

### 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

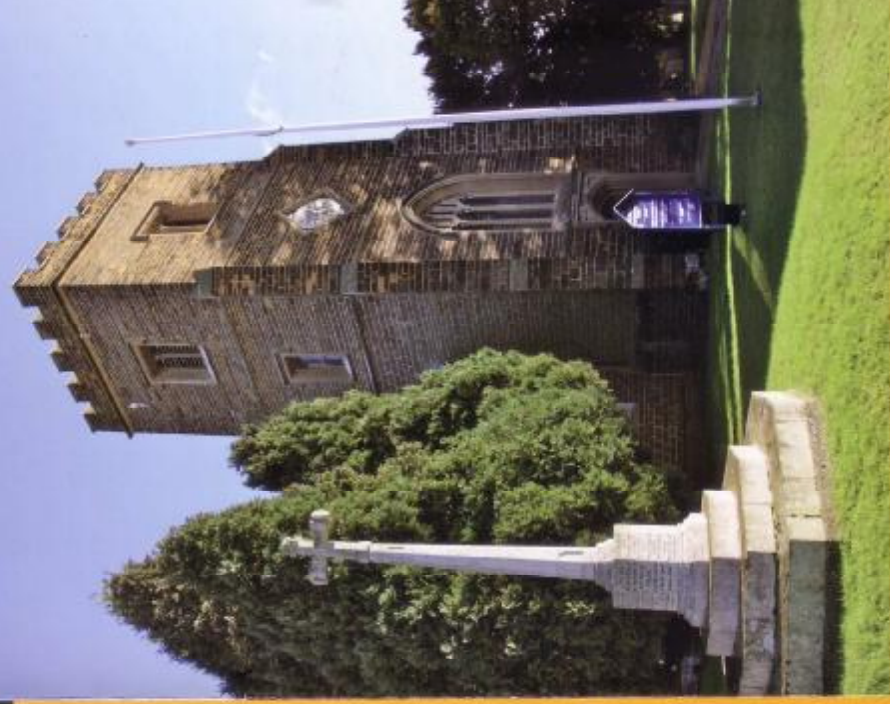
Walk 5 - Silsoe - Higham Gobion  
5.3 Miles

Walk 6 - Silsoe - Upper Gravenhurst - Clophill  
6.7 Miles

# Circular Walks Around Silsoe

WALK  
**4**  
4.7 Miles

## Silsoe - Pulloxhill Church - 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.

### 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.

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## SILSOE CHURCH PULLOXHILL CHURCH

Distance: 4.7 Miles

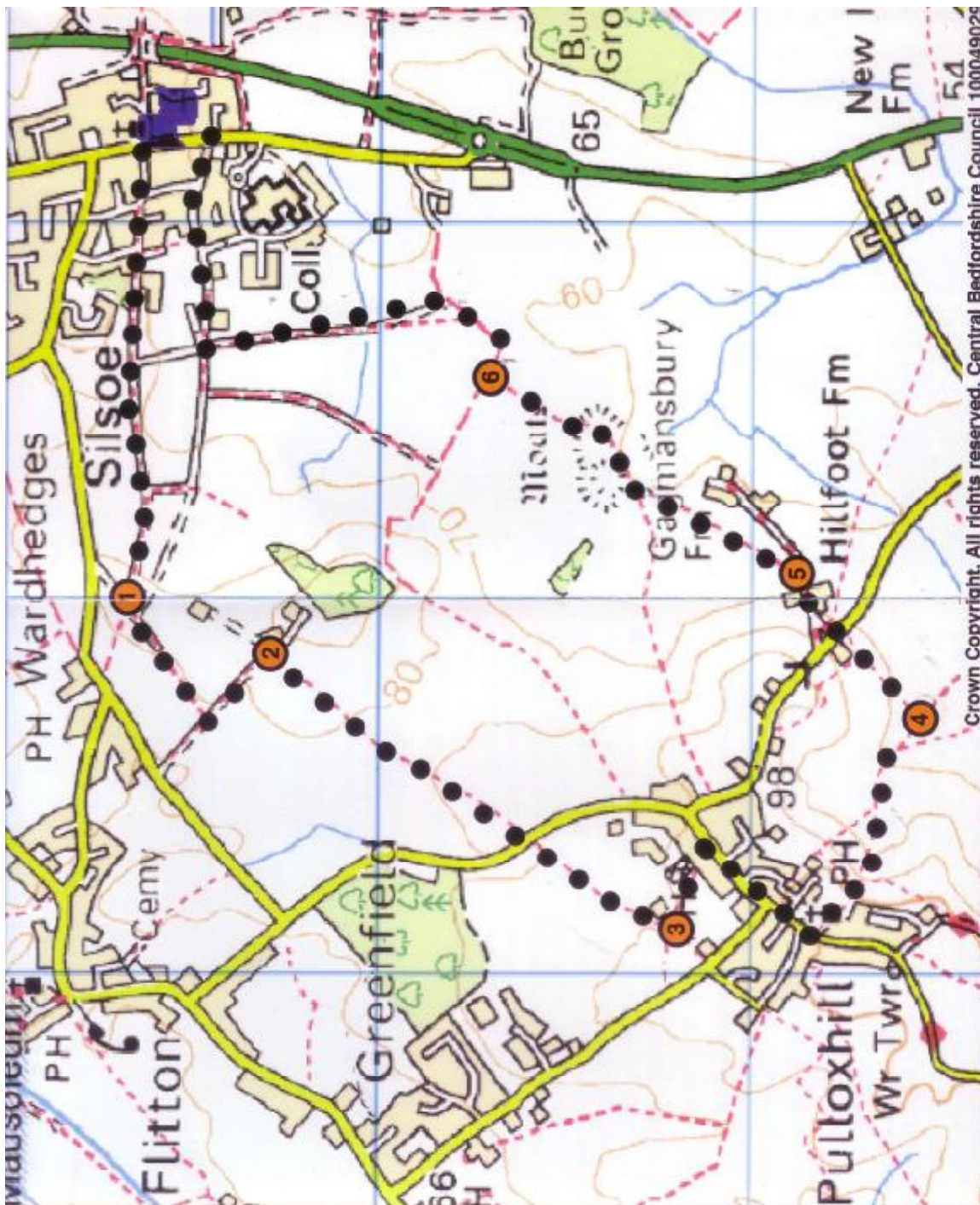
From Park Avenue cross into Church Road, noting The Cage on the left. Continue past the Horticultural Centre into the fields. Go along the gravel track, passing two turnings on your left. Go up the rise to the junction with another gravel track **1**.

Turn left and follow the tree lined track to a paddock. Continue straight on and cross the plank bridge onto a small road. Turn left along the road (Don't go along the adjacent road as it is private), and as you approach the wood, turn right and go through the kissing gate into the field **2** and on to the next kissing gate.

At this junction bear right and left to take the path in the same direction with a hedge on your left. At the bottom of this field cross the bridge and bear right on to the next waymarker. The path goes across the field slightly to the left. The waymarker gives an idea of the direction. As you go up the rise you should see the top of Pulloxhill Water Tower ahead, but slightly to your left, and the footpath signposts at the road. Cross the road, go over the stile and through the gate on the left into the field. Cross the field on a slight diagonal aiming for the gap in the hedges in the next field. Go over the stile out of this field and go left through the gap.

Halfway along this field **3**, turn left through the kissing gate and walk towards the large lights pole and out onto the Pulloxhill High Street. Turn right along the High Street where the main road turns right, go straight on into Church Street.

At the Church take the signposted path to the left and enter the Rushymeade Meadow. Follow the path down taking the kissing gate on the right almost at the bottom of the slope. Turn left and follow the hedge on the left. Just before the end of this field, go over the stile in the hedgerow. Turn right and continue to a gap on the field boundary where there is a path junction **4**.



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Turn left by the hedge, so the hedge is on your left. Go to a stile that leads into a stable area, with buildings to the left. Go straight on up by the buildings and come out onto Barton Road. Cross over and take the road opposite to Hillfoot Farm and continue past the house and barns. Take the signposted path **5** across the field on the left, go through the gap in the hedge and continue on the same line across the next field to the kissing gate amongst the trees. Follow the curved route around Upbury Moats and out across the next field.

At the kissing gate turn left, then right along the edge of the field, with the hedge to your left. At the next junction **6**, turn right with the dyke on your left. At the next junction turn left and walk along the tree lined track. Continue past the cottages to the junction between West End Lane and West End Road. Turn right into West End Road. Go along the road back to the High Street. Turn left and return to the starting point by the Church.

KEY: ●●●●● Trail