

## A SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The ride in this leaflet is based on tarmac roads and the Ayot Greenway footpath and cycle way. Along the route you will pass many Rights of Way, signposted from the road. If you do deviate from the ride route in this leaflet please observe the following:

- Byways open to all traffic (BOAT) are open to cyclists, walkers and motor vehicles
- Roads used as public paths (RÜPP) are open to cyclists, horses, walkers and possibly motor vehicles
- Bridleways are open to walkers, horses and cyclists
- Footpaths are 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 e.g. a bell or spoken warning. In addition you have to give way to walkers and horse riders. A horse cannot recognise a bicycle and may view cyclists as a threat. The horse can be startled thus endangering both horserider and cyclist.

## OTHER CYCLE RIDES

In addition to this ride there are many other similar circular rides across Hertfordshire. For more details of other leaflets please contact the Countryside Management Service on (01727 848168). If you have enjoyed this ride why not plan your own using an Ordnance Survey 'Pathfinder' or Landranger map (No.166) Its a great way of visiting the countryside.

## THE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Countryside Management Service works throughout Hertfordshire and London to promote and enhance the enjoyment of the countryside. We provide practical assistance from pond clearance to woodland work and we offer grant aid and advice from tree and hedge planting to pond restoration. We increase opportunities for informal recreation including self-guided trails and guided walks. The service is sponsored by Hertfordshire County Council, District and Borough Councils. For further information please contact;

Countryside Management Service  
CMS Building, Beech Farm, Coopers Green Lane  
St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 9HW  
Tel: (01727) 848168

## PARTNERS

This cycle ride and leaflet has been produced with the support of: Hertfordshire County Council's Environment Department, Welwyn Hatfield District Council and with the kind assistance of the Cyclists Touring Club, Hertfordshire Wheelers and local parish and town councils. In particular, special thanks must go to Don Street who has kindly contributed to the production of this leaflet and route.

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

This is one of a series of countryside cycle rides starting in towns and large villages across Hertfordshire.

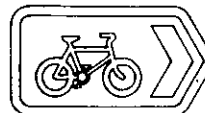
This ride starts in Welwyn where car parking may be found in the village. Leaving Welwyn, the ride will take you into the open countryside as you cycle along the valley of the River Mimram. **Take care along these roads as they are narrow with steep sides and car drivers may not see you coming.** As you ride along Tanyard Lane towards Ayot St Lawrence, you will encounter a fairly steep hill. If you need to dismount, why not take the opportunity to enjoy the view. On arriving in Ayot St Lawrence you have a choice of following either the road route or cycling down to the Ayot Greenway in order to enjoy this stretch of off road cycling. If you decide to continue on the road route then remain vigilant of other road users. In particular be careful on the down hill stretch, along School Lane, that runs from Ayot St Peter into Welwyn. **Remember always test your brakes at the top of any hill.**

Alternatively, if you have chosen to cycle along the Ayot Greenway, then take care when turning right from Bride Hall Lane to Codicote Road. The Ayot Greenway is an attractive off road route that is free from cars, however you may encounter horseriders and walkers. **Always slow down when approaching horserider or walkers and allow them room to pass.**

Route Length:      Road Route: 7½ miles (12km)  
                                 Road Route + Ayot Greenway 10 miles (16km)

## WAYMARKING

Signs like this on the right are positioned to guide you round the route in an anti-clockwise direction. This will make the majority of the turns left turns, this means your journey will be a little safer.



## SAFETY

- This is not an off road route, you will meet cars and other vehicles on the road 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. We recommend you cycle this route in daylight
- 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 warn others of your approach
- Always ride in single file on roads which are narrow or busy, and never more than two abreast
- Always follow the advice for cyclists given in the Highway Code.

# A circular cycle ride from Old Welwyn visiting Ayot St Lawrence and Ayot St Peter



# Cycle Hertfordshire's Countryside



## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Refreshments

There are a selection of pubs to be found in Old Welwyn and found along the route. Alternatively why not take a picnic and enjoy a meal in the open air. For further information about the local area visit either the Campus West Information Centre or the library in Welwyn Garden City.

### Welwyn

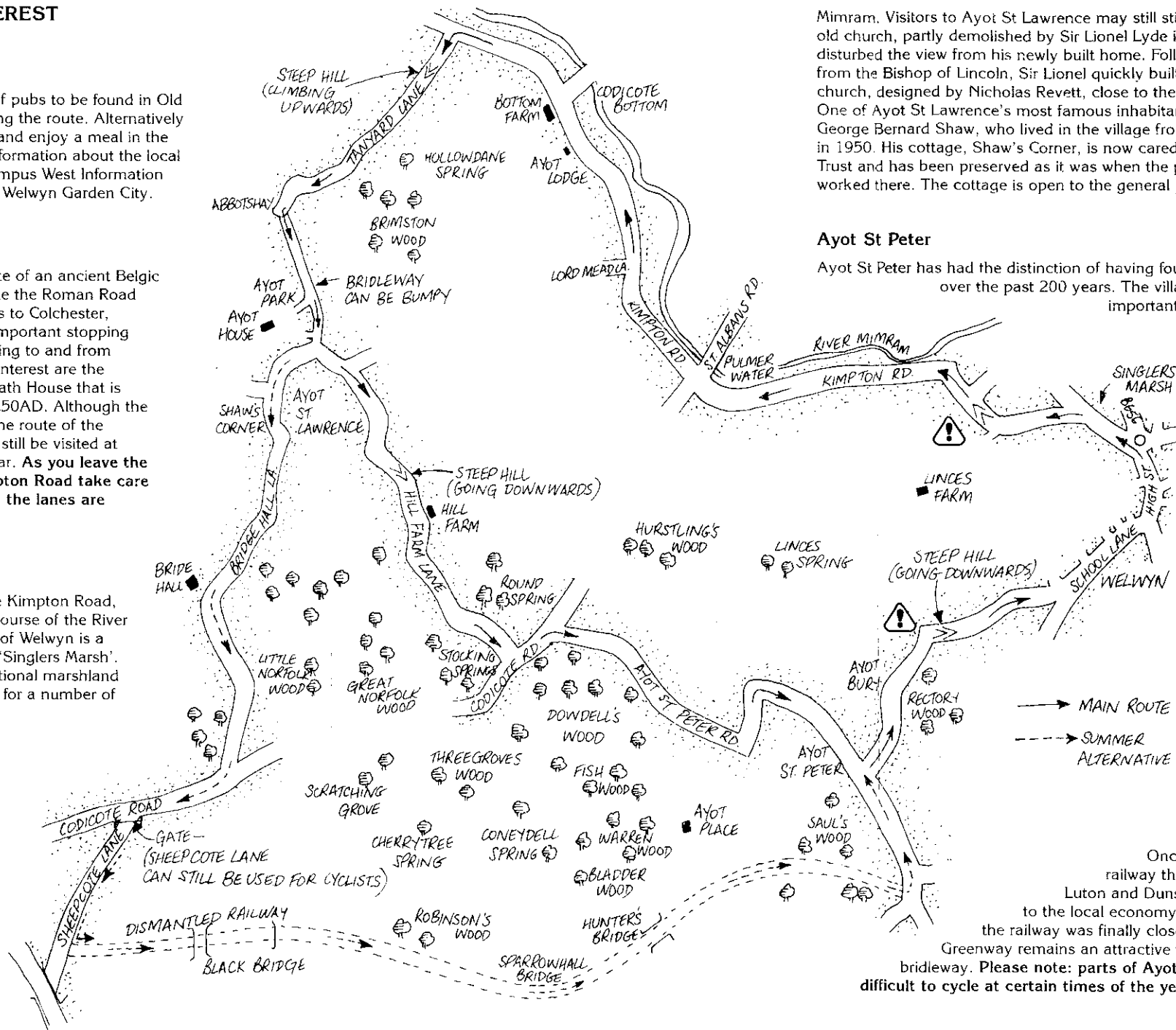
Situated along the route of an ancient Belgic track, that later became the Roman Road running from St Albans to Colchester, Welwyn was once an important stopping point for coaches running to and from London. Of particular interest are the remains of a Roman Bath House that is thought to date from 250AD. Although the site now lies beneath the route of the A1(M), the baths may still be visited at certain times of the year. **As you leave the village along the Kimpton Road take care of oncoming traffic as the lanes are narrow in places.**

### River Mimram

As you cycle along the Kimpton Road, you are following the course of the River Mimram. On the edge of Welwyn is a wetland habitat called 'Singlers Marsh'. This is an area of traditional marshland that provides a habitat for a number of wetland species.

### Ayot St Lawrence

The approach to the picturesque village of Ayot St Lawrence is via Tanyard Lane. Although the lane is on a steep hill, the effort of reaching the top is well rewarded by the picturesque views across the valley of the River



Mimram. Visitors to Ayot St Lawrence may still see the remains of the old church, partly demolished by Sir Lionel Lyde in 1775 because it disturbed the view from his newly built home. Following protestations from the Bishop of Lincoln, Sir Lionel quickly built a neo-classical 'new' church, designed by Nicholas Revett, close to the site of the 'old' church. One of Ayot St Lawrence's most famous inhabitants was the playwright George Bernard Shaw, who lived in the village from 1906 until his death in 1950. His cottage, Shaw's Corner, is now cared for by the National Trust and has been preserved as it was when the playwright lived and worked there. The cottage is open to the general public.

### Ayot St Peter

Ayot St Peter has had the distinction of having four different churches over the past 200 years. The village was once an important stop along the railway that ran from Hatfield to Luton. However, in July 1948 Ayot Station was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. The name 'Ayot' is thought to be derived from an Anglo Saxon settlement called 'Aiegete' that existed somewhere in the surrounding area prior to the Norman invasion. The 'gete' is thought to refer to a 'gap' in the hills that the Ayots stand on, whilst the 'Aie' is probably derived from the Old English name of 'Aega'.

### Ayot Greenway

Once the route of the railway that ran from Hatfield to Luton and Dunstable, this link was vital to the local economy of the area. Although the railway was finally closed in 1965, the Ayot Greenway remains an attractive two and half mile bridledway. **Please note: parts of Ayot Greenway may be difficult to cycle at certain times of the year.**