

Notes regarding RoW Numbers

All rights of way (RoW) have a number allocated to them and this number is unique within each parish. As the map covers more than one parish, each RoW number on this map is preceded by a letter representing the name of the parish as follows:

A - Aspenden	C - Cottered
An - Anstey	H - Horstead
B - Buntingford	S - Sandon
BC - Buckland & Chipping	W - Wyddial

Thus a right of way crossing a parish boundary has a different number on either side of the boundary. An example on the map is B8/H15.

Newer style finger posts by the roadside sometimes show the number of the right of way to which they refer. In such cases, the number is shown without the parish letter used on this map.

Rights of way are indicated by sign posts (finger posts) on the roadside and by waymarks along their route. The waymarks (example below) indicate the type of route by coloured arrows.

Public Footpaths, indicated by yellow arrows, are for pedestrian use only.

Bridleways, indicated by blue arrows, can be used by pedestrians and horse riders.

Restricted Byways, indicated by dark plum arrows, can be used by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.

Byways open to all Traffic (BOAT), indicated by red arrows, can be used by pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles.

Local Wildlife

Much of the area covered by this map is an open arable landscape. As elsewhere, recent arable farming practices have resulted in a reduction in the amount and variety of wildlife to be seen. However, it is to be hoped that recent schemes introduced by Government to encourage more hedges and verges will see a return to wildlife levels of some decades ago.



Fox

Mammals: Those that may be seen when walking the area include Fallow Deer (the result of escapees from old parkland), Fox, Badger, Muntjac (Chinese Water Deer), Stoat,



Muntjac

Weasel, Field Vole, Hare and Rabbit. Mole hills are not uncommon.

Birds: Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Robin and Dunnock may be seen in or near the few more substantial hedgerows.



Yellowhammer

Yellowhammers can be seen from time to time near the hedges, most frequently in the area to the east of Buntingford. On this plateau there are a few Little Owls. Tawny Owls and, less often, Barn Owls may be heard calling at Dusk.



Kestrel

Skylarks are now fewer but can still be seen and heard above open fields. There are a few Green Woodpeckers and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. In common with all these birds, Crows, Rooks, Jackdaws, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks are present all year round.



Goldfinch

Swallows, House-Martins and Swifts can be seen in the summer months. Cuckoos are now extremely rare in the area. In winter, Fieldfare and Redwing might be spotted in grazed fields (e.g from footpaths A1 and A10) or searching for berries in the hedges near and to the east of Layston Church.



Cowslip

Flora: Plant distribution varies from year to year according to weather conditions and land usage. On verges and the banks of some ditches, Primroses and Cowslips may be seen. Orchids, though rare, have been found.



Hare



Mallow

Wooded areas produce Bluebells in spring. Field Scabious, Cornflower, Toadflax and Poppy are all there, but somewhat scattered. Wild Pansies (Heartsease) and Violets may occasionally be found. St. John's Wort and various colours of Campion can be seen and there will certainly be Crane's Bill and Mallow on untreated land. Clover, Trefoils and Vetches



Wild or Dog Rose

have become scarce but will probably re-colonise land left undisturbed. Where old hedges remain, Wild Roses and Bryony cheer the walker.



Orange Tip on Honesty

Speckled Wood



Butterflies: With limited woodland in the area and little in the way of unimproved grassland, hedges and road verges often provide the only places for breeding and feeding. It is in such areas that one might see Brimstone, Orange Tip, Green Veined White, Holly Blue, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper and Speckled Wood. Large and Small Whites are seen almost anywhere but their numbers do fluctuate widely. Red Admirals are more likely to be seen in town gardens.



Brimstone

Some Suggestions for Circular Walks

Introduction: These walks have been chosen to provide variety in interest and scenery. An indication of walk length is given in each case. Each walk is described by reference to the footpath numbers on the map.

Walk 1 Buntingford - Alswick - Hare Street - Layston - Buntingford (Approximately 4miles/6.5Km)

At the lower (Co-op) end of Hare Street Road, take footpath B21 for a short distance to the recreational area. Pass through this and on through the wildlife area, turning left at the top to come out onto Hare Street Road again. Where this path meets the road, turn sharp right onto footpath B15. Follow this across the fields to the footbridge across Haley Hill ditch. The footpath, now B16, bears off to the left then curves right to reach the crossing bridleway B24 just before Alswick Hall.

Alswick was a parish itself in medieval times and its chapel stood to the south east of Alswick Hall. The Hall is now a working farmhouse; parts of the building date back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However, the house was largely rebuilt in the 1950s after a disastrous fire.

Turn right along B24 for some 120yds/110m. At this point turn left along the permissive path. This path becomes B18 at the edge of Alswick Hall Wood. Continue along it until, after about half a mile and now numbered H14, it descends down Swan Lane into Hare Street village.

On reaching the road, turn left, cross the road to Buntingford and pass the Beehive pub - a possible refreshment stop. About 180 yds further on take bridleway H15 on the left. Follow this up the rise and through an area bordered by trees, across the parish boundary (H15 becomes B8 here) and more or less straight on to reach the top of The Causeway at Layston, some 1.5 miles after leaving the road at Hare Street.

Walk 2

Buntingford - Layston - Beauchamps - Wyddial - Layston - Buntingford (Approximately 5miles/8km)

From the centre of Buntingford, go down Church St. and up The Causeway to Layston. Go straight on along bridleway B4 down to the drainage ditch and follow this to the left. Turn right along B10 and then left on to W11. You are now in the parish of Wyddial. About 300 yds after passing Beauchamps Wood, turn left onto W12. Beauchamps is reached after some 700 yds.

Beauchamps, now a private house, was built as a farmhouse circa 1653. The front was cased in red brick, circa 1860, although the back still shows the original timber structure. It has tall red brick chimneys: three at each end of the house as originally built and the four in the middle stack rebuilt. A moat runs along three sides of the property.

Continue along the surfaced track (now W10) beyond Beauchamps for about 300yds and then turn left along footpath W14 for its full length. Turn left along Moles Lane, noting the interesting Moles Farmhouse. This lane leads to W9 and then B5. Follow B5 until it meets B4 and turn right here back to Layston Church.

Walk 3

Buntingford - Aspenden Church - Wakeley Lane (lower end) - Aspenden - Buntingford (Approximately 3miles/5km)

Take footpath B29 along The Folly off Baldock Road or join it where it crosses the upper part of Monks Walk. Follow it across the field and across the footbridge over the by-pass. At this point the path continues straight on as A1 down to Thistley Vale brook, over the footbridge and up to the back entrance of St Mary's churchyard. Follow the permissive path through the churchyard and turn left along the road for about 70 yds and then right along bridleway A3. Some 400 yds along, turn left and follow the footpath (still A3) across the field to the far corner. Here turn sharp left along footpath A8 which is enclosed in a very pleasant double avenue of trees. Good views are had of The Old Rectory and Aspenden House before reaching the lower end of Wakeley Lane (bridleway A6). Turn left here down to the road. Across the road and slightly to the right is the entrance to another tree covered footpath, A2. Follow this. Where it comes out into the open fields, it bears left and leads to the by-pass. Take care in crossing this road. Follow the footpath, now B26, to Luynes Rise and past the Seth Ward Community Centre into the centre of Buntingford by way of Chapel End.

The information given in this leaflet is believed to be correct as at June 2010

Discover the Countryside around



BUNTINGFORD 2010 Edition

A Map of Public Paths, Suggested Walks and Information about the Countryside around Buntingford

This leaflet has been produced to encourage the enjoyment of the Countryside through the use of the excellent path network around Buntingford. Three circular walks of different length are proposed; others can easily be devised using this map. The northern, eastern and western sides of the town are particularly well provided with public rights of way and permissive paths (some new) are also shown. Some public paths that are less useful, or which are within the built-up area, have been left out, as have tracks intended for farm and private use.

Acknowledgements

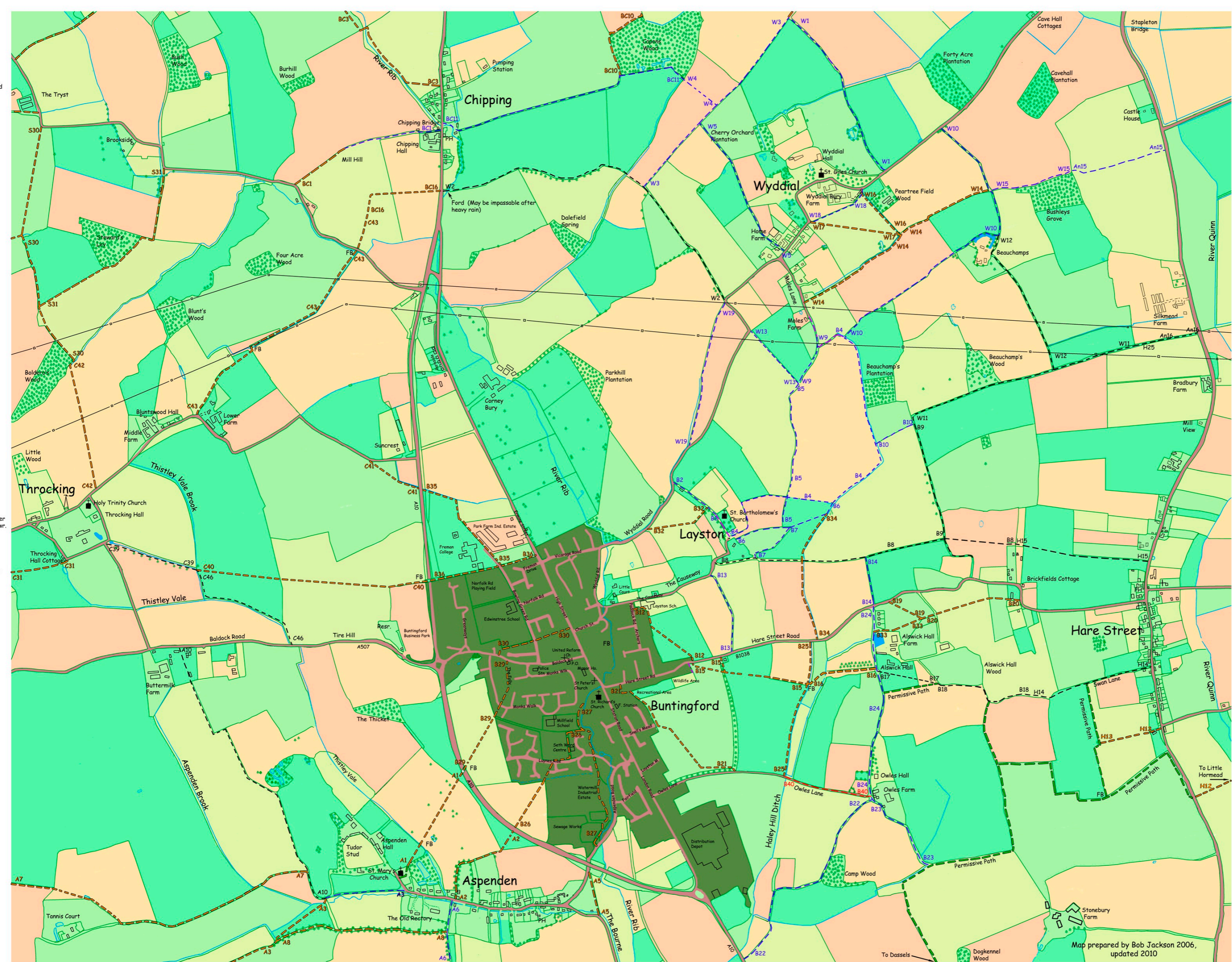
The Map has been provided by the Buntingford Parish Paths Partnership Team using grants from Buntingford Civic Society and from the Parish Paths Partnership which is administered by the Countryside Management Service under the direction of Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils.

The paintings of flora and fauna are by Jean Jury. Information has been supplied by Derek Meadows (Wildlife) and Philip Plumb (Beauchamps and Alswick)

Problems with Paths?



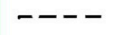
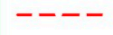





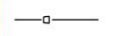







Please report any problems with paths to: HCC Rights of Way Office on 01992 555249 or to Countryside Management Service on 01462 459395 or northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk





Key to Map Symbols

(see also section on rights of way on reverse side)

-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)
-  Permissive Path (Can be subject to change)
-  Other Route with Public Access
-  Field Boundary (Hedge, Fence, Ditch)
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Electricity Transmission Line & Pylon
-  Pond, Moat
-  Wood
-  Tree
-  Buntingford Urban Area
-  Building
-  Church with Tower
-  Church, Chapel

Map Scale
1:11,300(approx.)

1" represents 0.178 mile (313yds)

1cm represents 0.113Km (113m)

1 mile represented by 5.63"

1Km represented by 8.85cm

Note:
1 mile = 1.61Km
1Km = .622miles

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Map prepared by Bob Jackson 2006, updated 2010