

## Islington U3A Longer Walks Group – Walk Details Sheet

<b>Walk Title</b>	Fens Rivers Way from Waterbeach to Ely	<b>Walk No.</b>	334
<b>Area</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>Type</b>	Linear
<b>Date</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021		
<b>Distance</b>	10.8 miles (17.4km)		
<b>Timing</b>	4½ hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow eight hours in total. Therefore should be back in Islington by 7 pm.		
<b>Meeting up &amp; travel</b>	Meet at Kings Cross station at the platform gates at 9.55 for the 10:12 train for Waterbeach (Ely and Kings Lynn). Arrives Waterbeach at 11:14. We will aim to catch the return from Ely at 16:17 (without pub) or 16:42, or more likely 17:17 with pub. Buy an off-peak day return to Ely with a SRC and FP at £21:55.  (Possible for the Finsbury Park crowd to take the 9.42 from FP to Cambridge and switch to our train there – indicate whether you will take that option on the sign up form.)		
<b>Route</b>	We follow the Fens Rivers Way along the River Cam and River Ouse. The walk is very flat, and somewhat bleak, but with huge skies and it crosses wildlife rich areas including numerous wetlands. Ely cathedral can be seen in the distance for the last five miles contrasting starkly with the quiet wilderness of the Fens. We will take the western side with no opportunities for food or drink until we reach Ely. <i>(Anyone wanting to follow the slightly longer eastern side with the large 'Five Miles from Anywhere' pub at Upware could leave us after one mile and I can supply them with instructions. Indicate on the booking form if you might want to do this).</i>		
<b>Lunch</b>	Picnic lunch at Wicken Washes (good for spotting wading birds and tree cover if raining) after approx. 6½ miles so you may want to bring a snack to keep you going till then. We will finish the walk at the lovely staithe in Ely with a drink at the Cutter Inn for those not needing to get back urgently. <a href="https://www.thecutterinn.co.uk/">https://www.thecutterinn.co.uk/</a>		
<b>Dropping out</b>	This is just not possible on the western side but if you wanted a shorter walk you could take the eastern route and catch a bus to Ely from Upware after approx six miles.		
<b>Suitability</b>	This is flat easy walking but with some overgrown sections (tall nettles and taller rushes). May be muddy by the end of the month. A couple of stiles. Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. There can be a wicked east wind coming from Siberia? so wrap up warm. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.		

<b>Facilities</b>	There are toilets on the train and at Ely station but not at Waterbeach.
<b>Walk source</b>	Fens Rivers Way (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk trails)
<b>Map &amp; other references</b>	OS Explorer 226.
<b>Leader &amp; contact details</b>	<u>Walk Leader</u> : Philip Davies <u>Phone</u> : 0753 5044557 <u>e-mail</u> : philip.d@blueyonder.co.uk
<b>Interesting Facts</b>	This area was once a vast inland estuary until we turned it into a fertile place in the late 17 <sup>th</sup> century and which now grows most of our vegetables. Ely with its stunning gothic cathedral is a lovely small city well worth exploring another time.