



**middle level
commissioners**

Proudly managing water levels in the Fens since 1862

Navigation Notes

2026

For registration enquiries and payments Tel: (01354) 653232 Option 1

For general navigation enquiries Tel: 07725 134170

Email: admin@middlelevel.gov.uk

Website: www.middlelevel.gov.uk

Middle Level Commissioners
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Produced February 2026

Welcome to the Middle Level System

The Middle Level System is a manmade network of fenland waterways which provides arterial drainage and flood protection to 700km² of highly productive fen farmland and many commercial and domestic properties. The system is managed and maintained by the Middle Level Commissioners.

Much of the system is navigable and it provides the link route between the rivers Great Ouse and Nene (see map on pages 14 and 15) via Salter's Lode Lock and Stanground Lock. Booking is required to travel through Salter's Lode Lock and Stanground Lock. This can be done by phone between 8:30am to 4:30pm, 7 days a week. Contact details are in the back of these notes. Please give at least 24 hours' notice for bookings.

The requirement to hold a current registration for any vessel on the Middle Level System came into force on 1 September 2020. More information can be found in these notes and on our website at [**www.middlelevel.gov.uk**](http://www.middlelevel.gov.uk)

All general matters regarding navigation should be addressed to our Navigation Officer, Kev Russell and he can be contacted during office hours (8:30am to 4:30pm) via [**kevin.russell@middlelevel.gov.uk**](mailto:kevin.russell@middlelevel.gov.uk) or 07725 134170. Out of office hours please call the office on 01354 653232 and you will be directed through to the on call team.

We have a Navigation Advisory Committee (NAC) that represents the various users of our system. The Committee meets regularly to discuss all matters relating to the operation and development of the Middle Level navigation. It reports directly and makes recommendations to the Middle Level Commissioners. If you wish to raise a matter with the Committee this can be done by email [**admin@middlelevel.gov.uk**](mailto:admin@middlelevel.gov.uk) and putting "NAC MATTERS" in the subject line.

We hope you enjoy your time on our system in 2026. We are a small team and are committed to maintaining and improving the experience for navigators. Your feedback and support are welcomed and valued.

Navigation Team

Registration of Vessels within the Middle Level System

Navigation Byelaws are available at <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation-governance>

The registration application forms are available on the navigation page of our website at <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation/registration>

Payments for applications can be made by cheque with your completed form, card over the phone, filling in the card payment section of the application form, or a direct debit can be set up for a single payment or spread over six or ten payments.

Income from registrations is fully reinvested into the operation, maintenance and improvements of our navigation service. This income makes a valuable contribution but only covers a minority share of the overall costs. A financial summary is available at <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation>

As part of the registration process all vessels will require a unique number. If your craft does not currently have a number, we can provide one for you free of charge. This number will form part of any future registration records held by the Middle Level Commissioners. Complete and return <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation/registration> and a number will be sent to you, this number must be clearly displayed on your vessel at all times.

Navigation Registration Charges 2026/27

1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027

These can be found at <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation/registration>

Visitor passes for short term stays and transits through the system are available from Salters Lode and Stanground Locks and from our office in March.

Boaters wanting unlimited access to Environment Agency Anglian Waterways, Conservators of the River Cam and Middle Level waterways can purchase an additional Anglian Pass. This is a single simple annual bolt on to an EA, MLC or Cams Conservators' annual registration for your home mooring which, once purchased, gives you expanded access to all three areas.

For more information and to apply see <https://www.visitanglianwaterways.org/anglian-pass-ways-to-pay>

Text Alert Service

We offer a text messaging service for the navigation community using a government platform. However, we are a small organisation and have very limited capacity to undertake communications and engagement, therefore we are only able to offer the service during working hours.

Our alerts will cover:

- Navigation closure information
- Water level management information
- Emergency and/or urgent messages

If you wish to sign-up for this service email admin@middlelevel.gov.uk with the subject line "NAVIGATION TEXT SERVICE". Please include your name and mobile number within the email.

Please note this is not a flood warning service. Our drainage system is dynamic and complex, with many factors that impact water levels, including increased rainfall and wind direction. Boaters on our system should always keep an eye on the weather forecast and are encouraged to develop their own plans and preparations to respond to both higher than normal and lower than normal water levels.

General Principles of Responsibility

- Every type of vessel must be registered and display their valid registration.
- Navigators must be self-reliant and responsible for their own safety.
- The decision to navigate must be taken by the designated boat skipper.
- It is the responsibility of the boat skipper to be properly equipped for the type of boating undertaken.
- When navigating on a river, you are dealing with flowing water.
- When there are strong currents, higher water levels or cold weather conditions, the risk associated with any river activity increases.
- Do not take risks and never underestimate the power of the water.
- Always navigate with care and avoid speeding.
- Slow down when passing moored boats.
- Keep right when passing boats travelling in the opposite direction.
- Be courteous to other users of the water space.
- Take care when passing fishermen or swimmers.
- If swimming, wear a brightly coloured cap and use a tow float.

Regulations on the Middle Level

The Middle Level Acts, registration and Byelaws require amongst other things that:

- a) No refuse shall be thrown overboard into the river or deposited on the adjacent banks.
- b) Boats shall be properly moored and secured so as not to impede or endanger the passage of other craft.
- c) Sunken boats must be removed by the owner. Failing removal by the owner the Commissioners may do this at the owner's expense.
- d) Moorings cannot be constructed on any Middle Level watercourse without the Commissioners' prior approval and written consent.
- e) Digging into the banks of a Middle Level watercourse is prohibited.
- f) Craft shall meet the requirements of the Boat Safety Scheme from 1st June 2022.
- g) All vessels must be insured.

Boating on the Middle Level System

The name of each boat should be clearly visible along with its **registration reference**. Visitors without an Anglian Pass will be required to have a relevant visitor pass. This can be purchased from the main offices in March or from the lockkeepers when entering the system at Stanground or Salter's Lode.

Vessels that meet the criteria to use the Middle Level system must have a current **Boat Safety Certificate**.

The **maximum speed limit** on the Middle Level system is **4mph**. However, you should reduce your speed further when passing through areas of riverside development, congested areas, by moored boats, when navigating under low bridges or in areas of shallow water.

Be aware that boat wash can erode the toe of riverbanks causing damage and instability. It can also cause disturbance to wildlife, especially nesting birds. **Please modify your speed to reduce boat wash.**

Several publicly and privately maintained structures affect or cross the Middle Level navigation. It is the responsibility of navigators to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their vessel can safely navigate around or through such structures and to assess any risks involved before doing so. Please inform the Commissioners of any structures which may be a hazard to navigation.

Rainfall (flood events), pumping, wind (strength and direction) and water transfer in summer can affect water levels significantly. They can thus also affect depth of water and headroom at bridges (air-draught). Special care should be taken when making passages with craft requiring maximum headroom, draught or length (for turning).

Bridges

Be aware that there are low bridges and shallow waters throughout the Middle Level system. It is recommended that navigators passing through the Middle Level follow the Link Route shown on the map on page 14 & 15.

Normal minimum headroom values under low bridges are shown on pages 11. However these can vary from the quoted figures dependant on water levels.

No guarantee of headroom can be given. **Skippers should check there is adequate headroom before passing under any bridge.** It is your responsibility to ensure you have sufficient air-draught before navigating the system.

Waterways

Navigators are advised to avoid the Main Drain beyond the public short stay moorings at Three Holes, situated on the north-west bank just beyond Three Holes Bridge. The Main Drain is navigable only as far as the Well Creek Aqueduct and conditions there can be hazardous due to sudden pumping operations.

Navigation of Old Pophams Eau, a dead-end spur north of Three Holes Bridge, is not recommended.

Navigation of Great Raveley Drain ends at the Control Sluice.

Navigation of Monks Lode ends at Conington Fen Bridge.

Locks

Dimensions of locks and structures on the Link Route are described in the section 'Recommended Link Route between Rivers Nene and Great Ouse' on pages 16-19.

Stanground and Salter's Lode Locks are the only manned locks on the Middle Level system.

Passage through Stanground Lock must be booked with the lockkeeper; a minimum of 24 hours' notice is required.

Stanground Lock is closed on Christmas Day, Tuesdays during November, December, January, February and the first week of March and after 1500hrs on Sundays.

Passage through Salter's Lode Lock must be booked with the lockkeeper. Navigation is dependent on tidal conditions in the Great Ouse Tidal River.

Salter's Lode Lock is closed on Christmas Day and Wednesdays during November, December, January, February and the first week of March.

An 'Ouse Key'/Lock Handle/Windlass (see page 9 – Keys) is required to operate the penstocks/paddles/slackers at Ashline, Marmont Priory and Lodes End Locks.

Ashline Lock is unattended and locked. You will need a key to open the gate to navigate through the lock.

These locks will accommodate boats up to 21.33m (70'-0") long.

Lodes End Lock is unattended and locked. You will need a key to open the security fence gate to navigate through the lock. **Note the lock will accommodate boats 20.70m – 68.0ft long.**

Before leaving Lodes End Lock, please ensure that the penstocks are fully closed, the security fence gate is locked and the chain between the large V-doors is in place. **The chain must be secured by the large end link to the spring-loaded catch in the other door and left loose (not wrapped round the door posts) so that the doors can open the full length of the chain to allow water to flow unimpeded when conditions allow.**

Boats in the lock must be kept clear of the low-side penstock access walkway to avoid being trapped when the water level is raised.

Ladders and chains are provided to assist navigators when using the locks. Their use, together with any other directions that may be signed, is recommended.

Moorings

Except for public highways and public open spaces, all lands adjoining Middle Level riverbanks are private property and the normal laws of trespass apply. Apart from designated public moorings, mooring is not allowed without the permission of the owner of the mooring rights. In most cases, this will be the Commissioners. It is the responsibility of navigators to ensure that they have the right to moor at any location. There are public rights of way along some banks.

The turning area at Ramsey will normally accommodate boats up to 15.24m (50'-0") long (see pages 12-13).

Aquatic vegetation

- a) Aquatic weeds occur throughout most of the system during the summer period and ropes may be placed (floated) across the rivers to collect cut weeds. If these are encountered, they **must** be removed before passing and **carefully and securely replaced** afterwards.
- b) The banks of many watercourses are subject to erosion. Piles and other revetment works are installed to provide support and protection. These and shallows elsewhere may make navigation difficult. Take care when approaching or travelling close to the river edges to avoid any submerged hazards.
- c) Navigators should be aware the Commissioners' fleet of weed cutting/lifting boats can be encountered anywhere within the Middle Level system. **When approaching any work boats please reduce your speed immediately, sound your horn, make positive contact with the operative, and pass the work boats in a safe manner.**

Facilities

The facilities at **March Town Bridge Service Block** are provided and maintained by Fenland District Council.

The Service Block is situated on the Old River Nene at the town bridge in the centre of March and offers:

- Boat pump out, chemical toilet disposal and tank flush
- Potable / drinking water
- Boat hold refuse collection

The Pump Out Facility operates on one-time use cards. Cards are available for purchase at [George Campbell Leisure Centre](#), City Road, March, PE15 9LT (next to the library).

Further information can be found on the Council web site at **Sanitation Point and Service Block (March Town Bridge) - Fenland District Council** or by phoning 01354 654321.

Middle Level Commissioner Offices

We have moorings available by **prior arrangement only** with the Navigation Officer and we now have a water point available to our navigators.

Other users

The Middle Level waters provide a valuable coarse fishery. This is intensively used between mid-June and mid-March. Please be courteous to anglers.

During the winter period, and when conditions allow, ice-skating on Well Creek is a traditional local sport which attracts many people to the area. Disturbance of the ice, while it is forming, results in an uneven surface unsuitable for skating. Boat movements at these times are, therefore, frowned upon locally and should be avoided.

Keys

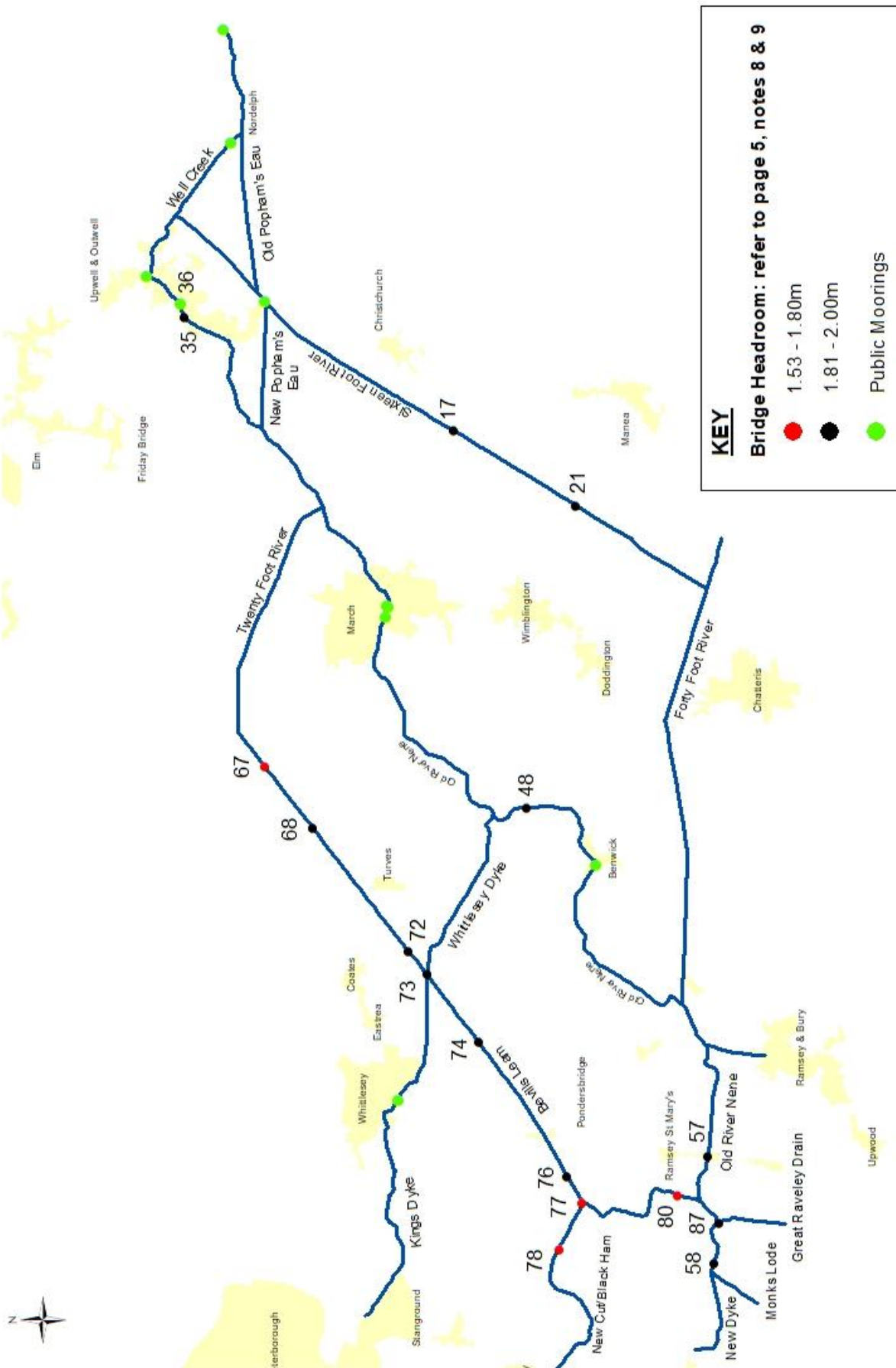
A key for access to the March Service Block, Ashline Lock and Lodes End Lock compounds (price £6.00) and a lock handle/windlass (price £17.00) can be purchased at:

- a) Stanground Lock Tel: 07824 600470
- b) Salter's Lode Lock Tel: 07398 822986 or 01366 382292
- c) Middle Level Offices, 85 Whittlesey Road, March, Cambs. PE15 0AH
Tel: 01354 653232
- d) Fox Narrow Boats Ltd - Boat Builders & Hirers, 10 Marina Drive, March (Marina off Old River Nene) Tel: 01354 652770
- e) Bill Fen Marina, Mill Drove, Ramsey, Huntingdon (Marina off Ramsey High Lode)
Tel: 01487 813621

Temporary closure of waterways

Information regarding any navigation closures can be found on our website at

<https://middlelevel.gov.uk/navigation/sus-nav/> also any updates will be added to our social media pages and text messaging service.



Bridge headroom at key locations

Watercourse	Bridge	Bridge Number	Headroom m	Headroom ft	what3words	Grid Reference
Sixteen Foot River	Bedlam Bridge	17	1.93	6' 4"	aware.existence.classmate	TL46799478
Sixteen Foot River	Boot's Bridge	21	1.98	6' 6"	chilled.dome.mandolin	TL44599120
Well Creek	Upwell Church Bridge	35	1.96	6' 5"	walls.redeeming.kickbacks	TF50520278
Well Creek	Methodist Chapel Footbridge	36	2.00	6' 7"	piglet.invisible.fluctuate	TF50130267
Old River Nene	White Fen Bridge	48	1.91	6' 4"	tingle.fidgeted.progress	TL35729264
Old River Nene	Ramsey St Mary's Bridge	57	1.89	6' 2"	amphibian.committee.inches	TL25528732
New Dyke	Charter House Farm Bridge	58	2.00	6' 7"	encodes.repair.lush	TL22358714
Twenty Foot River	Infield's Bridge	67	1.60	5' 2"	bonus.surpasses.reckon	TF36960033
Twenty Foot River	Holloway's Bridge	68	1.91	6' 4"	member.prove.scornful	TL35149892
Bevills Leam	Poplar Tree Bridge	72	2.00	6' 7"	untruth.warbler.combining	TL31539611
Bevills Leam	Angle Corner Bridge	73	1.95	6' 5"	locating.hiding.firepower	TL30859557
Bevills Leam	Chapel Bridge	74	1.99	6' 6"	loosed.confused.feasted	TL28859405
Bevills Leam	Tebbit's Bridge	76	1.99	6' 6"	flaunting.digit.innocence	TL24939145
Old River Nene	Herbert's Bridge	77	1.77	5' 10"	respected.voted.shall	TL34139101
Yaxley Lode	Bradford Bridge (Froghall)	78	1.56	5' 1"	tropic.disgraced.loudly	TL22789169
Old River Nene	Exhibition (Papworth's/Stoke's) Bridge	80	1.53	5' 0"	paler.hostels.paramedic	TL24358822
Great Raveley Drain	Speed the Plough Bridge	87	1.87	6' 1"	upwardly.disbanded.shall	TL23568699

Notes

The map indicates only those bridges on the Middle Level System with the lowest headrooms. **The headroom on these and all bridges on the Middle Level navigable system may fluctuate.**

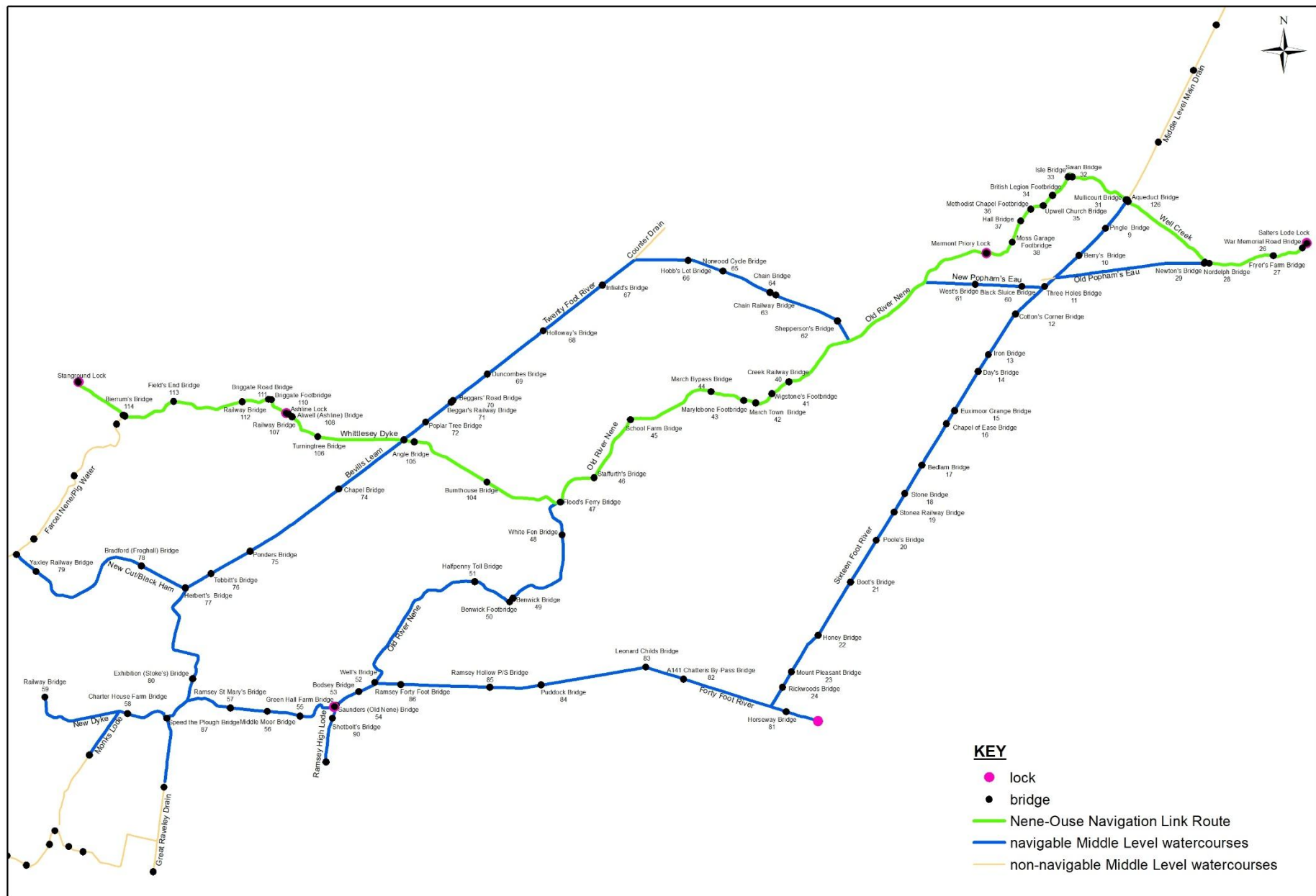
The bridges shown on the map have also been assigned a bridge number.

Should the emergency services be required, the nearest bridge name, what3words and grid reference should be quoted.

Places to turn on our system based on information provided by John Revell 17 November 2023

Waterway	Where	Possible Max length (ft)	Length (ft) that has turned	When updated	Comments
LINK ROUTE					
Kings Dyke	Below Stanground lock	55	48	2019	Useful if River Nene in flood
Kings Dyke	Junction with Pig Water & Tower Crane depot	70	48	2019	Before first bridge 1 mile downstream from Stanground
Kings Dyke	Whittlesey Sports Centre	65	60	2023	Built by Fox Narrowboats. 60' hire boats can turn
Link route	Just below Ashline lock	45	41	2019	Useful if lock closed for maintenance
Link route	Angle Corner Bridge	70	70	2023	Junction with 20 Foot River
	MLC rural mooring				
Link route	Burnt House mooring	30		2023	Only small boats will be able to turn here
Link route	Floods Ferry Junction	70	48	2023	Junction with Old River Nene
Link route	Floods Ferry to Fox's	70	70	2023	River wide and 70' boats will be able to turn in places
Link route	Floods Ferry marina	70	70	2023	Not ideal - other boats moored here
Link route	Entrance to Fox Marina	70	70	2023	Not ideal- boats moored at marina entrance
Link route	Junction with 20 Foot river	70	70	2023	The best place to turn between March & Upwell/Outwell
Link route	Junction with Pophams Eau	70	70	2023	Plenty of room
Link route	Below Marmont P lock	48	48	2019	Useful if lock closed for maintenance
Well Creek	Outwell basin	60	48	2020	Caution boats may be moored temporarily at the Basin or permanently moored opposite
Well Creek	Gladys Dacks mooring	30		2023	Only small boats will be able to turn here
Well Creek	Junction / old sluice at Nordelph	70	57	2023	The only 70' turning point on Well Creek
Well Creek	Salter's Lode lock	60	60	2023	Between landing stage and new bridge
OTHER ROUTES					
Main Drain	Three Holes & public mooring	70	60	2023	Plenty of room at this junction with 16 Foot Drain
Main Drain	Mullicourt Aqueduct	60	58	2021	Do not turn close to the Aqueduct
Old Pophams Eau	Three Holes to Nordelph	48	48	2021	Narrow channel more suited to small cruisers & kayaks / canoes but longer boats have used it & turned at small pumping station
Sixteen Foot	MLC rural mooring at Skylark	60	60	2023	A Fox 60' hire boat has turned here
Forty Foot	Junction 16 Foot Drain & 40 Foot River	70'	60	2023	Plenty of room
Forty Foot	Horseway Lock	20	19	2023	Horseways Channel beyond is currently unnavigable
Forty Foot	Leonard Childs Bridge MLC rural mooring	n/k			More information required
Forty Foot	Ramsey Forty Foot MLC rural mooring	n/k	55	2004	More information required Close to George PH
Forty Foot	Junction with Old River Nene	70	70	2023	Plenty of room; by Wells Bridge
Forty Foot	Junction with High Lode	70	70	2023	Between golf bridge and lock
High Lode	Entrance Bill Fen Marina	70	70	2019	Not ideal - other boats moored here

Waterway	Where	Possible Max length (ft)	Length (ft) that has turned	When updated	Comments
High Lode	Ramsey basin	60	60	2023	60' boats may need to remove bow & stern fenders
BEYOND LODES END LOCK					
Old River Nene	Nightingale's corner	68	68	2023	NB 68' is maximum length of Lodes End Lock before this
Old River Nene	Speed the Plough Bridge	68	68	2023	NB 68' is maximum length of Lodes End Lock before this
Gt Raveley	Woodwalton Fen	n/k	55	2019	Longer boats may be able to turn here
	Great Raveley Drain				More information required
Monk's Lode	Junction with New Dike & MLC rural mooring	68	68	2023	NB 68' is maximum length of Lodes End Lock before this
Monks Lode	Adjacent wind pump	30	56	2023	Turning here was not possible In October 2023
Monk's Lode	Conington Fen Bridge	30	30	2023	Only small cruisers & unpowered craft can turn here or beyond
New Dike	Holme basin	60	60	2023	Boats longer than 60' may be able to turn here
Old River Nene	Exhibition Bridge	60	60	2023	Exhibition Bridge is the lowest navigable bridge on Middle Level
Bevill's Leam	Pumping station S side	68	68	2020	NB 68' is maximum length of Lodes End Lock before this
Bevill's Leam	Pumping station N side	60	56	2022	Boats longer than 60' may be able to turn here.
Old River Nene	junction with Black Ham	68	68	2022	Turn left here for Yaxley
Yaxley Lode	near railway line	68	58	2022	boats 50' + can turn at last pumping station before railway
Yaxley Lode	near railway line	Below 50'	48	2022	Shorter boats can turn 200 m before railway
Yaxley Lode	end of navigation & MLC rural mooring	30	20	2023	Only small cruisers & unpowered craft can turn here
TWENTY FOOT RIVER					
20 Foot River	Turves road bridge	n/k	48	2019	Short walk to pub. Up to date info needed
20 Foot River	Either side of Infields Bridge	n/k	48	2019	Very low bridge, more information required
20 Foot River	Goose Tree Corner by A605	? 70'	48	2023	Looks wide but more up to date information required
BENWICK					
Old River Nene	Benwick	?60	48	2010	100m north of old timber wharf. More information needed



RECOMMENDED LINK ROUTE BETWEEN RIVERS NENE AND GREAT OUSE

45.8 km (28.5 miles)

STANGROUND LOCK

Length 24.40m (80'-0")
Width 3.50m (11'-6")

Keeper Mrs Tina Rootham-Hayward
Tel. 07824 600470

See **Special Note 'A'**, page 20.



Maximum air draught of boats larger than 11.00m (36'-0") long not to exceed 690mm (2'-3").

24 hours' notice is required for passage through Stanground Lock. If you have not made an appointment with the lockkeeper you may have to wait.

Closed on Christmas Day; Tuesdays during November, December, January, February and the first week of March and after 1500hrs on Sundays.

Do not enter the lock without the lockkeeper in attendance

King's Dyke

8 bridges
Minimum headroom approximately 2.10m (7'-0").



Restricted length and sharp bend through Briggate, Whittlesey. Width between walls 4.27m (14'-0"). **Approach the bend slowly and put ashore a look-out to watch for oncoming boats while negotiating the bend.** Narrow boats up to 21.30m (70'-0") long have negotiated King's Dyke to Ashline Lock, where there is a landing stage for visitors to Whittlesey (36hr limit) and a turning bay.

Turning facilities/limits (approximate maximum dimensions).

Stanground Lock 18.30m (60'-0")
Horsey Toll 21.30m (70'-0")

(approximately 1.6km east of Stanground Lock)
Whittlesey 21.30m (70'-0")

(approximately 100m west of Ashline Lock)

Whittlesey: *Shops, fuel, Leisure Centre, moorings, pub food etc.*

ASHLINE LOCK Length 27.40m (90'-0") UNATTENDED.
 Width 3.50m (11'-6")



Boats in the lock must be held at least 1.0m (3'-3") clear of the upstream doors to avoid fouling the sill as the water level is lowered and well away from the downstream doors to avoid entrapment beneath the access walkway when the water level is raised.

Please ensure that the upstream lock doors (King's Dyke side) and penstocks are closed after use. Leakage could rapidly lower the water level in King's Dyke and considerable difficulty could be experienced in restoring a satisfactory navigation level.

Navigators are also requested to leave Ashline Lock empty and the downstream lock doors (Whittlesey Dyke side) open.

In the event of problems, contact the Stanground lockkeeper or, if unobtainable, the Navigation Officer. **In an emergency outside of office hours contact the Middle Level Office on 01354 653232 and press 5 for the on-call engineer.**

Whittlesey Dyke 7 bridges;
 minimum headroom
 approximately
 2.05m (6'-9")

Main drainage channel.

Old River Nene: Floods Ferry to Marmont Priory 3 bridges;
 minimum headroom
 approximately
 1.91m (6'-4")

The river is wide and deep from Floods Ferry to March, and from March to Pophams Eau, but the sections through March Town and from Pophams Eau to Marmont Priory Lock are relatively shallow and should be navigated with care.



Moorings adjacent to March Town Bridge

March: *Middle Level Offices, Fox Narrowboats Ltd, moorings, shops, Service Block/Sanitation Station, fuel, Leisure Centre, restaurants, fish & chips, pub food and cafes etc.*

**MARMONT
PRIORY
LOCK**

Length 28.00m (92'-0")
Width 3.65m (12'-0")

UNATTENDED.

See **Special Note 'B'**, page 20



Ensure that the lock doors and penstocks/paddles/slackers are properly closed after use. Leakage can rapidly lower the water level in Well Creek, which can sometimes require several days to restore a satisfactory navigation level.

Well Creek

15 bridges;
minimum headroom
approximately
1.96m (6'-5")

Some sections of Well Creek in Upwell and Outwell are narrow and relatively shallow and should be navigated with care.



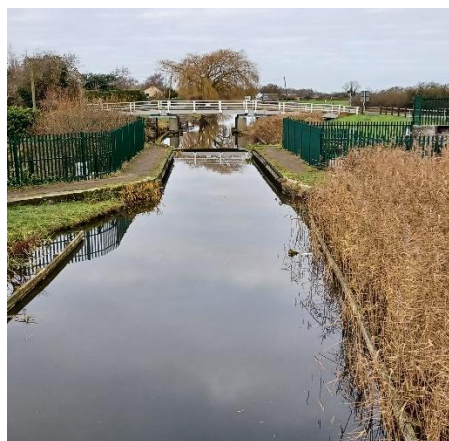
Turning facilities/limits (approximate maximum dimensions).

Marmont Priory Lock (low-side) 15.30m (50'-0")
Outwell Boat Basin 21.30m (70'-0")
Nordelph.....21.30m (70'-0")
plus
(approximately 100m west of highway bridge)
Salter's Lode.....18.30m (60'-0")
(approximately 120m west of Salter's Lode Lock)

Villages of Upwell, Outwell and Nordelph:
Moorings, shops, fuel, fish & chips and pub food.

**Mullicourt
Aqueduct**

Width 4.14m (13' 7")
approximately



Particular care should be taken when navigating along Well Creek and along Mullicourt Aqueduct to the east of Outwell village.

Approach the structure 'dead slow' and be prepared to 'give way' to craft navigating in the opposite direction.

SALTER'S Length 18.90m (62'-0")
LODE LOCK Width 3.80m (12'-6")

Keeper Ms Karen Hills
Tel. 07398 822986



Locking through to tidal river for limited periods each side of high tide. Possible passage for craft up to a length of 24.30m (80'-0") on level water (falling tide) or below, when tidal conditions allow.

Closed on Christmas Day and Wednesdays during November, December, January, February and the first week of March.

Telephone lockkeeper beforehand and do not enter lock without lockkeeper in attendance.

Middle Level Commissioners	Link Route
SALTERS LODE LOCK Advice To Navigators • Tidal Waters can be dangerous. Never take risks. Never underestimate the power of tidal water. • The decision to navigate through the Middle Level Commissioners' Salters Lode Lock into and along the Environment Agency's tidal River Great Ouse is the sole responsibility of the boat skipper who should assess the risks and the crew competencies before proceeding. • The Middle Level lock keeper's instructions must always be followed during the locking operation. • The use of lifejackets/buoyancy aids and the provision for sea anchors on board is highly recommended. • The Middle Level Commissioners provide no rescue service for the River Great Ouse.	
Tel: 01354 653232 Website: www.middlelvel.gov.uk Email: admin@middlelvel.gov.uk	

Special Notes :-

- 'A' - Stanground Lock serves a dual role as a water intake sluice as well as a navigation lock. When the sluice is open dangerous undertows may be encountered in the pens. **For this reason, in particular, navigators must not enter this lock without the attendance of the lockkeeper.**
- 'B' - Marmont Priory Lock - Special care must be taken to ensure that the doors and penstocks are **completely** closed after use. **This lock is similar to Ashline Lock and care must be taken to keep clear of the upstream sill and the downstream penstock access walkway.**

Public Moorings

There are limited public moorings on the Middle Level System. These are listed below and shown on the map on page 24.

1. March Town Centre (owned by Fenland District Council) – Old River Nene
 - a) Library
 - b) Town Centre Bridge
 - c) Park side moorings, Marylebone Bridge
2. Benwick Village – Old River Nene
3. Adjacent to Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey (owned by Fenland District Council) – Kings Dyke
4. Three Holes Bridge – Sixteen Foot River/Main Drain
5. Church Bridge, Upwell – Well Creek (not marked on map – see bridge no 36)
6. Boat Basin, Outwell – Well Creek
7. Salter's Lode – Upstream of the Lock
8. Ramsey – High Lode

NB: The public moorings have a 48-hour maximum stay time. Penalties will be applied to vessels staying longer. Please note that only moorings 4 & 8 are owned and maintained by the Middle Level Commissioners.

The moorings are particularly busy during the summer months.



March Town Centre Bridge – Old River Nene Mooring



Three Holes Bridge – Main Drain/Sixteen Foot



Adjacent Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey – Kings Dyke

Designated Rural Moorings

Based on user feedback we have installed some rural moorings throughout the system. There are currently eight designated rural moorings. These are 24-hour stay moorings where mooring is allowed without prior permission. They are approximately 32m in length and consist of (generally) five timber posts driven into the toe of the bank at the waters' edge. They are designed to be simple and no other provision or facilities are provided. You may choose to stay overnight or simply stop for a short break before recommencing your passage.

These are informal moorings – please take care when using them. Pay special attention to weather conditions, lighting, water levels, the capabilities of those aboard, the amount of vegetation, and how close you can get to the edge.

When using our rural moorings, you accept that it is entirely at your own risk and the MLC accept no liability for the use of them.



Example of Rural Mooring - Skylark Mooring on Sixteen Foot

Rural moorings are listed below and shown on the map on page 24:

Location	What3Words
Angle Corner Bridge - Whittlesey Dyke	Stand.infinite.forgiving
Bevills Leam	Fended.flagging.lifeboat
Burnt House Bridge – Whittlesey Dyke	Kitten.dabbing.vowel
Gladys Dacks (adjacent to Barroway Drove, Nordelph) – Well Creek	Spilled.evidently.consoled
Goosetree Corner – Twenty Foot	Skirting.replays.spotted
Leonard Childs Bridge – Forty Foot	Bit.teardrop.coast
New Dyke/Monks Lode Junction Mooring – New Dyke	Poets.fell.upwards
Ramsey Forty Foot Village – Forty Foot	Scowls.prospered.smirking
Skylark – Sixteen Foot	Proclaims.downturn.convert
Yaxley Lode – Yaxley Lode	Quail.hobby.butter

What's around the rural moorings on the MLC system

Angle Corner Bridge – Whittlesey Dyke

This rural mooring is very remote, however there are some lovely views across the fenland area.

Bevills Leam

A remote rural mooring with views across the fenland area.

Burnt House Bridge – Whittlesey Dyke

A remote rural mooring with views across the fenland area.

Gladys Dacks (adjacent to Barroway Drove, Nordelph) – Well Creek

Spectacular views across the fenland area. You can also walk along the top of the riverbank and have a seat at the picnic bench which is available.

Goosetree Corner – Twenty Foot

This rural mooring is very remote, however there are some lovely views across the fenland area.

Leonard Childs Bridge – Forty Foot

Also known as Carters Bridge. You can walk to Chatteris for local shops etc. It is about 2 miles which can take 45-60 mins. However, please be cautious as this is not all on footpaths.

New Dyke/Monks Lode Junction Mooring – New Dyke

A remote rural mooring with views across the fenland area.

Ramsey Forty Foot Village – Forty Foot

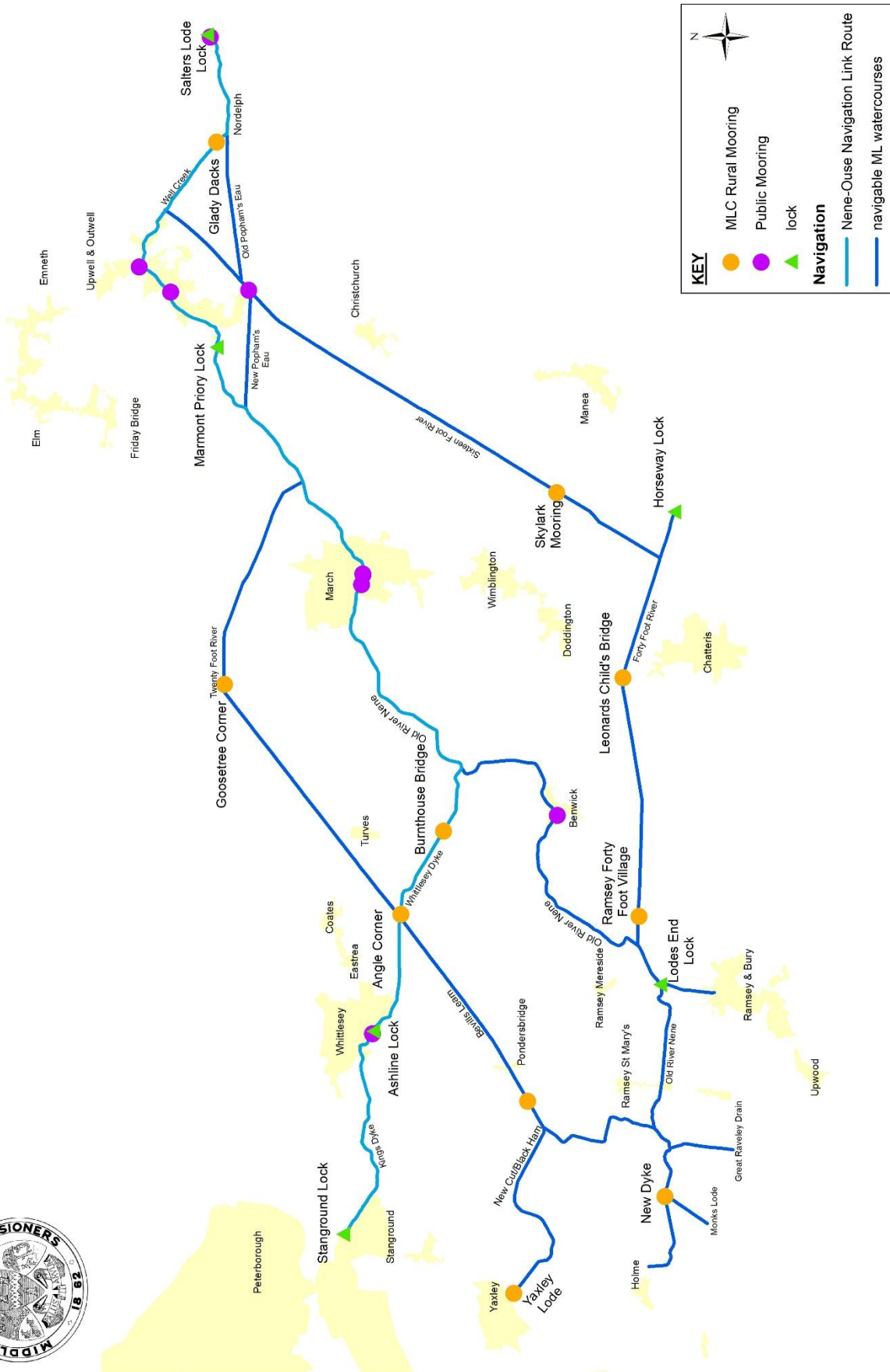
Mooring outside The George Inn and with access to the Ramsey Forty Foot village.

Skylark – Sixteen Foot

Approximately 20-30 mins walk to Skylark Garden Centre and Coffee Shop. Also, some lovely views across the Fens.

Yaxley Lode – Yaxley Lode

Approximately 15 mins walk to The Duck & Drake in Yaxley and an additional 10-15 mins walk into the main village.



Old Bedford River

Old Bedford Sluice (Environment Agency)

To pass into the Old Bedford/Counter Drain system contact **must** be made with the lockkeeper at Denver Sluice Tel: 01366 382340.

Welches Dam Lock (Environment Agency)
Length 14.30m (47'-0")
Width 3.35m (11'-0")

This lock is not operable. Further information can be obtained from the Environment Agency.
Tel: 08708 506506.

Horseway Lock Length 18.30m (60'-0")
Width 3.65m (12'-0")

This lock is currently not in use. Further information can be obtained from the Middle Level Commissioners.
Tel: 01354 653232.

River Great Ouse

Salter's Lode to Denver Sluice (Environment Agency)

This river is tidal and the times that craft can enter or leave the Middle Level are restricted. Denver Sluice is half a mile upstream of Salter's Lode Lock.

The lockkeeper at Denver Sluice must be notified before making a passage between the two systems.
Tel: 01366 382340

Special care should be taken when entering and leaving Salter's Lode Lock on the tidal side. Inexperienced navigators should follow the instructions of the lockkeeper.

Forty Foot Navigation

Due to structural problems with the Forty Foot Lock (Welches Dam Lock) the Environment Agency has closed the structure and passage into the Old Bedford is not available at this point.

Strong Stream Advice (SSA)

The Environment Agency issues Strong Stream Advice to inform river users when levels in the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse are increasing and conditions are becoming unsuitable for boating. **Notice boards** are displayed prominently on the riverbanks of these rivers to inform navigators of the status of the river and **red flags** are also raised at several boat clubs.

The Environment Agency advises checking if SSA has been issued before navigating to their waterways. Navigators can call the **24-hour SSA hotline: 0345 988 1188**. Choose option 1 and listen to the pre-recorded information followed by one of these quick dial codes:

- Nene - 032112
- Great Ouse (Bedford to St Ives) – 033211
- Great Ouse (St Ives to Earith) - 033212
- Ancholme – 031212

Alternatively, they offer a free Strong Stream Advice messaging system. You will receive a call on your mobile phone and/or landline, via an automated service that can send messages at any time of day or night. Text and email facilities are also available. For further information and to register please contact the Environment Agency on 01522 785943.

Handy Telephone Numbers

[illegible]

Space for your notes:

SLOW DOWN

Don't make waves!



**Speed limits are in force
on the waterways of the
Middle Level Commissioners**



6.45km/h

Why should I bother?



Because boat wash is a major cause of bank erosion - the faster a boat goes, the greater its wash and the faster the banks will erode. The Middle Level area depends, for its flood protection, on artificial flood banks and any erosion of these banks greatly increases the risk of the land and properties flooding. Also, the silt washed from the banks has to be expensively dredged from the waterways in order to maintain sufficient depths for the boats to continue to navigate the waterways.



Think of others

By keeping to the speed limits, you help protect birds whose nests can easily be washed away. Even if you are within the limit, you should reduce your speed when passing other vessels. Someone might be trying to make a cup of tea or cooking food, and might get injured by your wash rocking their boat.



Who must obey the speed limits?

The limits apply to all boats or craft except those used for enforcement or by the emergency services.



**Middle Level
Commissioners**

What happens if you break the speed limit?

We are sure that most people on the Middle Level will understand the need for speed limits and will observe them. The Middle Level Commissioners undertake routine radar speed checks and average speed observations. Even if you are observing the speed limit, your boat wash should be less than one foot (300mm) in height. Don't forget that anyone who breaks the limit faces a maximum fine of £5000.