

# The Alban Way

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

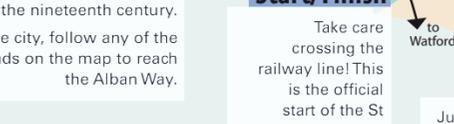
The Alban Way is a trail for cyclists and walkers along a former railway line. It is an important link in the local sustainable transport network and forms part of Route 61 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

The Alban Way has a smooth surface, suitable for all users, with lighting at the Hatfield end. It has many access points, most of which are ramped or level. It provides a route for leisure, commuting and safe routes to school.

The Alban Way is 6 1/2 miles long (about 40 minutes' cycling). 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.

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 Museum

Oaklands College

City Centre

Verulamium Park

St Albans Abbey Station

St Albans Abbey

St Albans Museum

Oaklands College

City Centre

Verulamium Park

St Albans Abbey Station

St Albans Abbey

Sanders Sidings

Verulam School

Fleetville

Camp Road

The Camp

Fleetville

Hill End

Smallford Station

**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.

**Start/Finish**  
Take care crossing the railway line! 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 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, a woodland area, a bog and an orchard.

**London Road**  
London Road station was one of the main passenger stations on the old railway line. It now houses small businesses. Near the old station, the Alban Way passes under a huge railway bridge carrying today's mainline rail traffic.

The old wooden railway platform on the north side is all that is left of the Sanders Siding, built in 1890 to transport orchids from the nearby Sanders Nursery.

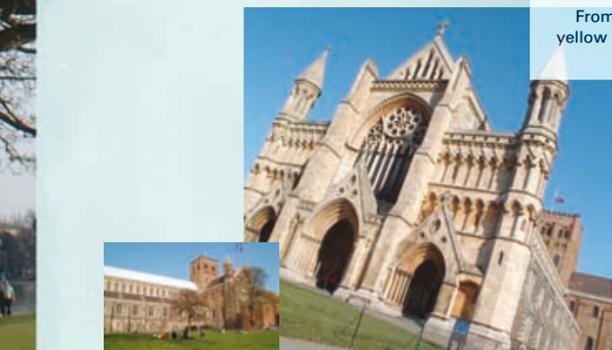
Cross with delight Camp Road Bridge, built in 2003.

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

On the north side is the derelict railway building and old platform - all that remains of the former Smallford Station.

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

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



# walking & cycling The Alban Way



**ST ALBANS CYCLE CAMPAIGN**  
6.5 mile traffic free route between  
St Albans & Hatfield

**Walkers**

- Take care along the trail, remember cycles are very quiet and you may not hear them coming.
- Please keep dogs under control and clear up all dog mess.
- Please keep the Alban Way tidy, take your litter home.
- Please do not pick the wildflowers.
- Do not wander onto adjacent private land.

**Cyclists**

- Please be considerate to other users and allow plenty of room when passing.
- Fit a bell to warn others, considerably, of your approach, don't assume pedestrians can hear or see you.
- Take special care when approaching all junctions.
- Make sure your bike is in good order.

**Misuse**

To report criminal activity or misuse of the Alban Way contact the Community Team at St Albans Police Station Tel: 01727 796042.

**Map Feedback**

Email all comments to: [map@stacc.org.uk](mailto:map@stacc.org.uk)  
Map updates will be available on: [www.stacc.org.uk/albanway](http://www.stacc.org.uk/albanway).

**Other Walking & Cycling Maps**

Contact Pedal Point - Tel: 01707 357551 for copies of other free maps in this series including: The Ayots, The Great North Way & The Cole Green Way.

**Alban Way Feedback**

If you have any comments concerning the Alban Way, contact St Albans City & District Council: Tel: 01727 866100  
Email: [cycling@stalbins.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@stalbins.gov.uk) or Pedal Point (see below) for Hatfield section.

**Pedal Point**

The one point of contact for all issues relating to cycling in the Welwyn Hatfield area: Tel: 01707 357551  
[www.welhat.gov.uk/pedalpoint](http://www.welhat.gov.uk/pedalpoint)  
Email: [pedalpoint@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:pedalpoint@welhat.gov.uk)

**St Albans Cycle Campaign**

Working for cycling in St Albans district. Contact us for help or information on all aspects of cycling: [www.stacc.org.uk](http://www.stacc.org.uk)

**Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Strategy & Forum**

The Forum was set up to aid development of the local cycle strategy. For information please contact Pedal Point (details above).

**Welwyn Hatfield Activity Map**

This shows walking and cycling routes in the Welwyn Hatfield area - available from Pedal Point, The Galleria or Hatfield Cycle Centre.

**Hertsdirect**

See CycleWeb pages for cycling information in Hertfordshire: [www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk)

**Other information**

For information about the local area visit the Tourist Information Centre, St Albans in the Old Town Hall - Tel: 01727 864511, or Campus West, Welwyn Garden City Tel: 01707 357150.

For bus and rail information call the Hertfordshire Traveline - Tel: 0345 244344

**Useful contacts:**

St Albans Abbey - Tel: 01727 860780  
[www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk)

Hatfield House - Tel: 01727 287010  
[www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk)

Museum of St Albans - Tel: 01727 819340  
[www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk)

Verulamium Museum - Tel: 01727 751810  
[www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk)

Sustrans - Tel: 0117 929 0888  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

Groundwork Hertfordshire - Tel: 01707 260129  
[www.groundwork.org.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/hertfordshire)

The route goes over Wrestlers' Bridge and joins the Great North Way cycle route, Route 12 of the National Cycle Network, which goes north to Stanborough Lakes, Welwyn Garden City & Stevenage.

Dating back to Saxon times, the village of Hatfield was first known as Hetfelle. Always important because of its position on the Great North Road, Hatfield grew rapidly in the late nineteenth century, with the development of fast railway links with London and the north.

The town grew even faster in the twentieth century, fuelled by the aircraft industry and the post-war demand for new housing, and was developed as one of London's new towns.

Old Hatfield has many historic buildings, including the Old Palace, built in 1497, whose most famous resident was Princess Elizabeth. It was here, in 1558, that she learned she had become Queen, following the death of Queen Mary.

The Old Palace sits in the grounds of Hatfield House, built in 1607 as the seat of the Cecil family and still home to Lord and Lady Salisbury. A stunning Jacobean house, Hatfield House sits in its own Great Park and has magnificent gardens, nature trails and a national collection of model soldiers.

Cycles are not allowed in the grounds, but you can lock your bike at the Railway Station opposite the main entrance on the Great North Road.



In 1934, the De Havilland aircraft company set up its factory here, to produce many remarkable planes, including the Mosquito, Trident, Comet Racer (right) and Tiger Moth (left). The airfield has been redeveloped to provide commercial, residential and leisure facilities, as well as a new campus for the University of Hertfordshire.

**Hatfield Aerodrome**

Ellenbrook Park  
University of Hertfordshire De Havilland Campus  
Bishop Square  
The Galleria  
Cinema  
St Albans Rd W

The Blackberry Arch created by local sculptor Diane Maclean in 1998.

**Blackberry Arch**

**Boundary Mile Post**

This cast iron milepost marks the boundary between St Albans and Welwyn Hatfield. There are many mileposts like this along the National Cycle Network, a 6,000-mile backbone of cycle and walking routes around the UK, co-ordinated by Sustrans.

**Ellenbrook**

Wilkin's Green Lane  
Ellenbrook Lane  
Station old platform

**The Galleria**

Hatfield Galleria contains shops, eateries and leisure facilities, including a multi-screen cinema.

**Roe Green**

Marketplace  
Asda  
Queensway  
Links Drive  
Howe Dell  
French Horn Lane

**Town Centre**

Wellfield Rd  
St Albans Rd E  
Hatfield Cycle Centre  
Countess Anne School

**Birchwood**

Birchwood School  
Crawford Rd  
Homestead Rd

**Old Hatfield**

Church St  
Fore St  
Entrance

**Hatfield House**

Route continues to Welham Green South Mimms Hadley Wood London

**Hatfield**

Hertford Road  
Old Hertford Rd  
Parkview

**The Ryde**

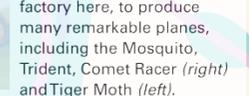
Bull Stag Green  
The Ryde

**St Albans**

Great North Rd  
to Stevenage  
Tesco



Trident, Comet Racer (right) and Tiger Moth (left).



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