

Welcome to the Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks 2026

Organised by The Ramblers Bedfordshire Area.

THE GREENSAND RIDGE PATH CHALLENGE

The Greensand Ridge Challenge is a 2-day 40 mile walk along the Greensand Ridge Path. Options are, to join the led walk or to walk, jog, run at your own pace within the time limit. **The Time limit is the finish time by the led walk on each day.** Certificates will be awarded to those completing the 40 miles over both days. Everyone will start at the same time each day. If you have chosen to walk, jog, run on your own, maps will be available on the day and your attention is drawn to the route changes through Rushmere and at Ridgmont on the Saturday.

Meet in the Car Park of Ampthill Park West car park in plenty of time for a 7:45am departure on Saturday and a 7:30am departure on Sunday.

There are two car parks in Ampthill Park one is near the football ground (central car park) and the other at the end of the Park close to the A507 (West car park). The car park at the end of the park nearest the A507 West car park is the one you need to be in. OS Map 193 GR TL024 382.



The Greensand Ridge Path starts or ends at Gamlingay Cinqes in Cambridgeshire but soon crosses the border into Bedfordshire and continues through Everton, Sandy, Beeston, Northill, Haynes, Clophill, Maulden, Ampthill, Millbrook, Ridgmont, Eversholt, Woburn, Rushmere Park, with the last mile into Leighton Buzzard along the Grand Union Canal.

For Logistical reasons our 2-day Greensand Ridge Challenge begins at both ends and we walk towards the middle at Ampthill as follows:-

Saturday 12th September Leighton Buzzard to Ampthill - 19 miles.

Sunday 13th September Gamlingay to Ampthill - 21 miles.

Your walk leaders Roy & Tom with assistance of others are very experienced leaders and have walked the route on many occasions. Car parking in the **Ampthill Park West Car Park** is free.

Saturday 12th: 7:45am Ampthill Park West car park. A taxi will transfer you from Ampthill to Leighton Buzzard where you may like to avail yourself of the toilets at Tesco. There will be a group photograph of everyone before the start of the Challenge between 8-30am and 8-45am.

The leader will ensure regular breaks and based on previous years, the led walk will take approximately 7.5 hours including stops and arrive back in Ampthill Park around 4-30pm. Rushmere/Stockgrove country park offer two routes, the perimeter route or the through route, either is OK but through the park is better because it offers refreshment stops.

Although there are a number of road crossings particular attention should be drawn to the crossing of the A5, as the path drops steeply to this busy road and climbs steeply up the other side. Also, several years ago a new section of the route was created through Ridgmont to avoid the difficult road crossing on the A507 at Flying Horse Farm.

Sunday 13th: 7:30am Ampthill Park West car park. A taxi will transfer you from Ampthill to Gamlingay for the start of the 21 miles and again we will have a photograph at the start. Although the day takes about an hour longer in walking time the terrain is much flatter until approaching Clophill. Arrival in Ampthill Park should be between 5-30pm and 6-00pm for the led walk. For people on the led walk there will be morning and afternoon refreshment breaks plus a lunch stop. Please bring food and drink for the day. The Lunch stop may be at or near a pub but there **would not** be time to order and eat a meal.

For those walking, running or jogging on their own and arriving back at Ampthill before the led walk please phone or send text to 07784 208997. If you require assistance during the walk your leaders have a backup number to call.

We suggest you check the weather forecast the night before to determine what you may need to wear or carry with you. We suggest wearing comfortable clothing and suitable walking shoes or boots plus a jacket to suit the conditions. A hat or umbrella may be useful.

The £22 per person charge covers one or both days and is made to cover organisational costs and transport. If you haven't already paid please bring payment with you. Regret we cannot give refunds. There is no charge for the walk.

Any queries between receiving this itinerary and Saturday 12th September, please contact roycarter367@hotmail.com or phone 01234 301182.

Please note: No activity is without risk and it is your responsibility to behave sensibly so as to minimise the potential for accidents to occur to you or to others.

You undertake the Challenge at your own risk.

For those doing the walk, jog, run on your own please take the led walk leaders number(s) in case of emergency. This will be given to you before the start of the walk on Saturday. The leaders have a contact number in case of injuries and unforeseen circumstances.

Note - photographs will taken at the beginning, end and possibly during the walk for publicity purposes.



Previous years starters



Previous years finishers