

8. Langleybury Walk

7km (4.3 miles), with extra loop 8.2km (5.2 miles).

The walks start and finish at Langleybury Playing Fields where there is a small car park. The walks can also be started from Kings Langley Station, by taking the footpath opposite the station entrance leading down to the Grand Union Canal, crossing over and turning left onto the towpath at □.

From the playing fields walk up Langleybury Lane, the pedestrian route veers away from the main road, through some trees and up the old road, past *8. Langleybury House*. Turn right opposite the farm entrance. The road is marked 'Private Road' but it is a Public Bridleway.

The road leads across a bridge over the M25 and along an avenue of lime trees to Model Farm. Continue down a track with the farmhouse on your right and a view of *9. Great Westwood Farm* on your left.

At the bottom of the hill the track bends round to the right and meets a crossing path. Turn left for the long walk.

For the shorter walk continue along the track which runs along the bottom of the valley. This is the boundary between the parishes of Abbots Langley and Sarratt. When the path begins to rise, after about 200m, take signposted footpath on right where there is a field gate with a sign 'Rookery Wood Farm' (the long walk rejoins the main route here). The path crosses a field downhill to a **stile** in the hedge. Cross the **stile** and continue uphill to *11. Langley Lodge Farm*. The approach to the farm is often very muddy.

Cross a **stile** into the farmyard, turn left passing a pond, then follow the road round to the right, past the farmhouse to a surfaced road. Take footpath opposite, over 2 **stiles**, along the edge of a field. Pass through 2 kissing gates and use the footbridge to cross the A41. Turn right, then left downhill towards Kings Langley, then right along a track to Wayside Farm and Watford Road (formerly A41, now the A4251). Turn right and then left along Station footpath to the Canal Bridge. Turn right along the towpath (walkers from the station join here □) back to Langleybury. There is a subway that can be used to cross the A41 back to the car park.

For the long walk turn left uphill along the edge of the field, passing a wood on your left then alongside a hedge. Follow the path round to the right, then left and cross a **stile** by Little Westwood Farm. Cross the field (there is a waymarker post to guide you) to a road opposite Bucks Hill House. Turn right along the road for 400 metres, then take signposted path by Griffinhurst (formerly the Rose and Crown PH). Go along the edge of the field to the end of the garden through the hedge and along the edge of another field. Then turn half-left across another field to a waymarker post and continue past *10. Giffies Farm*. Turn right onto the bridleway for about 400 metres and take the footpath on the left, rejoining the main route.

8. Langleybury House is a fine brick building erected by Sir Robert Raymond, Lord Chief Justice of England in 1727/9. In the 19th Century the house was sold to Mr William Lloyd a banker, who was responsible for the building of Langleybury Church in 1864. The house was, until recently, part of the Langleybury School.

9. Great Westwood was also built early in the 18th Century. The present owner is the Hon. Anthony Cayzer. The gardens, including a beautiful display of daffodils, are sometimes open to the public in aid of Cancer Research. A previous owner was the Earl of Dudley who used to entertain the late Duke of Windsor on his visits to England.

10. Giffies Farm was the house of the Carter family, ancestors of the ex-President of the USA, Jimmy Carter. Although it is more than three miles from Abbots Langley it is in the parish and one John Carter was a Churchwarden in 1597.

11. Langley Lodge Farm is one of the farms (the other is Ballspend Farm) formed out of the park attached to the former Royal Palace at Kings Langley. The park formerly covered the whole area between Kings Langley and Berry Bushes Wood.

