

Points of Interest (POI)

A Maulden Woods (north)

The northern parts of the woods were owned in medieval times by the nuns of Elstow Abbey, near Bedford. They are mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086, but are probably much older than that. These ancient woods have large oaks and the biggest wild service tree in Bedfordshire. Some areas have been planted with conifers for timber use.

B Maulden Church Meadow Local Nature Reserve

The Meadow has been continuously grazing over the centuries producing a distinct array of flora. Much of the Meadow lies on boulder clay and here you find species characteristic of neutral soils such as black knapweed, ladies bedstraw, meadow saxifrage and crested dogstail. To the south of the site, where the Lower Greensand outcrops, there is a change to more acid grassland where fine grasses, harebells, sheep sorrel, mouse-ear hawkweed and broom dominate. Fine anthills produced by yellow meadow ants are scattered throughout the site.

C Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

The parish church dates from the 14th century. In the churchyard stands an impressive 17th century octagonal mausoleum and crypt known as the Ailesbury Mausoleum which is sometimes open for public viewing.

D Maulden Woods (south)

The southern part is on the acidic Greensand and is more open with Scots pine and bracken amongst the oaks. It may once have been heathland, and includes flower rich meadows with common blue and small copper butterflies. Ponds here contain frogs, toads and all three species of the UK's newts. There are green and great spotted woodpeckers, and you may see the introduced muntjac deer, which cause problems by eating the wild flowers.

General Information

You will walk across surface types ranging from hard surfaces to field footpaths through undulating countryside which is mostly level. There is a steep descent at point 21 which can be avoided by turning right at point 20 and exiting the wood onto Clophill Road, Maulden and returning along the road.

Facilities in Clophill

Post Office, Stores and Café. The Green.
01525 860 988

The Green Man. The Green. Italian restaurant.
01525 860352

The Flying Horse. The Green. Country pub and dining. 01525 860 293

The Stone Jug. Back Street. Traditional village pub with food. 01525 860352

There are no public toilets in the village.

How to get to Clophill

The village is situated near the intersection of the A6 between Bedford and Luton and the A507 between Ampthill and Shefford. There are half-hourly buses from Bedford and Luton and a less frequent service from Biggleswade and Ampthill.

Postcode for Sat Nav – MK45 4AD

Produced by Colin Watt. 14 December 2011.

Email: colin.watt@mooncarrot.org.uk

CLOPHILL DISCOVERY WALKS

Walk 3

Clophill to Maulden and back through Maulden Wood.

4.8miles (shortened 3.4miles)

***One of a series of circular walks starting
at The Green, Clophill.***

This walk takes you across the A6 to Maulden Wood on the Greensand Ridge Path where you will experience a variety of wooded and open habitats.

All the walks in the series:-

1. Clophill to Appley Corner and back through Chicksands Wood.
2. Clophill to Wardhedges (with optional pub stop) then Silsoe and back.
3. Clophill to Maulden and back through Maulden Wood.
4. Clophill to Haynes (with optional pub stop) and back.
5. Clophill to Historic Cainhoe Castle and back.
6. Public Footpaths around the Village of Clophill.

1. From The Green walk through the car park to the left of the Green Man public house and continue along the path to a road. Turn right then left and continue on to the T-junction at Back Street.
2. Turn right then left along the public footpath next to the first house. You will now follow the Greensand Ridge Walk (GRW) to Maulden Church.
3. After about 350 yards turn left up some steps and into a field. Follow the left side of the field until you are in the opposite corner and exit through a kissing gate.
4. Turn left after the kissing gate and follow the field edge.
5. After 320 yards turn left down a slope to the A6 road. Turn right and continue on the pavement.
6. Cross the A6 and enter Maulden Wood through a gated entrance. Proceed along the gravel drive. (POI A)
7. Carry straight on past the house on the left and follow the concrete strip drive down the hill. Half way down fork right on the GRW through the trees.

8. Cross a bridleway and continue to the octagonal thatched cottage. (Shortened walk – turn left at cottage and continue to instruction 18.)
9. Turn left at the cottage then right at the GRW sign. (To avoid the steep path you can carry on for a few yards and turn right onto the main path.) After 360 yards pass through a gate into a field. At the far side of the field pass through another gate, go down the slope and along to a stone with a plaque.
10. Follow the path to the left marked GRW which leads out of the wood.
11. After the next kissing gate turn left and cross the field past the pond. (POI B) Leave the field by the kissing gate and walk down the hill past Maulden Church (POI C).
12. Enter a field on the left through a kissing gate. Exit the field through another kissing gate, turn left up the road and take the footpath to the right of the gates.
13. At the top of the slope keep the hedge/fence to your left for 750 yards, passing to the left of the

- house/barn conversions, until you leave the field by the kissing gate along the path that leads down to the road. (Green End, Maulden)
14. Turn left and follow the road down to a triangular grass island. Turn left past the thatch cottage and up the concrete strip road into Maulden Wood. (POI D)
15. At the snake and lizard carvings, next to the fenced off square pond, turn right. After a horse barrier pass a conifer plantation to your right and then, 30 yards after another horse barrier, fork right.
16. Follow the path down the slope and through a horse barrier. Ignoring paths to the right and left, cross the bridleway, pass through another horse barrier and proceed up the slope.
17. Pass a bench on your left then go down and across a public footpath. Take the right fork on a rising path.
18. After 450 yards you will cross another path. Turn left up a hill through pine trees.
19. After 250 yards turn acute right then take the left fork on a rising path. (If you come to a wide grass track you have missed the turn. Turn round and go back about 30 yards and fork left then immediately left again.) Follow the narrow path for 600 yards.
20. Cross the stile at the horse barrier in front of the old oak tree. Climb up the bank to the left of it, turn right and follow the narrow path for 740 yards.
21. The path widens and curves to the left. At the second bend there is a wire fence on your right (after the wooden fence). Turn right through a gap in the trees next to the fence and down a steep slope to the A6. Cross the A6 using the central reservation then turn right and follow the path back to the Flying Horse and The Green.

