



Bengeo Trails 9: Around St. Andrew Street, Hertford Castle Gardens, and Folly Island with the Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan

The Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan boundary includes parts of Hertford town centre at Old Cross and St. Andrew Street, parts of Hertford Castle Gardens, and Folly Island. This trail highlights how the [Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan](#) policies are implemented in these areas. It was produced by the [Love Bengeo Community Group](#).

Starts: Hertford St. Andrew Church, St. Andrew Street, SG14 1HZ

Ends: The Old Barge Pub, The Folly, SG14 1QD

Conditions: Pavements, footpaths, and grassy areas

Distance: 0.9m/1.5km



The [Grade II Listed Hertford St. Andrew Church](#) is one of more than a hundred listed buildings and structures given additional protection through the Neighbourhood Plan's 'Listed Buildings and Structures' Policy. The [church](#) and [St. Andrew's Centre](#) are included on the Neighbourhood Plan's list of community facilities that should be retained and protected.

The [Grade II Listed](#) 41-43, St. Andrew Street, immediately to the left of the church was granted Listed Building Consent in 2021 for conversion of St. Nicholas Hall, the School Room, and the first floor of the Verger's House (pictured right). The Neighbourhood Plan response (available on www.lovebengeo.org.uk/blog/) welcomed the proposals to sympathetically bring these buildings back into full use.



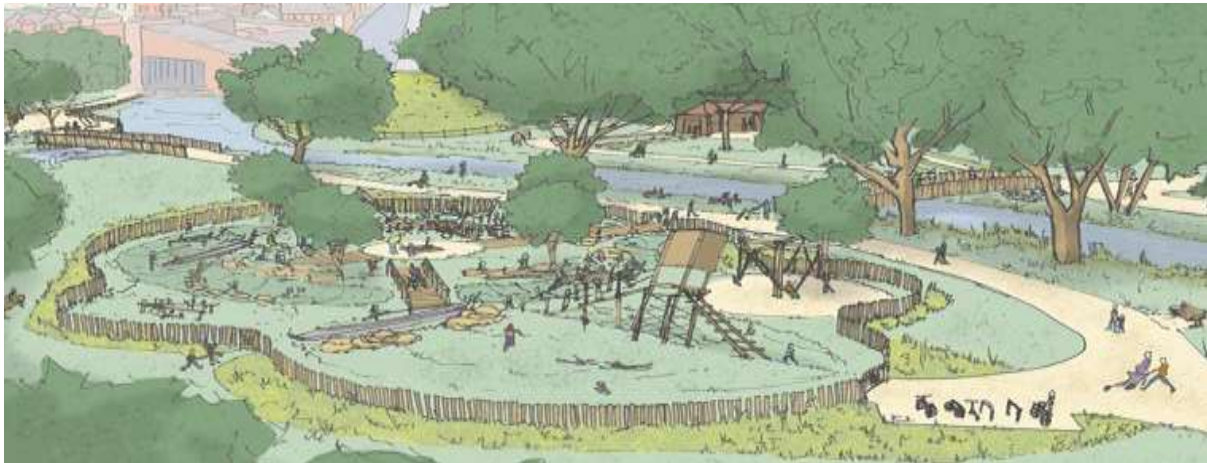
Walk along St. Andrew Street towards the town centre. Bear right onto Mill Bridge, over the River Lee, and turn right, just after the [Samuel Stone](#) statue. Cross the bridge into the St. Andrew Street car park (currently, you'll need to walk past seven car parking spaces) and turn left, through the gate, into Hertford Castle Gardens.



The grassy area, known as the Island, with the children's play area at the far end (pictured left) is within the boundary of the Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan.

In December 2025, a planning application for landscape and greenspace enhancements to Hertford Castle Gardens was published, preceded by a public consultation on the [Hertford Castle Greenspace Renewal](#).

The proposals include the upgrading and relocation of the children's play area, improved pedestrian and cycle access from St. Andrew Street car park, and forest and wildflower planting. A Neighbourhood



Plan response (available on www.lovebengeo.org.uk/blog/) to the planning application welcomed the proposals. The 'Improving Air Quality' policy in the Neighbourhood Plan supports the relocation of the play area, away from the traffic noise and fumes of Gascoyne Way.

Above: A representation of the proposed replacement children's play area (from the planning application.)

Leaving Hertford Castle Gardens through the gate to St. Andrew Street car park, turn right and return over the bridge, then turn left onto Mill Bridge.



Cross Mill Bridge at the traffic lights. The Grade II Listed former [Hertford Library](#) is in front of you. With the library on your right, walk along Old Cross and turn right onto Hartham Lane.

Take the left fork on Hartham Lane, passing the Grade II Listed [McMullens Brewery](#) on your right. Both buildings benefit from additional protection through the Neighbourhood Plan.

After passing Sainsbury's, ignore the path that curves right around Sainsbury's car park and turn right into Folly Island via Thornton Street, over the [Thornton Street Weir](#).



Folly Island became an island when a millstream (now the Lea Navigation) was dug through in the 11th century. It's within the Hertford Conservation Area. In the [Hertford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#) it's described as being '*overall a most delightful area and one worthy of careful protection*'.



Folly Island was Hertford's first industrial area. The Foreword of the Neighbourhood Plan ('The History and heritage of the Neighbourhood Plan') says – '*In Victorian times, the town's time-honoured industrial area made way for the present-day Conservation Area focus – the artisan terraced homes on Folly Island*'.

From Thornton Street (image above from the Neighbourhood Plan), turn left into Old Hall Street.

Opposite the end of Old Hall Street are the gates to the [Folly Island allotments](#). They're one of two allotment sites within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

They're given additional protection from development through the Neighbourhood Plan and both are included on the list of community facilities that should be retained.



Turn right into Frampton Street, then right onto the towpath adjoining the River Lee, past the riverside cottages, until you reach The Old Barge pub, on your right.

[The Old Barge](#) is one of ten buildings and structures identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as having local historic or architectural importance. It was re-built in the 1890s to serve beer to residents of The Folly and its industries and is one of six pubs in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.



There's more information [here](#) on the history of the Old Barge.

This trail ends here at The Old Barge.

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(map produced using openstreetmap.org)

