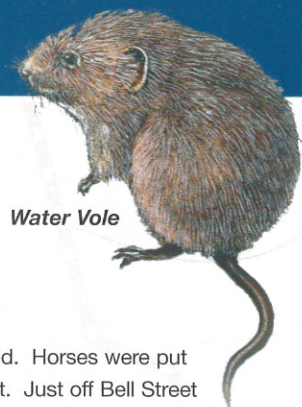


Sawbridgeworth

SHORT WALK 1



Water Vole

Points of Interest



1 Bell Street

In April and October each year a Horse Fair was held. Horses were put on display and were trotted up and down Bell Street. Just off Bell Street is Fair Green which was used by the Travelling Fair Show with its roundabouts and swings.



2 Great Saint Mary's Church

A church has been recorded on this site since the Domesday Book. As with most churches it is steeped in history. Some remains of it's presence, such as tiles and blocks, can be seen in the walls of the church. The Mandevilles were awarded the Manor of Sabrixteworde (Sawbridgeworth) by William the Conqueror.



3 River Stort

The river stort had been used as a means of commercial navigation since Roman times. In 1769, 15 locks were built to enable barge loads of malt, flour and timber to reach Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford. The completion of the railway and the improvement of the London Road, quickly led to the decline in canal traffic.

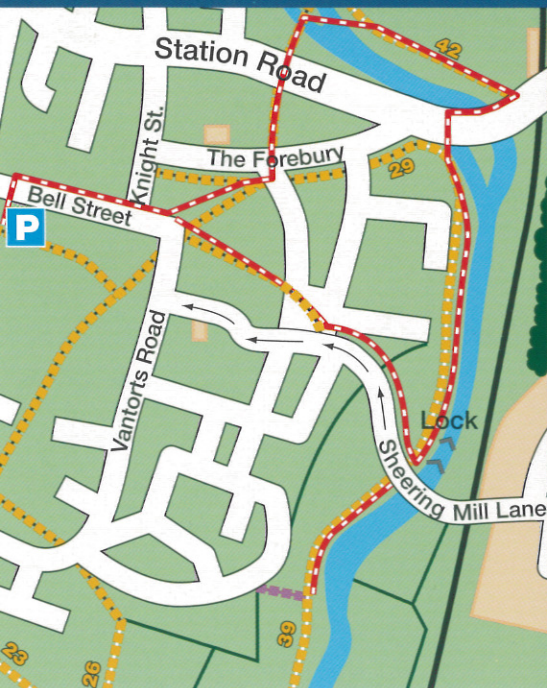


4 Lock Keepers Cottage

Situated at Sheering Mill Lock it is one of the many small cottages built for Lock keepers. Over the brook is the emblem of the man who constructed the River Stort navigation (George Duckett). In early times the locks were turf lined and sloped to the level of the river. Later the sides were raised up by brick construction. The navigation went as far as Bishop's Stortford.

Nowadays the Stort offers a variety of recreational opportunities for boating, walking, cycling and fishing. You can walk along the Stort to Bishop's Stortford or in the other direction to Harlow and beyond to the River Lee on the Stort Navigation towpath.

The Stort provides a haven for a wide variety of wildlife and has become increasingly important for nature conservation. Trees that dominate are mainly Willow and Alder. The waterway environment also supports a large number of invertebrates, birds and mammals including Water Vole.



| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Distance | 1.5 miles |
| Rating | Moderate, mostly surfaced paths |
| Route | Circular |
| Time | 1 hour |
| Toilets | Bell Street Car Park |
| Starting Point | Bell Street Car Park |
| Finishing Point | Bell Street Car Park |



Yellow arrows indicate a footpath for pedestrian use only.

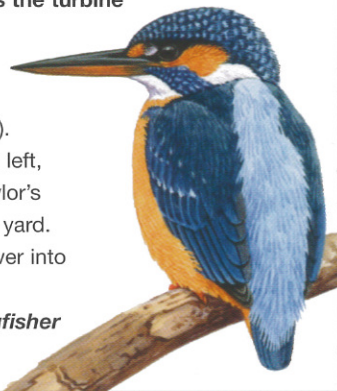


Blue arrows indicate a bridleway that can be used by horseriders, cyclists and pedestrians.



White arrow with black outline on white background indicates the owner has given permission for the public to use the path. These are known as permissive paths

From the car park turn right into **Bell Street (1)**, go straight on into Church Street and go through the **Church gates (2)**. Take the path to the left. Leave the Church yard and take the path in front of you when you reach the road cross straight over (**take care as you cross**). Follow the path in front of you, this path slopes down to Station Road, take care as you cross this road. Follow the road down to what was the mill (**To your left over the wall is the turbine that once drove the mill**). At the **river (3)** turn left and cross over the bridge by the lock. Now turn right and follow river. At bridge turn right then left following the river, at the lock cross over the road (**4**). Take a short walk to where the permissive path is (there is a bench here). Now do an about turn and go back to road. At road cross over and turn left, follow the road until you come to footpath sign on your right. Follow Taylor's Passage at the end turn left. Follow this path up to and through Church yard. Pass through gates into Church Street. At the cross roads go straight over into Bell Street and back to car park.



Kingfisher