



The route is waymarked throughout.



From Stewkley High Street turn by the Swan public house into Chapel Square. From here take the lane past "Fishweir" towards Bury Farm and then cross the stile opposite the bungalow.

Follow the path across the fields until you reach a concrete track near Dean Tithe Farm. Turn right along the track and then left along Dean Road.

Just past the entrance to Upper Dean Farm, turn right for the main walk. Carry straight on for the short cut past Blackland Covert and Blackland Farm.

The main walk crosses fields to another lane. This junction is known locally as Pear Tree Corner. Turn left then immediately right.

At the end of the hedged lane carry on for 30 metres and then turn left to walk up out of the valley. Just before the pylon at the top the short cut joins from the left.

Turn left at the next hedge. Walk beside the hedgerow for two fields and in the next head directly towards North Farm. Turn left just before the farm, cross two fields and then walk alongside the next hedge, following the route of part of a Roman road.

Walk up the hill back into Stewkley. Turn left at the High Street opposite Stewkley Church. Walk through the village back to the starting point.

Features of Interest

1 This part of the route runs along the line of an old drovers' road. Stock was driven from the Welsh border counties to Banbury Market and then along this road, through Stewkley, and on to London.

2 The scrub on the right is particularly attractive to butterflies in the summer including the gatekeeper or hedge brown. This butterfly is usually found in grassy places, along hedgerows or at the edge of woodlands. It is brownish-orange with dark brown



Photo: Alan Barnes/Butterfly Conservation

margins and on the forewing it has a black spot, which usually has two white dots. It can be seen on the wing during July, August and early September.

3 Dunton Church can be seen on the right through the trees. Dating from the twelfth century, it is built out of unusually large blocks of stone.



4 There is evidence of a Roman road running along this hedgerow. It connected Dorchester-on-Thames with Alconbury passing through Fleet Marston, Little Brickhill and Bedford. As you approach Stewkley the road becomes terraced and evidence of the metalling has been found with a probe.

5 Stewkley village has a one and half mile long High Street along which many interesting buildings can be seen. Three brick kilns in the village once produced the red bricks which are prominent throughout the area.

The parish church was built in around 1150.

It is thought to be one of the finest Norman churches in the country. About six thousand churches were built by the Normans, mostly during the twelfth century but only three have survived, like Stewkley, without later additions to their original plan.



Butterfly Conservation is the UK charity taking action to save butterflies, moths and their habitats. Visit www.butterfly-conservation.org for further information.

Public Transport: Regular buses run to Stewkley from Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard. For further information telephone Traveline 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline.co.uk.

Car Parking: Parking is available along the High Street and in Chapel Square.

Refreshments: There are public houses and a village store in Stewkley.

Picnic Site: One mile along Dunton Road out of Stewkley is the Cublington Spinney Picnic Site.

Many of the paths can be muddy at any time of the year so the use of stout footwear is recommended.

This leaflet may be used in conjunction with OS Explorer sheet 192 or Landranger sheet 165.

This leaflet is available in large print or another language on request

Telephone: 01296 382171

Buckinghamshire County Council,
Rights of Way Group, County Hall, Aylesbury
HP20 1UY
www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way
email: row@buckscc.gov.uk

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Stewkley Circular Walk

A moderately easy 5 mile circular walk based on the red-brick village of Stewkley, between Winslow and Leighton Buzzard, passing through peaceful countryside and following part of a former drovers' track and a Roman road.



- 40 stiles
- 6 gates
- 11 footbridges
- mostly on the level with one or two gentle slopes

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