# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Route overview 16.4 miles (26.4km)

Largely following the Hertfordshire Way. The start and end of this stage are both easily accessible by train, as is Bishop's Stortford, about three quarters of the way in, and all have accommodation options. The approximate halfway point, Much Hadham, offers refreshment but not accommodation, although it does have a regular bus service to and from Bishop's Stortford.

Today's walk from Ware is over generally gentle, easy-going country. An initial section takes you up the Ash valley, reaching the village of Wareside, with its church and two pubs, in **3.7 miles**; then climbing gently to Widford's church in a further **1.6 miles**. From here a plunge back into the Ash valley takes you to Much Hadham, with pub and shared Anglican/Catholic church, for lunch after another **3.3 miles**.

Then comes the only climb of the walk, a short scramble up to ride the tops to Bishop's Stortford, with two churches and many pubs and cafés, in **4.5 miles**. A final stretch along the River Stort brings you to Stansted Mountfitchet in **3.3 miles**.

## Public transport options

The start and end points of this stage are connected by **train**, with stations at Ware, Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Mountfitchet. Central Connect's No 351 **bus** calls at Widford, the halfway point at Much Hadham (outside Ye Olde Red Lion, now a private house) and Bishop's Stortford, and the No 301 runs between Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Mountfitchet. See also public transport map and table pp29-31.

If you need a **taxi**, Much Hadham-based ***Tracey's Travel*** (☎ 01279-843344, 💻 traceys-travel.business.site; 105 Windmill Way) is among firms serving the area.

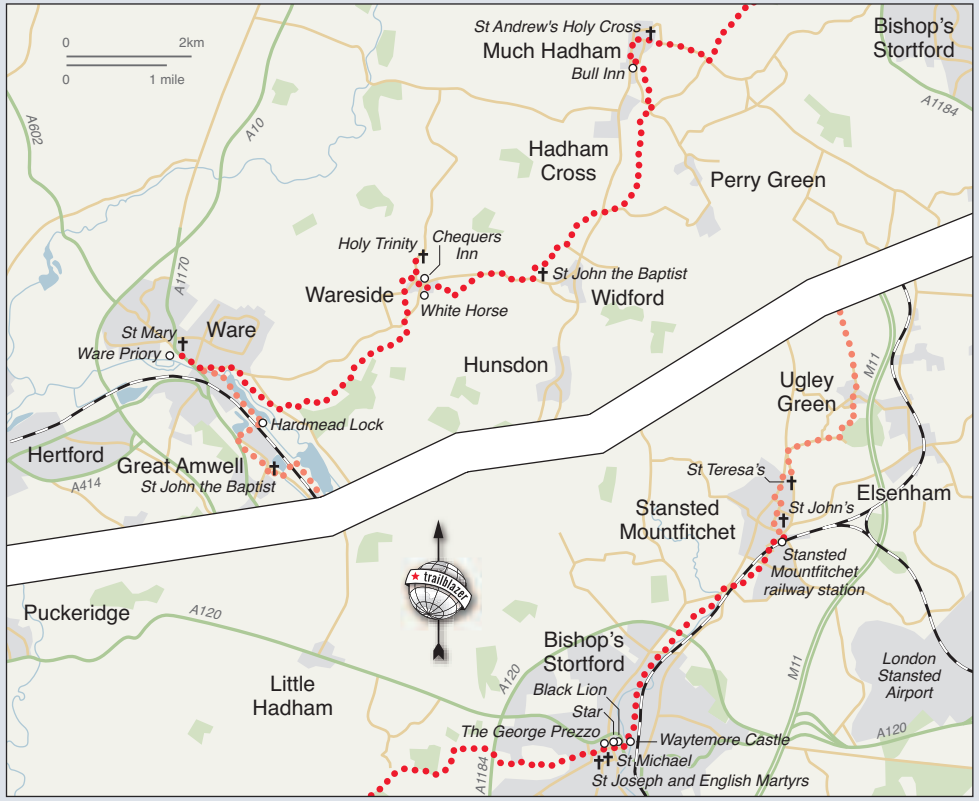
## Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Ware** (see Stage 2, p49)
- **Wareside** (after 4 miles/6.5km) Stop for **refreshments** at ***The Chequers*** (☎ 01920-467010, 💻 chequerswareside.com; food Mon-Sat noon-2pm & 6-8.30pm, Sun noon-2.45pm & 6-8pm) or ***The White Horse*** (☎ 01920-464433, 💻 whitehorsefh.co.uk; Tue-Sun noon-late, Mon closed), two adjacent, very pleasant country inns.
- **Much Hadham** (after 8.3 miles/13.4km) ***The Bull Inn*** (☎ 01279-841100, 💻 the bullmh.co.uk, High St; Tue-Sat noon-10pm, food to 8pm, Sun noon-8pm, food to 5pm, Mon closed) is a charming village inn with good **pub grub**.

- **Terrain** Rolling countryside
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Cumulative distance from London** 47.3 miles (76.1km)
- **Time** 5hrs 50mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 337m/1105ft
- **Map** OS Explorer *194 Hertford & Bishop's Stortford; 195 Braintree & Saffron Walden*
- **GPX route file & directions*** 503.pdf,503.gpx, 503.kml at 💻 https://trailblazer-guides.com/press * See pp27-8 for more information on downloads








- **Bishop's Stortford** (after 13.3miles/21.4km) has options to **stay**, including the family-run ***Jolly Brewers*** (☎ 01279-836055, 💻 stansted-hotels-jollybrewers.com) at 70 South St. For a **meal**, choices include: family pizza restaurant ***The George, Prezzo*** (☎ 01279-656784, 💻 prezzorestaurants.co.uk, North St; Mon-Thur noon-10pm, Fri-Sun 11.30am-10.30pm); 16th century inn ***Black Lion*** (☎ 01279-654232, 💻 facebook.com/theblacklion publichouse, 10 Bridge St; open daily 4pm-late); and 17th century inn ***The Star*** (☎ 01279 654211, 💻 craft-pubs.co.uk/thestar-bishopsstortford; food Mon-Fri 11am-10pm, Sat & Sun noon-10pm; 7 Bridge St) with real ales and pub grub.
- **Stansted Mountfitchet Stay** and **eat** at ***The Kings Arms Hotel***, (☎ 01279-248170, 💻 ourlocal.pub/pubs/kings-arms-hotel-stansted, Station Rd; open daily 10am-11pm, food to 8.30pm), a characterful village pub with 4 en-suite rooms. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, at ***Café Yeomans*** (☎ 01279-817755, 14 Lower St; Mon-Sat 8am-4pm, Sun 9am-2.30pm).

## Services

- **Ware** (see Stage 2, p49)
- **Bishop's Stortford** For **supermarket** supplies there's Sainsbury's (Mon-Sat 7.30am-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm; 16 Jackson Sq) and Tesco (daily 6am-11pm; 32a South St). For **laundry**: Suds (☎ 01279-866183; Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat/Sun 9am-6pm; 12 London Rd).
- **Stansted Mountfitchet** has a Co-op (daily 7am-10pm) on Church Rd.

| | | Stage 3: Ware to Stansted Mountfitchet |
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| Distance from start | Distance from last waypoint | |
| 0 | 0 | Setting out from St Mary's Ware, turn left along the High St. Ware Priory is diagonally across the road to your right. Walk along the High St until you reach a roundabout. |
| 400m/440yds | 400m/440yds | At the roundabout keep straight on into Star St. Continue along Star St until you see Plaxton Way on your right. |
| .7mile/1.2km | 880yds/800m | At the junction of Star St with Plaxton Way, look for a 'Public Footpath' fingerpost sign, indicating a track that runs to the right of Star St at roughly a 45 degree angle. Take the track indicated by the footpath sign, walking alongside allotments to emerge in meadows running down to the River Lee. |
| .9mile/1.4km | 220yds/200m | Where the meadows commence, look out for a yellow-arrow public footpath roundel on a stake, indicating you should follow the clear earth path to the right of the stake. Follow this path as it runs slightly left, moving gently uphill towards the left-hand field margin. A second yellow-arrow roundel and two white-topped posts point the way. Continue until you see a gap in the hedge on your left. |
| 1.2miles/2km | 660yds/600m | Go through the gap in the hedge. Caution: this leads you to Hollywell Rd, which has no footpath. Cross straight over and take the track beside a fingerpost marked 'Public Footpath'. Follow this track over grass. When, after 20yds or so, the path forks, with yellow-arrow roundels on a post, take the right-hand option. The track winds gently left and then right, descending to a narrow footbridge that you can see below you and to your left. |
| 1.4miles/2.3km | 330yds/300m | Turn left to cross the footbridge over the River Ash, then walk diagonally right to reach a former railway line, where a wide track runs between hedges. |
| 1.5miles/2.4km | 440yds/400m | Turn left to follow the track along the old railway line, ignoring the Footpath sign that points right. |
| 1.6miles/2.6km | 220yds/200m | Leave the old railway line, turning right to emerge in a meadow. A post holds six roundels for various walks. The one indicating 'Amwell Circular Walks' and pointing left is the one to follow. Walk over meadows, with the River Ash to your left, and in the distance to your right, the orange- |

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| | | brick farm buildings marked the ‘The Dairy Farm’ on OS Explorer maps. Continue until you reach woodland. |
| 2miles/3.2km | 660yds/600m | Where the meadow reaches woodland, climb over the stile and take the track straight ahead, where a roundel on a post indicates ‘Hertfordshire Way’. Signs for this path are a good guide much of the way to Bishop’s Stortford. |
| 2.1miles/3.4km | 220yds/200m | Where you pass a black, weather-boarded cottage on your right bear left 45 degrees to cross a meadow, picking up the track again on the far side and turning left along it to cross the bridge (with Herts Way roundel) over the River Ash and reach Watersplace Farm. |
| 2.2miles/3.6km | 220yds/200m | On the other side of the river, turn right along the wide farm track, on the line of the former railway. Continue until you see a bridge taking a path above the old railway track, and a path bears off to the right. |
| 2.7miles/4.3km | 770yds/700m | Take the path that bears right, leaving the old railway track. Continue until you reach the path that crosses above the railway track. |
| 2.8miles/4.5km | 220yds/200m | Turn right, to take the track that passes above the former railway. Continue until the path you are on bears left. |
| 2.9miles/4.7km | 220yds/200m | Follow the path as it bears left. Continue along this path, with the raid rail line to your left, until you reach a road. This is the B1004. |
| 4miles/6.4km | 1.1miles/1.7km | Cross over the B1004 and turn right along the pavement on the other side. |
| 4.2miles/6.7km | 330yds/300m | As the road bends right there is a Herts Way sign pointing left. ignore this, and continue along the pavement for Widfordbury, looking out for the church on our left. |
| 4.5miles/7.2km | 550yds/500m | Arrive at St John the Baptist, Widfordbury.<br>To continue, follow the path around the side of the church to a stile on the far side of the churchyard. From here, a well-walked route is visible on the grass, descending into the valley. Although OS Explorer maps show the Herts Way route turning sharp right at this point, and then left, this path is not visible on the ground, and appears to have been superseded. |

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| | | Follow the route as it runs directly downhill and then bears right before a field margin and stream, and leads to a gate (Public Bridleway roundel) |
| 4.8miles/7.7km | 550yds/500m | Go through the gate and follow the path to the bank of the River Ash. |
| 4.9miles/7.9km | 220yds/200m | Turn right and follow the path as it runs along the riverbank (Herts Way roundel) to reach Pegs Ln. |
| 5miles/8km | 110yds/100m | Cross over Pegs Ln (Herts Way roundel) and follow the concreted track to a water treatment plant. |
| 5.2miles/8.4km | 440yds/400m | At the gates to the water treatment plant, take the path to the left and continue until the path meets the B1004 at Hadham Mill. |
| 5.5miles/8.8km | 440yds/400m | At Hadham Mill, cross over the B1004 and take Bourne Ln (Herts Way sign), looking out for a Herts Way sign pointing left off the lane. |
| 5.7miles/9.2km | 440yds/400m | Follow the Herts Way sign pointing left off Bourne Ln. Continue, through Mill Wood then Sidehill Wood, until you reach a lane called Stansted Hill. |
| 6.8miles/10.9km | 770yds/700m | Turn left onto Stansted Hill, follow it as it turns right and then reaches a T junction. |
| 6.9miles/11.1km | 220yds/200m | Turn left at the T-junction, and look out for a Herts Way sign in the hedge to your right. |
| 7miles/11.2km | 110yds/100m | Follow the Herts Way sign right through the hedge and continue over pastures until you reach a gate with a Herts Way sign. |

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| 7.1miles/11.4 km | 220yds/200m | Follow the Herts Way sign, bearing slightly left. |
| 7.3miles/11.7 km | 330yds/300m | Pass through another gate, following the Herts Way roundel indicating straight on.<br>Continue until you reach Church Ln. |
| 7.4miles/11.9 km | 220yds/200m | Turn left into Church Ln.<br>You are now in Much Hadham.<br>Walk down to the High St, B1004. |
| 7.5miles/12.1 km | 220yds/200m | At the High St, turn left for the Bull Inn (50yds), or right for the church of St Andrew's Holy Cross Much Hadham marks the approximate mid-point of this stage and if you plan to cover it over two days, rather than one, it makes a good point to stop. |
| 7.7miles/12.4 km | 330yds/300m | If you are coming from the pub, turn left into High St to continue to the church. If you are going straight to the church, turn right into High St. Continue to Church Ln.<br>Turn right into Church Ln (Herts Way sign) and take the path beside the lane to St Andrew's Holy Cross. |
| 7.9miles/12.7 km | 330yds/300m | Arrive at St Andrew's Holy Cross church.<br>To continue, turn left out of the church, walk diagonally across the churchyard to the churchyard and out into a footpath. Turn left on the footpath, which crosses a stream via a bridge and then climbs steeply through woods to emerge on the B1004, Winding Hill. |
| 8miles/12.9km | 220yds/200m | Turn right to follow Winding Hill.<br>CAUTION: There is no pavement along this road, and narrow margins mean you may have to walk on the tarmac. Continue to Dane Bridge. |
| 8.5miles/13.7 km | 880yds/800m | Where Dane Bridge Rd comes in on your right, cross left over Winding Hill and take the footpath left just after you cross the River Ash (Herts Way sign).<br>This track runs to the left of Great Hadham Golf Club's course, through a series of fields, the route well marked with Herts Way signs. |

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| | | Continue until the path enters a wood, and curves gently right. OS Explorer maps mark ‘Pit (dis)’ at this point. The golf course ends here. |
| 9.3miles/15km | .8miles/1.3km | Follow the path as it narrows through a stretch of scrubby woodland, then emerges in a field, to follow the left-hand field margin (Herts Way sign).<br>Continue until you reach Lower Farm on the outskirts of Bury Green, and the path is crossed by a rough lane called Lower Rd, (no road sign here, but the name is shown on OS Explorer). |
| 9.8miles/15.8km | 880yds/800m | Cross Lower Rd (Herts Way sign) and continue past (on your left) Stocking Wood and Stocking Wood Plantations. |
| 10.1miles/16.2km | 440yds/400m | After Stocking Wood Plantations, follow the Herts Way sign to turn left and cross a stream, continuing until you are close to East Wood. Look out for a Herts Way roundel on a stake, pointing right. |
| 10.6miles/17km | 880yds/800m | Turn right, following the Herts Way roundel on the stake, to cross a field. Towards the far side of the field the path divides, with Herts Way roundels indicating, to the left, ‘Tesco’, and to the right ‘Town’. Take the Town option, this path leading to the A1184. At the field margin, bear right past a five-barred gate to reach a stile (Herts Way roundel) leading to the A road. |
| 11miles/17.7km | 770yds/700m | Cross over the A1184.<br>CAUTION: This road can be busy, but you reach it alongside a roundabout, where traffic slows. A traffic island in the centre of the carriageway helps safe crossing.<br>There is a fingerpost beside a stile on the other side of the road, with directions including ‘Town Centre 1’.<br>You are on the outskirts of Bishop’s Stortford here. |

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| | | Cross the stile and follow the direction indicated by the Town Centre sign. Skirt to the right of a laurel hedge around the garden of a large house to cross Bishops Park. Continue, over a stile (Herts Way roundel) with Hillmead Primary School buildings to your left. You will be passing through the grounds of two schools as you approach Bishop’s Stortford |

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| 11.3miles/18.2km | 550yds/500m | Cross a stile (Herts Way roundel) and turn left to follow a tarmacked drive that curves left and then turns 90 degrees right to pass between two high-fenced games courts, and then crosses playing fields. |
| 12.1miles/19.5km | .8miles/1.3km | On the far side of the playing fields, where the path comes out at Bells Hill, turn right and then, at the roundabout, almost immediately left into Windhill.<br>You are in Bishop's Stortford town centre and approaching its Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. |
| 12.2miles/19.6km | 110yds/100m | Arrive at St George and the English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church and, just beyond it, St Michael's Anglican church. Windhill changes its name to High St at this point<br>To continue, carry on down High St to its junction with Potter St (right) and North St (left). There are numerous cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants in this area.<br>Cross straight over and follow Bridge St down to a large roundabout, where it meets the A1251, Link Rd. |
| 12.5miles/20.1km | 550yds/500m | Turn right into Link Rd and cross over for Waytemore Castle. |
| 12.6miles/20.3km | 220yds/200m | Waytemore Castle is on your right.<br>To continue, follow the footpath into Castle Park.<br>This is the first of a string of parks which we shall follow up the Stort Valley to the outskirts of Stansted Mountfitchet. |

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| 12.7miles/20.4km | 110yds/100m | As the path approaches the railway line, and a footbridge passes over the rails, turn right, following a fingerpost indicating Cannons Close ½ and walk with the railway to your right. |
| 13.3miles/21.4km | .6mile/1km | Continue, crossing the River Stort via a footbridge and over Grange Paddocks Meadow. |
| 13.6miles/21.9km | 550yds/500m | Continue beneath Michaels Rd and into Bat Willow Hurst. |
| 13.8miles/22.2km | 330yds/300m | Pass beneath the A120 and continue over the meadows to Blyth Farm. |

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| 14.3miles/22.8km | 660yds/600m | At Blyth Farm, cross the footbridge and continue along the right bank of the River Stort until you reach an orange-brick road bridge at Gypsy Ln. |
| 14.4miles/23.2km | 440yds/400m | Turn right into Gypsy Ln.<br>CAUTION: There is no pavement, and minimal margin for this short stretch. Look out for a track, which you should not take, and just after it a narrow footpath, which you should. |

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| 14.5miles/23.3km | 110yds/100m | Turn right into the narrow footpath, which leads to a flight of steps that take you up to the B1383, Stansted Rd. Use the traffic islands to either your right or left to cross this road, then take Forest Hall Rd, which is almost exactly opposite the top of the steps you just climbed. Look out for a public footpath finger-post by a five-bar gate on the left side of Forest hall Rd. |
| 14.6miles/23.5km | 220yds/200m | Turn left to follow the public footpath finger-post into woodland, with the railway line to your left.<br>This is the final approach to Stansted Mountfitchet.<br>Continue until the path reaches a road called Brook View. |
| 15miles/24.1km | 660yds/600m | Turn left into Brook View and continue to its junction with Stoney Common Rd. |
| 15.1miles/24.3km | 220yds/200m | Turn right into Stony Common Rd then almost immediately left into West Rd.<br>Walk along West Rd looking out for an unsigned path on your left leading to a green-painted footbridge over the ralway line. |
| 15.2miles/24.4km | 110yds/100m | If you plan to stay the night at St Mary's church, continue straight on.<br>If you are staying in Stansted itself, or headed for the railway station to end your day's walk, turn left to cross the green-painted footbridge, to reach Water Ln. Turn right on Water Ln for Stanstead Mountfitchet railway station and the town centre.<br>For St Mary's church, walk past the turning for the green-painted footbridge. In 10 yards, just before a 'No public access' sign, take the footpath that bears right off the road, and |

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| | | rises. This footpath brings you out into The Spinney and on into Park Rd. Bear right on Park Rd and follow it until it ends in a T-junction with Church Rd. |
| 15.4miles/24.8km | 440yds/400m | Turn right into Church Rd, cross over and take the drive that almost immediately leaves the Church Rd to your left. Despite the signs, 'Manor House Private Drive', a public footpath runs up this drive. Continue until you reach St Mary's church. |
| 15.9miles/25.6km | 880yds/800m | Arrive at St Mary's church |
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