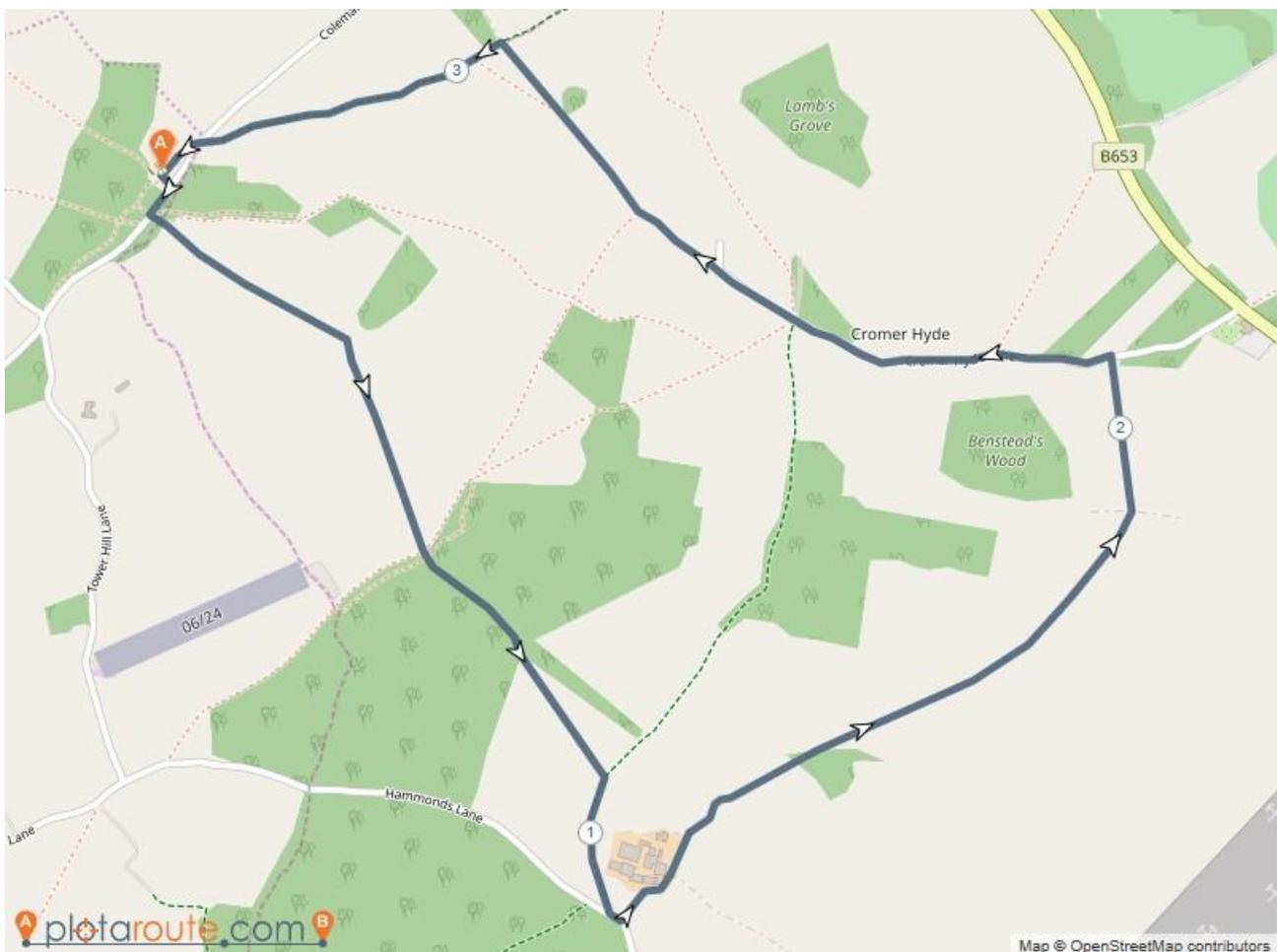


## 2018 Walk Eleven - Symondshyde

This 3.4 mile circular walk takes in some of the rolling open countryside and woodland in the middle of the county.

The walk is centred on rural Symondshyde for which the submitted Welwyn Hatfield District Local Plan proposes building a new settlement of 1130 homes. The local campaign group Save Symondshyde and CPRE Herts continue to campaign against this proposal.



The walk starts and finishes at The John Bunyan pub at Coleman Green, southeast of Wheat-hampstead.

The pub welcomes walkers but anyone using the pub car park also needs to have a meal or drinks there.



With your back to the pub, walk out to the road (Coleman Green Lane). Turn right and walk 100 yards along the road to a lay-by on the left, marked with logs.



Turn left onto the footpath here. You are now on a part of Leg 4 of the Hertfordshire Way.



Follow the footpath around a green metal gate and along the right-hand edge of a large field.



At the end of this first field, pass between two wooden posts and follow the path along the right hand edge of the next field for 100 yards. Then follow the path as it continues across the middle of the field towards a wood.



At the edge of the wood there is a signpost. The Hertfordshire Way turns right but you continue straight ahead into the wood.



Soon you will emerge at the corner of the wood, looking into an arable field. This is the western edge of the area for which the submitted Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan proposes over a thousand new homes in a new, standalone settlement.



There is a sign here from the Save Symondshyde campaign group.



Follow the path ahead as it crosses diagonally through the field. Aim for a distinct tree on the far side of the field.



At the far side of the field, there is a signpost. Turn right here, and follow the path between two hedgerows out to the road, Hammonds Lane.



Turn left and walk 15 yards along the road before turning left again into the driveway for Symondshyde Farm.



The footpath proceeds northeasterly through the farm gateway, then slightly to the right and then to the left in front of some horse stables.



The path continues just to the right of, and alongside, a green metal sided barn.



Continue in the same northeasterly direction on the farm track. You will soon emerge into a field. The path runs along the right hand edge of the field....



... until you come to an unmarked fork in the path. See photo. You keep to the left hand path, which runs straight ahead with a young hedgerow now on your right.



At the end of this large field, the path continues northeasterly, now with a hedgerow on your left. Continue on the path alongside and through two more fields.



You will eventually emerge at a gravel track, where there is an old signpost. Now head northerly on the track with a hedgerow on your right...



... and horse paddocks on your left.



Follow the track to a 7 bar metal gate, and turn left onto Cromer Hyde Lane.



On the other side of the lane there is a view down the grassy avenue to Brocket Hall in the distance.

Proceed west along Cromer Hyde Lane. This lane is usually very quiet, but do watch out for any traffic.



After about half a mile the lane ends at a wooden gateway, but the footpath continues straight on.

Continue on the path as it crosses the field, with good views to the north and west, before descending into a dip.



At the bottom of the hill there is a metal gate across the track.



Turn left here, just before the metal gate, and walk about 60 yards with the trees on your right. At a wooden signpost, turn right and descend a set of wooden steps into the holloway.



At the foot of the steps, turn left and proceed along the holloway as it gently climbs up the hill for about a third of a mile.



This brings you back to the starting point at Coleman Green Lane and the John Bunyan pub.

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If you have enjoyed this walk, please consider supporting CPRE Hertfordshire in our efforts to protect and celebrate the Hertfordshire countryside for everyone to enjoy. For more information on our work and how you can help, please visit our website at [www.cpreherts.org.uk](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk).

On our website you can also find ordering instructions for our new 2019 "Hertfordshire Countryside Under Threat" calendars, as well as Christmas cards and our ever-popular blank greeting cards.

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This route last walked by CPRE in late October 2018.

Note: all walkers do so at their own risk. Suitable footwear and clothing are recommended and a compass may be helpful.

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CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587. We are the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.