

Villages to explore

A great way to explore the rich history of the area is to take a short walk around some of the villages.

Ridgmont

- Segenhoe Church
- 'Malting Spinney' medieval moat & earthworks



Refreshments, toilets, parking:

Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. Free entry. Accessible by rail and bus, full disabled access. www.ridgmonthheritage.org.uk

Clophill

- Old church of St Mary's with views across to Cainhoe Castle



- Clophill Heritage Trail & other walks:

www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/walk-cycle-routes

Parking: Around the Green

Refreshments/Toilets: The Stone Jug, The Green Man, The Flying Horse.

Green Wheels

Green Wheels are multi-user easy access routes around communities which pass through corridors of interesting landscape.

Currently available in Sandy, Biggleswade, Etonbury, and Potton. Download Green Wheel leaflets at:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/82/countryside/427/green_wheels

Cycling

Greensand Country is a great place to cycle, and our promoted cycle routes (on and off-road), are clearly signed.

Have an old bike but not sure if it's safe to ride?

Look out for a free pop-up Dr. Bike repair shop, such as those run by Buzz Cycles in Leighton Buzzard. They will help get your bike back on the road.

If you don't currently have a bicycle, Central Bedfordshire Council run a Reuse Shop that sells second-hand bicycles. This can be found at the Thorn Turn Household Waste Recycling Centre, Houghton Regis.

Public & Community Transport

Greensand Country by rail: For more information visit the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership and the Beds & Herts Community Rail Partnership, at; www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk and www.bandhcrp.org.uk. Trains on both lines are fully wheelchair accessible.

Greensand Country by bus: Many of the buses are wheelchair accessible. Visit www.traveline.info for details.

If you are registered as disabled, free bus passes and half price rail travel are available on many services within the area. Please visit this Central Bedfordshire Council website page: bit.ly/3CWm6Gm

Greensand Country Community Transport provide wheelchair accessible minibuses for those unable to use public transport in the northern Central Bedfordshire area. Joining fee of £20 annually (March to April), then a minimum of £3.50 each way, depending on distance. To check eligibility, become a member and book journeys, call **01234 834933**.

Experience Greensand Country



Get involved: greensandcountry.com



Western Historic Parkland Walk, Aspley Guise & Husborne Crawley

6km (3.7 mile) circular walk.

Explore historic parkland and churches, walk past Crawley House and Aspley House. Starts at the square in Aspley Guise, postcode MK17 8DN. Free parking on the road. Refreshments and toilets available at The Anchor pub.

Western Geotrail, Great Brickhill

8km (5 mile) circular walk.

Incorporates forests and heathlands, open fields, streams and country lanes. Start at Heron's View Visitor Centre in Rushmere Country Park (charge for parking), postcode LU7 0EB, toilets and refreshments available here.

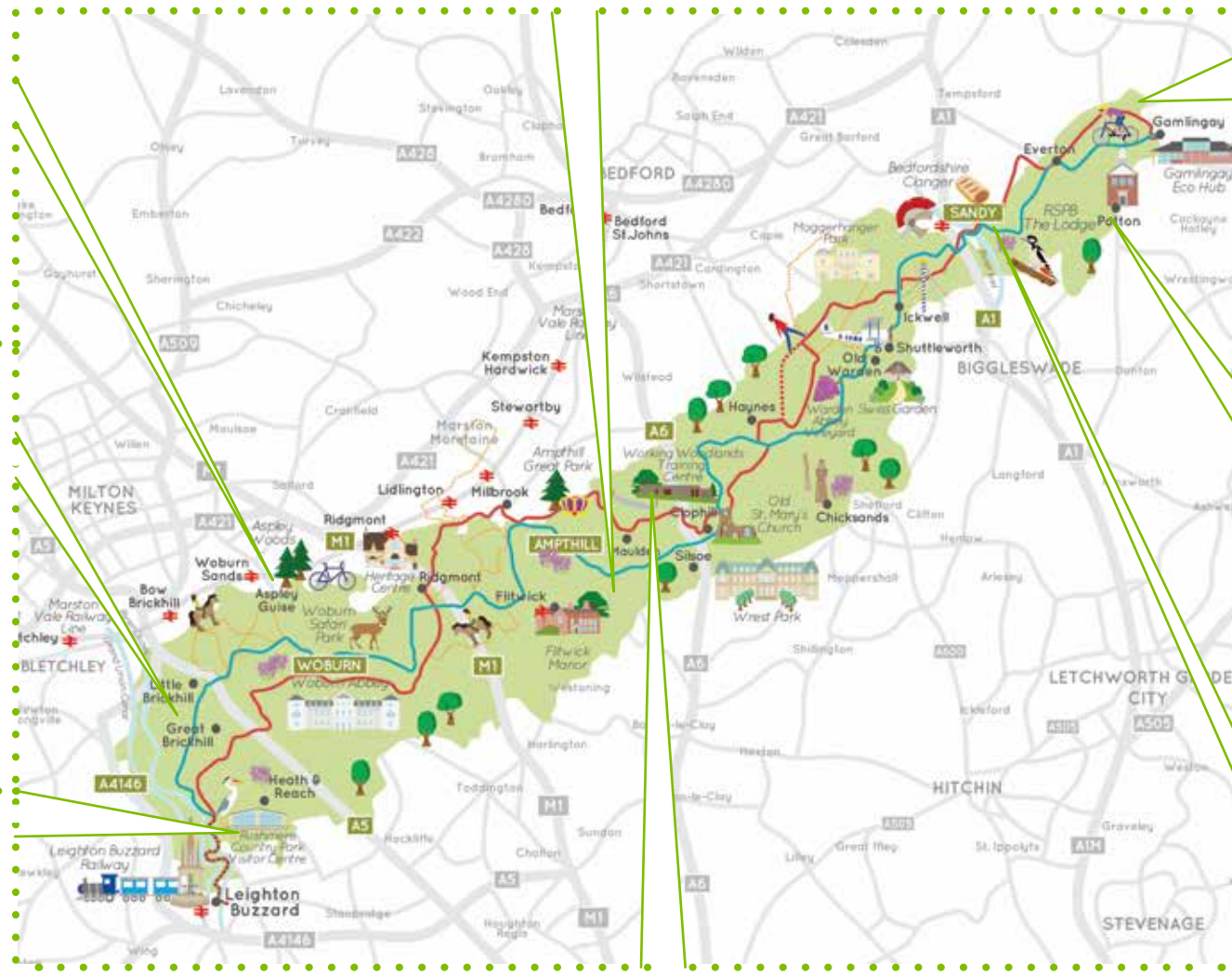
Ouzel Valley Walk, Leighton Buzzard

7km (4.5 mile) circular route,

accessed directly from housing areas to the north of Leighton Buzzard. Includes a section along the Grand Union Canal towpath, passes The Globe Inn, through grassland fields and woodland.

Two Moors Heritage Trail, Flitwick and Flitton

8km (5 mile) gentle circular walk. Starts at Flitwick Mill, postcode MK45 5BE, and then follows the river Flit. Car parking available on Station Road or local pubs, where you can also find refreshments and toilets. Flitwick railway station and bus stops ½ mile from start point.



Central Geotrail, Maulden

5km (3 mile) steady circular walk. Trail uses public footpaths and pavements. Begins and ends at St Mary the Virgin Church in Maulden, postcode MK45 2AU. Free parking at the church. Refreshments and toilets at The George Inn.

Millbridge Brook Meadows, Gamlingay

1.6km (1 mile) gentle circular walk.

Parking and toilets at the EcoHub (car park locked at 5pm). Refreshments at the pubs or the Co-Op on Church Street. If a longer walk is desired, explore Gamlingay Tree Trail, which would add another 1-2 miles to the walk, depending on which trees you would like to see.

Eastern Geotrail, Potton

3.2km (2 mile) circular walk in Potton.

Our online walking guide points out the wealth of sandstone buildings. Starts at Potton's church of St. Mary the Virgin. Refreshments and toilets available at several local pubs. Free parking at Brook End car park, postcode SG19 2QS.

Eastern Geotrail, Sandy

4km (2.5 mile) circular walk at the RSPB

Begins at The Lodge Nature Reserve & Gardens to the east of Sandy, postcode SG19 2DL. Refreshments & toilets available at the shop, open 10am-4pm. There is a charge for the carpark, which is open 7am-7pm.

Exploring nature

Greensand Country has lots of different places to explore a wide variety of fascinating habitats. We've picked out some where you can easily explore, with the advantage of amenities too. All of these sites are free to enter, but please see details for any parking charges.

Amphill Great Park and Cooper's Hill



- Discover parkland designed by Capability Brown and the site of Amphill Castle
- Heathland and wildlife sculptures to explore on Cooper's Hill
- Free tennis courts and play area

Look out for: Katherine's Cross and the Duke of Bedford Memorial in Amphill Park.

Park Hub with The Coffee Lodge café:

Open 8:30am-6pm daily.

Main entrance & Parking: Free. Two car parks off the B530, Woburn Street, Amphill, MK45 2HX.

Accessible toilets: In the Park Hub.

Off-road mobility scooter: Available to hire (£3 per hour)

Walking routes: Amphill Park and Cooper's Hill have firm sandy paths with some slopes.

Find out more at: www.amphill-tc.gov.uk/park

Rushmere Country Park



- Explore woodland, heathland and grassland
- View herons flying in the valley
- Sculpture trails to explore and natural play areas

Look out for: The heathland heather is very impressive when in bloom in late summer.

Two Visitor Centres:

Heron's View Visitor Centre and shop, with Tree Tops Restaurant.

Stockgrove Visitor Centre with Hatch takeaway café.

Main entrance: Linslade Road, Heath and Reach, Beds LU7 0EB

Parking: Available at both Visitor Centres (annual parking pass gives a reduced rate and designated disabled parking available).

Accessible toilets: At both visitor centres.

Wheelchairs: Available at both visitor centres.

Walking routes: Firm and loose sandy paths with some slopes.

Opening times: Opens at 9am. Closing times vary with the seasons.

Check www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park

RSPB Sandy



- Woodlands and expansive heathland
- Beautiful gardens and birdlife
- Ancient hill forts
- Play area and Wild PlayTrail for children

Look out for: Hundreds of finches darting across the site in mid-winter.

Visitor Information Centre & Shop: Open daily. Café opening in 2023.

Main entrance: The Lodge nature reserve, Gatehouse, The Lodge, Potton Rd, Sandy SG19 2DL

Parking: Free for RSPB members and blue badge holders, £6 for non-members. Open 7am-7pm.

Accessible toilets: Open daily, 10am-4pm

Walking routes: Sandy paths, some slopes of varying steepness. Map of trails available at Visitor Centre. Wheelchair accessible routes available—ask for a map or advice from staff.

Opening times: Nature reserve open daily, dawn till dusk.

www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/the-lodge

Exploring History

Greensand Country has a rich history to discover and enjoy.

Shuttleworth



- Collection of aeroplanes, vintage and veteran cars, buses, motorbikes, steam engines and farm machinery
- Open restoration workshop
- The Swiss Garden, Serpentine Lake and Parkland
- Woodland Sculpture, The Swiss Garden Beautiful Butterflies, and The Collection Marvellous Moths trails
- Visitor Centre and Café. Takeaway outlets across the site

Look out for: The peacocks that roam the site.

Entrance: Shuttleworth, Alder Drive, Biggleswade, SG18 9DT

Parking: Free

Toilets: in Swiss Garden, The Visitor Centre, The Collection (accessible) and Shuttleworth House (accessible).

Accessibility: Firm paths with seating throughout. Some slopes in the Swiss Garden and ramps in The Collection. Wheelchairs available

Opening times: Summer 10am-5pm, Winter 10am-4pm

Paid adult entry: Online discount available and children go free. Tickets are valid for 30 days for multiple visits.

Save on entry fees: Look out for Gardener's World 2-for-1 offers, and there is free entry to RHS members on Thursdays.

Interested in getting more involved? You could consider joining the Friends of the Swiss Garden or the Shuttleworth Veteran Air Society which give you complimentary admission and savings across the site. Keep your eyes peeled for free Heritage Open Days.

Find out more: www.shuttleworth.org/visit

Moggerhanger Park



- Free entry to walled garden and parkland.
- On-site tea room open.
- Entry and guided tours of house available on Wednesdays & Sundays. Pre-book via website below. £10 (concessions available). Friends membership (£30/yr) gives discount on tea room & accommodation.

Parking: Free

Accessibility: Firm grass, gravel paths, benches available. Wheelchair accessible and accessible toilets

Opening times: Grounds open 8am-4pm

Find out more: www.moggerhangerpark.com

Houghton House



- Impressive ruin to explore with information boards and free downloadable audio guide
- Great views to Ampthill and the Marston Vale

Look out for: The impressive staircase can still be seen in the Swan Hotel, Bedford.

Entrance: Free entry. Hazelwood Lane, Ampthill, MK45 2EY

Parking: Free, but limited capacity. Located 400m from the house. For amenities use Ampthill Great Park Hub.

Accessibility: Grass, gravel paths, some slopes and uneven surfaces.

Opening times: Open daily from 10am until 6pm or dusk, whichever is earliest.

For full information & audio guide: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/houghton-house

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days are a great way to explore historic sites, all for free! Sites that participate typically open their doors in early September. Participating sites may vary from year to year, so check: www.heritageopendays.org.uk