

Walking & Cycling The Cole Green Way & the Hertford to Ware Towpath

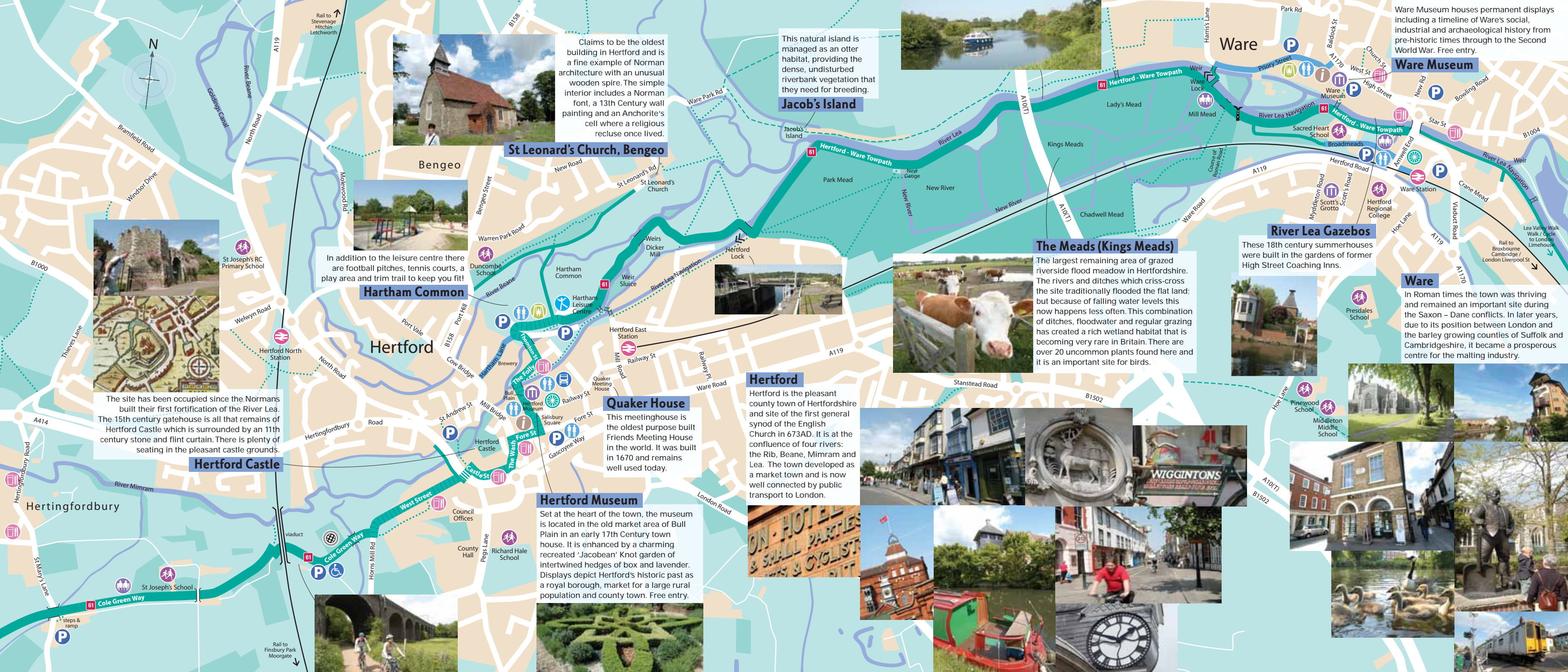
An old railway line, canal towpaths, open spaces and quiet roads create a green route from Welwyn Garden City to Ware via Hertford. It also forms part of Route 61 of the National Cycle Network.

The Cole Green Way proper runs from the outskirts of Welwyn Garden City at the Black Fan Road / Cole Green Lane junction to West Street in Hertford. This rural section follows a former railway and is suitable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This part of the route is also accessible for disabled visitors at various points. Motorised scooter wheelchairs are probably the best option due to the nature of the surfacing. There are links at both ends that take walkers and cyclists into Welwyn and Hertford town centres. The link through Hertford joins the towpath along the River Lea, taking you to Ware and beyond. It is signposted through the town centre.

Enjoy this route for a leisurely walk or ride alongside waterways and rural tracks. It links three Hertfordshire towns with some great countryside. You could even take a circular diversion to explore local villages near the path.

Why not use the path for a journey to work? With traffic congestion particularly heavy between Hertford and Ware, make the journey to work an enjoyable experience by cycling along side the river.





St Leonard's Church, Bengoe
Claims to be the oldest building in Hertford and is a fine example of Norman architecture with an unusual wooden spire. The simple interior includes a Norman font, a 13th Century wall painting and an Anchorite's cell where a religious recluse once lived.

Jacob's Island
This natural island is managed as an otter habitat, providing the dense, undisturbed riverbank vegetation that they need for breeding.



Hartham Common
In addition to the leisure centre there are football pitches, tennis courts, a play area and trim trail to keep you fit!



The Meads (Kings Meads)
The largest remaining area of grazed riverside flood meadow in Hertfordshire. The rivers and ditches which criss-cross the site traditionally flooded the flat land; but because of falling water levels this now happens less often. This combination of ditches, floodwater and regular grazing has created a rich wetland habitat that is becoming very rare in Britain. There are over 20 uncommon plants found here and it is an important site for birds.



River Lea Gazebos
These 18th century summerhouses were built in the gardens of former High Street Coaching Inns.

Ware
In Roman times the town was thriving and remained an important site during the Saxon - Dane conflicts. In later years, due to its position between London and the barley growing counties of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, it became a prosperous centre for the malting industry.

Hertford

Hertford is the pleasant county town of Hertfordshire and site of the first general synod of the English Church in 673AD. It is at the confluence of four rivers: the Rib, Beane, Mimram and Lea. The town developed as a market town and is now well connected by public transport to London.



Quaker House

This meetinghouse is the oldest purpose built Friends Meeting House in the world. It was built in 1670 and remains well used today.

Hertford Museum

Set at the heart of the town, the museum is located in the old market area of Bull Plain in an early 17th Century town house. It is enhanced by a charming recreated 'Jacobean' Knot garden of intertwined hedges of box and lavender. Displays depict Hertford's historic past as a royal borough, market for a large rural population and county town. Free entry.



Hertford Castle

The site has been occupied since the Normans built their first fortification of the River Lea. The 15th century gatehouse is all that remains of Hertford Castle which is surrounded by an 11th century stone and flint curtain. There is plenty of seating in the pleasant castle grounds.



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- Attractions**
Stanborough Lakes, www.finesseleisure.com
Tel. 01707 327655
Hertford Castle, www.hertford.gov.uk
Tel. 01992 552885 (Events)
Hertford Museum, www.hertfordmuseum.org
Tel. 01992 582686
Ware Museum, www.waremuseum.org.uk
Tel. 01920 487848
Scotts Grotto (limited opening), www.scotts-grotto.org

- Walking & Cycling**
Hertfordshire County Council, www.hertsdirect.org/libtleisure & click on 'Enjoying the Countryside'
Tel. 01992 555262
Welwyn Hatfield Council, www.welhat.gov.uk/pedalpoint, (includes info on both walking & cycling)
Tel. 01707 357551. Free leaflets available on Great North Way, Ayot Greenway and Alban Way
East Herts Council, www.eastherts.gov.uk
Tel. 01279 655261



Enjoy! Hertfordshire

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www.welhat.gov.uk/pedalpoint

- all cycling issues in the Welwyn Hatfield area
- route maps
- maintenance issues
- information



10 mile quiet route between Welwyn Garden City, Hertford & Ware

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