

The Ebury Way

The Ebury Way is a 3.5 mile, traffic-free trail that runs from Watford to Rickmansworth. The route passes three rivers: the Chess, the Colne and the Gade. The path is shared with walkers and cyclists and the surface has been designed to be easy going for all users. Acting as a “green corridor” for wildlife, the route passes through a variety of habitats. The Ebury Way was originally the Watford and Rickmansworth railway and has in the past been used to transport watercress from Rickmansworth to Watford market. In later years it carried passengers to and from the football ground until closure of the passenger service in 1952. The rails were removed in 1980 and it was known as Lord Ebury’s line, the name was kept for this multi-use path.

The Ebury Way

The River Colne is a tributary of the Thames, rising 12 miles north east at North Mymms Park. The river meanders under the Ebury Way and man-made channels divert the water through the Mill. It then flows between the lakes at Hampermill.



How to get there

Getting to the start point: You can start this walk from anywhere on the map. We have waymarked the route in an anti-clockwise direction. We suggest starting the walk from an area of housing called the Rookery. It is just South West of Watford, off Eastbury Road, nearest postcode WD19 4SA.

By Train – Carpenders Park Station on the London overground is approximately 15 min walk from the route. Alternatively you can take London underground to Northwood then catch the bus towards Abbots Langley.

By Bus – Eastbury Road is on a bus route. For travel details visit www.intalink.org.uk or contact Traveline on 0300 123 4050 (open 8am–8pm).

By car – You can park on local roads off Eastbury Road (A4125). Nearest postcode WD19 4SA.

Other Local Walks

This walk is one of a series of ‘Walking in Hertfordshire’ circular routes. Download these and other walks from www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms

For a programme of local, free, led walks visit Hertfordshire Health Walks online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks or pick up a programme at your local library or GP surgery.



This walk was produced by Watford Rural Parish Council as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, a programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council.



The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works with communities in Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment. For more information visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms



Hampermill Walk

Enjoy a 2 mile (3km) circular walk to Hampermill Lake, exploring the Colne Valley and Ebury Way
Approximately 1 hour walking time



Watford Rural Parish



Watford Rural Parish is an area lying to the south of Watford. It includes the settlements of South Oxhey, Carpenders Park, the Rookery and Oxhey Hall. The parish boasts many greenspaces, including Oxhey Woods Local Nature Reserve and areas of countryside. For further information about Watford Rural Parish Council visit www.watfordrural-pc.org.uk

Points of Interest on the Hampermill Walk



Hamper Mill – At the site which Hamper Mill now occupies was a corn mill called “Hen Pool” (short for Water Hen Pool), which was built by Richard De Oxhey in 1290 and was later called “Hanpole Mill”. Subsequently called Oxhey Mill, it was owned by St Albans Abbey. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 16th century the mill was known as Souches Mill and then Hamper Mill. The mill was used for a cloth workers company and remained a corn mill until the 18th century when it became a paper mill, making high quality paper, some used for banknotes. It was damaged by fire in 1793 and is now a private dwelling.



Oxhey Hall is a grade II listed building and has been on this site since the 16th century. This was a moated site and the ground is registered as an ancient monument. Oxhey Hall had a number of royal connections and is known to have been the hunting lodge for Henry VIII.



The Clock House, pictured on the front of the leaflet, was the wheel house for Hamper Mill. Hamper Mill house was the mill owner’s home and the old cottage was the labourers’ home. The lake in front of the mill was a gravel pit and masonry and pottery were found suggesting it had been a Roman settlement.



Brightwell Farm has 105 acres of land. It has a farm house and cottages which were tied accommodation for the workers. There was once a small orchard between the house and the river. The farmhouse has been rebuilt due to fire damage.

Key

- Route of Hampermill Walk
- Footpath
- Permissive Path
- Woodland

Waymarks

- Follow waymarks with this logo on your walk, in an anticlockwise direction
- Footpath (walkers only)



Hampermill Lake



Brightwells Farm



River Colne



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