

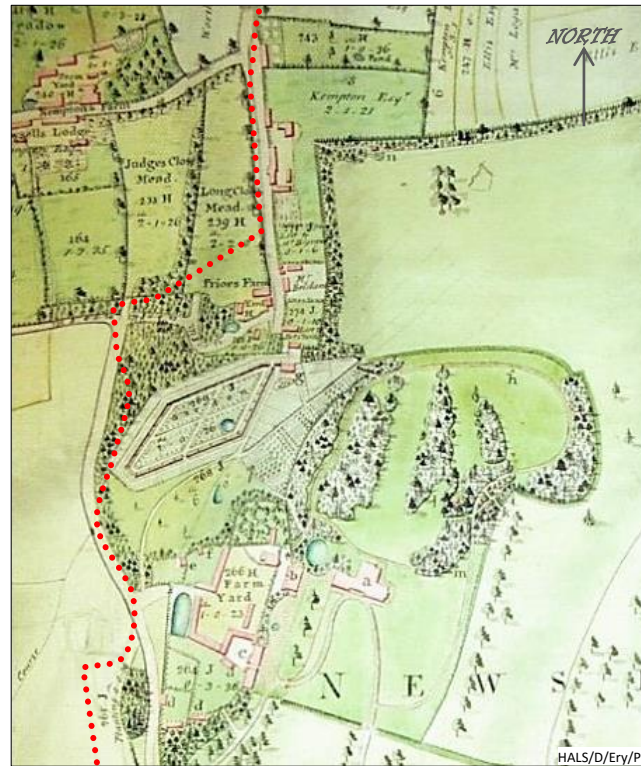


**G.** Lodge and Lime Avenue towards west entrance

After a few yards turn left through a waymarked gate onto a broad track. This is Crab Plantation (**H**), with earthworks revealing 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping along the course of the estate perimeter carriageway (**L**). Red brick walls of the lozenge-shaped kitchen garden rise to the right. Follow the track uphill, bearing right to emerge through a gate onto a sloping field. Turn right and follow the waymarked route down to a quiet road lined with historic estate houses. Turn left along the road past a memorial to the Newsells men who perished in the Great War (**J**).

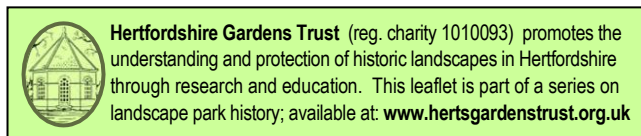


**J.** War Memorial Stone in springtime



**L.** Detail of Plan of Manor and Lands of Newsells, Property of George Jennings, 1788. (walk in red)

Opposite are more historic buildings, featuring on the 1788 map (**L**). A path stepping up next to the memorial provides a pleasant detour to views opening across the Newsell estate (**M**). Continue north along the track opening out to paddocks on either side and between wooded hillocks. At the T junction, turn right and walk up to the road past a fine Arts & Crafts house on the left (**K**) at the outskirts of Barley.

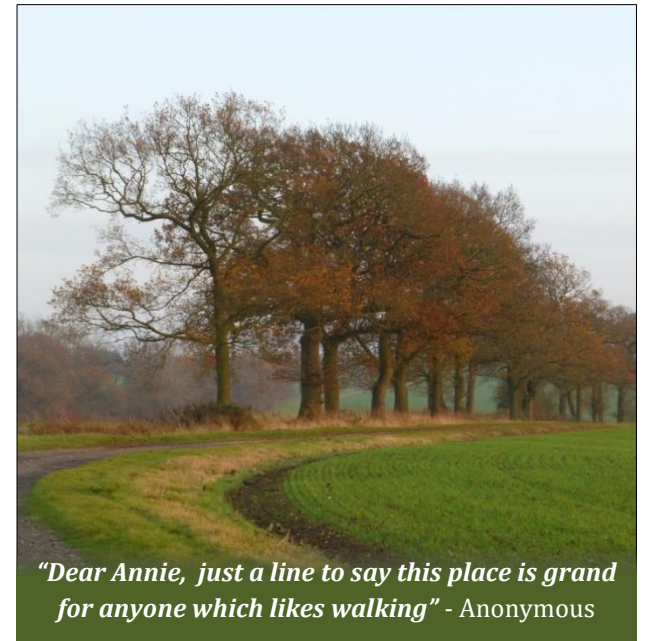


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## Hertfordshire Landscape Parks



# Newsells Park



**C.** On the way to Walk Wood near Cokenach

**The Walk** explores both **Newsells** and **Cokenach** on either side of the B1368, between Barkway and Barley, and is about 5 miles (8.5 km) on mostly level ground. Paths can be muddy through the woods. OS Explorer Map 194.

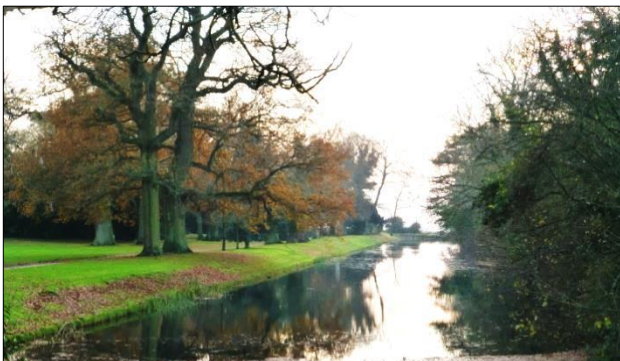
**Parking:** Near 'The Chequers' (🚗), Barley SG8 8JQ Grid ref. TL395382.

**Cokenach** is a late 17th century house (with later additions) built on land owned by Royston Priory until the 1550s. The early 18th century formal garden features canals developed from an earlier moat. Both Newsells and Cokenach were purchased by Rear Admiral Sir John Jennings in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



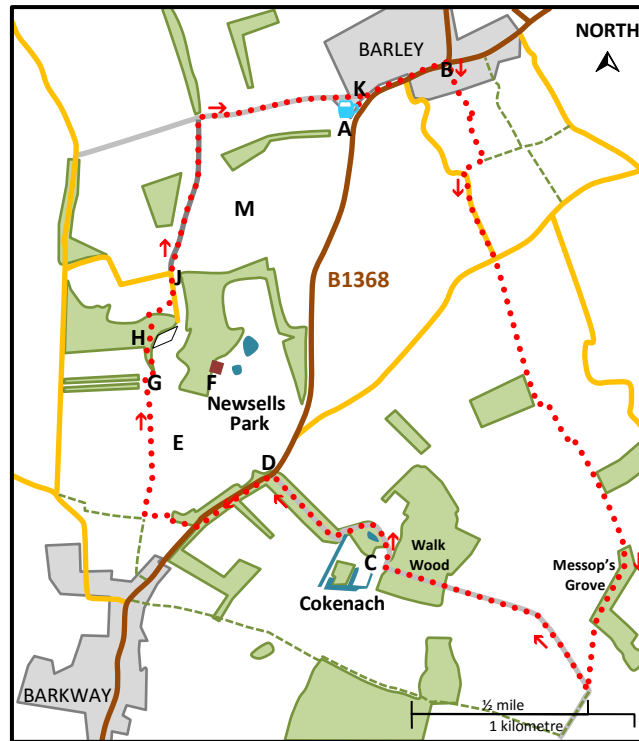
**M.** Newsells paddocks

In 1763 George, his son, commissioned landscape improver Richard Woods to create a design for Newsells. Woods, a contemporary of ‘Capability’ Brown, developed his own style and designed ‘pleasure parks’ for at least 48 clients. The 125 acre park at Newsells was reminiscent of a ‘*Ferme Ornée*’. The mature trees surrounding the park are part of the original shelterbelt that contained a circuit walk. An obelisk was erected close to the south boundary and near the house the pleasure ground included lawns, shrubberies, an evergreen walk, rose ground, sun dial, grotto, a tent, ‘Little House’ and Ice House as well as a kitchen garden, orchard and several pools (see 1788 map, **L**).

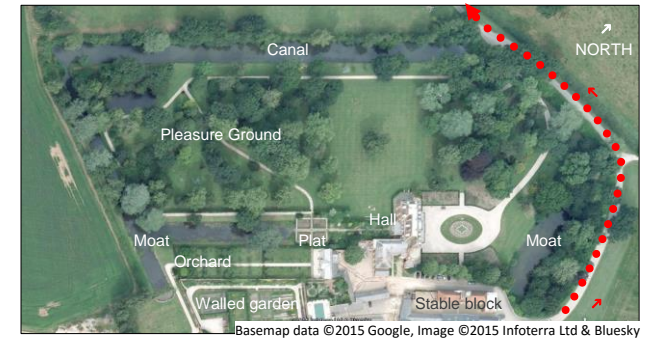


**C.** Cokenach pleasure ground and canal

To the north, a sunk fence enabled uninterrupted views which were framed by trees in irregular clumps. Newsells house was burnt down in 1943 and re-built on the same site in 1954. The estate is now a stud which incorporates new tree planting and paddocks (**M**).



**Walk** from ‘The Chequers’ car park (**A**) to where a footpath leads off beside the war memorial (**B**). Continue over the staggered crossing of paths, and at a cricket ground turn right and then left onto a road. The housing soon opens up to countryside views including the Chishill Windmill on the left. At the T junction, cross over to a footpath rising gradually between hedges. Cross a track and continue along a hedge, across open ground.



**C.** Cokenach moated manor (walk in red)

Pass through Messop’s Grove and across a field on the other side, turning right onto a concreted track. Walk through Walk Wood (containing yew plantings) to Cokenach (**C**), and follow the drive past the estate buildings to the main road. Turn left onto the pavement along the B1368. On the right note the lodge and imposing wrought iron gates (**D**) dated 1918. When the pavement runs out, cross the road and turn right onto a bridleway with a tall radio mast looming ahead. At a grassy crossing of paths turn right towards the obelisk (**E**) in the parkland. The ground slopes down to a glimpse of the red-brick Newsells Hall (**F**). The track passes the west lodge (**G**), a Gothic thatched cottage (1804). Go through a gate and turn right, glancing left to the avenue of lime trees.



**F.** Newsells Hall from near the Obelisk