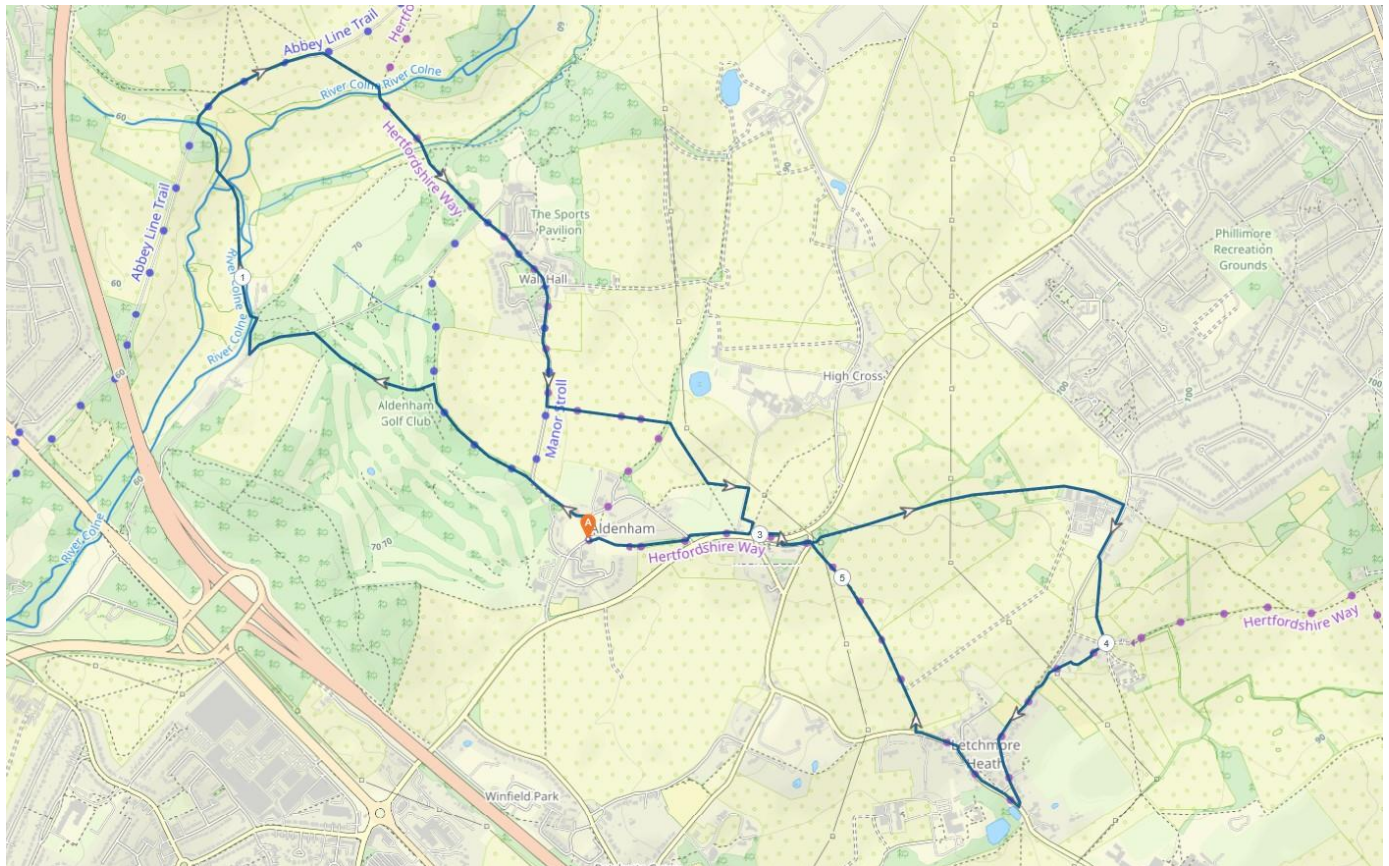




The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

Aldenham, the River Colne and Letchmore Heath



This 5.5 mile figure of eight walk explores a tranquil stretch of the River Colne and its wildlife habitats, along with open countryside and small villages in Hertsmere Borough. This area within 15 miles of central London has remained undeveloped thanks to the Green Belt.

Distance: 5.5 miles / 8.9 km

Ascent: 272 feet / 83 metres

Duration: 3 hours

Difficulty: Easy (there is one stile that can be avoided by walking on a road)

Start / finish: Aldenham village - free parking is available on Church Lane, opposite the church. (What3words: legend.rider.habit)

Refreshments: The Round Bush pub in Round Bush, The Three Horseshoes pub in Letchmore Heath, and a farm shop, cafe and tea rooms in Battlers Green

To begin the walk, head north along the street with the church on your right.

Almost immediately turn left into Wall Hall Drive.

After 200 yards the drive bends to the right, but you continue straight ahead on the path.



After ¼ mile turn left onto a public footpath.

You are now crossing a golf course so look out when going near tees and greens.

Keep straight ahead on the path, ignoring paths to the left and right.

At the end go around a metal gate to reach a tarmac lane.



Turn left and walk along the lane about 250 yards to reach a gothic style cottage. Turn sharp right onto the public bridleway just past this cottage.

The River Colne is now close to the path on the left. Follow the bridleway for a short distance then turn left over the river on the footbridge.



Beyond the kissing gate turn right and follow the footpath through the meadows by the river. You might want to linger for a while here to enjoy the views of the river and its wildlife.

** Note - after prolonged rainfall, these meadows may be flooded. If so, go back across the footbridge and turn left on the bridleway to avoid this section of the route. You will rejoin the main route later on, at a path junction shortly before reaching Wall Hall Drive - see next page.*



The River Colne is one of Hertfordshire's principal rivers. Its main source is in North Mymms Park south of Hatfield, and many places along its course include 'Colney' in their names. There are other headwaters rising in Hatfield and near Barnet, Elstree, Borehamwood and Stanmore. Its first tributary, the Ver, meets the Colne near Bricket Wood. Flowing on through Watford, it meets the Thames at Staines.

Where the river bears away to the right, follow the path over a large pipe and on across a concrete footbridge.

Bear right beyond the footbridge to follow the path through a narrow field with a copse to the left. Go through the gate and continue through the trees.



At the tarmac lane turn right to go through another gate, then follow the tarmac lane as it climbs a slight hill.

Go through the next gateway and then immediately turn right by the signpost to Aldenham.



The path runs downhill and across a steel footbridge, from where there is a good view of the Colne looking downstream.

Follow the path as it bears slightly left across the field beyond the footbridge and across the channel beyond to reach a path junction.

** Note - If you bypassed the flooded meadows and stayed on the bridleway earlier in the walk, turn right at this path junction to rejoin the main walking route.*



Continue straight ahead along the track through the trees to pass a pair of metal gates.

Keep going straight ahead onto Wall Hall Drive, and the mansion of Wall Hall will shortly come into view.



The original house on this spot was enlarged and later given gothic embellishments in the early 19th century by George Woodford Thelluson MP, who renamed the house Aldenham Abbey. Later owned by the County Council, it was the home of the US Ambassador Joseph Kennedy during the Second World War, then became a teacher training college and later part of the University of Hertfordshire. The mansion and its immediate surroundings are now private homes.

Turn right at the roundabout in front of the black barn, keeping on Wall Hall Drive.

About 300 yards beyond the last house turn left onto the public footpath (and Hertfordshire Way) by the signpost.

If you wish to have a shorter walk and return straight to Aldenham from here, keep going along Wall Hall Drive, which eventually bears left to reach the village.



To continue the walk, go straight across the field towards the pylon.

Go through the gap in the hedge and the kissing gate, then bear right along the footpath with a fence to the left.



Edge Grove School is to your left. At the far side of the field, go through the kissing gate and turn left onto the track. Follow the track with the playing field to your right.

Cross the school driveway and turn right on the path. Just before reaching the road, turn left on the track between hedges. After 100 yards go through the gap in the hedge to cross the road at the traffic island near the bus stop.



You have now reached Round Bush.

If you want to visit The Round Bush pub, turn right and then left on Roundbush Lane.

Otherwise, turn left along the road fronted by houses (The Spinney) towards the pylon ahead.



At the eastern end of The Spinney by the pylon ahead take the left-hand path, Public Footpath 17 signposted Battlers Green ½. Note that the path entrance is by the field gate and not by the log. Go under the wires and through a small copse.



Go through the kissing gate at the far side of the copse and straight ahead across the next field.

Continue through the next kissing gate then keep to the left of the fence heading for the group of trees ahead.



Then head for the gap in the hedge ahead, keeping to the left of the large oak tree in the middle of the field.

Go through the kissing gate and cross the next field, keeping to the left of the farm buildings. Go through a bridle gate and a car park, past Battlers Green Farm with its farm shop, café and tea rooms, to reach the road.



At the road, turn right and walk for about 200 yards, then turn left onto Public Footpath 7 signposted Aldenham Road ½.

Go across the field, keeping to the right of the fence.

** Note - if you cannot manage stiles, don't take the footpath but instead keep straight on along the road into Letchmore Heath.*



Go through the next kissing gate then head for the stile ahead.

Cross the stile then stand with your back to it and take the second turning on the right, which is the driveway to Fruit Farm Lodge.



Follow the path past a new house on the left. Straight ahead the path runs to the left of a gate, with a hedge and trees to the right.

Go through the pair of gates.

Go past the house on the right and straight on past a black metal gate, continuing along the drive to reach the road. Turn left to follow the road into Letchmore Heath.



To explore the village turn left into Back Lane and walk into the centre by the green, where there is a pond with some benches and The Three Horseshoes pub, as well as a war memorial and some attractive cottages.

To head back to Aldenham, walk along The Green, with the pub on the right, then continue along Grange Lane.



Just beyond the last of the buildings on the right at the edge of the village, turn right on the public footpath towards Round Bush. Follow the path across a field.

Go past the wooden gates, then turn right and immediately left to retrace your steps in front of the houses along The Spinney. Turn right to cross the busy road at the traffic island, go through the gap in the hedge and turn left (west) to walk along the track.



Where the track ends, go through the kissing gate to continue walking west along the pavement, crossing the end of the drive to Edge Grove School, to reach Church Lane.

Go straight across the lane to the gap in the hedge opposite, and take Public Footpath 15a to return to Aldenham via the churchyard.



The church of St John the Baptist dates from the 13th century with later changes to the structure. There are pieces of Hertfordshire puddingstone set into the exterior walls. This stone is found almost exclusively in the county and was thought to protect against evil and witchcraft. The little spire on top of the tower is known as a 'Hertfordshire spike', a feature also largely confined to the county and common on local churches.

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This route last walked by CPRE in August 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.