

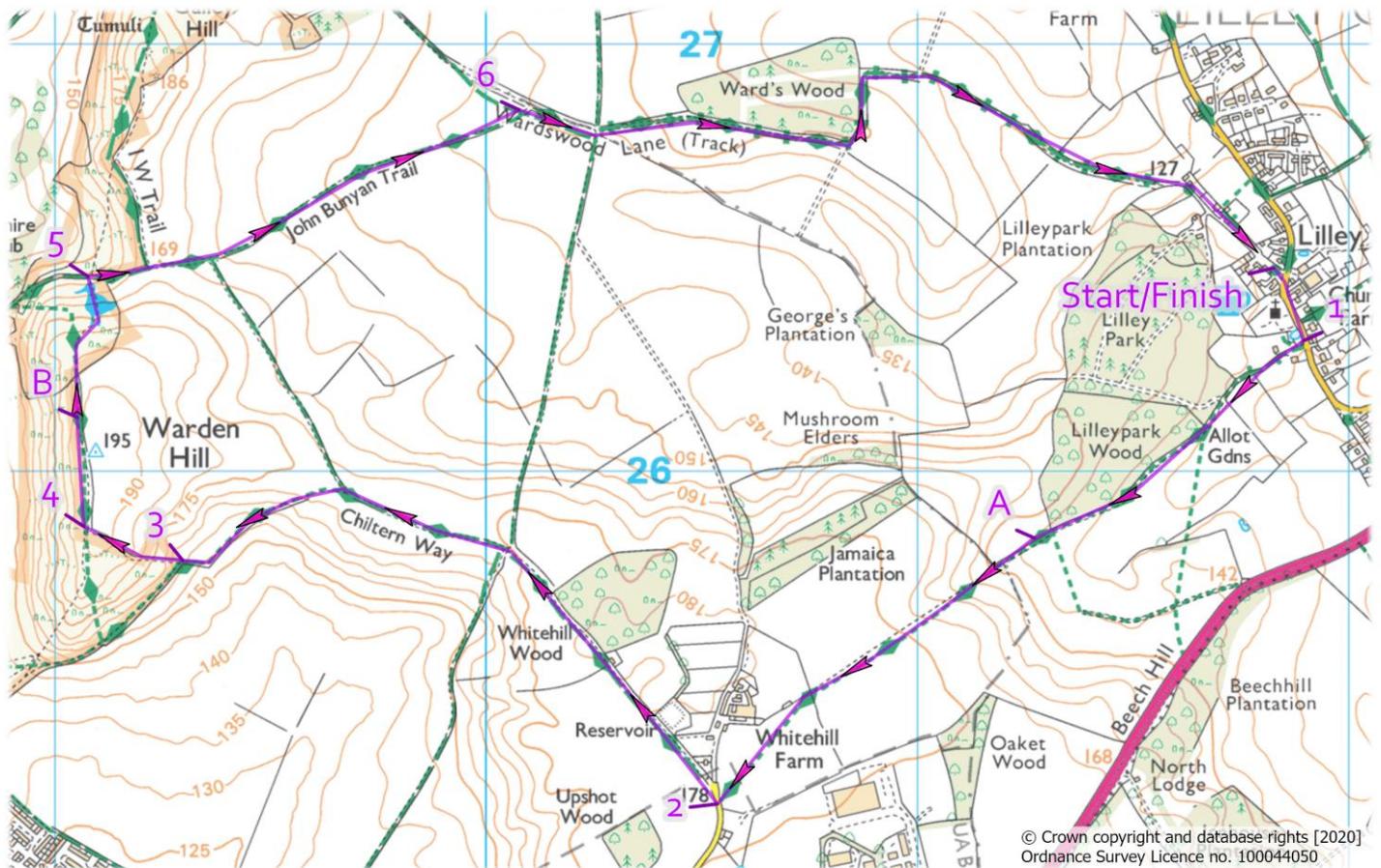
## Lilley and Warden Hill

By Nigel Seabrooke, Chiltern Society

### Summary

Starting from the historic village of Lilley this is a largely gentle route through farmland and chalk downland to the summit of Warden Hill. You will be rewarded with far reaching views in all directions. Warden Hill is home to many wild flowers and butterflies.

- Length:** 4.8 miles
- Terrain:** Easy walking on mainly wide open tracks. One short but fairly steep climb on to Warden Hill. Stile free and six gates.
- Start & finish:** West Street, Lilley LU2 8LN. Grid ref: TL 118264
- Food & drink:** The Lilley Arms
- Maps:** OS Explorer 193, Chiltern Society 25 & 30
- Parking:** Lilley Arms car park if you are using the pub otherwise roadside in West Street. Be sure to leave plenty of space for large agricultural vehicles.
- Local transport:** Bus 101 runs between Luton and Stevenage all week and stops in the village 200m from Point 1 of the walk.



## **Route**

Walk to the grass triangle by the road junction and continue past the church and turn right into Cassel Memorial Hall car park.

Waypoint 1 – Follow the Chiltern Way past the Hall and follow the footpath to enter a field. Continue along the right-hand edge, pass through a small copse and straight across the next field. Bear slightly left at a gate to cross a third field to a lane.

Waypoint 2 - Turn right onto lane for 40m and fork left onto wide part concrete track. Pass the metal barrier to a 4 way junction of bridleways. Continue straight on with hedgerow on left. Where the hedgerow ends, bear left onto wide grassy bridleway between fields. Follow it as it drops down and sweeps right up to a kissing gate.

Waypoint 3 – The route now leaves the Chiltern Way by continuing straight ahead up the steep hill on an open path. Follow the fence on the right to pass through a gate at top of the hill. The route now rejoins the Chiltern Way with views opening up on all sides.

Waypoint 4 - Continue in same direction to the left of the fence and walk past a triangulation point. Drop down a few steps, follow the path around the shoulder of hill and descend to a path junction. Ignore the path on the left and continue straight down to pass through gate onto a track.

Waypoint 5 – Turn right up past the Nature Reserve and continue straight on to join the John Bunyan Trail to reach a T-junction of tracks.

Waypoint 6 – Turn right onto Wardswood Lane (wide track) and follow past the wood on the left and continue to where it turns left onto private land. Here, continue straight ahead on a narrower track that later becomes a metalled lane. Follow the lane to return to the start point.

## **Points of Interest**

**Lilley** – There are historic cottages, many with John Sowerby's lion crest. He owned the village in late 18th century. St Peter's Church dating from the 12th century and restored in the late 19th century.

**A North Chiltern Trail / Chiltern Way** - The Chiltern Way is a 135 mile circular trail around the Chilterns AONB, designed by the Chiltern Society. In 2014 the society added the North Chiltern Trail, a 43 mile circuit of the best scenery at the north-eastern corner of the Chilterns.

**B Warden Hill** – There are far reaching views in all directions including chalk downland, rolling farmland and Luton in the valley below.