

Wootton and Bedford's Green Gateway

Introduction

This 4 mile walk goes through the village of Wootton to Bedford's Green Gateway and returns via the hamlet of Hall End. Wootton is located 5 miles south west of Bedford. Bus Route 53 runs every 20 minutes from Bedford. The bus stops outside the Village Hall. There is car parking behind the Village Hall on Church Road (Post Code MK439EU).

Start/Finish Point

The walk starts and ends at Wootton Village Hall - OS Grid Ref 007450 - Post Code MK439EU.

Route Description

From the Village Hall (point 5) cross the recreation ground (passing the skate board park) to a gap in the right hand corner by the school. Go down the path to Bedford Road and turn left. Continue walking past the Post Office and turn right down Potters Cross (point 2).

Follow the tarmac road, which becomes a rough track, to a junction of paths and two footpath signs (point 3).

At the second sign go through the kissing gate to follow a hard surfaced track through 'Wiles Wood', part of the Bedford's Green Gateway. This is an area of land that has been purchased and tree planted by the Forest of Marston Vale. Effectively this makes a 'green wedge' between Wootton and Kempston.

Continue straight ahead and turn left at a T-junction. At the next T-junction (point 4) turn left. You are now in Ridgeway Wood. Continue on the hard surfaced path to Bedford Road.

Turn left and after 200 yards, just before the Wootton Village Sign (donated by the Wootton Millennium Committee from funds raised by the sale of the 2002 History of Wootton book), turn right by a footpath sign passing through a gate. (point 5). Almost immediately bear left through a gate into Hoo Corner and follow the hard surface track through another gate to the road. This area of the Green Gateway is called The Kill.

Cross the road into Buttons Ramsey. Follow the track round and join the road by the Cross Keys public house and Fratelli restaurant. (point 6).

Turn left for 100 yards and turn right at the footpath sign by a farm building. Walk along the side of the building and then the hedge to cross a field (can be muddy in the winter months) to reach a gap in the hedge. Continue, keeping to the left hand edge of the field to a narrow path that leads out to Keeley Lane (point 7).

Cross the road, turning right for 10 yards, and go through a kissing gate. Bear right and continue to a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and bear right to another gap in a hedge. Go straight ahead to a kissing gate and continue in the same direction to another kissing gate that leads onto a track in Hall End. (point 8)

Turn left, go through a kissing gate and, keeping the hedge on your left, follow the path to join Lorraine Road by the cemetery.

Turn right then right again at Cause End Road. Turn left down St Mary's Road, bearing right to Tithe Barn Road. Turn right and after 30 yards then left on an alleyway to enter the recreation ground. Follow the hard surface path to return to the Village Hall.

This walk was checked in May 2020.

