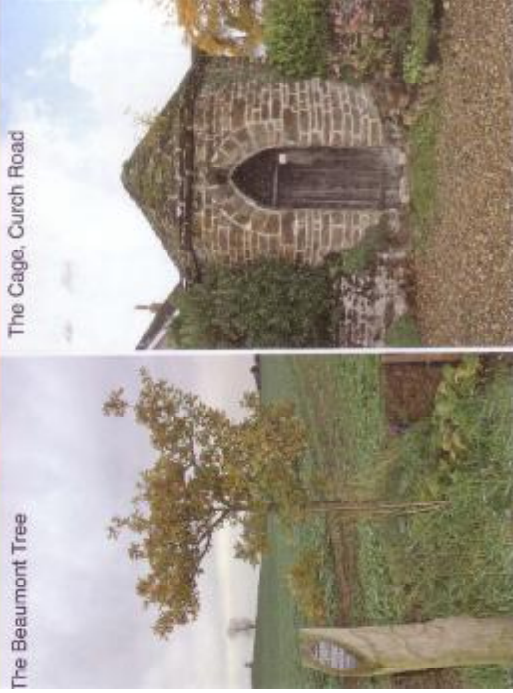


Refreshments and Facilities

There are no public facilities at the start point. Refreshments can be found at The Star and Garter and The George pubs nearby, and at Public Houses that the walks go past in Wardhedges, Flitton, Pulloxhill and Clophill.

The Beaumont Tree



The Cage, Curch Road



Rushymeade



Upbury Moats



Other walks in the series:

Walk 1 - Silsoe - Beaumont Farm - Wardhedges
3 Miles

Walk 2 - Silsoe - Pulloxhill - Upbury Moats
3.8 Miles

Walk 3 - Silsoe - Flitton Moor
4.4 Miles

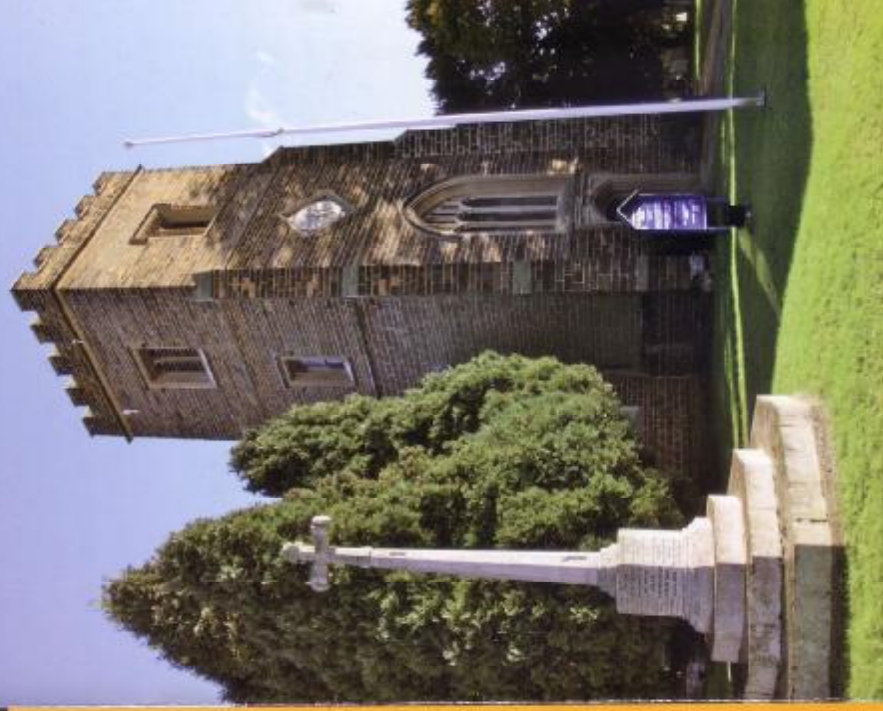
Walk 4 - Silsoe - Pulloxhill Church
4.7 Miles

Walk 6 - Silsoe - Upper Gravenhurst - Clophill
6.7 Miles

Circular Walks Around Silsoe

WALK
5
5.3 Miles

Silsoe - Higham Gobion - Silsoe



If using a car, please park considerately by the side of Silsoe Church in Park Avenue, Grid Reference TL083356 (Explorer Map 193, Landranger 153). Silsoe is off the A6 Bedford to Luton road. The Stagecoach Saturn \$1 Bus Service from Bedford to Luton stops outside the Church.

Points of Interest

The Beaumont Tree - was an ancient elm on the Parish Boundary between Silsoe and Flitton. The legend arose that the tree grew from an elm stake that had been thrust through the body of a highwayman that had been shot on the road nearby in 1751. It became the custom of locals to nail locks of hair and toenails to it as the Flitton Church clock struck midnight. This was to ward off the ague, a type of malaria once prevalent in this marshy district. Be sure to look for the carved figure of the highwayman on his horse.

Rushymeade - Pulloxhill's ancient meadow is an Open Access Area where there are seats and picnic tables available to enjoy the views and wildlife in a rare example of undisturbed Bedfordshire grassland. The site has interest for its vestiges of Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation using oxen.

Upbury Moats - Medieval earthworks, moats and fish pond remain from the former Upbury Manor, a possession of Dunstable Priory until the Dissolution when Henry VIII seized it. In 1711 the de Grey family purchased the Manor, but in 1841 the old timber framed house was demolished by the second Earl de Grey. He was the first President of the Institute of British Architects, and had the new Wrest Park House built on French lines, and in front of the old rambling Wrest House which he then demolished in 1839. He may have had grand plans for Upbury, but died in 1851. The Upbury estate was sold to local farmers in the 1920s.

The Cage, Church Road - was built in 1795 and used as a lock-up for drunks and stray animals. The advent of the professional police force in 1839 to replace the Parish Constable marked the end of such lock-ups. Many were demolished or fell into disrepair. Before the days of electricity it is believed the local lamplighter kept his oil and equipment there.

grassroots
grants

Through the Greenways Development Programme
funded by the National Lottery



The Greensand Trust

Central
Bedfordshire



**SILSOE CHURCH
HIGHAM GOBION**
Distance: 5.3 Miles

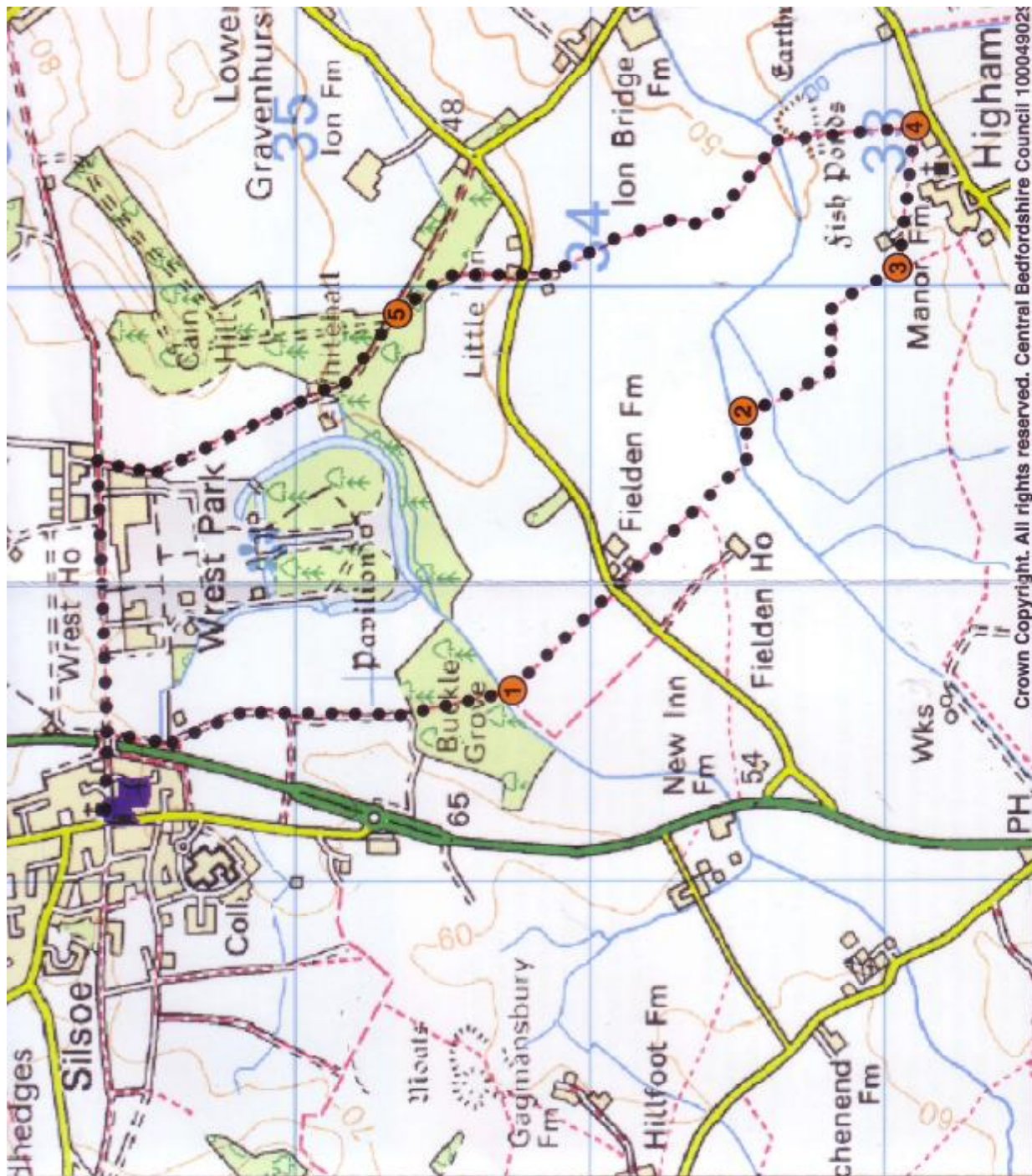
Go down Park Avenue into Wrest Park, and just over the bypass turn right and follow the brideway through Buckle Grove.

As you come out of the wood ① follow the brideway, across the field to the road. Cross the road and follow the track past Fielden Court. Go through the kissing gate into the short section of wood, and continue in the same general direction along the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. At the corner of the field, go through the hedge and turn left. Follow the hedge, now on your left, to the next waymarker ②.

Turn right to go across the field and across the wooden bridge over a stream. Continue straight ahead, which leads you to the corner of a hedge line (the hedge goes away from you in both directions). Take the left fork so that the hedge is on your right. Continue to where you turn right onto a track. Follow the track to where a waymarker on your left ③ shows the route across three sets of stiles.

Note: This walk can become stile free if at point ③ you continue straight on along the track and out into a small trading estate. Go between the buildings and out onto the road at Higham Gobion. Turn left and go past the Church and houses to the brideway signposted on the left. Go into the field and with a hedge on your left. You are at point ④.

Follow the route across the fields and out along the path round the garden of a house. As you pass the back of a building, go through the gate on the left, which leads into the adjoining field. Turn left and walk along the edge of the field, go through the gate and into the next field with the ancient earthwork and fishponds.



Continue across this field, through the gate and follow the well marked brideway across the next large field. Continue on this brideway to the road. Cross the road and continue along the brideway.

Follow the winding way through Whitehall Plantation and turn left where it meets the wider brideway ⑤. Follow this past the cottage and out into the field at the back of Wrest Park. Turn left at the road to go past Wrest House and back to the start by the Church.

KEY: ● ● ● ● ● Trail