

Introduction

The 314 and 315 routes connect the busy towns of Welwyn Garden City and Hitchin, but once the routes leave the towns they quickly get into a very rural part of Hertfordshire, going along narrow lanes with constantly changing views over rolling farmland, woodland and meadows. The River Mimram, one of the classic chalk streams of Hertfordshire, runs through this area, rising just north of Whitwell, then flowing through Whitwell and Welwyn village, on its way to join the Lea at Hertford.

This trail is for you, whether you want to visit some traditional country pubs and sample a range of well-kept cask ales, or you just want to enjoy some beautiful countryside. To visit more than one pub on this trail, simply hop on the next bus from the nearest bus stop, or take a stroll along one of the footpaths that criss-cross this area.

The Hertfordshire Way (a circular walk around the county) first crosses this pub trail at Codicote, having come through St Albans, Wheathampstead and Ayot St Lawrence (location of George Bernard Shaw’s home, Shaw’s Corner). It then follows close to routes 314/315 and can be accessed easily at Whitwell, St Paul’s Walden and Chapelfoot before it heads off to the northeast towards Royston. Further details of the Hertfordshire Way can be found at hertfordshireway.co.uk

The Chiltern Way (a waymarked long-distance footpath in the Chiltern Hills of southern England) follows the same route as the Hertfordshire Way between Whitwell and Chapelfoot on its route along the length of the Chilterns from Oxfordshire.

Real Ale and CAMRA

Real Ale – cask ale – is brewed from the traditional ingredients of malted barley, hops, water and brewer’s yeast, then kept in casks which allow for secondary fermentation and conditioning in the pub cellar. All pubs in this guide use handpumps to dispense cask-conditioned beer to the customer. Since 1971 the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has fought tirelessly to promote Real Ale and continues to be the beer drinker’s foremost champion on matters as diverse as pub closures and preservation, the scourge of high Beer Duty levels, Planning, Business Rates and Pub Company restrictive practices.

CAMRA in Hertfordshire

There are five CAMRA Branches in Hertfordshire, two overseeing the area and pubs listed in this leaflet. South Hertfordshire Branch covers Welwyn Garden City and Welwyn Village. All other villages and Hitchin are covered by North Hertfordshire Branch. Each Branch offers a range of events including the popular Hitchin (June) and St Albans (September) Beer Festivals. New members are always welcome. For more information consult the branch websites (northherts.camra.org.uk or southherts.camra.org.uk).

Opening Hours

The pubs in this leaflet have varied opening days and times due to a range of factors including location, seasonal variations and owner preference. Details on opening hours are available in CAMRA’s database camra.org.uk/pubs/ or on individual pub websites and Facebook pages.

Local Breweries

McMullen’s of Hertford will celebrate their 200 years anniversary in 2027 – they have 125 pubs in Hertfordshire, London and beyond. Farr Brew, based in Redbourn operate six pubs in Hertfordshire. You may find other Hertfordshire real ale brewers represented in the pubs in this guide, perhaps from Tring Brewery, New River Brewery (Hoddesdon), 3 Brewers of St. Albans (near Wheathampstead), Buntingford (Therfield) and Mad Squirrel (near Hemel Hempstead).

Children, Accessibility and Dogs

The pubs in this guide are pleased to welcome adults with children so long as they are closely supervised. However, some may operate time restrictions in the evening. The pub entries include symbols for wheelchair accessibility and WC facilities. Most of the pubs in this leaflet welcome well-behaved dogs though some may not allow them inside or in eating areas.

About Centrebus

Centrebus is a privately owned bus operator with depots in Luton, Leicester and Grantham. Their fleet of 210 buses operate a mix of commercial and contracted local bus services. As well as local authorities, they operate bus services for a number of schools, universities, works contracts and the NHS. They also operate emergency and scheduled rail replacement services and park and ride services for one off events.

About Intalink

The Intalink Partnership was established in 1999 as a collaboration between Hertfordshire County Council, the bus and train companies who operate across the county, and the ten local district and borough councils. The aim of this partnership has always been to promote passenger transport services as an integrated network, and to provide publicity and information on the county’s bus and rail services in a consistent and co-ordinated manner on-line, in print and on-street. The partnership also provides the framework for the provision of Intalink Connect multi-operator ticketing products, which provide more flexible ticket options.

Using the bus

All the pubs in this leaflet are served by the 314/315 route. The 314 does not serve pubs in Kimpton, Whitwell or St Pauls Walden, but these villages are also served by the 304 route, which runs between St Albans and Hitchin. The buses stop either outside the pubs or the nearest stop which is no more than a three or four minutes’ walk away. All three routes (304, 314 and 315) are operated by Centrebus and run six days a week (Mondays to Saturdays, excluding Bank Holidays), up to around 18:00 each day. Routes 301, 725 and 908 serve Welwyn village through the week (until late evening) from Welwyn Garden City, Knebworth and Stevenage. Timetables for these and other services operating in Hertfordshire are available on the Intalink website intalink.org.uk. Additionally, frequent trains operate between Welwyn Garden City and Hitchin allowing the trail participants to return to the starting point quickly.

Buying your ticket

Single journey tickets are available for each bus trip, but there are other money saving options available for you if you are planning to hop on and off the bus a few times. The Intalink Connect ticket offers unlimited travel on most bus operators’ services in Hertfordshire within the purchased zone(s). A ticket for one person can be bought for periods of one day, one week, four weeks and ten 1-day bundles. Day tickets of the Intalink Connect All Zones ticket are also available for groups of up to four people. Tickets information is available at intalink.org.uk/ticket-information Centrebus have a day ticket that gives unlimited travel on all their routes in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Fare details can be viewed on their website centrebus.info/fares/

*Bus connections to towns and villages

Welwyn Garden City
The 314 & 315 depart from the Bus Station (max 10 minutes walk from any of the pubs listed overleaf). The Railway Station is a few minutes’ walk from the Bus Station (accessed through the Howard Centre).

Welwyn Village
All pubs in Welwyn (except the Steamer) are less than 4 minutes walk from the Church Street, St Mary’s Church stop. Additionally to 314 & 315, this stop is also served by 301, 725 and 908 (to Welwyn Garden City, Knebworth and Stevenage). The closest bus stop to the Steamer is the London Road, St Mary’s School stop served by 301, 314, 315 and 908.

Codicote
The closest stop served by the 314 and 315 for the pubs listed in this leaflet is High Street, Peace Memorial Hall (1 minute walk). Additionally services 44 & 45 depart from the Bell Inn stop, further along the High Street and provide an infrequent service to Kimpton, Luton, Knebworth and Stevenage.

Kimpton
Services 304 & 315 stop in front of the pub (High Street, The Boot stop). Additionally 44 & 45 departs from this stop to Luton, Codicote, Knebworth and Stevenage.

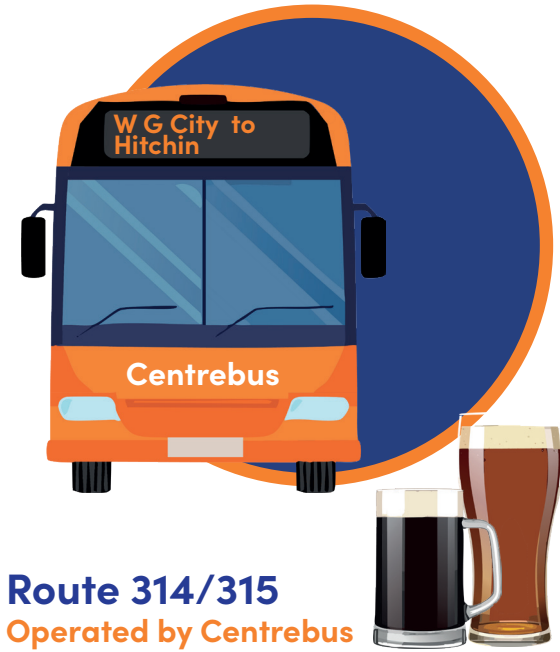
Whitwell
Services 304 & 315 use the High Street, Post Office bus stop which is 2 minutes walk from the pub.

St Pauls Walden
Services 304 & 315 stop in front of the pub at the Strathmore Arms PH stop.

Chapelfoot
Services 304, 314 & 315 stop in front of the pub at the Rusty Gun stop.

Hitchin
All the pubs listed in the leaflet are less than 800m from either St Mary’s Square (stop L) or Bancroft (stop G) stop, which are served by the 304, 314 & 315. The Railway Station is a 15 minute walk from the Town Centre, along Walsworth Road.

A real ale trail by bus



Route 314/315
Operated by Centrebus
Welwyn Garden City to Hitchin



Scan this QR code with your mobile:

 to read more about the Intalink Partnership and to get help with timetables, maps and journey planning intalink.org.uk

 for timetable for services 314/315

 for CAMRA Membership and Benefits camra.org.uk

 for Centrabus website centrebus.info

Contact Intalink

via post using our freepost address:
Freepost INTALINK
via phone **0300 123 4050**
via **our website**

For Centrebus and CAMRA contact details, please visit their websites using QR code provided above.

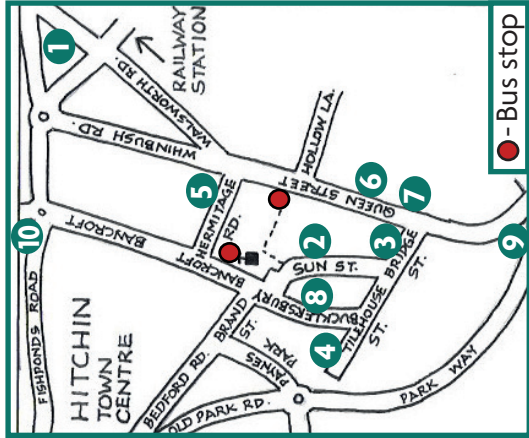
All the information contained within this leaflet was correct at the time of publication and given in good faith. However, the County Council and CAMRA cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. We would, however, appreciate notification so that errors can be corrected.

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Hitchin

An important market town dating from the 7th Century, famous for its nearby lavender fields and its history in the wool trade. There's a bustling town centre full of shops, restaurants and pubs, as well as the North Hertfordshire Museum and the British Schools Museum.*



1 **Albert, 50 Walsworth Rd, SG4 9SU**
Tel: 01462 632716 🍷🍺🍻
A refurbished modern feel pub with great food and a patio. There are two handpumps, Greene King and a guest ale.

2 **Angel Vaults, 5 Sun Street, SG5 1AE**
Tel: 01462 438633 🍷🍺🍻
An old Conservative Club refurbished by Wetherspoons with a large garden. A wide selection of real ales on offer.

3 **BBs Bar, 12 Bridge Street, SG5 2DE**
Tel: 01462 656084 🍷🍺🍻
A sports and music bar, named after BB King, with a pub atmosphere. The real ale counter is at the rear, away from the main bar. The handpumps offer two Oakham brewery beers plus two/three others. Non-cash only.

4 **Coopers Arms, 81 Tilehouse St, SG5 2DY**
Tel: 01462 459497 🍷🍺🍻
A charming village on the banks of the River Mimram (known for its watercress beds) and spur of the Chiltern Hills.*

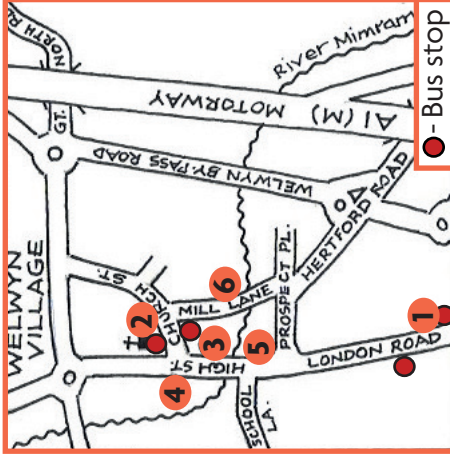
Whitwell

A charming village on the banks of the River Mimram (known for its watercress beds) and spur of the Chiltern Hills.*

Bull, 34 High Street, SG4 8AG
Tel: 01438 871513 🍷🍺🍻
A locals pub with a beautiful countryside view from the garden. Three nationally sourced real ales available, Adnams Ghost Ship, Sharp's Doom Bar and Tring Side Pocket for a Toad.

Welwyn

This thriving village harking from the Bronze Age sits astride the River Mimram. Visit the nearby Roman Bath.*



1 **Steamer, 22 London Rd, AL6 9DP**
Tel: 01438 504516 🍷🍺🍻
A locals pub named after its once distant view of Welwyn Railway arches. There is a suntrap decked garden area. AK Original Mild and one other McMullen beer usually available.

A 15th century pub with mantelpiece carvings dated 1614 and ecclesiastic windows. Cask beers are from McMullen's. Meals served all day.

5 **Beer Shop, 30-32 Hermitage St, SG5 1BY**
Tel: 01462 337440 🍷
A micro-pub and shop. The "tasting room" specialises in craft keg beers, one cask ale is normally available. The shop sells bottled and canned beers from British micro-breweries and from around the world.

6 **Bricklayers Arms, 29 Queen St, SG4 9TP**
Tel: 01462 453842 🍷
A community pub near Hitchin Market with a large courtyard and garden at the rear. Real ales are often from the Timothy Taylor brewery.

7 **Half Moon, 57 Queen St, SG4 9TZ**
Tel: 01462 453010 🍷🍺🍻
An 18th century one-bar pub with a large hillside garden. It offers two house ales and eight ever-changing cask ales sourced nationwide. Traditional ciders and bar snacks are also available. The pub is a multiple winner of North Herts CAMRA serve Greene King real ales.

8 **Teller Bar, 8 Bucklersbury, SG5 1BB**
A small bar located just off the old market, offering craft ales from Six Hills brewery and various other breweries. Opened in May 2024, one real ale is normally available.

9 **Three Moorhens, Hitchin Hill, SG4 9AJ**
Tel: 01462 459039 🍷🍺🍻
A traditional restaurant-style pub with large outside patio and a childrens play area. The handpumps serve Greene King real ales.

10 **Victoria, 1 Ickleford Road, SG5 1TJ**
Tel: 01462 432682 🍷🍺🍻
A busy community pub established in 1865, with good value home-made pizzas and burgers, served Friday to Sunday, together with Sunday roasts and regular pie nights. There are two regular Greene King ales plus four guest beers. The pub hosts an annual beer and cider festival along with the VicFEST music festival.

branch awards and hosts beer festivals twice a year.

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A traditional restaurant-style pub with large outside patio and a childrens play area. The handpumps serve Greene King real ales.

Chapelfoot

A tiny hamlet with the ruins of Minsden Chapel to the south of it.*

Rusty Gun, London Road, SG4 7PG
Tel: 01462 432653 🍷🍺🍻
A country pub/restaurant with beers from the Old Cannon brewery and with food using local produce including Trussels sausages from Knebworth. There are two regular cask beers, Blonde Bombshell and Rusty Gun.

Strathmore Arms, Whitwell Rd, SG4 8BT
Tel: 01438 871654 🍷🍺🍻
This Free House pub on the Bowes-Lyon estate, has been serving drinkers since 1882 and today offers a good selection of cask ales. Tastefully refurbished in 2025 and popular with walkers and cyclists, there are plans to offer cooked meals including Sunday roasts.

Globe, 115 High Street, SG4 8UA
Tel: 01438 593082 🍷🍺🍻
A traditional family-run community pub with darts and dominoes. Two cask ales from McMullen are sold, AK Original Mild and Country Bitter.

Codicote

An Anglo-Saxon village with some interesting buildings, situated on the rise leading from Welwyn.*

Goat, 77 High Street, SG4 8XE
Tel: 01438 820475 🍷🍺🍻
A 16th century farmhouse converted to a pub, with a cosy interior, retaining old world charm. There is a large beer garden, home of the annual Goatfest music festival. Three cask ales regularly available, Adnams Ghost Ship, Greene King Abbot and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

Welwyn Garden City

England's second Garden City founded in 1920 by Sir Ebenezer Howard, featuring tree-lined boulevards. There is a full range of shops which includes the John Lewis department store and the double-storey Howard Centre mall.*



Pub Facilities

- 📺 Sports shown
- 🍴 Meals available
- 🚗 Car park
- 🍷 Outdoor drinking area
- ♿ Wheelchair access incl. toilet
- 🐕 Dog friendly

* Details about bus connections to the pubs listed can be found on the reverse side of the leaflet.