

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 11.7 miles, Ascent: 393m

Overview

A walk through several of the finest nature reserves in the North Chilterns linked by the ancient Icknield Way track. Delightful walking, often on hills reminiscent of the South Downs.

TERRAIN: There is a fair bit of ascent and descent and in places the ground can be slippery in wet weather, but good paths and waymarking make the route finding easy.

START: Barton le Clay - Royal Oak Pub

FINISH: Great Offley - Red Lion Pub

FOOD AND DRINK: The View in Pegsdon, Red Lion in Great Offley, Pubs and shops in Barton

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: Buses run twice hourly from Great Offley to Luton Station interchange where you can catch a bus to Barton (hourly)

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 [14 - Gt Offley to Peters Gn](#) – 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: Barton Royal Oak

Coordinates: OSGB TL08143088 LatLon 51.9660,-.4273

From the Royal Oak, cross the Bedford Road and turn right, taking the left fork away from the main road. After merging with the Hexton Road, cross on the Zebra crossing and, shortly after, fork right up Old Road. After a further 250m turn left to cross over a playing field towards the Church. At the church turn right uphill on Church Road and at the end of the highway in 200m turn left onto a track that leads to the Barton Hills.

2: Waypoint 2

Coordinates: OSGB TL08763032 LatLon 51.9608,-.4184

Enter the Barton Hills Nature Reserve on a Permissive Path and take the steepest route up the ridge using steps at places. At the top, the path continues southwards with the fence line on the left and the hillside dropping away steeply to the right. After 800m you come beside a track over the fence but do not go onto it. In a further 200m turn right (westwards) staying on the edge of the hill.

3: Waypoint 3

Coordinates: OSGB TL08902927 LatLon 51.9513,-.4168

In 450m enter a small thicket, then keep left at a path up from the bottom. In 10m you leave the reserve and turn left along the hedgeline in a southwards direction. After 800m turn left on to the Lilley – Streatley Road and then turn right onto a bridleway after 100m continuing southwards with the hedge on the left side.

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4: Icknield Way

Coordinates: OSGB TL09602747 LatLon 51.9350,-.4072

After 900m you come to a wood (Maulden Firs) and meet a crossroads. Turn left to join the ancient track of the Icknield Way.

5: Waypoint 5

Coordinates: OSGB TL10442793 LatLon 51.9389,-.3947

When you meet a road continue straight ahead, walking on the path on the left hand verge, taking care to look for traffic. After 500m, as the road bends left, keep straight ahead on the Icknield Way byway. After 800m you come to a junction of bridleways near Hoo Bit

6: Hoo Bit

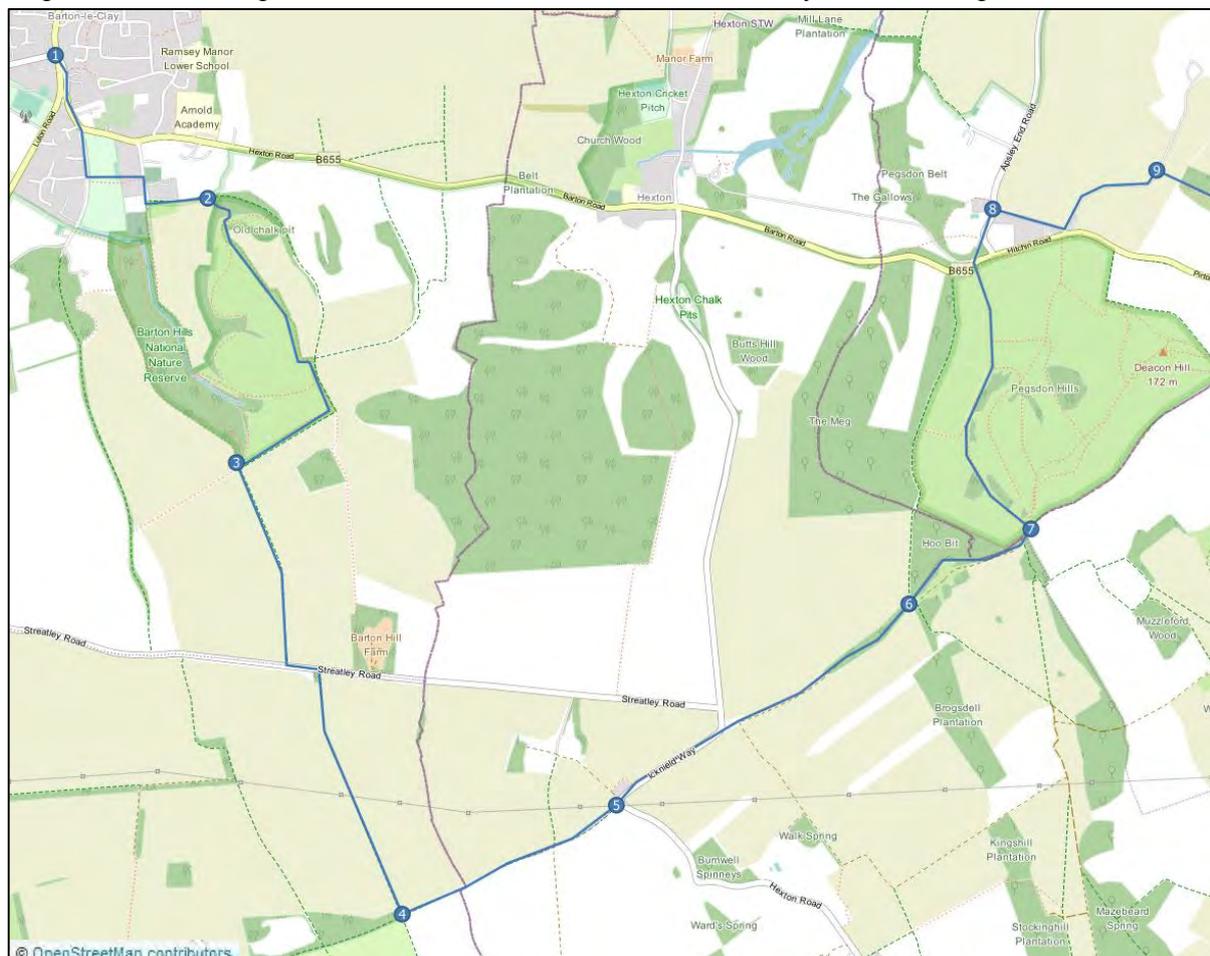
Coordinates: OSGB TL11592876 LatLon 51.9462,-.3778

In 800m at a junction of bridleways keep left to stay on the Icknield Way on a gentle incline through a grove of beeches. At the top of the climb, continue on the Icknield Way for a further 200m and you will find a footpath left through a wooden kissing gate into the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve. You will see an interpretation board near the gate.

7: Pegsdon Hills

Coordinates: OSGB TL12072907 LatLon 51.9489,-.3707

Go into the reserve and straight ahead to a fence corner. Follow the footpath left of the fence. The path descends initially above a steep-sided coomb and then across open ground to the B655 at Pegsdon, Cross straight over the B655 and take the road ahead of you to the village.



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8: Pegsdon

Coordinates: OSGB TL11893035 LatLon 51.9604,-.3729

Turn right onto Pegsdon Way. 200m after passing the Live and Let Live pub turn left on to the metalled drive of Pegsdon Common Farm for 400m.

9: Waypoint 9

Coordinates: OSGB TL12543052 LatLon 51.9618,-.3634

Turn right on to a path which gets progressively steeper with steps at places. Pass a small copse on the left and in 400m turn left to stay alongside the field boundary. After 500m turn right to resume climbing the hill. In 400m you pass the entrance to Knocking Hoe Nature Reserve.

10: Knocking Hoe

Coordinates: OSGB TL13283052 LatLon 51.9617,-.3526

Pass through the gate ahead of you and turn left. At a junction of paths in 100m, bear left on a broad, descending bridleway. Continue for 700m on a well defined descending track then look out for a footpath right, just after a bench on the right bank.

11: Wood Lane

Coordinates: OSGB TL13933097 LatLon 51.9656,-.3431

Turn right and upwards onto a path with the hedge on the left. After 800m come beside Tingley Wood on your right and High Down House on your left. Pass through a gate and then stay right over the brow of the hill. Pass southwards through the gate and descend steeply with the hedge on the right. As you near the B655 the path turns left and follows the road for a short distance in the woods.

12: Hexton Road

Coordinates: OSGB TL14143011 LatLon 51.9578,-.3402

Cross the road and enter a Nature Reserve passing through open ground on a path marked by posts. After 600m pass through a gate in the field corner onto a grass lane between hedges. In 400m pass through Wellbury livery stables, leaving through a kissing-gate on the path through a thicket to join a surfaced lane.

13: New Wellbury

Coordinates: OSGB TL13682935 LatLon 51.9510,-.3472

Turn left and then after 20m turn right on a broad dirt lane. Pass Markhams Lodge on the right and Wellbury House on the left, then in 50m look out for a bridleway to the right.

14: Waypoint 14

Coordinates: OSGB TL13482900 LatLon 51.9480,-.3502

Turn right on a bridleway in a SW direction across an open field. Follow the path uphill and pass beside a copse on your left side, and then return to crossing open fields. At the brow of the hill continue to the edge of Little Offley Farm 300m ahead then turn left keeping the farm boundary on the right side. In 400m the drive to Little Offley joins from the right. Looking back along the avenue of lime trees you will see the manor house. In a further 200m at a crossroads of tracks, turn right on a descending lane with the hedge on the right hand side.

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15: Waypoint 15

Coordinates: OSGB TL13082755 LatLon 51.9350,-.3565

After two fields turn left onto a brideway keeping the hedge on the left-hand side. Pass by a thicket and turn left and immediately right onto a green lane. At the main A505 cross over the dual carriageway taking care. Immediately after crossing the A505 keep right to stay on the green lane. Descend 300m and cross the Great Offley – Lilley road.

16: Luton Road

Coordinates: OSGB TL13472683 LatLon 51.9285,-.3511

A little to the right across the road, continue on a grassy track with the hedge on the left side. Cross the White Hill minor road and continue with the hedge on the left side, with open views to the right. After 600m at a large gap in the hedge, turn left on to a track, again with a hedge on the left.

17: Waypoint 17

Coordinates: OSGB TL14162614 LatLon 51.9221,-.3413

After 400m the path leaves the unmetalled track to the left. Pass through a thicket into a field and then keep the hedge on the left side. After a long gentle descending left turn pass through a gate in the corner of the field and cross an open field a little to the north of the farm buildings on the right hand side. Pass through a gate on to Kings Walden Road with the Red Lion, Great Offley, opposite.

18: Great Offley

Coordinates: OSGB TL14572668 LatLon 51.9269,-.3351

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.

