

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE COLNE VALLEY



### Points of interest/history

(A) *Black Jack's Mill is a Victorian property built in 1840 between the River Colne and the canal. The mill's presence is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It has been used as a television location for many programmes including Dr Who and Midsomer Murders. It is believed to have acquired its name after a worker who delivered flour in the 19th century mistreated his donkey so much that the locals called him "Black tempered Jack".*

(B) *In about 1580 Lady Alice Spencer, Dowager Countess of Derby, married her second husband, Sir Thomas Egerton, the Keeper of the Great Seal of England, and lived as the Lady of the Manor in Harefield from 1599 until her death in 1637. In her will Lady Alice established the Countess of Derby's Almshouses Charity. This provided the "hospital" or Almshouses which still exist for "six poor women of good character of the Parish".*

(C) *The Anzac War Graves are in the graveyard of St Mary's Parish Church which is Harefield's oldest building, dating from medieval times with alterations in the 1700s and 1800s. The church cemetery contains the graves of over 100 soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Force and one nursing sister, most of whom who died at the nearby Australian Military Harefield Park Hospital (now Harefield Hospital) after being wounded in World War I. Each year on Anzac Day a commemoration service is attended by local dignitaries, representatives from the Australian and New Zealand governments, local school children and many retired servicemen.*



## SOUTH HAREFIELD

3¾ miles  
short route 2¾ miles

CIRCULAR WALK  
11

A walk along beautiful stretches of the Grand Union Canal and through farmland, with some of the best views in the Colne Valley



**Access:** Many steep slopes and muddy paths in winter.



**Refreshments:** The Kings Arms (A) The Old Orchard (B), Jack's Mill Café at Black Jack's Lock (C) and The River Garden (D). Also several pubs and cafés in Harefield village.



**Public Transport:** 331 bus from Uxbridge to Ruislip stops on Moorhall Road at the start of the walk.



**By Road:** From J17 of the M25, head south towards Denham on the A412, and then turn left on Moorfield Road to South Harefield **OR** from Denham head north on the A412, turning right on Moorfield Road to South Harefield. There is generally adequate unrestricted on-street parking in Moorhall Road.



**Postcode:** UB9 6PE (approx.) **OS Grid Ref:** TQ 049 886


**Latitude:** +51.5868, **Longitude:** -0.4870



**What3Words:** escape.onion.smooth

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



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

**1)** Starting from The River Garden pub, carefully cross Moorhall Road, turn right and just before the canal go down the steps. Turn right to the Grand Union Canal towpath at Widewater Lock. Turn left on the towpath with the canal on your right and walk for about 1 mile with Broadwater Lake to your left until Black Jack's Lock is reached. Cross the canal via the bridge.  (A)

**2)** At the T-junction turn right. As the road bends to the left, continue ahead over a stile into a field. Walk uphill half-left, crossing another stile and continuing uphill. Follow this path until you reach an out-of-use metal gate and stile. Here, turn right following the Hillingdon Trail downhill. Cross Dovedale Close and continue straight ahead between the houses to reach Church Hill. Turn right, walking along the pavement and crossing the road at a traffic island near two bus stops. Continue downhill using the path to the rear of the Countess of Derby's Almshouses.  (B) When the road bends to the right, turn left down a side road signposted "Anzac War Graves" as far as St Mary's church.  (C)

**Shortcut: At the church turn right down the road, bearing right at the T-junction, and continue from point 4.**

**3)** Take the path to the left of the church keeping the graveyard wall on your right. Follow the path uphill through the wooded area with ponds and in the first field continue ahead keeping the hedge on the left. Before entering the next field, turn right, keeping the fence on the left. At the end of the field, leave the Hillingdon Trail and instead continue on a track gradually leading downhill towards Park Lodge Farm. At a crossing path, turn right over a stile and follow the field edge with the hedge on the left. At the bottom of the field, turn left over a stile. Then walk half right to a kissing gate.

**4)** Go through the kissing gate and turn left down the path to Harvil Road. Cross over and head straight on down Priory Avenue. Opposite Priory Gardens, turn left down a footpath past Harefield Community Centre to Moorhall Road. Turn right to return to The River Garden pub.

