

## **The Dinosaur Walk**

An eight-mile walk entirely on public footpaths and bridleways through some of the most beautiful countryside in the Saffron Walden / Hempstead region. It starts and ends at nature reserves managed by Walden Countryside and crosses only three roads.

### **Why “The Dinosaur Walk”?**

The route was first devised for Walden Countryside’s Wild Child Group to walk while imagining a walk back in time. Each child’s pace represented 2000 years and the whole walk took the children back 65 million years to the time when the last dinosaurs were alive.

### **Noakes Grove nature reserve**

This is open to the public and there is a small (about 6 car) car park.

Leave the NW corner of Noakes Grove using a permissive path that connects to the public footpath from Saffron Walden to Redgates Lane. Cross the stile and follow the footpath through the sheep field to Redgates Lane.

### **Saffron House Bridleway**

Cross the road and follow the bridleway to the Saffron House entrance. Turn right on to the bridleway (a Roman Road) to New House Farm (Will Ayley) Lane and continue on the bridleway to Oak Wood.

### **Oak Wood to Tilekiln Grove**

Turn left at the eastern end of Oak Wood on to a footpath on the edge of Homestead Grove which runs on the SE side of a narrow strip of

woodland to the entrance to Tilekiln Grove

Follow the footpath signs through Tilekiln Grove, emerging into a field on the NE side of the wood. Follow the field edge footpath to a hedge and the Radwinter/Ashdon Rd.

### **Bendysh Woods**

Cross the road and use the pedestrian gap beside a locked farm gate to join the footpath towards Bendysh Woods. The path runs to the NW (left) of a deep drainage ditch

Turn south on a footpath to a gate into Little Bendysh Wood .. Follow the path to the centre of the wood where there is a large pond and then take the path NE to the exit from the wood.

Follow the field edge footpath to the entrance to Great Bendysh Wood and take the track NE through the wood and, just over the anti-vehicle fence, turn right down the track that leads to the edge of the wood. Turn left and follow the field/wood edge path to Olmstead Hall.

### **Towards the B1054 and Kings Field**

Take the bridleway that runs due east from the Hall and follow this path until it joins the unmade byway a little to the east of Great Dawkins,

Turn left (east) and follow the byway until a footpath sign directs you right (south) and then forks left towards a strip of woodland and a cross field path that joins the B1054 near the Boblow cross roads.

Kings Field nature reserve is opposite Bulls

Bridge Farm, 200 yards in the direction of Steeple Bumpstead from where you join the B1054

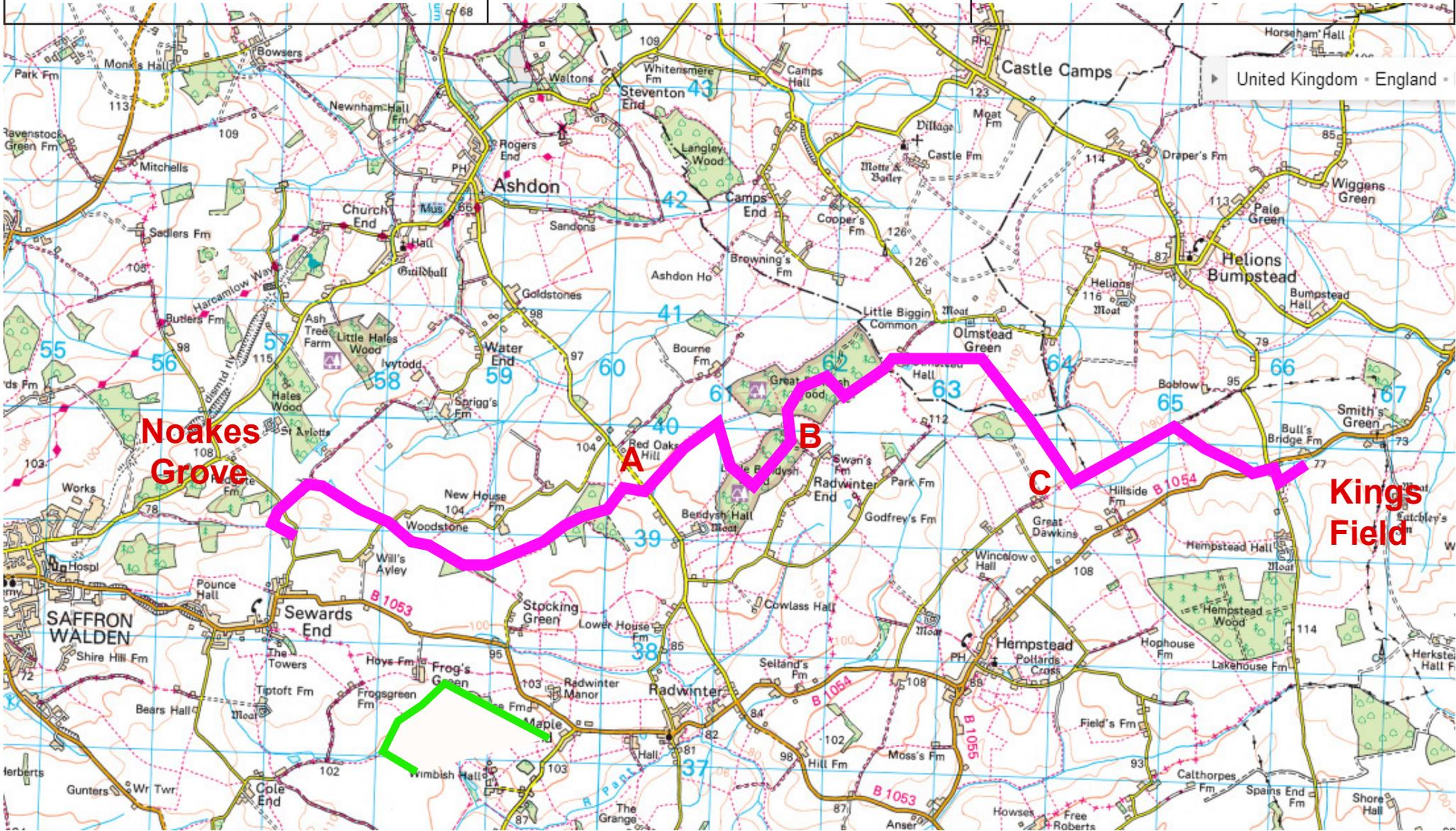
### **Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) and public access land.**

- **Noakes Grove Nature Reserve (LoWS)** 3.5 ha full public access on foot
- **Saffron House Bridleway (Provisional LoWS) Right of Way**
- **Roman Road - Margary route 300 Right of Way**
- **Roundlay Grove, Tilekiln Grove, Oak Wood, Homestead Grove, Wilderness Grove.** Many connected woods, all designated as LoWS and in private ownership but with footpath access on some edges and through parts of the woods. All are ancient woodland Total area about 10 ha
- **Little Bendysh Wood 33 ha full public access on foot**
- **Great Bendysh Wood 59 ha full public access on foot**
- **Kings Field Nature Reserve 2 ha full public access on foot**

**Bus 320 (Audley End Stn to Haverhill via Saffron Walden) serves Noakes Grove (Sewards End Village Hall) and Kings Field (Bullsbridge Farm) on Mon-Sat every two hours.**

**Recommended: leave car at one end and bus to other. Then walk back to car.**

<b>A - Ashdon/Radwinter Rd crossing What3Words decreased.hovered.heartache</b>	<b>B exit from Little Bendysh Wood What3Words gasp.defend.agreement</b>	<b>C Bridleway joins byway What3Words apply.satellite.crop</b>
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