



The Two Rivers Walk – Ouse & Ivel

This circular riverside route takes in part of the Kingfisher Way along the River Ivel and the Ouse Valley Way along the River Great Ouse.

Essential Facts	
▪ Route distance:	12.5 km (7.8 miles)
▪ Approximate time:	3 hours 15 mins
▪ Optional shorter route:	10.0 km (6.3 miles)
▪ Approx. total ascent:	20 metres
▪ Start point Grid Ref:	TL134 516
▪ GPS Ref:	TL13421 51665
▪ Recommended O.S. Map:	Explorer 208
▪ Toughness Rating	The Chilterns 1

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?**
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 An Individual Walk
 A Team Effort**

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The walk starts outside The Anchor Inn, New Road, Great Barford. Park in New Road, outside the church. Barford's 15th century bridge is a popular mooring for narrow-boats and other craft.

From Start Point, **S**, cross Barford Bridge on the left side and keep straight on for about 150 metres. Just before the road bends left cross right to a footpath over a plank bridge and follow the path along the line of a hedgerow. Continue across a field to a stile and join the Bedford to Sandy cycle track, turning left. Continue through housing to a road junction. Turn right briefly then cross the road to rejoin the cycle track. After 200 metres turn left and pass under the former railway embankment through a tunnel at **A**.

Follow the path through five kissing gates and emerge onto a lane. Turn right and cross the River Ivel on a footbridge. Immediately turn left and follow the river bank for about 1.4 km along the Kingfisher Way. Approaching twin bridges (a rare iron 'Navigation' bridge survives here) cross a road and continue along the river bank until you come to a footbridge on the left. Turn right here and cross a footbridge over a small tributary. Follow a footpath over two stiles to reach a track which eventually becomes a lane.

At a T-junction, turn left (The Wheatsheaf Inn is opposite on the right). Follow former A1 Trunk Road for 200 metres and turn left into the entrance to Ouse Farm at **B**, along a concrete drive. Pass to the left of the house, follow a sign across the farmyard and turn right over a stile and onto a bridge over the river.

Turn right along the far river bank for 100 metres to reach a kissing gate. Turn left for 30 metres to reach Roxton Lock Weir, and cross over the River Ouse.

For a shorter walk, turn left immediately and continue along the river bank to pick up the directions again at **C**.

For the longer walk, turn right and follow the river bank over a series of footbridges. Some of the original brickwork of the former lock is still visible here. Continue along the bank for 0.5 km and follow the path away from the river for about 150 metres to cross a tributary. Turn right, back towards the river. Continue through trees until the path turns sharp left at a stile. Follow this path for 700 metres until reaching a metal fence at the rear of a housing estate. Turn right and follow the path through a churchyard to emerge onto a road.

Turn left into the village of Roxton and reach a crossroads, with The Royal Oak public house on the right. Turn left at the crossroads and follow the road until it bends left. Fork right here into a lane, and avoiding a turning on the left follow the lane as it bends sharp left in front of some houses. Where the lane bends right again, carry straight on following a footpath signed for Roxton Lock. After 700 metres cross a track and carry on a few metres to reach the river bank ahead at **C**.

Turn right on a footpath, and follow the river bank for about 2.5 km until the path turns away from the river, passes around a sewage works and emerges onto New Road. Turn left to return to The Anchor Inn, **S**.



The Navigation Bridge



A Timbered Cottage



Footpath Tunnel

Refreshment

The Anchor Inn
Public House
New Road, Great Barford
Tel: 01234 780364
Meals and bar snacks
available

Horseshoes
Public House
High Street, Blunham
Tel: 01767 640526
Food and real ale

The Wheatsheaf
Public House
42 Church Street,
Tempsford
Tel: 01767 641065
Meals and bar snacks
available

The Salutation
Public House
High Street, Blunham
Tel: 01767 640620
Food and real ale

The Royal Oak
Public House
33 High Street, Roxton
Tel: 01234 870361
Meals and bar snacks
available



The Royal Oak

LOCAL INFO

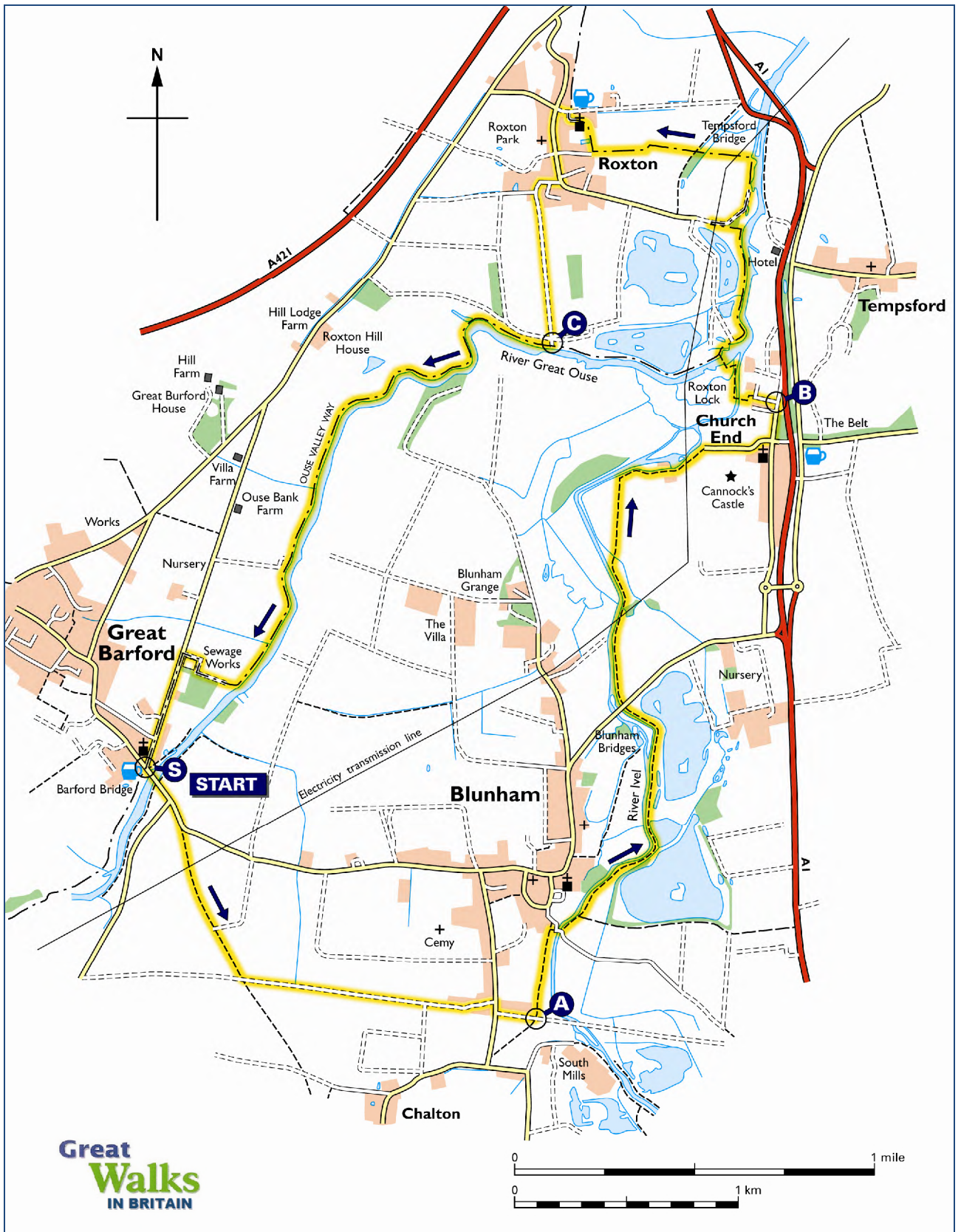
The Bedford & Cambridge Railway was opened in 1862, completing a cross-country link between the two university cities of Oxford and Cambridge, via Bedford. An attempt was made to close the line in 1959 but local pressure succeeded in winning a reprieve. Even Dr Beeching failed to close it in his 1963 cuts but in 1964 the British Railways Board planned to close the whole route. The introduction of new diesel trains in the 1960s allowed British Railways to claim that passengers found it quicker to travel from Oxford to Cambridge via London. The line was closed in 1967, although the section between Bletchley and Bedford remained open. The track bed is now a cycle track and part of the national cycle track network.

The River Ivel Navigation: In 1758 the River Ivel was made navigable between Tempsford, where it joins the River Great Ouse, and Biggleswade. Timber and coal were shipped from Newcastle to King's Lynn and transferred to barges. The barges were then drawn by horses along the River Great Ouse and then the River Ivel, and then returned to King's Lynn with grain and vegetables.

Many new structures were required along the river, including locks, tow paths and bridges. Some of these remain. Where water mills obstructed the passage of the barges by-pass channels were dug and iron 'Navigation Bridges' were constructed. An example of a remaining iron bridge can be seen at Twin Bridges. The navigation was abandoned in 1876 but The Kingfisher Way now follows much of the former tow path. Kingfishers are often seen along the stretch of the river near Twin Bridges.

**THE TWO RIVERS WALK – OUSE & IVEL
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
TWO S	S	TL	13421	51665	10
TWO A	A	TL	15165	50525	20
TWO B	B	TL	16250	53260	20
TWO C	C	TL	15245	53510	20



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Chilterns** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in the Chilterns may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons.