

## WALK ONE

### **SANDRIDGE**

(Old English: Saundruage - a place of sandy soil)

Sandridge is one of the oldest villages in Hertfordshire, dating back to 796 a.d. The fields around the village were the scene of the Second Battle of St Albans in 1461

This is a circular walk of approximately four miles.



The walk starts and finishes at Sandridge Village Hall.

There is a car park and public toilets adjacent to the hall.



From the village hall turn left and walk up to the triangular junction at Sandridgebury Lane. Cross over and carry on up the B651 to the farm access to Pound Farm where the Bridleway is signposted.



Turn up the drive, through the farm buildings and up the well defined path beyond. The path goes gradually uphill past the land on your right which is being developed as Heartwood Forest, the largest new native forest in England. There are many points of access into the forest from this path. It is worth a visit.



You will arrive at Langley Wood, with its Woodland Trust information board on your left telling you all about this ancient woodland. Skirt around Langley Wood, keeping the wood on your left.



The path opens out into a broad avenue with young beech trees planted along either side. Follow the path between the two woods in front of you. These are Pismire Spring and Well Wood both, like Langley Wood, are remaining fragments of ancient woodland.



Once through the gap between the two woods, the landscape is typical of rural Hertfordshire.





Go down the hill to through the gap in the hedge immediately ahead, which has a concrete fence base in the centre and a Woodland Trust board to one side.



The path then goes up hill past a wood on the right hand side until it reaches Ayres End Lane. Turn left and walk along Ayres End Lane. Take great care as the lane is narrow with no footways or verges and has a couple of blind bends. You will cross the railway and then pass these houses on your right hand side.



Opposite the houses, on the left hand side of the road, is a marked footpath immediately before the 'Slow Down, Horses' sign. Turn on to the path which goes up the field margin with the hedge on your right. Follow the hedge round the dog leg to the left and then down to the end of the field. Go through the gap in the hedgerow.



Continue on the path, turning sharp right and then left. Carry on, now with the hedge on your left until you come to a plantation.

Take the left hand path, with the plantation on your right. The path will then carry on with a substantial hedgerow to the right until it meets a farm drive.



Turn left and walk along the drive to Cheapside Farm.

Go between the farm buildings to a gate on the left and then across the field to a second gate and the bridge across the railway. Once over the bridge follow the path straight ahead until it exits on to Sandridgebury Lane.



Immediately opposite there is a gate on top of the embankment, Go through this gate onto the field beyond. Cross the field diagonally and the one beyond that to go through the gap in the hedge into the sports field beyond that.

Go round the left hand edge of the sports field to arrive back at Sandridge Village Hall and the end of the walk.

If you have time pay St. Leonard's church a visit. It dates back to 1100, though the bricks from which it is built are much older, they were pillaged from Roman Verulamium. The 14th century rood screen is particularly fine.

This route was last walked by CPRE in November 2015