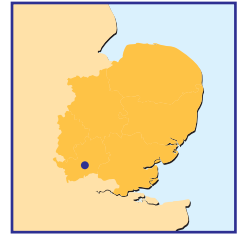


CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



Starting point: *Hatfield (old town), Hertfordshire*

Distance: *16 miles/26 km*

Type of route: *Day ride - easy, circular; on roads, cycle paths and tracks*

ROMANS & ROYALTY

Part of the Great North Way

This cycle ride (part of the Great North Way) starts from the old town of Hatfield. From here the route heads south, then west, through woodlands and wildlife habitats, set adjacent to the busy M25 motorway. Dedicated cycle paths and grassy tracks eventually lead to St. Albans, an historic city noted for its Roman heritage. Then it's back to Hatfield, along the line of the former Great Northern Railway. Along this route you can visit the birthplace of the 'Mosquito', explore the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth I and see the spot where Britain's first hot air balloon flight briefly touched down.



Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans, St. Albans

Essential information

Starting point:	Hatfield (old town) - Batterdale car park (off Park Street).
Alternative starting point:	London Colney - beside St. Peter's Church (High Street). See 'H London Colney' for information. Join the route by turning L into the High Street. Start from 'direction no. 25'.
Car parking:	Hatfield (old town) - Batterdale car park (free). If this car park is full, we suggest the railway station car park (reduced charge after 10am), using the subway to reach the starting point. London Colney - High Street, beside St. Peter's Church (free).
Nearest railway station:	Hatfield (use subway to reach starting point). St. Albans - City Station (1 1/2 miles west of route). Welham Green (1/2 mile east of route).
Type of route:	Day ride - easy, circular; on roads, cycle paths and tracks.
Summary of route:	Hatfield (old town) - Howe Dell - Welham Green - Water End - Hawkshead/Mymmshall Wood - The M25 - de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre - London Colney - Highfield Park - St. Albans - The Alban Way - Smallford - Hatfield (new town) - Hatfield (old town).
Distance:	16 miles/26 km.
Terrain:	Mostly flat. Largely traffic-free route. Lowest point - 226 feet (69 metres) at London Colney. Highest point - 423 feet (129 metres) at Hawkshead/Mymmshall Wood.
Cycle hire:	Hatfield (new town) - Hatfield Cycles, 12/13 The Parade (01707) 265830.
Cycle repair:	Hatfield (new town) - Hatfield Cycles (see cycle hire above). St. Albans - Leisure Wheels, 117 Victoria Street (01727) 843999; St. Albans Cycles, 9 St. Brelades Place (01727) 847477.
Ordnance Survey map area:	Landranger 166 - Luton & Hertford.
National Cycle Network links:	Route 12 and Route 61. This ride follows the NCN between Hatfield (old town) and Water End, then again later between St. Albans and Hatfield (old town).

Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

	Cycle Parking
	Places of Interest
	Refreshments
	Children Welcome
	Picnic Site
	Shop
	Toilets
	Tourist Information
	Caution/Take care
	Left Turn
	Right Turn
	T-junction
	Straight Across/Ahead
	Cross roads
	Sign-posted
	Not Sign-posted

de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre



Points of Interest (listed as you would find them along the route)

Please note: within this map there is only room to list basic details regarding opening times. In this respect, if you are planning to visit any of the places of interest on this route, we advise you to telephone in advance to confirm exact opening days and times. Refreshment establishments listed on this map are just a small selection of those available. For further information, please contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre.



The Great North Way **12** (part of the National Cycle Network) runs for 32 miles (51 km) through Hertfordshire, from Hadley Wood (nr. Potters Bar) in the south to Letchworth Garden City in the north - passing through the towns of Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage. The route is fully signposted, and consists of quiet lanes and traffic-free sections. This map (no. 11) is one of two (no. 9), containing information about the main linear route, alongside a one-day circular ride which utilises sections of the Great North Way.

- A Hatfield** (old town) - dates from Saxon times, with Georgian houses and former coaching inns. 🏠
🚉 Railway Station (Great North Road).
🏠 **Hatfield House, Park and Gardens** - Jacobean house, home to Marquess of Salisbury. Queen Elizabeth I spent her childhood at The Old Palace. Superb gardens. Open Apr-Sept. Admission charge. (01707) 287010. ✖️ 🏠
The Eight Bells (Park Street) - 17th C. inn, visited by Charles Dickens in 1835, and featured in 'Oliver Twist'.
Mill Green Museum and Mill (1/4 mile north of Hatfield, off the Great North Way) - restored 18th C. water mill and local history museum. Open all year. Admission free. (01707) 271362. 🏠
St. Etheldreda's Church (Church Street) - contains 17th C. Salisbury Chapel with Cecil family tombs/memorials.
✖️ **The Horse and Groom** (01707) 264765. 🚰

B Howe Dell/Stream Woods - urban wildlife site, with grass and woodland. Unusual swallow hole. 🏠

C Welham Green - little village. On the 15th Sept 1784, Britain's first hot air balloon flight briefly touched down here. The spot in Dellsome Lane is marked with a stone. 🏠

- ✖️ **The Hope and Anchor** (01707) 272787. 🚰
- The Sibthorpe Arms** (01707) 262922. 🚰

D Water End - tiny hamlet. To the south is the famous Royal Veterinary College, opened in 1958.

🏠 **North Mymms Park** (1/2 mile west of village) - Elizabethan hall set in parkland (*not open to the public*). The 14th C. St. Mary's Church has fine medieval brasses.

- ✖️ **The Woodman Inn** (01707) 650502. 🚰

E Hawkshead/Mymmshall Wood - part of the Watling Chase Community Forest, this is one of twelve such areas in England. The aim is to increase woodland, conserve nature and provide recreation opportunities.

F The M25 - completed in 1986, London's famous orbital motorway is one of the busiest in Europe.

G de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre - historic aircraft, including prototype 'Mosquito'. 17th C. moated Salisbury Hall (*not open to the public*). Open Mar-Oct. Admission charge. (01727) 822051. ✖️ 🏠

H London Colney - set on the old coaching route from London. Old inns and restored bridge. 🏠

🏠 **Broad Colney Lakes Nature Reserve** - flooded gravel pits along River Colne, surrounded by wet woodland. Birds, plants and dragonflies. Open all year. Admission free. (01727) 858901.

All Saints Pastoral Centre - conference and retreat centre. Set on an island within the grounds is a ruined medieval chapel, reputedly connected to a pilgrim's path to St. Alban's Abbey. *Not open to the public*.

- ✖️ **The Golden Lion** (01727) 826596. 🚰
- The Green Dragon** (01727) 823214. 🚰
- The Pear and Partridge** (01727) 827083. 🚰
- The White Lion** (01727) 822123. 🚰

🚰 High Street.

I Highfield Park - 60 acres (24 hectares) of public open space, on the site of two former hospitals. Tree trail, orchards, Mediterranean garden and wildflower meadows. (01727) 847242. 🏠

J St. Albans - shaped by 2,000 years of history, this historic city is built beside the site of Britain's third largest Roman town Verulamium. Historic buildings, parkland and Roman remains. Market - Wed, Sat. 🏠

🚉 City Railway Station; St. Peter's Street; Verulamium Museum (St. Michael's Street); Westminster Lodge (Holywell Hill).

🏠 **Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban** - Norman abbey church on the site of the martyrdom of Britain's first Christian martyr. Open all year. Admission free. (01727) 860780. ✖️ 🏠

Clock Tower (Market Place) - one of only two Medieval belfries in England, built 1403-1412. Fine views. Open Apr-Sept. Admission charge. (01727) 819340.

Kingsbury Watermill (St. Michael's Street) - 16th C. with working machinery. Open all year. Admission charge. (01727) 853502. ✖️

Museum of St. Albans (Hatfield Road) - story of city from Romans to present day. Open all year. Admission free. (01727) 819340. 🏠

Roman Theatre (Bluehouse Hill) - best preserved Roman theatre in Britain. Open all year. Admission charge. (01727) 835035.

Verulamium Museum (St. Michael's Street) - everyday life in Roman Britain. Re-created Roman rooms and mosaics. Open all year. Admission charge. (01727) 751810. 🏠

✖️ Wide selection throughout city.

🚰 Civic Centre (off St. Peter's Street); Drovers Way; Spicer Street; Town Hall (Market Place); Verulamium Park.

🚰 Town Hall, Market Place (01727) 864511. Open all year.

🏠 Verulamium Park.

K The Alban Way - 6 1/2 mile (10 km) trail for cyclists and walkers, linking St. Albans and Hatfield. It follows the route of the former Great Northern Railway branch line (1865-1969), which carried passengers and freight.

L Smallford - small village with old railway platform. Water-filled gravel pits provide a wetland wildlife habitat.

- ✖️ **The Three Horseshoes** (01727) 851608. 🚰

M Hatfield (new town) - in the 1930's, Hatfield became a centre for the aviation industry. In 1948, it was designated as a postwar 'New Town'. Market - Wed, Sat. 🏠

🏠 **The Galleria Outlet Centre** - shopping complex. Open all year. Admission free. (01707) 278301. ✖️

✖️ Wide selection throughout town.

🚰 Town centre, beside Market Square.

St. Albans



ROUTE DIRECTIONS

STARTING POINT: Hatfield (old town) (Batterdale car park, off Park Street).

A Hatfield (old town) - dates from Saxon times. 🚲 🏠 🚫 🗺

1 Turn L out of the car park onto Batterdale (NS). Then at the T-j with Park Street, turn R (NS).

2 At the roundabout with the A1000, go SA onto the cycle path beside the road, SP 'Hatfield Town Centre'. Take the second L into Old Rectory Drive, SP 'Onslow, St. Audrey's School'. Then L again into Howe Dell (NS). ⚠

3 As the road turns R into a dead-end, turn L onto the cycle path and follow it around to the R into the open spaces of Howe Dell.

B Howe Dell - urban wildlife site. 🏠

4 The path bears L into Foxglove Close. Rejoin the road, bearing R into Honeysuckle Gardens. Then at the T-j with Oxlease Drive, turn R, then immediately L into Badger Way (NS).

5 At the T-j with Deerswood Avenue, go SA (through the gate) onto the cycle path.

6 At the far end of the path, pass through the gate to cycle along St. Audrey's Close.

7 Just before the T-j with Travellers Lane, bear L onto the cycle path, SP 'Great North Way, Welham Green 1'. Almost immediately turn R, following the path across the main road, then L towards the spiral bridge (NS). Follow the path across the bridge which takes you over the A1001. On the other side continue to follow the path. ⚠

8 Turn R onto Pooleys Lane, SP 'Great North Way, Welham Green 1/2, Water End 11/2'

C Welham Green - Britain's first hot air balloon flight briefly touched down here. 🚫 🗺

9 Turn L onto Parsonage Lane (NS).



Hawkshead/Mymmshall Wood

10 At the T-j with Huggins Lane, turn L into Dellsome Lane, SP 'Route 12'. After a short distance, turn R into Knolles Crescent (NS).

11 Just before the T-j with Dixons Hill Road, bear R onto the cycle path (NS).

12 Cross over the road at the designated point. Then turn L into Swanland Road, SP 'South Mimms'. ⚠



Hatfield House, Park and Gardens

13 At the end of the cycle path, bear L onto Warrengate Road (NS).

D Water End - tiny hamlet. 🏠 🚫

14 At the X-roads with Warrengate Road and Hawkshead Lane (opposite the small road bridge), turn R (NS). Then at the T-j cross straight over to go over the A1(M) on the bridge (NS). Continue SA along the path, up a short but challenging hill. Alternatively you can continue along Warrengate Road, and the Great North Way to Hadley Wood. ⚠

E Hawkshead/Mymmshall Wood - part of the Watling Chase Community Forest. 🏠

15 Rejoin the road, turning R (NS) at the triangular piece of grass.

16 Just before the T-j with the road (B556), bear R onto the track, SP 'Public Bridleway 34, St. Albans Road, Ridgehill 2/3'. After a short distance, pass through the gate, and bear L to reach the road (B556). Turn R (NS) along the cycle path, going under the M25.

F The M25 - London's famous orbital motorway.

17 Follow the path to its end (ignoring the turning to Ridgehill). At the milepost, cross over the B556, to join the cycle path on the other side (NS). ⚠

18 Turn L along the well-surfaced track, SP 'Mosquito Aircraft Museum and Bridleway'.

19 At the T-j (in front of the large house), bear R (NS), then turn L (NS).

G de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre - home of prototype 'Mosquito'. 🏠


20 As the road bears L, go SA, passing the sign for 'The Farmhouse'. Almost immediately, the road bears L again, this time go SA joining a grassy track (NS).

21 Continue along this track until you see a signpost, SP 'Public Bridleway 35, London Colney 1'. Turn R here along a stone track. To your L is the training ground of the Arsenal Football Club.

22 At the T-j with the B556, go SA (using the crossing), SP 'London Colney 3/4'. The path crosses over the M25. On the other side, go SA past the signpost ('Blind Lane Public Right of Way, London Colney 1/4'). ⚠


23 Turn R, SP 'Watery Lane Public Right of Way, London Colney 1/4, Colney Heath 2'. The path then bears L into a wooded area. When you reach the clearing, bear L over the little bridge, then R to reach London Colney High Street (NS).


H London Colney - set on old coaching route. 🏠 🚫 🗺 📶

24 Turn L (NS) to cycle along the High Street, going SA at the two mini-roundabouts. 

25 Just before the roundabout with the A414, bear L to cross over this road on the footbridge. Please note, that you will need to dismount and walk across with your cycle. On the other side, go down the slope and SA onto London Road.

26 At the end of London Road, rejoin the cycle path, which now runs beside the A1081.

27 Just past the roundabout, use the Toucan crossing to go over the A1081. Bear R back towards the roundabout, and turn L (onto the cycle path opposite) into Highfield Park Drive, SP 'Highfield'. 








I Highfield Park - former site of two hospitals. 

28 Cycle through the parkland area. When you reach the road, cross over to the cycle path opposite, and turn R.


29 Follow path, turning R back across road just before Cranwell Close, and through the gate onto the cycle path (NS) into Highfield Park. Then at the next T-j you reach in the park, turn R again (NS).

30 At the end of the cycle path, turn L onto Hixberry Lane (NS).

31 At the mini-roundabout, bear R onto the road. Then immediately R again onto The Alban Way, SP 'Hatfield 41/4'. Along this former route of the Great Northern Railway branch line, look out for remains of the stations (there were five), and the Boundary Mile Post (a cast iron milepost). You also pass under the Blackberry Arch, a piece of artwork commissioned in 1998.

J St. Albans (to visit the city centre, turn L onto The Alban Way, SP 'St. Albans 3 61') - historic city.       

K The Alban Way - 61/2 mile (10 km) trail for cyclists/walkers.

L Smallford - small village. 

32 Go SA over Ellenbrook Lane, SP 'Hatfield 21/4'.

M Hatfield (new town) - designated in 1948.    




St. Albans

33 When you reach the main road, bear R along the cycle path, SP '61 Alban Way'. After crossing the A1(M), bear R to follow the cycle path to the subway, SP 'The Alban Way, Welwyn Garden City 43/4'. Go through the subway and continue SA along the cycle path.

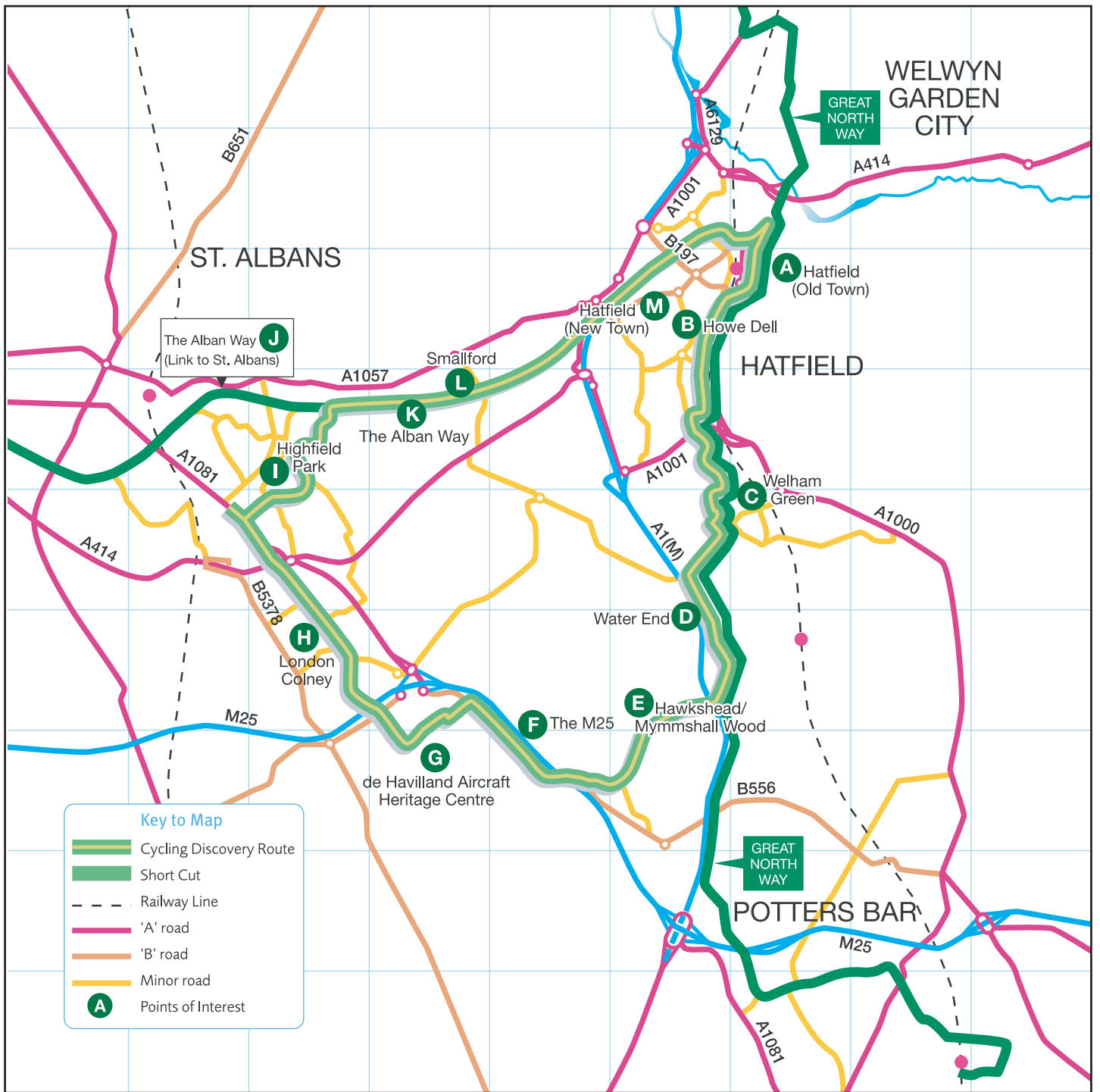
34 At St. Albans Road (NS), turn R (taking care) and immediately L back onto the cycle path. Continue to follow 'The Alban Way' path, crossing three more minor roads (one crossing using a bridge). Look out for the second Mile Post.

35 Look out for The Propellor Post, a sculpture reflecting Hatfield's position as a link to many modes of transport, past and present. At the railway bridge, bear R (61 sign). On the other side, cycle SA along the road.

36 Just before the traffic lights, bear L onto the cycle path, SP 'Welwyn Garden City 31/4'. Follow the path along Park View, as shown on the signs.

37 Turn R over Hertford Road (at the first designated crossing point) (NS). Alternatively you may wish to continue SA following the Great North Way to Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage. 

38 Take the first L into Park Street (NS). This takes you back into Hatfield (old town).



The Map shown in this route provides just a general outline - In this respect, we recommend that you purchase the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map which covers the area. Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 166 - Luton & Hertford. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.

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