

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, Church 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 5 - Silsoe - Higham Gobion
5.3 Miles

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 West 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.

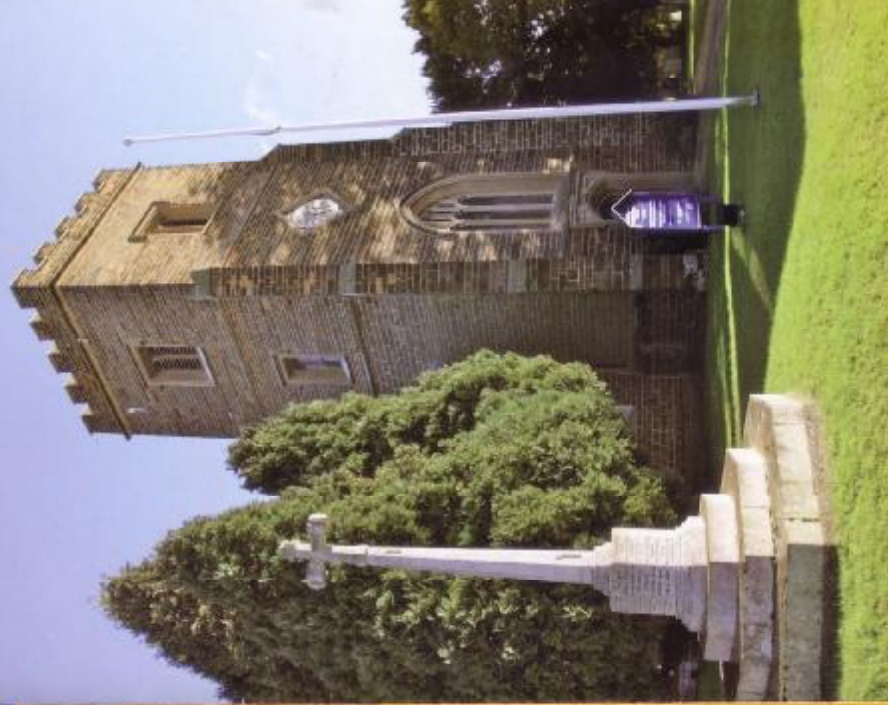
The Cage, Church Road - was built in 1795 and used as a lock-up for drunks and stray animals. The advent of the professional police force in 1839 to replace the Parish Constable marked the end of such lock-ups. Many were demolished or fell into disrepair. Before the days of electricity it is believed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

Circular Walks Around Silsoe

WALK 6

6.7 Miles

Silsoe - Upper Gravenhurst - Clophill - Silsoe



If using a car, please park considerably 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 S1 Bus Service from Bedford to Luton stops outside the Church.

grassroots grants

Partnership in Community Development - Bedfordshire



The Greensand Trust



SILSOE CHURCH UPPER GRAVENHURST CLOPHILL

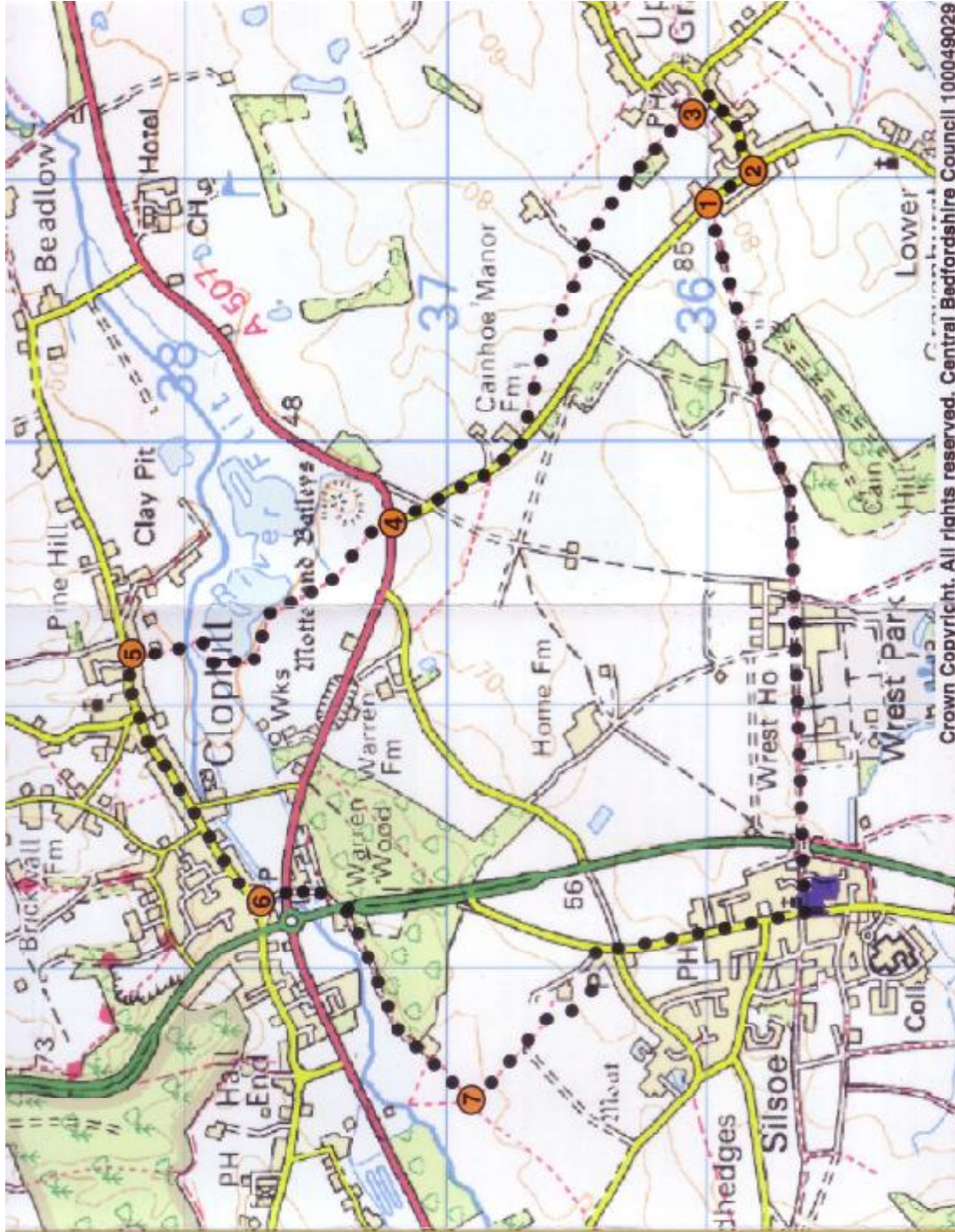
Distance: 6.7 Miles

Go down Park Avenue into Wrest Park. Follow the paths along the avenue of trees past Wrest House. After the buildings take the bridleway up the hill. At the road in Upper Gravenhurst **1** turn right along Clophill Road.

Turn left into the High Street **2** past Gravenhurst Lower School on the right. Continue to the Church, and take the path to the left of the church gate, through the churchyard. Just past the garages, at the waymarker by the field, turn left and follow the edge of the field.

Turn right and go through the kissing gate into the field with a hedge on your left **3**. Continue across the field to the next kissing gate. Keep straight on past the next waymarker, to meet a track. Turn left along the track for 47 yards, turn right through a hedge gap and across the field. Continue onto Cainhoe Manor farm buildings. Go through the gap in the hedge, turn right down the road, past Cainhoe Manor House on the right, and to the junction with the A507.

Take care crossing the busy A507 **4** and cross the stile to take the footpath past Castle Hill, Motte and Bailey, on your right. Cross the next stile and follow the path around the lake. Bear left and cross the bridges over the River Flit and follow the path out onto Clophill High Street **5**. Turn left and walk towards the green **6**. Once you reach the Green Man bear left, past the village shop and take the footbridge over the A507. Follow the road round to the right.



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Cross the A6 opposite the garage, using the island. Take the footpath, to the left of the garage, which takes you past the Simpson Hill Plantation, on your left. Go into the field and turn left where the power cables come down towards the path **7**.

Follow the power cables up the hill, and at the top of the field is a stile/gap. From here go diagonally across the field towards the kissing gate in the bottom left corner. Continue along the lane and turn right at the road and return to the Church along the High Street.

KEY: ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Trail