

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 17.8 miles, Ascent: 342m

Overview

After crossing the Lea Valley the route uses converted railway lines to pass through Harpenden to Redbourn. Cross the M1 before a stretch of pretty, quiet countryside after the village of Flamstead. You cross the lovely Gade valley, finishing with a remarkably green passage through Hemel. **NB: The Chiltern Way route has been changed between Hyde and Flamstead.**

TERRAIN: Mainly field paths with some broader tracks and stretches on quiet roads. **START:** Peter's Green at the road junction for Wandon Green near the west end of the village. **FINISH:** Hemel Hempstead railway station

FOOD AND DRINK: Peter's Green: Bright Star Pub. Many options in Harpenden, Redbourn, Hemel. Flamstead: Harvester, Three Blackbirds, Spotted Dog

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: There are buses (infrequent) between Luton Interchange and Peters Green. Hourly buses from Luton to Hemel.

Visit [Chiltern Way](#) for information and news. You can view a detailed map of this stage on [OS Maps](#) and follow it on the app. The next stage is [1 - Hemel Hempstead to Chalfont St Giles](#)– 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: Peters Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL14111911 LatLon 51.8590,-.3443

Head along the road towards Chiltern Green and turn left on a footpath just at the edge of the village passing the village hall. The path runs to the right of a fence. Where the fence turns to the left, bear half-right across the open ground to a kissing gate. After the gate, the path heads south-west, initially on the right hand side of a field boundary, later on the left. In places the path runs between hedges. If it is too overgrown for comfort, you should be able to find a path at the field edge. When you get to the brow of the hill with a view over the valley, you come to a major path junction. Take the footpath left then in 250m turn right on a footpath heading downhill between fields. As you near the houses the path turns left and brings you to a road. Turn right on the road to the B653. Cross the road at a staggered junction taking the road a little to the right heading away from the houses. You soon cross the river Lea and shortly after meet the Upper Lea Valley cycleway.

2: Upper Lea Valley cycleway

Coordinates: OSGB TL12811712 LatLon 51.8413,-.3639

Take the cycleway left off the road. Here you are leaving the original route of the Chiltern Way. When you come to a road (Westfield Rd.) cross straight over and continue on the cycleway. After a further 450m, look out for steps to the right just before the cycleway crosses a bridge over a road.

3: Ox Lane

Coordinates: OSGB TL14121548 LatLon 51.8263,-.3453

Go down the steps and head uphill along Ox Lane. At the top of the hill you meet Westfield Rd. at a mini-roundabout. Cross this road and a triangle of grass bearing a little left onto a road-bridge across the mainline railway. Cross the railway.

4: Nickey Line

Coordinates: OSGB TL13391517 LatLon 51.8237,-.3561

Immediately after the bridge turn right onto the Nickey line cycleway which starts by descending a long flight of steps. You stay on the Nickey Line for the next 4Km, initially in a cutting, then between houses before emerging in more open countryside with views over the Ver valley. After a wooded section you descend towards the B487 Redbourn Lane.

5: Redbourn Lane

Coordinates: OSGB TL11311278 LatLon 51.8026,-.3870

Descend a short flight of steps, turn right then cross the road to the left near the roundabout, using the traffic island. Cross right over the A-road to rejoin the Nickey Line and follow it to your left. After 400m you cross an access road and shortly after meet a footpath to the right signposted for Redbourn High Street. Take this footpath: it climbs steps, then descends to a winding lane, which becomes a road after a ford. Continue to the High Street, cross and walk a little to the right.

6: High Street

Coordinates: OSGB TL10781225 LatLon 51.7980,-.3949

Turn left down a narrow alley between brick walls. After 100m or so you emerge at the edge of Redbourn Common. Continue straight ahead, cross a road and take the path down a long avenue of trees. Continue down the avenue across a second road. You pass the cricketers pub on your left and the cricket pitch and pavilion on your right before reaching a third road.

7: West Common

Coordinates: OSGB TL10191174 LatLon 51.7935,-.4036

Turn right on West Common. Follow this road across the common and at the edge keep straight ahead into Flamsteadbury Lane. Follow the lane round to the left past Stephens Way. Almost immediately, take a footpath to the right, passing to the right of a play-area. Continue along the right-hand edge of the field, pass through some trees. When you emerge continue with garden fences to the right and the M1 over a field to your left. Keep straight on to a gap in the fence below the embankment to a bridge over the motorway. Turn right through the gap to the road.

8: M1 Crossing

Coordinates: OSGB TL09551285 LatLon 51.8036,-.4125

Turn sharp left on the road and cross the motorway. Follow the road to Nicholl's farm and through the buildings. The road becomes a grassy track after the last houses. Initially the track runs to the left of a hedge. Keep straight on across fields when the hedge ends. When you meet a bridleway, bear right on the track heading downhill between hedges. Ignore the fork off to the right and continue descending.

9: Lower Sawpit

Coordinates: OSGB TL08521401 LatLon 51.8142,-.4270

When you near a road, take the bridleway left (marked to Trowley Bottom) and after 20m take the footpath half-right across a field (FP26 marked to St Leonards Church). Turn half-right again across the second field, climbing uphill towards a hedge line. Continue in the same direction with the hedge on your left. When you reach a house fence, walk along the fence of the first house before turning left between garden fences. Turn right when you reach a street (Pie Gardens), then left at a T junction. This soon turns right and brings you to the East end of the Churchyard.

10: Flamstead

Coordinates: OSGB TL07951451 LatLon 51.8189,-.4352

Follow the path along the left-hand edge of the churchyard to a gate. Turn left through the gate and almost immediately right on a footpath across the road signposted to Pietley Hill. You soon leave the houses behind, heading out across a field directly away from the church. When you come to a lane, turn left and after 60m turn right on a footpath signposted to Wood End Lane. Climb to a hedge by a bench. Pass through the hedge to the lane and turn right. Continue on the lane for 400m then look out for a footpath right.

11: Waypoint 11

Coordinates: OSGB TL06661367 LatLon 51.8115,-.4541

Turn right on a footpath heading across a field to a wood. Walk along the right-hand edge of the wood before turning left on a waymarked path into the wood. Follow the waymarked path to the far corner of the wood leaving through the remains of a fence. Bear a little right across the field, aiming towards the left-hand edge of a line of trees. Turn left when you get to the trees and pass through a gate into a fenced path. Follow the path to the left of the house, joining its drive to reach a road. Turn left on the road for 100m.

12: Waypoint 12

Coordinates: OSGB TL05501360 LatLon 51.8111,-.4710

Turn right off the road. Initially the footpath runs by the wood on the right, but then veers left across the field towards the far corner of the trees on the left. After passing the trees, keep straight ahead to a gap in the corner of the field. Turn left on the byway and stay on it as it swings to the right. In 350m it brings you to Gaddesden Row by a school

13: Gaddesden Row

Coordinates: OSGB TL05001294 LatLon 51.8053,-.4785

Cross straight over and walk up the drive to Lane House. Take the footpath left before the gate to the house. This runs along the left-hand edge of a field. When you reach some trees bear right through some scrub before emerging in parkland across a field from the Golden Parsonage. Turn half-right, passing to the right of the ancient Chestnut trees, to a gate in a fence. Pass through and continue in the same direction to a drive. Turn right on the drive. Before you reach the buildings of Home Farm, leave the drive on a track running through a wood to the right of the farm. Emerge from the trees through a gate onto a hillside with extensive views of the Gade valley. After passing under the electricity cables, the path swings left and follows the line of the cables. When you see a fingerpost by a gate to the left of the cables, head for it. Pass through the gate and walk along the fence up towards the house. Before you come to the trees screening the house you come to a gate through the fence on the right.

14: Gaddesden Place

Coordinates: OSGB TL03821120 LatLon 51.7899,-.4960

Pass through the gate, walking just to the right of the trees to a gate in the opposite fence. Continue descending across the next field to a gate in the left hand fence just in front of a copper beech with a water-trough underneath it. In the next field, pass through a copse of trees to a gate. You are now in a large open field. Your path curves a little to the right passing just to the left of a house you can see gable-end on in the valley below. After the house you come to a busy road on the inside of a blind bend. Cross with care and turn right on the pavement for 10m then left on a footpath between houses. You soon emerge on the edge of a field. Bear half-right to a footbridge across the Gade. Cross and turn left on a footpath parallel to the river. Where the path forks, take the rightmost, higher route. The path runs a little inside the right fence, bringing you to a road in the far corner. Turn right on the road and after 70m left on a footpath heading directly uphill to a wood. Enter the wood on a broad track traversing right up the slope. At the far edge of the wood, turn right across a field, aiming for the left tree of a pair in the middle. When you reach this tree, bear a little left, aiming for the end of a line of trees. When you reach these trees turn left and walk down the left side of the trees. At the end of this field you pass through a hedge and joggle right-left to join a broad track passing between fences, hedges and houses to a road. Turn right, looking out for a footpath left after 120m.

15: Hollybush Wood

Coordinates: OSGB TL02880936 LatLon 51.7735,-.5102

Take the footpath to the left. The path runs to the left of an old hedge, initially with a fence on your left. After passing through a gate the path starts to descend. Shortly after you pass to the right through the old hedge. The path now runs with the old hedge on your left and a newer hawthorn hedge on your right. In the valley bottom, the path swings left and then right heading uphill on a broad grassy track. When you reach a gate at the top, the path continues straight on across the next field. Aim a little to the right of the fenced access track to Boxted Farm. Currently the footpath is marked by pairs of wooden posts. After you pass the metal gates on the access track, the footpath swings left through a gate to the track. Turn right along the concrete track and follow it to the road. Take the footpath across the road, veering half-left across the next field, passing to the left of the substantial brick complex of Boxted House. At the end of this field you enter a patch of scrub then turn right and then left to reach a road. Turn right on the road for 130m

16: Fields End

Coordinates: OSGB TL02920807 LatLon 51.7619,-.5100

Turn left on a footpath. This soon becomes a green lane descending through a green corridor in the suburbs of Hemel Hempstead. When you reach a road (Long Chaulden), cross straight over, continuing on the green lane across Shrub Hill Common. When you come to a junction of paths continue straight on, signposted for Northridge Way, gently descending inside the wood. You emerge by a childrens playground. Continue past the playground aiming to the far corner of the green. When you reach a road, continue in broadly the same direction to a larger road by a 'Give Way' sign and a post box. Turn right on this larger road (Northridge Way). After 400m the houses on the right give way to grass and you come to a junction. Turn right on Chaulden Lane (signposted for Hemel Hempstead RUFC) and immediately left on Old Fishery Lane. This lane takes you over the canal and then under the railway and A41. After emerging from the tunnels, turn left across a field on a path parallel to the A41. Turn left along the pavement and pass under the road and railway again. Cross right at the roundabout to reach the station. NB: if you are not finishing at the station, you can continue along the Chiltern Way by crossing the road before going under the A41. The route continues off Meadow Way.



Chiltern Way 15 - Peters Green to Hemel Hempstead

17: Hemel End

Coordinates: OSGB TL04290595 LatLon 51.7426,-.4908

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 leave a review or contact us directly by e-mail: office@chilternsociety.org.uk.

