please respect the countryside.

Don't drop litter.

Close gates.

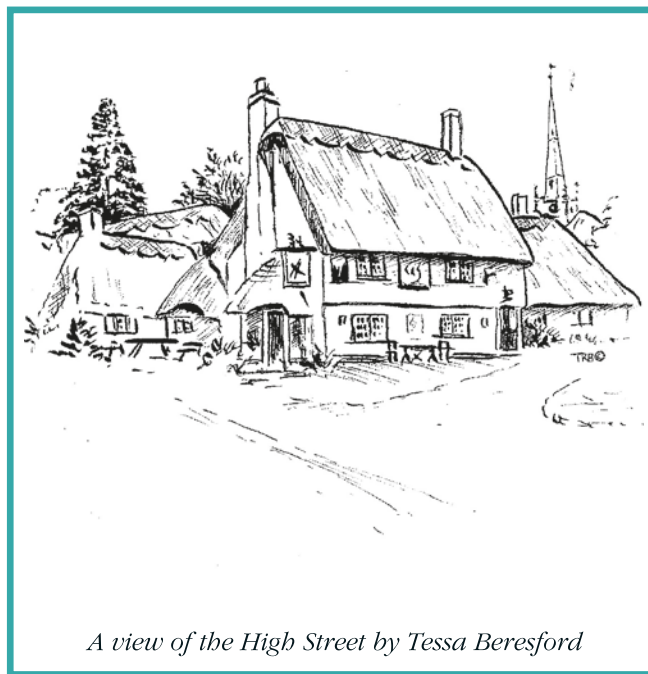
Keep dogs under proper control, and clear up after them.

ACCURACY OF MAP: Whilst every effort has been made to show the paths accurately at the time of going to press, they can be subject to legal changes of route. The Definitive Map is held by the Cambridgeshire County Council and should be consulted in case of dispute.

For further information about Hemingford Abbots, please see:

www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk

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A view of the High Street by Tessa Beresford

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