

2000 years down the track

Timberland Trail 'Gateways'

You may join the Trail anywhere along its length. For easy access or parking, try joining at one of the following locations.

Elstree and Borehamwood Station (Grid ref. TQ 190 963): From the station take the steps up to Allum Lane. Cross Allum Lane and walk to your left and then just follow the signs. There are plenty of pubs and restaurants in the nearby town centre. The Trail links up with the London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) on Allum Lane. This is a 240km (150 mile) walk around the perimeter of London. Leaflets are available from Borehamwood Library.

Shenley Park (Grid ref. TL 181 005): Includes an impressive walled garden, cricket ground and tea rooms. Buses run from nearby Radlett station and stop outside the park on Radlett Lane. From Radlett Lane enter Shenley Park and turn right into the car park and follow the signs.

Bowmansgreen Farm (Grid ref. TL 189 041): Parking is available and buses stop at nearby London Colney to provide a link to train stations at Hatfield and St. Albans. Access is available from Coursers Road.

The Alban Way (Grid ref. TL 202 073): There is a small car park that you may use on Smallford Lane (Grid ref. TL 198 072). The Alban Way is part of the Sustrans national cycle network. There are bus stops on Smallford Lane. Nearby St. Albans Abbey and City stations and Hatfield station provide access to the national rail network. Alban Way leaflets are available from libraries in Hatfield and St. Albans.

This Trail has been realised through the joint efforts of the Countryside Management Service, Groundwork Hertfordshire and Hertsmeare Borough Council.

If you, a neighbour, a member of your family or your community would like this leaflet produced in another language or format (large print or audio cassette) please contact the Countryside Management Service on 020 8447 5466.

The Watling Chase Timberland Trail is one of twelve trails in each of the Community Forests that have been funded by a partnership between Timberland (UK) Ltd and the Countryside Agency.

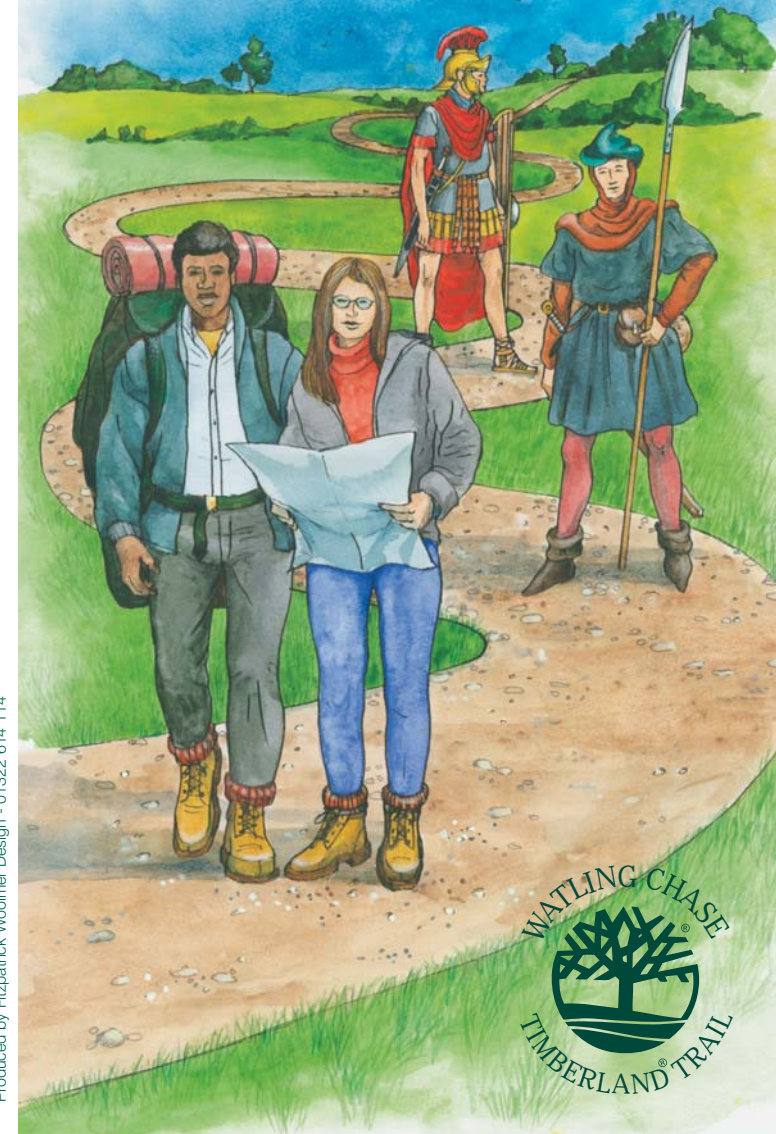
Watling Chase Community Forest is a long-term initiative to improve the countryside around the towns of south Hertfordshire and north London. The initiative focuses on environmentally led activities for the benefit of all that live, work and play in the area.



Please keep to the path
Respect our countryside



A 17 km (10½ mile) walk into the past and the heart of
Watling Chase Community Forest



For at least two thousand years, travellers from London to the north have been following the line of the Watling Chase Timberland Trail. The landscape has changed considerably over time but reminders of the past still exist and an abundance of wildlife occurs along the Trail's entire length. Journey through time and across fine landscapes as the trail follows medieval tracks and drovers roads and passes the sites of coaching turnpikes and grand houses from bygone days.

The Watling Chase Timberland Trail is approximately 17kms (10½ miles) long. It passes through the most varied and beautiful landscapes between Borehamwood to the south and St. Albans and Hatfield to the north. The Trail is mainly based around public footpaths and is therefore suitable for walkers only.

For a shorter route (7km) try walking from the Elstree Gateway to Shenley Park and return to Elstree via Radlett.



Small Copper

Small Tortoiseshell

Smooth Hawksbeard



The route is well waymarked throughout. You may follow these signs in either direction.

Comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear is essential and you may want to take a drink or a snack. There are pubs along the route and in the nearby villages of Shenley, London Colney and Sleepshyde. Refreshments are available at Shenley Park and Bowmansgreen Farm at selected times.

Care of the countryside

Please respect the countryside and help us to maintain it as a place for everyone to enjoy:

- Keep dogs under close control and clear up all dog mess.
- Do not pick wildflowers.
- Take all litter home and refrain from starting fires.
- Keep to the path at all times.



Field Mouse feeding its young

Public transport

There are regular trains between Elstree and Borehamwood station and St. Albans City station while buses run between St. Albans and Smallford. The Timberland Trail also passes through London Colney and Shenley and there are some bus links to these villages as well. Call the Hertfordshire Traveline on 0870 6082608 for more information.

Explore the forest

The Timberland Trail is one of several self-guided routes within the Community Forest. Call in at any library within Watling Chase for more details. These cover just a small number of the footpaths and bridleways in the area. To explore more of the countryside, you can make up your own routes using the latest Ordnance Survey Explorer maps (numbers 173 and 182).

More information on exploring the outdoors is available on the Countryside Management Service web site at:

<http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/cms/>



The Watling Chase Timberland Trail

- Historically, Colney Heath Common was a wet acid heath. Now much drier, it still supports characteristic heathland plants like petty whin and heather. A visit is well worth the detour.
- In Hertfordshire, sand and gravel extraction has left many lakes like those at Tyttenhanger. These can become important wildlife refuges. Keep an eye-out for kingfishers, moorhens, frogs, weasels and foxes around the lakes and river.

- The Alban Way served as a branch line of the Great Northern Railway until its closure in 1969.
- The Plough public house is a fine example of late seventeenth century architecture. It features a timber frame and thatched roof with dormer windows.

11. The site of the medieval manor of Tyttenhanger. Originally built by Abbot Richard of St. Albans around 1330, the site was redeveloped by Sir Henry Blount in 1660. His house still stands here today.

10. Bowmansgreen Farm is part of Willows Farm Village. It is an example of diversification in a modern farm. The farm features a variety of family oriented leisure activities in addition to traditional farming practices.

9. London Colney is on the old coaching route between London and St. Albans. In its heyday up to 150 horse-drawn coaches a day were using this road. Look for the London Coal Duty Boundary Marker where a tax was levied from merchants taking coal and wine to London.

8. Running through the vale of St. Albans the River Colne provides a home for a wealth of wildlife. The shy and elusive water vole occasionally reveals itself as it searches for food. On warm summer days, dozens of damselflies and dragonflies search for prey along nearby footpaths whilst banded demoiselles dance ceaselessly above the water.

7. Shenleybury (road). Livestock drovers were either banned from coaching routes or required to pay tolls on turnpike roads, as at Barnet Road in London Colney. They were often obliged to seek alternatives and this road offered drovers another route to London.

6. Shenley Park is a 45 acre (18 ha) park set in the beautiful countryside around Shenley. The park includes woodlands, a wildflower meadow and an apple orchard. Take a short detour to look at the fine walled garden and cricket ground laid out on the advice of W G Grace over 100 years ago.

5. Shenley derived its name from the Saxon "Schoenley" meaning a clearing in the forest. Woodhall Spinney is a remnant of the oak/hornbeam woods typical of the area.

4. From Woodhall Lane on Shenley ridge admire one of the best views in southern Hertfordshire. Note the many old oak and ash trees in the hedgerows. The land here includes the site of the medieval manor of Titeberst that was recorded in the Domesday Book.

3. Look out for Lyndhurst. It is easy to see why many artists and musicians visited this house over the last century. Built in the mid-nineteenth century, this imposing house displays an architectural style that was high fashion in Victorian England.

2. Cross Theobald Street, a medieval road, which used to link Elstree to the village of Aldenham and served several farmsteads and hamlets along the way.

1. Parkfields open space includes a large area of neutral grassland. Look out for flowers such as common knapweed and sneezewort. To the west, on the skyline is Watling Street. This road lies on the line of the old Roman Road that connected Verulamium (St. Albans) to Londinium (London).



RADLETT

BOREHAMWOOD

LONDON COLNEY

SHENLEY

SMALLFORD

SLEAPSHYDE

COLNEY HEATH



Key

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Timberland Trail | | Bus Stop | | London Coal Duty Marker |
| | Alban Way | | Railway Station | | Busy Road |
| | London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) | | Pub | | Active Works |
| | Gateway Site | | Light Refreshments | | |
| | Parking | | Toilet | | |

Not to scale

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