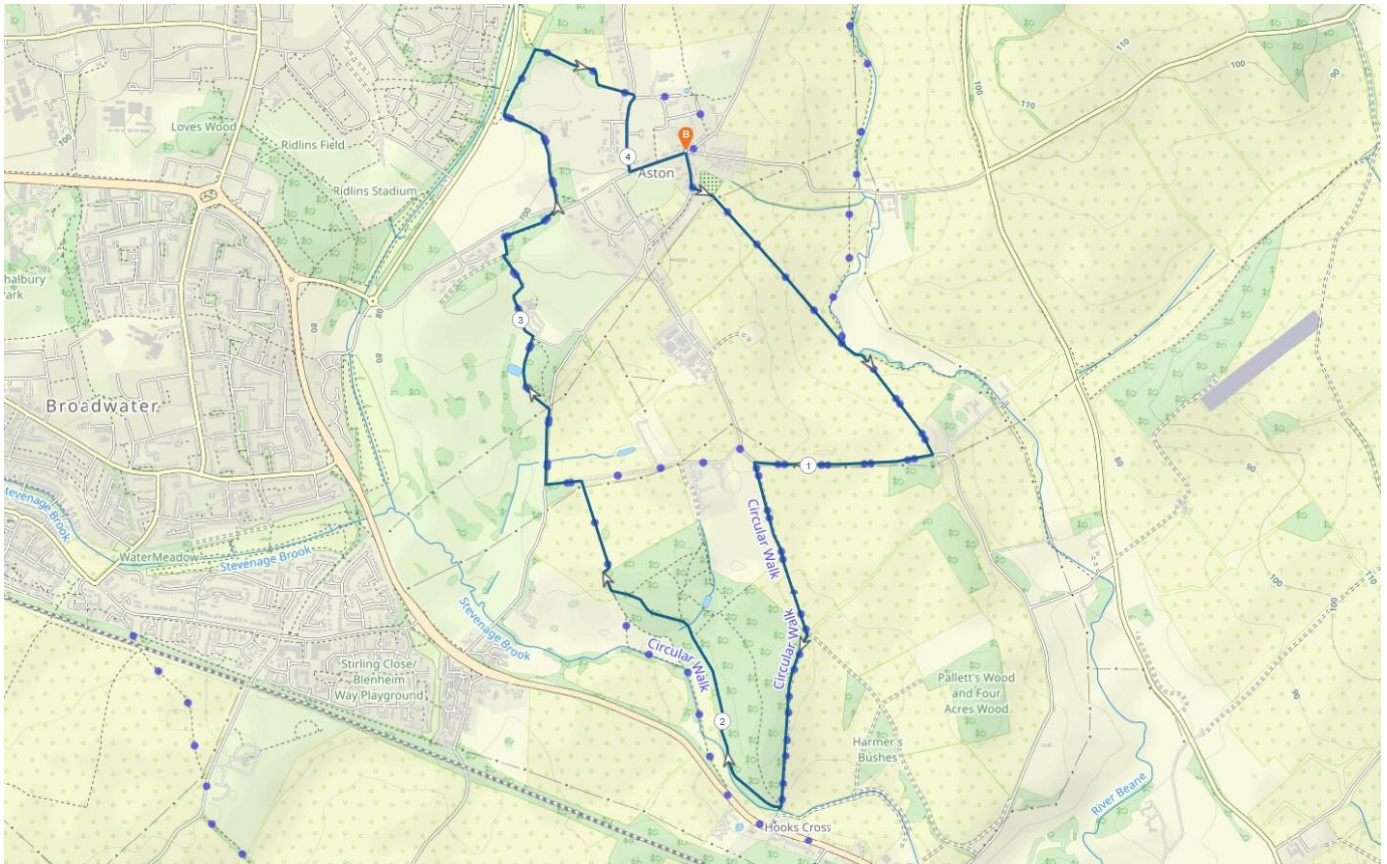




The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

## Aston and Astonbury Wood



This 4 mile circular walk is a pleasant ramble in the quiet countryside just east of Stevenage. Our route features lovely Astonbury Wood, owned by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. This is an ancient woodland with a rich diversity of wildlife and recognised nationally for its fungi. In April and early May the wood is carpeted in bluebells.

Distance: 4.1 miles / 6.7 km

Ascent: 262 feet / 80 metres

Duration: 2 hours, allowing time to explore Astonbury Wood

Difficulty: Easy

Start / finish: Aston village - free car park at the village hall (closes 5 pm), or park on Aston End Road or one of the other side streets. The walk starts at Broadwater Lane and Stringers Lane (what3words: rock.flesh.grips)

Refreshments: the Rose & Crown in Aston village, owned by the community

At the centre of the village is the junction of Broadwater Lane and Stringers Lane. This is the start of the walk.



Walk south on Stringers Lane, in the direction marked "Bragbury End 1/2".

After about 70 metres, there is a footpath off to the left, signposted "Public Footpath 24". Take this path, heading through the metal stanchion and on into the field beyond.



Continue on the path in a southeasterly direction across the field, through a broad gap in a row of trees and on ahead.



Looking off to your left there is a pleasant view across the Beane valley to High Wood over near Benington.

Follow the path as it descends gently to the River Beane.



At the valley bottom, the River Beane is on your left and the footpath continues for about 80 metres alongside the riverbed.

Stay on the public footpath as it turns right away from the riverbed and proceeds uphill across the field.



At the top of the hill follow the path keeping the fence on your left. You will shortly come to the corner of the field, and beyond it through the hedge a narrow tarmac lane.

Turn right (west), and head up along the lane.



Where the lane curves to the right, there is a signpost on the left for "Public Footpath 26 Hooks Cross" pointing south. Take this path.



Stay on this path as it continues straight ahead. You may catch glimpses of Aston Bury gardens and house on your right. Keep straight on to the end of the field at a signpost and a wooden footbridge.

Turn right, staying on Public Footpath 26 for Hooks Cross.



You will now have Astonbury Wood on your right. Keep the wood on your right and the pasture fence on your left.

You may encounter inquisitive horses coming up to the fence to make your acquaintance.

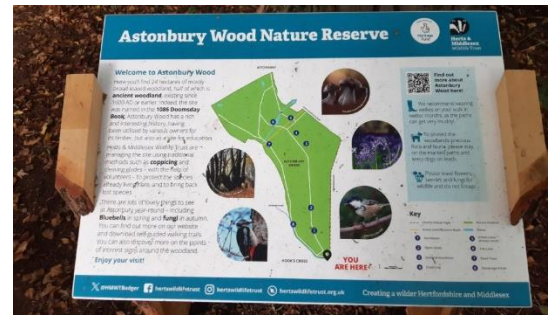


Continue on the path until coming to a concrete bridge over the Stevenage Brook just in front of you and the main entrance to Astonbury Wood Nature Reserve on your right.



Turn right into Astonbury Wood Nature Reserve and then take the left-hand path, keeping the Stevenage Brook and the edge of the wood immediately on your left throughout your walk through the woods.

This ancient woodland is owned by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and there are several permissive paths if you wish to explore it more fully.



Eventually at the westernmost corner of the woodland you will reach a post and rail fence.

Pass through the pedestrian gap in the fence to leave the woods and bear right, following the now public footpath alongside the wood and up the hill.



The path follows right round the corner of the woods, and then proceeds left away from the woods across the field to meet the tarmac lane to Aston Bury Manor.



Turn left (west) and walk along this lane to the end, where it meets Aston Lane. Turn right and walk about 200 metres north on Aston Lane, taking care as there is some car traffic on this road.

Pass through a metal kissing gate on the left, signposted "Public Footpath 096".

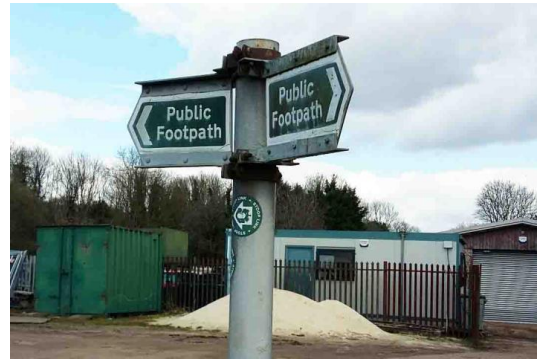
Follow this path alongside the right-hand edge of the golf course fairway, until reaching the golf course car park.



At the car park, follow the waymarks pointing to the left, walking around the side of the club house.



Behind the club house at a maintenance area, take the path to the left at a signpost.



Follow the track into a small wood and turn right at the wooden fence. Proceed along the path, keeping the fence on your left. The path then turns right before reaching the road.



Follow the path as it leads straight on into a small wood. The path curves to the left a bit and then emerges at the road.

Watching out for any traffic, cross the road and proceed north along Dene Lane.



Walk all the way to the end, past the tennis courts on the left. Pass through the bollards and straight ahead onto the byway/ footpath. Proceed down the hill, and turn right before the footbridge over the road.

Walk a short distance on this path and pass through a metal gateway as shown.



Turn right again at this point, and proceed on this path back into Aston Village. Turn right when you reach the road (Aston End Road).

Continue south on Aston End Road, then turn left on Broadwater Lane and return to the start of the walk at the junction with Stringers Lane.

This route last walked by CPRE in June 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)

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.