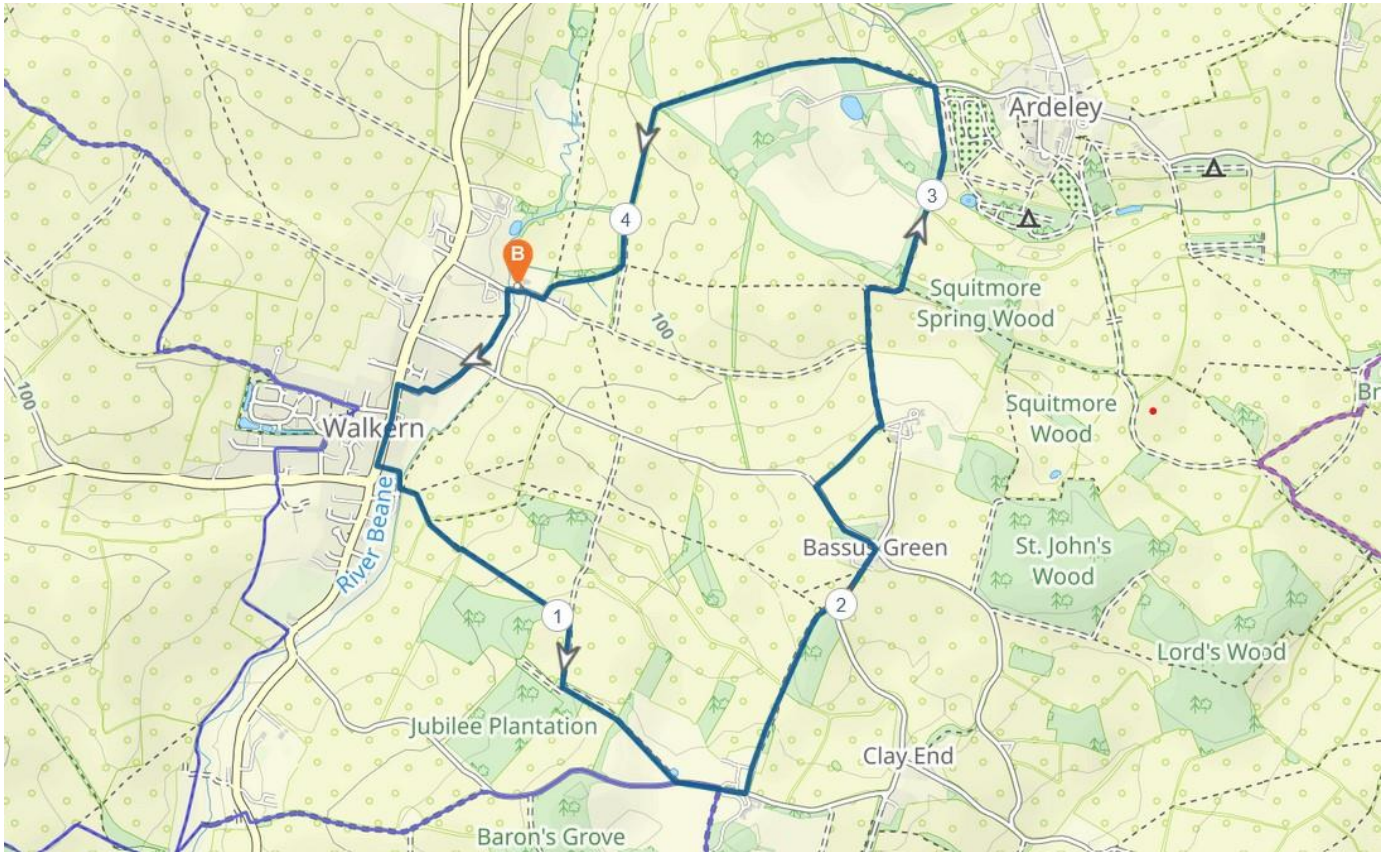




The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

Walkern and the Beane Valley



The village of Walkern lies in the River Beane valley approximately 1 mile from the eastern edge of Stevenage, on the B1037. This 4.3 mile circular walk explores quiet countryside to the east of the village, with an optional short diversion to visit Ardeley.

Distance: 4.3 miles / 7 km

Ascent: 311 feet / 95 metres

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Start / finish: Walkern village - Free parking is available in the car park opposite St Mary's Church, which has Saxon origins, on Church End.

Refreshments: the Church Farm cafe and the Jolly Waggoner pub, both in Ardeley, and The Brewery Tea Rooms in Walkern

From the car park at St Mary's church, walk west, over the ford on the River Beane. At periods of low flow this may be little more than a duck pond.



Before reaching the High Street, take the footpath 35 on the left towards Winters Lane. The bramble bushes are usually full of fruit in July and August.

Follow the path through the meadow and along the road before emerging onto the High Street.

Cross safely, turn left, and walk south until you reach Clark's Garage.



Take the path to the right of the garage signposted for Benington and Bassus Green.

Bear right by the River Beane. The river is very prone to drying up here, so there may be no water. Cross the river on the bridge, continuing on the path ahead, bearing slightly right past an electricity pole.

After about 100 metres, cross a ditch, then take the path which runs slightly uphill across the field ahead to reach a gap in the hedge.



Beyond the hedge go straight on. The path heads for the top corner of the wood on your right. After passing this point continue straight ahead to go through the gap in the next hedge.

On the far side of the hedge turn right and follow the bridleway alongside the hedge for about 200 metres. Stay on the path where it turns sharp left, ignoring the metal gate to the right. After a short distance running through a wood the path emerges onto the edge of a field with a hedge and trees to the left.



Pass through the belt of trees ahead to emerge onto a fenced track between pasture fields. This runs past a pond on the left to a road. Turn left here.

Immediately ahead is Walkern Hall, built in the early 19th Century. Go past the Walkern Hall Farm buildings on the left then immediately turn left onto the bridleway which runs alongside the farm and industrial buildings.

The track runs downhill to a stream, then up the other side with a wood to the right. The track bends to the right to reach a road. Turn left here to reach Bassus Green.



As you approach this tiny hamlet of just a few houses, you will see a thatched barn and a cottage ahead on the left of the road, then a thatched cottage on the right.

At the crossroads in Bassus Green turn left and walk along the road for about 300 metres, enjoying views over Walkern and the Beane Valley. Turn right on to the Public Byway 029 signposted to Walkern Bury Farm.



Just before the entrance to Walkern Bury Farm turn left onto the track which goes downhill then uphill to an area of level ground.

Turn right here to follow the path running past a tall hedge to the right, into a belt of trees.



Ignore the sign to Ardeley pointing to the right. Instead turn left onto a path with a hedge on the left and a wire fence on the right, with views to Church Farm, Ardeley, which is open to the public



Continue along this path to reach the road, opposite a crucifix which is a memorial to Mark Ruddock and his colleagues, killed in September 1918.

If you wish, turn right here to walk the short distance into Ardeley village.



At Ardeley, the church of St Lawrence dates from the 13th Century and has a tower topped by a Hertfordshire spike. The village green was created by the Lord of the Manor in 1917 to include thatched cottages, a thatched village hall and a well house. Opposite is a pond. There is a pub in Ardeley and a cafe and shop at Church Farm. Retrace your steps to the roadside crucifix when you are ready to resume the walk.

Immediately opposite the crucifix a path marked as a bridleway runs a short distance between trees to a metal gate, and beyond to a pasture field.

Once in the open field follow the worn route across the grassland keeping quite close to the left-hand boundary. Head for the point on the far side of the field where taller trees give way to smaller trees along the hedgerow.

Go through another metal gate and across the footbridge.



Bear slightly left and go uphill, close to the field edge on the left, passing an old squat oak tree.

Keep close to the left of the field passing a gate with no fence and go through another metal gate. Beyond the gate the route begins to go downhill.

At the far end of the next field pass through a narrow tree belt then turn left. You will now be heading almost due south with a field on your right and a hedge on the left, and with views of Walkern and the Beane valley ahead.



Keep going along this path. Go through the next gap in the hedge ahead and keep going straight ahead. You will now have trees on your right and a field to the left.

Where the path turns left and uphill you will see ahead a path going straight on and another turning to the right. Take the turning to the right (to the right of the post) to go through a wooden kissing gate.

You will pass through some tall vegetation and emerge onto a pasture field.



Follow the hedge to the right slightly downhill across the field. You will eventually reach the churchyard boundary.

Turn left and head for the gap between the house and the churchyard, enjoying the view of St Mary's Church.

Go through the gate and down the steps to return to the car park and the end of the walk.



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This route last walked by CPRE in July 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.