

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 13.5 miles, Ascent: 317m

Overview

Walk from Gt Offley to Peters Gn crossing the north-eastern end of the Chilterns. The countryside feels remote and quiet despite passing only 2 miles from the A1M and Stevenage.

TERRAIN: Mainly field paths with some broader tracks and stretches on quiet roads.

START: Great Offley - Red Lion Pub

FINISH: Peter's Green at the road junction for Wandon Green near the west end of the village.

FOOD AND DRINK: Great Offley: Red Lion, Preston: Red Lion, Chapelfoot: Rusty Gun, St Paul's Walden: Strathmore Arms, Whitwell: Pubs, cafe and shop, Peter's Green: Bright Star Pub.

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: There are buses (infrequent) between Luton Interchange and Peters Green. Half-hourly buses from Luton to Great Offley.

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 [15 - Peters Gn to Hemel via Redbourn](#) – 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: Great Offley

Coordinates: OSGB TL14572668 LatLon 51.9269,-.3351

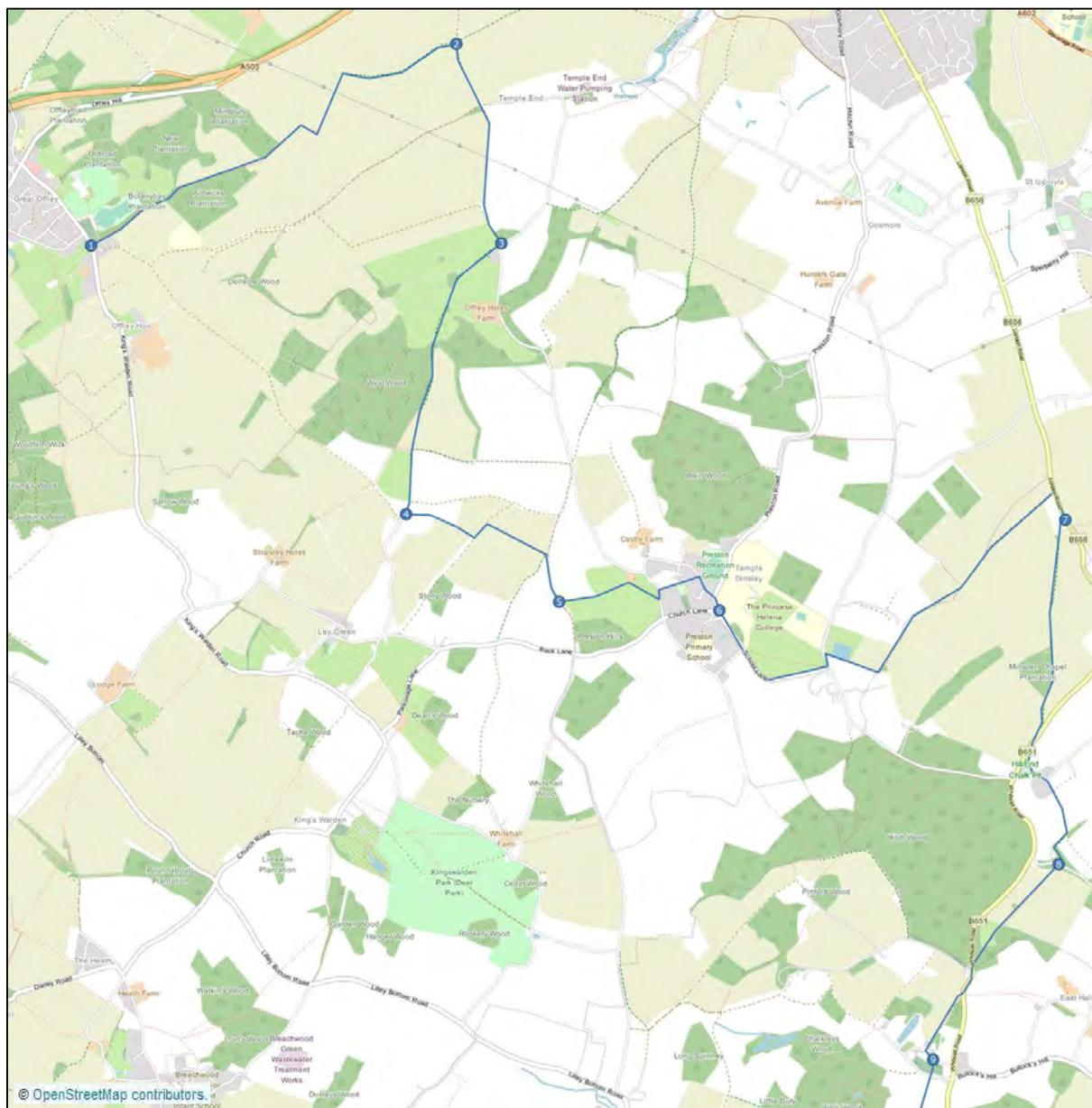
Take the footpath between the Red Lion pub and the church. Initially, the path runs along the South side of the churchyard, but soon you are walking with a wood on your left and open fields to your right. Pass through a belt of trees. You emerge from the trees to open views of Hitchin and beyond. Now the path descends with a fence on your right. As you near the bottom of the field the fence turns sharp right. Keep straight on, heading for a gate. The path continues in the same direction for 300m then takes a sharp turn to the right. After a 100m turn left to head under the high power lines. You are now walking along a wide green lane characteristic of many of the paths in this area. After passing under a set of smaller power lines, the path turns right at a junction. The bridleway now follows a sinuous trail with the hedge always on your right. After 700m you come to a crossroads of tracks.

2: Waypoint 2

Coordinates: OSGB TL16542784 LatLon 51.9369,-.3062

Turn right onto the byway of Hoar's Lane. After a few minutes you reach a cross roads with Chalk Hill Lane. Continue straight across on Hoar's Lane, heading south, for another 800m. As you start to climb, a view of the way you have just come opens up to the right – pleasantly wooded hills with not a house in sight.

Chiltern Way 14 - Great Offley to Peters Green



3: Waypoint 3

Coordinates: OSGB TL16812675 LatLon 51.9271,-.3026

Where the path meets a country road, turn immediately right, heading uphill on a bridleway. Pass through a gate into an open field and follow the fence on your left. Pass through the left hand edge of a small patch of woodland then climb steadily through another open field, still keeping the fence on your left. To your left you can see Offleyholes Farm. Passing through a gate the path climbs steeply through a belt of woodland for a short stretch. The gradient eases as you emerge from the trees. Here you follow a grassy path with West Wood on your right. After 300m, at a waymark post the path heads away from the wood a little to the left, crossing the open field in a southerly direction. If the crossfield path is not clear, you are aiming for a gap in the hedge ahead – this should become visible as you cross the field. Pass through the hedge by a waymark post and continue in the same direction.

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4: Austage End

Coordinates: OSGB TL16322525 LatLon 51.9137,-.3102

Keep straight on past the first house of Austage End, turning left on to a narrow footpath along the southern boundary of that house's garden. You will shortly be walking on the left hand side of an open field. Where the fence on your left turns to the left, carry straight on across the field. Passing through a hedge, you turn left on a green byway. In 100m turn right up some steps by a waymark post and head across the field (at a right angle to the track you have just been on/East South East). Look out for a waymark post on the far side of the field – this will become visible as you reach the crest of the field. Here you meet the picturesquely named "Dead Woman's Lane" and turn right along the wide hedge lined byway for 300m.

5: Waypoint 5

Coordinates: OSGB TL17172479 LatLon 51.9094,-.2980

Turn left off the lane towards Preston and pass through a kissing gate into a field. Follow the hedge on your left and at the corner of this field, pass through the gateway (or over the stile) and head just to the right of the low brick farm buildings you can see ahead of you. As you near these farm buildings, swing half right towards the houses of Preston. A gap in the hedge should become visible as you get nearer – aim a little to the left of the sycamore tree standing in the field. Turn left on the village street and after 50m right on to a footpath running beside the houses. The path crosses a playing field, more gardens then emerges in to Chequer's Lane. Turn right and keep right where the lane meets a larger road. In 100m, you will be at the village green outside the Red Lion pub.

6: Preston

Coordinates: OSGB TL18042476 LatLon 51.9089,-.2853

Take School Lane from the village green, heading south with the brick wall of the school on your left. You will shortly come to the entrance to the Princess Helena College (you can avoid some road walking by taking a permissive path here – head east across the field, just to the left of a copse of trees). The road bends left and comes to a T-junction after 700m. Turn left and then after 100m right onto a footpath past the edge of a reservoir and into an open field with the hedge on your right. Turn left at the corner of this field then shortly after pass right through a hedge gap then immediately turn left and continue with the hedge on your left. You will pass some large houses and modern barns, before crossing open fields with views of Stevenage and the A1M to the East. The footpath now follows a clear broad track to the B656. Turn right when you meet the road, walking on the right hand verge past the front of the Rusty Gun pub.

7: Rusty Gun

Coordinates: OSGB TL19922530 LatLon 51.9134,-.2579

Take the bridleway to the right immediately after the pub - initially you will have a hedge on your left and a fence on your right. Continue in the same direction, ascending across open fields towards the right hand edge of the woods which hide Minsden Chapel. Turn left along the edge of these woods then continue south across the field to the road ahead. Turn right on the road then almost immediately left on a grassy bridleway which climbs steeply, curving left above the Hill End Pit Nature Reserve. In 100m bear left on a road then, after a house on the right, bear right on a grassy path by the brick and flint garden wall. You emerge from trees on to a gravel track. In 250m bear right on a bridleway which runs between hedges to meet a lane in 200m. Turn left on the lane for a few metres to a footpath on the right.

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8: Waypoint 8

Coordinates: OSGB TL19932341 LatLon 51.8964,-.2584

Turn right on a footpath across open fields. Walk in a south westerly direction, aiming to the right of fir trees in the plantation ahead. Walk round the edge of the plantation then continue in the same direction across a field and in to some trees, meeting the B651 in 250m. Turn left on to the road – walk with care here, there is no verge and visibility is poor. Walk past the gates of Stagenhoe, then shortly after the road bends to the left take a path on the right of the road into a field. Walk along the edge of the field with a hedge on your left. After passing between houses turn left on to a lane, then right into the churchyard.

9: St Paul's Walden

Coordinates: OSGB TL19272232 LatLon 51.8868,-.2684

Pass the east end of St Paul's Walden Church cross a lane and continue straight ahead southwards onto a broad track (if you turn left on the lane here you will come to the Strathmore Arms in 100m). Shortly after the track becomes a lane, bear right uphill - you will now have views of the Bury. As the lane turns sharply right, head left to a kissing gate, taking the path to the left after the gate. Head south towards Whitwell, descending to the river Mimram which you cross on a low concrete bridge. Head across the field to a kissing gate, pass through the gate, bearing left and then right onto Whitwell High Street for 100m to a footpath which heads left off the street (further up the High Street you will find the pubs and shop).

10: Whitwell

Coordinates: OSGB TL18662103 LatLon 51.8753,-.2776

Take the well marked footpath on the verge on the left. Follow this up between the houses, to enter a field. Turn right and pass through the field to a parking area near tennis courts before going left along the edge of playing fields to a residential cul de sac called Hill View. Turn right on this road and then left at the end onto Horn Hill walking along the pavement up out of the village. Where the pavement ends, cross the road and walk along the verge for a short distance until you reach a water tower on the bend in the road at the top of the hill.

11: Whitwell Water Tower

Coordinates: OSGB TL17802069 LatLon 51.8724,-.2902

Turn off the road here to follow a rough wide track called Long Lane towards Peter's Green. Follow this track, passing a block of woodland until it curves leftwards. Continue and descend a pleasant, gentle valley until you reach a lane.

12: Whiteway Bottom

Coordinates: OSGB TL15872035 LatLon 51.8697,-.3184

Cross the lane, pass the barrier opposite and go straight on along the field edge to the entrance into the next field. Do not enter the field, instead turn left uphill. At the top of the slope turn right through a gap in the hedgerow. Follow the path across the middle of the field to a lane. You are aiming for the far, top corner of the field (south-west). Turn left along the lane for 250m to a footpath on the right.

13: Waypoint 13

Coordinates: OSGB TL15491970 LatLon 51.8640,-.3242

Go past the barrier into the field on the right and keep straight on the right of the hedgerow down to a wide gap in the hedgerow ahead. Turn right in front of the hedge and follow the edge of the fields towards Peters Green. Immediately before the first houses take the footpath half-right along the back of houses then turn left between two houses to emerge onto the green opposite the Bright Star pub. Turn right along the road for 100m to a 3-way road junction. Here the Chiltern Way and North Chiltern Trail meet.

Chiltern Way 14 - Great Offley to Peters Green

14: Peters Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL14111911 LatLon 51.8590,-.3443

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.

