

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE COLNE VALLEY



Points of interest/history

1) Batchworth and Bury Lakes were dug in the 1920s for gravel that was partly used for the building of the old Wembley Stadium. The land is now part of Rickmansworth Aquadrome and managed for leisure and the environment. You can see a wide variety of water bird life including herons and great crested grebes.

2) What is now the Grand Union Canal was completed in 1805, linking London and the Midlands, and was vitally important to Britain's Industrial Revolution. There is an interesting canal centre at nearby Batchworth Lock.

3) The church of St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth, is of medieval foundation but, except for the tower, the early building was rebuilt in 1825. In turn, this was pulled down but retaining the aisle walls with their Gothic Revival windows and rebuilt in its present form in 1889 to the design of Sir Arthur Blomfield.

4) There are a number of interesting older buildings in Rickmansworth. The town dates back a thousand years. The three rivers, the Colne, Chess and Gade, provided water for the watercress trade and power for corn milling, silk weaving, paper making and brewing, all long gone. The coming of the railway in Victorian times encouraged residential development.

HELP US CAPTURE THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Take your photo of a place in the Colne Valley Park and upload it to our collection at:
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/landscapecamera



Explore the **Colne Valley Park** Countryside on your doorstep

CIRCULAR WALK 7: RICKMANSWORTH

1½ MILES

Round lakes, over rivers, along the canal and beside a stream.

Access: Good paths, level walking, no stiles. Public toilets in Rickmansworth town centre and at the Aquadrome.

Refreshments: Several pubs and cafes in Rickmansworth. Café at the Aquadrome.

Public transport: Trains from London, Amersham and Aylesbury. Several buses stop at the station.

By road: From junction 17 of the M25, head towards Rickmansworth on the A412 and follow signs for Rickmansworth town centre. The High Street West car park is situated between Marks & Spencer and the Fox & Hounds PH. It provides 2 hours free parking Mon-Sat 0830-1830, and unrestricted parking outside these times. There are other free car parks in the centre of Rickmansworth, or at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

Postcode: WD3 1BB

OS Grid Ref: TQ 057 944

Latitude: +51.638833, **Longitude:** -0.473329


Heathrow Community Fund






For points of interest/history, turn over when you see this



1) At the exit from High Street West car park, turn left past Marks & Spencer along High Street, then left into Wensum Way which bears right to a large roundabout. Turn left, cross Riverside Drive on the zebra crossing and turn left.

2) After the play area, turn right through a gate and cross the River Colne. At Batchworth Lake turn right and follow the path around the lake for ½ mile keeping the shoreline on the left. You will glimpse Bury Lake on your right.  (1)

3) Just before the river is reached, at a T-junction by an Aquadrome information board, turn right then left onto the towpath of the Grand Union Canal at Frogmoor Wharf.  (2) Cross a waterway connecting the canal to the River Colne then cross the Colne itself on a new footbridge/ramp. Walk down the ramp (not the steps) and keep ahead to Riverside Drive, a busy road. Cross this using the pedestrian crossing on your right.

4) Turn right on the pavement towards a roundabout, cross a bridge over a stream, then immediately turn left onto a path beside the stream which is a small tributary of the River Colne. After 200 yards, walk through a gap in the wall on your right into the churchyard. Turn left to Church Road.  (3) Turn left following Church Road past The Feathers PH, turning left when you reach the High Street.  (4) Continue until you reach High Street West car park on your left.

