

Walk 4



Langford Meadows & Stanford Lock

Starting from St Mary's Church. A pretty walk following the river Ivel, past lakes and onto **Henlow Common** and **Langford Meadows** Local Nature Reserve. Across working farmland with many attractive areas designated for permissive public access, returning past the historic **Stanford Lock** on River Ivel Navigation. *Following heavy rainfall the section between 4 & 5 can be very wet, if so use 3-5. **There could be cattle on the meadow.***

DISTANCE: 9.6km (6 miles). Maps - Ordnance Survey: Landranger 153 and Explorer 193 & 208.

YOUR ROUTE: With the church on your left, walk between gatehouses, once the main entrance to Henlow Grange, past Boyd Memorial Scout Field. After iron gates keep left through gap by field gate, continue on track. Take first Waymarked turning on left between post & rail fences. Cross over Ivel river-bridge, turn left on waymarked track **1**. Pass entrance to fishing lakes, cross a narrow bridge and continue with lakes on left. Reaching the Boot Pub & Restaurant at Langford turn left. Go over river-bridge **2** and cross the road, through a gate onto the riverside path. Continue through two more gates to reach a cross path by bridge **3**. Walk ahead through gates along the riverside path, Langford Mill (now Flats) is ahead. There is a bench and *Interpretative Board* along this stretch. Pass a weir on your right. Shortly turn left through a gate to enter **Langford Meadows** **4**. Follow worn path roughly in line with overhead power cables to reach a footbridge over Dam's Ditch. Cross over and head towards a waymark post next to the fence ahead. Turn left, follow worn path with fence on your right and shortly veer left to go through a kissing gate. Bear right towards a seat and go through the gate on your right. *Note interpretative board* **5**. Go left between fence & hedge onto a footpath with hedge on left. Follow this path, passing a track on your left, bear right to reach a bridge over Henlow Brook **6**. Crossing, take path ahead. Ignore waymarked path to left (*alternative route*). Follow the path to reach a stone Sleeper Bridge over brook. Crossing turn left to reach **Stanford Lock on River Ivel Navigation Canal** **7**, *note interpretative board*. Ignore track on left and take permissive path by the canal. Ignore track to left over a stone bridge. Continue along canal side, the path will bear left shortly crossing bridge over a brook. Follow path to right and uphill reaching a car park **8**. Take tarmac track to right, past barn conversions and Hawarden Cottage to reach crossroads. Turn left, walk on to reach the last dwelling. Cross road and turn left. Continue past site entrance and immediately take waymarked path on right **9**. Follow path around, passing rear of housing. Reaching a copse turn left. Follow this path over two bridges to reach Henlow High Street. Cross over and turn right for return to St Mary's Church.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Henlow Common and Langford Meadows Local Nature Reserve: The area is an important refuge for wild life. Dam's Ditch runs through the middle, it is thought to be the old course of the River Ivel before it was straightened for the Mill. An area has been planted with osier, harvested annually and used locally for recreational willow weaving. In the past large quantities of osier were needed for breadbasket manufacture.

Stanford Lock & River Ivel Navigation: There are some interesting remains of the old Lock to be seen. The history of the Navigation can be read on nearby interpretative board. Over the bridge, on original route of River Flit was the site of Stanford Water Mill.



KEY

- Route
- - - Permissive route
- · - · - Alternative route
- 1** Reference point
- Start
- Water/river
- Road
- Pub
- FB** Footbridge
- Bus stop



Dams Ditch water course

Langford

Stanford

Clifton

Henlow

Langford Mill
Playing Field

River Ivel
Navigation Canal

Langford Meadow

Stanford Lock

Henlow Common

Sewage Works

Baulk Wood

Football Ground

Henlow Brook

Bilberry Pond

Clifton Bury Farm

Hawarden Cottage

All Saints Church

Church Street

Clifton House

Pavilion Playing Field

School

Stockbridge Farm

Stockbridge Road

Stock Bridge

Newtown

River Ivel

St Mary's Church

Church Road

School

Recreation Ground

Poppy Hill

Henlow Park

7

FB

FB

6

FB

5

3

2

8

FB

9

FB

FB

1