

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.



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THE RIVER IVEL

2.0 miles/3.2 Km

2

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. 2

2.0 miles/
3.2 Km

THE RIVER IVEL

Start at Malthouse Lane Car Park [GR 221373]. Links with Walk 3.



Turn left out of the *Malthouse Lane* car park and cross the River Ivel by the hump-backed Ford Bridge. Centenary Wood [A] is on the right and can be accessed via a central ride and a circular path near its edge. Continue along *Malthouse Lane* to a small grass triangle with a tree in the centre.

Point of Interest

[A] Centenary Wood was planted in 1994 to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Stotfold Parish [now Town] Council. The Town Council donated the land and bought native trees which were planted by local residents.

1

Turn right along *Mill Lane* [B] and continue past the steeply sloping cemetery. There is a fire-beacon at the top which was lit in 2003 as part of a country-wide celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Pass a footpath sign on your left and after the lane bends, enter Stotfold Nature Reserve.

Point of Interest

[B] Stotfold brickworks was on the sloping field on your left, producing bricks from which many local houses were built, as was Stotfold watermill, which you reach later in the walk.

2

Turn left into Stotfold Nature Reserve. The explanatory board on the right details the creatures and plants which you may find in the Reserve. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads. After your circuit of the Reserve, return to *Mill Lane* and turn left past Stotfold Watermill [D]. On the right is Stotfoldbury, one of the town's oldest houses.

Continue along *Mill Lane* passing the almshouses and a Baptist Chapel on the left to reach the junction opposite The Chequers.

Point of Interest

[C] Stotfold Watermill Nature Reserve covers over 8 acres. Opened in 2011 it is the culmination of over ten years' work by local volunteers from Teasel, Stotfold's conservation group, in collaboration with Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust.



Point of Interest

[D] Stotfold Mill was gutted by fire in 1992. The ruin was bought for £1 by the Mill Trust and restored by local volunteers. With the UK's widest cornmill waterwheel, it is now fully operational again, producing stone-ground flour. It also has an excellent tea-room, open on alternate Sunday afternoons from March until October. Check the Mill website (www.stotfoldmill.com) or the board outside the Mill for opening times and special events.



3

Turn right along *Rook Tree Lane* and in about 100 yds turn right at the end of the houses onto a footpath to enter Millennium Green [E].

Point of Interest

[E] Millennium Green was bought by Stotfold Town Council to provide an additional recreational area for the community. There is evidence that there was once an Anglo-Saxon settlement here.

4

The path leads to a marker post at an isolated squeeze stile. Bear right through a narrow gap, a school on your left and follow the riverside path to the road. The car park where you started is ahead.