

# HATFIELD HEATH WALKS

## WALK 4: Two Central Loops

Length: 5.3 km (3.3 miles)

Duration: approx. 1 h 30 min

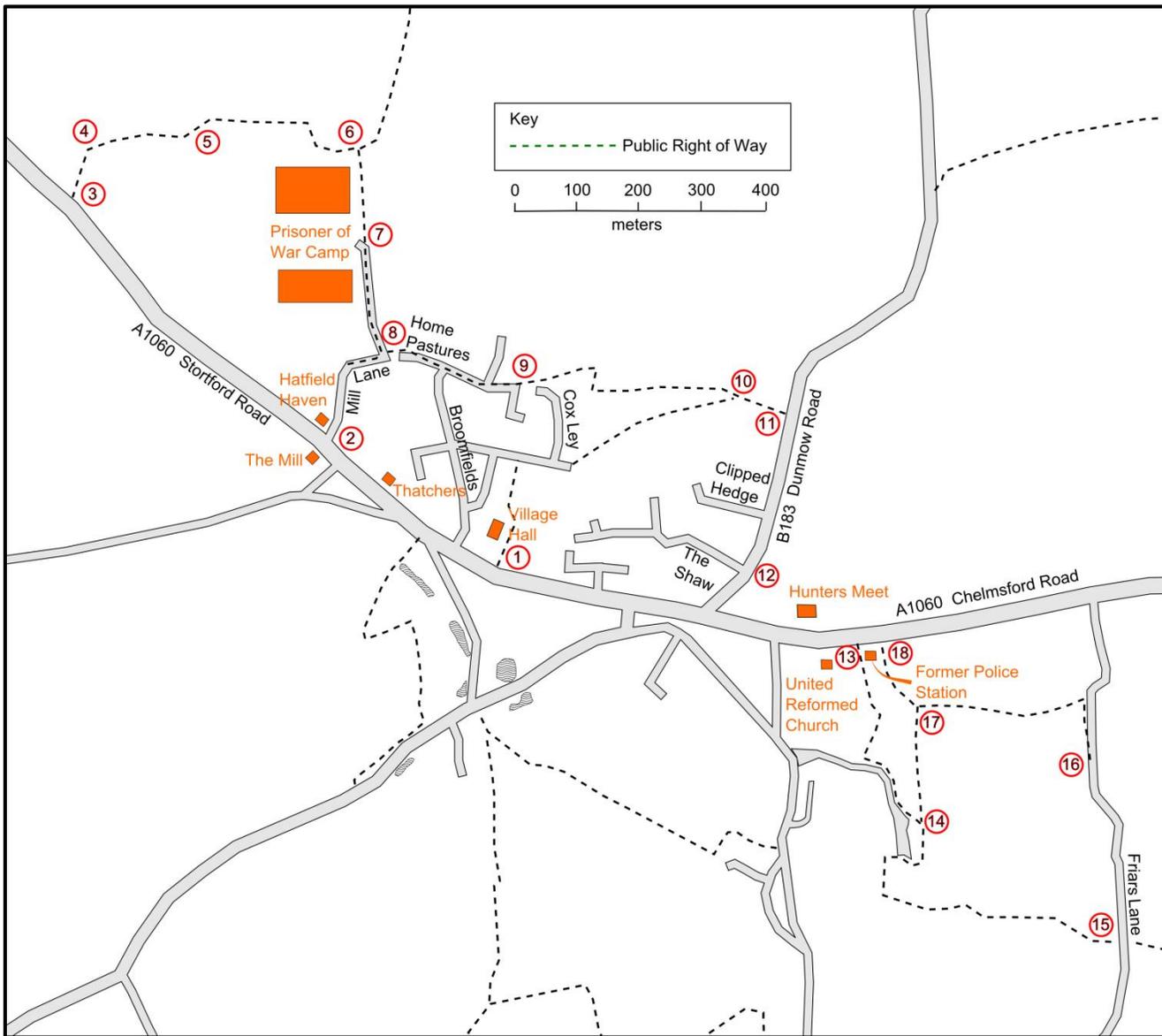
*This walk uses definitive paths and stretches of roads with pavements. Suitable footwear should be worn. Two stiles are crossed at (10) and between (13) and (14).*

The walk begins at the Village Hall car park (1). From here head north-west, along the A1060 towards Bishops Stortford. After crossing Broomfields you pass the Thatchers public house and reach Mill Lane (2). Opposite the entrance to Mill Line is the recently-restored mill building.

① **The Thatchers:** Dating from around 1580, and originally a barn and then four cottages, became a public house in the early 1900's. Was originally known as the Waggon and Horses.

① **The Mill:** Originally a maltings and brewery owned by Peter Sullins (landlord of the Cock in Hatfield Broad Oak). Was closed in 1902 and became a flour mill. After being vacant for an extended period it was recently converted to offices.

After crossing Mill Lane you are standing next to the Hatfield Haven Care Home. Note the old George V wall box dating from 1920-36 and the shield engraved "PS 1863".



This is the fourth in a series of walks that explore the footpaths of the Parish of Hatfield Heath. Points of interest along the way are indicated in the text with an ① symbol. Each walk starts from a location around the circumference of the village green, and being circular in nature could be joined at any convenient point. For other walks and further information about the village visit: [www.hatfieldheath.com](http://www.hatfieldheath.com)

① **Hatfield Haven:** *Now a care home, this was built by Peter Sullins in 1863 and was then known as Little Brewers. Almost 100 years later this was to be the home of Poet Laureate Andrew Motion for a few of his early years.*

Continue along the Stortford Road. When road numbering was introduced by the Ministry of Transport in 1922, this road was classified as Class 2 (B1005), but in the 1960's it was upgraded to Class 2 (A1060). Just after the house called Palo Alto (3) turn right along the bridle way - one of only three bridal ways in the Parish. (At the time of writing the missing fingerpost is awaiting replacement.) Keep straight on, passing a small footbridge on your left (4) and continue through the shady tree-lined path until it reaches the open field (5).

Follow the field edge and look out for the church of Hatfield Broad Oak on the eastern horizon. Before long you will pass a large number of long sheds, now used by Greenways Eggs, but previously the accommodation of a Prisoner of War Camp.

① **Prisoner of War Camp 116:** *One of 1026 such camps in the British Isles, Camp 116 was built in 1941-2 to accommodate first Italian and subsequently (from 1943) German prisoners. It appears that up to 1500 prisoners lived here at one time.*

Turn right at the junction of paths (6) and continue alongside the camp until reaching the metalled road (7). The derelict buildings on your right once housed the camp guards. The tall brick structure was the water tower.

Just as Mill Lane swings right, take the footpath on your left (8) though to Home Pastures then on to Broomfields [built 1948-55]. Continue straight ahead, follow the pavement across the grass to reach Cox Lea [built 1962]. Almost immediately on reaching Cox Lea, take the footpath that runs alongside the football pitch until the path turns sharp right and then left, emerging onto open land. Follow the path along the edge of a small wood (on your left) cross a stile (10) and continue to the Dunmow Road (11).

Cross the road and turn left towards the village passing Clipped Hedge (built 1966-7) on your right. Opposite The Shaw walk diagonally to the left across the green towards Hunters Meet. Above the door of the building next to the restaurant notice the stone shield engraved with "St B H 1857" indicating the ownership of this former Great Heath Farm building and land by St Bartholemew's Hospital.

① **Hunters Meet:** *Formerly the site of Great Heath Farm, a petrol station was opened here in 1966 and was later replaced by the Hunters Meet restaurant.*

Walk along the Chelmsford Road until opposite the URC Church, then carefully cross the road and follow the fingerpost (13) through the church carpark with the former police station on your left and continue straight ahead alongside the graveyard.

① **Former Police Station:** *This was completed in 1956 and required the rerouting of the public footpath.*

① **URC:** *The current chapel was built 1875-6, replacing the first chapel built on the same site in 1726 for a congregation of over 300.*

The path then passes through a kissing gate and along the side of a paddock, turning sharp left just before a gate, then along the boundary until a stile is reached. Cross the stile and walk through the small wooded area until emerging onto open fields (14). Turn right and follow the field boundary until you reach Friars Lane (15). Turn left along the lane and look out for the fingerpost (16) on your left. Before taking this path, admire the wonderful views across the Pincey Brook valley from the bench opposite. Follow the path along the field boundary, turning left behind some houses and finally right at (17) where the narrow path leads between two houses to reach Park Drive.

Follow the drive to the Chelmsford Road (18) and turn left, cross the road at a suitable place and continue westwards. Look out for the "Forest Way" fingerpost on your right. The Forest Way is a long distance footpath that runs 25 miles from Epping Forest (Loughton Station) to Hatfield Forest. This walk concludes by crossing the Dunmow Road and continuing past the shops and school until reaching the starting point (1).

We gratefully acknowledge use of information sourced from "A History of Hatfield Heath", 1999, and "Prisoner of War Camp 116" by Ivan Cooper.

For further information about the village visit: [www.hatfieldheath.com](http://www.hatfieldheath.com)

Ian and Stella Hughes 2016