

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

Sanders Sidings

Camp Road

The Camp

Highfield Park

Hill End Lane

Smallford Pit

Smallford

Smallford Pit

Smallford Pit

Smallford Pit

Smallford Pit

Fleetville

Hill End

Smallford

walking & cycling The Alban Way



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



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
Roe Green Lane
Cavendish Way

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

Blackberry Arch

Ellenbrook
Wilkin's Green Lane
Ellenbrook Lane Station old platform
A414

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.

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
Hatfield Station
Entrance

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

Old Hatfield
Hatfield House
Entrance

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.

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.

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 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
Email: 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

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

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

Hatfield House - Tel: 01727 287010
www.hatfield-house.co.uk

Museum of St Albans - Tel: 01727 819340
www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Verulamium Museum - Tel: 01727 751810
www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Sustrans - Tel: 0117 929 0888
www.sustrans.org.uk

Groundwork Hertfordshire - Tel: 01707 260129
www.groundwork.org.uk/hertfordshire



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



Map / photography / leaflet design by Stephen Wragg: Wragg Art House & St Albans Cycle Campaign member: www.wah.co.uk
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Map text by Jane Dudman.
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