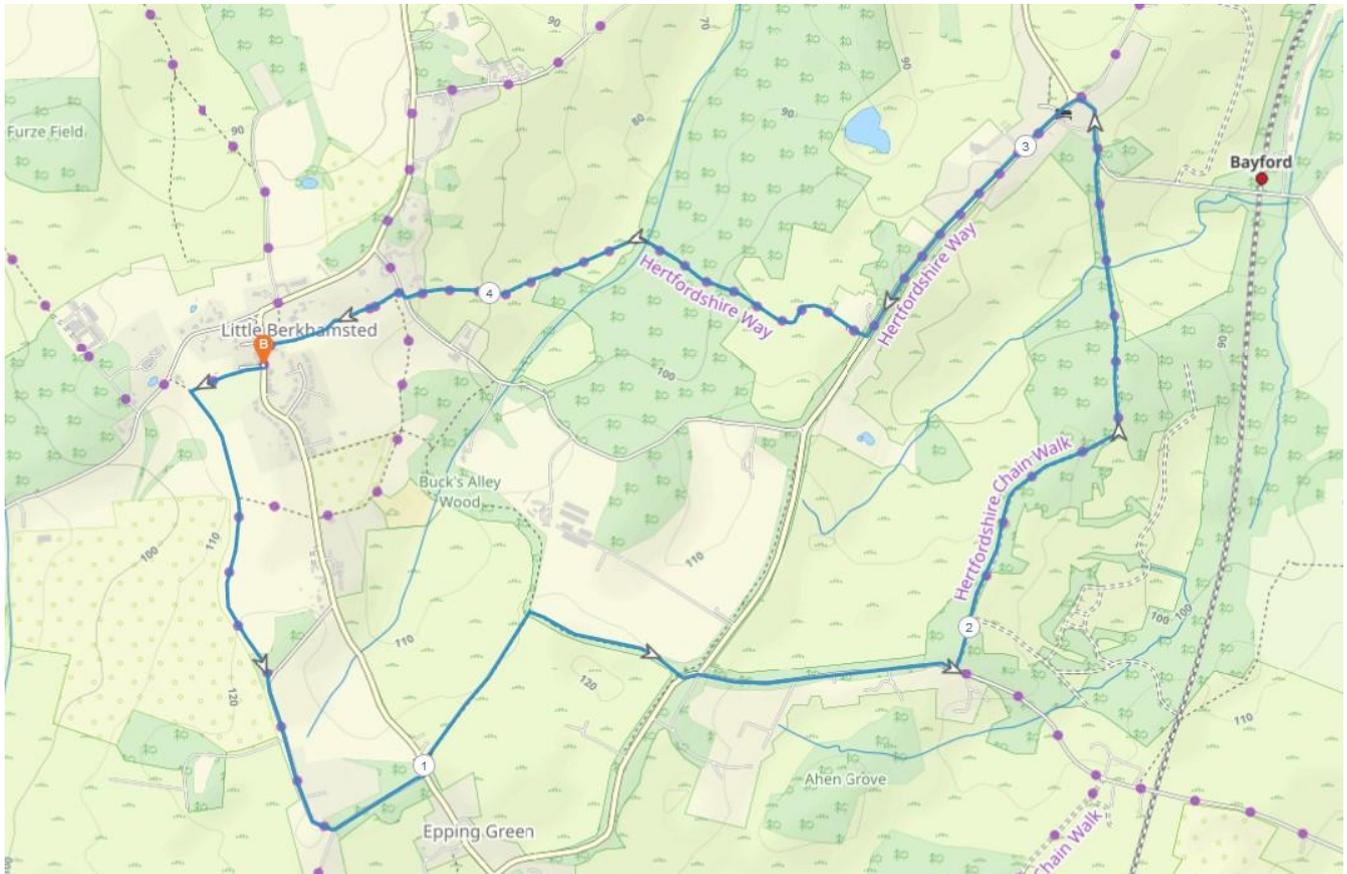




The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

## Little Berkhamsted and Bayford



Little Berkhamsted is a village about 4 miles south-west of Hertford and south of the B158. This 4.4 mile circular walk runs through pasture-land offering pleasant views across rolling landscape and through attractive woodland - predominantly hornbeam - on quiet tracks and paths, with two stretches along locally well-used country lanes.

Distance: 4.4 miles / 7.1 km

Ascent: 252 feet / 77 metres

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

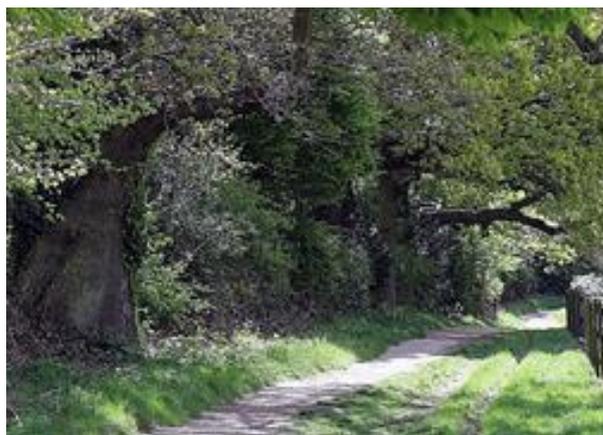
Start / finish: Little Berkhamsted, East Hertfordshire

Refreshments: The Five Horseshoes pub or the Village Stores in Little Berkhamsted, and The Beehive pub in Epping Green

Park on the roadside near the Five Horseshoes pub in the centre of Little Berkhamsted. The walk starts and finishes here. The village can also be reached by local bus service.

Immediately across the road from the pub, take the footpath along the right-hand edge of the playing field signposted Public Footpath 8 to Danes and Epping Green.

At the far end of the playing field, go through the metal kissing gate and turn left to follow the bridleway (pictured right) alongside two fields.



Here there are views west across the rolling landscape, with the aerials of Brookmans Park Transmitting Station on the horizon. They have played a crucial part in the history of radio and television broadcasting in Great Britain.

The bridleway continues straight ahead through a narrow belt of woodland.



When the bridleway eventually meets a track coming from the left, bear right to follow the track. Continue as the track becomes a surfaced drive and bends to the left just beyond a water tower and two communications masts (to the right). The drive eventually meets a road: turn left and immediately right onto the public footpath (nr.14) just before the Beehive pub, signposted to Bucks Alley.

Follow the path past a metal gate then keep straight across the grass field to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and straight across the next field to another gate by a large oak tree.



Beyond the gate turn right onto a bridleway (nr.9) running between trees. When you meet the road turn left then bear right along the road signposted to Broxbourne and Wormley (White Stubbs Lane).



Follow White Stubbs Lane for about 500 metres. The verge on the right-hand side is sufficient to allow escape from traffic, but cross to the left-hand side of the road as the woodland begins on the left of the road (well before the sharp hidden bend in the road to the right), then turn left into the wood onto a track signposted Public Byway 8 to Bayford. You will be following this byway all the way to Bayford. Bear left by the house and head north through and later alongside the right-hand edge of Gidner's Wood: the track dips downhill to a stream and up the other side through a belt of trees.

Where the track meets a road turn left and follow the road into Bayford. At the village green crossroads turn sharp left onto Ashdene Road, passing the front of the Baker Arms on your left. Or perhaps pause for a while beside the village pond.



Bayford has a railway station, a pleasant historic church and was once the home of the John Innes Institute, now home to the renowned Bayfordbury Observatory. Every two years the village holds a Gardens Open Day in which many of the houses open up their gardens to the public.

Follow the pavement on the right-hand side of Ashdene Road until it runs out, then continue along the road, enjoying views of Gidner's Wood to the left.



About 800 metres (half a mile) from the centre of Bayford you will pass a row of red brick houses to your right. Turn right onto public footpath (nr.5) and follow the track to the left of the last house.

This continues straight, then narrows into a path and bears left to go through a metal kissing gate.



Beyond the gate follow the edge of the hedge round to the right and down towards Bayford Wood, passing the large oak tree in the hedgerow, pictured right.



Go into the wood then head downhill. Cross a track and go straight on, following the path through the wood.

Bayford Wood is full of old multi-stemmed coppiced hornbeam trees, remnants of the once economically important firewood industry, supplying demand from the City of London only 15 miles to the south.



Soon you will see the footbridge at the bottom of the hill.



Cross the bridge then go up the grass field on a left diagonal, heading for the gap between some bushes and the woodland edge in the far left-hand corner. Keep the brick tower on the skyline (see photo) slightly to your right.



Go through the gap then head diagonally across the next field to the far left-hand corner, to pass a metal gate onto a path by a line of trees. Keep on this path passing more gates to reach the road.



At the road, cross the stile and turn right and then immediately left onto the footpath signposted 'Little Berkhamsted ¼'. Keep going straight across two fields close to the hedge on the right, passing the church on the right just before you reach the road.

It is believed there has been a church here since Saxon or Norman times. The present church appears to have been rebuilt in 1857, although parts of the structure are 17th century or older. There are three bells, the oldest dating back to before 1400, the second about 1621, and the third is dated 1718.

Turn left at the road to return to The Five Horseshoes.

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This route last walked by CPRE in April 2024.

If you have enjoyed this walk, please consider supporting CPRE Hertfordshire in our efforts to protect and promote the Hertfordshire countryside for everyone. For more information on our work, or to sign up for our newsletter, make a donation, or volunteer with us, please visit [www.cpreherts.org.uk](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk)

CPRE Hertfordshire is a registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587.

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