

# 9. Stockers, Inns & Springwell Lakes

3 miles

The three lakes form a peaceful area on what was a busy gravel extraction site until the 1940's. With luck a Kingfisher may be seen and Herons and other water birds are in abundance.

**Easy Access** \*\*\*\* Mostly level ground and good paths or boardwalks. There are some small slopes and muddy patches in Winter

**Refreshments** \*\*\* Halfway House and The Apple Tree pubs as well a chip shop and other shops near point 1

**Public Transport** \*\*\*\* Bus 724 (Harlow to Heathrow) and 6 (Hemel to Maple Cross) both stop in Mill End near point 1

[1] From the parade of shops at moneyhill follow the main road towards Maple Cross then turn left onto the footpath (Signposted Aquadrome and Stockers Lake opposite the garage).

Since gravel extraction stopped in Stockers Lake, to your right, a wide range of aquatic plants have become established. The lake is characterised by gravel ridges which form a series of islands providing an important refuge for wildlife. After the boardwalks you walk up a small slope for a beautiful view through the trees to Springwell Reedbed on your right. The lake is managed as a nature reserve by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust with support from the Friends of Stockers Lake.

[2] After 1/2 mile cross the River Colne on the footbridge and follow the path beside Inns Lake until you reach a road. Cross the road and enter the Springwell Lake car park then follow the path to your right around Springwell Lake. After the boardwalks you walk up a small slope for a beautiful view through the trees to Springwell Reedbed on your right.

[3] When you reach the tarmac track, follow this to your left then, just before the bridge, turn through the gate on your right then turn left and follow the canal towpath for approximately 1 mile.

[4] At Stockers Lock take the path on your left and follow this straight ahead onto the causeway between Bury Lake and Stockers Lake and back to the start point.

[Enlarged Right] Stockers Lake

[Right] Springwell Lake

[Bottom right] Sunset over Stockers Lake

[Below] Stockers Farm

