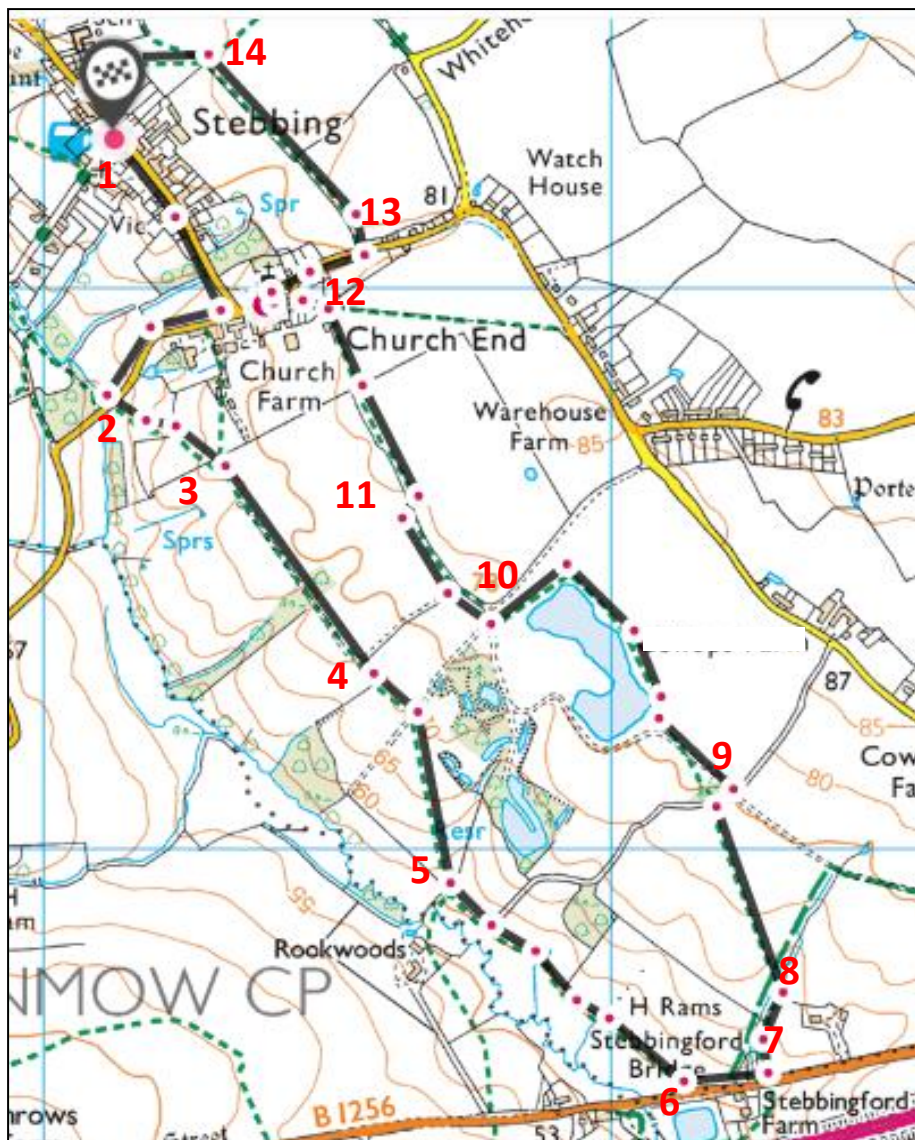


[Stebbing South via Stane Street](#)

This is a straight forward route suitable for walkers and runners with good views across the valley towards Felsted. The route does include two cross field paths which can get muddy in wet weather if they have not been reinstated; the first one soon gets trodden in and the second can be by-passed. There are also three stiles and two gates.

3.25 miles / 5.2 km, 1hr 15min (approx. walking time)



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Starting from outside the [White Hart \(1\)](#) a 17th century building, proceed down the High Street past the Bowling Club and the [Friends Meeting House](#), the first built in Essex and the oldest remaining in the county, then cross the new culvert bridge towards the [War Memorial](#) passing some of the oldest cottages in the village on the way. At the junction turn Right and make your way past Church Farm to the stile on your Left just after the lovely half-timbered [Priors Hall \(2\)](#), the oldest part of which dates back to the 14th century. Then take the stile and head slightly Left across the slope to the next stile (3). After the stile continue straight ahead, crossing another stile and onto the track until that turns Left and you go straight on to the metal gate (4). Here we find the first cross field path, officially it should go straight ahead to the crossing track and then diagonally Right to the bottom corner of the field (5), however when the route gets trodden in it might well go diagonally straight from the gate, and sometimes muddy.

Pass through the field corner at the bottom of the slope and turn Left then, keeping the hedge (containing a line of magnificent [ancient Oak trees](#)) on your Left and ignoring other paths and field entrances, continue to reach the old

Roman road, Stane Street, otherwise known as the B1256, close to Stebbingford Bridge (6). Turn Left and after the old cottages take the enclosed footpath uphill to reach the field at (7).

From here the path should go diagonally across the field towards the Right Hand end of the tree line on the other side of the field (8), if it hasn't been reinstated, or is very muddy, turn Right and use the bridleway to reach the crossing track where you turn Left and continue to re-join the footpath (8) and continue to the fishing lakes. Formerly used for sand and gravel extraction the soil here was poor and in the summer you might see the flower heads of [Blue Fleabane](#) which likes poor soil.

Blue Fleabane

Erigeron acris



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Follow the path around the lakes to (9) where you take the track Right, when the track turns Left you continue straight ahead on the footpath and keep the hedge on your Right until you reach the bridge (10). Cross the bridge (the footpath has change sides of the hedge here since, at least, 1896) and turn Left. Continue straight ahead, crossing the last stile and field, to reach the end of the gravel lane (11).

Walk down the lane to the road passing [Red Lion House](#), built in the 16th century and originally one of our old pubs. Cross the road to the 14th century [St Marys Church](#) dedicated to the Virgin Mary (one of many dedicated to St. Mary in this part of Essex and containing the older of only two stone Rood Screens in the country). Turn Right and take the path through the Churchyard back to the road then, with great care, proceed along the road to take the footpath on your left (12).

Follow this footpath to reach the crossing paths (13) where you take the diagonal path to the left leading to the gravel track which will lead you to the High Street opposite our Community Shop. One more left turn and a few more yards along the High Street will bring you back to The White Hart passing the house next door to the pub, [Tweed Cottage](#), which is believed to be the oldest in the village, built in the 13th century.