



# The Hundred Parishes

## Quiet Lane Walks – number 304

### The Hallingburys: lanes and Little Hallingbury village– 4.0 miles (6 kms)

This walk is half in Little Hallingbury parish and half in Great Hallingbury parish. Most of the route is along quiet lanes although the final half mile is on pavement beside the A1060.

The route description starts and finishes at the car park beside the A1060, just south of Little Hallingbury parish church and opposite the post office.

There may be an opportunity for refreshment near the finish at the George Inn (01279 653900), but please check opening times before relying on it. Further refreshment opportunities can be found in Hatfield Heath, about 2 miles southeast on the A1060.

**Start and finish:** The route starts and finishes at the car park opposite Little Hallingbury village hall and post office, just south of the parish church. The car park is on the East side of the A1060. (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL503173 - opposite Postcode: CM22 7RD). Alternatively, you may join this circular walk anywhere along the route.

The route can be followed on Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 183 and 194.  
A diagram of the route is provided at the end of the description.

This route is entirely on pavement or quiet lanes, but please follow the usual safety precautions: keep to the right so as to face oncoming traffic, crossing occasionally to the left if this offers a clearer view around a right-hand bend. Drivers may be as surprised to see you as you are to see them!

Leave the car park by the gate into the cemetery. Pass through this unusual, neatly-regimented private cemetery. This is the burial ground of former residents of a London almshouse called Suttons Hospital in Charterhouse. The almshouse residents are all single men and are referred to as Brothers. The burial ground was once owned by Thomas Sutton, a very wealthy civil servant and businessman who founded Charterhouse almshouse and also Charterhouse School around 1611 AD. He owned substantial property locally including the manor of Little Hallingbury.

Pass through the lychgate into the churchyard and turn right to the church.

The church dates from the 12th century and is largely built of flint. The 14th-century porch leads to a Norman doorway constructed of Roman bricks. You are encouraged to visit the church, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin.

On leaving the church, turn right from the porch and right again to exit onto the lane. With care, cross the lane and turn right along the pavement.

Opposite the church, on the left, are Malting Farm and then The Old Brick Malting, each dating from the 16th century. Behind them, the large thatched barn was erected in the 17th.

A little further along, on the right, we pass the entrance to Little Hallingbury Place, built in the 18th century as the rectory.

On the left, the large weatherboarded barn set back in the field dates from the 17th century or earlier and is part of Monksbury Farm.

The lane turns right and we soon reach Goose Lane where we turn left. Our route continues along Goose Lane for about 2 miles until it eventually reaches a road junction.

For a while, we pass mainly late-20th-century residential properties on our right, including Sutton Acres, named after Thomas Sutton. This area is Wrights Green, a hamlet of Little Hallingbury.

To our left, we can see the M11 motorway, constructed in the 1970s.

We come to a junction with a narrow lane on our right, not signposted by with advice that it is unsuitable for heavy vehicles. Our route goes straight ahead, but if you wish to venture about 50 yards down the lane you will see Romans, a 16th-century home that is named after a Roman settlement that was once nearby. Return to Goose Lane and turn right, continuing in an easterly direction.

The lane widens temporarily as it crosses over the M11 – to our right, the motorway heads towards London; to our left, Cambridge.

Our lane reverts to its narrow origins and continues ahead; for a while it defines the parish boundary, with Little Hallingbury on the right and Great Hallingbury on the left.

About half a mile beyond the motorway, a road sign gives warning as we approach a cattle grid – take care as you cross it or, better still, use the gate to pass beside it on the right. The purpose of the grid is to prevent cattle straying beyond the extensive green that lies just ahead.

Our lane, still Goose Lane, turns left. By the time we have turned the corner we have left Little Hallingbury and are now in Great Hallingbury parish.

For the next mile we will pass through the Great Hallingbury hamlet of Woodside Green - beside a scattering of farms and residences on our left, some old and some new. To the right is a long green, beyond which is Monk's Wood. The green is owned by the National Trust.

We soon pass a row of workmen's cottages, numbers 71 to 75, dating from early 19th century.

Most of the older houses that follow are listed, dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

The tiny The Old Pump House, next to number 82, dates from early 19th century.

Over to the right, isolated Woodfold dates from the 16th or 17th century.

Back to properties on the left, and Woodside Green Farmhouse with its tall red-brick chimney stacks was also built mostly in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Just afterwards, we pass a single large oak tree on the right.

A little before we reach the next large tree on the right, and shortly before the lane bends left, we pass Chestnut Corner, set back on the left. This 18th-century cottage has a circular plaque above two dormer windows: the left one says "AH" and the right "1726". AH refers to Arthur Houblon, a member of the family that owned Hatfield Forest from 1729 until 1923. Then, the forest was purchased by Edward North Buxton who left it to the National Trust after his death in 1924. Buxton was a member of a wealthy brewing family and a keen conservationist. He had also played a major part in the preservation of Epping Forest and Hainault Forest in southwest Essex.

Now, as the lane turns sharp left, we pass beneath two large trees on the right: an oak and then a horse chestnut

The green on our right has gradually become wider and the woodland beyond is now Wall Wood. This wood is part of National Trust's Hatfield Forest property, as is the green.

Just before the lane turns right, on the left we pass houses numbered 94 and 95 from the 17th or 18th centuries. Just afterwards, set slightly further back, is 16th-century The Glass House. Closer inspection reveals that the rectangular areas of plaster have been decorated with broken bottles.

The lane turns right and we ignore the drives leading to properties on our left. First comes 17th-century Old Forge and then Cobbs Farmhouse (with two dormer windows in the roof). The latter started life in the 15th century as a hall house.

Goose Lane (yes we are still on it) reaches a junction, opposite a notice board, and we turn left onto Howe Green Road. Almost immediately, we cross over (or skirt around) a second cattle grid, denoting the end of the extensive area where cattle sometimes graze.

This lane may have slightly more traffic than we have seen so far, so we should keep to the right to face oncoming drivers.

We pass a range of houses on our left before coming to Park Gate House with steps leading up to its central doorway; it dates from the 16th century.

Almost opposite, a gateway on the right for Morleys displays a coat of arms with the motto "Plaisir en faits d'arte" which seems to translate as something like "pleasure in art". If you can improve on this – or perhaps identify whose coat of arms this is – please use the Feedback option on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). Beyond the gateway is a drive that leads towards a house called Morleys and thence through Hallingbury Park to the site of Hallingbury Place, a very grand house that was demolished in 1923. It had been the home of the Houblon family for three centuries, having been built in the 16th century by the Morley family who were here for about 300 years, having arrived in the 14th century.

We continue along the lane for another 200 yards to a grass triangle where we turn left, signposted towards Little Hallingbury and Spellbrook. This is another narrow, winding lane, New Barn Lane.

Now, over to the left we can see traffic speeding along the M11. In about a quarter of a mile, our lane widens temporarily as it crosses over the motorway.

After a while, we pass a few houses on our right and imperceptibly pass from Great Hallingbury parish back into Little Hallingbury.

We pass a Japanese-style garden on our right as we come into Little Hallingbury village.

On reaching the main road, the A1060, our route turns left, heading southeast towards Hatfield Heath. Less than 100 yards to the right is the George Inn, but in 2024 its opening times were not reliable. If you do venture to the pub, on leaving turn left to resume the route towards Hatfield Heath and soon crossing New Barn Lane.

Having turned left from New Barn Lane, the final half mile of our route is along this relatively busy road but there is a pavement on each side. The properties along the main road are relatively modern, so we will comment on only a few.

The road dips and then rises. Near the top of the gentle climb, we pass The Dairy Farm on the right; the house dates from the 17th century and the pargetting was added to its plaster exterior in the 20th century.

We pass a junction on the right, signposted to Gaston Green, another hamlet of Little Hallingbury parish. We stay on the main road and soon come to a primary school on the left.

Immediately afterwards, with care, cross the road junction and continue ahead beside the small triangular green. You may wish to make a short diversion to inspect the war memorial on the green.

Amongst the local names on the memorial is that of G.H. Tatham Paton, VC. This First World War hero, awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery, was not a local man; unusually, his name appears on several war memorials around the country. He was the son of the managing director of Bryant & May, the match manufacturers. He somehow managed to get his son's name engraved on many memorials where there was some connection with Bryant & May although the connection here is not known.

Continue along the main road and soon, with care, cross the other arm of the road junction.

In just a few more yards, we come to the entrance on the left to the car park where we started this walk.

This route description, last updated 20 April 2024, was downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) There, you can read more about the parishes of Little and Great Hallingbury and also find many additional walk routes.

Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com).



A diagram of this route, based on the Ordnance Survey map, is shown below. It is published under © Crown copyright 2020 OS 100062498.

