

## INTRODUCTION

Since this booklet was first produced by the Chiltern Society in the early 1980's the landscape of the Parish of Abbots Langley has changed considerably. The M25 cuts a swathe across the former Ovaltine Farm and the closure of the Leavesden Hospital and the Rolls Royce works has brought much new development to the southern end of the village. Despite that, there is still plenty of open countryside, within easy reach of the villages. The **Ovaltine** Company bought the former Parsonage, Sheppey's and Numbers farms in 1930 and turned them into a model showpiece for their products, erecting the well-known thatched dairy buildings and employing local people. The land was sold off a few years ago and is leased to a local farmer. The famous factory in the valley closed recently ending the company's long association with the local community.

### The Parish

**11<sup>th</sup> Century:** A Saxon nobleman, Ethelwine, gave most of the ancient manor of Langelei to the Abbot of St. Albans. Norman Lords of the manor began clearing the woodland for settlement and agriculture.

**16<sup>th</sup> Century:** The manorial system had been abandoned and for centuries after, this was a prosperous commercial farming area growing corn mainly for the ever expanding London market.

**Until 1870:** The village centre was just one of at least half a dozen distinct settlements in the Parish with many people living in the outlying farms. The building of the Leavesden Hospital, the shops in the High Street and houses and cottages nearby, started the almost continuous development, which has taken place since.

**Today:** The village remains the core of community and social activity for the whole Parish, with dozens of organisations and the churches catering for many interests.










## THE WALKS

Many of the footpaths converge on the historic St. Lawrence Church, the lasting symbol of 1000 years of human occupation of this Parish.

There are stiles to climb over on the walks, these are indicated by bold type in the text. Over the next few years, you may find that the number of stiles has been reduced. The County Council's Rights of Way Team aims to replace stiles with less restrictive structures wherever this is possible.

Please follow the Countryside Code and have fun walking.

### Key to Maps

	Start/finish
	Walk direction (when following text)
	Beware of traffic
	Parking (walkers have permission to park in ALPC car parks)
	Viewpoint
	Public House
	Footpath (walkers only)
	Bridleway (walkers, cyclists, horse riders)
	Byway (open to all traffic)

### Public Rights of Way

*The Rights of Way information on these plans is based on information from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way in Hertfordshire ("the Definitive Map"). The accuracy of these plans cannot be guaranteed. If in doubt the Definitive Map should be consulted.*

*The Definitive Map for your area may be viewed at your local library. A copy of the Definitive Map and Statement for the whole county may be viewed at County Hall. It is hoped that a copy of the Definitive Map will be made available on [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) in the future. Extracts of the Definitive Map can be ordered from the Rights of Way Unit.*