**London Green Belt Relay Stage 8 Route Instructions**

St Albans Abbey Station to Hertford East Station 15.15 miles

For a map of stage 8 see [MapMyWalk](https://www.mapmywalk.com/routes/view/2566812469) - This can be downloaded as a GPX or KML file

Starts on Holywell Hill, just north of St Albans Abbey Station. Grid Reference TL 14499 06498 Postcode AL1 2PS. See [Map.of Start](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1+Prospect+Rd,+St+Albans+AL1+2AT/@51.7456357,-0.3434344,136m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m13!1m7!3m6!1s0x48763f184616b773:0x8475a689b8bc81ee!2sSt+Albans+AL1+2PS!3b1!8m2!3d51.7444655!4d-0.3428026!3m4!1s0x48763f180d0bf515:0xcf298abd6328e2d8!8m2!3d51.7456349!4d-0.3428872).

At 15.15 miles this is the longest stage of the walk. However, it is mostly flat and much of it is easy to follow.

**1.** Start opposite the entrance to Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre across Holywell Hill. Go north along Holywell Hill. After 100 yards and just before the bridge over the river, turn right between two brick pillars onto the River Ver Path (signed River Ver Trail).

**2.** Follow the path east along the river. After another 150 yards follow the path left across the river using a footbridge and continue right along the north bank.

**3.** At 0.4 miles the path comes out next to the St Albans Sub Aqua Club at Cottonmill Lane. Then turn right along the pavement over the river and for an extra few yards.

**4.** Turn left to cross over the road using the traffic island and re-join the river path on the opposite side, now with the river to your LHS.

**5.** Continue along the path for a further 0.3 miles to just before a high bridge over the river.

**6.** Just before the overhead bridge, turn right to climb steps (we leave the River Ver Trail at this point). At the top turn left over the bridge and along what was once a railway line and is now a cycle track / footpath.

**7.** For the next 5.7 miles the route follows The Alban Way to Hatfield, the old St Albans to Hatfield railway line.

**8.** After 250 yards follow the Alban Way straight on through a small modern housing development named Orient Close.

**9.** Immediately past Orient Close we pass under the A1081, and just after this at 1 mile we pass under a railway bridge.

**10.** For the next 4 miles, to the Galleria at Hatfield, the route is very easy to follow along the Alban Way, with no diversions. However, I will give a few markers as we pass them.

**11**. At 1.4 miles we cross a bridge over Camp Road.

**12.** At 1.8 miles Alban Way crosses Sutton Road. (Morrisons Superstore is just to the left).

**13.** At 2.03 miles Alban Way passes under Ashley Road.

**14.** At 2.5 miles Alban Way crosses Hill End Lane.

**15.** At 2.67 miles Alban Way passes under Colney Heath Lane.

**16.** At 3.8 miles Alban Way passes under an old road bridge with Station Road to the left and Smallford Lane to the right.

**17.** At 4 miles under Blackberry Arch a metal sculpture created by local sculptor Diane Maclean.

**18.** At 4.6 miles Alban Way crosses Ellenbrook Lane.

**19.** At 4.82 miles Alban Way Passes under A1001 (Comet Way).

**20.** On reaching Cavendish Way (at 5 miles) turn right along the pavement to cross over the A1(M) as it disappears underground into the Hatfield Tunnel.

**21.** Immediately over the motorway turn right onto a footpath downhill to a pedestrian subway under Cavendish Way. Go through the subway and after exiting it go straight on along a path / cycle track, still the Alban Way.

**22.** After 500 yards the path comes out onto St Albans Road West. Turn right along the pavement for 20 yards, then turn left to cross over the road and go straight on along the path away from the road, still the Alban Way.

**23.** 280 yards later cross straight over Lemsford Road and back onto the Alban Way.

**24.** After another 420 yards The Alban Way crosses over Wellfield Road by way of a footbridge.

**25.** After another 600 yards cross straight over the road (Homestead Road / Ground Lane) and continue along the Alban Way. The trail is tree lined and gradually veers right. Then after 400 yards turns left and then right to a road.

**26.** Cross straight over the road (Great North Road) and cross a footbridge over the main railway line. (We have now left the Alban Way)

**27.** Immediately over the Wrestler's Footbridge turn left onto path. Then out onto Bull Stag Green. Go straight on and after just 25 yards, and as the road turns left, cross straight onto an enclosed footpath.

**28.** The path leads to a residential road named The Ryde. Turn right for 175 yards and just before reaching the main road (A1000) turn left into Park View.

**29.** At the other end of Park View, go straight on along a cycle track which leads downhill between trees and eventually along the side of A1000.

**30.** After another 300 yards cross straight over Lodge Drive.

**31**. After another 160 yards turn right to cross the A1000 at the traffic island (at 7 miles).

**32.** Once across, turn left on the pavement next to the A1000 and over the dual carriageway (A414 (T)).

**33.** Immediately after crossing over the A414 (T), turn right, at a gap in the barrier and onto a path.

**34.** The path leads downhill to join Bush Hall Lane. Go straight on along the lane, soon passing Mill Green Mill to your LHS - now a museum.

**35.** Just past the mill the lane passes over the River Lee and comes out onto another lane (Mill Green Lane).

**36.** Turn left past the old red telephone box and along Mill Green Lane. Cross the road asap and continue along the lane past the Green Man pub.

**37.** Immediately past The Green Man Pub turn right onto a path down the side of the pub. Be aware, as since the pub closed, the hedgerow sometimes overgrows part of the path. Follow the path onto and across Mill Green Golf Club.

**NOTE:** At the Green Man Pub we join another walk, Welwyn Centenary Walk. It is marked and we follow it for the next 2.6 miles.

**38.** Follow the path as it heads northeast across the golf course, soon adjacent to a sewage works, then northeast across three fairways and eventually out onto Gypsy Lane (8 miles).

**39.** Turn right along Gypsy Lane for 170 yards to just before two red-brick columns with “Mill Green Golf Club” on them. Turn left past a metal gate and onto the track between the golf course and the cricket pitch, and towards a wood.

**40.** On entering the woods turn right along a wide path.

**41**. After 100 yards turn left and follow the path into the woods, then eventually come out next to a golf tee. Stay left of the tee and along a track for a short distance.

**42.** As the main track turns right, stay straight on onto a narrow path into the trees. The path soon widens to a large track. Go straight on, soon passing a metal gate across the middle of the track. The gate seems to play very little purpose as the track is open on both sides.

**43.** The track eventually leads to a newly built bridge over a stream. Once over, turn left along a path going gradually downhill. This leads past an open area (at 9 miles) with an information board. Soon we cross over a second footbridge.

**NOTE:** At this point the Centenary Walk turns left, you may choose to go that way as the result will be the same. However, our route will divert here for a short distance, before re-joining the Centenary Walk in another 350 yards.

**44.** Once over the footbridge, go straight on uphill with a field to the left. At the top turn left along the top edge of the field.

**45.** On reaching the far end of the field, turn left to follow the path downhill, with the field still to the left. The path soon veers right. At the bottom, turn right onto a path through the trees. We also rejoin the Centenary Walk here.

**46.** After 100 yards, where there is an opportunity to turn left and over a footbridge, stay right along a narrow path which soon becomes an elevated wooden walkway above the marshy ground.

**47.** Follow this mixture of path and elevated footways staying to the main path and avoiding others off to the right.

**48.** After a few hundred yards the path passes a small pond to the right and eventually comes out through a wooden kissing gate and onto an open common. It is here the route exits the nature reserve.

**49.** Immediately through the kissing gate turn right along the RHS of the common. This leads to some houses.

**50.** Turn right towards the houses and go straight on along a signed footpath between houses. Follow the path straight through this housing estate crossing straight over a road, past some garages, over a second road and eventually coming out next to garages. Immediately after this turn left onto Holwell Hyde Lane.

**51.** To the right after 350 yards is a double metal gate and a wooden fence. At the far end of the fence there is access. It is here where we leave the Centenary Walk.

**52.** Turn right to use the access and follow the track, along the edge of wood (to your LHS) for 170 yards. It then meets a cycle path / footpath (Cole Green Way). Turn right along the cycle path.

**NOTE:** If for any reason the access at point 51 above is blocked, you can achieve the same by following Holwell Hyde Lane for an extra 50 yards to a T-junction, then turn right along a grass verge for 160 yards, then turn right again to join Cole Green Way.

**53.** After 0.9 miles the path leads to a subway under the A414 and within a few yards crosses straight over a lane (at 11 miles).

**54.** Within half a mile the trail crosses a high bridge over Station Road and after another few yards reaches what remains of the old platform of the previous Cole Green Station. We continue to follow the leafy tree lined Cole Green Way east from Cole Green Station for just over two miles to the outskirts of Hertford.

**55.** The trail is flat or gently downhill using old Victorian bridges to cross over roads. The first bridge, after 650 yards, passes over Birch Green next to its junction with Chapel Lane and Pipers Lane.

**56.** After another 650 yards the path comes up to cross Staines Green. The trail continues for 0.75 miles, then crosses over St Mary’s Lane via another bridge (at 13.1 miles) and immediately past this is the old platform of Hertingfordbury Park Station.

**57.** 0.55 miles after St Mary's Lane, in front is a large overhead railway viaduct. Before reaching the viaduct turn right to follow the Cole Green Way signs for a short distance to a lane. Then turn left, signed Cycleway 61, and follow this under the viaduct.

**58.** After 220 yards, go straight on through the car park Hertford Town Football Club, then across a bridge over the River Lea onto a lane which leads uphill to a T-junction.

**59.** At the junction turn right, then after just 25 yards turn left to cross road and up steps signed Public Footpath (at 14 miles). The enclosed path is named Wallfield Alley and climbs uphill then levels out on a ridge between gardens. After 300 yards it turns left and falls back down to West Street, next to The Black Horse Pub. Turn right along the pavement staying on the RHS.

**60.** At the T-junction turn right along the pavement and parallel to a dual carriageway, Gascoyne Way (A414), and past a car dealership. After another 90 yards turn right, then left down steps to a subway which leads under the dual carriageway.

**61.** At the other end, climb the steps and go straight on to come out onto Castle Street.

**62.** Go straight across Castle Street and descend into the gardens on the opposite side. The route has just entered the grounds of Hertford Castle.

**63.** Follow the path across the middle of the gardens, then veer left and up past an arched gateway in an old turreted wall. At the top turn right through an opening to enter the inner grounds of the castle.

**64.** After entering the walls go straight on along a footpath, then after just 20 yards, turn left along the path in front of the castle.

**65.** Once past the castle, turn right, then almost immediately veer left onto a path along the river. After another 50 yards turn left to cross over a footbridge over the River Lea.

**66.** Once over the river, follow the path to a car park. Turn right, through the car park and over second footbridge, then over a third footbridge.

**67.** Immediately over the third, turn left around a small green area and up to the road (Mill Bridge) next to a bridge and a bus-stop.

**68.** Turn right along the pavement and past the statue of Samuel Stone (to your RHS). The road becomes The Wash and to the right is Castle Hall.

**69.** Immediately past Hertford Theatre and before a large old gate, turn left to cross "The Wash" via the pelican crossing and go straight on into Maidenhead Street, staying on the LHS.

**70.** At the other end of Maidenhead Street turn left into Bull Plain.

**71.** At the end of Bull Plain cross Folly Bridge and turn right.

**72.** Stay right along the road for just a few yards and on approaching the Old Barge Pub go straight on along the footpath, to the right of the pub, and next to the canal.

**73.** After 400 yards the towpath leads to a footbridge over Hertford Weir.

**74.** Once over the footbridge turn right along the road and cross over the canal. It is just over the canal on Mill Road where we finish the stage

Hertford East Station is just 170 yards south along Mill Road. Hertford Bus Station is just a short walk, see [map](https://www.mapmywalk.com/routes/view/3183302476).

For train services from here see but [National Rail](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/hfe.aspx) or [The Trainline](https://www.thetrainline.com/); for bus services see [Bustimes](https://bustimes.org/localities/hertford).

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