



# THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

## Icknield Way: Sharpenhoe Clappers - Sundon Hills circular

1 hours 25 minutes | 4.3miles 6.9km | Leisurely

Extensive views across Bedfordshire on a stile free rural circular walk following the Icknield Way using paths and tracks. The walk involves a progressive climb of 70m height. Dogs to be kept under close control where livestock grazing.

### Starts at:

Sharpenhoe Clappers car park is located on Sharpenhoe Road, Streatley, Bedfordshire.

Map reference: TL065296 Lat: 51.954691 Long: -0.450867 Post Code: LU3 3PP

### Getting there

The A6 north of Luton and south of Barton passes Streatley drive through Streatley follow signs towards Sharpenhoe Clappers visitors car park.

Bus services from Luton and Bedford, for details: [Traveline](#).

Nearest rail station is at Harlington on the Thameslink line.

### Route instructions

From the car park pass through the gate and follow the metalled path. The path splits, follow either as they rejoin, walk for half a mile to Sharpenhoe Clappers, a beech woodland on the chalk headland. In the beech woodland keep generally to the left and follow the tree/fence line to take the footpath down some 70 steps at the north. At the end of the steps take the footpath on the left, through two kissing gates and then diagonally left across the field to another kissing gate.

**Cross the road carefully** and follow the bridleway as it weaves along the bottom of the hills. Ignore footpaths/signs/gates to the left to Moleskin and Markham hill. At the road, turn left for 250m. **Be aware of the few vehicles using this road**. At the road junction pass through the kissing gate on the left and follow the permissive path as it leads uphill between two fields.

Continue through another kissing gate into a wooded area, a path to the left goes up some 35 steps, through part of a former quarry, at the top appreciate the easterly views back towards Sharpenhoe Clappers. Now turn right to continue climbing, through a gate, keeping the hedge on your left. Continue across the field up the hill to the hedge at the top, then turn left and follow the hedge line.

Follow the ridge around to the right, through a gate after a further 150m pass through a kissing gate to the right, following the Icknield Way path. Continue up hill on the field edge, at the footpath junction turn left and continue to follow the Icknield Way path.

The path goes into the woodland, follow it round to the right. Continue to follow the Icknield Way path along the wooded ridge. As the path opens out, pass through the kissing gate on your left and cross the grazing field diagonally. Go through the kissing gate and **carefully cross the road** to return to the car park.



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## **Additional information**

Sharpenhoe Clappers is a classic chalk escarpment and part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is crowned with traces of an Iron Age hill-fort and an impressive beech wood. It is a prominent landmark from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. It was bequeathed to the National Trust in memory of brothers Norman & Laurance Robinson who were both killed in action during the First World War.

Maps: OS Explorer 193, Landranger 166

Eating & drinking: [Chequers](#) pub in Streatley

Accommodation: [Chequers](#) in Streatley

Water for dogs: Available from natural water courses along the bridleway at the base of the escarpment, but none available on the remainder of the route.

## **Acknowledgements**

Developed in 2015 by: *Tom Chevalier*

The [Icknield Way Association](#) promotes the 110 mile long route from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Knettishall Heath on the Suffolk/Norfolk borders. The Icknield Way links the Ridgeway and Peddars Way National Trails. Search for other Icknield Way walks, for example this route links with a circular walk to Upper Sundon & Toddington. This route follows the Icknield Way path and the [Icknield Way trail](#) a multi-user route.

[National Trust](#) maintain the area jointly with Central Bedfordshire Council.