

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE COLNE VALLEY



### Points of interest/history

1) Little Britain lake was formed by commercial gravel digging in the 1930s, and is so-called because of the likeness of its shape to the coastline of Britain. There is always interesting water bird life here, including great crested grebes, tufted ducks and nesting herons.

2) The Slough Arm was built in 1882 to carry bricks from the local brick fields into London and was one of the last canals to be built in Britain. Notice the granite Coal Tax post. These were erected in Victorian times to mark the boundary of the area around London within which taxes on coal and other products were due. Over 200 posts survive, most of which are protected Grade II structures.

3) The Frays River is fed by the River Colne at a weir north of Denham Lock. It runs parallel to the Colne for around four miles before rejoining it south of West Drayton. By 1641 the Frays River powered at least five mills. John Fray was Baron Lord Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1400s. He had much experience of rivers and mills around London and had a financial interest in Cowley Hall - a property which adjoins the Frays River.

4) 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.

5) The banks are filled with typical Colne Valley vegetation such as bulrushes, purple and orange balsam, blackthorn, willows and alder trees.

6) Huntsmoor Park house was an 18th century mansion, sadly demolished in 1946. The woodlands around it are filled with snowdrops in February. At the weir, kingfishers and grey wagtails are often seen.



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

### **CIRCULAR WALK 17: RIVER COLNE**

**4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> MILES**

**A wonderful alternative to the busy A40 between Uxbridge and West Drayton.**

**Access:** Generally flat and even ground. Some kissing gates. Some small sets of steps.

**Refreshments:** Many pubs, cafes and shops in Uxbridge, Cowley and West Drayton.

**Public transport:** Uxbridge and West Drayton have tube/train stations and many bus stops. Buses also stop along the main A408 road through Cowley.

**By road:** Little Britain car park is at the end of Packet Boat Lane off the main A408 road between Uxbridge and West Drayton.

**Postcode:** UB8 2JR

**OS Grid Ref:** TQ 048 811

**Latitude:** + 51.518584, **Longitude:** - 0.491141

### 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](http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/landscapecamera)



Heathrow Community Fund



