Points of Interest:

Coton Countryside Reserve
In the 1930s, using money from a legacy provided by Professor George M Trevelyan, CambridgePPF acquired farmland at Coton. In the late 1990s CambridgePPF turned its attention back to Coton, gaining planning permission to create a new reserve.

In 2010 a new farm tenant was appointed. Trumpington Farm Company now works the land in a wildlife-friendly way, adhering to Countryside Stewardship and Entry Level Schemes administered by Natural England. New access points and recreational routes have been introduced for walkers, cyclists, joggers, pram users, disabled people and horse riders, creating a major public green space within easy reach of Cambridge and nearby villages.

The Plough
Contemporary village pub with a preserved historic interior and seasonally themed European dishes.

Coton Village
Walking through the village look out for the 17th century thatched cottage on the corner. As you turn left on the Wimpole Way, on your left is St Catharine’s farmhouse (originally a 14th century Hall House) and across the road Fairview Cottages (16th century cottages restored in 1966). Just past the Village Hall (the 1932 WI Hall completely rebuilt in 2012) in Chapel Yard is Rose Cottage and the former Baptist Chapel and on the left is the Old Rectory, built in 1840. Opposite the church is Lantern Cottage, built in the 17th century and next to it the 19th century old school house. The new school, built in the 1960s, lies at the point that High Street turns into Whitwell Way. Down the drive to Rectory Farm can be seen the 18th century Pigeon House.

St Peter’s Church, Coton
The church dates back to the 12th century, and has several interesting features: 12th century font; 15th century pews; medieval nave roof; monument to Andrew Downes, one of the translators of the King James Bible; William Morris & Co stained glass windows in the chancel.

Madingley Hall
Dating back to 1543 the Hall, surrounding park and farmland is owned by the University of Cambridge which bought it in 1948 for the sum of £50,000. Famously in January 1861 Edward Prince of Wales arrived at Madingley. His mother, Queen Victoria had rented the Hall as a residence for her son whilst he studied at the University.

The 800 Wood
Over 1500 native tree species were planted in 2009 to commemorate the University's 800th anniversary. The planting has been designed to retain views east across to Ely as the trees mature, and several seats are provided.

Madingley Wood, SSSI
The former Brook Pit and Madingley Wood both have wildlife interest. Madingley Wood, SSSI, is the nearest ancient wood to Cambridge, growing predominantly ash & maple. It has been the subject of 340 years of research and documentation exists from 1210 onwards. Madingley Wood is fenced round and not open to the public.

The American Military Cemetery
On the north slope of Madingley Rise is the American War Graves Cemetery and Memorial. Land was given by the Madingley Estate in 1943. Some 9000 dead from WWII are commemorated here. From the flag to the chapel a long wall of Portland stone carries 5000 names of those dead who were never located. The graves of the rest are marked by Italian white marble crosses, fanning out radially down the slope.

View over Coton Corridor from the A1303
Described by the Cambridge Preservation Society in a brochure published in 1929 as “the most beautiful...of all views of Cambridge” and a view that “Every Cambridge man remembers...
Not too arduous; approximately 8 miles and takes between 3-4 hours; generally well made paths, but can be muddy in places during the winter. Two of the many highlights of this walk are the amazing views to the north from the hilltop at the 800 Wood and the views over the Coton Corridor to both the south and east to the City from the roadside at the top of the footpath running between the SSSI Wood and the American Cemetery.

**Getting there:** Park in the CambridgePPF car park (note closing time) located on Grantchester Road, Coton.

**Map:** Explorer Map 209 GR for car park 41385/57882.

**Pubs:** The Plough, Coton. The Three Horseshoes, Madingly.

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**The Walk**

Set off along the concrete path running adjacent to the old barn. Follow the path (passing two medieval ridge-and-furrow fields) until you reach “The Footpath”. Walk up “The Footpath” towards the village and The Plough public house.

Follow road around the right-hand bend then turn left onto High Street (signposted Wimpole Way). Follow High Street passing the church on the left and straight onto Whitwell Way. At the end of the road follow footpath on the right and continue through the wood onto Long Road.

Cross Long Road and follow signpost for Wimpole Way. Follow the footpath which runs adjacent to Bin Brook for approximately half a mile to the newly planted wood on the right. Immediately past the wood turn right onto the permissive footpath. Once over the wooden bridge follow the footpath up the hill keeping the brook on your left. After approximately 300 yards turn right across the field towards Long Road. Once across the field turn left continuing up the hill keeping the hedge to your right. Turn right through the hedge onto Long Road and continue to the top of the hill on the road. At the top turn right on the footpath to Madingley Mulch.

At this point cross the road and continue down Church Road towards Madingly Village. With the church and Madingly Hall on your left turn right and continue down past the houses on Cambridge Road to the bridge over the A428. Once over the bridge turn right into the 800 Wood and follow the path to the right of the wood up the hill to the viewpoint. Walk back down the hill with the plantation on your left back to the Cambridge Road and turn right.

Continue on Cambridge Road for 50 yards and turn right onto the footpath running between the SSSI Wood and the American Cemetery. At the top of the footpath cross the A1303 and take some time to appreciate the views to the south across the Coton Corridor and the City to the east.

Continue down the A1303 keeping the American Cemetery on your left. After 50 yards turn right down the footpath located between the cluster of dwellings and Blue Gates. Follow the footpath down the hill back onto Coton High Street. Turn left on High Street and continue down as far as the Village Hall on the left.

At the Village Hall cross the road and take the footpath signposted Coton Country Park. Follow path across the meadow and on to Brook Lane. Cross Brook Lane and take the footpath that runs adjacent to Bin Brook back to the car park.

The author accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the map or for any injury or mishap that might befall any person who follows this walk.