

## 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

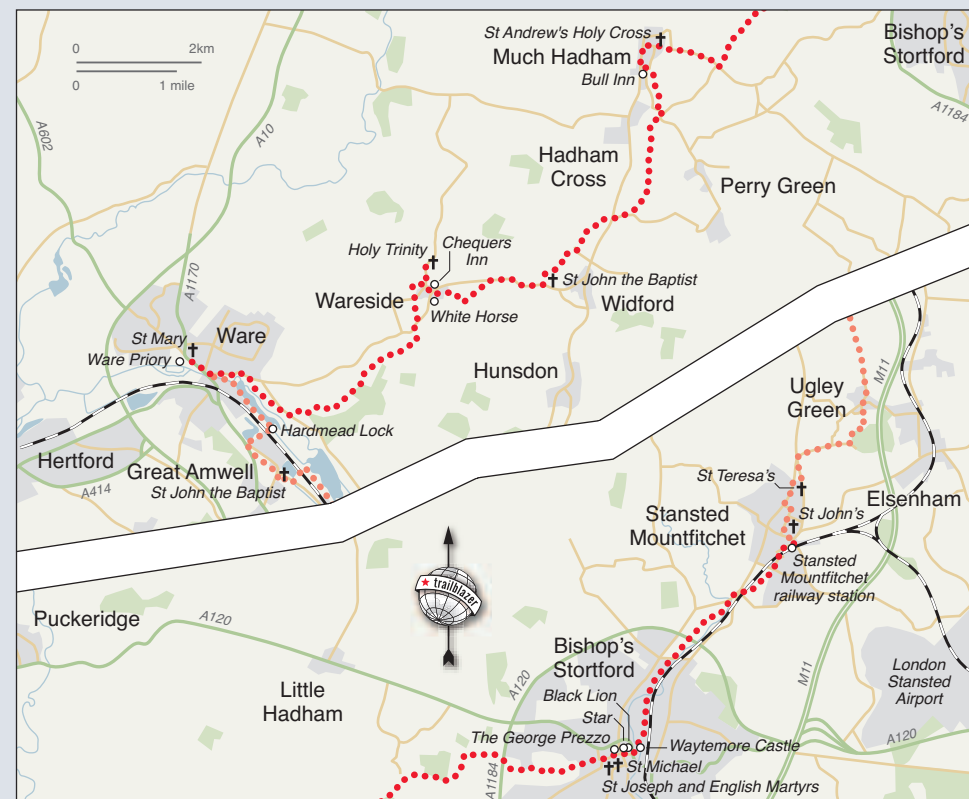
The start and end points of this stage are connected by **train**, with stations at Ware, Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Mountfitchet. Central Connect's No 351 **bus** calls at Widford, the halfway point at Much Hadham (outside Ye Olde Red Lion, now a private house) and Bishop's Stortford, and the No 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, 🌐 thebullmh.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/theblacklionpublichouse, 10 Bridge St; open daily 4pm-late); and 17th century inn *The Star* (☎ 01279 654211, 🌐 craft-pubs.co.uk/the-star-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.

Revised 27.3.24 Amendments in red		<b>LONDON TO WALSINGHAM CAMINO</b> <b>Stage 3: Ware to Stansted Mountfitchet</b>
<b>Distance from start</b>	<b>Distance from last waypoint</b>	
0	0	Setting out from <b>St Mary's Ware</b> , turn left along the High St. <b>Ware Priory</b> 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 right, and in the distance to your right, the orange-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, and continue until you reach Mardocks Mill, where a sign tells you the route ahead is over private property.
		Turn left at Mardocks Mill on the concreted track (with Bridleway roundel) rising out of the valley until you reach the B1004.
3miles/4.9km	.8miles/1.3km	Turn right on the B1004 and immediately cross over, walk for 50yds to reach a lane leaving the B road to your left. Take the lane, which has a road sign indicating Babs Green plus Warside JMI School and Parish Church, and walk until you see Wareside C of E Primary School on your left at a fork in the road.
3.3miles/5.3km	440yds/400m	Between the two forks in the road is a footpath, signposted Newall Green $\frac{3}{4}$ . Take this path, which runs along a right-hand field margin.
3.4miles/5.5km	220yds/200m	Where the path turns right at 90 degrees follow it to the next field corner, then follow it (Herts Way roundel) left to the next corner of the field. Here the path slopes down to a lane, on the other side of which is Holy Trinity, Wareside.
3.7miles/6km	550yds/500m	Arrive at <b>Holy Trinity</b> , Wareside. To continue, retrace your steps back into the field and walk to the next field corner.
3.8miles/6.2km	220yds/200m	At the field corner, take the steps on your left down to the lane (Herts Way sign). You reach the lane at a Y-junction. Take the left-hand option (Herts Way sign) and walk down to the point where the lane meets the B1004.

		<p>There are two pubs here: <i><b>The White Horse</b></i> across the B road to your right, the <i><b>Chequers Inn</b></i> 50yds to your left.</p> <p>To continue, turn right along the B1004, which bends to the right. Ignore the footpath, signposted 'Hundson 2', which is on your right just round the bend. Instead, continue, following the Herts Way roundel on the post of this sign, and take the second path off to the right.</p>
4.1miles/6.6km	440yds/400m	Follow the Herts way sign, taking the track a few yards on, to your right. Follow this clear path over meadows until you reach the former railway line.
4.4miles/7.1km	550yds/500m	<p>Turn left to follow the old railway line.</p> <p>Note: there is a Herts Way sign in the meadow on the other side of the railway track, and the route it indicates joins up with the path along the railway in a few hundred yards. It seems an unnecessary diversion to me.</p> <p>Continue until the track reaches the B1004.</p>
4.8miles/7.8km	770yds/700m	Cross over the B1004 and turn right along the pavement on the other side.
5miles/8km	220yds/200m	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.
5.3miles/8.6km	660yds/600m	<p>Arrive at <b>St John the Baptist</b>, Widfordbury.</p> <p>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 superceded.</p> <p>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)</p>
5.6miles/9.1km	550yds/500m	Go through the gate and follow the path to the bank of the River Ash.
5.7miles/9.2km	110yds/100m	Turn right and follow the path as it runs along the riverbank (Herts Way roundel) to reach Pages Ln.
5.8miles/9.4km	220yds/200m	Cross over Pages Ln (Herts Way roundel) and follow the concreted track to a water treatment plant.
6miles/9.6km	220yds/200m	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.

6.4miles/10.3km	770yds/700m	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.
6.5miles/10.5km	220yds/200m	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.
7.6miles/12.3km	1.1miles/1.8km	Turn left onto Stansted Hill, follow it as it turns right and then reaches a T junction.
7.7miles/12.5km	220yds/200m	Turn left at the T-junction, and look out for a Herts Way sign in the hedge to your right.
7.8miles/12.6km	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.
7.9miles/12.7km	110yds/100m	Follow the Herts Way sign, bearing slightly left.
8.1miles/13.1km	440yds/400m	Pass through another gate, following the Herts Way roundel indicating straight on. Continue until you reach Church Ln.
8.2miles/13.3km	220yds/200m	Turn left into Church Ln. You are now in Much Hadham. Walk down to the High St, B1004.
8.3miles/13.4km	110yds/100m	At the High St, turn left for the <b><i>Bull Inn</i></b> (50yds), or right for the church of <b>St Andrew's Holy Cross</b> 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.
8.6miles/13.8km	440yds/400m	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. Turn right into Church Ln (Herts Way sign) and take the path beside the lane to St Andrew's Holy Cross.
8.7miles/14km	220yds/200m	Arrive at <b>St Andrew's Holy Cross church</b> . To continue, turn left out of the churchyard (Herts Way roundel) and follow the enclosed path to climb steeply through woods to emerge on the B1004, Winding Hill. <b>NOTE: There is a footbridge 200yds down this path which was out of action for two years, but which was scheduled to have been replaced by the end of May 2024.</b> <b>If the footbridge is not replaced, you will need to take the following diversion:</b>

		<p><b>DIVERSION IF FOOTBRIDGE IS OUT OF ACTION</b></p> <p>Walk south on Church Ln, looking out for a footpath fingerpost in trees to your left in 770yds/700m.</p> <p>Turn left at the footpath fingerpost, following a narrow path steeply uphill to join a track which takes you to a road, Winding Hill. You are now back on the original route</p> <p>This diversion adds .3mile/.5km to the distance walked today</p>
8.9miles/14.4km	440yds/400m	<p>Turn right to follow Winding Hill.</p> <p>CAUTION: There is no pavement along this road, and narrow margins mean you may have to walk on the tarmac. Continue to Dane Bridge.</p>
9.4miles/15.2km	880yds/800m	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
10.2miles/16.4km	.7miles/1.2km	<p>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).</p> <p>Continue until you reach Lower Farm on the outskirts of Bury Green, and the path is crossed by a rough lane called Lower Rd.</p>
10.7miles/17.3km	990yds/900m	<p>Cross Lower Rd (Herts Way sign) and continue past (on your left) Stocking Wood and Stocking Wood Plantations.</p>
11.3miles/18.2km	990yds/900m	<p>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.</p>
11.5miles/18.6km	440yds/400m	<p>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.</p>

11.9miles/19.2km	660yds/600m	<p>Cross over the A1184.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There is a fingerpost beside a stile on the other side of the road, with directions including ‘Town Centre 1’.</p> <p>You are on the outskirts of Bishop’s Stortford here.</p>
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		<p>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.</p>
12.2miles/19.7km	550yds/500m	<p>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.</p>
13miles/21km	.8miles/1.3km	<p>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.</p> <p>You are in Bishop’s Stortford town centre and approaching its Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches.</p>
13.1miles/21.1km	110yds/100m	<p>Arrive at <b>St George and the English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church</b> and, just beyond it, <b>St Michael’s Anglican church</b>. Windhill changes its name to High St at this point.</p> <p>To continue, carry on down High St to its junction with Potter St (to your right) and North St (to your left). There are numerous cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants in this area.</p> <p>Cross straight over and follow Bridge St down to a large roundabout, where it meets the A1251, Link Rd.</p>
13.4miles/21.6km	550yds/500m	<p>Turn right into Link Rd and cross over for Waytemore Castle.</p>
13.5miles/21.7km	110yds/100m	<p>Waytemore Castle is on your right.</p> <p>To continue, follow the footpath into Castle Park.</p> <p>This is the first of a string of parks which we shall follow up the Stort Valley to the outskirts of Stansted Mountfitchet</p>

13.7miles/22km	330yds/300m	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.
14.1miles/22.7km	770yds/700m	Continue, crossing the River Stort via a footbridge and over Grange Paddocks Meadow.
14.5miles/23.4km	770yds/700m	Continue beneath Michaels Rd and into Bat Willow Hurst.
14.8miles/23.8km	440yds/400m	Pass beneath the A120 and continue over the meadows to Blyth Farm.
15.2miles/24.5km	770yds/700m	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.
15.4miles/24.8km	330yds/300m	Turn right into Gypsy Ln. 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.

15.5miles/25km	220yds/200m	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.
15.6miles/25.1km	110yds/100m	Turn left to follow the public footpath finger-post into woodland, with the railway line to your left. This is the final approach to Stansted Mountfitchet. Continue until the path reaches a road called Brook View.
15.9miles/25.7km	660yds/600m	Turn left into Brook View and continue to its junction with Stoney Common Rd.
16miles/25.8km	110yds/100m	Turn right into Stony Common Rd then almost immediately left into West Rd. Walk along West Rd looking out for an unsigned green-painted footbridge passing over the rails to your left.
16.2miles/26km	220yds/200m	Turn left to cross the footbridge, then right to walk up Water Ln to Stanstead Mountfitchet railway station.
16.4miles/26.4km	440yds/400m	Arrive at Stansted Mountfitchet railway station, the end of this stage of the walk.



