

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is one of a series of six linked walks in and around Stotfold, a small Bedfordshire town close to the borders of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Stotfold is thought to have gained its name when northern cattle drovers broke their journey to London down the Great North Road and penned their animals [stots] in enclosures [folds] before continuing their journey south.

Each individual walk covers two to four miles and can be linked to form longer routes. The area is generally level and the walks are easy, although not all will be accessible to wheelchairs or baby-buggies.

The walks were produced by TEASEL – the local conservation group. A combined map of all the walks showing how they are linked and notes on interesting flora and fauna which you are likely to see at different seasons can be found on the TEASEL website: www.teasel-info.com.



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PARKING

Many of the walks start from a car-park but if this is full, please show consideration for any traffic and local residents.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses run through Stotfold from Hitchin, Letchworth and Shefford. For further information, contact: Arriva Customer Services – 0844 800 44 11.

Arlesey Station, just 1½ miles away, has East Coast Main Line services from London and Peterborough.

OTHER WALKS IN THE AREA

Local libraries have information on other local and more long-distance walks. These include:

Kingfisher Way: Baldock to Tempsford

Greensand Ridge Walk: Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay

Letchworth Greenway: 13½ miles around the town

USEFUL MAPS

Ordnance Survey Landranger Series, 153 @ 1:50 000

Ordnance Survey Explorer Series, 193 @ 1:25 000

FURTHER INFORMATION

There are various pubs and shops in the town which provide refreshments. There is a public convenience in the High Street.

Remember to obey The Countryside Code – keep to the footpaths, close all gates behind you and keep dogs under control.



Design & layout: Cedric Morgan, Ad-Lib Graphics • 01462 731845

ASTWICK'S ANCIENT CHURCH AND RUINED MILL

2.9 miles/4.7Km

1

Linked, Short Walks in and around **STOTFOLD**



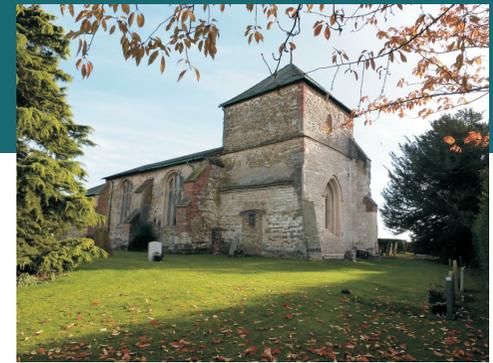
- 1 Astwick's Ancient Church and Ruined Mill
- 2 The River Ivel
- 3 Town, Church and River
- 4 To Radwell Lake
- 5 Stotfold: Old and New
- 6 Wide Open Spaces and Water

Walk No. 1

2.9 miles/
4.7 Km

ASTWICK'S ANCIENT CHURCH AND RUINED MILL

Start in Astwick Road, near junction with Taylors Road [GR217377]. Links with Walks 3, 6.



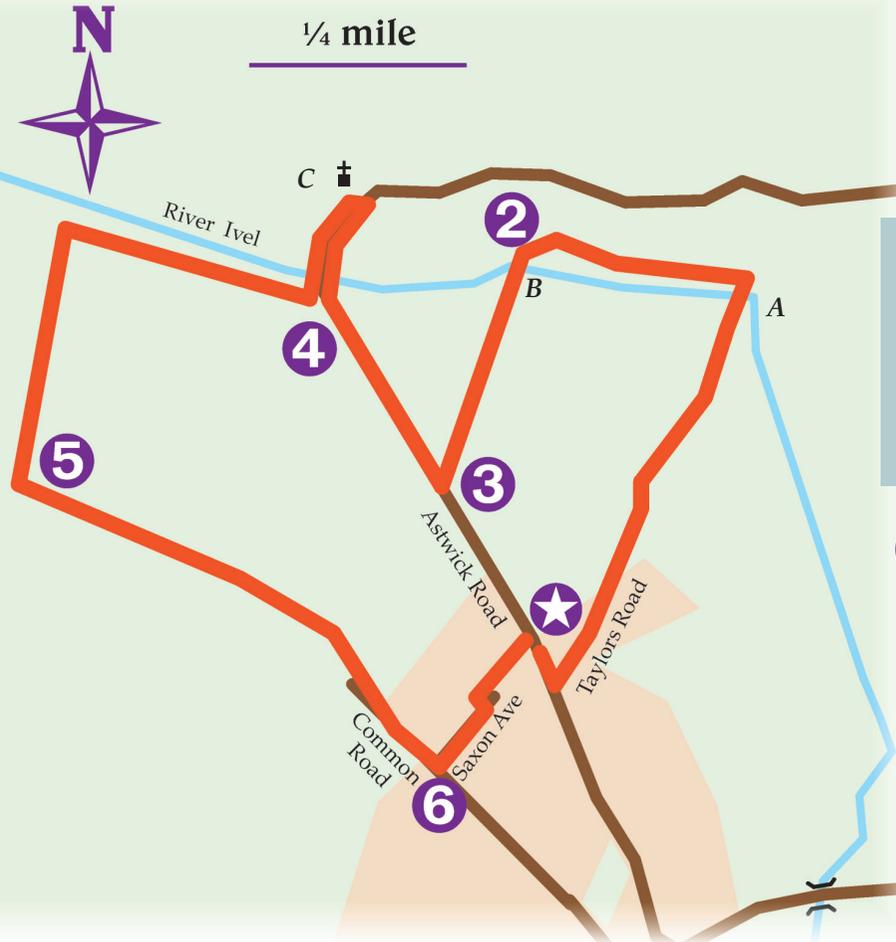
St Guthlac's Church – Cedric Morgan

★ Walk up *Taylors Road* away from Stotfold. At a Z-bend, cross the River Ivel at Taylors Mill [A] (now a private house).

1 Opposite 'Ivel Mill' (which never was a mill) go through a kissing gate and reach a field-edge path beside the river. Continue to a plank bridge and turn left along a fenced path between trees and a large back garden.

2 Turn left along a tarmac road to a white house and the ruined Bowman's Mill [B]. Cross a fenced bridge, the river tumbling beside you towards the skeleton of a waterwheel. Maintain this direction between hedges and out along a clear path through fields until you reach *Astwick Road*.

3 Walk to your right up this straight road and cross the river to reach St. Guthlac's Church [C]. After looking at the church, retrace your steps back across the river to the wide path on your right.



Point of Interest

[C] *St. Guthlac's*, dating from the 11th Century, has a 15th century nave and box pews and an interesting 17th Century tomb. It is one of the few English churches dedicated to a 12th Century Saint who lived as a hermit in the Lincolnshire fens.

4 Turn right onto a wide path. At the end, turn left round a rough square of scrub and trees.

5 Stay on this field-edge path to a yellow-topped marker-post. Turn left here and continue between arable fields, a ditch on your right. At allotment gardens on your right the path becomes a tarmac road.

6 Turn left into *Saxon Avenue* and walk along this road to a grassy area in front of houses. Pass to the right of this area between Nos. 36 and 49 on a tarmac path to reach the road. Your starting point is a few yards to the right.

Point of Interest

[A] In early spring *Taylors Mill* is a focus point for hundreds of toads crossing the road as they head back to their ancient ponds to spawn.

Point of Interest

[B] *Bowman's Mill* was one of the four local mills on the Ivel noted in the 1086 *Domesday Book*. There are plans to restore it as a private dwelling.



Footpath near Bowman's Mill – Dylan Mills



Derelict water wheel at Bowman's Mill – Dylan Mills