



Harlington - Sharpenhoe - Pulloxhill

ID: 3676, **Distance:** 8 miles, **Height gain:** 140 Metres, **Map:** Explorer 193 Luton & Stevenage, **Contributor:** Dennis Jeanes

Duration: 3 Hours 27 Mins

Features Church,Great Views,Hills or Fells,Pub,Public Transport,Toilets

Description:

This walk has history and excellent countryside with panoramic views.

Harlington was where John Bunyan was arrested for leading a religious meeting at a nearby farmhouse and taken to Harlington House. After interrogation he was imprisoned for holding unauthorised religious gatherings. He was given a 12-year sentence at Bedford County Gaol where he began writing *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The early 14th Century parish church of Harlington has a small stained glass window depicting scenes from the book.

From Sharpenhoe the walk is called The Bunyan Trail, so you are walking in the steps of one of the great men of history.

The walk goes through grazing and agricultural land with little patches of woodland.

Waymarks 1 to 2 give wonderful views to the south of the plain and the Sundon Hills and Sharpenhoe Clappers. Later one can look back at Harlington spread along the ridge to the north. From Sharpenhoe the water tower on Pulloxhill stands out very clearly to assist navigation, but disappears as one gets closer. From Pulloxhill there are fine views to the north and the south. The walk is full of interest.

Access info:

Harlington is a main line station with frequent trains from London and from the north.

Local bus services are on this link: www.carlberry.co.uk/rfnlstr.asp?L1=HAR058&op=D

By car: from Junction 12 of the M1 follow the sign to Flitwick and at the first roundabout turn right (signposted 'Harlington'). At the first crossroads go straight across (not your right of way) and you will pass the church on your right. Lincoln Way is the next road off left for parking at Waymark 1.

SatNav: LU5 6LE



Waymark 1



Waymark 2



Waymark 3



Waymark 4



Waymark 5



Waymark 6



Waymark 7



Waymark 8



Waymark 9



Waymark 10



Waymark 11



Waymark 12



Waymark 13



Waymark 14



1 Grid ref: TL038306 **Lat:** 51.9648007 **Long:** -0.4892844

From the parking bay in Lincoln Way, walk back to Church Road and turn left. Follow this road bending left and then going straight and with views across to the right to a group of trees and a bridleway on the right, Waymark 2 (distance 740 metres, direction at start SW).



2 Grid ref: TL044307 **Lat:** 51.9656481 **Long:** -0.4817595

Turn right down the hill along this bridleway to a lane, Waymark 3 (distance 450m, SE).



3 Grid ref: TL047305 **Lat:** 51.963298 **Long:** -0.4773268

Turn left along the lane and look carefully for a footpath sign off to the right over a tiny plank bridge, Waymark 4 (350m, NNE).



4 Grid ref: TL049307 **Lat:** 51.9657282 **Long:** -0.474042

Turn right, cross the plank bridge and follow the path straight ahead. You will see a wooded hill in the distance; aim for that and ignore path off left. You will meet a gate and bridge over a stream and immediately, another bridge to right. Cross this second bridge and turn left with hedge on left. The path climbs gently and at the top there is a meeting of tracks, Waymark 5 (670m, ESE).



5 Grid ref: TL055306 **Lat:** 51.9640372 **Long:** -0.4650022

Turn half-left and follow the wide track to a road. Turn right along the road into Sharpenhoe to where another road joins from the right and there is a pub The Lynmore on the far right corner (under restoration 2006). This is waymark 6 (960m, ENE).



6 Grid ref: TL064306 **Lat:** 51.9637387 **Long:** -0.4524946

Turn left along a footpath and bridleway along the drive Sharpenhoe Bury and walk through Bury Farm. This is now the Bunyan Trail, but is not always marked on the signs. You will now head towards a water tower on this trail. When the main track turns left keep straight on, using the grass path for a short way, to sign left over a bridge, Waymark 7(1.4km, NNW).



7 Grid ref: TL060319 **Lat:** 51.9762037 **Long:** -0.4567968

Turn left over the bridge, labelled Bunyan Trail. Then walk right and after a few steps left, through a metal kissing-gate through the hedge. This is a diversion of the trail. Turn half-right across the field (no clear path) which rises slowly. Soon you will see a large farm ahead. The trail is now clear through several metal kissing-gates. At the field with farm at the top, turn right (you do not reach the farm). At the next kissing-gate, do not turn half-left towards metal kissing-gate but follow the hedge on right and further gates till you reach a wood, Waymark 8 (1.4km, NW).



8 Grid ref: TL059329 **Lat:** 51.9848165 **Long:** -0.4587578

Continue along the footpath through the wood and over a little plank bridge to a field. Keep straight on along the left edge of the field to a wide track. Follow this uphill and then round to the left and immediately past a cottage and a garage is a footpath sign, Waymark 9 (520m, NE).



9 Grid ref: TL061335 **Lat:** 51.9900849 **Long:** -0.4559553

The sign is not obvious, but it points down a tiny path to the right of a track (it almost appears to go through a garden). This leads to a gate and a series of stiles, all clearly marked, then to a field with picnic tables. This could be used for your picnic. Turn uphill and you reach a gate into the churchyard. This is Pulloxhill, Waymark 10(310m, ENE).



10 Grid ref: TL061337 **Lat:** 51.9918231 **Long:** -0.4548032

Go through the churchyard with the church on your right and turn left at the road. (Turn right to detour to the pubs, The Chequers and the Cross Keys and retrace your steps afterwards). Follow the road along Higham Bury Lane; this is a long stretch to a sharp right turn, which you follow. First go past a gabled brick house on the left, then reach two houses on the right. There is a bridle-path to the left, Waymark 11(1.5km, NW then S along road).



11 Grid ref: TL052332 **Lat:** 51.9872842 **Long:** -0.4687217

Turn left along the narrow bridleway till you reach a gate. Go through gate and keep to the hedge on the right to another gate, Waymark 12 (425m, SSW).



12 Grid ref: TL048328 **Lat:** 51.9839856 **Long:** -0.4743679

Through this gate, turn half-left with hedge then wood on the left, all going downhill. Then you meet a track of sorts crossing your path, Waymark 13 (400m, S).



13 Grid ref: TL046324 **Lat:** 51.9806069 **Long:** -0.4773221

Go straight across into a wood with a narrow track, which can be muddy, to a lane. Turn left along this and you reach a hill up to Upper Sampshill Farm, Waymark 14 (920m, SW).



14 Grid ref: TL050320 **Lat:** 51.9772491 **Long:** -0.4714664

Opposite the farm gate is the footpath sign. Turn right and cross the field down to the left corner and the sign through to the next field, where the path is clear. Then walk through a little plantation and two more fields. You will see a wood at the top of the final field. Head to the right-hand side and walk next to the fence round the wood and you reach a footpath sign left over a stile. It leads you to the road. Take the Barton Road and Waymark 2, which was the bridleway you followed at the beginning, is on your left. Keep straight on along the road back to the car park (1.4km, S).

Comments:

15/06/2009 - **Kirstie Brown**

This is a lovely walk, just one thing when you go through the church, you need to turn right to find the pubs. The Chequers and further down the Cross Keys. Way Mark 10. If you turn left you will continue on your walk.

27/08/2007 - **Peter Williams**

Chequers pub, at Pulloxhill (Waymark 10) seems to be open every weekday lunchtime and all day Saturday and Sunday
