



# WATER World

**Jo Vaughan** takes you on a near six-mile stroll around Paxton Pits, near the Club's Grafham Water site in Huntingdon

**J**UST A short distance from the Club's site at Grafham Water is Paxton Pits – a scenic spot split into three distinct entities: the watersports zone (which is closest to the A1), an active quarry and a nature reserve.

We wander around the latter two on our easy walk this month, but there are three other mapped trails to explore if you have more time – see [paxton-pits.org.uk](http://paxton-pits.org.uk) for further information.

We are starting our walk at Buckden Marina which, as well as being a good place to park motor caravans and cars, is home to a great bar and café at the Waterside Leisure Club. For further details see [waterside-leisure.co.uk](http://waterside-leisure.co.uk).

## DIRECTIONS

**1** Leave the marina car park and return to the road. Turn left along the pavement. Very soon, cross the road close to the corner and continue along the pavement in

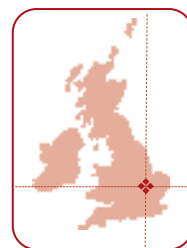
the same direction. A little farther on, turn right through a kissing gate (signposted 'Ouse Valley Way' and 'Little Paxton 4¼ miles').

**2** Follow the grassy track through the field and over the brook. Continue to the right side of the next field, still keeping to the track. At the end, while facing some electricity poles, the path forks off in two directions. Keep to the right, passing through a dilapidated wooden gate with a yellow arrow (ignoring the yellow arrow pointing left). Cross the track and continue straight ahead between the hedgerow and the wire fence, past a sign which reads 'Please Keep to Footpaths – All Dogs on Leads'. A brook is immediately on your right.

**3** Go through the kissing gate and over the wooden bridge onto the lane, but make a quick right and left (without crossing the metal railed bridge) to follow a yellow arrow situated on a fence post.

This requests that you veer right while keeping the wire fence to your left. You are now walking around Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

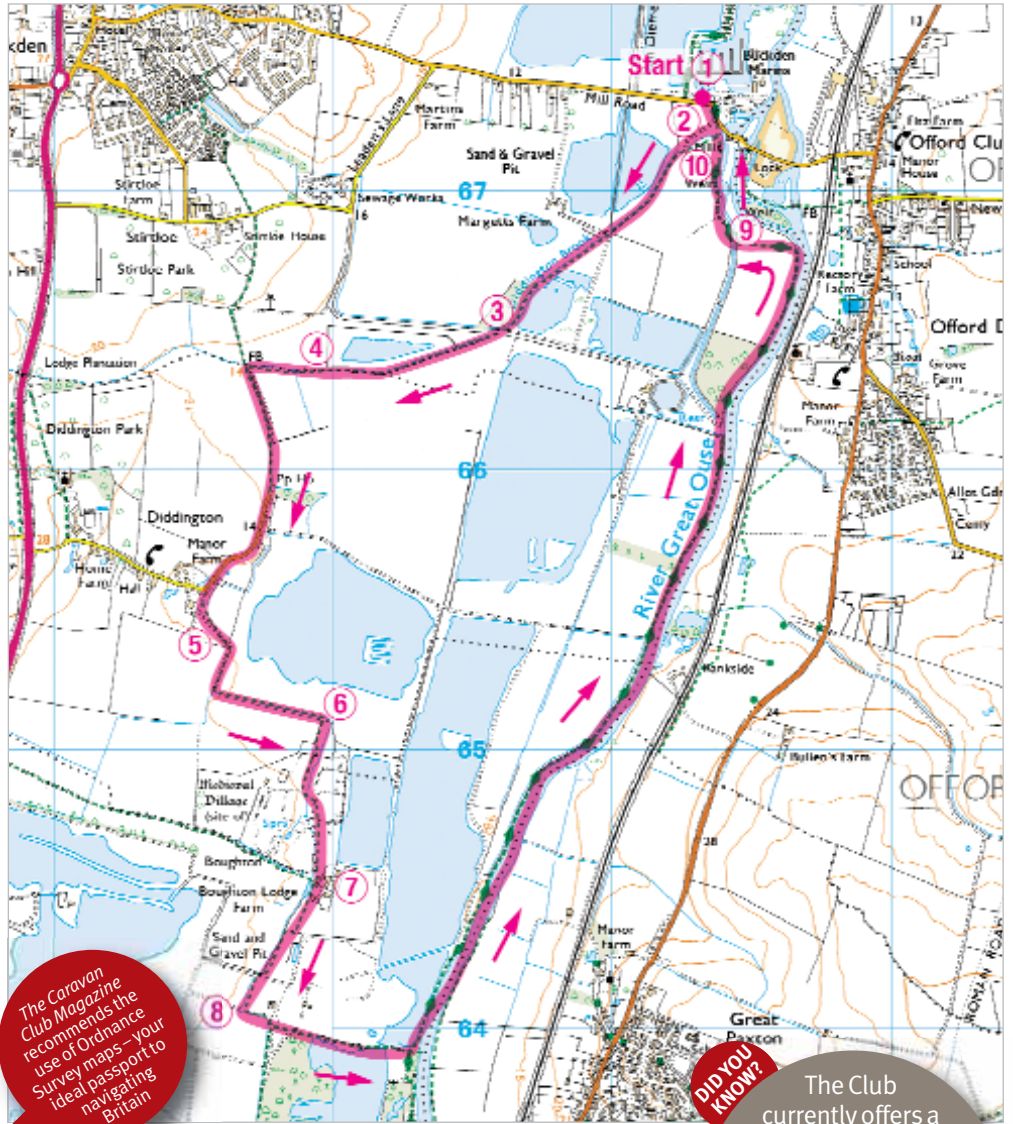
**4** Cross the wooden bridge and continue ahead. At a T-junction, turn left and follow the track into the small village. Walk past the houses and continue along the tarmac lane. At a 30mph speed limit sign and the village pond, the road bends sharply right – continue straight ahead here, >>



Ordnance Survey  
Landranger Map 153







leaving the road behind and instead walking along a gravel track. Walk to the left of a large black barn and then immediately veer left to diagonally cross the field, following a green public footpath sign.

**5** Pass through the line of the hedgerow and continue round to the right, following the electricity lines. At the end of that field the track seems to continue past two more pylons - veer left here (there's no signpost), keeping the hedgerow to your right, along the edge of the field (so you can still see the lake on your left).

**6** As you approach the last pylon, veer right next to a yellow sign that reads 'Danger - Deep Excavations, Keep Out' and cross a wooden bridge marked by a yellow arrow. Follow the path straight ahead through the woodland. Cross the stile and continue ahead, still following the arrows. At the public footpath post, turn left across a small concrete bridge. Having crossed the bridge, turn immediately right, still following a yellow arrow and now keeping the brook to your right.

**7** Pass to the right side of the farm buildings until you get to a gravel track. Turn left and then immediately right,

following a public footpath sign down a narrow path. Keep following the footpath signs along the side of the quarry. Follow the line of the metal fence as it turns to the right and then left, keeping the fence to your left.

**8** At a T-junction, turn left following the public footpath sign, still following that fence. At another T-junction, next to the site entrance, turn left in the direction of a yellow arrow attached to a wooden fence which you now follow, past the site buildings and the staff car park. Keep heading in the direction of the signposts and yellow arrows until you come to a post marked 'No 12' with a white heron. There's also a big sign telling you about Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. Turn left here, following the yellow arrow along the Ouse Valley Way, which we trace almost all the way back to the road.

**9** Just after the weir, at a T-junction, veer right towards the modern buildings. Enjoy the views of Offord Weir and then retrace your steps for a short distance before continuing ahead towards the church spire. Very soon, turn right over a concrete footbridge (still marked 'Ouse

Valley Way'). Turn right again, following the arrow, and continue along the edge of the field.

**10** Cross the wooden bridge and return to the road by veering right through a kissing gate. Turn left up the road and retrace your steps to the marina.



**INFORMATION**

- Club site:** Grafham Water Caravan Club Site, Church Road, Grafham, Huntingdon PE28 0BB. Call 01480 810264. Open all year
- Distance:** 5.8 miles / 9.3km
- Terrain:** easy paths and tracks
- Number of stiles:** 1
- Essential equipment:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 225 - Huntingdon & St Ives (Grafham Water)
- Level of difficulty:** easy
- Refreshments:** at the starting point
- Toilets:** none

