

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Bow Brickhill to Leighton Buzzard	Walk No.	340
Area	Buckinghamshire & Bedfordshire.	Type	Linear
Date	Wednesday, 8 December, 2021		
Distance	9.1 m/14.7 km.		
Timing	4 hours walking. For the whole outing including travel & lunch allow at least 7 hours, closer to 8 with tea on the canal. Return to Islington realistically between 5.30 and 6.30pm, depending on tea and train.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>Meet at Euston Station (main concourse, under the main announcement board) between by 10.05am latest for the 10.15am to Bletchley (dir. Birmingham New Street). Change at Bletchley for 9 min bus to Bow Brickhill. Arrive 11.10am.</p> <p>Return: 16.34, 16.54 (fast 32m), 17.07, 17.36, 17.55 (fast 30m), 18.10, 18.34. Slow trains between 50 and 55m.</p> <p>Ticket to buy:</p> <p>With railcard: off-peak day return to Bow Brickhill £15.55.</p> <p>With Freedom Pass: off-peak day return Watford to Bow Brickhill £12.50.</p>		
Route	<p>After Back Wood and its sequoia trees, this walk heads South through Duncombe Wood to the Old Red Lion pub for lunch in Great Brickhill midway the walk at c. 1.00pm. We then join the Greensand Ridge Walk, with fine views out over the River Ouzel, and on to the Globe Inn for tea on the Grand Union Canal. You then continue along the towpath beside the Grand Union Canal into Leighton Buzzard. Even if it is slightly dark, this is a straight, easy and safe route (01525 373338).</p>		
Lunch	The Old Red Lion pub (01525 261715) in Great Brickhill (excellent food).		
Shortcuts and dropping out	There are two suitable busses: 12.28 and 14.38 from the lunch pub which take you in 30 min to Leighton Buzzard. Alternatively, you could call a taxi from Great Brickhill or from the teatime pub, The Globe Inn, near Leighton Buzzard.		
Suitability	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties.</p> <p>Terrain: Undulating countryside.</p> <p>Possible obstacles: None except mud after rain. A few stiles.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots or if dry trainers. Waterproof jacket. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.</p>		
Facilities	There are loos at the lunch time pub, the pub for tea and Leighton Buzzard Station and of course on the train.		
Walk source	Saturday Walkers Club website Book 1, No 41		
Map	OS Explorer 192 or Landranger 165		
Leader & contact details	<p>Walk Leader: Pia Rainey</p> <p>Phone: 07775 782860 (WhatsApp or text)</p> <p>e-mail: piarainey@icloud.com</p>		
Interesting facts	<p>Lower Greensand is very different from the surrounding clay lands and consists of marine sands with few fossils – a terrain that supports a tree population dominated by pine. There is currently a great variety of mushrooms and the colours of the trees are still fantastic (as on 20/11).</p>		

Great Brickhill was a centre of the curious coprolite industry: the mining of phosphatic nodules used to manufacture super-phosphatic fertiliser.

