

# ALBAN WAY

## The Alban Way

...the green route between St Albans Abbey to Hatfield House...

The Alban Way is a traffic free multi-user route along a former railway line. It is an important link in the local sustainable transport network and forms part of Route 61 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

The Alban Way has a smooth surface, suitable for all users. It has many access points, most of which are ramped or level. It has become a popular route for commuting, leisure and a safer route to many schools and the University of Hertfordshire.

The Alban Way is 6 1/2 miles long (about 40 minutes' cycling or 3 hours walking). It runs between Cottonmill Lane in St Albans and Wrestlers Bridge in Hatfield, providing a safe link between these two historic towns, with access to many amenities and facilities.

For most of its length, the Alban Way runs along the former route of the Hatfield to St Albans branch line of the Great Northern Railway. Opened in 1865, the line was used for freight and passenger services until it was closed and dismantled in 1969.

Part of the Alban Way between Cottonmill Lane and Sutton Road is used by the St Albans Green Ring a continuous walking and cycling route (approx. 9km long) that encircles the city Centre. The route primarily enhances existing cycling and walking routes and extends from Townsend in the north to Fleetville in the east, Sopwell in the south and into Verulam Estate to the west.



St Albans is one of England's oldest cities with a rich architectural heritage. It has several museums, including the Roman museum in Verulam park (left) and the City museum on Hatfield Road. Today, St Albans is a thriving market town, with plentiful pubs, restaurants and cafes.



### St Albans Abbey

St Albans Abbey forms the heart of the historic city of St Albans. Following the departure of the Romans from the ancient town of Verulamium, the Abbey was founded in the fourth century and was one of England's greatest abbeys until the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century, after which it fell into disrepair until its restoration at the end of the nineteenth century.

From the city, follow any of the yellow roads on the map to reach the Alban Way.

### Start/Finish

This is the official start of the St Albans end of the Alban Way, at Leyland Avenue.

### Watercress Beds

Just off Riverside Road and just by the access ramp up onto the Alban Way is the Watercress Wildlife Association Local Nature Reserve. Maintained by volunteers, this small space provides an urban sanctuary for wildlife on the site of former watercress beds and includes a butterfly meadow, woodland, wetlands and an orchard.

### River Ver

The River Ver is a chalk river, an internationally rare Biodiversity Action Plan habitat. Chalk rivers flow from underground aquifers and are typified by good water quality and steady temperatures.



### London Road

London Road station was one of the main passenger stations on the old railway line. The grade II listed building now houses a nursery. Near the old station, the Alban Way passes under a huge railway bridge carrying today's mainline rail traffic.

### Camp Road

Camp Road Bridge, built in 2003.



This platform served employees of Sander's Orchids, where the school is, and Salvation Army Printing Works and Musical Instrument Works in Campfield Road, who moved from East London in 1901.



The old platform on the south side used to be Hill End Station, close to the former county psychiatric hospital. In World War 2, the railway was used to ferry wounded soldiers to the hospital.



### Hill End Lane

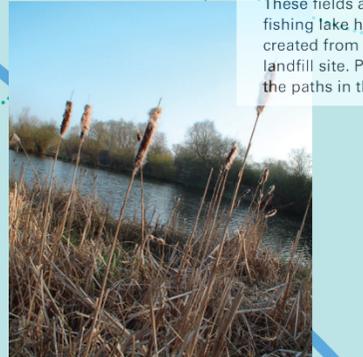
Hill End Lane leads to Hixberry Lane, a pleasant off-road route to the village of Tyttenhanger.



On the north side is the derelict railway building and old platform - all that remains of the former Smallford Station, now a Grade II listed building. Originally called 'Springfield', it was renamed in 1897 to prevent confusion with another station in Scotland.

### Smallford Pit

These fields and private fishing lake have been created from a former landfill site. Please keep to the paths in this area.



### Colney Heath

traffic-free route to London Colney

