



The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

## Breachwood Green and countryside east of Luton



This 5.7 mile circular walk explores the Green Belt countryside in rural North Hertfordshire, just east of Luton. On a fine day there are spectacular long-range views. For now, this is a pleasant countryside walk, but the tranquillity of the area is threatened by Luton Airport's planned expansion to double its capacity, the planned construction of 2100 houses west of Tea Green, and a proposed large-scale solar farm north and east of Wandon End.

Distance: 5.7 miles / 9.4 km

Ascent: 456 feet / 139 metres

Duration: 3 hours

Difficulty: Easy - with several hills

Start / Finish: Breachwood Green village in North Hertfordshire District. There is roadside parking along the main street - Chapel Road. What3Words: [tablet.realm.myth](https://www.what3words.com/tablet.realm.myth)

Refreshments: the Red Lion pub in Breachwood Green



To begin the walk, head north along Chapel Road (the main street in Breachwood Green).

On the right side of the road (east) there is a gap in a hedgerow and a kissing gate leading immediately into a field. There is a signpost marked 'Public Footpath 14, Kings Walden 1¼'.



Take this path and head across the field towards the far wood.

Midway across the field, veer slightly to the left at a path junction, and continue to reach a field gate and kissing gate leading into the wood.



Go into the wood and along the path which runs slightly downhill.

From the far edge of the wood there is a lovely view of rolling countryside in the upper reaches of the river Mimram valley.



Follow the path down the hill to reach the road. Cross the road, go through the gap in the hedge opposite and the kissing gate. Follow the path straight on up the hill, pausing to enjoy the views to the west across the valley.

At the top of the hill, go through the kissing gate into the wood. Then go left almost immediately at the T-junction at the iron fence.



Follow the path to the field gate and continue into parkland with pasture and scattered trees.

Keep to the right hand side of the parkland, with a fence and the wood to your right. Go downhill, passing mature oak trees: you will see the tower of King's Walden church ahead and the garden of King's Walden Bury to the right.





Leave the parkland through the gate by the brick and black-and-white house.

Turn right onto the road and go uphill, into the tiny village of King's Walden.

Set in a wall opposite the churchyard is a George V letterbox, said to be one of only two left in the county.



*King's Walden is the original village, while Breachwood Green in the same parish is the larger settlement. You may wish to visit St Mary's Church, although it is sometimes locked. There are 13th century features inside, although much of the church dates from the 15th century with substantial 19th century restoration. On the north-east side the brick vestry is 17th century. From the churchyard you may be able to glimpse the modern Georgian style house of King's Walden Bury, built in the early 1970s to replace a Victorian building, itself a replacement for an Elizabethan house.*

From the church keep ahead through the village. After passing 'The Lodge' on the right, turn left off the road onto the public footpath signposted to Tache Wood. Follow the path to the wood ahead.

The path turns right to run along the front edge of the wood, then turns left onto a track. Keep going along the track, with the wood on your right and a field to the left.



Pass a barn on the right then go ahead through a gap in the hedge. Keep following the path as it turns to the right around an overgrown hedge, and follow it towards a brick house ahead.

At the road turn right then immediately left, along the road signposted to Hitchin and Preston, with a close boarded fence on the left and a tiny green on the right. This is Ley Green.



*From the early 13th century place names containing the suffix 'Green' began to be established throughout Hertfordshire. Many are thought to indicate the establishment of a new 'free' farmstead, created out of the often wooded common grazing areas or 'waste', especially on the higher land between the river valleys. They were perhaps the result of population growth. At many locations small greens remain, still common land. 'End' names are thought to have originated in a similar way, although mostly date from after 1500. Many are found towards the edges of parishes.*



Just past the entrance to Ley Green House take the footpath on the left, signed 'Footpath 25, Kingswell End 550 yards'.

Go through the kissing gate and cross the field passing a large oak tree.

Stay on the path through two more fields, passing to the right of a barn to reach a kissing gate in the right hand corner of the far field.

Take the path to the left of the hedge ahead, heading for Kingswell End. At the far end of the field the path bends to the right through the hedge.

Almost immediately turn left, leaving Footpath 25 and taking Footpath 49 to go through the archway of trees over the path, much of it holly.

Follow the path to reach a road.

At the road, turn left and then after 70 yards turn right onto the footpath signposted 'Lilley Bottom Road ½'. The path crosses the field on a left diagonal towards the line of wires.

At the far side of this field, bear slightly right to go through the gap in the hedge by the waymark post.

Continue down the hill keeping the hedge immediately on your left. Bear slightly right across the next field to go around the corner of the hedge.

At the next field boundary go to the left through the gap in the hedge and down the hill, now with the hedge on your right. The path soon joins a gravel farm track.

At the foot of the field, where the track turns left, you turn right on the path. Then follow the path as it turns left to go downhill along the edge of a field to the road.

Cross over to take the footpath almost opposite, which goes to the right of the hedge and slightly uphill. Follow the path along the field edge as it turns left and then right, to reach a wooden gate.





Go through the gate and then immediately left down the embankment, then right to walk uphill alongside the bank towards the former windmill visible on the hilltop ahead.

There is a fine view from higher up the slope back across the Lilley Bottom Road to King's Walden.



*A windmill was recorded in King's Walden parish in 1329, although not necessarily on the present site. The mill here was built in 1860 but ceased working in 1900 and by 1930 it had lost its sails. It is a brick-built circular five storey tower mill, now partly clad in weatherboarding making it appear like a smock mill. In tower and smock mills only the top rotated to catch the wind. After being listed as a Grade II building in 1978 the mill was made weather tight, then later converted into a house, without any additional structures added.*

At the path junction just beneath the windmill, you have a choice.

For a shorter walk, continue on the path straight ahead up the grassy slope to return to Breachwood Green.

To continue on our route, turn right up the steps. Go through a kissing gate and across a narrow field to reach another set of steps.



Go up these steps and then follow the path alongside an area of woodland, and then straight ahead uphill towards several trees on the skyline.

Continue past the trees and straight ahead across the next field. At the next field edge, turn right on the path and head for the water tower. The path turns left then right to reach the road at Tea Green.

Turn left to reach the village green.



Continue along the road signposted to Wandon End and Luton, with a row of houses on your left. Walk about 300 yards to reach a fork in the road. Take the left fork, signposted to Breachwood Green and Darley Hall.

After about 400 yards, turn left onto the footpath just before the farm buildings in Wandon End, signposted 'Public Footpath 10, Darleyhall 630 yards'.

The path goes across the field to a wood ahead - aim for the near corner of the wood.



Follow the path as it turns right to run along the front edge of the wood, to reach the road at Darleyhall.

Turn left and walk 180 yards up the road. Just beyond the last house on the right, turn right on the footpath, signposted 'Public Footpath 9, Colemans Green 500 yards'.

Take this path across the field to reach a road. At the far side of the field, turn right and walk along the road to return to Breachwood Green via Colemans Road.



At the southern end of Breachwood Green, on Chapel Road, the Baptist Chapel may be of interest. Built in 1904 it has two front turrets embellished with 'wide cornices and prominent ironmongery', as described by Pevsner. Inside is a pulpit partly dating from 1658 from which John Bunyan is said to have preached.



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This route last walked by CPRE in April 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](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk)

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