



Described by former resident George Bernard Shaw as a "twelfth century village where the last thing of real importance was perhaps the Flood." You can now visit the author's residence at Shaw's Corner (veteran cyclist in the gardens, below), discover the old church ruins or visit the 'new' 18th century church reminiscent of a classical Greek temple left.

Ayot St Lawrence & Shaw's Corner



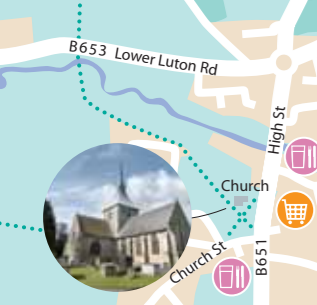
Blackmore End

Gustardwood



It is believed that the village name originates from 'wet homestead', being situated on the River Lea with its water meadows. Mentioned as far back as 1060, today the village is centred around the High Street with its pubs, small shops and the impressive 13th-14th century church of St Helens photo below.

Wheathampstead

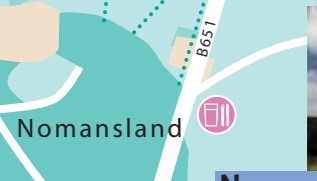


Wheathampstead



Dating back possibly to 40BC, when the area was populated by the Catuvellauni tribe, these massive earthworks probably formed the protective enclosure to their principal settlement. Legend says the tribe was defeated by Julius Caesar at this very spot. The two ditches, Devil's Dyke on the west, The Slad on the east, had an original depth of 13 metres and were discovered in 1932.

Devil's Dyke & The Slad



Nomansland Common

Nomansland is a great place to explore on foot or sit back and watch the local cricketers during the summer months. Historically the common was used for horse racing, grazing and prize fighting, now flying model aircraft or kites are a more common sight.



Coleman Green

John Bunyan's Cottage (remains of)



This route forms part of the National Cycle Network as Route 12 which will eventually link London with Peterborough and beyond! The Ayots section runs along the old railway line through Sherrardspark Woods, Quiet Lanes through Ayot St Peter and country lanes towards Codicote. The 32 mile route throughout Hertfordshire is now open from Potters Bar to Letchworth. Pick up information and a free map from local outlets including tourist information centres and Pedal Point.

The Great North Way



The Ayot Greenway links Welwyn Garden City with Wheathampstead. Ideal for walking and cycling, this predominantly traffic free route follows the former railway line that ran to Luton. Take a picnic to Robinsons Wood or explore one of the many footpaths off the greenway. In wet conditions parts of the path can get quite muddy, but there are plans to improve the surface.

Ayot Greenway



From the footpath you can admire the mansion built in 1760 set in a magnificent park with a fine vista across the lake.

Brocket Hall

From the old mill you can take a pleasant walk through the Brocket estate, or in the other direction along the River Lea to Stanborough Lakes. See also Lemsford Springs nature reserve - see inside for info.

Lemsford



Ayot St Peter

Ayot St Peter Church

This is an exceptional example of an Arts and Crafts church built in 1875, the site of the earlier church can be seen a little way to the north where only the churchyard remains.



Ayot St Peter Church



This 200 acre wood is recognised as one of the finest examples of natural sessile oak and hornbeam woodland in Britain. There are many walks to choose from including the old railway line which can be explored from Campus West, Brockswood Lane or the B197 at Ayot Green. This path is suitable for cyclists, walkers and wheelchairs.

Sherrardspark Woods

Welwyn Garden City

Built soon after World War One, the town was the second of Ebenezer Howard's Garden Cities. The concept behind the Garden City was to merge the best of town and country and help ease London's overcrowding. The first houses were occupied in 1920. Parts of the original settlement can be viewed by taking the Great North Way down Handside Lane. You can also shop at the Howard Centre or go boating at Stanborough Lakes to the south of the town centre.

Welwyn Garden City

Old Welwyn

Welwyn was of strategic importance because of its location in the Mimram Valley attracting settlers from as early as the Iron Age. Later the Romans settled in the area building their villas and bath houses. An example of which can be seen underneath the ATM at the Welwyn Roman Baths. Contact 01707 271362 for more information. In the 17th century Welwyn became an important staging post on the Great North Road.



Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn

Old Welwyn