



The Hundred Parishes

Quiet Lane Walks – number 308

High Wych parish including Allen's Green – 2.7 miles (4 kms)

This circular walk is fairly flat and is entirely within the parish of High Wych. Although not far from Sawbridgeworth, there are few houses along the route; we will mention a few that have been listed for their architectural or historic significance.

The route description starts and finishes in Allen's Green, at the telephone kiosk just south of the Green Man pub. Other than the pub, which has limited opening hours, there is no opportunity to buy refreshment along the route.

You can, of course, join this circular route anywhere along the way.

Start and finish: The route starts and finishes at Allen's Green. It may be possible to park close to the telephone kiosk – but please be considerate to the owners of the house opposite. (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL455169 - Postcode: CM21 0LS – what3words: cups.narrow.narrow).

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

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!

From the telephone kiosk (nowadays used as an unofficial library and book-swap), we head south with the green on our right.

We soon pass the village pump, made from cast iron in the 19th century.

At the end of the green, we follow the road round to the left, ignoring Slough Road and the village hall to the right. On the corner to our left, the private house served as a mission church for many years. It was built with a timber-framed nave in 1863, designed by architect George Edward Pritchett who lived in Bishop's Stortford – he also designed High Wych parish church. The private property retains the bell in a shingled bell turret.

Just after the bend, on the right, Hoppetts is distinctive with its blue weatherboarding and thatched roof; it dates from the 17th century or earlier.

We pass more-modern houses on the left before leaving Allen's Green hamlet.

We pass a footpath sign on the right, pointing towards Chandler's Lane.

About a quarter of a mile after the last house, our lane bears left, just as Chandlers Lane (a gravelled restricted byway) joins us from the right.

After another 200 yards, before the road bends right, we should cross to the left side of the road. At the bend, our route turns left onto a narrow lane. It is not signposted except to declare that it is unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles.

We follow the lane for nearly half a mile until it passes Tharbies Farmhouse – with red tiled roof - set back on the left. The house dates from the 17th century, possibly earlier.

We soon follow the lane round to the left, ignoring the entrance and footpath that go off to the right.

After about 100 yards, we should turn left. There is no signage at this junction of minor lanes. Our new lane is called Sweet Dew Lane and it really is minor. There are no buildings for more than half a mile, but it is well surfaced, albeit not always well drained.

After about 300 yards, we pass a signpost for footpath 25 that goes off to the left towards Rook End.

In another 300 yards, we pass a small brick building with concrete slab roof in the hedgerow on the right. It would be tempting to think it is a pillbox from World War II, but it seems insufficiently robust, especially as it appears not to be listed by the Pillbox Study Group.

Soon afterwards, another footpath, number 24, goes left, signposted to Beanfield Road.

A little further along, Public Footpath 21 crosses our lane.

We soon reach Sweet Dews Barn on the right. The building is listed as a large 16th-century aisled barn with seven bays, weather-boarded under steep corrugated iron roofs. It has been converted into residential accommodation and its pedigree is no longer apparent.

There is a fairly thick hedge on our right, but after a while there is a gap which allows us a view into the distance. To our right, less than a quarter of a mile away, is what was RAF Sawbridgeworth during World War II. The land has since returned to agricultural use. In the far distance, we may be able to see the tower and spire of Thorley parish church, about 2 miles away.

In another quarter of a mile, our very quiet lane reaches a crossroads. There is no signage in any direction, except to advise that the lane straight ahead is a no-through road.

We turn left and cross to walk on the right of this somewhat busier lane. This is Allen's Green, a hamlet within the parish of High Wych.

We pass several houses before reaching two on our right that are thatched. The first is Ivy Cottage. The second is Rose Cottage which dates from the 16th century or earlier.

100 yards further on, we pass the Queens Head pub, set back on the left. This was a beer house 150 years ago and has served this small community ever since. Around 2000 AD, the building was divided into two houses and a small pub on the right. Its opening hours are limited – evenings only apart from weekends when it opens from midday.

Soon afterwards, we reach the telephone kiosk where we started this walk.

This route description, last updated 23 February 2026, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk There, you can read more about the parish of High Wych and also find many additional walk routes.

Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to 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.

