

Discover Ramsey's ancient waterway that still flows, partly hidden from view, through Ramsey today.



Great Whyte is one of the widest streets in the region, with a breadth of over 25 metres. The reason for this is simple - it was originally a stream called the Bury Brook, with roads on either bank that ran through the middle of Ramsey to join the old course of the River Nene north of the town. This formed part of the Fenland system of navigable waterways, and it is likely that the water course was an important element of Ramsey. Old illustrations show a wide channel with small boats moored along its length.

The 'Jolly Sailor' public house dating from the early 17th century is one of the few survivors of the many public houses that used to line the riverside. Look out for other reminders of Ramsey's watery past.



In the 19th century the outflowing Bury Brook was culverted and a dock was established at the exit of the culvert into the lode. The site of the Old Docks and an interpretation board with more details are situated beside The Rivermill Flats.

Follow the course of the ancient waterway as Bury Brook flows through the golf course, into the culvert tunnels at the back of the George Hotel, to continue flowing beneath Great Whyte and re-emerge the other end, at the site of the Old Docks.

Great Fen

Ramsey is a gateway to the Great Fen, a developing landscape around two existing nature reserves with the aim of creating a huge wetland area for wildlife and for people. The Great Fen is one of the largest restoration projects of its type in Europe. On Ramsey's doorstep, it is already a haven for wildlife with bird hides and trails for the public to enjoy as well as the Countryside Classroom at Ramsey Heights, where there is a wide range of events and activities, as well as school and adult learning programs.

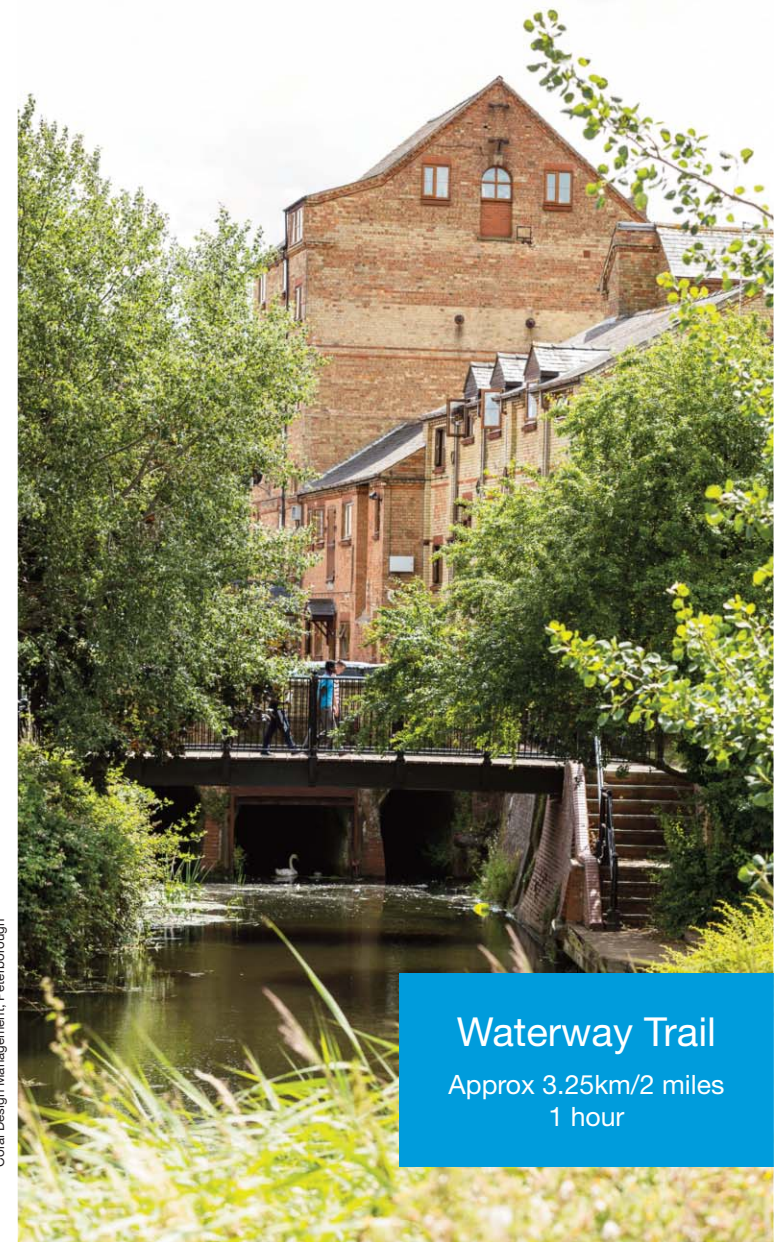


www.greatfen.org.uk

www.discoverramsey.co.uk

Ramsey

Open for Discovery



Waterway Trail

Approx 3.25km/2 miles
1 hour



Discover Ramsey's ancient waterway

Yellowhammer



1 Walk to the junction of Great Whyte and High Street, carefully cross to the George Hotel and follow the footpath sign through the archway. Keep Bury Brook on your left and walk onto the golf course. Stay on the path walking past two bridges on your left and a pond on your right.

2 Turn left across the stone bridge over Bury Brook.

3 At the fork, bear right to walk diagonally across the arable field to the right hand side of the telegraph poles. Follow the way marks up and over the bank towards Bury Church. The golf course is either side of you, be aware of golf balls.

Optional routes. Turning left at point number 3 will provide you with two options - a longer walk across Bury Fen to Bury or across to Hollow Lane to follow the Heritage Trail.

4 Walk along the grassy bank ahead of you, towards Bury Church.

Red admiral



5 Follow the narrow footpath straight ahead, between the hedge and the fence. This brings you to Holy Cross, Bury Parish Church, where there is a seat in the churchyard.

6 Keep the church to your left and walk down the gentle slope turning right onto Bury High Street.

Optional route. You can stay on the pavements and follow the main road all the way back to Ramsey, (this route avoids the kissing gates and stile.) As you walk out of Bury, keep looking to the right - on a clear day you can see Ely Cathedral.



You may like to stop a while in the parish playing fields on your left opposite the School House.

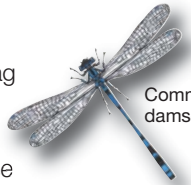


Green woodpecker

7 Just before the School House, turn right through the kissing gates onto the grassy public footpath. Keeping the golf course beyond the hedge on your right, continue over the stile and wooden bridge.

8 Making sure, that at any junctions you keep the golf course on your right, this will, take you through arable fields and over 2 more bridges.

9 You will reach a path through Flag Holt off to your right, and a bridge into the housing estate off to your left. Continue straight on past these and on to High Street emerging opposite Ramsey Spinning Infants School.



Common blue damselfly

10 Turn right to walk back to the George hotel.

Optional route. At the George Hotel, carefully cross the road into Great Whyte and continue straight ahead, past 2 mini-roundabouts. On your right, just beyond The Rivermill Flats is the site of Ramsey's Old Docks.

Park in Great Whyte, Mews car park or Rainbow car park by the Rivermill Flats.



Peacock butterfly



Interpretation board

Route

Optional routes



Purple loosestrife