



Points of interest/history

A) Heronsgate is the site of an experimental settlement, O'Connorsville. Built by Chartist leader MP Fergus O'Connor, it intended to help worthy but poor families of northern England resettle on smallholdings, making them independent of factory employers and potentially qualify for the vote. A nearby beer house was renamed the Land of Liberty, Peace, and Plenty. The settlement opened in 1847, but original aims were soon lost and the experiment seen as a failure. The entrance, via Stockport Road off Long Lane, is worth visiting to get a flavour - road names, layout and some of the original buildings remain, though most are now large, exclusive homes.

B) This path is part of Old Shire Lane which runs along the ancient boundary between Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire - at least 11th century in origin. To your right is Newland Park, an estate dating back to 1208. The manor house was rebuilt in 1770 and from 1910 to 1921 was a refuge for suffragettes. Emmeline Pankhurst, Bernard Shaw, Sidney and Beatrice Webb and H G Wells were frequent visitors. In the 1940s Newland Park turned from a private residence into a College of Further Education, then part of High Wycombe College. In the 1990s it became Buckinghamshire New University. When the university moved to High Wycombe, the campus was vacant until Academy Residences took over in 2013. The Chiltern Open Air Museum has occupied part of the site for many years.

C) Watch out for farmed ostriches in the field to the left.

D) This beautiful old Chiltern woodland is carpeted with bluebells in spring.



HERONSGATE

CIRCULAR
WALK
1

2¾ miles

A peaceful country walk away from roads, through farmland and woods



Access:

Some stiles & small hills. Some muddy paths in wet weather.



Refreshments:

Two pubs, The Stag (A) and The Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty (B)



Public Transport:

336 bus High Wycombe to Watford stops at Chorleywood station and R2 bus Chorleywood to Rickmansworth stops in Stag Road and Long Lane.



By Road:

Junction 17 of the M25 then Long Lane (signed Heronsgate), or local roads from Chorleywood/ Chalfont Common.

Parking: There is usually on-street car parking in Heronsgate.



Postcode: WD3 5BT

OS Grid Ref: TQ 021 951


Latitude: +51.6453, **Longitude:** -0.5264

What3Words: duty.pump.mutual




Explore the
Colne Valley Park
Countryside on your doorstep



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

1)  (A) From Long Lane/Heronsgate Road take the public footpath running alongside The Stag (signposted to Bullisland Farm). Immediately after passing allotments, go through a kissing gate on your right. Cross the corner of the field to a stile.

2) After the stile, cross the track to a kissing gate and walk ahead downhill towards Bullisland Farm. After crossing another track, before reaching the gate ahead of you at the bottom of the hill, take the left fork in the path and walk diagonally across the field to a kissing gate. Follow the path through two more kissing gates until you reach Bullisland Lane. Turn left into the hedge-lined lane. Follow it downhill, and then bear right until you reach a path junction.

3) Turn left, go under the power lines and carry on up a slight incline.  (B) At the top of the incline turn left through a metal kissing gate. Keeping to the left-hand side of the field continue through two kissing gates either side of a driveway.  (C) After walking under the power lines, look out for a metal kissing gate when you reach Bottom Wood on your left.  (D) Enter the wood via the gate and follow the path over a crossing track and bearing slightly left downhill. Continue ahead to reach the other side of the wood at a stile.

4) On leaving the wood, walk straight up the field to the far hedge and then turn left. Follow the path for just under 1 mile keeping the hedge on the right with good views to your left. After the last kissing gate cross the next stile on your right and walk beside the allotments back to Heronsgate Road.

