

## Standon Nr. Ware

### Walk 6: From Standon: Past The Balsams and Vineyard Spring

*This walk has great views,  
primroses in the ditches in  
spring and the chance to see  
Buzzards and Red Kites all year  
round.*

*Distance and time needed: 4½ miles,  
approximately 2½ hours.*

*Refreshments: The Bell (Pizzas &  
Pub food) 01920 739838  
The Heron/China Garden (Chinese  
Food) 01920 821236  
The Star (Pub food) 01920 823725*

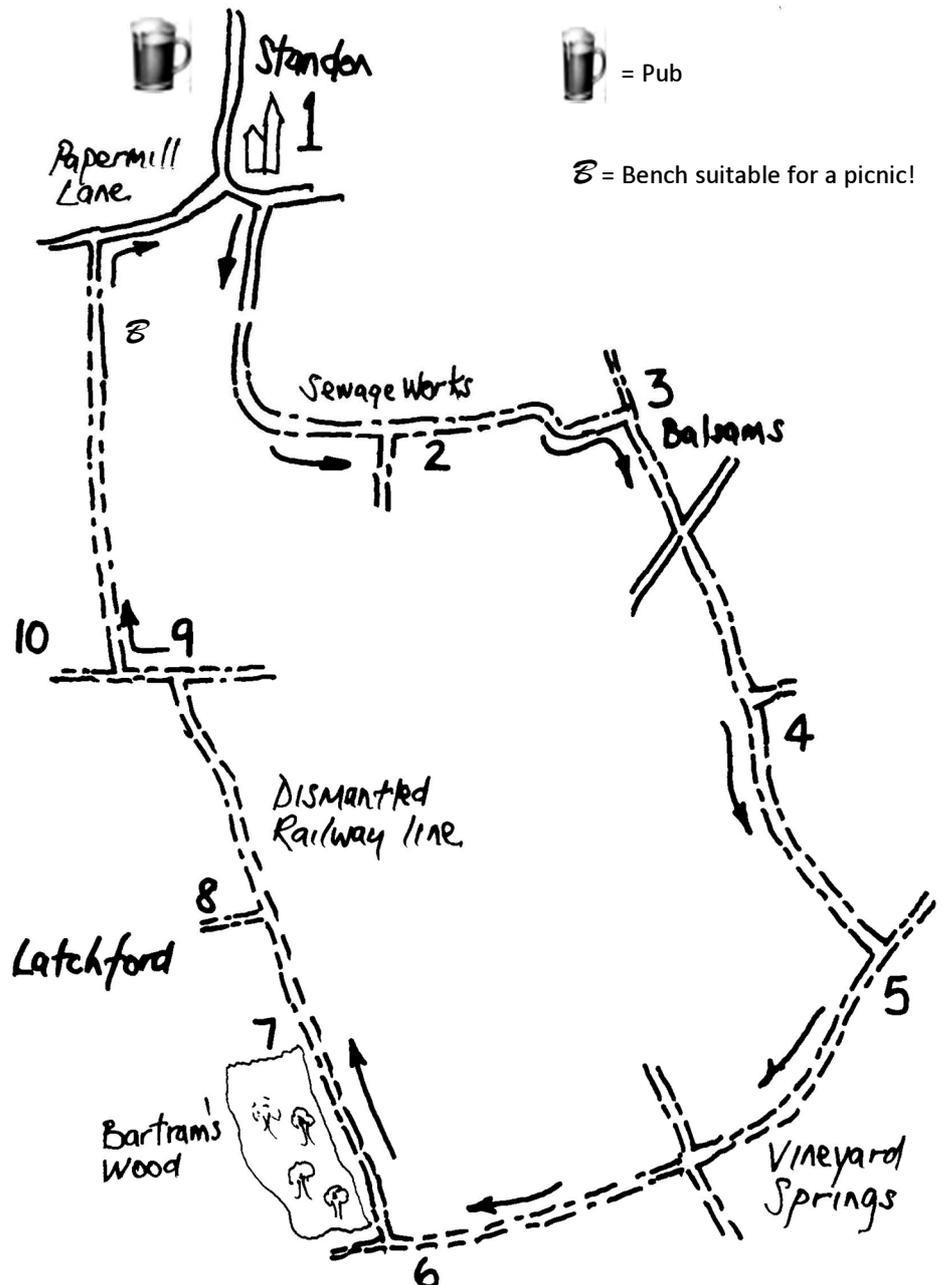
**1** Starting at St. Mary's Church in Standon High Street, walk towards Knights Court and up the Hadham Road. Just past the end of Rose Cottages turn right, up the concrete lane to the Thames Water plant. Continue up the obvious track, into the wood, and to the field beyond.

**2** Turn left and follow the field edge path all the way to the corner of the field. You will be walking beside a small stream, running in a deep ditch. At the field edge go straight ahead through the hedge. The path continues along the field edge and follows the stream all the way to Little Balsams.

**3** At the bridge, with park-like gardens and a lake in front of you, turn right and go up the field edge path until you are approximately ten metres past the garage to the property. At the waymarked gap through the hedgerow, exit left onto the driveway and continue up to the roadway at the top. Cross over and go up the bank on the footpath between the two fields. You should be standing on a path beside the ditch (to your right) and be able to see a copse ahead of you and huge views to London on your right. Follow the headland path towards the copse, follow this path keeping the wood and hedgerow hard on your left.

**4** You will cross a simple bridge after a few hundred metres, passing from one field to the next. Continue along the hedgerow and ahead of you there is a triangulation point. You are now 110 metres above sea level! Carry on and eventually, after first passing from this field into the next, you will see a large hedge ahead and a small wood off to the right. Continue on to the hedge and field boundary where you will join the clearly marked bridleway.

**5** This is the bridleway linking Bromley to Cox's Lane. Turn right and follow it until you join the farm track which crosses your line. On the right this leads back to Standon Lodge Farm. On the left this track continues to New Barns Lane (Much Hadham). The wood on your left is Vineyard Spring.



Turn left and go through the field boundary on the track. Turn immediately right and continue along the hedgerow and ditch, keeping it on your right. This is the continuation of the bridleway to Cox's Lane. Follow this until you pass through the boundary between this field and the next and just beyond you will find a new bridge over the ditch.

**6** Turn right and cross the bridge, this path runs ahead of you beside the ditch and Bartram's Wood, the path follows its boundary all the way to emerge on a field headland path after approximately five hundred metres.

**7** Keep following the field boundary hedgerow on your left, until you join the head of the old railway 'cutting'.

**8** Go down the bank and onto the old railway bed. Turn right and follow the old Buntingford branch line until it emerges on the bridleway that links Standon Lodge Farm to Standon Lordship.

*Beyond the point where a footpath crosses the railway bed, the old railway track goes between trees and is very rich in wild flowers, particularly in Spring and early Summer.*

**9** When you reach the end of the old railway line turn left onto the bridleway and follow it for fifty metres. At the crossing point of the Standon to Latchford bridleway turn right,.

**10** Go through the gate and down into the Laundry Meadows. Please be careful to secure the gate after you have passed through, cattle are often held in the Meadows.

Continue along the bridleway, following, roughly the line of the power lines, until you reach the gate at the far right hand corner of the first field. You are once again beside the old railway bed along this field boundary. Go through the gate. Carry on along the hedgerow on the clear track (just before the road there is a bench on your right - ideal for a pic-nic!). until it exits through the gate opposite the old mill pool on to Papermill Lane.

Turn right and follow the lane back to the Pudding stone and turn left to the Church.

Paths in Standon Parish are clearly waymarked. If you come across any problem with missing waymarks, please contact the Parish Paths Partnership [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk).

This leaflet has been produced by Standon Parish Council working as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, a programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Service (CMS). CMS helps communities across Hertfordshire to care for and enjoy the environment. [www.hertslink.org/cms](http://www.hertslink.org/cms)

For more great walks in Hertfordshire go to [www.walkinginherts.co.uk](http://www.walkinginherts.co.uk)



Spear Thistle

Spear Thistle is covered by the Weed Act of 1959 and you can be forced by law to eradicate these.