The Stansted Mountfitchet village trail is a circular walk of the village which can be done in an hour. If you have the time and energy there are two extension loops suggested which will guide you around some very attractive areas on the edge of the village.

www.stansted.net

The name Stansted is Saxon in origin, compounded of two Saxon words, “Stan” a stone and “Sted” a place. William the Conqueror granted the lordship of the Manors of Stansted and Bentfield to the Gernon family, who were succeeded by the Montfichets – their name is derived from Montfiquet in Normandy. The family name was later incorporated into the place name.

At some point a motte and bailey castle was built (a mound with a keep and an open space within an outer wall). The mound and a section of the stone wall remain to this day and form part of a major tourist attraction – Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum.

In the 19th century the railway came to Stansted, making the village quite accessible to London, and the present Stansted Hall was built to house the valuable art collection of the wealthy Fuller Maitland family who left the village in 1922.

In the south east part of the parish is Stansted Airport. Despite being fairly close to such a major development the parish has many lovely rural walks and peaceful vistas – well worth exploring! Descriptions of some further walks can be found on the Parish Council Website.

www.stansted.net

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this leaflet Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

We would like to thank The Vine at Linden House whose support made the publication of this leaflet possible.
Stansted Mountfitchet Village Trail

1 Kings Arms Hotel – note the list of past occupants.
2 Make your way up Chapel Hill.
3 Stansted Free Church, formerly the United Reformed Church. Current building dates from 1864 but the original church was built in 1608.
4 Memorial Garden where the village was memorialised.

Before crossing the road to Recreation Ground look back down the hill and across the valley to get an impressive view of Stansted Hall Park. Turn left into Recreation Ground.

5 The Recreation Ground is an open space maintained by the Parish Council. There is a memorial commemorating the donation of the land to the village by William Fuller Maitland in 1887. This is a great place to get a photoscopic view of Stansted’s iconic windmill.

Take the footpath, known locally as a twitchell, to Millside.

6 Stansted Windmill dates from 1787 and has ancient monument status. It last worked in 1910 and was given to the village in 1935 by Lord Blyth. The old miller’s house is to the west of the mill and there is a row of nineteenth century workers’ cottages opposite.

Proceed down Mill Hill and cross Silver Street. Turn to your right and head for the centre of the village.

7 The village sign was erected for the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee. The Knight depicted is the second Richard de Montfichet, and the date 1215 is shown because he was one of the 25 barons chosen to make King John observe Magna Carta.

8 Linden House (see back cover).
9 The cast iron mile post may be the largest in Essex.
10 The Wood Grill started life as the Bell Coaching Inn which then became the Bell and Feathers Inn.

11 There are a number of period properties located on both sides of the road including Forge House, Potts Cottage and York Cottage.

Cross the road and make your way back towards the fountain.

12 The Greens Building. There has been a shop on this site since at least 1837, when Quaker John Day started trading here. The Greens took over in 1840 and the business continued to trade here until 1980.
13 Western House – impressive seventeenth century (C17) house.
14 The four column McFarlane Victorian drinking fountain erected in 1871 was presented to the village by Henry and Walter Gibney.

Proceed down Chapel Hill.

15 Behind the Friends Meeting House is an old burial ground with some traditional headstones that have local interest.
16 The old summer house incorporates timbers from the original chapel from which Chapel Hill takes its name.
17 Central Hall, now the Old Court House, was built in 1854 to house the Stansted Literary Institute. It was later used for some time as a court house.

Turn left into St John’s Road.

18 No.1 St John’s Road is an early nineteenth century stuccoed house and former vicarage.

Bentfield Green Extension Loop

Proceed down Cooper’s Alley, cross Bentfield Gardens and continue up the alley to Bentfield Road and turn left.

19 There are a number of attractive period residential properties on the left-hand side including The Willows, White Cottage and Widwishes.

20 Turn right into Bentfield Causeway. There is a small thatched cottage on the left-hand corner and a number of other attractive properties from different periods in Stansted’s history.

21 At the top of the Causeway you come to Bentfield Upper Green which is fringed by a number of interesting and historic residential buildings. Cross the green to take in the village pond and then pass the play area towards Bentfield Lower Green.
22 The Rose & Crown. This was built c.1879 on the site of three cottages. It was originally named the Waggoners and later the Coach & Horses before becoming the Rose & Crown. The thatched cottage is understood to be around 500 years of age, probably starting its life as an Essex Hall House.
23 Washden House, dating back to 1496, which makes it probably the oldest house in Stansted.

Turn right into Bentfield Road.

24 Laundry Cottage, which was part of the Hargrave estate and dealt with their washing as the name implies.

Continue along Bentfield Road until you come to the Coopers Alley twitchell. Turn left and make your way back to Cambridge Road.

St Mary’s Church Extension Loop

Make your way up Church Road.

25 Bridge House, said to be one of the oldest houses in the village.
26 The Gatehouse, former lodge to Stansted Hall.

Continue past The Gatehouse and bear left taking the footpath/drive.

27 Manor House was once the vicarage.
28 Stansted Hall, built by the Fuller Maitlands in the 1780s and now the home of the Arthur Findlay College, the headquarters of the Spiritualists’ National Union.

29 The Church of St Mary the Virgin. The church was built by the Montfichets and dates back to about 1120. It contains two exceptional 17th-century tomb figures of Hester Salisbury and her father, Sir Thomas Myddelton.

Go past the churchyard and cemetery and turn right down Church Road.

30 Fullers House on your left – former almshouses.

31 Turn left into St John’s Road and then left into Recreation Ground.

32 Mill Hill Recreation

33 Silver Street

34 Bentfield Causeway

35 Coopers Alley

36 Cambridge Road

37 Bentfield

38 Low Green

39 Cambridge Road

40 Station Road

41 Entrance Loop

42 Bentfield End

43 Burybells Way

44 Stansted Windmill

45 Mill Hill Recreation Ground

46 Recreation Ground

47 St John’s Road

48 Groves Building

49 Crafton

50 Bentfield End

51 Burybells Way

52 Car Park

53 ST JOHN’S ROAD

54 ST MARY’S EXTENSION LOOP

55 Mill Hill Recreation Ground

56 Recreation Ground

57 Car Park

58 ST MARY’S EXTENSION LOOP

59 MILL HILL RECREATION

60 SILVER STREET

61 STATION ROAD