



Hereward Line

Activity Book

PETERBOROUGH

MARCH

WHITTLESEA

MANEA

ELY

*Where will your
next adventure take you?*

Welcome to this **Hereward Line** activity book

The book has been created by the Hereward Community Rail Partnership who bring together groups of people where they live to tell people about the railway line between Peterborough and Ely.

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The Hereward Line connects with the East Coast Mainline in Peterborough and from here you can travel almost anywhere in England or Scotland either directly or by changing train only once.

From Ely, you can travel onwards to Cambridge, and to the east coast and visit places like Sheringham and Cromer, Norwich, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, and many more.

To travel into London, you can either take the train through Peterborough and then directly onto London Kings Cross, or you can travel through Ely and connect with London Liverpool Street or London Kings Cross (you may need to change trains).

The Hereward Line travels right through the middle of the Fens and Ouse Washes and the landscape is very flat. It is a great place to walk or cycle as most routes are on the level. Many of the walking and cycling routes in the area are also good for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

To help guide you through this activity book,
meet Fen
Fen is a Barn Owl



Barn Owls can often be seen flying around our area as they like low lying land and grassland and they hunt over drainage ditches for food. We have lots of these places in our area and so owls like Fen love living here!

Barn owls love nesting in old barns, farm buildings, or nest boxes, and the number of farm buildings in the Fens makes it an ideal nesting place for them too!

See if you can spot an owl like Fen as you travel along The Hereward Line - you will have to look closely in the fields as the train travels along.

The Hereward Line



HEREWARD

All of the places shown can be found on the Hereward Community Rail Partnership website: www.herewardcrp.org

Or scan the QR code to navigate there directly:

Activity 1

Spot from the window / platform

Tick off each one you spot and count up how many points you scored at the end.

Can you spot:

Nature / wildlife / landscape 

Cow, horse (in a field or with a rider), dog (being walked), swan, goose, duck, heron, crows / rooks (look high up in the trees as you pass through the stations), deer (look in the fields!), river, lake, flooded fields.

What other animals can you spot?

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Buildings / vehicles / structures 

Chimneys, church spire, cathedral, boats (what sort of boat?), freight trains (can you count how many trucks they were pulling), freight trucks (in a train yard or siding), wind turbines, level crossings (who uses them?)

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The first station to the western end of our line is

Peterborough

This Cathedral city offers a great range of things to see and do for everybody.

You could visit Peterborough Cathedral, Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery, Railworld Wildlife Haven, Nene Valley Railway, Peterborough Lido, or The New Theatre or Key Theatre.

If you head out of the city a bit, you can let off some steam at Nene Park / Ferry Meadows where you'll find lots of activities on land and in the water!

Five things to spot around Peterborough - how many can you find?

1. How many blue plaques could you find? Write down your number here:



2. The Gormley sculptures - "Places to be" - stand in Cathedral Square, near The Guildhall and look up!

There are three male sculptures high on the rooftops - can you see them all?

3. Peterborough Art Trail has lots of lovely paintings on buildings around the city - can you find any and describe them?

If you're stuck, head to Cowgate as a starting point!



* If you're visiting Peterborough in the summer - Cathedrals really are VERY cool, and average temperatures inside are much cooler than outside!



Next along the Hereward Line is the market town of

Whittlesey

Or is it Whittlesea??!

If you travel to Whittlesea by train, then it's Whittlesea with an "a", but if you're in the town, then it's Whittlesey - with a "y"!

AY? Why? Well, it's an old story, but basically a long time ago, Whittlesey was an island, surrounded by water, and it was known as Witel's Isle, and the "ea" at the end comes from the Saxon word for an island.

Despite the modern name changes, the railway station retained its original spelling - we quite like it and we think it makes Whittlesea / Whittlesey rather unique!

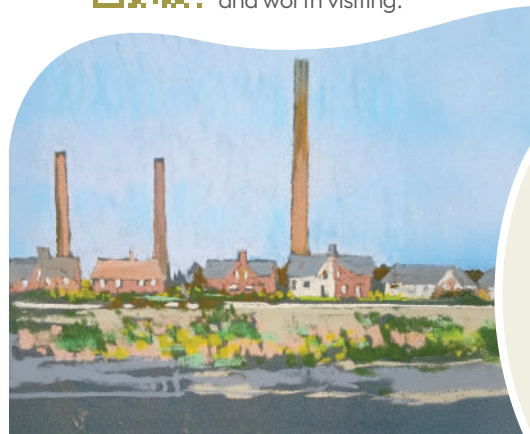
Anyway, if you head into the town of Whittlesey (with a "y"), you'll find lots to see and do.

If you visit Lattersey, and want to hunt for something a little different, then download the **Love Exploring App** <https://loveexploring.app/> and immerse yourself in AR and find the fairies and dinosaurs hidden around the reserve!

Scan here to download the **Love Exploring App:**



Whittlesey Museum, Lattersey Nature Reserve and Kings Dyke Nature Reserve are all close by and worth visiting.



Five things to spot around Whittlesey tick the box when you find each one: 

1. A stegosaurus in Lattersey Nature Reserve. ☐
2. The dancing Straw Bear in the Buttercross. ☐
3. Check out the history board at the station - have a look at some of the cargo which was carried along the line in 1949. ☐
4. Boats near Ashline Lock - how many can you see and what type are they? ☐
5. Trains passing through Whittlesea station - what sort of trains did you see? ☐



If you're in the town and want to explore more, scan the QR code and follow The Whittlesey Heritage Walk?

Or alternatively follow the routes using the **Love Exploring App**

What is the Straw Bear?

Every year, in January, the town is host to the wonderful Straw Bear festival weekend and the streets come alive with the sound of music, dancing and colourful spectacles!

The Straw Bear and baby Straw Bear dance through the streets to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

It is said that the celebrations will bring good luck and a good harvest in the coming year.



Our third, mid stop along the Hereward Line, is the market town of **March**

While you're at the station, have a good look around at the history boards and the wildlife garden at the front. In the town, you'll find the pretty riverside, West End Park, and March Museum.

Whitemoor Nature Reserve and Rings End Nature Reserves are also worth a visit (Rings End is about a 5-mile walk from the town!). Just on the outskirts of town, you'll find Foxes Marina where you can hire narrowboats and Fourwinds Leisure, where family canoes and pedaloes can be hired.

Five things to spot in March

tick the box when you find each one:

1. Have a look in the wildlife garden at the station and see how many creatures you can spot – in the back corner of the car park area, there is a bug hotel, so you may find some in there. ☐
2. Can you find three different boat names?
* Tip – if there aren't any moored in the town centre, then you may need to wander along through West End Park. ☐
3. Geese of March – how many can you spot (there are lots!) and are there any babies (goslings)? ☐
4. The War Memorial which can be found on Broad Street. ☐
5. Check out the history board on platform 2 of the railway station – can you see all of the steam engines that have passed through the station? ☐

The smallest station on our line **Manea**

Our “baby station” is the pretty village of Manea. The railway station is about a 20-minute walk from the village centre.

Once in the village, you can take the short walk around Bearts Farm Wood and continue onto Manea Pit and Manea Park to enjoy a picnic and some play time. Further out, about 2.5 miles away, you'll find Welches Dam, if you enjoy birdwatching.

Five things to spot in Manea

tick the box when you find each one:

1. Have a look at the history board in the waiting shelter on platform 1 and have a read about the history of the village. ☐
2. If you head down to Bearts Farm Wood, take the track into the fairy garden. ☐
3. If you walk from Bearts Farm Wood towards Manea Pit, stand on the path where you can see the railway line – it's a great place to train spot from, and you get a long clear view of the trains! ☐
4. Head into the back of Manea Pits and you'll find the community orchard – how many varieties of fruit trees can you find? ☐
5. Find a bench or sit on the grass around the edge of Manea pit and count how many different species of birds you can spot. ☐

Our final Hereward Line station is the

Cathedral City of **Ely**



The cathedral is a great place to visit if you are looking for somewhere to find some shade and cool off – because Cathedrals are cool!!!

Upstairs in the Cathedral, you'll also find The Stained Glass Museum, and in the city, there's also The Museum and Oliver Cromwell's House to explore.

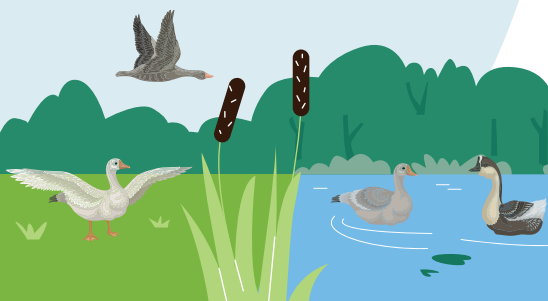
Jubilee Park, Cherry Hill Park, and Ely Country Park are all lovely open spaces to play or picnic, and you will find lots of places near the river to sit and watch the boats go by.

Five things to do & spot in Ely

tick the box when you find each one:

1. Check out the Visit Ely history board on platform 2 (the middle platform) – what year did Queen Elizabeth II visit Ely by train? ☐
2. Sit by the river and look at the boats – how many different types of boat can you see and which is your favourite? ☐
3. Head into Cherry Hill Park and choose your favourite hill to roll down (check with your adults first!). ☐
4. Take a selfie outside of Oliver Cromwell's House with Mrs Cromwell. ☐
5. Head into the market square and take a look at some of the stalls – which is your favourite? ☐

If you're there on a day when there's a fruit & vegetable stall, look at all the different colours and choices!



Activity 2 - colouring

Colour in the scene below and be as creative as you like!

We'd love your adult to send in a photo of your finished colouring
- email it into us at: herewardcrp@fenland.gov.uk



add any
sights you see
from the train

why not add
your own colours
to the sky

draw any
wildlife you see
from the train

try adding
your own crops
to the field



Activity 3 - staying safe at the station

Can you spot the 7 potential hazards at this station? 

Circle them when you find them.



- True or False?

below is or :

1. Greater Anglia, who manage Ely, Manea, March and Whittlesea stations, have a yellow bunny as their logo.
2. CrossCountry Trains use The Hereward Line to transport passengers to Heathrow Airport.
3. Overhead power cables (you will see them at Ely) are switched off in the evenings.
4. You can use an East Midlands Railway train to get to Ipswich directly.

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

5. Greater Anglia operates trains along the Hereward Line which travel from Ipswich to Peterborough.
6. March railway station used to have 7 active platforms.
7. You can travel from March station to Edinburgh in under 4 ½ hours, changing at Peterborough.
8. Overhead power lines have approximately 1,000 volts running through them.
9. If you drop something onto the track at the station, it's OK to recover it if you tell a member of staff.
10. The Hereward Line opened with trains running between Peterborough and Ely in 1987.

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

True ☐

False ☐

Activity 5

Can you find the 20-words in the box below, we have given you one word to start with - **Peterborough**

4-letter words

Newt
Swan
Taxi

5-letter words

Grebe
Manea
Signal
Wagons

6-letter words

Bridge Cables

7-letter words

Bicycle
Luggage
Freight

8-letter words

Chimneys
Electric
Platform
Hereward

9-letter words

Signalman
Timetable

10-letter words

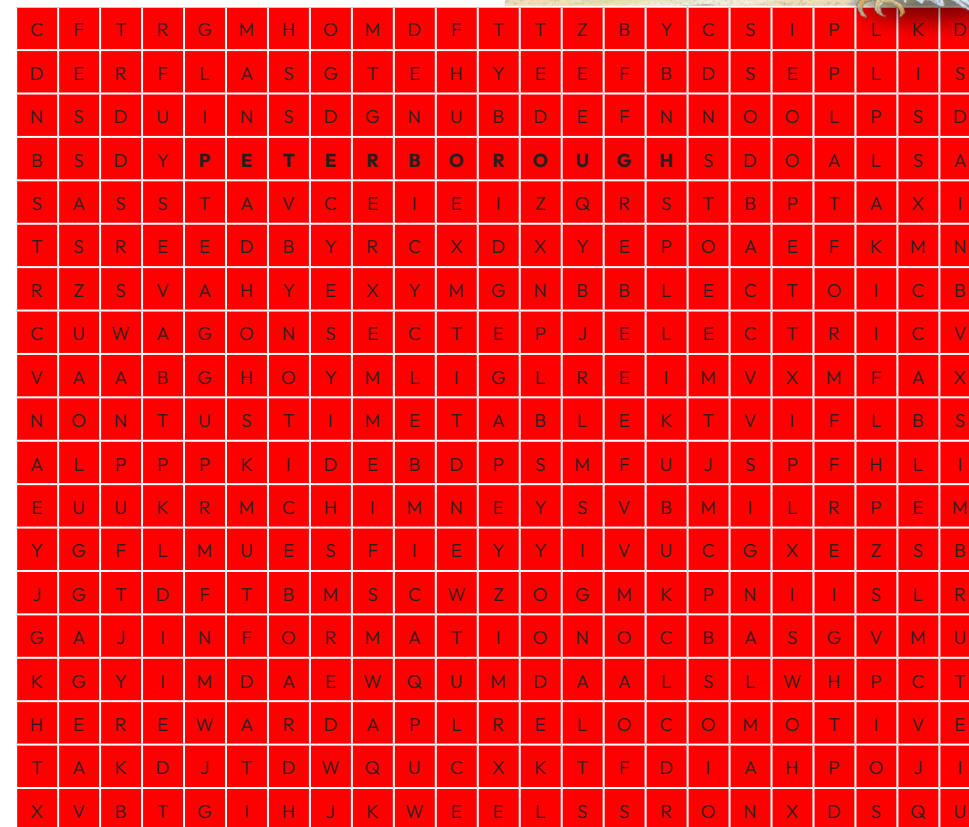
Locomotive

11-letter words

Information

12-letter words

Peterborough



Answers

Well done on having a go at the activities!

In case you are stuck, or want to check your answers, have a look below:

Staying safe at the station

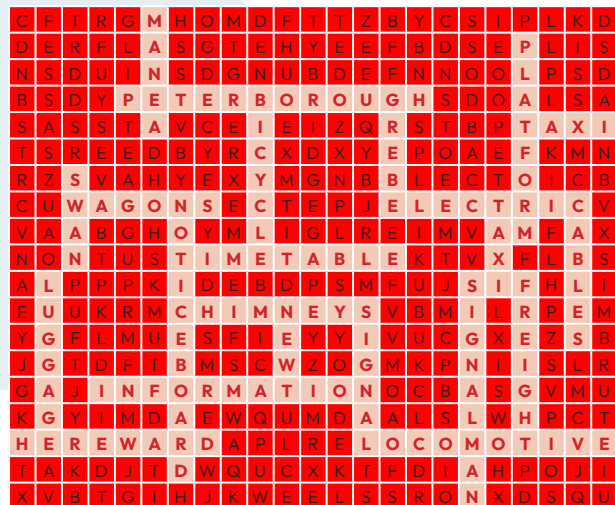
Here are the hazards:

icy platform
wet floor sign
young people on scooters / bikes
platform edges - children running
visually impaired person and other
which is a slip / trip hazard
child with football
people wearing headphones
and not listening

Activity 5

Word Search

The hidden words are shown in **RED**



Activity 4

True or False?

- Greater Anglia, who manage Ely, Manea, March and Whittlesea stations, have a yellow bunny as their logo. *** FALSE** - it is a red hare!
- CrossCountry Trains use The Hereward Line to transport passengers to Heathrow Airport. *** FALSE** - they travel to Stansted airport.
- Overhead power cables (you will see them at Ely) are switched off in the evenings. *** FALSE** - the power is never turned off.
- You can use an East Midlands Railway train to get to Ipswich directly. *** FALSE** - East Midlands Railway travel to Norwich.
- Greater Anglia operate trains along the Hereward Line which travel from Ipswich to Peterborough. *** TRUE.**
- March railway station used to have 7 active platforms. *** TRUE.**
- You can travel from March station to Edinburgh in under 4 ½ hours, changing at Peterborough. *** TRUE.**
- Overhead power lines have approximately 1,000 volts running through them. *** FALSE** - it's 25,000 - that's over 100 times more power than the average toaster in your home.
- If you drop something onto the track at the station, it's OK to recover it if you tell a member of staff. *** FALSE** - you must never try to recover anything from the tracks, but you should tell a member of staff if you drop something.
- The Hereward Line opened with trains running between Peterborough and Ely in 1987. *** FALSE** - it was 1887!



This activity book was made possible thanks to funding from East Midlands Railway's Community Fund & CrossCountry Trains' Customer & Communities Improvement Fund. The book was designed by **Fine Design** (www.finedesign.co.uk) and illustrated by **Claire McGinley** (www.camopenstudios.org/membership-account/profile/cemcginley/). "I am so pleased to be invited to be the artist for this special book about the Hereward Line. When I was growing up in the fens, I spent a lot of time exploring outside. I went out cycling a lot and loved going on train trips with my family or friends. I have always enjoyed drawing and painting, and also spotting birds, and when I was nine years old, I saw a Great Crested Grebe. I often see a Barn owl like the one in this book flying over the fields. I hope you have a great time exploring on your exciting train trip and see lots of new things."