



06 BEDFORDSHIRE WHIPSNADE

▶ Distance: 8 miles/13km ▶ Time: 3½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Aylesbury Vale from Dunstable Downs.

PHOTO: A. HAMILTON-THOMPSON



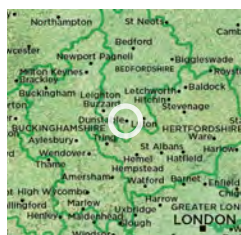
CHOSEN BY... ABIGAIL HAMILTON- THOMPSON

This pleasant circuit starts near Whipsnade Tree Cathedral, an arboretum in the shape of a church, designed by Edmond Blyth as an act of 'faith, hope and reconciliation' after the First World War. The route explores some of Chilterns' chalk escarpment before passing the popular Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre, with scenic views across Aylesbury Vale, and then explores the attractive Chiltern countryside past the Kensworth Chalk Pit, Studham church and the outskirts of Whipsnade Zoo. Look out for orchids and chalkhill blue butterflies along the way.

1 Start Exit the car park towards the tree cathedral and keep L onto a footpath through a field. Soon reach a bridleway, turn R. Keep ahead until you reach open views across the Vale. Go R following the trail along the contour to reach a windcatcher near the Chilterns Gateway visitor centre.

2 1¼ miles/2.3km Keep ahead past the beacon to reach the little car park. Cross road, take the metalled footpath straight ahead. Soon R and then R again with fence and quarry on L. At road, go R then shortly L into woodland. Follow this into a field.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Whipsnade Tree Cathedral car park, grid ref TL007181, postcode LU6 2GY

Is it for me? Paths, tracks and lanes. Can get muddy in wet seasons

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town

Dunstable

Refreshments

Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre (01582 500920), The Bell Studham (01582 872460; thebellinstudham.co.uk)

Public toilets

Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre

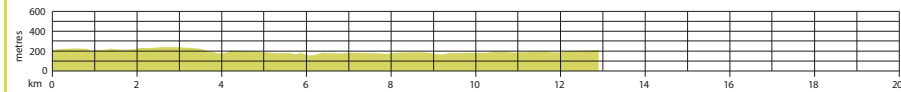
Public transport

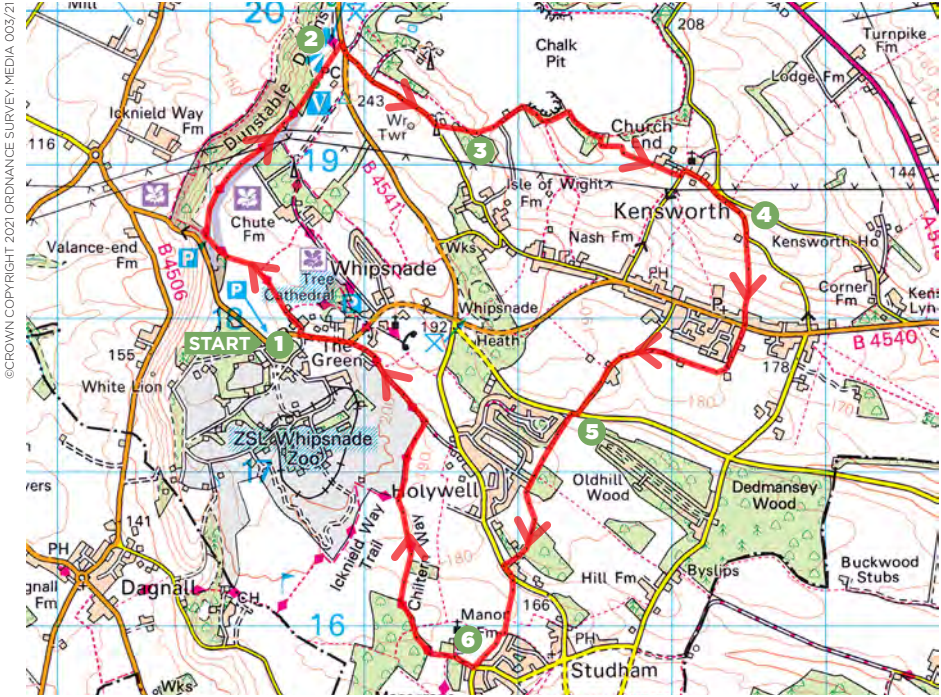
Bus 40 from Dunstable runs through Whipsnade village (centrebus.info)

Maps OS Explorer 182; Landranger 166

Keep ahead on path, soon downhill into valley and then into woodland. →

GRADIENT PROFILE



06 BEDFORDSHIRE
WHIPSNADE▶ OS Explorer map 182 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2021 ORDNANCE SURVEY MEDIA 003/21

3 2½ miles/4.2km

Ignore kissing gate ahead at edge of woodland, go L up steep steps. Through kissing gate, then immediately R. At a gap in trees go R, follow the edge of the field then soon up steps and follow L edge of field to reach lane. Turn L on lane past church. Over a road triangle then immediately fork R on lane.

4 3¼ miles/6km

At a bend in lane, go ahead on path down into valley and up into an enclosed path that leads to a road. Straight

over onto drive, soon take path that runs alongside drive before bearing R into a field and then on an enclosed path that leads to a track. Keep ahead to lane. Turn L.

5 5 miles/8km

At road junction go R then L on footpath opposite layby. Fork L, passing private gardens on R. Ignore turn offs, keep ahead, soon on enclosed path into woodland to reach Dunstable Road. Turn L then soon R on path through kissing gate. Straight over another path to reach lane.

6 6½ miles/10km

Turn R then immediately fork R onto Church Lane. Soon L on bridleway. Keep ahead for 1 mile. Turn L on tarmac path and keep ahead to reach Whipsnade Green. Cross over road and take track to reach car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING