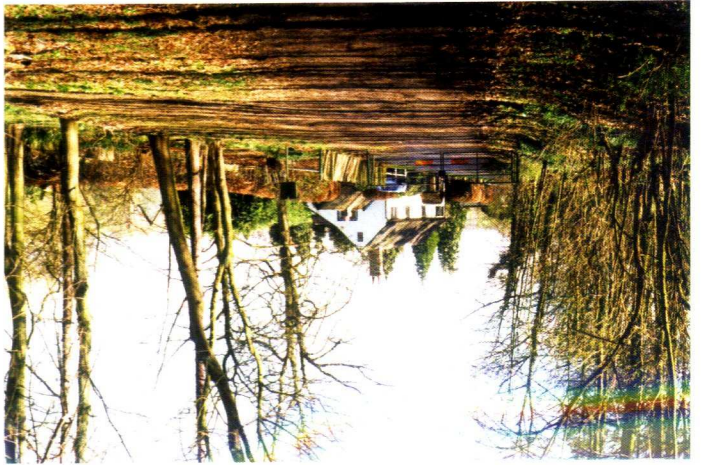


Start - 'Anchor Inn' Car Park, Wadesmill. Cross the A10 carefully. Turn right, walk over the river Rib footbridge into **Thundridge**. Here the Romans once forded the **River Rib**. (1st bridge 1510). The Mill house is on your left. Turn left, then right, walk up pretty little Ermine St. Follow the road round to the right, cross with great care the busy A10. Follow the track ahead of you which soon becomes a footpath, keep the allotments and field on your right, the copse on your left. Over the stile follow either route with caution straight across Hanbury Manor Golf Course, until the dwellings of Downfield. **Downfield Gallery** has a 100ft deep well, indoor and outdoor sculptures, and a stunning view across the Rib valley - visitors welcome. On leaving Downfield Gallery turn right and right again following the track down through the metal gates to the hamlet of **Westmill**. Pass trout farm with its fresh Rainbow trout, cottages and Lodge (one of the carriage entrances to Poles). Turn right on the road, on your right pass the Manor house and mill, note the City of London crest shield in the wall. A mill has stood on this site across the river Rib for nearly 1,000 years and was mentioned in the Domesday Book (1080). In 1580 the mill was rebuilt with 2 mill-wheels. At one time it was a bakery. After conversion in 1960 the director of the News of the World was said to shelter Christine Keeler while the Profumo scandal was breaking. It was also used as Judges' lodgings for Quarter sessions. Over the **River Rib**, once known for its excellent fishing, turn immediately left, over the stile, cross the little field, over the next stile, turn right up to the busy A602 road. Walk carefully along the edge to the roundabout, cross Anchor Lane and walk up the path into Tonwell (pronounced tunnel).....*OPEN TO CONTINUE*

Brochure by John Spielman: Tel. 01920 461625

Traffic free track approaching Westmill



Westmill Cottage



A beautiful 4 1/2 mile circular walk through the heart of Hertfordshire, including tales of local history.



'ANCHOR INN' YOUR START AND FINISH

Tonwell, once named Tunwell, meaning 'Spring belonging to the tun'. 5 village wells provided for the original 30 houses. Turn right into Temple Lane (just before the Robin Hood & Little John pub). On the right after the houses is the elegant architecturally built water tower. It even featured in 'The Times' in 1965. Leaving Tonwell behind, arrive at **Bengeo Temple Farm**. The manor was held by the Knights Templars in 1253 when the crusaders came back as warmongers and built a stockade with moat. The right of way is around the farm buildings clockwise. Cross one ditch then another and turn left on the track. Go down the hill into Bourne wood. Go straight over and climb the steps through the small wood. Keep straight on now, in the open, along the edge of the field/hedge row. At the next wood, bear left and keep the wood on your left. Through the hedge opening we bear right heading due east, crossing the field towards **Chelsing farm**. Cross the road, keeping the farm on your left. The name Chelsing- derives from Celsen - meaning pebbles or gravel. The area has a gully from the ice age and has high quality glacial gravel.

Our route follows a hedge row, crosses a ditch with a quick left and right and follows along another edge of a field. As we descend the valley edge we make a sharp left turn and soon join another path at an old oak tree. Here we turn sharp right and keep the ditch edge on our left, dropping down into **Wadesmill**. Thundridge Church can be seen in the distance. On reaching the tarmac road, turn left past the houses. Before crossing the road to finish the walk, we have **Rennesley Farm** behind the wall, originally known as Rangeley Manor dating back to 1283. **The Anchor Inn** was formerly a double Wealden hall house and is one of Hertfordshire's oldest buildings. Incidentally the name has no connections with boats - an 'anker' was an ancient measure of liquor. A warm welcome awaits you within for food and drink.

Each season has something special. **Keep to the footpaths & remember to keep to the countryside code.**

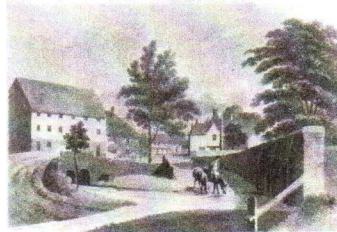
There are a few other walks in the area you might like to try, pick up a brochure in the Inn.



Westmill



Sculpture at Downfield Gallery



Wades Mill 18thC



Ermine Street, Thundridge

