

# Walk 3 Biggleswade to Tempsford 9 miles /15km

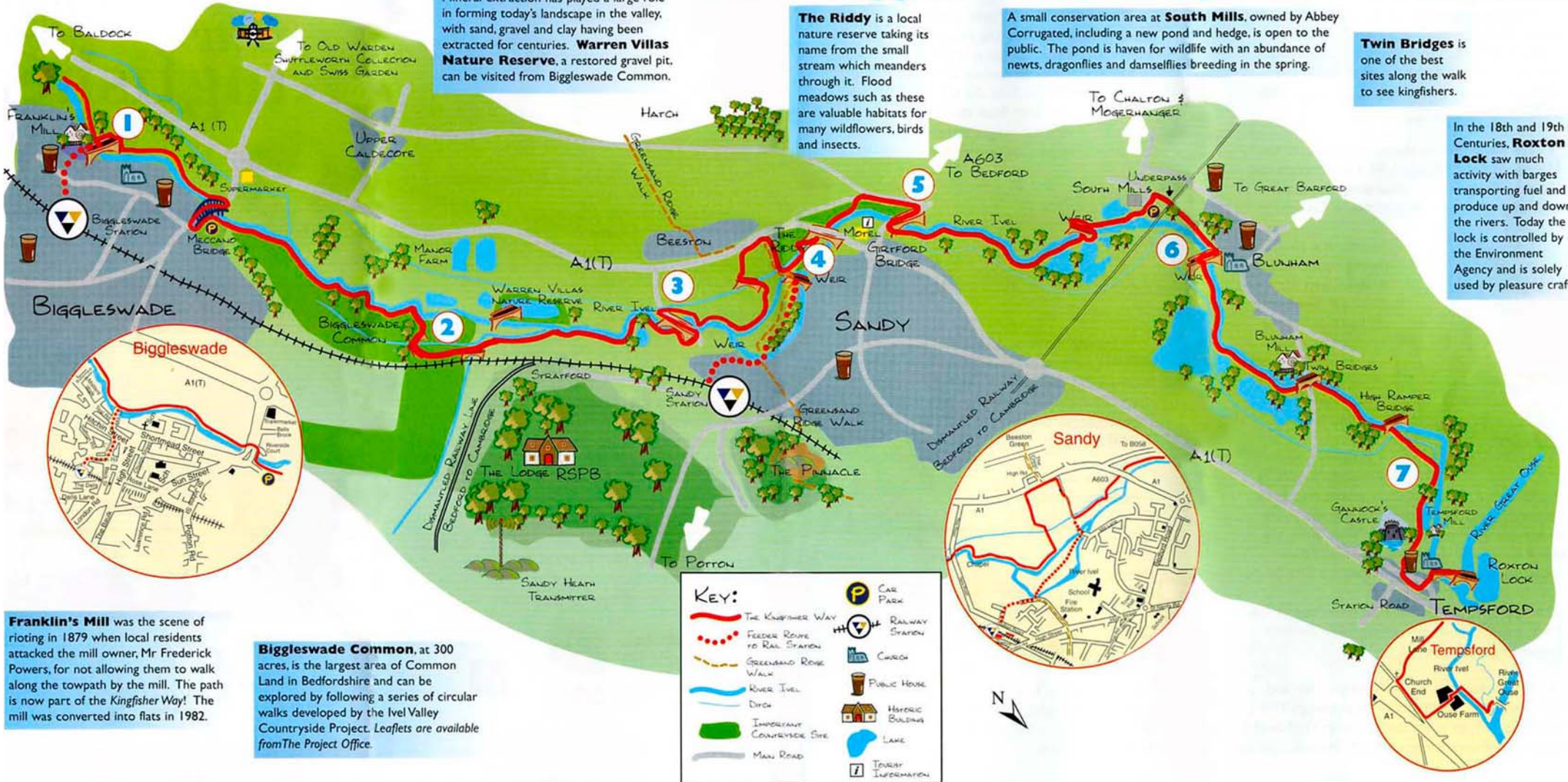
Mineral extraction has played a large role in forming today's landscape in the valley, with sand, gravel and clay having been extracted for centuries. **Warren Villas Nature Reserve**, a restored gravel pit, can be visited from Biggleswade Common.

**The Riddy** is a local nature reserve taking its name from the small stream which meanders through it. Flood meadows such as these are valuable habitats for many wildflowers, birds and insects.

A small conservation area at **South Mills**, owned by Abbey Corrugated, including a new pond and hedge, is open to the public. The pond is haven for wildlife with an abundance of newts, dragonflies and damselflies breeding in the spring.

**Twin Bridges** is one of the best sites along the walk to see kingfishers.

In the 18th and 19th Centuries, **Roxton Lock** saw much activity with barges transporting fuel and produce up and down the rivers. Today the lock is controlled by the Environment Agency and is solely used by pleasure craft.



**Franklin's Mill** was the scene of rioting in 1879 when local residents attacked the mill owner, Mr Frederick Powers, for not allowing them to walk along the towpath by the mill. The path is now part of the **Kingfisher Way**! The mill was converted into flats in 1982.

**Biggleswade Common**, at 300 acres, is the largest area of Common Land in Bedfordshire and can be explored by following a series of circular walks developed by the Ivel Valley Countryside Project. Leaflets are available from The Project Office.