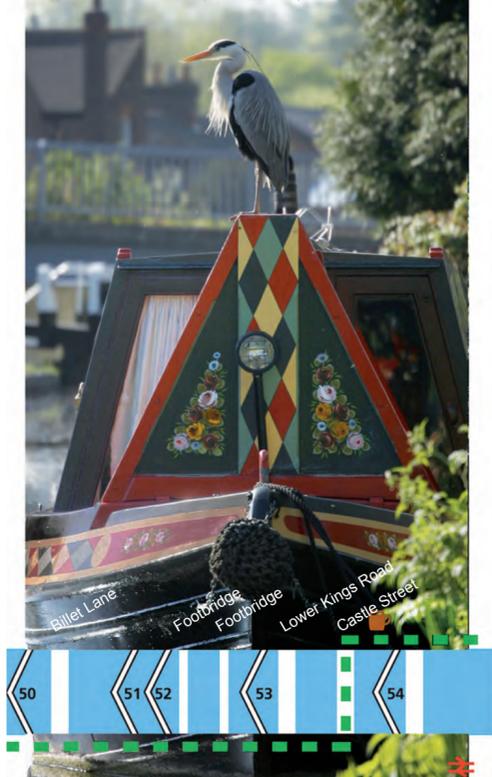


DISCOVER

The Chiltern Canal Corridor

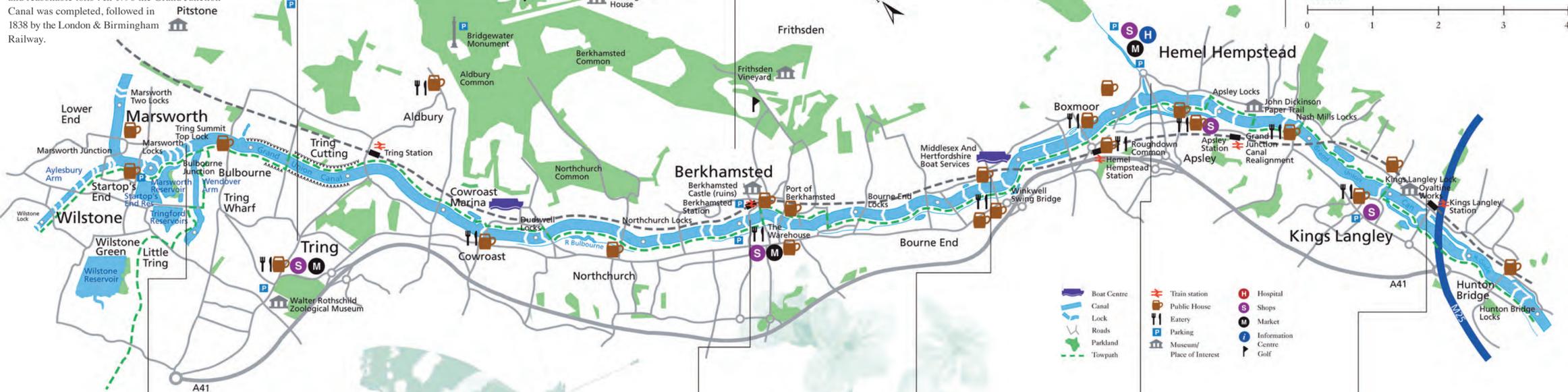
TRING – BERKHAMSTED – HEMEL HEMPSTEAD



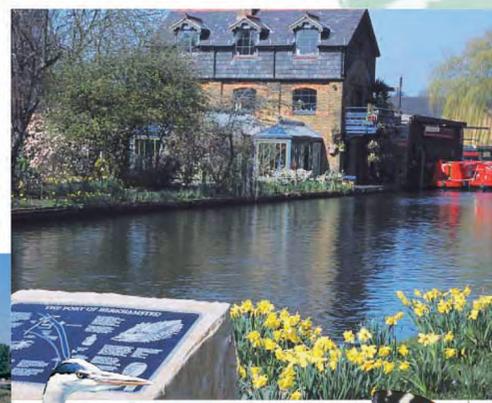
The Chiltern Canal Corridor

MARSWORTH – KINGS LANGLEY

The Bulbourne River with the Gade, which it joins at Two Waters, Hemel Hempstead, is one of a small number of low-level routes through the Chiltern Hills. It has always provided a connection from London to the north. The completion in 1792 of the Sparrow's Herne Turnpike Trust road linking Bushey and Aylesbury meant Berkhamsted could boast 'London in a day and reasonable tolls'. In 1798 the Grand Junction Canal was completed, followed in 1838 by the London & Birmingham Railway.



Bulbourne drydock is adjacent to Tring Summit top lock and opposite the entrance to the Wendover Canal, which is currently being restored. This waterway was home to Bushell's boat-building yard and Heygate's flour mill.



The Warehouse at Castle Wharf (1799) was originally used by a succession of boat builders, from Peacock & Willets in 1802 to Costins until before the First World War. The ground floor was used for stabling working canal horses. The first floor which served to unload timber from wide boats delivering from London docks. This section of the canal was the centre of the Port of Berkhamsted.

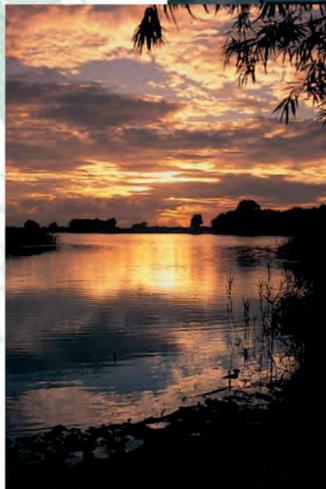
W. E. COSTIN Ltd.,
CASTLE DOCK, BERKHAMSTED,
BERRETS,
Barge, Boat, and Tug Builders.
ALL CLASSES OF BOATS AND MACHINERY, AND BOATS BUILT TO ORDER.
GOOD WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.
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Colourful bridge signs, painted by Phil Speight, represent traditional canal-boat decoration and draw attention to Berkhamsted's key role in the canal era.

Originally a coal wharf serving Hemel Hempstead, the site of the B&Q store was the last trading wharf in Dacorum. Roses used the wharf to handle casks of lime juice imported through London Docks and destined for their factory in St. Albans. They took their last delivery from boats operated by Tam and Di Murrell in 1981.



The Ovaltine factory started production at Kings Langley in 1913. The company had its own wharf and boats for coal and raw materials. Their model farms provided eggs and milk for the barley-based drink. The egg farm building on the hill overlooking the canal, railway and factory became a local landmark and a nationally known image, but like the factory it has now been redeveloped.



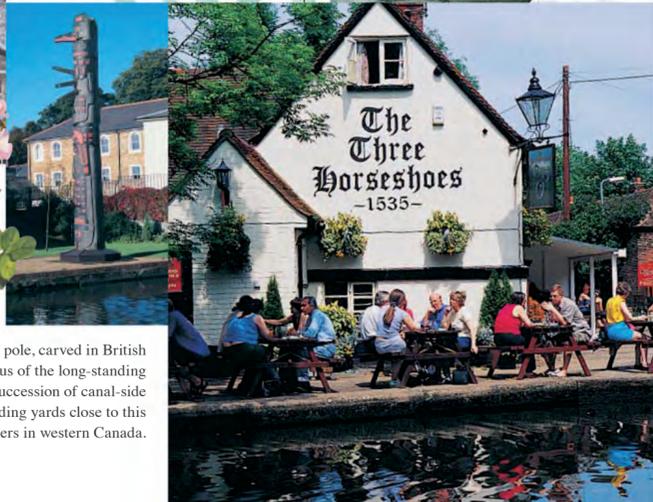
The Tring Reservoirs were built between 1802 and 1839 to provide water for the canal at its 365ft summit. They are a stopping point for boaters and attract a great variety of permanent and migratory bird life. There is a nature trail for walkers to follow, and as the sun sets you can make your way to one of a number of canal-side watering holes.



At appropriate points along the canal through Berkhamsted, interpretation plinths point to aspects of historical and local interest. They emphasise the important link between the town and its waterways. Children can do brass-rubbing of traditional canal-boat features with follow-up activities and a young person's questionnaire on the Town Council website, www.berkhamsted.gov.uk.



Berkhamsted's totem pole, carved in British Columbia, reminds us of the long-standing link between a succession of canal-side timber and boat-building yards close to this site and suppliers in western Canada.



The 16th century Three Horseshoes inn at Winkwell has, over time, been expanded and changed but still provides an attractive resting place for boaters, walkers and motorists. It is adjacent to the now electrically operated Winkwell canal swing bridge.



Near the southern boundary of Dacorum, the M25 viaduct crosses the valley, canal and railway close to the site of Ovaltine's former canal-side factory and provides a 21st century link with historic north/south routes.



HISTORY OF THE GRAND UNION CANAL

On becoming the third Duke of Bridgewater in 1767, Francis Thomas Egerton inherited Ashridge House in Berkhamsted. In 1776 the canal linking his coal mines at Worsley to Manchester was a bold experiment which initiated a period of canal mania, peaking in 1793. The Duke became known as 'the Father of British inland waterways'. A national memorial to him and his achievements is on Berkhamsted Common.

The need to link London with the rapidly expanding industrial regions of the Midlands resulted in a survey of several possible canal routes. The eventual choice was from Fenny Stratford to the Tring Summit and downwards, following the Bulbourne, Gade and Colne valleys through Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead and Langleybury to Watford, Uxbridge and the Thames at Brentford.

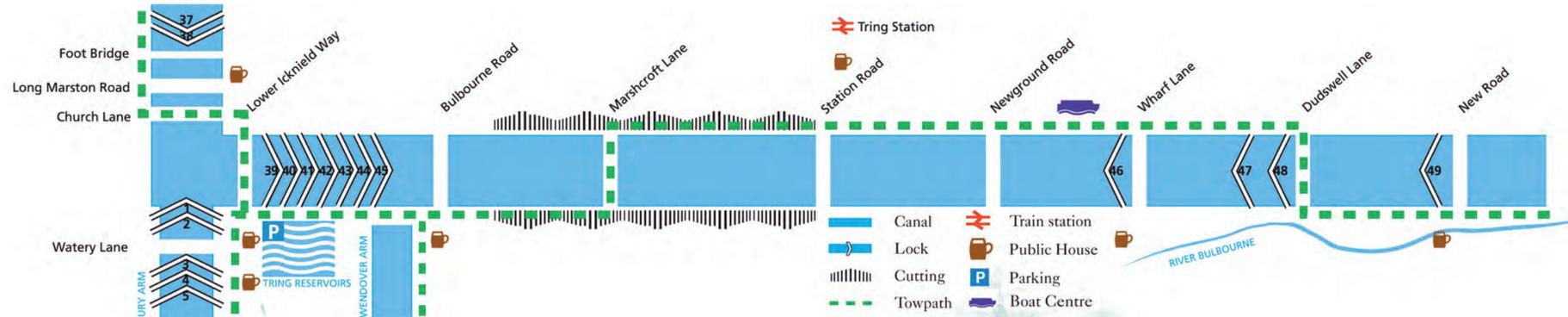
The Canal Enabling Act (1793) gave adjacent landowners rights to trade and navigation. Work started on the Grand Junction Canal (later Grand Union) and was completed to Berkhamsted in 1798, Tring the following year and to Birmingham in 1805. Problems of water supply at the Tring Summit resulted in the construction of the Wendover Arm and the Wilstone, Marsworth, Tringford and Startops End reservoirs, which now provide valuable wildlife sanctuaries. They constitute another aspect of the waterway's recreational value.

The canal was a vital catalyst for local industry attracting timber yards, paper mills, grain and animal feed mills, food processing, gas works, chemical industries, boat building and repair yards.

The London and Birmingham railway broadly followed the same route as the canal but did not impact as strongly on industrial location in the district. Under the canal towpath a recently installed fibre-optic communications link will have even less influence locally.

The canal reflects Dacorum's heritage and still provides a vital artery through the district for recreational boaters. It is a scenic and valuable amenity for local people. Discover for yourself that over the past two centuries little has changed; there is nothing new but plenty to discover.

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Marsworth

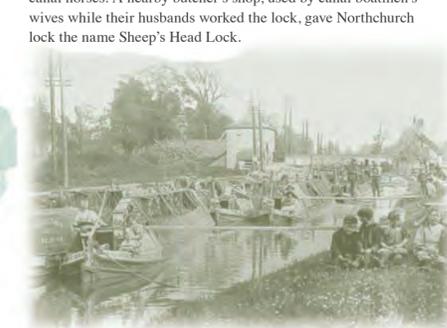
At Marsworth the Grand Union Canal turns northward as it leaves Dacorum. In this area the Grand Union was joined by the Aylesbury and Wendover Canal arms. Bulbourne was the location of a major waterways maintenance yard where lock gates and paddle gear were made and maintained for generations. The workshops' attractive Italianate architectural features were worthy of listing but the now disused site is still awaiting redevelopment. Restoration work on the Wendover Arm is well worth seeing.

Bulbourne, Tring and Northchurch

Tring gave its name to an impressive feat of canal engineering, a cutting one and a half miles in length with a depth of 30 feet, appearing deeper because the excavated material was piled alongside. This waterway cutting is 365 feet above sea level, the same height as the top of St. Paul's Cathedral. The town itself is at the crossing of the prehistoric Icknield Way and Roman Akeman Street. It is some way from the canal and its railway station. Tring has been a market town since 1315. Tring Park became one of the homes of the Rothschild family in 1872 and is now a school.

The extensive zoological collection of Walter Rothschild was bequeathed to the Natural History Museum in 1892. It is now a fascinating museum open to the public. It has a unique flea collection - all the exhibits are fully clothed.

The church of St. Mary gave a name to a parish and settlement when in 1222 it became the 'Northchurch' to Berkhamsted's St. Peter's. The Compass Point development was once the site of the Compasses public house, which provided overnight stabling for canal horses. A nearby butcher's shop, used by canal boatmen's wives while their husbands worked the lock, gave Northchurch lock the name Sheep's Head Lock.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Berkhamsted Town Council
The Civic Centre
161 - 163 High Street
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3HD
Tel: 01442 228945
www.berkhamsted.gov.uk

Tring Town Council
The Market House
61 High Street
Tring, Herts HP23 4AB
Tel: 01442 823347
www.tring.gov.uk

Dacorum Borough Council
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1DT
Tel: 01442 234222
www.dacorum.gov.uk

FISHING
If you would like to fish the waterways:
From Hunton Bridge to Tring (bridge 135)
London Anglers Association
Izaak Walton House
2a Hervey Park Road
London E17 6LJ
Tel: 0208 520 7477
www.londonanglers.net

From Tring station to Pitstone or on the Wendover or Aylesbury Arms, with discounts at Tring Reservoirs:
The Tring Anglers
P.O. Box 1947
Tring, Herts HP23 5LZ
www.tringanglers.org.uk

Concerns about the waterways should be addressed to:
British Waterways
64 Clarendon Road
Watford, Herts WD17 1DA
Tel: 01923 201200
www.britishwaterways.co.uk

Environmental concerns should be addressed to:
Environment Agency
Apollo Court
2 Bishops Square Business Park
St. Albans Road West
Hatfield, Herts AL10 9EX
Tel: 01707 632300
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

For more and varied information about the waterways:
Waterscape
www.waterscape.com

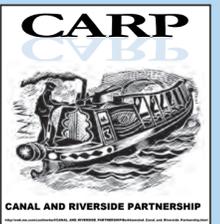
Inland Waterways Association
Moor Road
Chesham, Bucks HP5 1WA
Tel: 01494 783453
www.waterways.org.uk

If you would like to holiday on the waterways you can hire from:
Drifters Boating Holidays
Tel: 0845 7626 252
www.drifters.co.uk

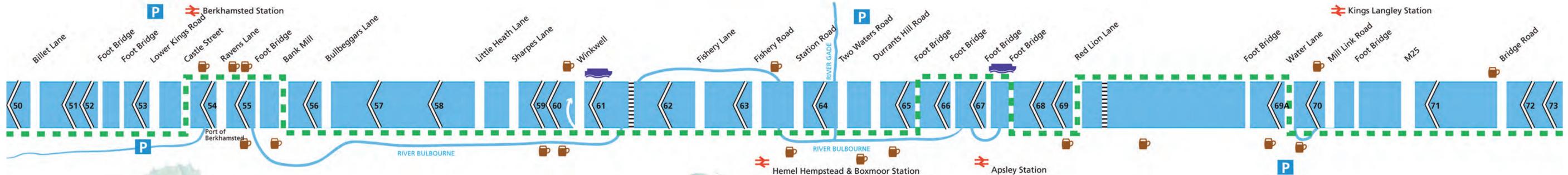
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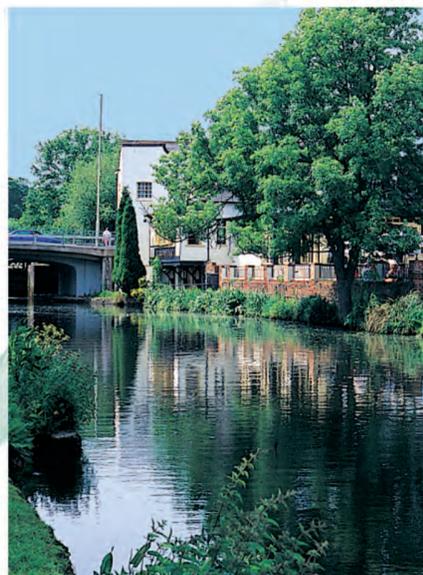
http://web.me.com/caslewart/CANAL_AND_RIVERSIDE_PARTNERSHIP/Berkhamsted_Canal_and_Riverside_Partnership.html



Berkhamsted

Of all the Chiltern towns there is in Berkhamsted a unique intimacy between town, river and canal. It has the added distinction that Ashridge House was the home of the Duke of Bridgewater - father of the British canal system. Separated from the river and canal by a short walk under the railway, the remains of the Norman castle still impress. Until the late 15th. century it was the focal point of the town's economy. After 1798 the canal provided the basis for the town's wealth, allowing the expansion of industries and concentration of coal, grain, timber and chemical handling along Castle Wharf - the

'Port of Berkhamsted'. The railway followed the canal and made Berkhamsted a commuter town. The town's Canal and Riverside Partnership works to enhance community enjoyment of its waterside heritage. Follow Castle Street to savour old Berkhamsted: the Tudor origins of Berkhamsted School and its founder's house, Dean Incent's, St. Peter's church (1222) with the charmingly restored Court House across the church green. Further up the High Street, with its pavement café atmosphere and bustling Saturday market, is the restored façade of the mid-19th. century Town Hall. Berkhamsted has a great variety of high-quality places to eat, drink and shop.



Hemel Hempstead and Boxmoor

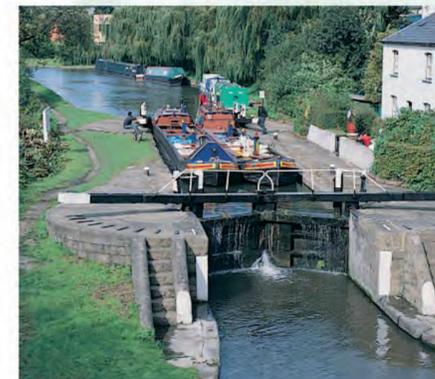
Many think of Hemel Hempstead only as a new town, but Roman remains in Gadebridge Park and Norman features in St. Mary's parish church show that it has a much longer history. A charter from Henry VIII in 1539 gave it a market, and Queen Victoria in 1898 granted the town borough status. The original town, with its ancient High Street and market, were on the side of the Gade river away from the confluence with the Bulbourne.

Hemel Hempstead was designated a new town in 1946 to receive population from London. Work started in 1949 and there was rapid



expansion outward in planned neighbourhoods. A new shopping and administrative centre, the Marlowes, with water gardens designed by Jellicoe, were built along the Gade valley between the Old Town and the Bulbourne and Two Waters.

Boxmoor, with its ancient trust, developed in the canal trading age and became the location of Hemel Hempstead's station on the main line along the Bulbourne valley.



Apsley and Kings Langley

Kings Langley had royal connections, certainly from the 11th. century, but only fragmentary archaeological evidence exists of its 'palace' and rich Dominican friary. A listed red-brick 18th. century mill house and remains of a mill race are now hidden in a modern housing development but serve as a reminder of a main local industry.

Grain mills at Apsley ('aspen') and Nash ('ash') were powered by the water of the Gade. Expansion of the settlement came early in the 19th. century with the development of the paper industry. The mills were acquired by John Dickinson and converted from hand to machine paper-making. Their high quality paper became known worldwide and they were important users of canal transport with their own liveried boats. The coal was delivered by boat until 1963. The history of the paper industry is captured in the recently created Paper Trail Museum.

