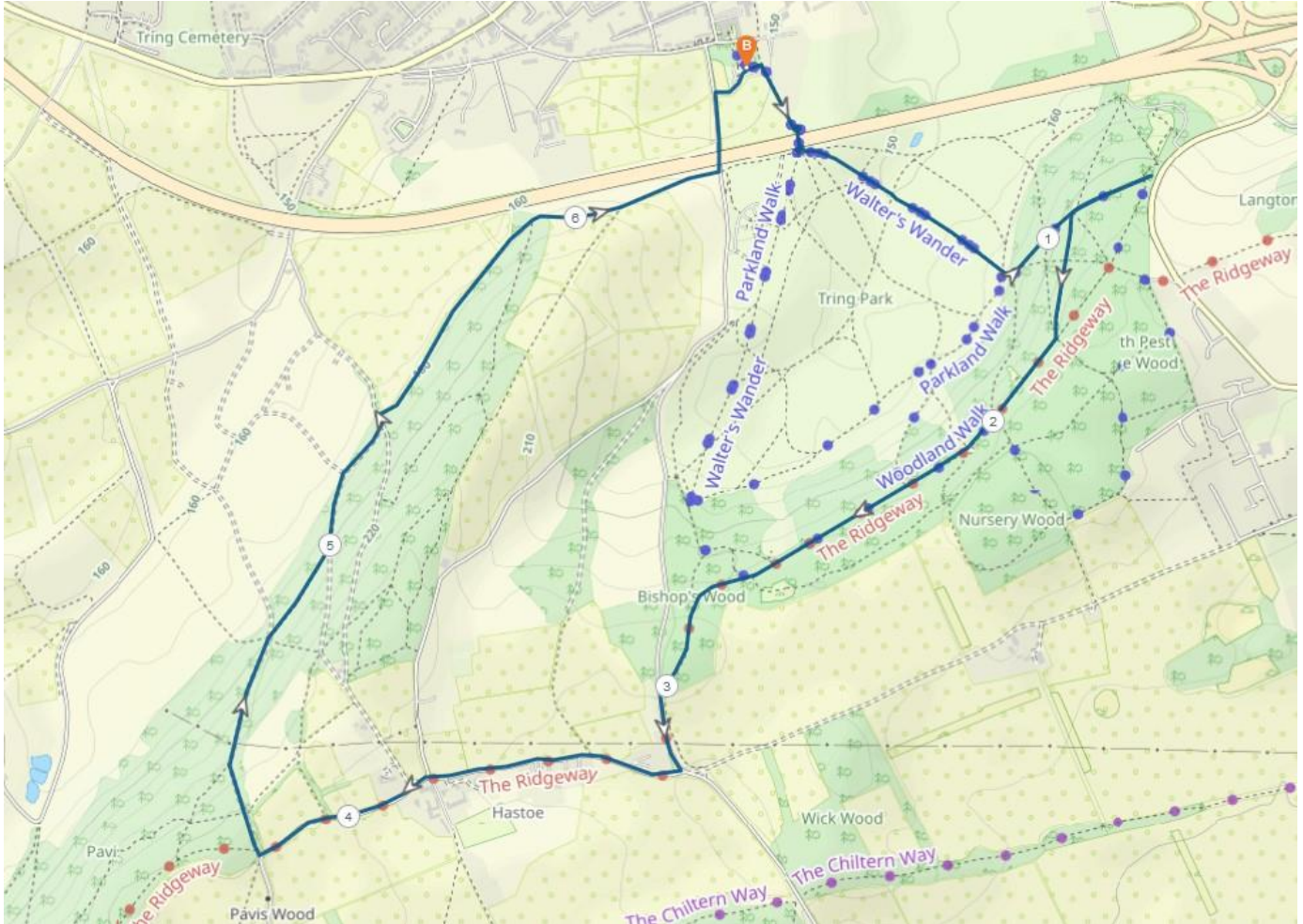




The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

Tring Park and Hastoe



This 4.1 mile circular walk at Tring in Dacorum Borough explores the grassland and woodland in Tring Park, then continues to the highest point in Hertfordshire before descending through Tring Woodlands, a Special Area of Conservation.

Distance: 4.1 miles / 6.6 km

Ascent: 482 feet / 147 metres

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate - some steep hills which can be slippery in wet conditions

Start / Finish: The free car park on Hastoe Lane on the southern side of Tring (entrance to the car park is at what3words: foremost.boast.roughest).

Refreshments: numerous pubs and cafes in Tring

This walk can be accessed using public transportation:

- Rail. The start of the walk is two miles from the train station at Tring. Go west along Station Road and the High Street, then south on Akeman Street and east on Park Street.
- Bus. The local Arriva X5 bus service stops at Church Square in the centre of Tring. The start of the walk is three-tenths of a mile from Church Square. Go west on the High Street, then south on Akeman Street and east on Park Street.

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From the car park go through the gate on the west side and turn right onto the path.



Follow the path and climb up onto the footbridge over the A41. From here take a moment to enjoy the view of Tring Park, including the fine avenue of trees.



Tring Park is a rich wildlife habitat looked after by the Woodland Trust. The Mansion at Tring Park was designed by Christopher Wren and built in the late 17th century for Henry Guy, Groom of the Bedchamber for Charles II. A later owner commissioned Charles Bridgeman to lay out the grounds: many of the features survive. James Gibbs designed the summer house and obelisk. In the summer months the grassland in the Park is renowned for its butterflies.

From the bridge take the left-hand diagonal path heading towards the distant woodland. There are wooden path markers along the way.



After about one-third of a mile from the bridge, you will reach the woodland edge.

Go through the gate and walk straight ahead (northeast) up the ride to the obelisk.



When you reach the obelisk you might like to walk up to see the summer house a little further up the hill.

Then return to the obelisk.



With your back to the obelisk take the ride immediately to the left of the one you have just walked up - this goes south up the hill.

At the top of the hill, turn right and follow the wide ride running through the high woodland. This is also the route of The Ridgeway long distance trail.

Continue along the entire length of the ride. From here there are views through gaps in the trees out over Tring to the countryside beyond.



You may be able to glimpse the Tring Park Mansion. After the house was built it changed hands several times before the freehold was acquired by the Rothschild Family in 1872. They made major changes to both the house and the estate, providing housing and public buildings in Tring and the surrounding villages. On a clear day, two other houses once owned by the Rothschild family are visible from here - Mentmore Towers is on the far hillside to the north, and Waddesdon Manor is on a hilltop to the west beyond Aylesbury.

The ride eventually narrows and turns to the left (south) through woodland, eventually reaching a gate. Go through the gate to the lane and turn left.



Stay on the lane and look out for traffic.

At the first road junction turn right onto Church Lane and follow the lane into Hastoe.

You will soon pass Hastoe Village Hall on the left.



Hastoe Village Hall is one of the largest village halls in the Chilterns. It was built and endowed by Lady Emma Rothschild in 1898 and housed one of the earliest lending libraries in the area.

Continue along Church Lane. When you reach the crossroads, keep straight on into Gadmore Lane which is still the route of the Ridgeway. The lane climbs steadily.

After one-quarter mile you will come to a point where the road turns 90 degrees to the left and several paths lead off to the right.



This is the highest point in Hertfordshire, at 803 feet (244 metres) above sea level, although there is no indication of this on the ground. This is also the county boundary with Buckinghamshire.

At this sharp turn in the road, turn right towards the entrance to a wood, but don't go into the wood. Instead take the public byway between the metal barriers.

Continue straight ahead along the byway, ignoring other paths on either side.



The byway continues down a hill along an ancient holloway.

Bear right at the next path junction and continue down the hill.



You are now in the Tring Woodlands, a part of the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This is a wildlife designation and SACs are in the top tier of nature conservation sites nationally.

At the next path junction, take the right fork which has an immediate short uphill climb, then runs along a level ledge through the woodland.



Another path eventually joins from the right. Beyond this junction of paths keep going downhill and towards the edge of the woodland.

Soon you will see open fields on the left.

Continue along the path in the wood past several more path junctions, always keeping the open fields on your left.



The path follows the edge of the woodland along the base of the steep scarp slope, getting closer to the A41 road.

When the path has almost reached the A41 there is a waymark post. Take the path that veers uphill and to the right.

The path soon emerges from the wood and runs alongside it with a field to the right, still going uphill.



You will soon reach another viewpoint and be rewarded with more far-reaching views. In the distance Ivinghoe Beacon is a prominent feature at the end of the line of the Chilterns scarp running north from the wooded area of the Ashridge estate.

To the right of this view (and not in this photo) you can also see the Bridgewater Monument, which stands out against the adjoining woodland.



Just to the left of the previous view Tring's mediaeval church dominates the view of the town centre.

From this final viewpoint the path goes downhill to meet Hastoe Lane just by the bridge carrying the A41 over the lane. Turn left into the lane to complete your circuit.



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This route last walked by CPRE in January 2025.

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

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.