

# To Old Parkbury, Harperbury and Shenleybury

This is quite a long walk, especially if you go all the way to Moor Mill. This pub and restaurant is at the half waypoint providing a good opportunity for a break in your walk. The long version took a whole morning. The short version from 1 – 5 and from 15 to the end should take 2 1/2 hours.

Starting from the Village Green by the Green Dragon Public House (1), cross the footbridge over the river and turn right onto the restricted Byway (London Colney 02), keeping the river and then the lakes on your right. At the end of the lakes the path forks. Take the right fork, it can be somewhat overgrown at times, you will emerge onto Shenley Lane.(2)



Cross Shenley Lane, cross the river bridge and take the signed footpath (London Colney 24) down the steps into the field on the North bank of the river. Bear right across the centre of the field, to a kissing gate in the centre of the field edge and on to another kissing gate at the edge of the next field. From there, follow the waymark to the corner of the farm buildings and then on to the left hand corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate (3) and take the second turning left at the junction of tracks onto a signed bridleway with a horse barrier (London Colney 04).



Follow this track on the right of the river as it curves to the left towards the M25. Pass under the motorway (4) and continue along the path signposted to Harper Lane. After a few hundred yards, a sign informs you that you are now on Bridleway 13 to Colney Street. You will soon see the Fishing Lakes on your right and then a (5) large house set back on your left.



The straight track continues, rising to the point where it crosses the railway. (To take a shorter walk from here, turn sharp left immediately before the bridge and go to step 15 in these directions.) Continue straight on through an industrial estate. Following this path you will emerge onto the road known as Watling Street. (6)

Cross this road and take the signed bridleway on the opposite side. Follow the track downhill between hedges then along an open track with paddocks on your right until it meets Smug Oak Lane (7). Cross the road to reach Moor Mill.



To continue the walk after you leave Moor Mill, retrace your steps across Smug Oak Lane to the bend in the track with paddocks and wooden stables now on your left. Turn right at the waymark onto a well-used track but leave this where it bends sharply left behind a bund. (8) Instead, carry straight on along the side of the huge, level field. At the far end of the field turn right, following the field edge. (9) The river is again on your left and on the other side you will see a pumping station (listen for the hum).



Stick to the field edge until you see a (10) plank bridge with a handrail on your left. Cross the ditch on this bridge and follow the winding track through scrubland, never far from the river until you emerge onto (11) the drive of Netherwylde Farm.



Walk left across the river bridge and up the drive. You will see a firmly locked gate barring your way. Turn off the drive to the right about 20 metres before the gate onto a footpath which leads through a gap in the hedge onto a single track, metalled road (Restricted Byway Aldenham 20).(12) Turn left onto this road and continue along it until you emerge once more



## To Old Parkbury, Harperbury and Shenleybury continued

Turn left onto this road and continue along it until you emerge once more onto Watling Street.(13) Alternatively, there is a footpath (Aldenham 09) signposted to the left as you cross another river which will take you through the fields to emerge onto Watling Street about 300 metres further north than the single track road. Once on Watling Street, turn left, cross to the other side at the first opportunity and continue walking, over the river bridge and up the hill into Colney Street until you see a bridleway sign pointing into the industrial estate. Please ignore the footpath sign that you see first and carry on until you get to the bridleway. Follow the bridleway sign into the estate, (14) turn left at the railway and follow the path as it climbs. Cross the railway bridge and immediately turn right (15)

This path sticks to the railway at first then veers sharply left between two concrete blocks and over a horse stile. Carry on downhill between a huge rusty barn on the right and the ruins of Old Parkbury Farm on the left. Take the furthest right of the two bridges and continue to the entrance to the landfill site.

At the entrance to the landfill site you will see a well signposted leisure route to your left (16). Walk along here until you see a waymarked post next to a tiny wooden bridge on the left of the track. Follow the waymark sign to an opening into a field to your right. As you walk along the field edge, you can see a white house with a tall chimney on the other side. Aim to walk from the waymark post in the corner of the field to a point to the right of the house. If you're lucky, someone will have been there first to mark the route.

Once across the field, follow the edge by the woods. About halfway along, someone has built a house with a balconied bedroom, the better to enjoy the view (17). Carry on to a gate onto Harper Lane.

Cross Harper Lane, turn left and walk along the pavement until, just before the houses, you see a footpath sign (Footpath 25 for Shenleybury and Radlett). Climb the stile, cross the field diagonally to your left and enter the trees (18). Pass through the kissing gate and turn right. Follow the path as it curves to the left, skirting the rear of Harperbury Hospital, currently being demolished.



The path emerges by a terrace of old hospital houses called Margaret Cottages (19). Keeping the cottages on your left, cross the junction of tracks and walk up the hill. As you emerge onto the field you will see a single oak on the brow of the hill, next to it is a waymark post. Continue past it across the fields and down towards Shenleybury; the group of cottages you can see about a mile away.



Cross the road and take the path through the buildings and behind the Clore Shalom school until you reach the rear of the developed site. Work your way to the right hand corner of the site and turn left onto Bridleway 13. (20)

Follow this track through the fields, turning left at a waymark just before a metal gate in front of you (21). Carry on and turn left again at a footpath crossroads (22) (waymarked) and walk along a path and drive at the edge of the Arsenal practise ground until you emerge on Bell Lane.

Cross at the Pegasus Crossing - one intended for horse riders as well as pedestrians. Walk up the embankment of the motorway and cross the bridge.

At the top of the embankment (24) on the London Colney side of the motorway you can see the village green on the far side of the fields.

Descend the steps and walk along the path towards London Colney along a grassy path between the Sainsburys superstore on your right and an old landfill site on your left. Once past the store, continue following the hedge line to the river by the Green Dragon PH (1).