

## 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](http://www.teasel-info.com).



*All photographs © Larry Stoter unless otherwise stated.*

## 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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## STOTFOLD – OLD AND NEW

4.1 miles/6.6 Km

5

## 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. 5

4.1 miles/  
6.6 Km

## OLD AND NEW STOTFOLD

Start at the car park near the shops at the top of Brook Street [GR 216365] • Links with Walks 3, 4 & 6.



Walk east on *High Street* past the crossing with traffic lights and a parade of shops to a point opposite the end of *Queen Street*.

1

Turn right along *Murrel Lane* to *Norton Road*. Cross to go down the path under the A507. When the path reaches *Norton Road* again, cross to take the path to the right of the line of houses.

### Point of Interest

[A] Originally known as *The Stotfold Three Counties Asylum*, building was started in 1856 using local bricks and included the longest corridor in Britain, at half a mile long. *Fairfield Hospital* was closed in 1999 and the main building with its water towers has been restored and converted into luxury flats and renamed *Fairfield Hall*.

2

Pass *Norton Stables* on to a permissive path. With a field to your left, the distant turrets of *Fairfield Hall* [A] are visible in the distance over the hedge on your right. Maintain the path line to a T-junction.

3

At the T-junction, turn right. Walk down across the *Pix Brook* and up to the *Stotfold-Hitchin road*.

Cross the road to the tree-lined edge of *Fairfield Park*.



### Point of Interest

[B] The *East Orchard* has several old and unusual varieties of apple trees. The produce was used in meals in the old hospital, which was almost self-sufficient, with all essential facilities on-site including a bakery, a dairy and a laundry.

6

Cross the road by the 'Two Brewers' and walk diagonally across a large recreation ground to go left along a path with a bowling green beside you. Emerge opposite the 'Pig and Whistle' and go right up *Brook Street* to the car park where you started.

5

Turn left on to *Hitchin Road* to pass under the A507 and back to *Hitchin Road* in 'old' Stotfold.

4

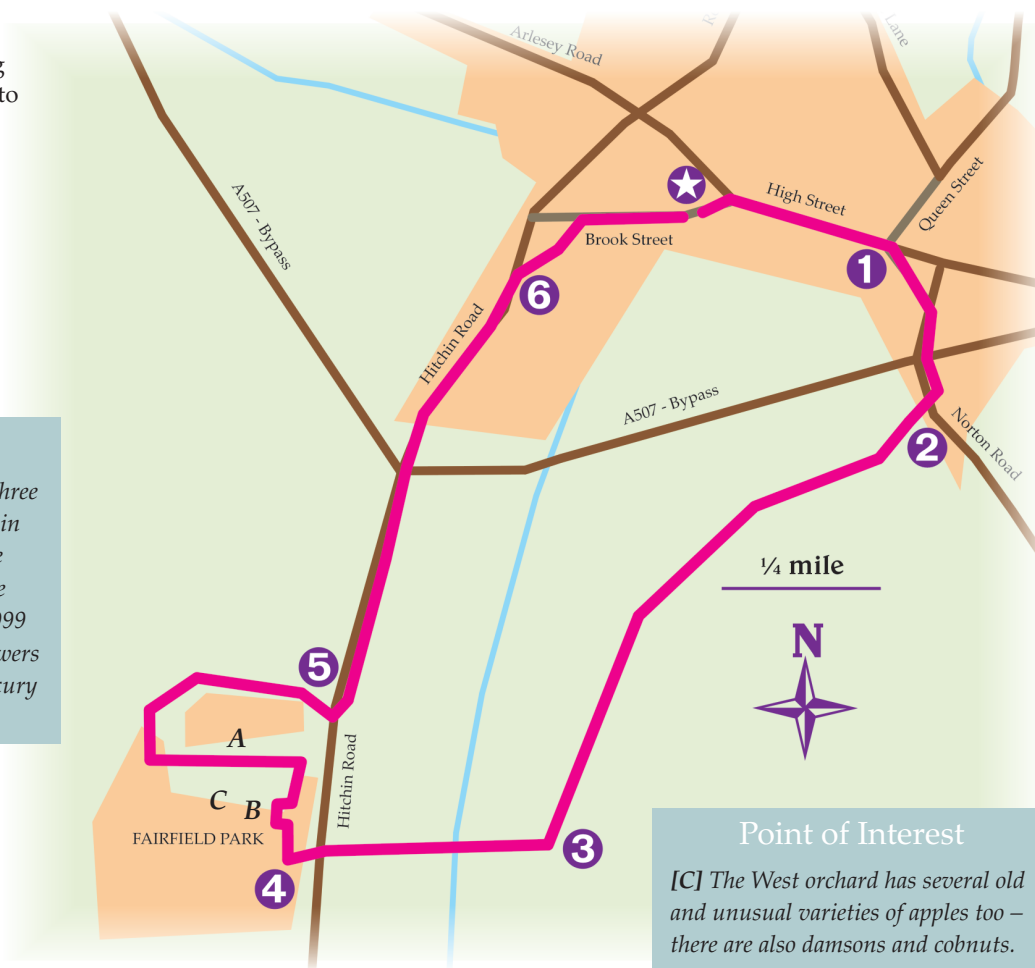
Turn right on to *Brontë Avenue* and cross *Dickens Boulevard* to *Palmerston Way*. At the T-junction turn right and immediately left [*Palmerston Way*, numbers 3-21]. At the orchard [B] turn right to the obelisk with its Latin inscription.

Turn left into *Russell Walk*, and left again on to the wide road in front of *Fairfield Hall*. Pass a cricket field and *Icknield House* to a narrower path beside a playing field.

Turn right on to *Hardy Way* to pass another orchard [C]. Where the houses end turn right along *Elliot Way*. Pass a sign to the *Health Club* and stay on the path through trees. Pass the old *Chapel* on your right and reach the 'North' roundabout.



The Obelisk in Fairfield Park



Part of the main Fairfield Hall buildings