



# 07 BEDFORDSHIRE BARTON-LE-CLAY

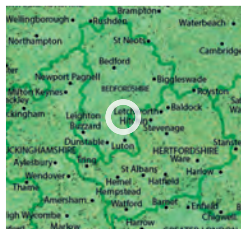
▶ Distance: 9 miles/14.2km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Climbing above Barton, early in the walk.

PHOTO: LEN BANISTER

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Park in the road alongside the Church in Church End, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4LA, grid ref TL085304

**Is it for me?** Most of the walk is over established, promoted, tracks which dry out quickly after rain. Signage is good. There are two steep climbs  
**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Luton  
**Refreshments** The Raven at Hexton provides good food and excellent beer  
**Public toilets** None  
**Public transport** Stagecoach operates an hourly service, 81, between Bedford and Luton (01234 220030)  
**Maps** OS Explorer 193; Landranger 166



**CHOSEN BY...  
LEN BANISTER**  
The last, easterly  
gasp of the Chilterns

is a group of three outcrops of hills – two of them are encountered on this walk; Barton and Pegsdon. This is quintessential downland walking made even more interesting by the fact the mostly flat surrounds provide 360° panoramas for most of the walk. A quick ascent opens up the special character of soft mounds and valleys, while the return offers walkers the chance to assess their whole route.

**1 Start**  
With church L, continue up lane. Go L at fingerpost;

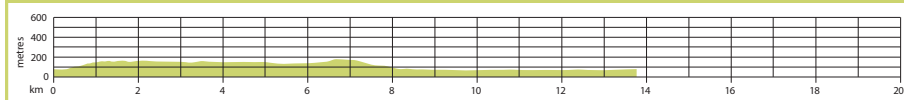
at end of field, swing R up steps to kissing-gate; continue uphill. Soon gain height, and views, by series of steps to highest gate. Walk alongside fence (you may see ponies which are partially responsible for the manicured appearance of the hills). Go through gate, soon after path swings sharply L then resumes previous direction to reach sheep pen & noticeboard.

**2 ¾ mile/1.3km**  
Turn R. Soon after metal kissing-gate, go L at another. Go L along hedge and field boundary. Keep to track to reach road. Go L; R at fingerpost. Forward under power-lines. Eventually arrive at cross-tracks.

**3 2½ miles/4km**  
Go L along the Icknield Way (a 177km route which



## GRADIENT PROFILE



07 BEDFORDSHIRE  
BARTON-LE-CLAY▶ OS Explorer map 193 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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pre-dates the Roman occupation) to reach road. Keep forward along generous verge. At sharp L turn, go straight on. Go L of waymarker uphill. When path has levelled out for some distance, look for kissing-gate L by Pegsdon Hills info board. Go forward to join fence and follow it. Keep ahead at gate, continuing along escarpment top. Descend by a series of gates to reach road.

#### 4 5½ miles/8.4km

Cross, go R on drive. Just before reaching road, go L at fingerpost (this is a delightful

diversion which features snow drops and daffodils early in the year but can become overgrown later). At first junction, go R. Cross stile, reach lane, turn L. At first junction go L. At end of lane, continue on track. Turn L at fingerpost, cross old mill-race. The track becomes a lane which you follow into Hexton. Reach junction.

#### 5 6¾ miles/10.9km

The Raven pub is 50m ahead. Go R along road signed 'Higham Gobion'. Pass the Recreation Ground to go L

at fingerpost across field to bridge. Continue on L field edges. Eventually take sharp L then go R to continue with hedge R. Keep forward to end of field, swing L with track then R over bridge to road. Turn L. At end go R then L along Church Road to finish. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING