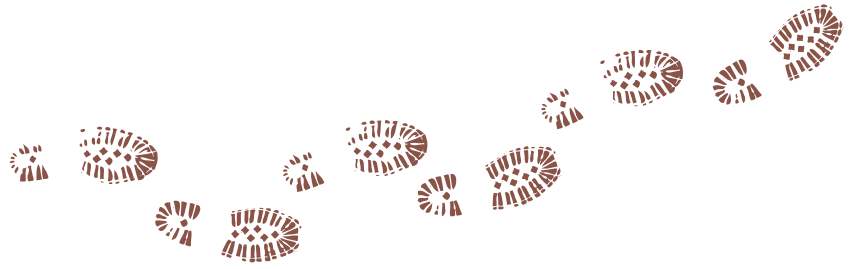


The Greensand Ridge Walk



Walk 4

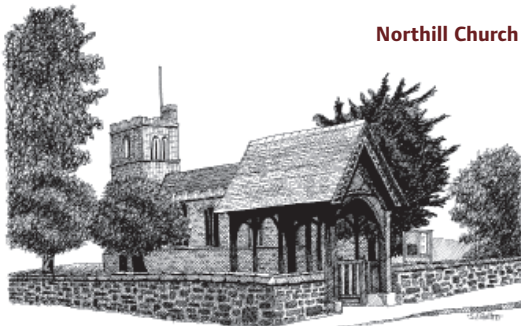
Haynes to Sandy

7.5 miles/11.5km

- 1 With care cross the A600, turn left and follow the road verge for 40m to a permissive path on your right. The path through Warden Great and Warden Little Woods is permitted through an agreement between the landowner (Southill Estate) and Central Bedfordshire Council. **The route cannot be used between 1st November and 1st March.** During this period minor roads to the south and east must be used (see map).
- 2 At the road, cross straight ahead to **Old Warden railway tunnel**. Continue on the waymarked track that becomes a grassed headland before joining the lane immediately north of Sweetbrier Farm. Turn left and follow the yew hedged lane before taking the second footpath on the right.
- 3 Follow the grass track which leads down the slope to a kissing gate in a tree belt. Continue through the horse paddocks, past **Highlands Farm** and a small belt of trees; then follow the headland to **Home Wood**. Follow the waymarked woodland rides to a kissing gate. Leave the wood and pass between horse paddocks to a staggered barrier and continue along the track to Bedford Road. Turn right and follow the road into **Northill** with its 14th century church on your right.
- 4 Turn left and follow Thorncote Road for 440m then take the track on your right after passing the thatched cottages on your left. Follow the waymarked track, across Bedford Road and continue through an avenue of trees and between arable fields onto **Beeston Green**.
- 5 Turn left and follow the road for 160m to The Crescent on your right. Go through an alleyway, use the footbridge to cross the A1 and head north along the pavement. Turn right into The Baulk that narrows from a road between houses into a hedged path that crosses the **River Ivel**. At this point, the route crosses the 'Kingfisher Way', a walk along the River Ivel.
- 6 Turn right at the weir and follow the surfaced path, crossing the river again after 500m and leading into Ivel Road. Continue ahead to the High Street, **Sandy**.



Barn owl



Northill Church

Old Warden Tunnel

The 882 yard long Old Warden Tunnel was part of the former Midland Railway between Bedford and Hitchin (1857 – 1962). Before the Bedford to St.Pancras line opened in 1868, this was the only rail route from this direction into London, linking with the Great Northern Line at Hitchin. The mounds above the tunnel are managed as a nature reserve by the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust.

St Mary's Church, Northill

St Mary's Church dates from the 14th Century. Northill gets its name from Nortgivele, the northern territory of the Gifle tribe, in turn taking its name from the River Ivel.

Home Wood

Home Wood contains a rare network of medieval fishponds within a moat-like feature. It is thought the bank within the moat served as a rabbit warren. This site was an important 'living larder' for the Lords of Northill Manor!

Highlands Farm

Highlands Farm is a distinctive Georgian farmhouse which was used during World War 2 to house prisoners of war who worked on nearby farms.



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River Ivel

The River Ivel is the main watercourse in east Bedfordshire. Fed by the Rivers Hit, Flit and Hiz, it flows into the River Great Ouse to the north of Tempsford. Once an active navigation channel, flanked by many water mills, the river is now a haven for wildlife, supporting otters, kingfishers and water voles.

Beeston

Beeston was a medieval settlement, built around the large village green which is still the focal point of the village today.