

Walks by the River Glen PINCHBECK & SURFLEET

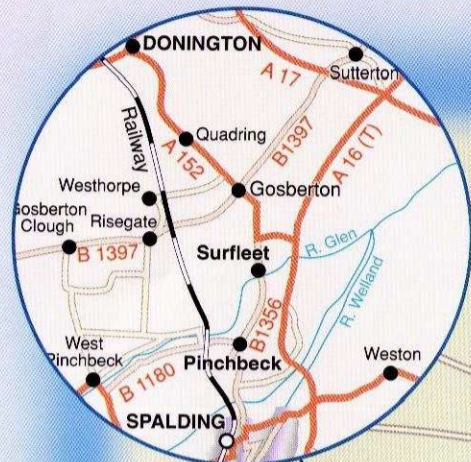


This walk follows the River Glen as it carries water from South Kesteven through Pinchbeck and Surfleet villages. After the sluice gates at Surfleet Reservoir the Glen becomes tidal before joining the Welland which flows into the Wash. Much of the walk is along embankments that protect the rich agricultural land from flood.

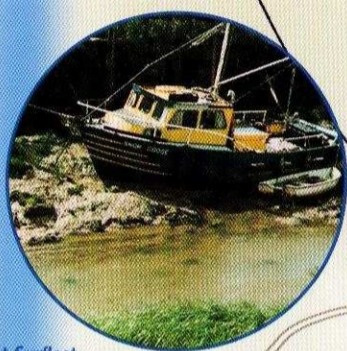
Waymarkers

Follow Public Footpath signs with yellow Millennium Trails waymarkers for Section 1 and orange waymarkers for section 2.

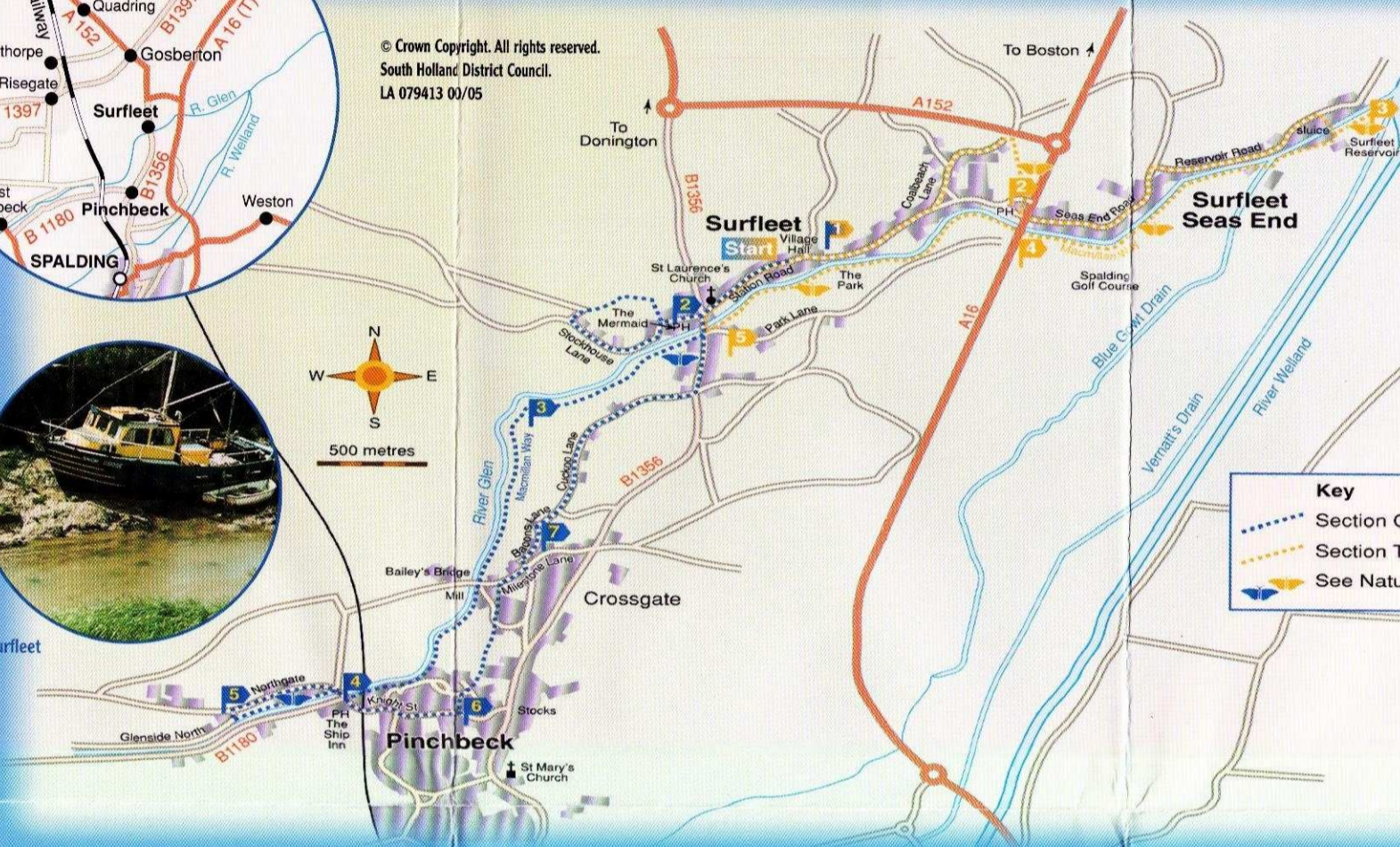
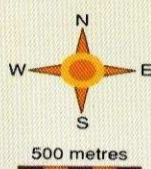
Along the route you will see several 'Macmillan Way' waymarkers. The Macmillan Way is a 290 miles long coast to coast walk from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset.



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LA 079413 00/05



Boat at Surfleet



Looking East from Flaxmill Bridge

Key	
	Section One
	Section Two
	See Nature Note

The walk is designed to start anywhere and you can do part or all of it. Our directions start at Surfleet Village Hall and divide the walk into two sections.

Directions Section 1

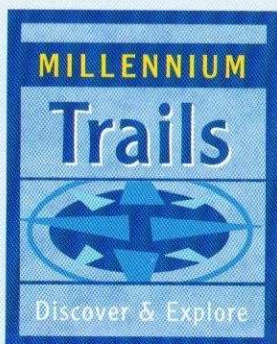
To reach Surfleet from Spalding travel north along the B1356 for 6.5 km (4 miles). Turn right over the iron bridge into Station Road. The Village Hall is 350 metres down here on the left.

1 Turn right out of village hall car park to St Laurence church. Through churchyard to main road, crossing to Stockhouse Lane. Down to bend and follow public footpath around field to rejoin lane. Then left and back on to main road.

2 Turn right past Mermaid Inn, cross footbridge then right on to riverbank, (Fingerpost shows Pinchbeck Station 3/4 miles).

The path opens out to a grassy ride where, in summer, you can see Essex and Small Skipper butterflies. Dragonflies hawking for small insects can also be seen.

3 Proceed towards Pinchbeck (Cricket Bat Willows on left) to Bailey bridge and Flaxmill buildings. Go to right of kissing gate (rear of garages) and follow river to railway line. Cross line with care into Ship Inn car park - an attractive spot for refreshment.



4 On leaving the Ship cross over the river and continue on the opposite bank until the path joins Glenside North.

In summer this stretch of bank is a colourful sight with many wild flowers which include Ox-eye Daisy, Cuckoo Flower, Buttercup and Knapweed to name just a few. These in turn attract Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Ringlet butterflies, and other insects too.

5 Turn right in front of white cottage (formerly Red Lion Inn), then right again following Northgate to Herring Bridge. Continue on the road over the railway into Knight Street. Head for the village centre.

6 After the Spar shop and almshouses turn left into Gallery Walk (not signposted here) through staggered iron gate. Proceed to Brownlow Crescent which is crossed diagonally to rejoin Gallery Walk where it crosses a small stream. After approximately 270 metres cross a small road (Crossgate) and continue to Milestone lane.

7 Turn right, then first left into Bacon's Lane and follow this into Cuckoo Lane until the main road is reached. Turn left to Surfleet bridge. Cross river by footbridge. Cross main road and retrace steps through St Laurence churchyard to the village hall.



Directions Section 2

1 Turn left at the village hall and follow Station Road past the school. Turn left into Coalbeach Lane and continue into the road marked with a "T" sign. Follow this road to just short of the main road, turn right and take the public footpath to Station Road.

The reed bed on your left is a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve. However do not venture into it as it is extremely dangerous because of the unstable nature of the reed bed litter floating on deep water. This area was formerly a borrow pit created when soil was excavated to build the railway, now the by-pass.

2 Cross Station Road and then down steps and across wasteground to Riverside Hotel, then follow underpass (A16 above) into Seas End Road. Follow road carefully (no footpath) for 800m (1/2 mile), then turn right into Reservoir Road.

Proceed along this road which follows the River Glen. Take first right and cross River Glen at sluice gates. The area known as Surfleet Reservoir is on your right. Turn left and follow the river (which is now tidal) until the River Glen and Vernatts Drain join the River Welland.

This is the favourite place of the resident Kingfisher. Grey Heron and Cormorant are often seen fishing in the tidal River Welland.

3 Retrace steps. Do not cross river but go down concrete steps to riverbank (River Glen on right, bungalows on left). Proceed along bank and then edge of golf course, taking care not to disturb play.

Note the stands of reed at the water edge. In summer the scratchy song of the Reed Warblers can be heard as they defend their breeding territories, while in winter the reeds, with their plumes turn to an array of brown and gold, adding contrast to the rich greens of the golf course.

4 On leaving golf course follow the underpass (A16 above) and continue along riverbank (Glen on right, open fields on left) until The Park - a large lawned area - is reached. Keep to the edge of The Park.

Look out for Great Crested Grebes which dive for small fish and, along with Mute Swan, Coot and Moorhen, breed in this section of river. The Park has many examples of fine mature native trees.

5 Cross the stile and wasteground to Park Lane and turn right to the main road. Cross main road, then river via footbridge. Recross main road into St Laurence churchyard and retrace steps along Station Road to village hall.

