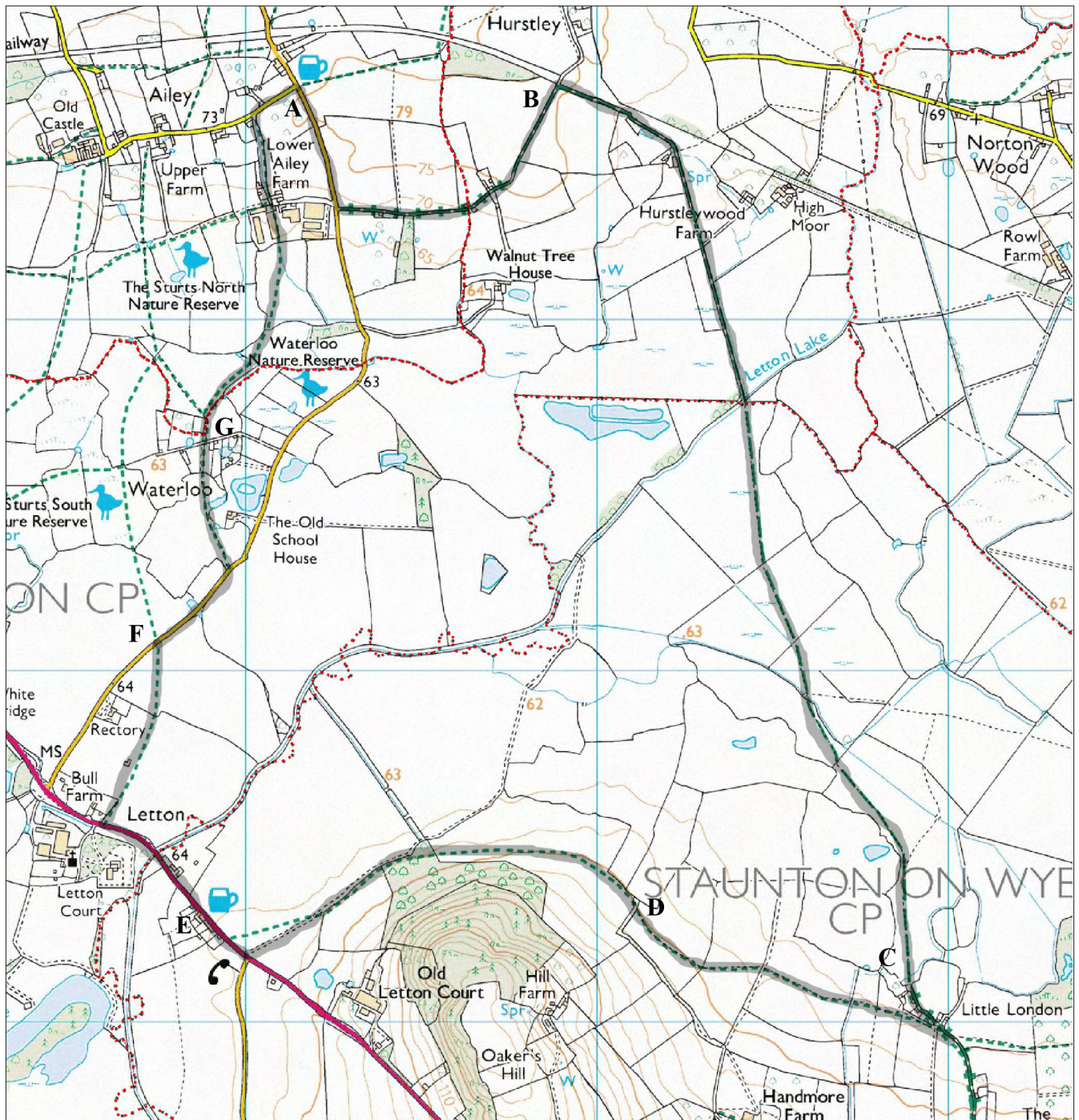




This walk starts at the Kinnersley Arms at Point A, or can start at the Swan at Letton, by beginning at Point E. Do bear in mind the walk includes a few hundred metres along the busy A438 where there is no pavement, so you will need to be able to keep children and dogs under close control!

A) Turn right out of the car park of the Kinnersley Arms, and walk along the road for some 300 metres till you reach a track off to the left (opposite the tarmacked entrance to Lower Ailey Farm). Walk along the track/bridleway, which forms part of Vaughan's Way, passing a few cottages. Just before you reach the bridge across the old railway line, turn right down the wide track.

B) After passing Hurstleywood Cottage on the right-hand side, the route becomes a green lane, hedged on either side. At the end of this, go through the gates on the right, then immediately through the one on the left to cross a concrete bridge to enter a field.

Look across the field and you should see a group of barns on the rise beyond the area of Letton Lake and behind them possibly the white sheen of the plastic coverings to rows of field polytunnels. Your target, as you head across this field, is slightly to the left of the polytunnels (and also follows a bearing similar to that taken by the green lane you've just been following). As you approach the far side of the field you should see a small metal footpath gate to the left of a tall tree in the hedgerow, and to this you head. Cross the bridge here and once through the gate, the line of the path bends slightly to the left – across the field you should see two trees standing close to each other in the field and on the line of a drainage ditch, and if you head just to the left of these you will reach a small footpath gate into the next field.

Cross the corner of this field, walking on much the same line as you've just crossed the previous field, to a field gate in the hedgerow on your right, where you cross a concrete bridge into the next field. Once in this field, turn left and shadow the hedgerow on your left to reach another field gate and concrete bridge. One over the bridge, initially head towards the left-hand end of a line of hedge that juts into the field from the right a couple of hundred yards ahead. Then shadow the hedge and in a little while you'll see the group of houses at the far end of the field that form the settlement of Little London. Your target then becomes the right-hand of these cottages, in front of which is a field gate that leads onto a track to the left of the cottage.

C) Follow this track which soon becomes a lane. A little past Walnut Cottage on the left-hand side, enter the field on your right via a 5-bar gate and turn sharp right back on yourself to follow the hedge on your right, soon crossing two stiles and the intervening field.

Once over the second stile, bear slightly left and cross this next field, aiming for a point about 60m to the left of the telegraph pole that stands in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile here and then continue ahead across the next field, aiming towards the right-hand edge of the wood that cloaks much of Oaker's Hill. As you cross the field, the stile in the hedgerow on the far side should become visible.

Once over the stile here, look for a small oak that stands just this side of the far boundary of this field. This is your target; as you approach it you will start to follow a length of hedgerow on your right, and just to the left of the tree will reach a stile which you cross.

D) Cross the track and go over the stile on its far side. Initially follow the hedgerow on your right to a large oak, where the hedgerow makes a turn to the right. Your route, however, bears diagonally left towards the large oak in the middle of the field. Keeping this tree on your left continue across the field, to head towards the furthest corner in this many-sided field. Here, just to the left of the right-hand end of the wood that cloaks Oaker's Hill, you will find a stile into the wood, which is full of daffodils in Spring.

The path technically cuts across a corner of the wood, but is blocked by undergrowth. Instead, having crossed the stile, turn right on the track on the edge of the wood and then follow it round to the left and in due course out into a field, to immediately go through the gateway on your right to join a track. Turn left on the track. (Part way along the track, the footpath slants off to the right, aiming for the left-hand of the cottages gathered along the A438, crossing a stile in the hedge, but you may find it easiest to keep to the track.) Once you meet the A438, turn right to reach the Swan at Letton.

Note: the A438 is a dangerous road and it's safest to try to walk on the grass verge to one side of the road where possible.

E) From the Swan, turn left along the A438 (or simply continue along the road if you started at Kinnersley). When you reach a gate on the right just this side a new red brick house, cross this to enter a field. Follow the hedge on your left and at the corner soon reached keep pretty well straight ahead across the field, aiming for the left-hand end of a small copse which contains a single tall poplar. You will find a pair of stiles to cross here to enter the field beyond. The path now turns half left to cross a corner of the field to a stile just to the left of a large oak, but it may be easier to follow the field's headland down to a gate and so out on to the Letton to Kinnersley road.

F) Turn right on the road and walk along for about 300 metres, keeping a sharp eye out to your left for a stile near a telegraph pole that heralds the start of a path through a tall section of hedgerow. (If you reach a little car pull in and a sign for The Sturts Nature Reserve on the left, you have gone about 100 metres too far.)

Follow this little path into a field, part of The Sturts Nature Reserve, and cross the field to a corner of hedgerow to the left of the red brick Old School House. Go round this corner and then you should see the posts and rail of a small footbridge standing in the field, which you cross and then head to a stile just to the right of a pair of large oaks (as on the cover of this booklet). Cross this, then follow the hedge on your right and cross another stile out onto a lane.

G) Cross the lane and go over the stile opposite. Follow the hedge on your left till you reach a footbridge which you cross, and then turn right to follow the hedge. This will lead you to a concrete bridge into the next field. From here you can see, three fields away, an array of solar panels in front of some poultry houses, and you cross the corner of the field you're now in heading for these, and so pass through a gateway into the next field. The path now heads to a kissing gate set in a fence on the far side of the field, from where you head to the left hand edge of the array of solar panels and walk round to the back of them to then go through the field gate on your left.

Follow the edge of this small paddock to then walk along the right-hand side of a poultry house, passing through one kissing gate, to reach a small gate at its far end. Pass through this, up some steps then through another gate. Cross the tarmacked farm drive and then pass in front of Myrtle Cottage on your left to go through a gate into a small paddock.

Follow the hedge on your right and at the end of the paddock drop down a steep bank to a small wooden gate. Continue along a sunken path (which can be very wet at times) to join a gravelled track and pass a cottage on your left to emerge onto Ailey Lane. Turn right on the lane.

At the T-junction turn left to return to the Kinnersley Arms, or right to continue the walk if you started at the Swan at Letton, picking up the directions at Point A above.