

Standon Nr. Ware Walk 7:

Via Latchford

An ideal walk to introduce visitors to the beauty of the local countryside, varied views over fields and the river with plenty of points of interest – from the sewage works to the stud farm via the lake at Standon Lodge Farm!

Distance and time needed: 3½ miles, approximately 1¾ 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 past the village hall. Continue until you have just passed the last cottage in the row on your right (Rose Cottages).

2 Turn right up the public footpath. Follow the concrete track up the hill as far as the Thames Water treatment plant. Continue on the unmade track, through the wood, to the field beyond. Turn left and walk along the field edge path until you reach the far side of the field and the hedgerow.

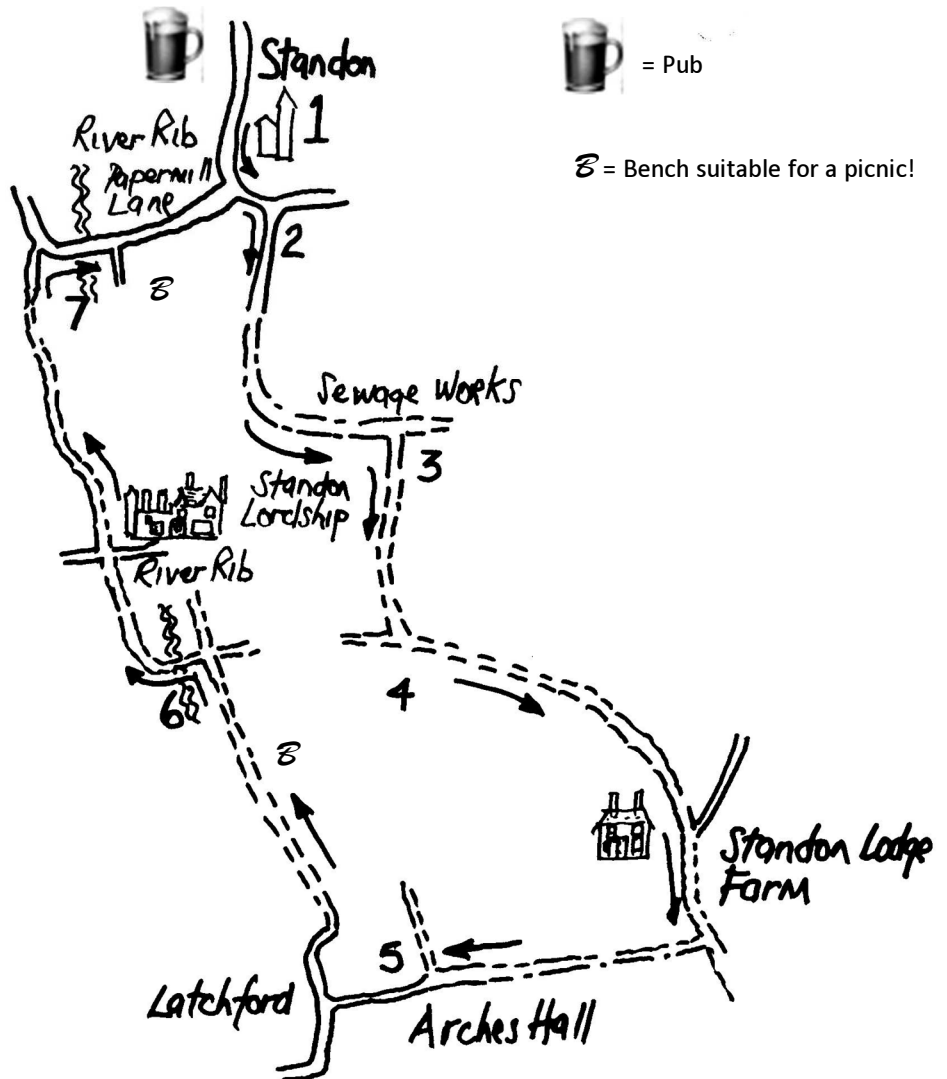
3 Turn right and go up the hill keeping the hedgerow hard on your left shoulder. At the top of the field go through the hedge to come out on a track. This is the bridleway to Much Hadham which comes out on New Barns lane.

4 Turn left and follow the track to Standon Lodge Farm. Just beyond the lake, turn right and walk up through the farmyard keeping the cottages on your left and the barns on your right. When you reach the cypress hedge marking the boundary of the farmyard turn right into the field. From here, the path runs straight across the field towards a gap in the far hedge, then across the field to another gap. Here you cross the disused track of the old Buntingford Branch line Head across the next field towards the lane which leads down from Arches Hall farmyard and stables. Go up this lane and continue straight across the yard and down the lane beyond, to the T-junction. This is Latchford.

5 Turn right and go along the lane until you are by the ford over the river Rib. Ahead of you there is a gate and a track leading up the hill through a field. This is the bridleway back to Standon. With the hedgerow on your right and the river below and to the left of you, continue up this track, straight on through the gate and over the top of the hill. As you come down the other side there is a useful bench with wonderful views and you can see the Much Hadham bridleway again and a gate onto the Laundry Meadows beyond.

6 Turn left along the bridleway and go across the bridge over the Rib (kingfishers are often seen here). Go through a gate and follow the track through the field and past a pond.

Just before the pond you are walking through the original Tudor walled garden of Standon Lordship which used to go down to the river. On your right you can see Standon Lordship. Now a private house, Standon



Lordship was originally built in 1546 by Sir Ralph Sadleir, courtier to Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and reputedly the richest commoner in England when he died. Elizabeth stayed here on 26th July, 1578 and James 1st visited in 1603 to knight Sir Ralph's son, Thomas.

Go through gate, cross the drive and through another gate.

On top of the hill on your left is a curious earthwork known locally as 'Queen Anne's Bath'. Its purpose and date are unknown. Walk down the hill following the river. On your left on the hillside are medieval strip lynchets. There must have been a great shortage of land in the 12th and 13th centuries to have to cultivate such a spot.

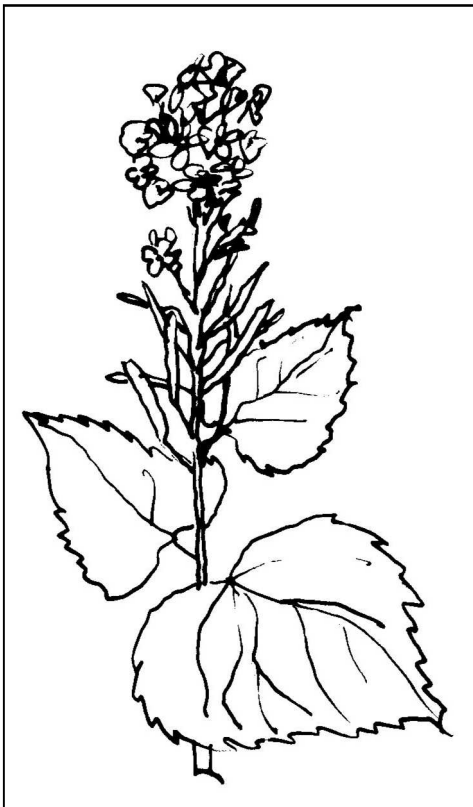
Carry on to the gate which leads into Paper Mill Lane.

7 Turn right and watch out for kingfishers as you walk over the footbridge, past Paper Mill House and back to Standon High Street and 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.

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

For more great walks in Hertfordshire go to www.walkinginherts.co.uk



Garlic Mustard or Jack by the Hedge

This biennial spring flower smells remarkably like garlic when the stems are crushed.