

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 Hadam, Bishops Stortford to the Pelhams and Braughing and from Hertford south to Brickendon, Bayford and Hoddesdon. 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
Hertfordshire County Council
Planning & Environment Department
County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DN
Tel: 01992 555256

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.

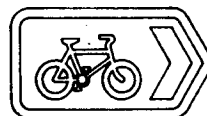
ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Hertfordshire countryside welcomes you, your family and your bicycles. 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 begins in the County Town of Hertford, and follows country lanes to four different village locations. The starting point is **Hertford North Railway Station** and the route covers a distance of **13 miles**, all of it on tarmac roads. As well as visiting places of local interest, you will be cycling through a diverse countryside of agricultural landscapes, along shady woodland roads and beside wide open fields. There are many fine views, lots of local history and a number of places to visit along the way including Sally Rainbows Dell, the haunt of a long dead witch, where Dick Turpin hid when on the run from the forces of law and order. 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 further information it is recommended that you consult the Ordnance Survey map (Pathfinder 1096) or local tourist guides to make the most of your trip.

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
Bramfield, Burnham
Green, Bulls Green
and Tewin

Countryside
Management
Service



Hertfordshire
COUNTY COUNCIL



POINTS OF INTEREST

Bulls Green.

The men of the Clibbon family were, by day, pie makers, but by night they became treacherous robbers who attacked farmers returning from Hertford Market. In December 1782 their reign of terror came to an end when the father of the family was shot dead one night near Bulls Green. The coroner ordered that he should be buried where he fell, and the spot is marked with a wooden post. It is said to have been driven through the heart of Clibbon to prevent him walking. 'Clibbons Post' remains to this day as a grim reminder of a violent past.

Datchworth.

The whipping post on Datchworth Green is a reminder of days when criminals were publicly flogged, the last known case being in 1665. The 'horseless cart', which is said to trundle along Rectory Lane towards the churchyard, is said to be a manifestation of the death cot or Hellwain that carried off the souls of the dead. Datchworth Museum housed in the old village blacksmiths shop, has an interesting collection that relates to the village and the surrounding area.

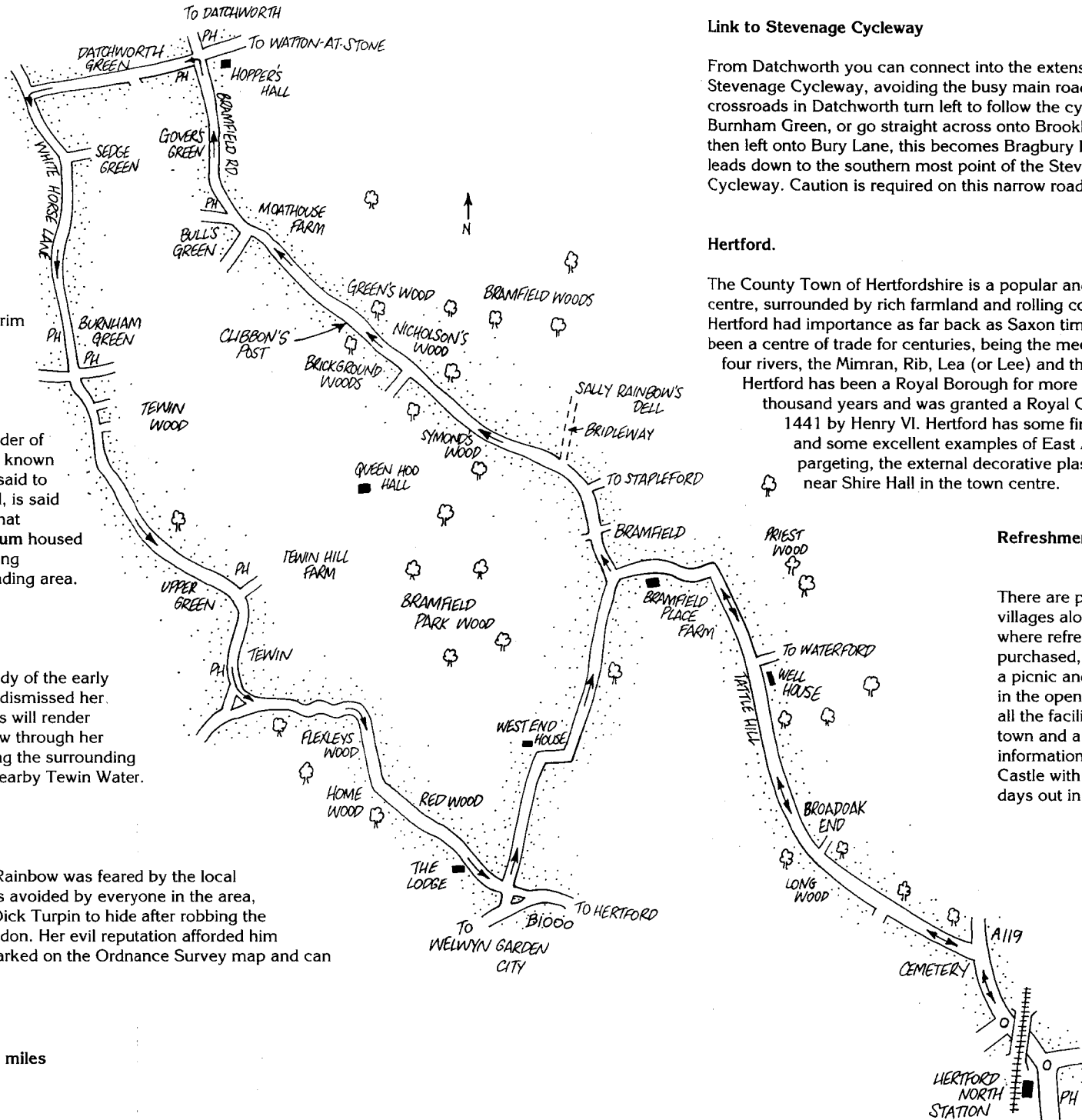
Tewin.

Lady Anne Grimston of Tewin was an outspoken lady of the early 18th Century. On her deathbed she is said to have dismissed her priest saying "If indeed there is life after death, trees will render asunder my tomb". Today, ash and sycamores grow through her tomb, splitting open stonework and almost engulfing the surrounding iron railings. Her ghost is said to haunt a room at nearby Tewin Water.

Bramfield.

Near the village of Bramfield a witch named Sally Rainbow was feared by the local population. Her home in 'Sally Rainbow's Dell' was avoided by everyone in the area, which made it an ideal place for the highwayman Dick Turpin to hide after robbing the coaches travelling along the roads to and from London. Her evil reputation afforded him excellent protection. Sally Rainbow's Dell is still marked on the Ordnance Survey map and can be approached from a bridleway near Bramfield.

Distance = 13 miles



Link to Stevenage Cycleway

From Datchworth you can connect into the extensive Stevenage Cycleway, avoiding the busy main roads. At the crossroads in Datchworth turn left to follow the cycleway to Burnham Green, or go straight across onto Brookbridge Lane, then left onto Bury Lane, this becomes Bragbury Lane and leads down to the southern most point of the Stevenage Cycleway. Caution is required on this narrow road.

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.

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.