Points of Interest:
Cambridge is a unique City, with a historic core centred on its many colleges, providing a wonderful cityscape. This is punctuated by numerous green spaces and the River Cam, creating a very special environment. And within a few hundred yards you can be walking by agricultural fields, because the countryside famously comes right into the City.

That means you can walk straight from the centre of Cambridge through lanes and through the West Fields into the countryside and in a short time reach idyllic villages, catch breathtaking distant views and find some great gastro pubs and cafes/garden centres.

The West Fields occupy a large open area of farmland between the back of Great Road houses and the M11, stretching down to Gough Way and Barton Road on the south side and have traditionally been used for the grazing of cows and the growing of crops. They form part of the same special landscape as the nearby Grantchester Meadows. They are an essential part of the city’s character and link the University of Cambridge with its medieval past, bringing farmland and important wildlife areas to within one kilometre of King’s College Chapel.

From the medieval core with Gonville and Caius College and Trinity Hall, you can cross the river onto “The Backs”, described as one of the ten best views in England by writer Simon Jenkins. The grounds of Clare College and then the University of Cambridge Library take you out to the West Fields over Bin Brook.

There are magnificent views. The hills on the horizon are about 60 metres in height, some 50 metres above the City. The walk passes the famous Cavendish Laboratory, which moved to these buildings in 1974 and the relatively recent West Cambridge development, with the University Sports Centre and the West Lake and Ada Lovelace Way (named after the early computer scientist 1815-1852, who worked on Charles Babbage’s Analytical Engine).

Coton Countryside Reserve
In the 1930s, using money from a legacy provided by Professor George M Trevelyan, Cambridge Past, Present and Future acquired farmland at Coton. In the late 1990s CambridgePPF turned its attention back to Coton, gaining planning permission to establish a 300 acre reserve. As part of this, diverse wildlife habitats were created, including woodland and hedgerows, bird boxes, ponds, hay meadows, and an orchard. The Martin Car Park was opened on Grantchester Road in 2008. The reserve, which is part of the Cambridge Green Belt, offers a chance to experience changing seasons and to enjoy great views over the surrounding area.

Please consider joining CambridgePPF to support its activities and the Reserve.

Contact CambridgePPF at
Wandlebury ring, Gog Magog Hills, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3AE
tel: 01223 243830
e: enquiries@cambridgeppf.org
w: www.cambridgeppf.org

The Coton Corridor
A circular walk over one of the area’s best-kept secrets

Part III of the Great West Walk series
The Walk

A: Start at the barn adjacent to the car park, turn left along a concrete track for a few metres and then turn right along a muddy track up to a farm bridge over the M11 motorway. Continue straight on across two fields to a lane leading to Barton Road.

B: Turn left and walk along Barton Road. Remain on the left-hand side of the road for approximately half mile to a point where you see a footpath adjacent to Bin Brook immediately after the second house (number 116).

C: Follow the footpath to the end which brings you onto Gough Way. Turn right for 50 yards and cross road and turn left into footpath after number 50, along Bin Brook, turning right, left and right to reach the end of Cranmer Road. Walk down Cranmer Road to the corner of Grange Road next to Selwyn College.

D: Turn left and follow Grange Road, past the University Rugby Ground, as far as Adams Road.

E: Turn left and follow Adams Road to the corner of Wilberforce Road and the entrance to the university athletics ground, where you will see the start of the footpath in front of you. Follow the footpath, with the West Fields on your left and University West Cambridge campus on your right.

F: Cross over the M11 footbridge. Shortly after the bridge, either go through a gate on the left through the coppice parallel to The Footpath, or stay on The Footpath to reach The Plough pub.

G: From The Plough, cross the recreation ground in a south easterly direction, heading for the corner of the bowls club hedge. Walk along with the hedge on your right to the edge of the Rec, turn half right past a yellow house and walk through the plantation to a kissing gate and a footpath alongside Bin Brook. Turn left, and cross the meadows with the brook on your right for about 700 metres, passing through 2 more gates, to return to the CambridgePPF car park.

Getting there: Park in the Cambridge PPF Martin Car Park on Grantchester Road, Coton
Map: Explorer Map 209.
GR for CambridgePPF car park TL41385/57882
Pubs: The Plough, Coton.
Distance: 7.3 km (4.5 miles); 1.5 to 2 hours.

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.