

## 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).



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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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## WIDE OPEN SPACES AND WATER

3.8 miles/6.0 Km

# 6

## 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. 6

3.8 miles/  
6.0 Km

## WIDE OPEN SPACES AND WATER

Start near the allotments in Common Road [GR 215376] • Links with Walks 1



From the northern end of *Common Road* follow the track signed as a public bridleway to Langford. Stay on this line to reach a marker post at a T-junction, where you turn right, a ditch beside you.

1

At a low metal gate, cross to walk along a path between fields to the River Ivel [A]. Turn left along the bank, following round until you reach a rustic incised bench. Turn away from the river here, an intermittent hedge on your left, and stay on this line to reach steps leading down to the busy A507.



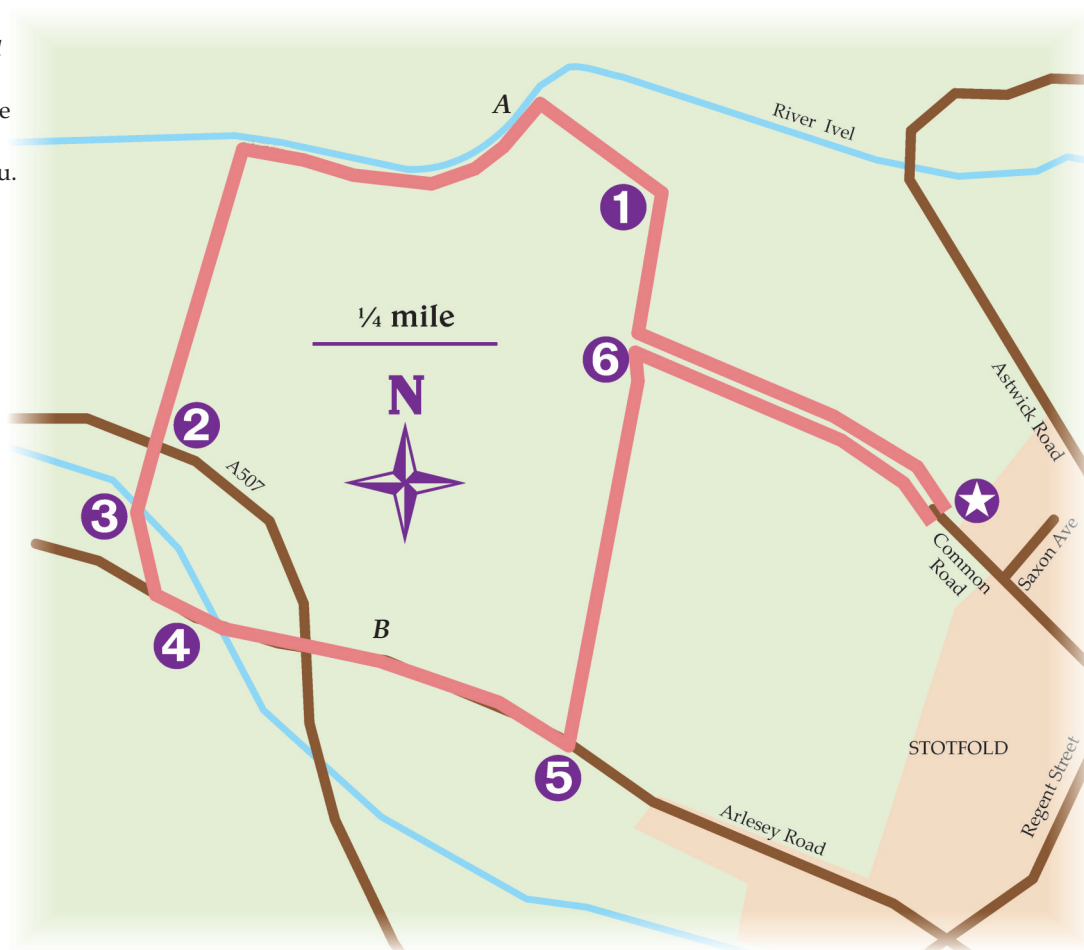
2

Cross the road, **with great care** and follow a signed path to a bridge over the Pix Brook.

3

Go left on the tarmac path, then right down a road through a small housing estate (*The Hermitage*).

At the main road, go left along the pavement, which soon becomes *Pendleton Way*, a combined footway/cycleway.



### Point of Interest

**[B] Pendleton Way** This footway/ cycleway was named after Stotfold-born Victoria Pendleton – world champion cyclist and gold medal winner at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.



*Himalayan balsam plant*

6

Go right here and retrace your steps back to the houses and your starting point.

4

At a wooden kissing gate, enter a small nature reserve (If this is too unkempt, stay on *Pendleton Way*.) Turn right at the information board to pick your way along a line parallel to the combined way you just left. Leave the reserve to your right, rejoining *Pendleton Way*, and turn left to walk back along it towards Stotfold, passing under the A507.

### Point of Interest

**[A]** Otters, water voles, dragonflies and kingfishers may all be found along the route of the River Ivel, though the first two are unlikely to be seen unless you are out very early in the morning or at dusk. There is a wide variety of water-loving plants, including watercress, for which the area used to be famous in the 19th century, and Himalayan balsam, an exotic intruder with large pink and white snapdragon-like flowers.

5

Opposite the Fox and Duck go left along a signed footpath, a 'pepper-pot' water-tower on the horizon ahead. The long straight field-edge path eventually reaches the T-junction with the marker-post where you turned earlier.

