

Summary: Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 15.7 miles, Ascent: 359m

Overview

The Northern Link follows the original route of the Chiltern Way, now superseded by a longer tour of the North Chilterns. Start with a circuit of Sharpenhoe Clappers with its beech hangers and attractive iron age fort. Then head to the prominent Galley and Warden Hills, from where you get extensive views over Luton and the surrounding country. You then turn your back on the urban and thread your way through quiet, remote feeling country with scattered villages and hamlets. You get a view of Luton airport before returning to the rural calm.

TERRAIN: Field paths and good tracks/bridleways. Some open downland.

START: Sharpenhoe Clappers Car Park

FINISH: Peter's Green

FOOD AND DRINK: Streatley - Chequers, Lilley - Lilley Arms, Mangrove Green - King William IV, Breachwood Green - Red Lion, Peter's Green - Bright Star

COMPLETING THIS STAGE: Four buses a day from Peter's Green to Luton Station interchange where you can catch a bus to Streatley (hourly)

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 [15 - Peters Gn to Hemel Hempstead](#) – click to download.

Route Description

1: 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.

2: Clappers Steps

Coordinates: OSGB TL06553036 LatLon 51.9616,-.4505

The main Chiltern Way route leaves here down the steps. For the Northern Link continue at the top, keep near the edge of the wood as the path winds its way round the hill. After 300m the path bends uphill to the right. Do not follow it, but drop down to the left over tree roots to the bottom. Stay on this path as it leaves the wood and continue to a gate.

3: Waypoint 3

Coordinates: OSGB TL06803004 LatLon 51.9586,-.4471

Go through the gate and the one on the left. Follow the path over the upper slopes of the open hillside, parallel to the upper hedge. After 300m the path curves right to rejoin the main path through a gate. After the gate, turn left to a T-junction. Turn left on a bridleway and stay on it for 2.4km as it winds round the ridge. The track then passes allotments to reach a car park and a road. Turn right along the pavement for 300m to reach the Chequers pub.

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4: Streatley Chequers

Coordinates: OSGB TL07042862 LatLon 51.9459,-.4440

Enter the churchyard through the gates to the south of the Chequers pub. Walk around the South side of the church to a gate in the south-west corner. Turn left through the gate and head south on a footpath running initially between garden hedges. After emerging in fields you continue in the same direction now to the right of a field boundary. Turn left when you meet a broad track and follow it past cottages to the Sharpenhoe Road. Turn right and continue to the A6.

5: Waypoint 5

Coordinates: OSGB TL07612787 LatLon 51.9390,-.4359

Cross straight over the road to a track on the other side - this is a fast, busy road so cross with care. Take the track away from the A6 past 'Swedish Cottages'. As the track passes under the high-tension cables turn right on a bridleway heading towards Maulden Firs and Galley Hill. Pass through the woods to meet a broad track - the Icknield Way.

6: Icknield Way

Coordinates: OSGB TL09292734 LatLon 51.9339,-.4117

Cross straight over the Icknield way and onto bridleway which crosses the golf course. Initially it is a stony track but after 40m you turn half right and head directly towards Galley Hill, passing a hedge and a green and climbing to a gate. Pass through the gate into the nature reserve and climb steeply on a broad grassy path. Once over the top, you come to a gate. Go through it and continue downhill to the left of a fence. Turn right on a crossing bridleway and after 90m look for a kissing gate on the left.

7: Warden Hill Reserve

Coordinates: OSGB TL09122644 LatLon 51.9259,-.4145

Turn left through the kissing gate onto the north end of Warden Hill. Follow the clear grassy path heading up the hill. You climb a short flight of steps to reach the top of the ridge. The path runs along the top to the right of a fence. You will see the trigpoint marking the summit in the field to your left. Continue along the fence and through a gate.

8: Warden Hill

Coordinates: OSGB TL09072585 LatLon 51.9206,-.4153

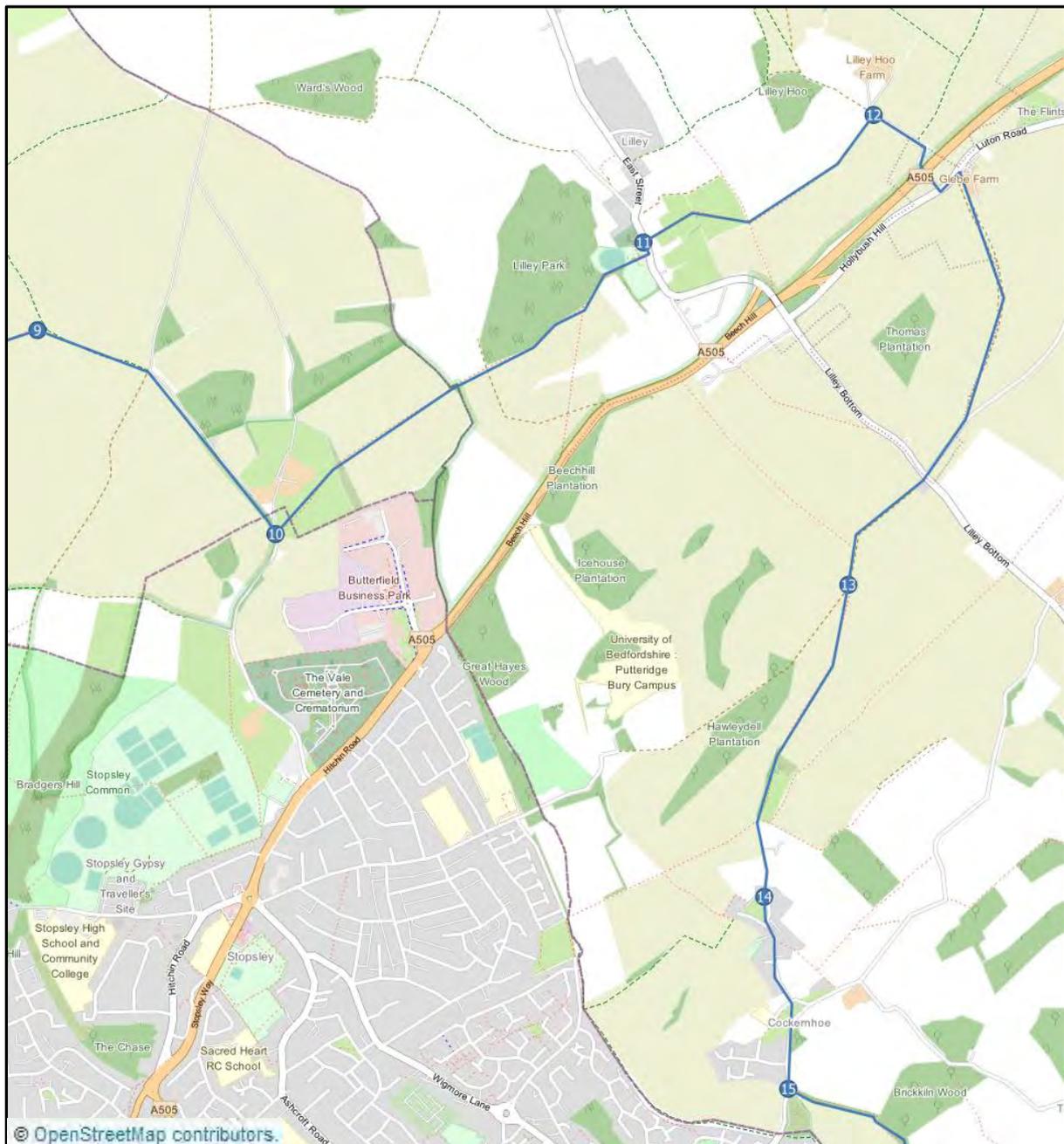
You now continue in the same direction across the open hillside and soon start to descend steeply. The paths here may not be that obvious, so follow as close to a southerly direction as you can and do not be tempted by the broad paths to the right. Look out for waymark posts below you - they will become visible as you start to descend - and keep an eye on your position on the map screen. You will pass through a belt of scrub to reach a footpath skirting the base of the hill. Turn left on this path. Turn right past a kissing gate to leave the reserve and continue on a footpath at the right hand edge of a field, climbing to meet a bridleway on the ridge.

9: Waypoint 9

Coordinates: OSGB TL09642596 LatLon 51.9214,-.4071

Turn right on the bridleway and follow it for 1km. Shortly after the track becomes a road and bends right, look out for a footpath through the hedge to the left of the road.

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10: Waypoint 10

Coordinates: OSGB TL10542521 LatLon 51.9145,-.3942

Pass through the hedge and bear left across the middle of a long polygonal field. Aim for the gate a little to the right of the farm buildings and equipment. Go through the gate and continue in the same direction across a large field. You will see two oak trees in the middle of the field. The path runs a little to the right of the rightmost tree. The path descends and passes through a belt of trees before continuing to the left of a hedge then a wood. The footpath becomes a broad track between hedges. Pass the church and village hall to reach a road. Cross the road and turn left for 50m.

11: Lilley

Coordinates: OSGB TL11882633 LatLon 51.9243,-.3743

Turn right on a footpath between gardens. Continue in the same direction across a field and pass through a kissing gate at the far side. Turn half-right to a gate in the corner of the field. After passing through it, turn half-left and head uphill along the right of a hedge. Continue in the same direction at the top of the hill, descending to a lane.

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12: Lilleyhoo Lane

Coordinates: OSGB TL12732683 LatLon 51.9286,-.3619

Turn right on the lane and follow it under the dual-carriageway to meet the road to Offley. Turn left on this road for 40m and just before Glebe Farm turn right on a byway. Turn right when you come to a road and walk down to a road junction. Cross straight over and take the byway opposite. Look out for a footpath forking left off the byway after 450m, before you reach East Lodge.

13: East Lodge

Coordinates: OSGB TL12672507 LatLon 51.9128,-.3633

Take the footpath that forks left off the byway. The footpath continues uphill to the right of a wall. When you come to a junction of paths at the top of the hill, take the path half-left, leaving the wall and walking between a hedge and a fence. Keep straight on when it becomes a road heading towards the houses of Mangrove Green.

14: Mangrove Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL12392390 LatLon 51.9023,-.3678

Continue past the pub and across the green, staying on the road as it winds down through the village. When you come to a junction on a green at the edge of Cockernhoe, bear a little right and walk across the green behind the bus-shelter and towards the village sign. At the end of the green continue along the pavement until just before the speed limit signs at the end of the village.

15: Cockernhoe

Coordinates: OSGB TL12492318 LatLon 51.8959,-.3665

Take the footpath left off the road - it is the narrow path to the left rather than the broad grassy track half-right. Initially the path runs through a narrow strip of small trees. When you come to a larger wood, keep an eye on the waymarks because the path now changes direction several times in the next 350m passing in and out of the trees. Do not worry if you take a 'locals' path by mistake as long as you keep heading in generally the same direction parallel to the houses at the edge of Luton which you see across a field from time to time. You emerge from the trees for the final time by a mobile phone mast. Turn left and continue to the right of the hedge, with a golf-course on the other side. Continue past a couple of cottages to the road at Wandon End.

16: Wandon End

Coordinates: OSGB TL13222240 LatLon 51.8888,-.3561

Take the road signposted to Luton and almost immediately after the triangle of roads at the junction, cross the road at the bend. Step into the field across the road by a waymark post. Turn left on the footpath that runs parallel to the road inside the field for the next 600m. The footpath ends at some steps to a side road. Rejoin the road to Breachwood Green for 70m and where the road curves left, leave it on a bridleway across fields.

17: Waypoint 17

Coordinates: OSGB TL14432198 LatLon 51.8847,-.3388

At a junction of paths take the footpath to the right. After about 15m follow the footpath as it turns left along a field edge. In the next section of the route the footpath does not follow the official line, keeping to field headlands instead. The route is clear, heading generally east to the right of the houses of Breachwood Green. After the first section you come to a footpath junction at a fence. Turn right and then left to follow the fence. When the fence turns left again you leave it, once more following a field headland to a gate you will see ahead of you.

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18: Breachwood Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL15052184 LatLon 51.8833,-.3298

Turn right on the road. The road starts to descend and you pass a bungalow on the right. Shortly after take the footpath that forks left off the road as the road starts to bend right. Initially the path runs downhill to the left of a hedge. It then continues in the same direction across an open field. When you reach the valley bottom turn left then in 250m turn right. Pass through a hedge and continue gently uphill across a field. Keep in the same direction across the next field then on the right hand side of a third field. You reach a road after passing between houses and a farm.

19: Wandon Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL14612041 LatLon 51.8705,-.3366

Turn left on the road and shortly after turn right on the road signposted for Peter's Green. Keep on this road all the way to Peter's Green.

20: Peters Green

Coordinates: OSGB TL14111911 LatLon 51.8589,-.3444

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.

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