

Chilterns Country

It is a steep walk up the Baulk, but well worth the effort. From this wide grassy track, there are views up and down the valley and to the village below. Notice as you climb that the soil becomes thinner and the chalk and flints more visible.

The Chalk Hills Walk

Chalk has influenced many aspects of rural life around Lilley, and explains the distinctive rounded shape of the hills. In a field behind Church Farm is an old pit from where chalk was dug up and burned to produce lime. This was used for mortar, and for spreading on fields as a fertiliser.

Lilley Hoo was once a sheep grazed common, but in 1944 much of it was ploughed up due to wartime food shortages. The only area of downland that remains is on Telegraph Hill, where you may still see Cowslip (pictured on the front cover) and Common spotted orchid. Other chalk loving plants can be found away from the nature reserve; look out for Devil's-bit scabious and for Travellers joy. This wild clematis adorns hedgerows throughout the Chilterns, and is also known as Old-man's beard due to its fluffy winter seed-heads. On top of Lilley Hoo, a thin cap of clay is present, and where arable crops are now farmed, heather and gorse used to grow.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, there was a popular race course on top of Lilley Hoo. George IV is said to have attended meetings there along with nobility from far and wide.

The hills around Lilley are part of the chalk ridge that runs across Southern England, linked by Britain's oldest 'road', the Icknield Way. First used in neolithic times by flint traders, the 195 km (120 mile) Icknield Way Path can still be enjoyed by walkers today.

This is one of a **series of walks** through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It follows **rights of way** most of which are waymarked as follows:

-  Footpath (walkers only)
-  Bridleway (horse riders, cyclists and walkers)
-  Byway open to all traffic
-  Restricted Byway (horseriders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles)

 Please be considerate in the countryside - keep to footpaths, especially through crops, and leave farm gates as you find them.

Refreshments and B&TB in the historic village of Lilley

The Lilley Arms is a 300 year old former coaching Inn set in beautiful surroundings. It is a traditional country pub, serving food at lunchtimes and all evenings except Sunday. There is a large garden with animals for children to enjoy. Walkers, cyclists and riders are welcome. The pub offers B&TB accommodation. www.lilley-arms.co.uk Tel 01462 768371



2011

For further walks and rides in the area visit www.chilternsaonb.org/activities.asp


The Chilterns
CONSERVATION BOARD
www.chilternsaonb.org
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We care for the Chilterns
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Pub Walk: The Chalk Hills Walk, Lilley



Walk Description:

Short route 3.2 km (2m) up and down hill, no stiles
Long route 8 km (5m) rolling countryside, 2 stiles

Start and Finish:

The Lilley Arms, Lilley

Walking time:

Short route approx. 1 hour
Long route approx. 2 hours


The Chilterns
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

How to get to Lilley

The 101 bus route connects bus and railway stations in Stevenage and Luton, calling at Lilley hourly during the day on every day of the week. The bus stop in Lilley is at the junction of West St and Lilley Bottom, near the telephone symbol shown on the map. Walk from here past the Church to the start of the route at the Lilley Arms. For further travel information call 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.Intalink.org.uk

Notes on the walk



The Lilley Arms. Turn right out of the pub and then left into East Street. After 200 metres take the bridleway (the Baulk) on the right.



Our route turns off left and downhill through the trees of Kingshill Plantation.



The kissing gates along this section of the walk were put in by Herts Countryside Management Service (CMS) volunteers. Herts CMS works with communities in Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment.



Turn right here for a detour (of 1.3km) to Telegraph Hill, where there are fine views across Bedfordshire, and the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust manage a chalk grassland reserve.



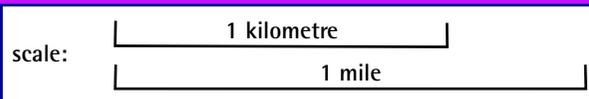
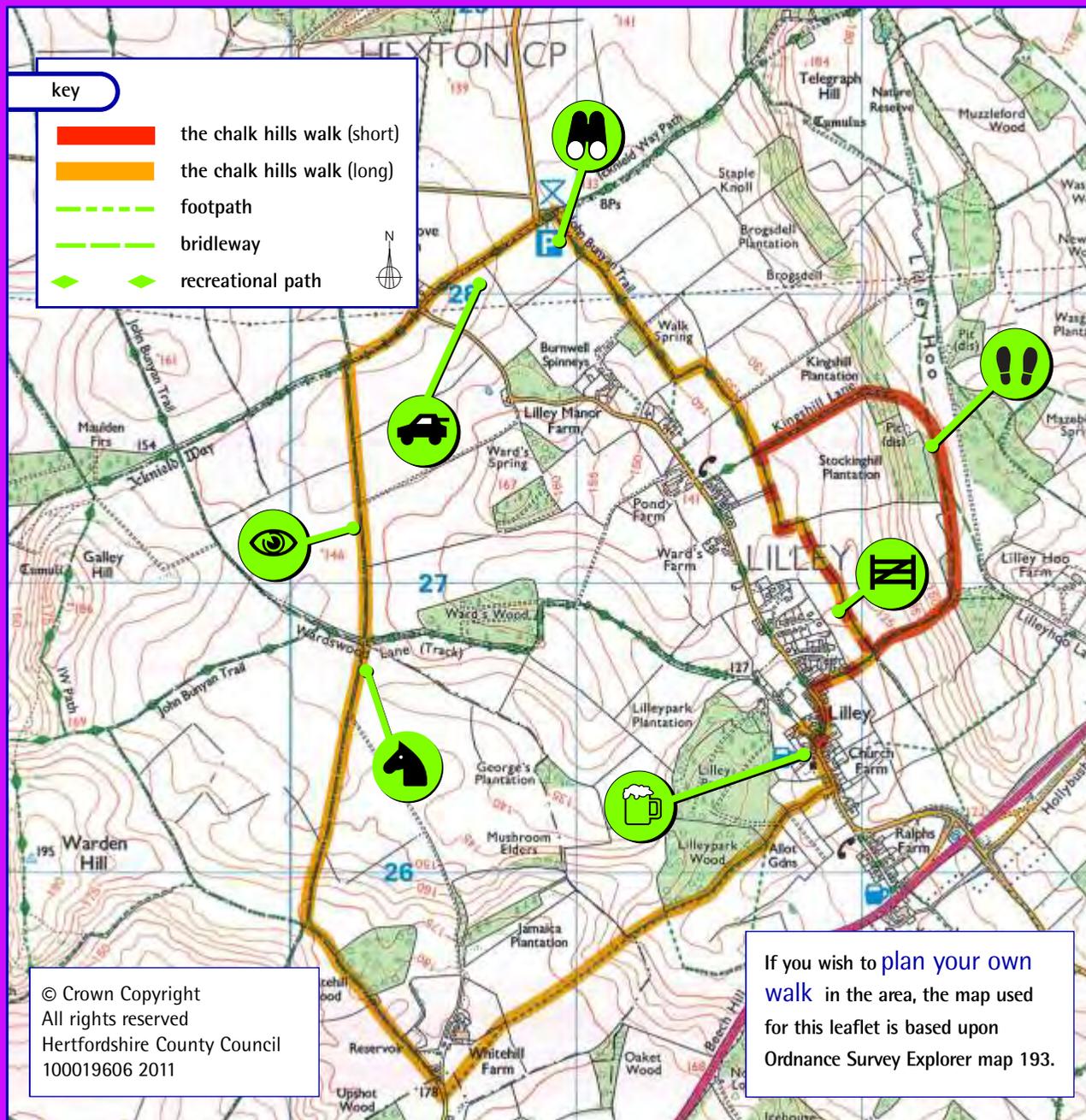
Take care on this 0.5km/550 yards stretch along the road which the Icknield way path also follows. You can walk on the verge in places.



To the west is Galley Hill where Early Bronze Age graves (circa 2500 to 1500 BC) have been excavated.



In the summer months the byway along Wardwood Lane can be used as a short cut, but parts may be muddy in winter.



Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy