

## Introduction

The 331 bus route, operated by Arriva Mondays to Saturdays and A2B Travel on Sundays, connects the characterful towns of Hertford, Ware and Buntingford and the intervening villages. Once the route leaves the towns we discover rural Hertfordshire with views over rolling farmland, woodland and meadows. The River Lea and its chalk stream tributary, the River Rib, are strong features in the area.

The 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 the area. There is much to find in the towns and villages included here.

The Hertfordshire Way (a circular walk around the county) crosses this pub trail at Wadesmill. The Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.194 fully covers the area, marking local footpaths.

Much of the route follows the Roman road of Ermine Street, which stretches from London, crossing the River Lea at Ware and continues to Buntingford, Royston, Cambridge and on to Lincoln and York.

## 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 covering Hertfordshire, three overseeing the area and pubs entered in this guide. South Hertfordshire Branch covers Hertford and Ware. Herts and Essex Borders Branch covers from Wadesmill north to Standon. Puckeridge, Braughing, Hare Street, Westmill and Buntingford are covered by North Hertfordshire Branch. Each Branch offers a range of events including the popular Hitchin (June) and St Albans (September) Beer Festivals. For more information consult the branch websites ([northherts.camra.org.uk](http://northherts.camra.org.uk), [heb.camra.org.uk](http://heb.camra.org.uk) or [southherts.camra.org.uk](http://southherts.camra.org.uk)). New members are always welcome.

## 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/](http://camra.org.uk/pubs/) or on individual pub websites

and Facebook pages. Please check with pubs for meal times.

## Local Breweries

McMullen's of Hertford will celebrate their 200 years anniversary in 2027 – they have 90 pubs in Hertfordshire, London and beyond. Mad Squirrel (near Hemel Hempstead) have a number of pubs in the county. Other Hertfordshire real ale brewers can sometimes be represented in the pubs of the area: Look out for cask ales from Tring Brewery, New River Brewery (Hoddesdon), 3 Brewers of St. Albans (near Wheathampstead), Farr Brew (Redbourn), and Buntingford (Therfield).

## 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 Arriva

Arriva is one of the UK's leading bus operators in the South and proudly helps people get where they need to be every day. They connect communities safely and reliably, providing local bus services that people can depend on. Alongside their bus services, Arriva operates a range of transport solutions across the UK and Europe.

## About A2B Travel

A2B Travel Group is an independent family owned bus operator based in Royston, set up in 2016 by their MD Brian Clifford. Having grown to 16 buses, they run mainly local bus services for four local authorities.

They also operate school and college services alongside rail replacement services and one off bespoke events. The company has a relatively young vehicle age and invests in new vehicles yearly to ensure that high standards and reliability are consistently met.

## 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 331 route. It runs between Hertford and Buntingford approximately hourly during the day Mondays to Saturdays (with a reduced evening service) and 2-hourly on Sundays. North of Puckeridge the route splits on Mondays to Saturdays, with alternate journeys operating either via Braughing and Hare Street, or straight along the A10 past Westmill and Aspenden. On Sundays all but one journey each way serve Braughing and Hare Street. The weekday service is operated by Arriva, while A2B Travel provide the Sunday buses. The buses stop right outside some of the pubs, but other pubs can be up to about a 15-minute walk from the nearest bus stop – this is set out in the 'Bus connections to town and villages' section. For the pubs in Hertford and Ware there are regular

buses from most major towns in the area, including St Albans, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Stevenage, Bishop's Stortford, Harlow, Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross. Pubs in Standon, Puckeridge and along the A10 to Buntingford are also served by Central Connect route 36, which provides a regular service between Bishop's Stortford and Buntingford. Timetables for these and other services operating in Hertfordshire are available on the Intalink website [intalink.org.uk](http://intalink.org.uk). Additionally, frequent trains operate between Hertford East and Ware allowing the trail participants to move between these two towns 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 in ten 1-day bundles. Day tickets of the Intalink Connect All Zones ticket are also available for groups of up to four people. Ticket information is available at [intalink.org.uk/ticket-information](http://intalink.org.uk/ticket-information).

Arriva has a day ticket that gives unlimited travel on all their routes in Hertfordshire, and full details can be viewed on [arrivabus.co.uk/ticket-info](http://arrivabus.co.uk/ticket-info).

## \*Bus connections to towns and villages

### Hertford

The 331 departs from the bus station which is the closest stop to most of the pubs listed overleaf (max 650m). For the Great Eastern Tavern the nearest stop is on Ware Road (300m).

### Ware

The 331 serves several stops in Ware. Each listed pub is within 300m of a bus stop, and the map overleaf shows where the stops are in relation to the pubs. Ware Rail Station is only 5 minutes walk from the High Street.

### Wadesmill

Service 331 stops outside the Feathers Inn.

### Standon

Services 331, 36 and 36A stop by the Heron Restaurant in Station Road (600m).

### Puckeridge

Services 331, 36, and 36A stop outside each of the two pubs.

### Braughing

Services 331, 36 and 36A stop outside the Golden Fleece in Green End. This stop is 450m from the other two pubs, accessed by taking the footpath adjacent to the Golden Fleece.

### Hare Street

Service 331 stops in Mead Villa (B1368) at Swan Lane stop (350m).

### Westmill

Services 331 and 36 stop on the A10 (Westmill Turn stop) (800m). Please note there is no pavement from the bus stop to the village. Please take care in the road.

### Aspenden

Services 331, 18 and 36 stop on London Road (Aspenden Road stop) (1100m). Note: This stop is only served by the buses that run direct along the A10. The nearest stop for the 331 buses that run via Hare Street is at the Crown Inn in the High Street (1400m).

### Buntingford

Services 331 and 18, 36, 36A, 37, 37X all stop outside the Crown in the High Street. The Black Bull is 100m north. The Fox and Duck is further north and turn right into Church Street.

# A real ale trail by bus



**Route 331**  
Operated by Arriva  
and A2B Travel Group

## Hertford to Buntingford



## 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](http://intalink.org.uk)



for **timetable for service 331**



for CAMRA Membership and Benefits [camra.org.uk](http://camra.org.uk)



for Arriva website [arrivabus.co.uk](http://arrivabus.co.uk)



for A2B Travel Group website [a2bbusandcoach.com](http://a2bbusandcoach.com)

## Contact Intalink

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

**For Arriva/A2B Travel 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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## Puckeridge

Situated close to the crossing of two Roman roads (Ermine St and Stane St), the village has a number of shops incl. a pharmacy.\*

### Crown and Falcon, 33 High Street, Puckeridge, SG11 1RN

Tel: 01920 821561 ☑️🍷🍷  
A 16thC open plan pub with a pool table. The Falcon appears in Samuel Pepys's 1662 diary - he bought the landlord's shoes for four shillings. Offers Thai food and food vans. Wainwright Amber cask ale.

### White Hart, Braughing Road, Puckeridge, SG11 1RR

Tel: 01920 821309 🍷🍷🍷  
A 14thC pub named after the emblem of Richard II. It offers many rooms with a huge fireplace in the main bar area. The large beer garden has a children's play area. Serves pub food and Sunday roasts. Cask ales from McMullen and others.

## Hertford

A historic county town on the River Lea with a castle, a theatre, a museum and many independent shops, pubs and restaurants. With a Saturday market and Tourist Information Centre, Hertford is home to the 200-year old family brewer McMullen and Sons.\*



### 1 Cow and Stout, 2-4 Parliament Square, SG14 1PA

Tel: 01992 517440 ☑️🍷🍷  
Grade II-listed Free House formerly known as the Quiet Man with links to the Hertford House Hotel next door. It serves pizzas, shows sports and has outdoor tables on the square at the front and also at the back. Usually three cask ales.

### 2 Great Eastern Tavern, 29 Railway Place, SG13 7BS

Tel: 01992 582048 ☑️🍷  
A local two-bar pub with TV sport and award-winning floral displays in the garden. Offers folk music on the first Tuesday of the month. Cask ales from McMullen's and others.

## Buntingford

A market town by the River Rib, once important as a staging post for coaches between London and Cambridge. Buntingford brewery is based five miles north at Therfield.\*

### Crown, 17 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

Tel: 01763 271422 🍷🍷🍷

## Westmill

A quintessential English village and green, half a mile west of the 331 bus route, once home to the curate Nathaniel Salmon whose History of Hertfordshire was published in 1728.\*

### Sword in Hand, The Green, Westmill, SG9 9LQ

Tel: 01763 271356 🍷🍷🍷  
A popular pub offering accommodation and an extensive menu. There is a large beer garden at the rear of the pub and local craft brewer, Baron Brewing, provides a house craft keg beer.

### 3 Lord Haig, South St, SG14 1AZ

Tel: 01992 582706 ☑️🍷🍷  
A 1930s town 'local' with a strong reputation for its long-standing Saturday night live music sessions. Cask ales from McMullen's and others

### 4 Mad Squirrel Tap and Bar, 32-36 Railway Street, SG14 1BA

Tel: 01992 870538 🍷🍷🍷  
Opened in late 2025 by Hertfordshire's Mad Squirrel brewery. Offers pizzas, burgers and live music at weekends. Always two Mad Squirrel cask beers at the bar and a large selection of the company's craft keg beers.

### 5 Old Barge, 2 The Folly, SG14 1QD

Tel: 01992 581871 🍷🍷  
A canal-side pub on the River Lea with locally-sourced food. Hosts a mini-music festival on the second May Bank Holiday Monday and a charity duck race (Easter Monday). Two Adnams cask beers plus a changing guest ale.

### 6 Old Cross Tavern, 8 Andrew Street, SG14 1JA

☑️🍷  
A Free House with six ever-changing cask ales, sourced from throughout Britain. Hosts quarterly beer-festivals. There are three craft keg beers plus Belgian bottle-conditioned beers. Occasionally offers live music on Sundays.

### 7 Salisbury Arms Hotel, Fore Street, SG14 1BZ

Tel: 01992 583091 🍷🍷🍷  
A Grade II listed hotel traceable

## Aspenden

A quiet linear village situated ¾ mile to the south of Buntingford, a paved footpath leads from the bus stop on the A10.\*

### Fox, Aspenden Rd, Aspenden, SG9 9PD

Tel: 07894 055575 🍷🍷🍷  
A characterful two-bar village pub with a large fireplace and a large garden. The pub has a petanque team and is used by the village cricket team.

## Wadesmill

A hamlet deep in the valley and crossing of the River Rib. The first turnpike in Britain was established here in 1663.\*

### Feathers Inn, 49 Cambridge Road, Wadesmill, SG12 0TN

Tel: 01920 462606 🍷🍷🍷  
A Chef and Brewer hotel, food-led but with plenty of tables available for drinkers, plus a sizeable beer garden. With two Greene King cask beers plus a guest ale.

## Hertford

back to 1431. Serves breakfasts and classic dishes with a modern twist during the day. Two McMullen cask ales.

### 8 Six Templars, 1 The Wash, SG14 1PS

Tel: 01992 517430 🍷🍷  
A two floors Wetherspoons serving six or seven cask ales with a large main bar and a smaller lounge area. Its garden rests against the walls of Hertford Castle. Food served all day. Regular beer and cider festivals.

### 9 White Horse, 33 Castle St, SG14 1HH

☑️🍷  
A 16thC timbered building with two downstairs bars and three upstairs rooms, one featuring rarely-seen bar billiards. There

## Black Bull, 16 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AG

A Free House with a large front bar, back bar and a function room. There's a covered patio and a garden with petanque. In CAMRAs Regional Inventory of Historical Public House Interiors. Food is served on Friday evenings. Two ever-changing cask ales.

## Hare Street

A small countryside village in rural east Hertfordshire.\*

### Beehive, Hare Street, SG9 0DX

Tel: 01763 289355 ☑️🍷🍷  
This traditional 200-year-old free house has a single bar showing TV sport. It achieved fame as the last pub in the world in the 2005 film of 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.'

## Braughing

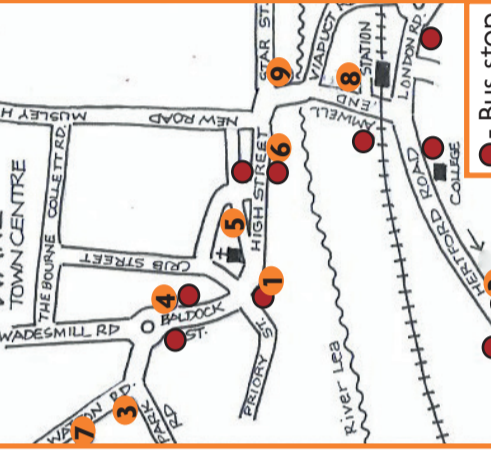
A charming village with a picturesque High Street, essential shops and many interesting buildings.\*

## Standon

Star, 62 High St, Standon, SG11 1LB  
Tel: 01920 823725 🍷🍷🍷  
This 17thC traditional village pub has two bar areas, one of them is sports themed. Two roast choices on Sundays. Greene King cask beers plus a guest ale.

## Ware

Famed for its malting history and position on the River Lea, the town's High Street features former coaching inns, now occupied by shops, pubs and restaurants as well as the town's museum. Dating from the 18th and 19th Centuries riverside gazebos are a unique feature of Ware.\*



### 1 Brewery Tap, 83 High St, SG12 9AD

Tel: 01920 468549 ☑️🍷  
A pub with old pictures/maps of Ware. The heated courtyard shows sport. The six handpumps

## Pub Facilities

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

## Braughing

An Iron Age and Roman heritage village widely-spread astride the River Quin. It hosts the annual wheelbarrow race around the village in July.\*



### 1 Axe & Compasses, 28 The Street, Braughing, SG11 2QR

Tel: 01920759101 ☑️🍷🍷  
Atmospheric and cosy pub with new food menu and a single cask beer.

### 2 Brown Bear, 14 The Street, Braughing, SG11 2QF

Tel: 01920 455030 🍷🍷  
Bitter and a guest cask ale.

### 3 Golden Fleece, 20 Green End, Braughing, SG11 2PG

Tel: 01920 823555 🍷🍷  
Dating from the early 1700s with wooden floors, exposed beams and a large fireplace. The menu includes gluten free meals with changing daily specials, monthly tapas nights and themed food evenings. Adnams Southwold Bitter and a guest cask ale.

### 6 Quiet Man, 23 High St, SG12 9BP

A pub formed from a former off-licence. Welcomes sports fans (multi-TVs). Piano sing-songs and live music often on Saturday evenings. Three cask beers from Dark Star, Sharp's and St.Austell

### 2 Kings Mead, Hertford Road, Chadwell, Ware, SG12 9LE

Tel: 01920 896800 🍷🍷  
Adjacent to a 9-hole golf course and across the road from Chadwell Spring. It's a food-led pub with chef specials and good drinking spaces indoors and out. Cask beers are from McMullen's.

### 3 Maltings, 35 Watton Rd, SG12 0AD

A family-friendly pub (built with local hitch bricks) with games room and heated outside stretch tent hosting bands at weekends. Cask ales from McMullen's and others.

### 4 Old Bulls' Head, 26 Baldock St, SG12 9DZ

Tel: 01920 413564 ☑️🍷  
A 16thC timbered pub with a Parliament clock and list of Ware's pubs of days gone by (100+). In the garden there are two floodlit Petanque pistes. Three to four cask ales from Tring, Oakham, Timothy Taylor and Theakston's breweries.

### 9 Waterside Inn, Bridgefoot, SG12 9DW

Tel: 01920 468628 🍷🍷  
A large pub with an award-winning suntrap garden sitting alongside the River Lea. Pub food is served all day. There are four regular and four guest cask beers often one from a Hertfordshire brewery.

### 5 Punch House, 7 West St, SG12 9EE

Tel: 01920 467675 ☑️🍷  
A large pub on different levels fashioned from two previous pubs. It has a large patio at the rear and menu includes Sunday roasts. Three to four cask ales available including two from Greene King.

### Other Cask Ale Pubs in Ware:

The Royal Oak in London Rd, the Good Beer Guide Crooked Billet in Musley Hill, Rifle Volunteer in New Rd, Angel in Star St and Beefeater in Viaduct Rd.

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