


## Be Safe

- Ensure your bike is in safe working order-place particular emphasis on your tyres, lights and brakes.
- Wear a safety helmet that complies with safety standards.
- By law you are required to use lights after dark.
- Wear bright clothing with reflective material.
- Treat pedestrians and horse riders with respect. Warn of your approach using either spoken word or a bell. Be extra cautious when passing horse riders.
- Always cycle single file along busy or narrow roads. Never cycle more than two abreast.
- These routes are NOT off road; please take care when passing other road users.
- Some areas of the route are hilly so cycle at your own pace.
- Follow the Highway Code.

## Refreshments

There are a number of public houses along the route selling food and drink. The Cricketers at Weston and the Moon and Stars at Rushden both have cycle parking facilities so you can enjoy a break whilst your cycle is secured. These are marked on the map.  Alternatively there are plenty of pleasant points for a picnic.

The telephone numbers for the pubs are as follows:  
The Cricketers at Weston ☎ 01462 790273  
The Moon and Stars at Rushden ☎ 01763 288330

# Cycling in Herts

## Further information

The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works with communities in Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment.

Northeastern Area, The Old Dairy, Bedford Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3RR  
☎ 01462 459395 Fax. 01462 433306  
Email: [northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.hertsdirect.org/cms](http://www.hertsdirect.org/cms)

For local bus and train information contact  
Traveline ☎ 0870 608 2608



DPF11479

# Cycling in Herts


A circular cycle ride from Baldock

Baldock ● Route 10  
16 miles (26 km)

# The challenge is what route to do first?...!!!

## Getting Started

This route takes you through quiet Hertfordshire villages and countryside away from the hustle and bustle of busier main roads. It takes you on well surfaced roads, hedgerow lined lanes and cycle ways up gentle slopes and through arable fields punctuated with idyllic rural hamlets. In the spring and summer the roadside verges are full of flowers, herbs and butterflies.

We recommend cycling the route in an anti-clockwise direction. The routes are waymarked and numbered with this sign and designed so that most turns are to the left, making your ride safer. There are a number of hills on the route, most are gradual climbs. 

## Baldock

The site of Baldock was settled in both the Iron Age and again by the Romans, being important for its position on the crossroads between the Icknield Way and Stane Street. The town we know now was founded in 1145 by the Knights Templar, and it is believed that its name comes from their word for Baghdad. The Baldock Museum located in the Town Hall holds a permanent exhibition on the history of the town.

Today the town centre retains much of its charm with some fine 18th and 19th century buildings remaining. There are a variety of interesting shops and a street market is held each Wednesday.

## Baldock Bypass

The cycle route crosses over the new Baldock bypass at two points, prior to its construction archaeological investigations of the area revealed

a number of interesting finds. Amongst the discoveries made by archaeologists were the remains of seven Bronze Age burial mounds and a buried skull of an Auroch, the now extinct ancestor of the ox. During construction a series of large bomb craters and two German incendiary bombs, left over from the Second World War, were uncovered.



Weston Church



Cyclists in Weston



Straw bales near Hall's Green

A number of initiatives organised by the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre and other Hertfordshire conservation organisations have been implemented to limit the impact to wildlife and their habitats throughout the by-pass construction. A colony of Common Lizards has been relocated; new habitats have been created for Butterflies; Badger setts have been protected and three Badger tunnels have been installed at critical locations along the new bypass. Deer and Badger proof fencing has been erected to protect these species from traffic and Bat boxes have been put up in mature trees.

## Ivel Springs

Ivel Springs consists of 11 hectares of land at the head of the Ivel Valley; it contains the main spring sources of the River Ivel. The site is a mosaic of wildlife habitats including meadow, scrub, woodland and river. Species recorded at the site include

Badger, Water Vole, Kingfisher and the locally scarce Bloody-Nosed Beetle.

The site is just a minute's walk from Baldock railway station. Why not leave your bike at the station's cycle racks and take a stroll around the site?

## Wallington

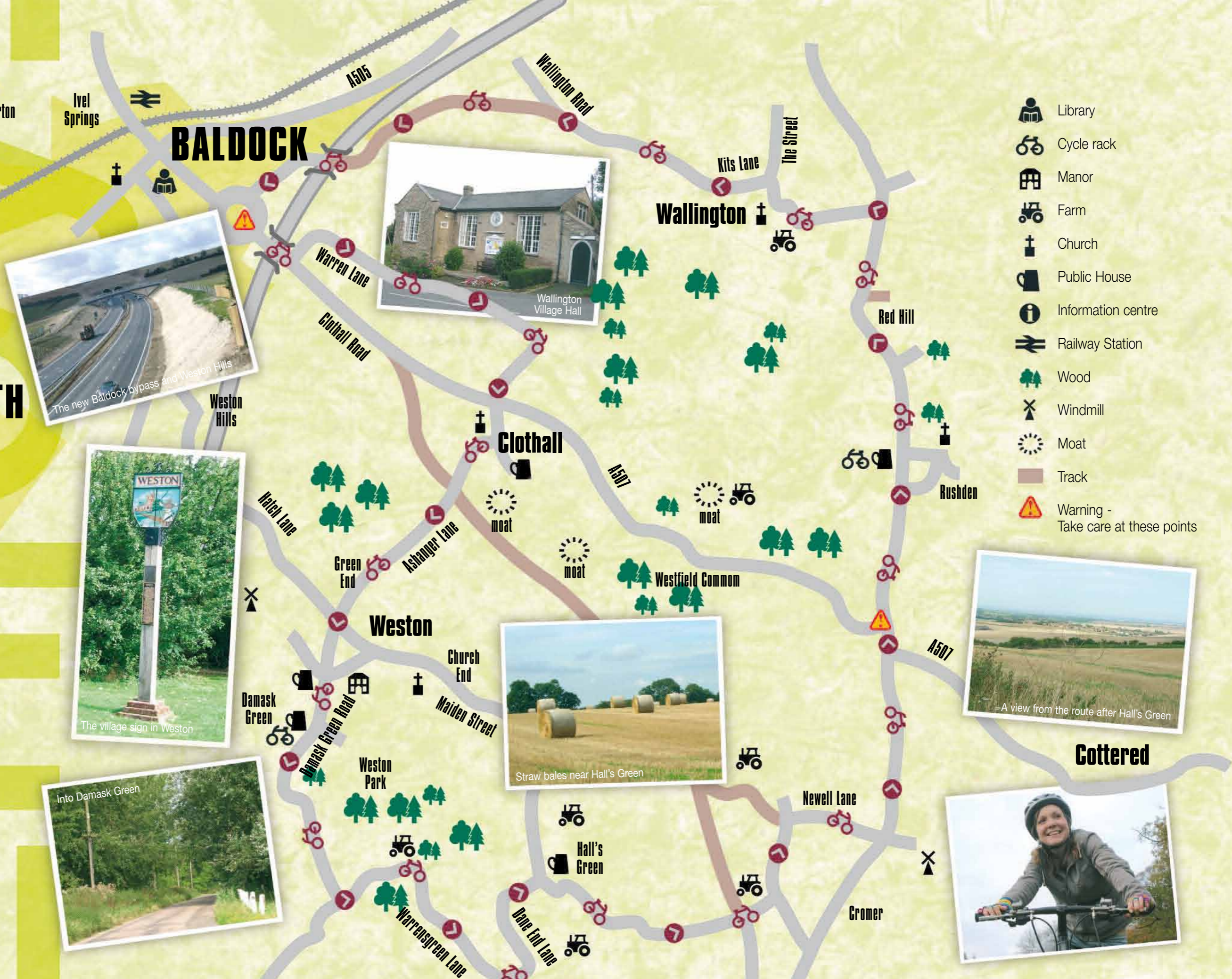
This pretty medieval village was for a while the home of Eric Blair, better known as George Orwell, author of Animal Farm. He ran a grocery, married and wrote his book, 'The Road to Wigan Pier', whilst here.

## Weston

Guardsmen's busbies are made here, and the norman church of the Holy Trinity boasts the grave of the legendary Weston giant Jack o' Legs, who reputedly stole bread from the wealthy bakers of nearby Baldock to distribute to the poor of Weston. As a punishment Jack was ambushed and had his eyes put out. His last request was that he might shoot an arrow to mark the place of his burial. It landed in Weston churchyard where two stones mark his grave, one by his head and the other by his feet, a distance of eight feet apart!

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MAP NOT TO SCALE

LETCHWORTH



- Library
- Cycle rack
- Manor
- Farm
- Church
- Public House
- Information centre
- Railway Station
- Wood
- Windmill
- Moat
- Track
- Warning - Take care at these points

**Spend a day in the countryside and discover a world of sensory pleasures!**

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