

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 10.8 miles, Ascent: 210m

Overview

After skirting Houghton Regis and crossing the M1 you can enjoy fine stretches of open downland around Sundon before reaching the beech hangers above Sharpenhoe and its attractive iron age fort.

TERRAIN: Field paths and good tracks/bridleways. Some open downland. There is a steep set of steps down from Sharpenhoe Clappers. A small amount of urban paths.

START: A505 roundabout at base of Chalk Hill, Watling Street, Dunstable

FINISH: Barton le Clay - Royal Oak Pub

FOOD AND DRINK: Chalk Hill: White Lion, Chalton: Star, Upper Sundon: Red Lion, Barton: Pubs and shops

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: Hourly buses from Barton to the Luton Interchange from where there are hourly buses on to Chalk Hill.

Visit [Chiltern Way](#) for information and news. You can view a detailed map on [OS Maps](#) and follow this stage on the app. The next stage is [13 - Barton to Great Offley](#) – click to download.

For more detailed information on this stage and on the Chiltern Way we recommend the "Chiltern Way including the Berkshire Loop" book by Nick Moon available from the [Chiltern Society](#) (Tel: 01494 771250).

Route Description

1: Steps Down

Coordinates: OSGB SP99852409 LatLon 51.9065,-.5499

Descend the steps East of the A505. Turn left on the bridleway at the bottom, cross a bridge and turn right past a warehouse. When you reach a road, cross it and turn left to continue on the bridleway between the road and new warehouses. This brings you to Thorn Road. Turn right for 100m and use the Pegasus crossing to cross. Turn left for a short distance then right on a bridleway across the green space in front of new houses. This brings you to a track leading up to the bridge over the A5. Cross the bridge and continue straight on down the other side, ignoring footpaths on either side.

2: Waypoint 2

Coordinates: OSGB SP99712512 LatLon 51.9157,-.5516

You meet a crossing footpath in front of a ditch. Turn right and follow the footpath to the right of the ditch/hedge. This becomes a bridleway after a wiggle over a footbridge and after a mile you meet a road. Turn right to a Pegasus crossing and cross.

3: Bedford Road

Coordinates: OSGB TL01012573 LatLon 51.9209,-.5325

Turn right on the other side and you soon join a farm track that curves left and runs between fields. After half a mile you pass through the Grove Farm complex before turning left to re-join the original route of the Chiltern Way.

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4: Grove Farm

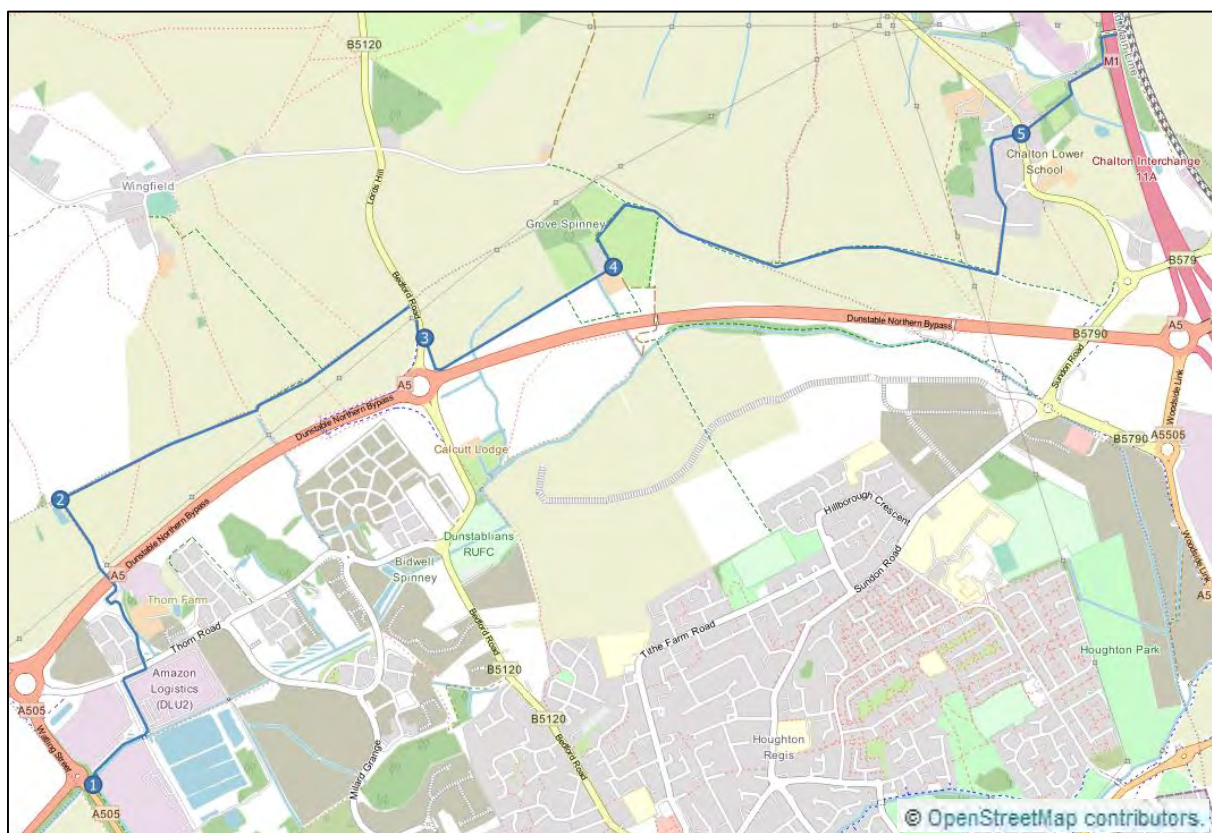
Coordinates: OSGB TL01692599 LatLon 51.9232,-.5226

Shortly after turning left at the farm, the bridleway turns right, heading uphill, between a hedge and a field. When you reach a broad, hedge-lined byway, turn right, continuing uphill for a way. You follow this broad grassy byway for nearly a mile. It soon flattens off and becomes wider, with fine views to either side. You pass under some high-tension power lines and 100m further on you meet a crossing footpath. Turn left across and walk across the middle of a rough grassy field to a gap between houses. Pass through the gap and when you reach a steet continue on the road straight ahead downhill. Take the footpath to the left as the road swings right (just after number 64). The path runs between fences, first gardens then development land. Cross a private drive then skirt right around a small childrens play area to reach a road. Cross the road towards the Star Pub.

5: Chalton Star

Coordinates: OSGB TL03152651 LatLon 51.9276,-.5012

Take the footpath running across the pub car park to the left of the pub and leave through the gate in the far left corner. When you come to an open area bear a little left to a waymark post and take the path running through the middle of a strip of trees. The path crosses a stream then turns left along the right bank. Follow the path as it turns right at the corner of a field. Where the footpath joins a broader track follow it towards the motorway. Continue over the motorway. Once over, you come to a footbridge over the railway. Cross the railway. You now need to cross a field to the line of poplars marking a lane. If the path is not clear, stand with your back to the railway: the direction of the path is half-right across the field. When you get to the poplars look for a narrow dirt path descending to the road with a waymark post on the other side. Cross the road and climb the opposite bank. Once again you have a field to cross. If the path is not clear, it runs a little left of straight on about 20m to the right of the Electricity pylon at the far edge of the field. As you near the trees opposite you should see a shady gap where the path enters on a broad dirt track.



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6: Sundon Quarry

Coordinates: OSGB TL03992724 LatLon 51.9340,-.4887

Continue over a crossing track. Your route then starts to climb. Bear left when another track joins from the right. Keep right at the next fork and shortly after you should see a kissing gate to the right where the track bends left. Take the footpath through the gate and continue in the same direction to the right of a hedge at the edge of a patch of scrub. After 200m look out for a gate in the hedge. Pass through and drop down the bank partly on steps. Cross the valley bottom and head for the steps opposite. Climb the steps to a road. Cross straight over a road and across a field, aiming for the gate in the hedge opposite. Cross the road and pass through a gap between houses. Keep straight on when you join a street. When you reach a fence at the edge of the village field, step a little right and go through a gate, left into a playing field. Follow the hedge along the right of the field and when you get to the corner turn left and walk up the field. Leave through a gate past a pond to reach the road near the Red Lion Pub.

7: Upper Sundon Red Lion

Coordinates: OSGB TL04562778 LatLon 51.9387,-.4803

Take the bridleway to the right of the Red Lion pub. Initially this follows a broad stony track. Leave this track just before you get to some metal gates on a bridleway that runs a little to the right across a grassy hillside (ignore the obvious path that heads straight up to the top of the ridge). As you near the edge of the field you come to a waymark post by trees. Do not enter the trees. Instead turn right through a gap in a hedge, then right along the hedge, following it to the top of the ridge. Once at the top turn left and walk along the top of the slope. At the far corner of the field, bear right through a gap to a road. Walk along the right-hand verge for 40m, looking out for a kissing gate on the other side. Cross the road and go through the gate into the Sundon Hills Country Park.

8: Sundon Hills CP

Coordinates: OSGB TL04652862 LatLon 51.9462,-.4787

Bear right and go through the kissing gate in middle of the fence onto the open hillside. Walk diagonally across to the hedge-line on you right. When you reach it bear left and continue along the hedge. Go through a gate on the right at the far corner, turning right on a broad track. Follow the path ahead as it first bends to the left, then the right. When it bends left again, look out for a gate on the right.

9: Waypoint 8

Coordinates: OSGB TL05532881 LatLon 51.9479,-.4658

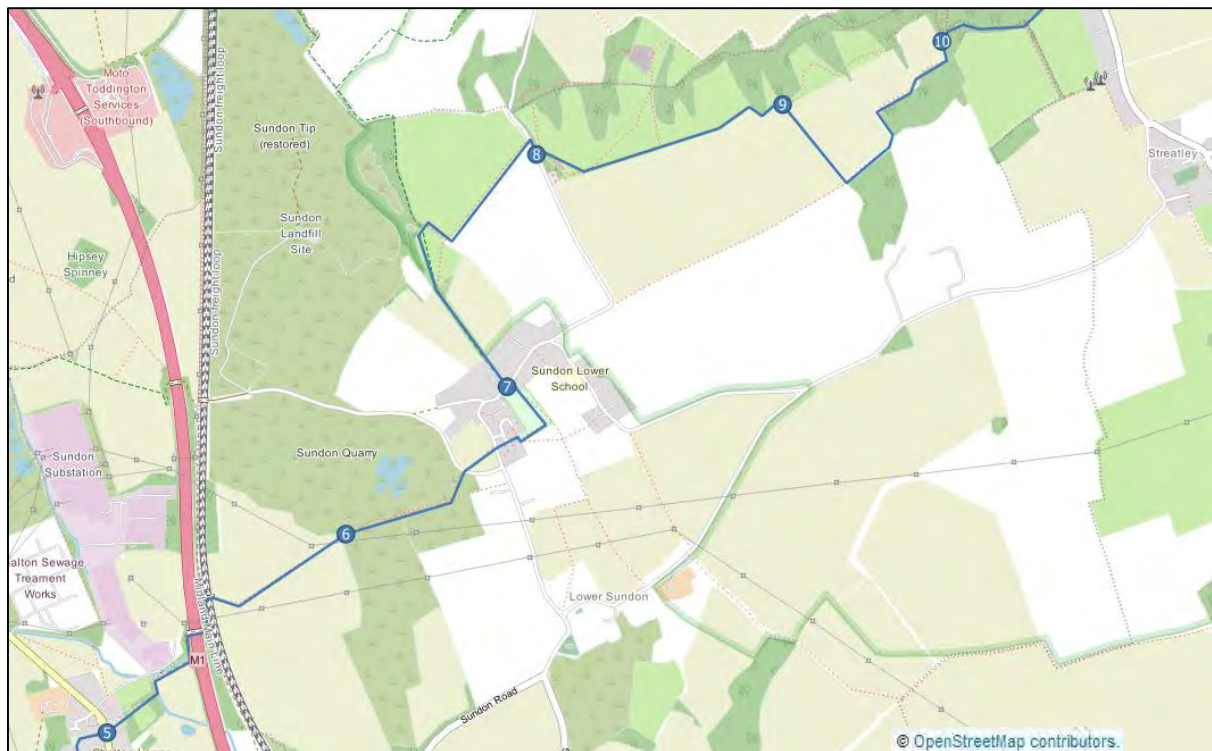
Turn right through a gate waymarked for The Chiltern Way, The Icknield Way and the Bunyan trail. Continue straight ahead on a path between fields and at the end turn left along a path to the left of a wood. Where that ends bear left on a stony track and where that peters out turn right and walk along the top of the field to the corner. Follow the field round to the left for 100m.

10: Waypoint 9

Coordinates: OSGB TL06102905 LatLon 51.9499,-.4575

Turn right into the wood. Once in the wood bear right to continue on the footpath at the top of the steep wooded slope. The path curves left with the hill and becomes a broad grassy track with a field on the right. Pass through a kissing gate ahead of you at the edge of a field, keep straight ahead to a gate in the right hedge. Drop down steps and cross the road to the Sharpenhoe Clappers car park.

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11: Sharpenhoe Road

Coordinates: OSGB TL06512956 LatLon 51.9544,-.4514

Leave the car park on a broad tarmac track heading to the Clappers. After about 100m leave it on a path to the left through the trees. When you emerge on the edge of an open area, continue on the lower left edge to the beech trees of the Clappers. Continue between the trees and the steep west slope to the north end of the hill above some steps.

12: Clappers Steps

Coordinates: OSGB TL06583037 LatLon 51.9616,-.4502

Go down the steep set of steps. At the bottom of the stepped path, continue descending more gently with a hedge on your left, to the road. Turn left here towards Sharpenhoe village, then turn right opposite the road turning to Streatley, onto a bridleway following the drive to Sharpenhoe Bury. At Bury Farm pass to the left of some large barns and take a rough track straight on towards Pulloxhill Water Tower until you reach a small woodland on the left and pass a ditch on the right.

13: Waypoint 10

Coordinates: OSGB TL06223130 LatLon 51.9700,-.4551

Turn right, following the ditch at first, then follow the path across the open field to reach and cross a footbridge and through a gap in the hedge. Then turn right, following the right-hand hedge along the edge of a plantation. At the powerline, turn left and follow the path between hedges for 300m (NB. if this path is overgrown, you should be able to find a way to the right of the hedges). Where the hedges end, keep straight on to a hedge then pass through a gate a little left. Cross a small field to a gap in the opposite corner. Continue straight on, following the powerline until at the far end of the last field, you near the Old Watermill on the edge of Barton-le-Clay.

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14: Old Watermill

Coordinates: OSGB TL07623119 LatLon 51.9688,-.4348

Turn right and walk between trees and the fence of the Watermill. Shortly after the fence on the left ends you reach a footbridge. Cross the stream then turn right and continue along the stream. When you reach the point where the stream comes out of a concrete conduit, recross the stream and climb a set of steps up the embankment to the Sharpenhoe Road. Turn left and follow the road over the A6 dual-carriageway into Barton-le-Clay. You reach the Royal Oak Pub at a mini-roundabout. Cross right to the pub.

15: Barton - Royal Oak

Coordinates: OSGB TL08143088 LatLon 51.9660,-.4273

We hope you have had a good walk. We are committed to making the Chiltern Way as enjoyable as possible, so if you feel we could improve the directions or came across any path problems, please contact us directly by e-mail: office@chilternsociety.org.uk.

