



Described by former resident George Bernard Shaw as a "twelfth century village where the last thing of real importance was perhaps the Flood." You can now visit the author's residence at Shaw's Corner – veteran cyclist in the gardens below, discover the old church ruins or visit the 'new' C16 church reminiscent of a classical Greek temple left.

Ayot St Lawrence & Shaw's Corner



This route forms part of the National Cycle Network as Route 12 which will eventually link London with Peterborough and beyond! The Ayots section runs along the old railway line through Sherrardspark Woods, Quiet Lanes through Ayot St Peter and country lanes towards Codicote. The 32 mile route throughout Hertfordshire is now open from Potters Bar to Letchworth. Pick up information and a free map from local outlets including tourist information centres and Pedal Point.

The Great North Way



Old Welwyn

Welwyn was of strategic importance because of its location in the Mimram Valley attracting settlers from as early as the Iron Age. Later the Romans settled and built villas and bath houses. The Welwyn Roman Baths can be seen underneath the A1(M). Contact 01707 271362 for more information. In the C17 Welwyn became an important staging post on the Great North Road.

Blackmore End



It is believed that the village name originates from 'wet homestead' being situated on the River Lea with its water meadows. Mentioned as far back as 1060, today the village is centred around the High Street with its pubs, small shops and the impressive C13-14 church of St Helens photo below.

Wheathampstead



Wheathampstead



Nomansland Common

Nomansland is great place to explore on foot or sit back and watch the local cricketers during the Summer months. Historically the common was used for horse racing, grazing and prize fighting, now flying model aircraft or kites are a more common sight.



Dating back possibly to 40BC when the area was populated by the Catuvellauni tribe these massive earthworks probably formed the protective enclosure to their principal settlement. It is likely that they were defeated by Julius Caesar at this very spot. The two ditches, Devil's Dyke on the west, The Slad on the east, had an original depth of 13 metres and were discovered in 1932.

Devil's Dyke & The Slad



The Ayot Greenway links Welwyn Garden City with Wheathampstead. Ideal for walking and cycling, this predominantly traffic free route follows the former railway line that ran to Luton. Take a picnic to Robinsons Wood or explore one of the many footpaths off the greenway. In wet conditions parts of the path can get quite muddy, but there are plans to improve the surface.

Ayot Greenway



From the footpath you can admire the C16 mansion set in a magnificent park with a fine vista across the lake.

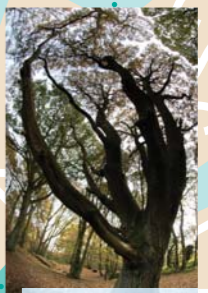
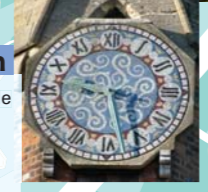
Brocket Hall

From the old mill you can take a pleasant walk through the Brocket estate, or in the other direction along the River Lea to Stanborough Lakes. See also Lemsford Springs nature reserve - back cover for info.

Lemsford

Ayot St Peter Church

This is an exceptional example of an Arts and Crafts church built in 1875, the site of the earlier church can be seen a little way to the north where only the churchyard remains.



This 200 acre wood is recognised as one of the finest examples of natural sessile oak and hornbeam plantations in Britain. There are many woodland walks to choose from including the old railway line which can be explored from Campus West, Bockswood Lane or the B197 at Ayot Green. This path is suitable for cyclists, walkers and wheelchairs.

Sherrardspark Woods

Built soon after World War Two, the town was the second of Ebenezer Howard's garden cities. The concept behind the garden city was to merge the best of town and country and help ease London's overcrowding. The first houses were occupied in 1920. Parts of the original settlement can be viewed by taking the Great North Way down Handside Lane. You can also shop at the Howard Centre or go boating at Stanborough Lakes to the south of the town centre.

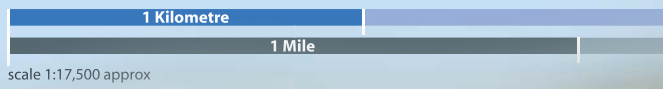
Welwyn Garden City

Welwyn Garden City



Key to the map

-  Pub / Restaurant
-  Supermarket
-  Cycle Shop
-  Tourist Information
-  Rail Station
-  Bus Station
-  Car Park
-  Arts Centre
-  Museum
-  Toilet
-  National Regional Cycle Route
-  Hill
-  Field
-  Park
-  Open access land
-  Residential
-  Ayot Green Way (traffic free)
-  Ayot Green Way (on road)
-  Cycle Routes (country lane or minor road)
-  Cycle Routes (traffic free)
-  River
-  Building
-  Lake
-  Footpath (route normally marked by signs and waymarks with a yellow arrow)
-  Bridleway (route normally marked by signs and waymarks with a blue arrow)
-  Bridleway & Byway open to all traffic (route normally marked by signs and waymarks with a red arrow)
-  Minor Road (roads used as a public path route normally marked by signs and waymarks with a black arrow)
-  Track
-  Railway
-  Main Road
-  Motorway



Ideas for getting out & about from Welwyn Garden City

- Take Bus 366 to Wheathampstead (20 mins; Mon – Sat only);
Walk back to Welwyn Garden City via Ayot Green Way (6 miles)
- Cycle to Ayot St Lawrence via Sherrardspark Woods, Ayot St Peter Road, Codicote Road & Hill Farm Lane (5 miles).
Return by bike to WGC via Bride Hall Lane, Codicote Road, byway towards Wheathampstead & Ayot Green Way (6 miles)

from Wheathampstead

- Take Bus 382 to Ayot St Lawrence (8 mins; Sundays only)
- Walk back to Wheathampstead via Devils' Dyke (3 miles)

Cycle Safety

Consider wearing a helmet & bright or fluorescent clothing during the day. Wear reflective clothing and use lights at night and in poor visibility.

On traffic-free sections be considerate to other users, and use a bell to warn walkers of your approach.



- all cycling issues in the Welwyn Hatfield area
- route maps
- maintenance issues
- information



Enjoy! Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Rural Transport Partnership



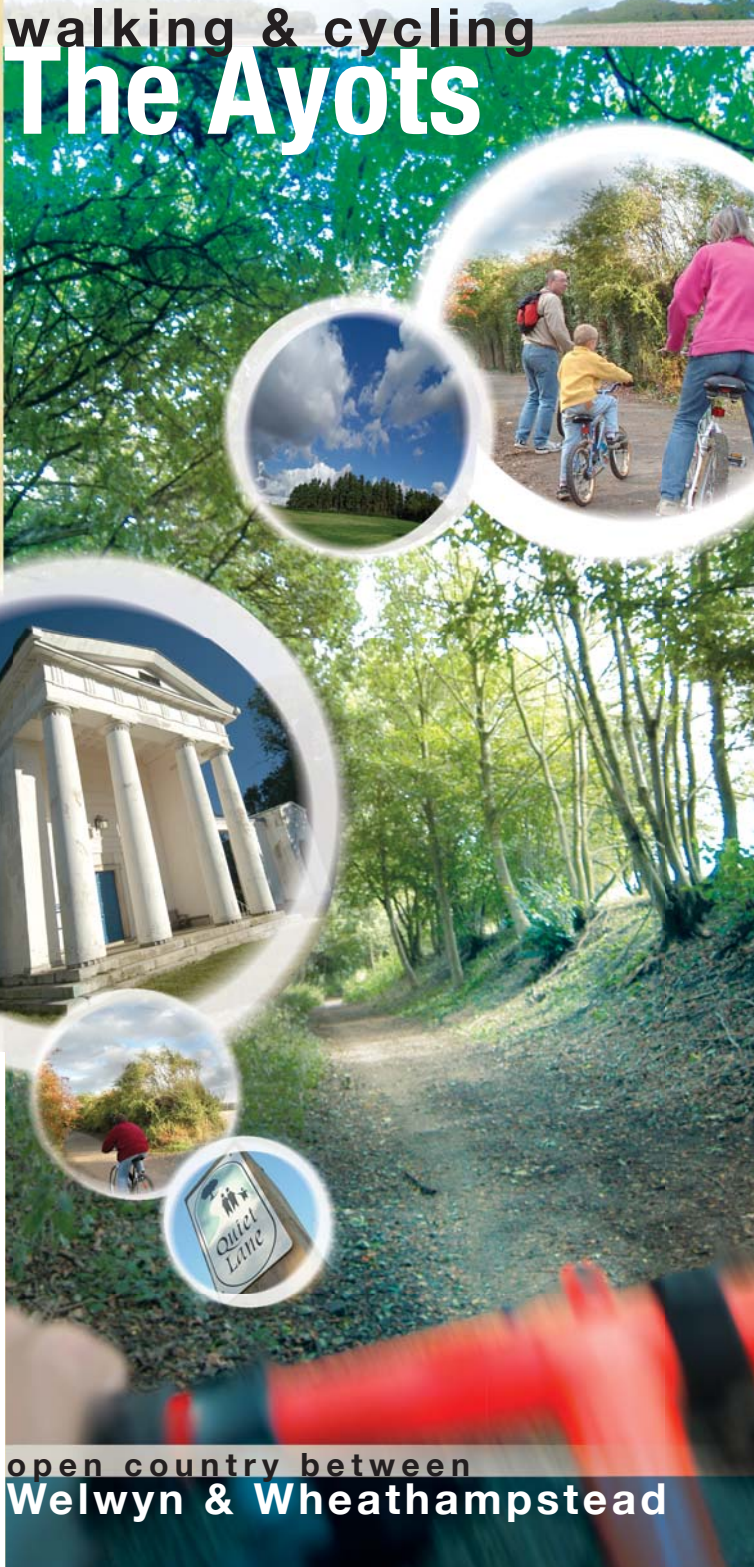
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* all photos by Stephen Wragg except: veteran cyclists at Shaw's Corner - with thanks to The National Trust and Welwyn Roman Baths legionary - with thanks to Hertfordshire County Council.

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walking & cycling The Ayots



open country between Welwyn & Wheathampstead

Explore, Discover & Enjoy! The Ayots

There is some great countryside in Hertfordshire for you to discover. This leaflet covers the area around the Ayots between Welwyn Garden City and Wheathampstead.

Quiet Lanes, many footpaths and bridleways including the Ayot Greenway make this area ideal to explore by foot and bicycle.

Why not leave the car at home and take the bike on the train to Welwyn Garden City? You can cycle through Sherrardspark Woods on the Ayot Greenway to explore the area.

Alternatively if you are coming from Stevenage or St Albans take the 'Enjoy! Hertfordshire' 382 service. Look out for the orange Enjoy! bus on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

This leaflet shows you what you can see and visit in this beautiful area from historic houses and churches to ancient woodlands and old railway lines. What's more these places can also be accessed without the car.



Quiet Lanes

The Quiet Lanes project was developed by the Countryside Agency to preserve the character of country lanes and encourage walkers, cyclists and horse riders to 'share with care.' Ayot St Peter Rd, School Lane, Whitehill and Waterend Lane all form part of the Quiet Lanes network in the parish of Ayot St Peter linking footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks.

Want to explore further?

There are a number of other free publications covering old railway lines in the area including the **Cole Green Way** (WGC - Hertford & Ware) and **Alban Way** (Hatfield - St Albans). **Cycling Discovery** maps also show some great rural rides in Hertfordshire.



Take the bus - and get half price entry to Shaw's Corner!

To make it easier to get to the Ayots from St Albans and Stevenage, a Sunday and Bank Holiday service runs between these two towns. It passes through Wheathampstead, Ayot St Lawrence and Old Knebworth. Taking the bus is an ideal way of beating traffic and car park queues.

What's more, on production of your bus ticket you can get **half price** entry into **Shaw's Corner** at Ayot St Lawrence.

The bus starts and finishes at Stevenage and St Albans City Stations making it easy to go by train to and from London and the north. The bus can be used as a 'park and ride' service by leaving your car at Wheathampstead and taking the bus for the 8 minute journey to Ayot St Lawrence.

Pick up the 'Enjoy! Hertfordshire' 382 leaflet for more details including things to do, places to eat and fare information. Alternatively contact Intalink for information. The service will be reviewed in late 2005.



Want to know more?

Walking & cycling

- For the Welwyn Hatfield area contact: Pedal Point : Tel: 01707 357551 www.welhat.gov.uk/pedalpoint
- For the St Albans & Wheathampstead area contact St Albans District Council: Tel: 01727 866100, www.stalbans.gov.uk
- For county wide cycling check out: www.hertsdirect.org.uk/cycleweb
- The Countryside Management Service has a series of local maps for walks & cycle rides: Tel: 01727 843067, www.hertsdirect.org.uk/cms
- Rights of Way: Tel. 01992 555555, www.hertsdirect.org.uk/row

Public Transport



- Bus information, timetables & fares Tel: 0870 608 20608, www.intalink.org.uk



- WAGN rail services serving Welwyn Garden City: www.wagn.co.uk
- Thameslink services serving St Albans www.thameslink.co.uk
- National Rail Enquiries: Tel: 08457 48 49 50, www.nationalrail.co.uk

Local attractions



- Shaw's Corner, Ayot St Lawrence. Tel: 01438 820307, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



- Welwyn Roman Baths Tel: 01707 271362, www.hertsmuseums.org.uk
- Lemsford Springs Nature Reserve. Tel. 01727 858901, www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/herts
- Stanborough Lakes, Welwyn Garden City. Tel: 01707 327655
- The Howard Centre, Welwyn Garden City. Tel. 01707 320026, www.howard-centre.co.uk