

St Peter's Church to Coppice Wood

Starting in front of St Peter's Church on Riverside, walk through the trees and onto the river bank. Turn left along the bank, cross the entrance road to the industrial estate and continue, always keeping as close to the river as you can. At one point you will have to walk down some steps to stay on the path. Continue under the road bridge and along the path straight ahead until you reach the concrete bridge in Willows Farm. Turn left here, up a concrete road for 20 yards or so.

(Point A on the map)

For a shorter walk, continue up the concrete road until you reach the corner of Coppice Wood.

(Point B on the map)

At Point A, branch right onto a rougher track, crossing two stiles. You will now have a hedge on your right between you and the lake and open fields to your left sloping uphill to Coppice Wood. Keep to this track alongside the fishing lake. Wild fowl are common on the lake. Watch out for great crested grebe, swans, mallard, canada and greylag geese, moorhens and herons as well as birds of passage such as terns and oystercatchers. There is a good view of



Tyttenhanger House through the trees across the lake on the right. As the track begins to curve left, leave it, cutting through the trees on the right until you are on the shore of the lake.

Following the shore and

skirting round the young trees on the left, carry on, under the power lines until you reach the third of the lakes, separated from the second by a bank covered in scrub.

Bear left here, uphill slightly to the car parking area.

Continue through the car park following signs for Footpath 33. Cross the track and walk up the field path to the corner of a small wood called Blount Spring. Turn left here and, keeping to the edge of the field, follow the path round to your left, skirting Coppice Wood.

Coppice Wood is managed by the Forestry Commission. You are welcome to enter and enjoy the bluebells in season though the footpaths can be very muddy. Continue along the



edge of Coppice Wood until you reach the end of the wood at the corner of the field. Turn right down the track then left after 50 yards, crossing the track into the trees.

The path is wide and misses the overgrown wooden kissing gate in the trees on its left.

(Point B on the Map)

The shorter walk continues here. On the far side of the small belt of trees, turn left and walk along the verge,

across the road bridge over the London Colney ByPass, until, just before the childrens' play area, you see a finger post on the left pointing to Richardson Close. Turn left into the field here, keep the hedge on your right as far as the corner of the field where you can turn right into the Morris Playing Fields. Now turn left and follow the



boundary of the field as far as a small fence and a waymark on the left. Turn left here into the allotments and follow the path around the edge to Richardson Close. You will emerge onto the close between

numbers 11 and 13. Cross Richardson Close, follow the pavement round to the right and turn left onto the High Street. Walk down the High Street back to your starting point in front of the Church.

Points of Interest:

St Peter's Church

Built in 1825 by Philip, Earl of Hardwicke, it is a plain, rectangular building of red brick with a slate roof and italianate style windows. The front wall has been recently renovated as has the interior. Prior to 1825 there was no church building in London Colney which then formed part of the parishes of Ridge, Shenley and Colney Heath. The ecclesiastical Parish of London Colney was not officially formed until 1909.

The Bull Public House

The Bull can be traced back to 1726, originally called the Black Bull, it was one of a pair of inns. The tradition was for the gentry to stay at one of the pair while their servants put up at the other. The Bull's twin, the Bull and Butcher, stood alongside it until it closed in 1926.

Tyttenhanger House

Tyttenhanger House was built in 1654 by Sir Henry Blount (hence Blount Spring Wood). It was probably designed by Peter Mills, surveyor to the City of London. It stands on the site of two previous manor houses, both owned by the Abbacy of St Albans. It is at the centre of a network of small farms which would have been part of the original estate. The estate came into the possession of the Caledon family in 1834 from whom the house was purchased by its present owners who use it as offices as well as living accommodation.

Coppice Wood

Old coppiced trees can be seen in the wood, these have many thin trunks starting at ground level. Coppicing is the practice of cutting trees down to ground level to harvest the straight poles produced when they regrow. Chestnut fencing and hurdles are examples of the uses for coppiced timber.