

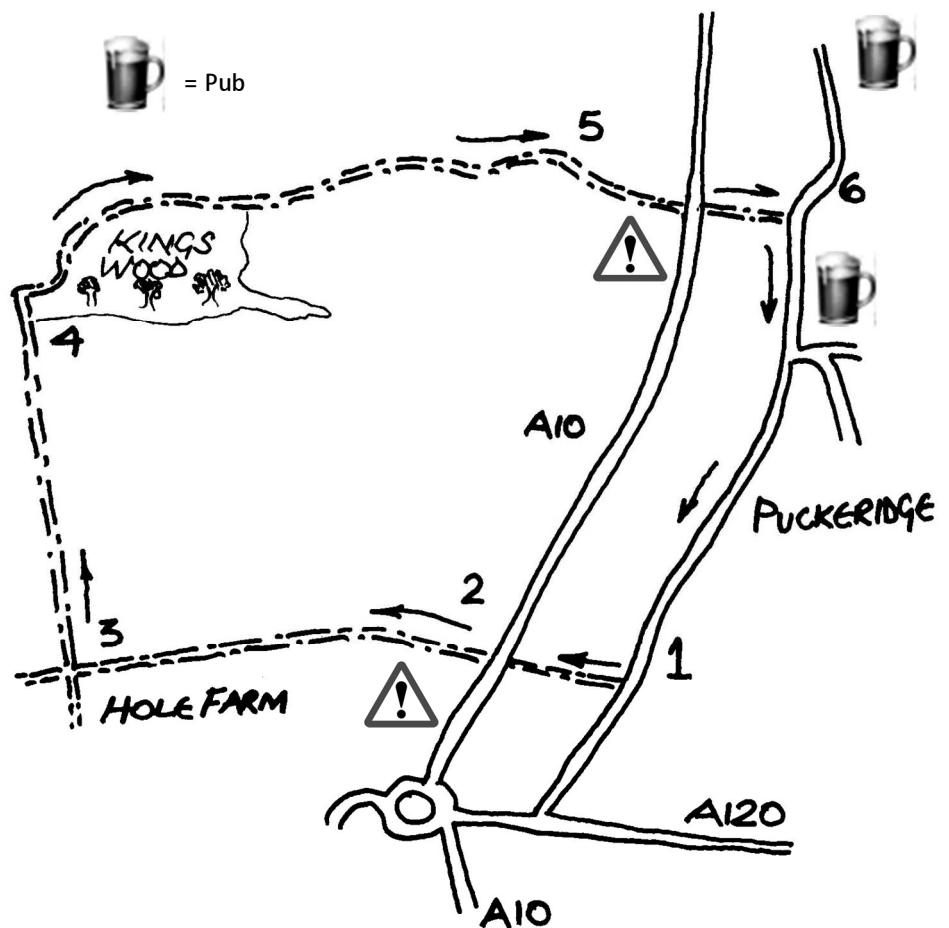
Standon Nr. Ware Walk 2:

Walk 2: A Short Walk from Puckeridge

A short easy to follow walk, ideal for a stroll after Sunday lunch! Despite having to cross the A10, this is a delightful walk. In Spring you will be delighted with the show of cowslips, primroses and bluebells.

Distance and time needed: 3 miles, approx. 1.5 hours

*Refreshments: Crown & Falcon
(Pub food) 01920 821561
White Hart (Pub food) 01920
821309*



1 Starting from the lay-bye close to the petrol station near the junction of the old A10 and A120 roads walk back towards the A120 and you will see a see a footpath sign (FP26 Hole Farm) pointing into the field on your right. Go down the side of the field with the ditch on your left. Ahead you will see the field side hedge between you and the roadway embankment, (the A10). A gate takes you through the hedge and onto a short path. Go up the bank and on to the roadside. Be extremely careful here, the road can be very busy with fast moving traffic. You can cross the central reservation and, through a gap in the Armco barrier, on to the other side, take care. Go down the bank and into the field below. "Phew!"

2 On your left you will find a ditch and a fairly clear pathway along its side. Follow the waymarks up the field and go through the kissing gate into the field beyond. Keep to the left of the field and – ahead of you up the field – Hole Farm should be visible.

The Manor of 'Holle' is recorded in 1307 and Hole Farm is probably on this site.

Go on up the field and through the kissing gate into the farm yard. Keep the buildings on your right and walk on up to where the lane, from Old Hall Green, comes from the left onto the yard.

3 Turn right in front of an open-fronted barn and take the track leading up into the field to the left of a hedgerow, just beyond the buildings. Follow the waymarked track keeping the hedgerow hard on your right and then, after a gap, with it on your left.

4 When you reach the corner with a wood on your right, turn right and follow the path back around the far side of the woodland. You are on the homeward leg now! In 100m bear right through the hedge, still keeping the wood on your right. Do not follow the track to the left along the hedge.

In Spring ditch banks in this area are often smothered in cowslips. Whilst locally this plant is quite common, nationally it is rare so please do not pick or disturb it; it is protected by law so there are heavy fines if you do.

In May the ancient oak and hornbeam woodland to your right is full of bluebells and a beautiful sight. Once again, please do not be tempted, these plants are also protected in law. Although not visible, you are now walking back towards Puckeridge parallel to Mentley Lane. There are many mentions of Mentley, or

Milkley Manor in medieval documents.

Carry on down through the fields on the path, keeping the line of trees on your right after 200 metres walk through woods rather than beside them. As you go through the fields you should easily find the kissing gate into the next field each time. There is a boardwalk over a muddy section.

Buzzards are often seen over these fields. Listen for their 'mewing' calls. You are walking beside the Puckeridge Tributary (which is often dry). After wet weather however you will see a small lake and might well find a spring in the field.

Once past the farm and cottages at the top of the fields on your left, you should be able to hear the road, (A10) ahead.

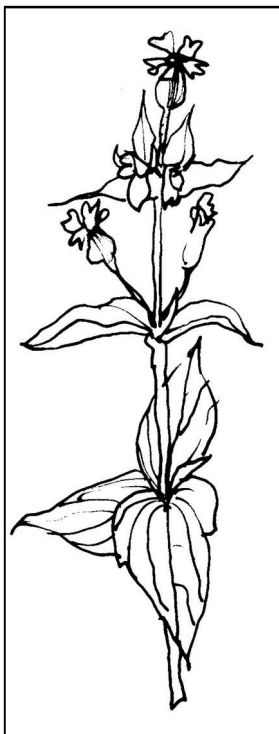
5 At the bottom of the fields, turn right over a concrete bridge, through the hedgerow and into a small field beside the A10. Bear left onto a path which takes you to the embankment of the A10, a flight of steps up onto the roadside. Please be very careful and cross the road to the middle and then over to the far side. Turn left and a set of steps now leads down the embankment and to the road, walk down the road to come out on Puckeridge High Street. For more information see Walk 13 'A walk through the History of Puckeridge'

6 Turn right and walk along the pavement through the village, (historically an important staging post on the London to Cambridge Road. Samuel Pepys is reputed to have stayed at the Crown and Falcon). If you continue straight on you will return to the lay-bye and your starting point.

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



Red Campion

The first flowers appear in mid-May, and from then until September or early October you will find plenty of red campion in bloom.