

A walk through the **ages**

# SUTTON ST. JAMES

700 years ago, the people of Sutton St. James eked out an existence in what was then an inhospitable environment. Prior to the construction of efficient drainage, people faced marsh fever, crippling floods and starvation on a yearly basis. Even going to Church was considered so dangerous that the Bishop of Lincoln gave the townspeople permission to build their own Chapel. It is this history and example of triumph over adversity that makes Sutton St. James a compelling place for the visitor to sample Lincolnshire Life.

## Short Walk option

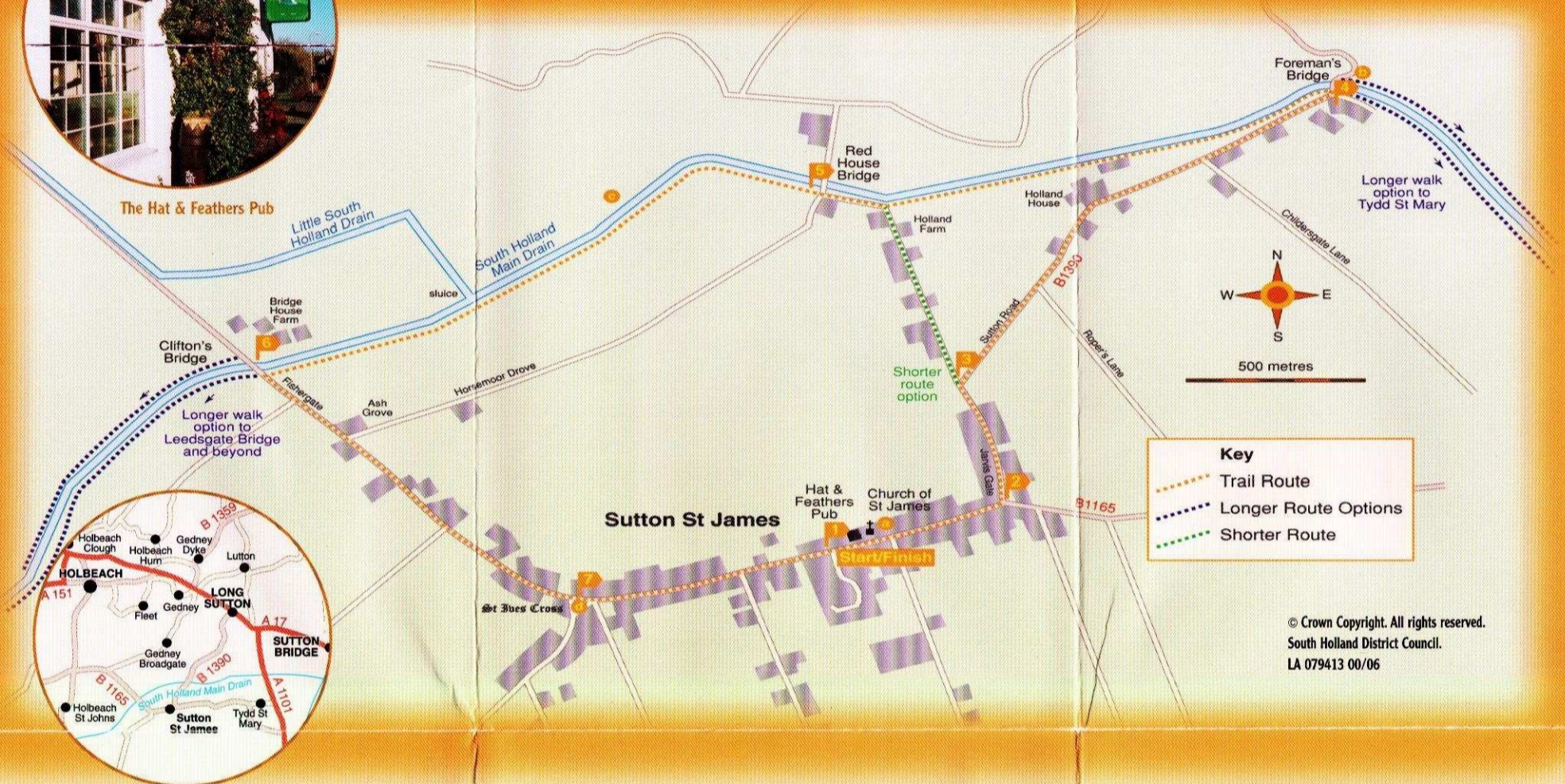
For a shorter walk, follow directions 1 and 2 then, instead of going right along Sutton Road, carry on to Red House Bridge and follow directions from number 5.

## Waymarkers

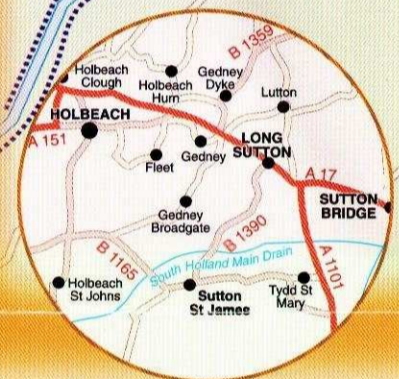
The route is waymarked with Millennium Trails Waymarkers, yellow on the main route, orange on the short cut.



The Hat & Feathers Pub



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## Directions



**1** Walk from the Hat and Feathers pub, go through the village of Sutton St. James in an easterly direction, passing the Church of St. James on your left.

**2** After walking through the village centre, turn left in to Jarvis Gate.

**3** After about 400 metres, bear right along Sutton Road. Walk along this road until you arrive at Foreman's Bridge.

If you wish to walk further, turn right at Foreman's Bridge and walk along the drain. This will eventually take you to Tydd St. Mary, a 9 km (5 1/2 mile) round trip, but in order for you to return to Sutton St. James, you will have to retrace your route.



**4** Turn left at Foreman's Bridge onto the track that follows the South Holland Main Drain. Continue along it, heading westerly towards the next bridge, with the drain on your right.

**5** At Red House Bridge, continue along the South Holland Main Drain heading towards Clifton's Bridge.

If you would like a longer walk, you can continue along this footpath to Leedsgate Bridge and beyond. However, in order to return to Sutton St. James you will have to retrace your route.



**6** At Clifton's Bridge, turn left on to Fishergate and continue along Fishergate for a further 1.2 km (3/4 mile) until you reach the Cross of St. Ives (also known as the Butter Cross).

**7** Follow the road around to the left heading through Sutton St. James and back to the start of your walk.

If you get confused, look out for the way markers with the arrows on them. The yellow ones are the main route, the orange ones are the short cut!

South Holland Main Drain



Village sign



## Did you know?

### a The Church of St. James

The first thing that you notice about the Church is that the tower and the main body are separated by a space of over 50 metres. Debate has raged about whether the Church was ever one building. Some say that there is no evidence of foundations for the building that would have bridged the gap, others say that there was a building and that it was removed sometime between the 16th and the 18th century. The Church is dedicated to St. James, Patron Saint of Pilgrims, and the oldest part dates back to the 14th century. St. James' symbol, three Scollop Shells on a blue background, still adorns the Church today.

### b Foreman's Bridge

There are 13 bridges that cross the South Holland Main Drain, each one has a different style and character. Perhaps the most impressive of the bridges that cross the drain is Foreman's Bridge. Dating back to 1820, the bridge is listed grade II for its architectural and historical interest and was renovated in 1999. Foreman's bridge is an excellent example of restoration and repair work that will preserve the bridge for future generations, without destroying the charm of the original.

### c South Holland Main Drain

The South Holland Main Drain was completed in 1796 under the direction of three appointed commissioners. The commissioners were chartered after the ratification of the 'South Holland Drainage Act' of 1793. The preamble of this act states that the people of Sutton St. James were 'Much annoyed in the winter season with water' and that the land is 'Capable of being drained and preserved.' At the time of its completion, the drain was 23 km (14 miles) long and drained in to the River Nene.

### d The St. Ives Butter Cross

The Cross of St. Ives, or the Butter Cross, has stood in its current spot for over 600 years. It is three metres in diameter at the base and has 4 rows of steps leading to the top. The cross originally had a pillar in the middle supported by 4 flying buttresses, but now only three buttresses and part of the shaft remain. It was taken apart and rebuilt in 1962 when the original stone masons mark was discovered on one of the base stones. Butter crosses generally mark the spot where agricultural markets were allowed to trade.

