



## Clothall and the Icknield Way

Continue on the Hertfordshire Way towards Clothall for over a mile across countryside and wooded areas. The path eventually joins a road at a coach works. Follow this until it reaches the main road (A507).

Carefully cross the road and you'll see a sign for the Hertfordshire Way across fields, leading into Clothall.

At Clothall the church is a short detour – turn right when you get to the road.

Otherwise turn left and walk along the narrow road through the village, keeping to the right, on Ashanger Lane.

Follow the road until you see a sign for the Icknield Way on your right (ignore other public footpaths). The Icknield Way will take you across the A507 again – an easy route that will also cross straight over Warren Lane.

The path mostly directs you along field boundaries, finally joining Wallington Road. Follow the Icknield Way along the road, where you will return back to George Orwell's house.



This is one of a series of five guides produced for an exhibition: Dreamers, Radicals & Satirists: Hertfordshire's inspired writers (February to June 2020).

Other walks in this series feature the landscapes of Forster, Bulwer-Lytton, Shaw and Thomas.

Maps are also available on the ViewRanger app, which also has bonus images and audio (search for BritishSchoolsMuseum).



## British Schools Museum

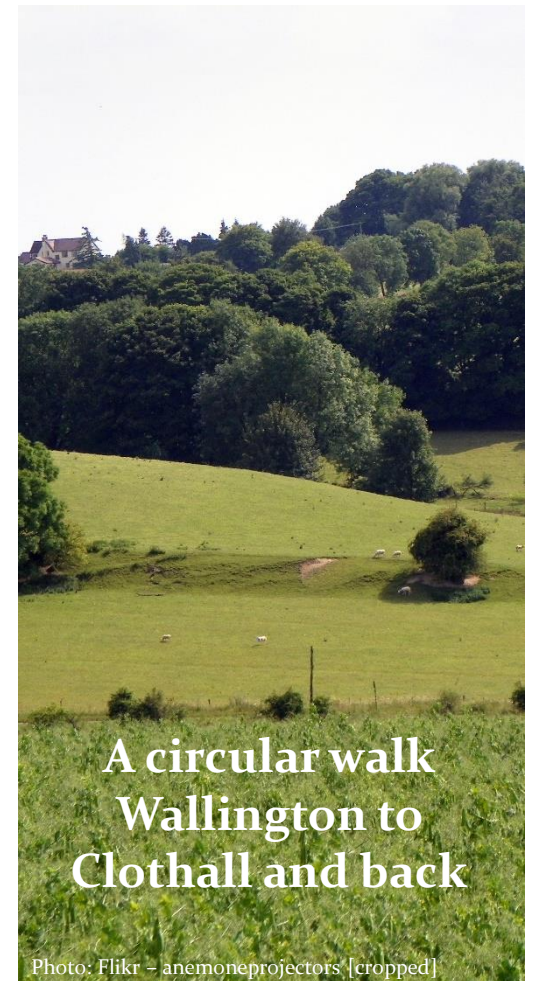
41 Queen Street  
Hitchin SG4 9TS

See website for events, activities  
and opening times



[www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk)

# George Orwell's country



A circular walk  
Wallington to  
Clothall and back

Photo: Flickr – anemoneprojectors [cropped]

DREAMERS,  
RADICALS  
& SATIRISTS

## George Orwell's country

This walk will take you through George Orwell's Wallington – where he lived, married and wrote. You'll walk along the Hertfordshire Way to the village of Clothall, before returning via the Icknield Way. Do ensure you have a map.

**Distance:** 4.5 miles / 7.25 km

**Terrain:** Fairly easy, across countryside

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Map:** OS Explorer Map 193 Luton & Stevenage or free ViewRanger app

**Parking:** The Street, Wallington SG7 6SW (51.98826, -0.11869)

George Orwell (1903-1950) was born Eric Blair, and became an important novelist, journalist and critic.



Orwell is known for writing about poverty and describing the poor living conditions in northern England. His most famous novels include *Animal Farm* and *1984* which both look at totalitarian rule, resonating with us in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world as much as it had with readers back then.

## Wallington

From The Street, walk past the Village Hall on your left, which used to be a school.

After the junction, is his old house at 2 Kit's Lane (a private residence), where he lived from 1935 to 1940. He wrote *Homage to Catalonia*, and *The Road to Wigan Pier* while living here.

Orwell wanted a quieter, cheaper life compared to London. A big draw to this house was the garden. There used to be a corrugated-iron roof in Orwell's time.



## Manor Farm

Go back to The Street and carefully follow the road to the right until you see Manor Farm on your left.

This is the Great Barn that features so prominently in *Animal Farm*.

Continue onwards, taking the right fork in the road towards St Mary's Church. Eric Blair (as Orwell was still known as) and Eileen O'Shaughnessy married here in 1936.

After the church, continue along the road and turn left at the T-junction. Just after this, ignore the sign to Clothall and continue on the Hertfordshire Way.

