



Bengo Trails 12: Footpath 96 towards Westmill Road

This trail takes walkers from St Leonard's Church, through the grounds of the former Ware Park Manor, and follows Public Footpath 96 towards Westmill Road. This walk goes to the furthest edge of the Bengo Ward and gives views across Ware and the Lee Valley.

This trail was produced by the [Love Bengo Community Group](#)ⁱ.

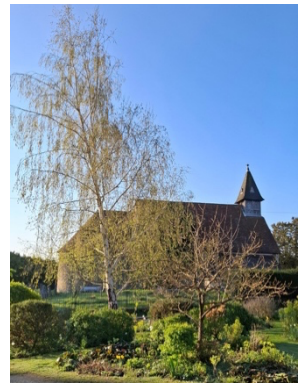
Starts and ends: St Leonard's Garden opposite St Leonard's Church, St Leonard's Rd, Bengo, Hertford SG14 3JW

Distance: 3m/5km

Conditions: Footpaths, bridleways, short sections on quiet roads, and one stile. Some uneven surfaces which can be wet and muddy. Contains uphill and downhill sections. The trail passes through working fields that can be either ploughed or contain livestock. Keep dogs on the lead and follow the [Countryside Code](#).

St Leonard's Garden is a delightful community garden overlooking the 12th century St Leonard's Church.

Starting at St Leonard's Garden, head east along St Leonard's Road, turn right and continue downhill along Ware Park Road. There is no pavement towards the bottom of Ware Park Road – take care when walking in the road. Cross the bridge over the River Rib and follow the raised pavement alongside the road.



The **River Rib** originates to the north, near the village of Buckland, and runs roughly parallel to the A10 until it joins the River Lee in Bengo.

Continue along Ware Park Road uphill until it curves around to the right and crosses over a disused millstream.

The disused **Ware Park millstream** is barely recognisable; all that remains are the ornate cast iron balustrades of the bridge. The millstream used to take water from the River Rib to power the Ware Park Mill. The water wheel was unique in the area in that it was an overshot wheel, where the water runs over the top of the wheel, rather than the usual undershot wheel.

Turn right immediately after the bridge onto Restricted Byway 98. Continue to follow the path uphill through the woods, which are within the grounds of the old Ware Park Manor.



Ware Park Manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book and has passed through many changes over the years. It was owned by the Fanshaw family in the 16th-17th century, before being sold to London barrister William Parker. In the early 20th century, it passed into the hands of Hertfordshire County Council and was used as a hospital for tuberculosis patients. The Manor House was converted to flats in the 1980s.

Continue to follow the byway until it levels out and crosses two entrance tracks to properties on the right. At the second track turn left and then right onto the wider farm track (Pampuss Mews Cattery will be on the right). Turn immediately left and pass through the kissing gate on to Public Footpath 96.



Continue to follow the footpath along the left-hand edge of the field. The path is way marked at regular intervals. Bardon Farm can be seen across the field on the right.

Cross over the stile next to a telegraph pole and continue straight across the next field (heading slightly to the right of the house in front of you).

At the paved farm track joggle slightly right and then left to pass between piles of lumber and farm machinery. Continue to follow the track with woods to the left and a field to the right. Pass through the gap at the side of the five-bar gate and follow the path through the woods.

At the edge of the woods descend on a track with a wooden handrail on the right-hand side.

At the bottom cross over the access road and continue to follow the path uphill. On the right is a methane-powered generation plant.



The **Brazier Generation Station** is a facility that captures methane from decomposing rubbish on this former landfill site and uses it to generate electricity. This provides a solution that not only generates renewable energy but prevents this greenhouse gas from escaping into the atmosphere. The generator has an installed capacity of 699Kw, which is relatively small, but is enough to provide power for approximately 1800 households.

Continue to follow the path uphill until the metal kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and enter a large field with commanding views across Ware and down the Lee Valley as far as Hoddesdon.



Carry on across the field until you come to another kissing gate and a small bridge. This marks the boundary of the Bengeo Ward. (Passing through the gate would take the walker between some houses and onto the very busy A602.)

Retrace your steps and return to St Leonard's Garden.

Brief route directions back to Ware Park Road below;

Turn around and aim towards the kissing gate on the opposite side of the large field. Go down the slope and up the path with the handrail. The generating station will be on your left this time. Continue to follow the path through the woods and across the field towards the stile by the telegraph pole. Follow the footpath way markers along righthand side of the field until you reach Ware Park Road.

Route mapⁱⁱ

ⁱ Formerly the Community Steering Group for the Bengo Neighbourhood Area Plan ⁱⁱ Route map sourced from openstreetmap.org