

Section 15

Whitwell to Harpenden

14.6km (9.0 miles) Route profile page 51

Amenities and Attractions

1 Gustard Wood

The Cross Keys (pub with B&B) Tel. 01582 832165

2 Home to George Bernard Shaw for over 40 years, **Shaw's Corner at Ayot St Lawrence** is a 1902 Arts & Crafts house set in a quintessentially English garden. The house and garden are owned by the National Trust and open March to October, call for opening times, tel 01438 829221

3 Harpenden

The town centre, which is a few hundred yards from the route, is attractive with many shops, pubs and cafés. It is considered by many as a large village which grew in size after the arrival of the railways. Harpenden at the turn of the century became increasingly attractive to London commuters but still retains much of its countryside feel with large areas of common and green. There is a tourist information centre in Harpenden. Tel. 01582 768278

This section includes both attractive and undulating farmland and woods and also urban views from the former railway line as it skirts Harpenden.

Route information: This section is on quite hilly lanes and two reasonably flat greenways: the Nickey Line and the Lea Valley Walk. The surfaces of the paths are variable but generally good. The Chilterns Cycleway detours off the Nickey Line near Hollybush Lane in order to avoid a flight of steps. (If you prefer to stay on the Nickey Line, the steps are fitted with a channel for your cycle wheels.)



Harpenden Cycles Tel. 01582 461963

The Red Cow pub, Westfield Road Tel. 01582 621058



Harpenden Station - Trains from London St Pancras and Luton



The Nickey Line footpath and cycle way is about 9 miles long. It is a former railway line (the Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead Railway). The line was built to link the straw plait trade in Hemel Hempstead with the hat makers of Luton. A Ro-Railer, a hybrid vehicle which used both rail and road was used for a brief experimental period in the early 1930s.



The Nickey Line



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