



General Information

The permitted Walk is open free of charge every day of the year from 9am to dusk. The Walk route is shown on the attached plan. Part of the Heritage Walk, shown dotted on the plan, will be closed for up to 8 days per month. Details of closure dates will be displayed adjacent to the gate to this part of the Walk and in the car park.

Please note that part of this Walk is near deep water, both within Stoke Park and the Memorial Gardens. Parents should therefore take all necessary precautions to ensure their children's safety. Picnics and ball games are not permitted.

Please do not leave any litter.

Free car parking is available in the car park in Church Lane opposite the entrance to the Memorial Gardens.

Do not leave any valuables in your car whilst parked.

The Heritage Walk

STOKE POGES,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

South Bucks
District Council



Ⓐ Gray Monument

Further Information

The area near Stoke Park Mansion is used as a golf course. When walking the Heritage Walk, please keep to the defined path at all times.

Stoke Park Mansion and grounds are not open to the public, except on a limited number of days per year. For further information contact Stoke Park Mansion House on **01753 717171**.

The Manor House and gardens are not open to the public.

For further details on the Heritage Walk, contact South Bucks District Council, on **01753 533333**.

Other general information is available at:
www.southbucks.gov.uk
www.stokeparkclub.com
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
www.stokepogeschurch.org

For further historical information on Stoke Park visit www.stokeparkclub.com/history/estate.htm

The Walk starts by following the signs to:

Ⓔ The Mansion

John Penn (1760 - 1834) was responsible for most of what can be seen at Stoke Park today, including the Mansion, the monument to Sir Edward Coke (1800), the monument to Thomas Gray (1799) and the Repton Bridge (1798).

John Penn decided that the old Manor House built in 1555 was too dilapidated for repairs to be made and decided instead to build a new house in a prime site of rising ground in the centre of the parkland.

The new Mansion was begun in 1789 and many alterations and additions were made before its completion by James Wyatt in 1813. John Penn also commissioned a new landscape to replace the existing "Capability" Brown layout of 1750 which had been designed for the Manor House. Humphrey Repton was selected and he created a new plan in 1792.

Ⓕ The Coke Monument

In 1800 John Penn erected a monument to the honour of Sir Edward Coke, the owner of Stoke Park from 1603 to 1644.

Sir Edward Coke was speaker of the House of Commons and later became the first Lord Chief Justice of England in 1613. In 1603 he prosecuted Sir Walter Raleigh and in 1605 the Gunpowder Plotters.

Ⓖ Penn/Gray Museum

This museum displays artefacts from the Penn/Gray Society (many from private donations) and are now on display in the Museum located in the Robe Room at the Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens Office. Opening times see section C. (Closed Bank Holidays).



Ⓑ St Giles Stoke Poges Parish Church

In 1086 William Fitzansulf held the Manor, in the grounds of which a Norman church was built. He became known as William Stoches or William of Stoke.

200 years later Amicia of Stoke, heiress of the then occupant of the Manor, married Robert Poges, Knight of the Shire. Thus the name was given to Stoke Poges.

The architecture of the church contains four periods:

- part of the chancel wall and window;
- pillars, part of the chancel and part of the tower;
- the nave being reconstructed on Norman pillars;
- the Hastings chapel and generally the red brick parts of the building.

Thomas Gray is buried in the tomb outside the east window of the Hastings Chapel.

Further information about the Parish Church is available inside the Church which is open daily.

Ⓓ The Manor House and Stoke Park

The Manor House has its origins in the 15th century but the current house is now approximately one quarter of its size in 1775. The house is set in 14 acres of pasture and lake.

One notable owner, Lord Hungerford, fought during the War of the Roses as a Lancastrian and was beheaded in 1464 when Edward IV defeated Henry VI. The estate was then forfeited to Edward IV.



Other notable owners include Elizabeth I between 1581 and 1603. During this period the Manor was let to Sir Christopher Hatton, the then Lord High Chancellor of England, between 1581 and 1591. Sir Edward Coke, the first Lord Chief Justice of England, owned the Manor House between 1603 and 1644.

In 1760, the Estate was purchased by Thomas Penn, son of William, the founder of Pennsylvania and on the death of Thomas in 1775, passed to John Penn.

Due to its close proximity to Windsor Castle there have been several notable visitors to the house, including Elizabeth I when she owned it, Charles I who was reputedly imprisoned here in 1647 and William III.

It is also reputed that Sir Edward Landseer, the artist who used the Great Hall as a studio, reportedly painted there the 'Monarch of the Glen' and designed the lions for the foot of Nelson's column.

Ⓒ Memorial Gardens

Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens were founded by the late Sir Noel Mobbs who acquired the land in 1930 with the object of preserving the beauty and quietude of Stoke Poges. The Memorial Gardens were designed and completed by 1937.

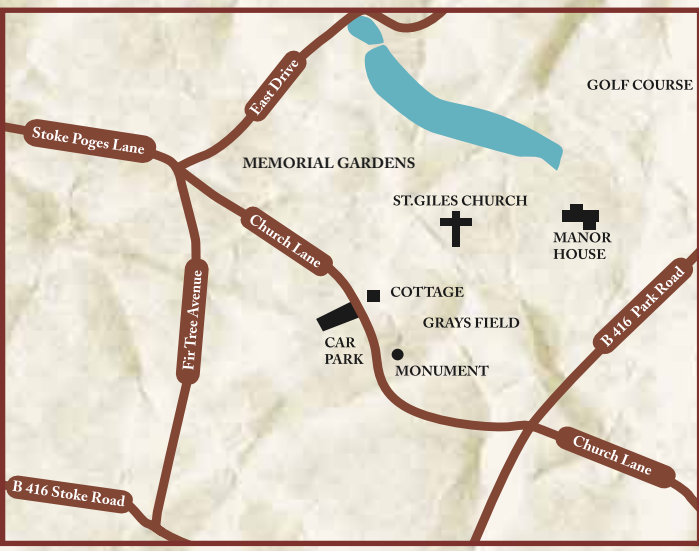
In 1971 South Bucks District Council took over the maintenance and management of the Gardens.

The grounds cover 20 acres and include over 2,000 private gardens including rock and water gardens, rose gardens, formal gardens enclosed by yew hedges, informal gardens surrounded by beautiful flowering shrubs, parterre gardens, individual heath gardens and shrubs. The specimen trees and shrubs. The main avenue leads down to the colonnade, which with its columns, water channels, magnolia trees and colourful flower beds is a spectacular feature.

Please feel free to walk around the Memorial Gardens. However remember that it is a garden of remembrance and the peace and tranquillity should be maintained. Please keep to the paths.

The Memorial Gardens office is open 5 days per week, (Mon-Fri) 9.30am - 5.00pm

For enquiries about the Gardens, contact the Gardens Administrator on **01753 523744**.



The Walk starts by following the path to St Giles Church to the right hand side of the entrance to the Memorial Gardens opposite the car park. Follow **HW** Heritage Walk signs. Please allow enough time to fully enjoy the Walk. At the end of the walk retrace the route back to the car park. The Heritage Walk has been prepared by South Bucks District Council with the kind co-operation of Stoke Poges Parish Council, Stoke Park Limited, the National Trust and St Giles Parish Church.

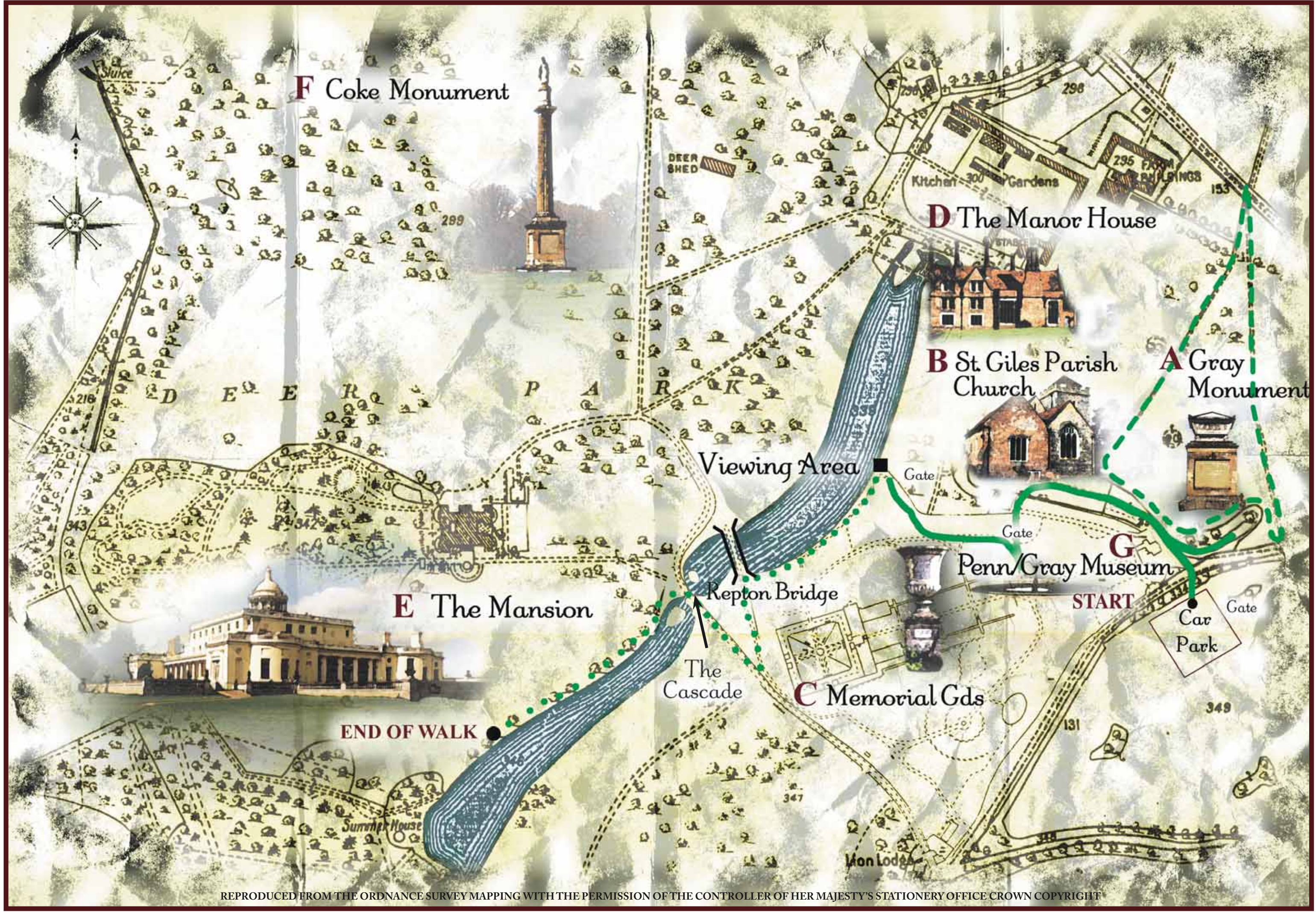
South Bucks
District Council

STOKE PARK CLUB

STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

THE NATIONAL TRUST

PARISH OF STOKE POGES
St GILES CHURCH and St ANDREWS CHURCH



F Coke Monument

D The Manor House

B St Giles Parish Church

A Gray Monument

E The Mansion

Viewing Area

G Penn/Gray Museum

START

Repton Bridge

The Cascade

C Memorial Gds

Car Park

END OF WALK