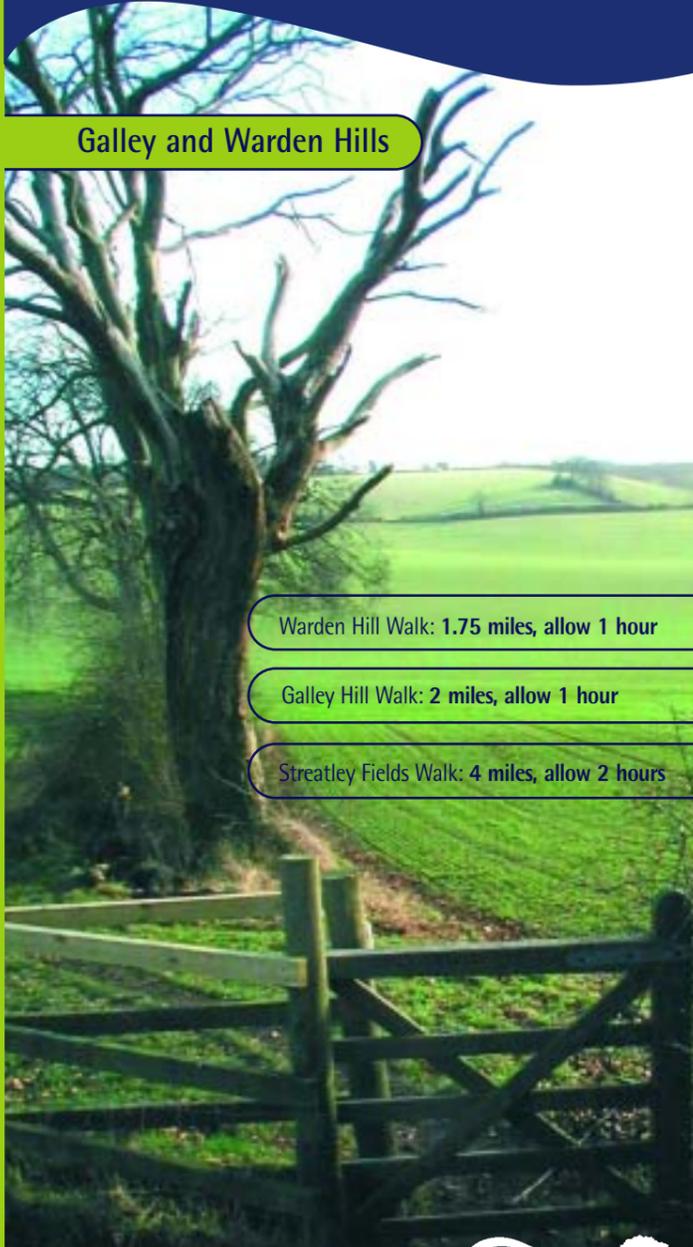


Chilterns Country



Galley and Warden Hills

Warden Hill Walk: 1.75 miles, allow 1 hour

Galley Hill Walk: 2 miles, allow 1 hour

Streatley Fields Walk: 4 miles, allow 2 hours



Around the Hills

Warden and Galley Hills is one of the most important areas of chalk downland in Bedfordshire, and lies within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area is open for your enjoyment, and is Luton's oldest local Nature Reserve.

The hills are home to a wide range of wild flowers, many of which will only live on the thin poor soils of the chalk downland. These flowers in turn attract over 20 different butterflies.



Chalkhill butterfly on Horseshoe Vetch

These very special, and rare, grassland landscapes are a result of traditional farming methods. Without man's intervention the grassland would return to woodland and the flowers and their butterflies would vanish. The traditional method of keeping trees and shrubs under control was by grazing them with cattle - and though this continues today, changes in farming means that this is no longer a profitable activity, and many slopes are no longer farmed. When this happens conservationists help by cutting down the scrub. If you would like to help with this work contact The North Chilterns Trust on 01582 412225.

The field at the base of **Warden Hill** is part of the nature reserve and is rich in lime-loving wild flowers, including some quite rare species. You can also find the remains of Warden Hill Farm, still surrounded by bushes and garden plants.

Bunkers and Boundaries

From the top of Warden Hill there are excellent views over the town. Beyond the golf course and Cardinal Newman Catholic School at the foot of the hills, see if you can spot the flats at Five Springs and Hockwell Ring, Bramingham Woods, and the Sundon water tower. The hills on the opposite side of the Luton valley are Dallow Downs.

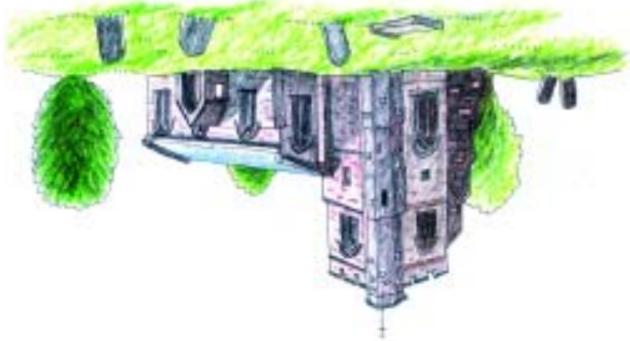
The South Bedfordshire Golf Club course borders much of the hills to the north and east. Around the top of Warden Hill you can still see a number of earthworks, which look like ancient archaeological sites but are actually the remains of golf course features abandoned many years ago!



Drays Ditches

Close to the top of **Galley Hill** there are two Bronze Age burial mounds, known as barrows. Although these are barely visible today, in the Middle Ages a gallows was built on one of the barrows. In the early 1960's the barrows were excavated and the remains of 14 burials were found in the larger of the two.

Streatley Village



St Margaret's Church

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Streatley's Anglo-Saxon name means 'the clearing by the street'. Much of the village is a designated Conservation Area.

The oldest building in the village is St Margaret's Church, dating back to the 14th Century. Close by is the Chequers pub - which was destroyed by fire in 1908, and had to be totally rebuilt.

Further down the road, and opposite the pond, you can find the 17th Century 'Thatched Cottage', and its neighbour which used to be the Red Lion pub, though this closed in the First World War.

This is one of a **series of Chilterns Country walks** through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). For more information about the Chilterns Conservation Board please contact 01844 271300 or visit www.chilternsaonb.org

Also available are the 'Walks on the Wild Side' series of circular routes. These can be obtained from The North Chilterns Trust on 01582 412225

Alternatively, you may like to discover your own routes using Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps, such as No.193 (Luton and Stevenage)



The **North Chilterns Trust** looks after the natural environment in Luton and South Bedfordshire.

☎ 01582 412225

Email: office@northchilternstrust.co.uk

Galley and Warden Hills are managed by Luton Borough Council. For information contact the John Dory Field Centre. Tel 01582 486983



THE NORTH CHILTERN TRUST

Start your walk with a phone call -Take the bus

The nearest bus stop for the Warden and Galley Hills routes is on the A6, at Warden Hill Road. Phone Arriva for details on 0870 608 2 608.

Alternatively, parking is at the Links way pull-in at the top of Warden Hill Road, off the A6.

For the Streatley walk you can get a bus from Luton to the Chequers pub. For more details phone Stagecoach on 01234 212852 or 01604 676060.

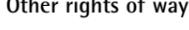
Alternatively, parking is at the Chequers pub.

Once your there

Please be considerate in the countryside

- There may be grazing animals along the routes - please keep dogs on leads in these areas.
- Many of the routes are public bridleways, so you may meet up with horse-riders.
- Be especially careful when crossing the golf course and the A6, and when walking along country lanes.
- These routes include hills and field margins, with gates and stiles, and certain paths can get muddy at times.

KEY

-  Streatley route
-  Galley Hill route
-  Warden Hill route
-  Gates and stiles
-  Other rights of way
-  Parking



Red route - Galley Hill Blue route - Streatley Purple route - Warden Hill

A two mile route incorporating the historic Icknield Way

- From the Links Way pull-in, head left on the grass path, following the hedge-line alongside the golf course.
- Follow the Icknield Way signs past the club house, and join the Icknield Way.
- At the 'crossroads', at the edge of the woods and next to the IW board turn right and cross the golf course, following IW signs - keep a lookout for flying golf balls!
- Through a kissing gate, and follow the track up the hill.
- Keep to the crest of the hill, with the golf course below you to your right. Go through the gate at the top and come out at the stile at the other end.
- Follow the path down to the left towards the bridle gate.
- Go through the gate and your route turns right along a bridleway, and along a wide track across the golf course, keep going past the steps at the 16th tee.
- Turn right onto the Icknield Way once more, turn left around the edge of the golf course and follow this back to the pull-in.

Rights of way markings:

-  Footpath (walkers only)
-  Bridleway (horse riders, cyclists and walkers)
-  Byway (open to all traffic)
-  Waymarks for the Wild Cherry Walk

A longer route of four miles across the fields from Streatley village, this time avoiding the hills.

- The start point is the Chequers public house in Streatley.
- Take the footpath to the left hand side of the pub, enter the churchyard and follow the path towards a gate and lamppost.
- Through the gate take the left hand fork and head towards a stile. Continue on the right hand side of the hedge, then through a kissing gate and turn left.
- Cross the stile into Bury Lane, turn left at the end and then immediate left following the footpath signs past the pond.
- Cross the field to a kissing gate in the far corner, then cross the next field towards another kissing gate. Follow the hedge-line, walk underneath the pylons and through a kissing gate. Keep on, passing George Wood on your right, and at the end of the wood bear right, through a hedge gap, and continue on across an arable field.
- Carry on towards the Pasque Hospice, cross the road by the Hospice entrance, climb a few steps and turn left. Follow the track to the A6.
- At the A6 turn right and cross the road by the roundabout, then walk back up the road and turn right onto the bridleway.
- Take the first turn on the left and follow the Icknield Way as it skirts the golf course at the bottom of Galley Hill.
- At the 'crossroads' by the Icknield Way information board take another left, and walk alongside the woodland following the field path.
- Left again, under the pylons, onto the Icknield Way walkers' route, past the Swedish Cottages and across the A6 again.
- Head through the village and return to the pub for a well earned rest.

A one and three quarter mile circuit, with great views of Luton from the ridge of the hill.

- The start point is the pull-in at the end of Links Way at the top of Warden Hill Road, by Cardinal Newman RC School.
- From the pull-in, head right and follow the field boundary along the bottom of Warden Hill.
- At the first Icknield Way fingerpost, turn left and follow the right-hand side of the earth bank, and on up the hill. Head towards the kissing gate on the right.
- Go through the kissing gate and follow the fence-line, keeping on past the steps until you reach a T-junction by a kissing gate.
- Ignoring the kissing gate to the right, turn left and follow a new fence-line up the hill, which in time turns to the right as you arrive at the crest of the hill.
- Follow the hilltop, with Luton and the golf course to your left. Through the kissing gate and straight on for another 100 yards to the next signpost.
- Turn left, and follow the Icknield Way path down the hill, aiming towards the red club-house building.
- Through another kissing gate, and onto the golf course - beware of flying golf balls - keeping to the wide track.
- At the bottom of the hill turn left and walk along the edge of the golf course by the hedge, back to Links Way.