

Pen and Wash by Deborah Robinson









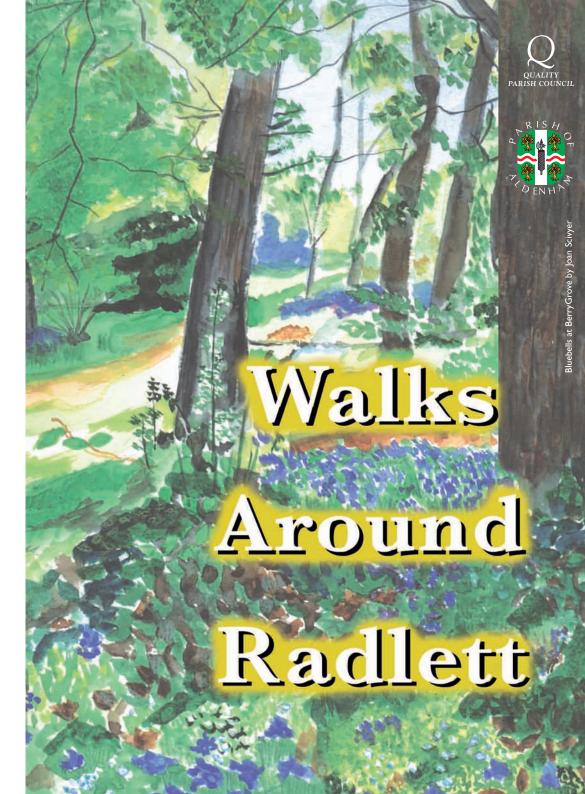




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DISCLAIMER

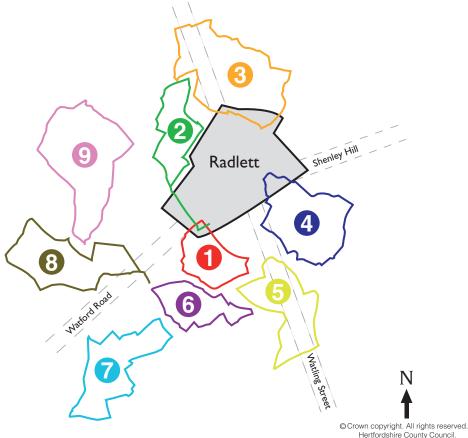
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Further copies of this booklet may be obtained from the offices of Aldenham Parish Council and other local outlets.

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Nine Walks Around Radlett



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River Colne

WALK (9)

Introduction

Radlett is fortunate to be located in a rural setting and be surrounded by woodlands and fields across which there are many attractive and interesting public rights of way and historic routes. This booklet contains details of nine circular walks. Having walked some or all of these walks, it is hoped you will have been inspired to explore more of the rights of way in this lovely area.

The Walks

The walks have been selected to enable walkers of all ages and walking abilities to explore the area around Radlett. The walks are short and vary in length from 3.5 to 7 km (2.25 to 4.5 miles). Should a longer walk be desired, it is possible to link walks together. Some of the walks pass by local features of significant historical and architectural interest.

At present there are stiles to be climbed over and the number of stiles is given at the beginning of each walk. Hertfordshire County Council has a policy of removing stiles and leaving a gap where possible. However, where a structure is required for containing stock or for public safety, user-friendly structures will be installed such as kissing gates. It is hoped that in the next few years most local parishes, including Aldenham, will be stile free.

Footpath Numbers

When walking in the local area, waymarks with numbers are sometimes seen. All public rights of way have been named using a number and these numbers provide an easy way of checking the right of way being walked. At the time of publication some of the waymarks and numbers were missing. The intention is that all waymarks will be updated in the near future. These numbers have been included in the text of the walk and shown on the maps to provide additional guidance.

Access

The walks in this booklet use public rights of way, permissive paths and routes where access for walkers is accepted. On routes where there is no public right of way, no implication of a right of way is intended.

If any difficulties with access are encountered, please report these to Aldenham Parish Council.

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Useful Web Addresses

Aldenham Parish Council: Hertfordshire County Council: Countryside Management Services: www.aldenham.gov.uk www.hertsdirect.org www.enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/cms

Key to Maps

Stile / Kissing Gate

Bridge

(44) Footpath Numbers

Route Numbers

Parking

Busy Road

Public House

Electricity Pylon



This is an ideal short winter walk. The walk follows paths that are either tarmac or generally firm under foot.

The walk starts at the Phillimore Recreation Ground car park off Gills Hill Lane.

- Pass through the kissing gate into the recreation grounds and walk straight ahead along the tarmac path that runs alongside the children's play area on the left. After leaving the recreation grounds through a kissing gate, keep straight ahead and cross another footpath to a road, Aldenham Avenue. Cross straight over to the footpath immediately opposite (47). Continue along this footpath that becomes an unmade road leading to Loom Place. Keep straight ahead down Loom Place. Cross another road, Loom Lane, and take the road signposted "To the Leys". Keep straight ahead at the junction, signposted to Pendragon. After a short distance the tarmac stops and continues as a path.
- The track widens out and shortly before reaching the main road, Watling Street, take the footpath (46) on the right just before a driveway. Follow this path into a field and turn left along the field edge. Go up the wooden steps to a wide track and turn right (71).
- At the white building, keep to the left and pass through a kissing gate. Continue along the track (17) and bear right where the track forks. Continue along the track and out onto Common Lane opposite Battlers Green Farm.
- Turn right and walk along the road, cross over The Ridgeway and bear right into the next road, Loom Lane. Just after Beagle Close take the footpath on the left (6). Cross the first road and continue along the footpath to Orchard Close. Cross this road and bear right on to the pavement leading into Gills Hill Lane. Follow the road up Gills Hill Lane crossing Elm Walk. Where the road turns left around St John's Church, take the footpath on the right, effectively straight ahead. Ignoring the path on the right that leads to the allotments, take the path along the back of the Radlett Bowls Club back to the car park.

Interestingly, there is no concensus as to whether Battlers Green has one or two t's!





NETHERWYLDE FARM

This walk includes using a permissive path through Field Farm House Woodlands. The owner welcomes walkers and you may wish to spend some time exploring the woods.

The path is closed annually for one day, normally on the shortest day of the year, 21st December.

The walk starts at the Phillimore Recreation Ground car park off Gills Hill Lane.

- Take the pathway from the rear of the car park, past the bowling green, turn right at Gills Hill Lane. Cross the road and go down Folly Pathway past the school. Keep straight ahead down the path to the Watford Road. Cross with care into Dellfield Close and carry straight on to the path at the end (5).
- Follow the path past 'Field House Farm Woodlands' on the right and go straight on along the next field edge to a track, Oakridge Lane. Turn right downhill and follow the track around the sharp left bend. Go along the track bearing right at the farm entrance and take a track on the left (72). Follow the track down the hill to Netherwylde Farm, passing a "No Through Road" sign. Turn right at the bottom of the hill and follow the track (20) to Netherwylde Cottages.
- Just beyond these cottages and before the bridge, turn right through a kissing gate. Walk down the edge of the field (9) with the river on the left, on through another kissing gate and on past a pylon. Go through a kissing gate towards the end of the field and cross the wooden bridge. Follow the path to Oakridge Lane and cross straight over.
- Follow the path (26) down the field edge with the river now on the right. Just past the field corner there is a gap leading to a narrow path between fences. Take this path, which comes out onto Brook Drive. Walk down Brook Drive to Oakridge Avenue. Turn right and continue to the end of the road passing Goodyers Avenue and Newlands Avenue on the left.
- Pass through the kissing gate into Field Farm House Woodlands and follow the track round on through a 5 bar metal gate. After a short distance, where several paths meet, bear half left and go diagonally along the ride through Lucinda's Wood. At the top of the ride, take the left path to the stile. Cross the stile, turn left and retrace your steps back to Dellfield Close and then to the Phillimore Recreation Ground.



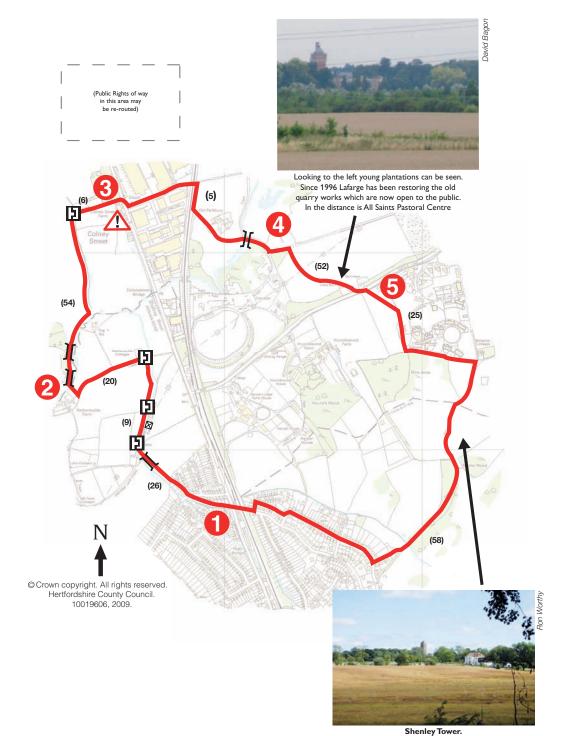


HARPERBURY HOSPITAL

7 km (4.5 miles) no stiles

The walk starts in Kitswell Way.

- Walk up Kitswell Way and follow the path at the end between two bungalows to Oakridge Avenue. Cross into Brook Drive and walk to the end. Take the path between two fences (26), the path leads to a field. Turn left and follow the path around the field edge with the river on the left. Cross straight over the lane and turn left over the wooden bridge. Pass through a kissing gate and turn right. Take the path (9) along the field edge with the river now on the right, past a pylon, and on through a kissing gate. Continue along the edge of the next field to another kissing gate. Turn left and walk along the track (20). Ignore the first track on the right leading to the pumping station.
- Just before Netherwylde Farm take the path/track on the right (54), cross a wooden bridge and almost immediately bear right. Follow the path through the trees and scrub to a wooden bridge over a ditch. Cross the bridge, turn right and follow the riverbank to a ditch. Turn left and keeping the ditch on the right walk along the field edge to a stile opposite a stable block. Cross the stile, turn right and walk up to Watling Street (6).
- Cross Watling Street and go into the Ventura Business Park. Follow the road through the park and where the road turns sharply left go straight ahead across a railway bridge (5). Turn right and follow the path alongside the railway track. The path then bears left past a gate, on through another gate and past a corrugated barn. Follow the track down the slope and, where the track bears left, go straight ahead over a wooden bridge. After a short distance, where the wooden fence ends, turn left down a track.
- After a short distance and just before a plantation on the right, turn right onto a path (52) along the edge of a field. Where the path goes under the transmission lines, go straight ahead and follow the path across the field to the back of a house on Harper Lane. Walk around this house and through the hedge out onto Harper Lane.
- Cross Harper Lane and turn left. Just before the 40 mph sign, turn right at the footpath sign to Shenleybury and Radlett (25). Bear half left across the field to where the path wends its way through the trees and on to a gap in a fence. Turn right and follow the path round the back of Harperbury Hospital, keeping the fence on the left, to Margaret Cottages. Turn right along the track way marked 'Shenley 3'. Follow the track and on through the woods. At the end of the woods pass through a gap in the fence where the track joins The Warren. Turn right down The Warren to its junction with The Avenue. Turn right into The Avenue and straight ahead under the railway bridge to Watling Street. Cross Watling Street and back into Kitswell Way.

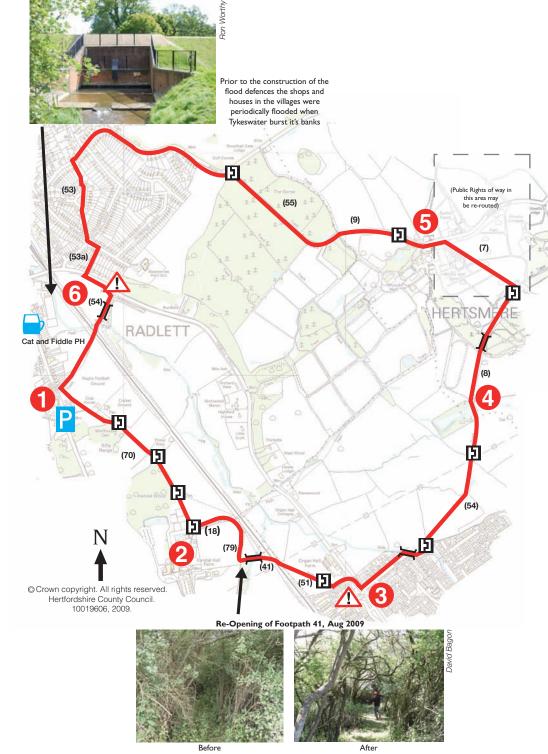


Shenley Hospital was one of a number of mental hospitals situated within easy travelling distance of London



This walk starts at the car park at Tabard Rugby Club and Radlett Cricket Club, off Watling Street at Cobden Hill.

- Walk through the car park, leaving the cricket pitches on the left, to a kissing gate and down the slope (70) to a surfaced track that comes in from the right. Continue left along the track a short way and cross the stile straight ahead. Walk down the field edge keeping the wood to the right. Pass through a gate/stile.
- At the next stile turn left down a track (18). At the railway bridge bear right (do not go under the railway bridge) and follow the track (79) to a wooden bridge with a path opposite. Turn left (41) and follow the path through the woods and on over a concrete bridge. Keep to the left and cross over a wooden bridge just before the railway line. Go through the small railway tunnel, turn right and aim for a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and walk under the transmission lines to a stile in the centre of the opposite hedge. Cross the stile, turn left and follow the path to Theobald Street. Cross over and turn right.
- Turn left into Rossington Avenue and cross two roads on the left. Just after the right hand bend in Haggerston Road, turn left at the footpath sign and then bear left over a footbridge and on through a kissing gate. Bear right and follow the path, keeping the metal fence on the left, up the hill (53). Go through the gap in the hedgerow and bear left under the transmission lines. Aim for the field corner where the metal fence meets a field boundary. Go through the kissing gate and follow the path alongside the metal fence, over wooden sleepers to a track.
- Go straight across the track, keeping the wire fence on the left (a white house can be seen on the top of the hill to the right), walk along the field edge (8) to a Watling Chase sign set amongst some trees. Go over a wooden bridge and then through the woods to where the path emerges onto a shingle track. Follow the track to a kissing gate beside a metal 5-bar gate. Go through the kissing gate and straight over the track to a gap beside another metal gate. Follow the path (7) between the two fences to a farm gate with a small gate alongside. Go through the small gate, turn left onto Woodhall Lane and walk past the entrance to Wood Hall Farm.
- Continue along the track (9) into the woods and bear right at a gate. Follow the path (55) through the woods to a main road, Shenley Road. Turn left. Walk along the pavement for about half a mile, crossing over Williams Way and then turn left down a path between house numbers 24 and 26 Shenley Hill (53). Keep the green on the right and walk round to another path between houses numbered 24 and 25 Canons Close. Take this footpath and at the end cross over Craigweil Avenue and into Newberries Avenue. Walk up the slope and take a footpath (53A) on the right hand side of the road between a house and a bungalow, 53 and 55 Newberries Avenue.
- Turn left along Theobald Street and just after the 40mph road sign, cross the road to a footpath (54). Continue down this footpath, pass the flood protection scheme, over a bridge and under the railway line. Turn left alongside the railway line, pass through a gap in the hedge and back around the rugby field to the car park.





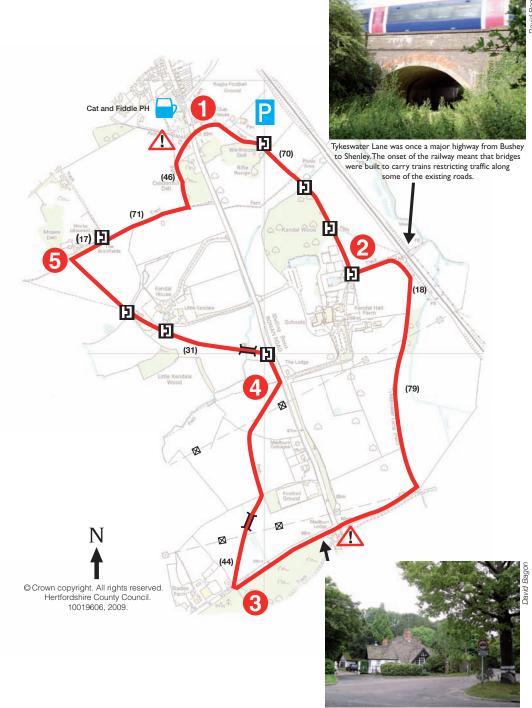
TYKESWATER

4.8 km (3 miles) some stiles

This walk may be muddy in places, especially in winter after rain.

The walk starts at the car park at Tabard Rugby Club and Radlett Cricket Club, off Watling Street at Cobden Hill.

- Walk through the car park, leaving the cricket pitches on the left, to a kissing gate and down the slope (70) to a surfaced track that comes in from the right. Continue left along the track a short way and cross a stile straight ahead. Walk down the side of the field keeping the wood to the right. Pass through a gate/stile.
- At the next gate/stile turn left down a track (18). At the railway bridge bear right (do not go under the railway bridge) and follow the track on past a wooden bridge with a path opposite, waymarked 41. Tykeswater runs alongside the left hand side of this path (79) for part of the way. After a right-angled bend, follow the track to Watling Street. Cross carefully into Butterfly Lane and walk for about half a kilometre down Butterfly Lane.
- Just before the farm buildings, Slade Farm, take the footpath on the right (44). Walk diagonally across the field and head between the two pylons, keeping a large solitary tree on the left. After crossing a bridge just beyond the tree aim for the left hand end of the trees on the opposite side of the field. Pass through a gate and over a ditch. Head diagonally left for a gap in the hedge roughly halfway between two pylons. Cross the field heading towards a main road, aiming for a white house in the far corner. Turn left along Watling Street.
- After a short distance, turn left through a kissing gate. Follow the path (31) towards Little Kendals House across a bridge of railway sleepers and up the slope to the left hand end of the wooden fence. A gate and stile leads into an orchard behind the house. Bearing slightly left, go through the trees to a stile in the corner of the field. Take this exit and immediately turn left walking along the field edge to a large tree. Turn right and walk across the field towards a white house.
- At the far side of the field, turn right onto the track (17). Go through a kissing gate by a white building and continue straight ahead on the bridleway (71). On the left at the beginning of a small wood, Cobden Hill Dell, there is a set of steps with a wooden handrail. Go down the steps (46) and turn right at the end of the wood. The footpath meets a drive that leads onto Watling Street. Cross Watling Street to the footpath opposite. Walk down this footpath back to the car park.



Butterfly Lane used to be called "New Grubbs Lane"



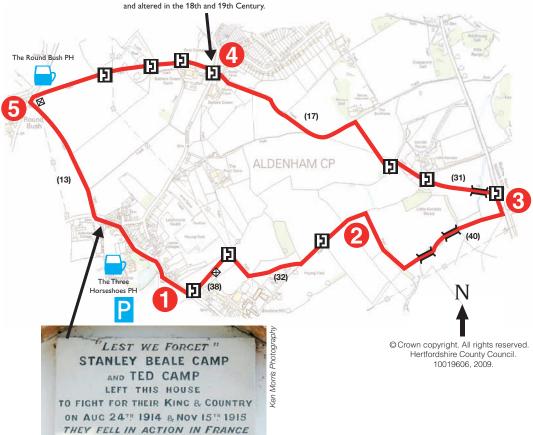
The walk starts at the car park adjacent to the pond in Letchmore Heath.

- Cross the road, turn right and walk along the pavement to a footpath (38) on the left under the transmission lines just before Aldenham School. Keeping the pylon on the right, head for a kissing gate in the corner of the field. Turn right onto the track (32) and after a short distance, bear left towards a gap in the hedge. Walk towards the sports pitches and then slightly left towards some large compost bins in the right hand corner of this field. Go through a gap in the hedge just beyond the bins, turn left and walk down the edge of the sports field, keeping the wood and hedge on the left, to a stile in the corner. Cross the stile and continue in the same direction along the field edge, through a gap in the hedge and onto another gap with a large dead oak tree.
- Go through the gap and turn right along the edge of the field ignoring a wide gap in the hedgerow. Just before the end of the field there is a gap in the hedge. Do not go through the gap but turn 90 degrees to the left across the field to a footbridge (40). Cross the bridge and left down the field edge. Look for a gap in the left hand corner that leads to another bridge, cross the bridge and go straight ahead to a waymark on a fence post (40) and then on to a metal gate on Watling Street.
- Turn left along Watling Street and after a short distance turn left through a kissing gate. Follow the path (31) towards Little Kendals House across a bridge made of railway sleepers and up the slope to the left hand end of the wooden fence. A gate and stile leads into an orchard behind the house. Bearing slightly left, go through the trees to a stile in the corner of the field. Take this exit and immediately turn left walking along the edge of the field to a large tree. Turn right and walk across the field towards a white house until a track is reached. Turn left up the track (17) through the fields and at the fork bear right. Continue through the gateway and out onto a road. Cross the road to the overspill car park at Battlers Green Farm.
- Walk through the car park and take the path (17) across a stile and past the farm buildings. The path then crosses the corner of the field to a double stile. Head for the large tree and, keeping the fence on the left, aim for a stile in the corner of the field. The path crosses a field towards an electricity pylon set amongst some trees. Walk through the copse and to a gap to the left of a metal gate (behind a holly bush).
- Turn left onto the track signposted to Letchmore Heath (13). Follow the track to Letchmore Heath and at the road turn left past the Village Hall. Bear right at the fork into The Green and back to the pond and car park.

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Batlers Green House.
Parts date back to c1560 but the house was extended



One of several plaques found on cottages in Letchmore Heath

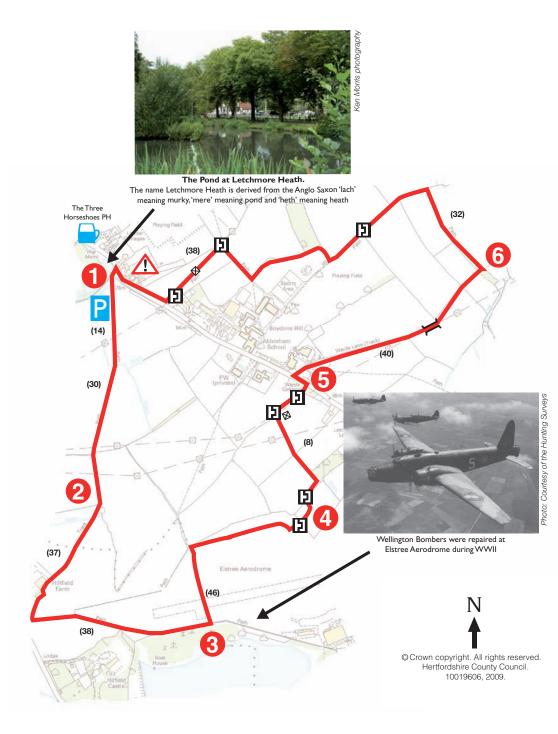
STANLEY- MAY 18TH 1915, ACED 18 YEARS

TED-OCT 9TH 1918, ACED 24 YEARS



The walk starts at the car park adjacent to the pond in Letchmore Heath.

- From the car park walk through the gate and bear left onto the footpath running diagonally across the field (14). Cross the field and go over a ditch. Taking the right hand path (30), continue in the same direction to a gap on the other side of the field. Go down the track.
- After the turning circle and at the point when a hedge starts on the left, the walk goes to the left of this hedge (37). Walk down the field edge, past the farm buildings on the right, and continue around the field to a gap by the road. Turn left almost back on yourself and follow the track (38) up the slope towards some fir trees that surround Hilfield Reservoir. Walk alongside the concrete fence that runs around the reservoir.
- Look for a path on the left that crosses the runway (46) with a "Beware of Aircraft" sign. (This end of the runway is seldom used but do keep a look out for light aircraft). Take this path and walk straight across the runway and field to a hedgerow on the other side. Turn right (do not go through the hedgerow) and walk up the field edge keeping the hedgerow on the left. The runway for Elstree Aerodrome is on the right. After a short distance there is a narrow gap in the hedge with a stile, waymarked 8. Cross the stile and bear left around the field.
- About half way along the field edge there is a large tree with a stile just beyond it. Cross the stile and turn right. Walk around the field edge and at the second right-angled bend keep straight ahead across the field aiming just to the left of a pylon. Walk across the field, on through the next field, under a transmission line, to a kissing gate. Turn right, go past the pylon, through a kissing gate and on down a path through the scrub to a road. Cross the road and turn left.
- After about 50 metres turn down Wards Lane (40). At Beevors House bear right along a track that can be muddy in places. (Do not take footpath 42 towards Butterfly Lane). Cross a bridge at the end of the track into a field and turn left. The path runs down the field edge, through a gap in the hedge at the end of the field and on across the next field. Pass through a gap in the hedge and immediately turn left (32).
- Carry on down the field to the corner and turn left through a gap past a large dead tree. Keep straight ahead along the edge of this and the next two fields and over a stile into the school playing fields. Look out for and take a gap on the right by some large compost bins. Walk through the field keeping the field edge on the right to a gap with a track through it. Turn right onto this track and then bear right onto the next track. After a short distance turn left through a kissing gate. Follow the track (38) past a pylon on the left and out onto a road. Turn right and walk along the pavement to the car park. Take care when crossing the road to the car park, as this is a blind corner.



WALK 8

BERRYGROVE WOODS

5 km (3 miles) no stiles

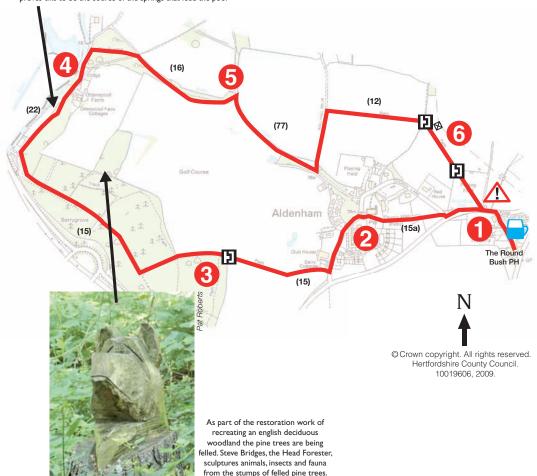
This walk goes through Berrygrove Woods. These woods are owned and managed by Hertfordshire County Council. A leaflet describing the woods and showing paths, and a nature trail may be downloaded from their web site. The walk starts at Round Bush by the Round Bush Public House. There is no car park so discreet parking is needed.

- With the nurseries on the left, walk to the Watford Road. Cross over, turn left and walk down the pavement to the next junction, Church Lane. Cross the road and take the footpath (15A) directly across the road. Go through the cemetery and follow the path on into the churchyard and out the far side to The Green.
- Turn left and walk along the road passing Aldenham Golf Club on the right. Just after some cottages (Dairy Cottages) turn right on to the footpath (15). Follow the field edge, with the golf course on the right, to a kissing gate that leads into Berrygrove Woods.
- Go through the kissing gate and taking the right hand path go straight ahead. Cross straight over the next path and continue to a 'step over' stile. Cross the stile, turn right and follow the wide ride (15) through the woods to a road. The ride narrows towards its end. Turn right and walk up the road past Otterspool House and Clock House (22), where the pool can be seen.
- Take the track on the left just before 'The Lodge' and on towards the river. Just before the metal gate, take a track to the right opposite the bridge and walk back up to the road. Turn left and almost immediately right. Take the left hand path (16) and follow the path through the golf course. Just before leaving the golf course the path crosses a track and continues for a short distance through scrub.
- At the next track (77) turn right and continue along the track to the road. Turn left towards Wall Hall and take the footpath on the right (12), between the fourth and fifth lamp post, across a field towards a pylon.
- By the pylon there is a gap in the hedge with a kissing gate. Go through this kissing gate and walk across the field to another kissing gate in the corner of the Edge Grove School playing fields. Cross the playing fields and head towards the entrance off the main road. There is a gate for walkers behind the trees to the right of this entrance which comes out onto the Watford Road. Turn left and after a short distance cross the road with care at its junction with Round Bush Lane.



The pool at Otterspool

The pool, once reputed to be bottomless, is about 18 feet deep. Surprisingly the nearby River Colne does not feed the pool, coloured dye added to water near Letchmore Heath proves this to be the source of the springs that feed the pool



A short diversion is needed to find the sculptures



RIVER COLNE

5 km (3 miles) no stiles

The walk starts at Aldenham Church. There is no public car park in the village. There are spaces for cars near the church and around The Green. Discreet parking is needed.

- With the church behind you and facing The Green, turn right and walk a short distance along the road, taking the first turning on the left to Wall Hall. Follow this road for about half a kilometre to the estate, bearing right at the fork at the start of the estate and at the roundabout continue left down Wall Hall Drive.
- Where the road turns right towards the mansion house, continue straight ahead down the track (12) past the golf course on the left. At the bottom of the slope, cross over a track and go over a wooden footbridge ahead of you and on across the field towards a large tree.
- Cross a metal footbridge over the River Colne and bear right up the slope. Follow the path (4) for about half a kilometre until it meets the main drive to Munden House. Cross over and pick up the track that skirts around Munden House. At the end of the buildings (Munden House Farm) turn right down the bridleway (62) to a ford. Cross the river using the footbridge and continue straight ahead.
- At 'The Lodge' pass through the gate and turn right onto a track and then left up the hill. Pass Blackbirds Sewage Works on the left and turn right at the start of the farm buildings.
- Walk through the farmyard keeping as far as possible to a straight course and pick up the track (10) on the far side. Follow the track down to the bottom of the slope, and where the fence ends on the left hand side, turn left.
- Do not go down the track straight ahead but bear right into the field to a post waymarked 10. Walk down the field edge with the hedge on the left, the track runs down the other side of the hedge. Pass a redundant kissing gate into the next field. Walk along the edge of this field and continue into the next field. Continue along this field edge, past a kissing gate in the hedge close to a pylon and at the end of the field bear left onto a road between houses. Continue down the road back to the church.

