

4. Pimlico Walk

4.2km (2.6 miles).

This is the highest part of Abbots Langley – 140m (450ft) above sea level at the TV Mast.

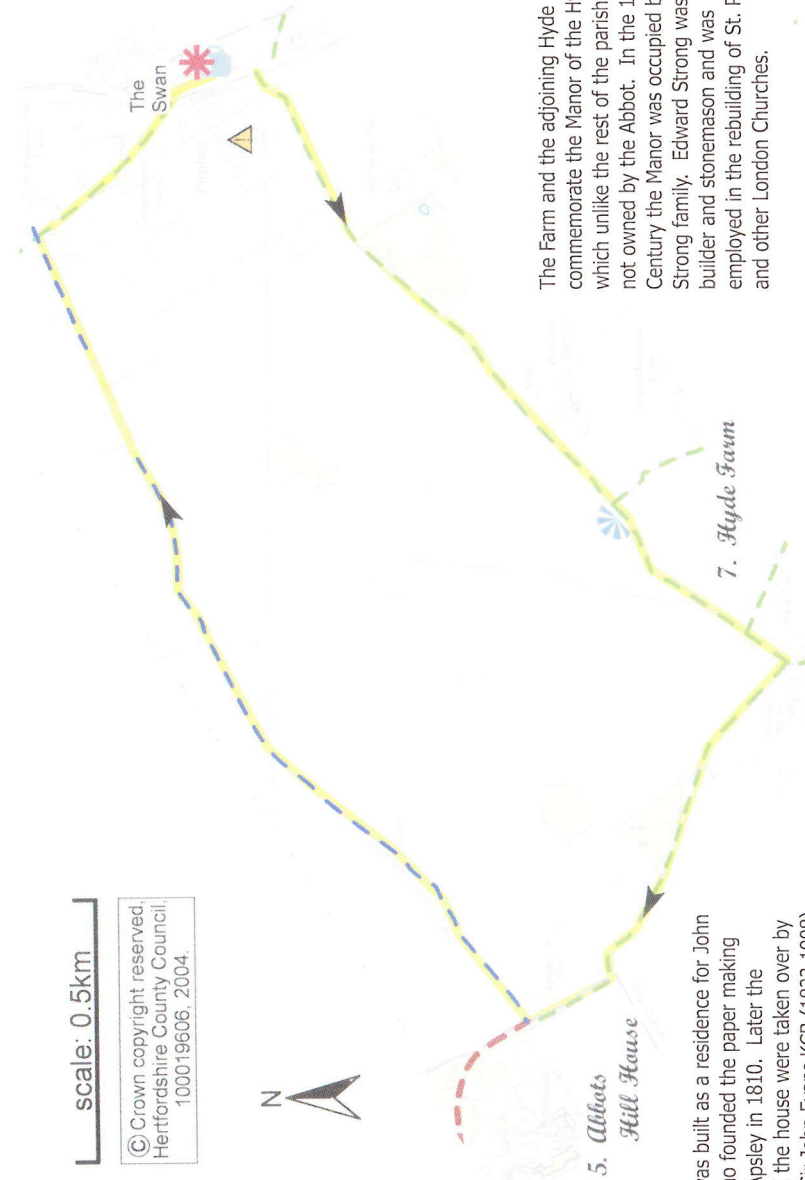
The only sizeable car park at Pimlico is the one attached to the Swan, so a visit to the pub is necessary either before or after the walk.

Turn left out of the car park, after 50m take the signposted footpath across the road. This path runs behind the cottages alongside a number of outbuildings and stables, and then a wood, to emerge into a large open field, with the TV mast on the other side of the hedge on the left. Continue along the edge of the field to *7. Hyde Farm*.

Turn right after a couple of barns belonging to Hyde Farm, with woodland on the left, screening *6. Pimlico House*. Look out for a way-marked gap on the left leading into the wood and then downhill to an opening at the bottom. Continue straight uphill through some scrub, to the left edge of the field. Go through an opening on the left of the field and continue through a linear wood to Abbots Hill Farm. The playing fields of *5. Abbots Hill School* are on the left.

After the farm turn right over the driveway to Abbots Hill Farm along a path (Highwoodhall Lane) with a fence on the left and hedge on the right, which later becomes a green lane with hedges on both sides. The lane is used by horses and further on is often very muddy. The field on the right is sometimes used as an airfield.

Continue up the lane to Highwoodhall Farm where there is a footpath signpost. Turn right through the farmyard, cross the **stile** in right hand corner of the farmyard and follow the path to a second **stile**, walk half-left across a field to a signposted gate. Pass the indoor riding school to a second marked gate, walk through the car park back to the main road.



The Farm and the adjoining Hyde Lane commemorate the Manor of the Hyde, which unlike the rest of the parish was not owned by the Abbot. In the 18th Century the Manor was occupied by the Strong family. Edward Strong was a builder and stonemason and was employed in the rebuilding of St. Pauls and other London Churches.

Pimlico House is the residence of the Earl and Countess of Arran. The late Earl was concerned with the protection of badgers; the countess is keen on motor boat racing.

6. Pimlico House

Abbots Hill was built as a residence for John Dickinson who founded the paper making business at Apsley in 1810. Later the business and the house were taken over by his nephew Sir John Evans KCB (1823-1908) who was also famous as a geologist and antiquarian. The house is now a girls' school.

5. Abbots Hill School