

# Three church trail FLEET & GEDNEY



A rural walk through picturesque villages, country lanes and across the panoramic fen landscape. Whilst following the trail keep your camera ready to capture the beauty of the ever changing images of this unique corner of England. The area has been an inspiration for artists, naturalists and poets for centuries.

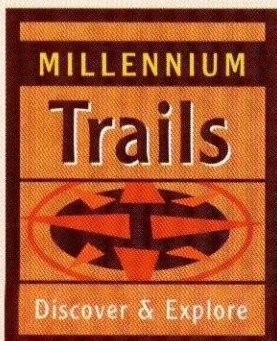
Agriculture is extremely important to the local economy and most visitors will have enjoyed the produce from our fields on their plates, or decorating their homes and gardens. Today new research into medical treatments using daffodils has increased the acreage grown, further enhancing the beauty of the area during the spring.



## Directions Short Loop

Starting at Fleet Baptist Church, Old Main Road, Fleet :

- 1** Head west along the Old Main Road for 150m to the telephone box on the corner of Eastgate.
- 2** Turn left into Eastgate and follow the road for 1.3 km (8/10 mile) into open country, pass the old station and farm cottages. Fleet Parish Church is visible ahead.
- 3** Locate the Public Footpath sign to your left (before reaching the church).
- 4** Follow the footpath to the east. N.B. the dyke changes from the right-hand-side to the left-hand-side of the footpath on this part of the walk.
- 5** At the corner, by the Cedar tree, turn right and then left across the footbridge.
- 6** Walk south for 30m to a junction with a farm track. N.B. this farm track turns right to run along Dolls Bank (the local name for Delph Bank) and is the point at which the longer loop of the walk joins the shorter loop.
- 7** Turn left and follow the track north-east for 400m (1/4 mile).
- 8** Come to a T-junction and follow the path as it turns right between two dykes.
- 9** Follow the path east to a footbridge, cross the bridge.
- 10** Continue to follow the path (north), towards Gedney Parish Church, through woodland.
- 11** Exit the woodland through the gate at the end of the path and turn left (north) to the end of Rectory Lane. Gedney Church is now in front of you.
- 12** Turn left (west) along Church End and then right (north) into Topsgate.
- 13** Follow the road, the Chestnut Farm Shop & Café is on your right.
- 14** Turn left (west) for 400m (1/4 mile), Fleet Baptist Church is on your left.



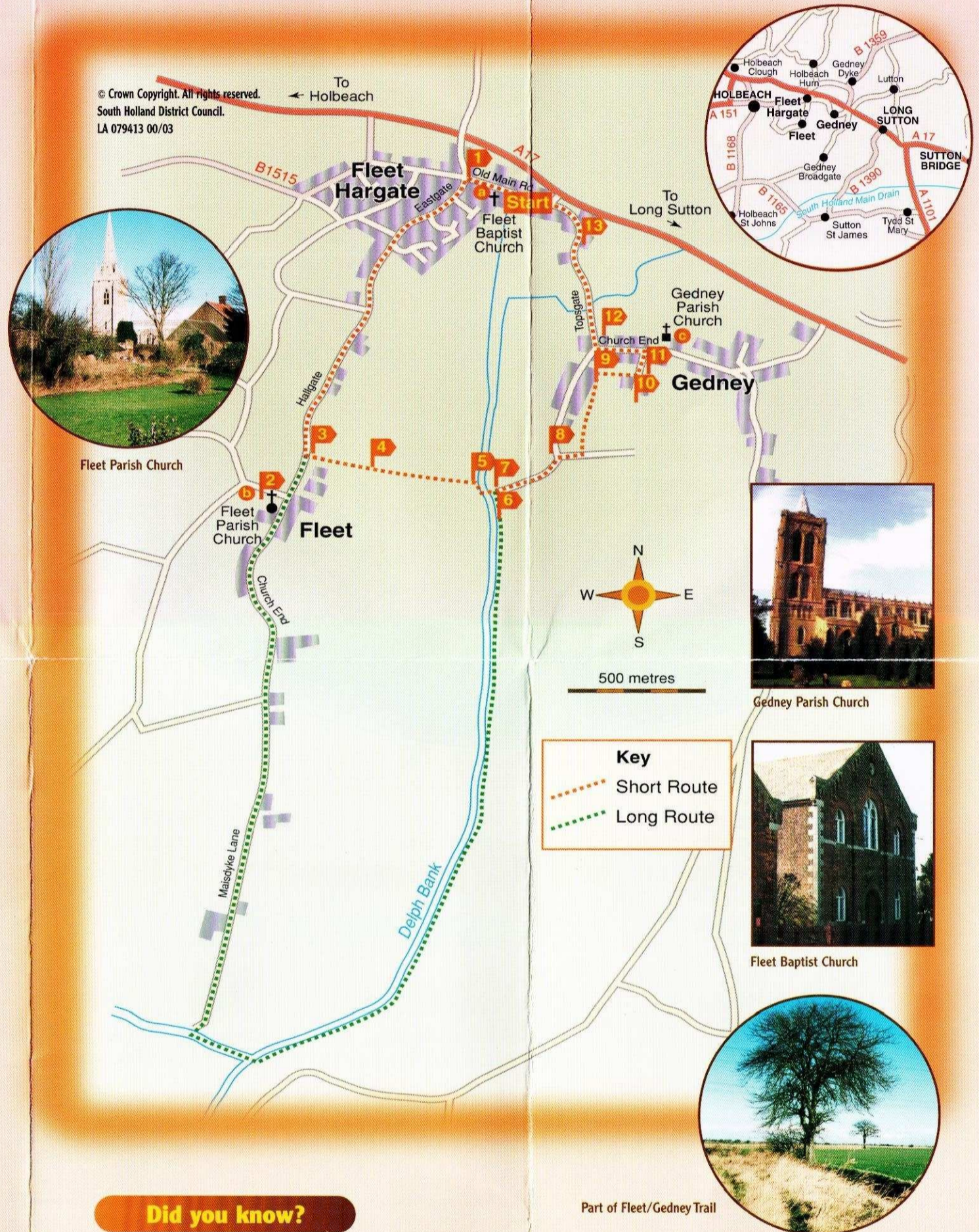
The three church trail is aptly named as it links the Parish churches of Fleet and Gedney with Fleet Baptist Church. Observers of the skyline will see four or even five church spires pointing heavenward whilst they do this walk. These church spires act as giant signposts to worshippers and weary travellers alike.

## Long Route option

For a longer walk, by the side of dykes and farmland, from point 3 follow the route marked on the map in green. You will rejoin at point 7.

## Waymarkers

The short loop is waymarked with yellow Millennium Trails waymarkers and the longer walk has orange waymarkers.



## Did you know?

### a Saint Mary Magdalene, Fleet

The church dates from the late 12th/early 13th Century and was built by the monks of Castle Acre, Fleet. There is speculation that a Saxon church existed on the site prior to the founding of the current church. The building that you see today has undergone many alterations over the years, living through the Reformation, the Commonwealth and the Victorian era. The church is well worth a visit and continues to be a living church even though it is 'off the beaten track'.  
For further information contact :  
Reverend David Bratley, telephone (01406) 423795

### b Saint Mary Magdalene, Gedney

Gedney Church, rightly known as the 'Cathedral of the Fens', is one of the 'wool churches', a number of churches which were added to in the early 13th Century from the prosperity of the wool trade in the area. Gedney Parish Church is a magnificent stone building with some spectacular displays of stained glass; the windows which flank the east aisle contain exotic fleur-de-lis and are of particular interest.  
For further information contact :  
Reverend David Bratley, telephone (01406) 423795

### c Fleet Baptist Church, Fleet

Baptists came to Fleet during the reign of Charles I in 1681 when two lay preachers, from Spalding Baptist Church, having been made unwelcome in Holbeach, continued down the road to Fleet. The chapel was built in 1898 for the grand sum of £2,000 but the burial ground dates back to the 1700s with many interesting and unusual memorials.  
For further information contact :  
Pastor Ross Dean, telephone (01406) 424556

All three churches hold Flower Festivals, at which time the church buildings are decorated with a rich array of God's splendid creation, for the enjoyment of all. The Fleet festivals coincide with the Spalding Flower Parade weekend each year whilst the Gedney festival takes place in July. Refreshments are available at each event.

DISCOVER