

The Greensand Ridge Walk



Walk 3

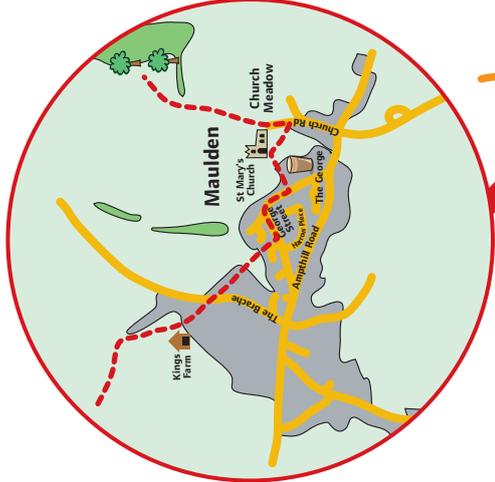
Amphill to Haynes

8.8 miles/13.5km

- 1 Walk up the hill along Bedford Street. At the top of the hill cross the road and follow the concrete path along the top of the ridge towards **Houghton House**. At the farm buildings turn right and follow the track behind the barns to King's Wood.
- 2 Turn right and follow the field boundaries down the hill to King's Farm, across The Brache, and into Maulden. Turn left and follow George Street for 260m, turning left to the church before The George public house.
- 3 Walk through the churchyard and then turn left, through the church car park, into **Church Meadow**. Follow the waymarked route to **Maulden Wood**. Follow the southern edge of the wood past a round thatched cottage and the Forest Lodge to the A6.
- 4 Cross the dual carriageway with care and follow the signs downhill before turning left up the steps into an area of woodland. Follow the waymarked path until you reach Back Street in **Clophill**. Turn left and follow the road for 250m before turning left at the bend into The Slade. Walk up this road then branch to the right towards Kiln Farm. At the farm, turn right into Old Kiln Lane, walk past an orchard and then turn left to follow Kiln Lane.
- 5 At the T-junction turn right into Great Lane and then, after 100m, turn left on to the path leading to **St. Mary's Church**. Turn left at the church and follow the track towards Pedley Wood Farm. Before reaching the farm turn left off the track and follow the waymark signs around to the edge of **Chicksands Wood**. Follow the wood edge, or take the permissive path through the wood, to the road at Appley Corner.
- 6 Turn left and follow the road for 430m before turning right onto the bridleway past Hill Farm to the road. Turn left and follow the road for 90m and then turn right onto a grass track, bearing right across the field to **Deadman's Cross**.



Maulden Heath



Church Meadow Maulden

Church Meadow is one of the few remaining areas of unimproved grassland on the Greensand Ridge and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Further on, the Forestry Commission's Maulden Wood is also a SSSI. The wood is split between greensand and glacial boulder clay areas, which produces a diversity of flora and fauna. The various tracks through the wood are all open to pedestrian access.

Houghton House

Houghton House was built in the Jacobean style for the Countess of Pembroke in 1615. It was designed as a nobleman's hunting seat, with many elegant rooms. Houghton House is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and thought to be John Bunyan's "House Beautiful" in Pilgrims Progress. Bunyan would have visited the area in the 17th century whilst playing his trade as a tinker.

St Mary's Church, Clophill

This iconic scheduled ancient monument, on the far side of the village, has commanding 360 degree views of the Greensand Ridge, including Cainhoe triple motte and bailey castle also sited in Clophill village.

Chicksands Wood

Together with adjacent Pedley Wood, Chicksands Wood makes up one of the largest ancient woodland sites in the county. Oak timbers from the wood were used in the building of Ely Cathedral. There are over 4 miles of medieval woodbanks within and around the wood marking divisions of ownership.

Maulden Mausoleum

The Ailesbury Mausoleum in Maulden was one of the first mausolea to be built in England. It was built in 1656 by the first Earl of Elgin, Thomas Bruce, after the death of his second wife, Diana Countess of Oxford. Many alterations to the structure have occurred over the centuries, and repairs were undertaken in 2001 by Bedfordshire County Council, using traditional materials.

