

Exploring the Colne Valley from Harefield



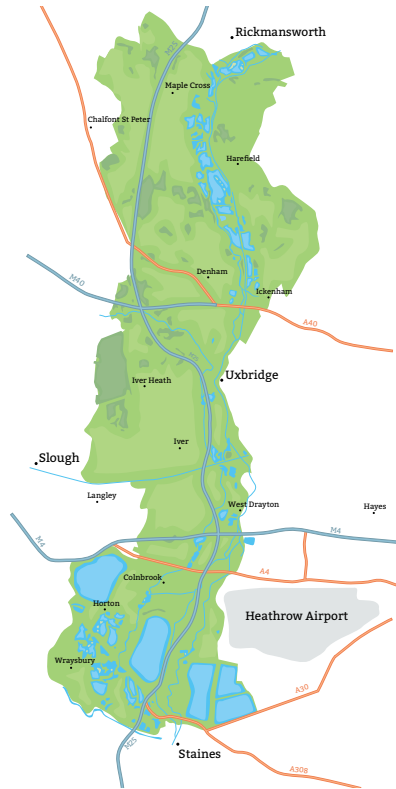
The Colne Valley Regional Park

The Colne Valley Regional Park covers 43 square miles and is the first taste of countryside west of London. With a mosaic of habitats interspersed with bustling urban centres, this Regional Park has a unique and beautiful character. Harefield lies in the North of the valley and is one of our most historic villages with a deep connection to New Zealand and Australia. This makes it an interesting location that is an ideal base to explore the local countryside from.

Coppermill Down SSSI



The view over Coppermill Down is one of the best in the Colne Valley. From the top you can see the chalk grasslands Coppermill Down alive with wildflowers, along with the Grand Union canal and some of the Colne Valley's most picturesque lakes in the background. Coppermill Down is a fantastic home for insects with large numbers of damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies calling it home.



Routes into the countryside

There are many ways to access the countryside from Harefield. A few key routes are shown on the below map:

- **Orange route:** Turning off park lane, you can climb the stile and follow the orange route to the canal and Black Jack's Lock. This route allows you to explore the scenery and views of Coppermill Down.
- **Red route:** The red route follows the route of the Hillingdon Trail. Start at the track to the church and follow the Hillingdon Trail signs north and then east to eventually reach Ruislip.
- **Yellow route:** The yellow route is an alternative way of joining the Hillingdon Trail. Leave Harvil Road by the bus stop and St Mary's information board and either follow the vehicle track or cut through the beautiful meadow to reach the Hillingdon Trail.
- **Black route:** You can take a pathway just off Church hill, opposite the road that takes you to St Marys church. This takes you to the canal via beautiful views of Coppermill Down and the surrounding Lakes.



Local Wildlife

Coppermill Down is full of wildflowers that provide an excellent habitat for a variety of insects including butterflies, like the meadow brown and damselflies, like the banded demoiselle. The meadows are a great place to see summer visiting warblers like chiffchaffs and whitethroats. Whilst the woodlands in South Harefield by St Mary's church provide a home for woodpeckers, finches and even sparrowhawks. Muntjac deer may also be spotted in this area, whilst continuing east to the meadows in Ruislip will give you a chance to see short-eared owls in the winter.



Getting About



The walks are accessible via train by getting the train to Northwood Station on the Metropolitan line. Then getting the 331 bus to The Green Harefield. You can also access the area by getting a Chiltern Railways train to Rickmansworth, then getting the R1 bus to The Green Harefield.



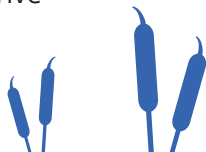
Both the 331 and U9 buses run to and from Harefield town centre and pass the entrances to St Mary's Church on Harvil Road. The R1, R2 and U9 buses also pass through Harefield town centre.



The four main roads that enter Harefield town centre are Harvil Road, Breakspere Road North, Park Lane and Rickmansworth Road. The closest junction of the M25 is junction 17.

Contact Us

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