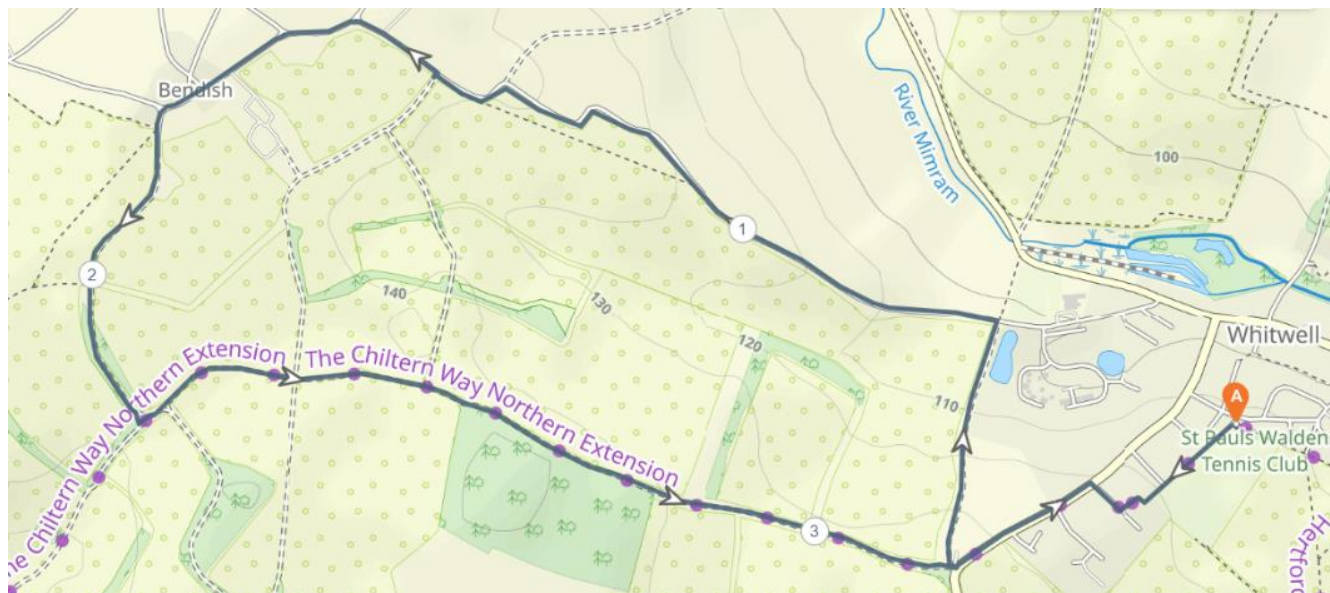




The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

Whitwell and Bendish



This 3.5 mile circular walk explores the undulating countryside west of the village of Whitwell in North Hertfordshire, and features long views in multiple directions.

Distance: 3.5 miles / 5.7 km

Ascent: 246 feet / 75 metres

Duration: 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Start / finish: Whitwell Recreation Ground, Bradway, Whitwell - free car park

Refreshments: Emily's Tea Shop, The Bull Inn pub, and a village shop - all in Whitwell village

The walk starts and finishes at the free public car park at Whitwell Recreation Ground on Bradway, just east of the B651. There is a well-equipped children's playground next to the car park. This walk can be combined with our ['Whitwell and St Paul's Walden'](#) walk, for a single longer walk of about 8 miles in total.

Whitwell is a historic village in St Paul's Walden parish in rural North Hertfordshire. It sits on a tableland above the River Mimram, offering stunning views of the Hertfordshire countryside. The village is surrounded by rolling hills and farmland, making it a perfect escape for nature lovers. There are many public footpaths in the area around Whitwell, including portions of The Hertfordshire Way and of The Chiltern Way. The village was once known for its "notorious seven" public houses, but today only one remains, The Bull Inn.

The signpost at the entrance to the car park points the way southwest on footpath 28 / The Chiltern Way Extension. Follow the path alongside the playing field and out at the far end, emerging onto a residential street. Turn right and walk to the main road, which is Horn Hill / the B651. Turn left and walk up the hill.



At the top of the hill, opposite the water tower, take care crossing the road and then take the Byway Open to All Traffic which is the track running downhill next to the water tower.



Initially hemmed in with trees on either side of the track, the sight lines soon open up with good views to the north.

Continue down the track and until you reach Bendish Lane.



There is a signpost marked St Pauls Walden Byway 036. Turn left and walk along Bendish Lane, taking care to watch out for any traffic.

After 1/3 mile, there is a gap in the hedge on the left, with a faded Public Footpath sign. Take the wooden steps leading up into the field and turn right, proceeding along the field edge and taking note of the lovely rolling hills to the north.



Continue in a westerly direction along the field edge as it jogs left and then right several times, eventually emerging back onto Bendish Lane at the field corner where there is a signpost for Long Lane.

(For a shorter walk, you could turn left and proceed south along this track, and then left again onto The Chiltern Way.)



Our walk proceeds along Bendish Lane, again watching out for any traffic. The lane curves to the left and passes the driveway for Bendish Farm on the left before arriving at the hamlet of Bendish, with its half-timbered buildings and village green.



Continue along the road with the green on your right-hand side, taking the turning to the left to exit the hamlet. There is a signpost at the junction of three footpaths. Stay left and proceed along the tarmac track signed "Public Highway Long Lane Heysham's Spring 640 yds".

The tarmac soon turns to gravel and as you proceed there are good views to the south and to the east.



Note that this section can be muddy after heavy rain. Stay to the left where the track splits at a T-junction with The Chiltern Way, and turn left, now heading northeast. The Chiltern Way is a 168-mile (270 km) circular footpath that winds its way through the Chiltern Hills in southern England.



After about 10 metres there is another fork in the track. Stay left, continuing straight ahead as the path curves slightly to the east, following The Chiltern Way waymarkers. Go straight ahead at a cross roads in the path, before passing another junction with a track on the left. Again, continue straight on following The Chiltern Way.

Continue along the track, passing Rose Wood on your right and enjoying the long views on your left.



The track emerges at the water tower at the top of Horn Hill, from where you can retrace your steps back to the starting point.



This route last walked by CPRE in January 2024.

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

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

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.