

A SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- Byways open to all traffic (BOAT)
open to cyclists, horses, walkers and motor vehicles.
- Roads used as public paths (RUPP)
open to cyclists, horses, walkers and possibly motor vehicles.
- Bridleways
open to walkers, horses and cyclists.
- Footpaths
open to walkers only.

Remember you cannot legally cycle on a footpath. On other rights of way it is good practice to give others warning of your approach eg a bell or a spoken warning. In addition you have to give way to walkers and horse riders. A horse cannot recognise a bicycle and may view the cyclist as a predator, and be startled, endangering the rider and the cyclist.

OTHER CYCLE RIDES

In addition to this route there are circular rides from Sawbridgeworth to Much Hadham Bishops Stortford to the Pelhams and Braughing and from Hertford north to Bramfield and Tewin. If you have enjoyed following this route, why not plan your own ride using local maps and tourist guides. It's a great way of visiting and enjoying the countryside.

THE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Countryside Management Service works throughout Hertfordshire and north London to promote and enhance everyone's enjoyment of the countryside. Each of the four management areas work with local communities, volunteers and school groups to raise awareness and understanding of the local environment. The service also carries out practical and advisory work from clearing footpaths to managing woods and picnic sites. The Service is supported by local authorities and the Countryside Commission. For more information contact: Countryside Management Service Eastern Area
Tel: 01279 843067

SPONSORS

This cycle route and leaflet have been produced in partnership with:
The Planning & Environment and Transportation Departments of Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts District Council.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Hertfordshire countryside welcomes you, your family and your bicycle. Riding your bike, you can discover a Hertfordshire of quiet villages and country lanes, away from the hustle and bustle of the busier main roads.

This ride is one of a series each of them starting and ending in one of the larger towns of east Hertfordshire. Beginning in the County Town of **Hertford** in front of **County Hall**, this ride follows country lanes to two distinctive village locations, and passes through the densely wooded landscape of south east Hertfordshire popularly known as the WildWood area, before returning via Hoddesdon along ancient Mangrove Lane. There are a number of stopping off places along White Stubbs Lane, where a picnic can be enjoyed, or ramble around Bencroft Wood, an ancient hornbeam coppice with a number of inviting waymarked woodland walks. The ride is **15 miles** in length, all of it on tarmac roads. You can begin your ride at any point along the route, then follow the waymark signs, they will help guide you around the route in an anti-clockwise direction.

Please read the leaflet, and for more information it is recommended that you consult the Ordnance Survey map (Pathfinder 1120), or local tourist guides to make the most of your trip to the countryside.

WAYMARKING

The route is designed to be ridden in an anti-clockwise direction, making the majority of the turns left turns, thus your journey will be a little safer. The waymarking is positioned to guide you around the route in the same anti-clockwise direction, the signs to look for and follow are displayed above.



SAFETY

- This is not an off road route, you will meet cars and other vehicles on these roads during your trip.
- Wear a safety helmet.
- Ensure your bike is safe to ride.
- After dark you are required by law to display working lights.
- Wear brightly coloured clothes with reflective material.
- Treat pedestrians and horses with the respect you expect to get from car drivers.
- Get a bell and use it to warn others of your approach. Always ride in single file when roads are narrow or busy, and never more than two abreast.
- Always follow the advice for cyclists given in the Highway Code.

Cycling in the Hertfordshire Countryside



A Circular Ride
from Hertford visiting
Brickendon, Bayford
and Hoddesdon



POINTS OF INTEREST

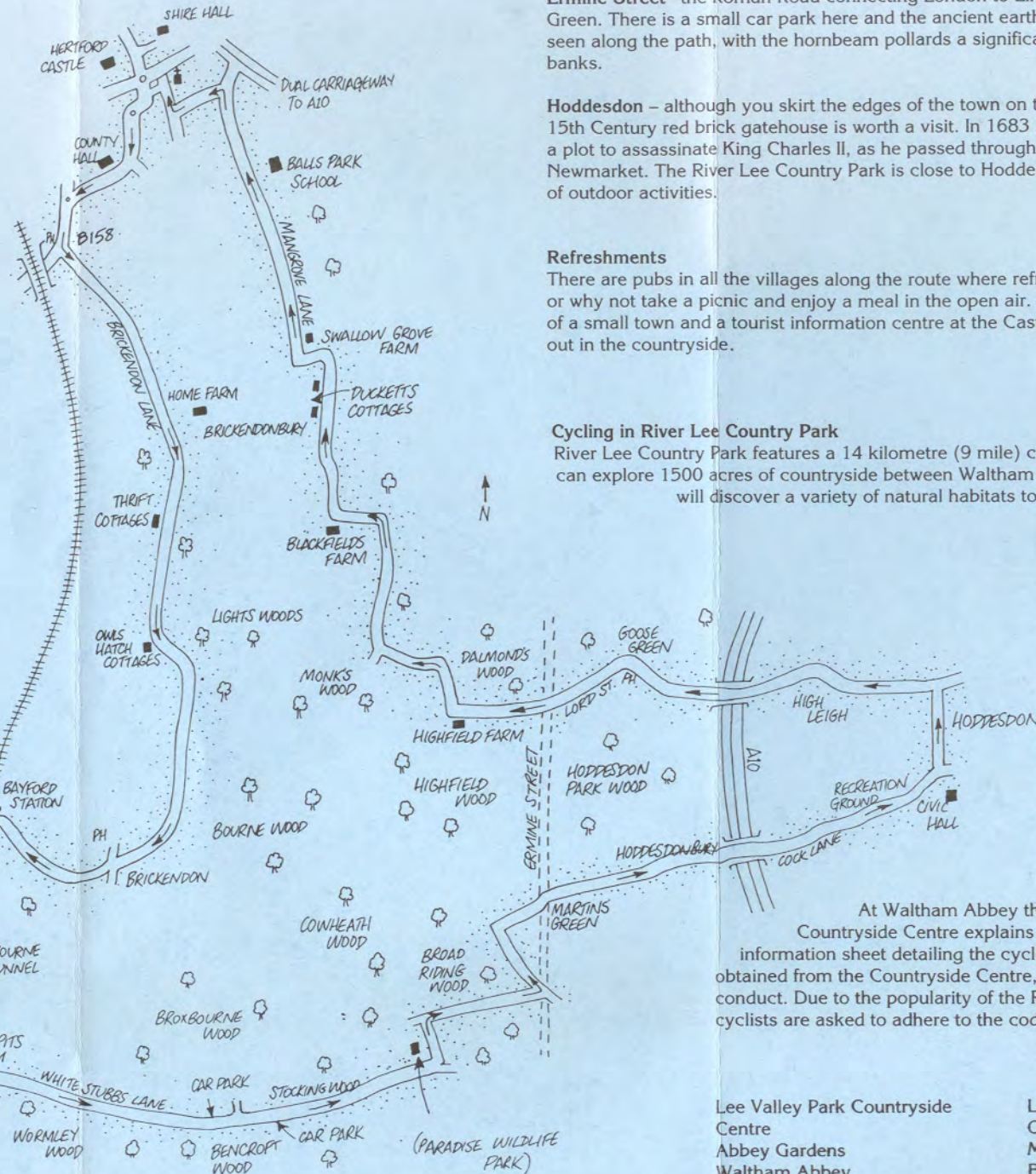
Hertford.

The County Town of Hertfordshire is a popular and attractive centre, surrounded by rich farmland and rolling countryside. Hertford had importance as far back as Saxon times, and has been a centre of trade for centuries, being the meeting place of four rivers, the Mimran, Rib, Lea (or Lee) and the Beane. Hertford has been a Royal Borough for more than a thousand years and was granted a Royal Charter in 1441 by Henry VI. Hertford has some fine buildings, and some excellent examples of East Anglian parquetry, the external decorative plaster work, near Shire Hall in the town centre. There are Railway Stations at Hertford North and Hertford East.

Brickendon – this is the first village you reach, and the Village Green with its mature trees offers you the cyclist a place to rest after the uphill climb from Hertford. Edward the Confessor gave the manor to Waltham Abbey and Henry II confirmed the gift free of "geld and toll", the Parish name of Brickendon Liberty recognises that fact to this day.

Bayford – is a small strung out village of pretty houses, with a village green and a fine pond surrounded by impressive willow trees. Between Bayford and Hoddesdon is the long stretch of White Stubbs Lane which is surrounded on all sides by dense woodland. Bencroft Wood is an ancient hornbeam coppiced woodland that is now being managed under the WildWood project. It has picnic sites and excellent walks for you to enjoy, make use of the car parks that are signposted from the road.

Distance = 15 miles



Ermine Street – the Roman Road connecting London to Lincoln can be seen at Martins Green. There is a small car park here and the ancient earth banks and ditches can be seen along the path, with the hornbeam pollards a significant feature on top of the banks.

Hoddesdon – although you skirt the edges of the town on the way back to Hertford, the 15th Century red brick gatehouse is worth a visit. In 1683 Rye House was the scene of a plot to assassinate King Charles II, as he passed through returning to London from Newmarket. The River Lee Country Park is close to Hoddesdon, the Park offers a range of outdoor activities.

Refreshments

There are pubs in all the villages along the route where refreshments can be purchased, or why not take a picnic and enjoy a meal in the open air. Hertford has all the facilities of a small town and a tourist information centre at the Castle with further ideas for days out in the countryside.

Cycling in River Lee Country Park

River Lee Country Park features a 14 kilometre (9 mile) circular ride by which visitors can explore 1500 acres of countryside between Waltham Abbey and Broxbourne. You will discover a variety of natural habitats to visit. River Lee Country Park

has been shaped by the gravel extraction industries since the 1920s, with many of the workings subsequently flooding creating the lakes you see today. These lakes form an important habitat for birds, as does Hall Marsh Scrape which you will pass. For the cycling botanist a wealth of flora can be found including one of the largest colonies of Early and Southern Marsh orchid found on a site close to Cheshunt Lock.

At Waltham Abbey the Lee Valley Park's Countryside Centre explains the role of the Park. An information sheet detailing the cycle route and map can be obtained from the Countryside Centre, along with a cycling code of conduct. Due to the popularity of the River Lee Country Park, cyclists are asked to adhere to the code. For more information:

Lee Valley Park Countryside
Centre
Abbey Gardens
Waltham Abbey
Essex EN9 1XQ
01992 713838

Lee Valley Cycle Hire
Old Mill and Meadows
Mill Lane
Broxbourne
Herts
01992 630127