

Charlton village dates back to before the Domesday Book.
This is a circular walk of approximately four miles.



The walk starts and ends at the former Windmill Pub in Charlton.
(The pub is currently closed. If the sign is missing, on the other side of the road is Charlton House with a prominent Blue Plaque commemorating Sir Henry Bessemer.)

With your back to The Windmill turn left and go along the lane until you come to the sign for Mill Farm. Turn left up the farm track.



Shortly you will see a footpath sign pointing to the right. Though it doesn't say so, this is Footpath 42. Take this path. You will soon come to a way marked gate saying Hirca Way. Go through the gate and follow the right hand side of the field and then across to the gate on the far side.



Once through this gate follow the path until it passes a pumping station. Go onto the concrete drive leading to the pumping station and follow it down to Maydencroft Lane.

Immediately opposite is a sign-posted flight of steps leading up onto the next field. Carry on the path round the field margin until you come to a road. Turn left and go up the road, under the power lines until you are approaching a wood.



Take Bridleway 008, to the left, up the edge of the wood. Keep on the bridleway until you reach a track marked Public Highway. Turn left following the arrow to Maydencroft Lane, which you will reach after a few yards.



Turn right onto Maydencroft Lane and walk down past Maydencroft Manor until you reach a sign on the left for Footpath 2.

Go through the gate and go down the left hand field margin until you come to a second, way marked gate.

Through the gate follow the path across the field to a third gate. Once through that gate turn sharp left along the path which has a hedgerow on the left and a wire fence on the right.



Follow the path until it meets a broad bridleway which cuts across it. Cross the bridleway and take the footpath between two houses.

At the end of that path you are in a residential street (Priory Way) with a green to your left. Cross over the green and up the footpath between Nos. 27 and 29 into the field beyond.

Go across the field to the end of the path and turn left, carrying on to the post and rail fence along the embankment to the A602. Follow the path along and downhill with the fence on your right. Take the first path to your left, uphill to the sign for Byway 96.



Turn right on to the Byway, downhill past the thatched cottage, across the river via the bridge and up to the WindMill pub again.

This route last walked by CPRE in November 2016

Note: all walkers do so at their own risk. Suitable footwear and clothing are recommended.

CPRE Hertfordshire is a registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587. For more information on our work visit www.cpreherts.org.uk. We are the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.