

## Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

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|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Walk Title</b>              | Bayford & Little Berkhamsted   | <b>Walk No.</b> | 348      |
| <b>Area</b>                    | Hertfordshire  | <b>Type</b>     | Circular |
| <b>Date</b>                    | Thursday 17 February, 2022   |                 |          |
| <b>Distance</b>                | 8.75 miles (12.5km)  |                 |          |
| <b>Timing</b>                  | 3.75 hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 7 hours in total.<br>Should be back in Islington by about 4:00 – 4:30 pm.   |                 |          |
| <b>Meeting up &amp; travel</b> | <p>Meet at Highbury &amp; Islington Great Northern Line platform by 9:45 to catch the 9:51 train to Bayford.</p> <p>You can opt to join the train a few minutes later at Drayton Park, Finsbury Park, Alexander Palace, or at Bayford. Please indicate on the sign-up form where you are joining the train. The leader will be on the second carriage from the rear of the train.</p> <p>You'll need to buy an off-peak day return from Crews Hill (or Zone 6 Extension) to Bayford. £3.45 with Freedom Pass and Senior Railcard.</p> <p>Return from Bayford: either the 15:17 or 15:47 train.</p>   |                 |          |
| <b>Route</b>                   | <p>We start from Bayford station at 10:31, and walk towards Brickendon, then across the golf course to Old Claypits Farm. From there we walk down a good trackway to Newgate Street, then roughly west along New Park Road, turning off onto a footpath heading almost due north beside a golf course to Tylers Causeway, where we turn left along a road for 100 yards, then right up a footpath heading towards a water tower at Epping House. The path skirts to the right of the tower, then left up an improving footpath, continuing west of north until turning right across a playing field, leading to the Five Horseshoes pub in the village of Little Berkhamsted, getting there circa 12:30 to 12:45.</p> <p>After lunch (circa 13:45) we walk behind St Andrew's Church, cross the road, and walk up Breach Lane to Ashfield Farm, where we turn right across footpaths, eventually walking beside Culver Wood and onto Robins Nest Hill. We walk north up Robins Nest Hill for 100 yards, then right down trackways and footpaths to south of Great Stockings, then around Bayford Hall to a road beside St Mary's Church, Bayford. We turn right, then left at the church, then turn right on track to Warren House, turning right again to take us into the village of Bayford (pub optional for some), then along road back to Bayford Station.</p> |                 |          |
| <b>Lunch</b>                   | <p>Five Horseshoes pub, Little Berkhamsted.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Tables have been booked at the Five Horseshoes pub, and it is necessary to let the pub know what food we require, so please click on the menu link below and let the leader know your food option at least three days prior to the walk:</p> <p><a href="#">Five Horseshoes Menu</a></p> <p>ALSO IMPORTANT: the pub is carpeted, so please either bring a change of footwear or a scraper/brush to clean your boots.</p>   |                 |          |
| <b>Dropping out</b>            | There is road walking from Tylers Causeway and Little Berkhamsted to Bayford Station.  |                 |          |
| <b>Suitability</b>             | We will observe Covid restrictions requirements.   |                 |          |

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|                                     | <p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker.</p> <p>Terrain: some undulations. It will be quite muddy in places, and especially muddy across a clay field near the end of the walk.</p> <p>There are no stiles.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking boots. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.</p>   |
| <b>Facilities</b>                   | There are no toilets at Bayford station. Use the facilities on the train and at the pub at lunchtime.   |
| <b>Walk source</b>                  | <p>Leader's creation.</p> <p>Similar to our walk No. 169</p>  |
| <b>Map &amp; other references</b>   | OS Explorer 174 & 182   |
| <b>Leader &amp; contact details</b> | <p><u>Walk Leader</u>: Michael Wood</p> <p><u>Mobile</u>: 07951 757187</p> <p><u>e-mail</u>: michaeljaneta@yahoo.co.uk</p>  |
| <b>Interesting Facts</b>            | <p><b>1:</b> The walk coincides with part of the <i>Hertfordshire Chain Walk</i></p> <p><i>The Hertfordshire Chain Walk is an 86-mile walk that crosses the county of Hertfordshire from south to north, starting on the northern edge of London and finishing in Cambridgeshire. This path consists of 15 circular walks of between 4 and 9 miles in length that are linked together to form a 'chain' – hence the name Chain Walk. In fact there is a quarter mile gap between Walk 7 and Walk 8, so the Hertfordshire Chain Walk is also unusual in that it is a long distance footpath with a hole in the middle!</i></p> <p><i>The Hertfordshire Chain Walk starts in the south of the county, the first walk actually passing through the London borough of Enfield. Sharing some early parts of its route with the Hertfordshire Way, it then heads north to Little Berkhamsted and passes just west of Hertford. Continuing northwards between Stevenage (to the west) and Buntingford, it again meets the Hertfordshire Way near Sandon and Therfield, just south of Royston. The Hertfordshire Chain Walk finishes at Ashwell and Morden railway station, just across the county boundary in Cambridgeshire.</i></p> <p><b>2:</b> Little Berkhamsted's greatest claim to fame is that it was the place where William the Conqueror accepted the surrender of the City of London after the Battle of Hastings. The village dates back to at least Saxon times, and is mentioned in the Domesday book. It has previously been known as Berkhamsted Parva or East Berkhamsted to distinguish it from the town of Berkhamsted in the west of Hertfordshire. There are a number of impressive residences in the village, including two former manor houses and two former rectories. The cricket commentator Brian Johnson lived here (famous for that immortal line "As you join us, the bowlers Holding, the batsman's Willey"). The church has a rather unusual wooden tower.</p> |