

Discover Ramsey's Heritage and get close up to its beautiful architecture and fascinating rural history.

Mortuary Chapels Cemeteries such as these create arenas for the display of wealth and social status, both amongst those buried here and those who came to promenade under the trees.

Bodsey House was once the country home of the last Abbott of Ramsey. It's oldest features date from the 13th century.



Ramsey Rural Museum is open on Thursdays 10am-5pm, Sundays and Bank holidays 2pm-5pm between April and September. Take time for a rest in the café or investigate the rural past. www.ramseyruralmuseum.co.uk

The Walled Garden is a typical Victorian Walled Kitchen Garden situated within the boundaries of the medieval Ramsey Abbey. It has taken years for volunteers to clear overgrown vegetation and head-high brambles from the one acre site, but now, 20 years on, a beautiful and captivating garden is here for all to enjoy – see the restoration of this historic walled garden continuing. Open Sundays & Bank Holiday Monday 2pm-5pm Easter to the end of October. Access is via the Rural Museum. www.ramseywalledgarden.org

Booth's Hill The castle at Booth's Hill dates from the 12th century civil wars, when powerful barons ruled areas of England in various states of lawlessness. One especially notorious figure was Geoffrey de Mandeville, who used the fens as a base for his raiding, destroying several areas including Ramsey Abbey. The remains of the castle were passed to the de Ramsey family after the Dissolution of the abbey, who used the site to construct an ice house. Now it is a refuge for wildlife.



The Abbey House.

Originally built in the 10th century, this was once a prosperous Benedictine Monastery. However following the Dissolution in 1539 most of the buildings were demolished. The stone was used to construct various Cambridge colleges and church towers. Once part of the school it is now a venue for events.



Abbey Gatehouse The existing structure incorporates the remains of the late 15th century Abbey Gatehouse, extended in the 19th century to give a formal access to the residence of the Fellowes family. In the 16th century part of the Abbey Gatehouse was re-erected at Hinchingsbrooke House in Huntingdon. Open 2pm-5pm every first Sunday in the month April - October inclusive (National Trust)

Parish Church of St. Thomas à Becket This impressive building dates from around 1180 and is thought to have been built as a hospital or guest house for the Abbey. It was converted to a church during the 13th century but became the parish church in 1875.

Great Fen

Ramsey is a gateway to the Great Fen, a developing landscape around two existing nature reserves with the aim of creating a huge wetland area for wildlife and for people. The Great Fen is one of the largest restoration projects of its type in Europe. On Ramsey's doorstep, it is already a haven for wildlife with bird hides and trails for the public to enjoy as well as the Countryside Classroom at Ramsey Heights, where there is a wide range of events and activities, as well as school and adult learning programs.

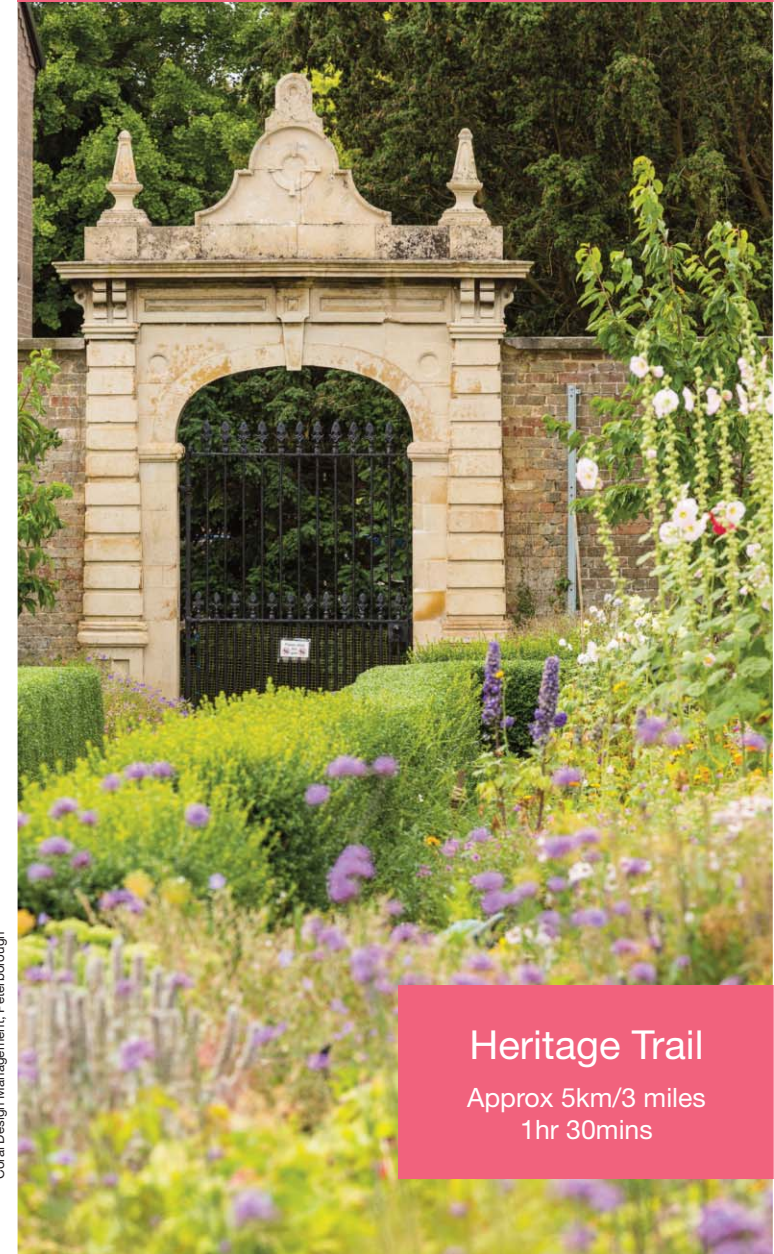


www.greatfen.org.uk

www.discoverramsey.co.uk

Ramsey

Open for Discovery



Heritage Trail

Approx 5km/3 miles
1hr 30mins



Ramsey
Open for Discovery

Discover Ramsey's Heritage hub

1 Cross Great Whyte onto the left hand pavement of New Road, and walk past the public toilets and The Old Forge. Cross Newtown Road and Mill Lane.

2 Stay on the left hand footpath into Church Green, note the old horse-chestnut trees.

3 With the duck pond on your right, turn left along the path between the garden fences. This will bring you onto Wood Lane avoiding the corner of the road. Turn left and walk to the cemetery.

Optional (4km/2½ mile/45mins) linear walk to Bodsey House and Much Wood. At the cemetery, walk through the gates and beyond the chapel. Turn right onto the public footpath and follow this across Stocking Fen towards Muchwood Lane. At the end of the footpath, the new community wood and green burial ground is across Muchwood Lane, slightly to your left.

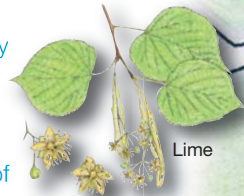
4 At the cemetery, cross over Wood Lane into Drove Road - the track leading to Ramsey Rural Museum. Walk through the kissing gate (if the main gates are shut) and turn left in front of the barn, following the public footpath sign.

5 Keep the barn to your right, follow the field edge alongside the ditch and then around to the right, following the hedge to its end.

6 At the end of the hedge, turn right and you will see Ramsey Leisure Centre. Turn sharp right to walk back along the other side of the hedge. Continue past the playing field, and look for excellent views of the Abbey.



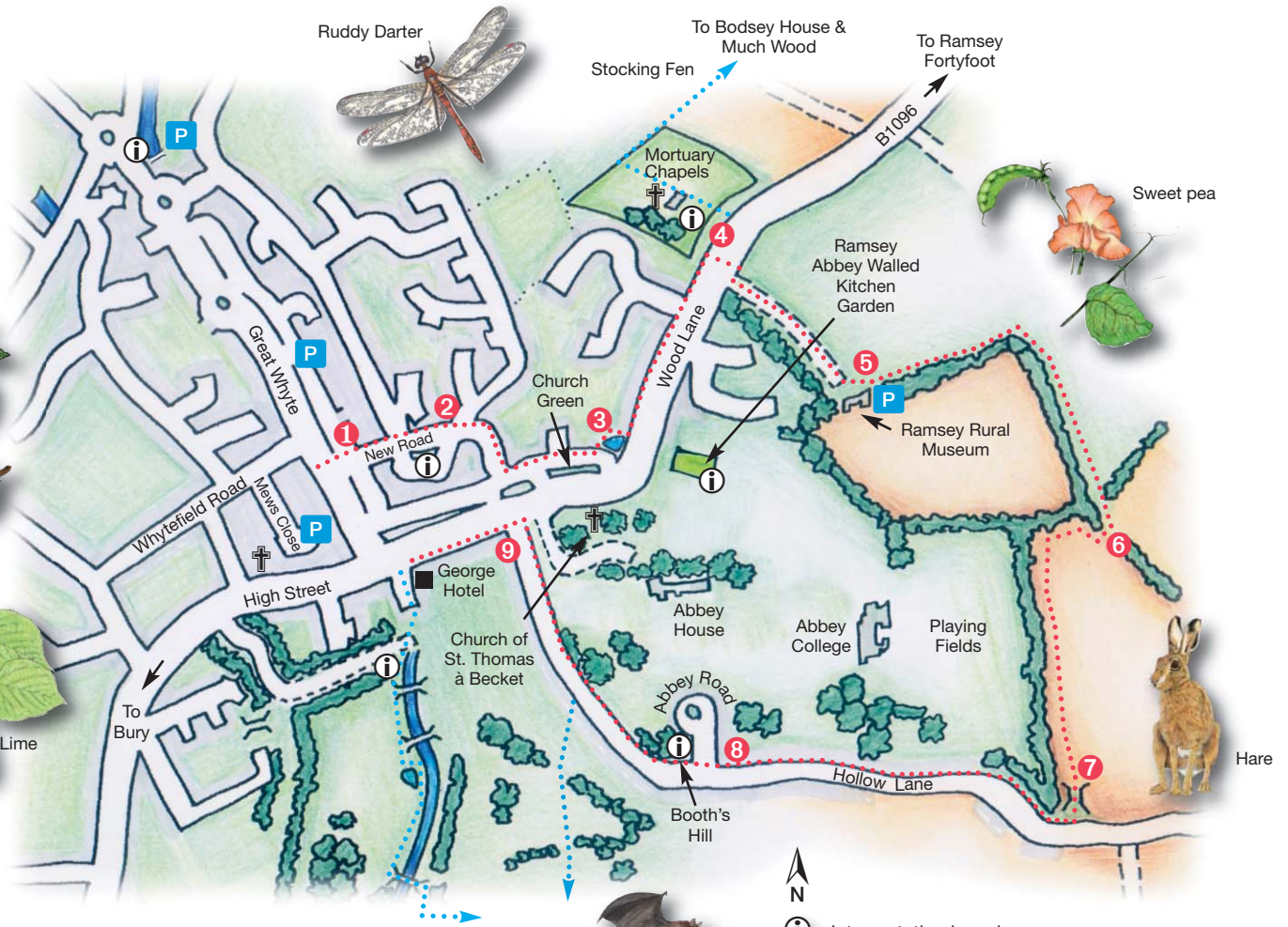
Horse-chestnut



Lime



Bramble



7 Cross the wooden footbridge and turn right onto Hollow lane back towards Ramsey town centre. On a clear day look left to see Bury Church and Wistow Wood.

8 Cross Abbey Road and continue straight on beside the Abbey wall to Abbey Green (once known as Horse Pond Green) and the remains of the Abbey Gatehouse, which is now owned by the National Trust. Telephone 01263 733471 for access details.

Optional route. Just past Abbey Road on the left hand side of Hollow Lane there is a public footpath which leads to the golf course, where you can join the Waterway Trail.



Information board



Route



Optional routes

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Pipestrelle bat

9 Cross Hollow Lane in front of Abbey Terrace and turn left into High Street. You will need to cross this carefully to return to the town centre.

Optional route. Continue along High Street until you reach the George Hotel where you can start the Waterway Trail.

Park in Great Whyte, Mews car park or Rainbow car park by the Rivermill Flats.