This section will take you from the flat Bedfordshire clay lands to the Pegsdon Downs chalk hills. From Pirton the route goes southwards on unsurfaced tracks.

**Route information:** From Pirton there is a 2.5 mile stretch of uphill bridleway which is not surfaced and rutted in places (it is not suitable for road bikes with slick tyres). **Take extreme care crossing the B655 and cross one cyclist at a time.**

The historic village of Pirton with its church, pub and village green is a popular starting point for walks and rides in the area. In the 19th century plaiting straw for the Luton hat trade provided a livelihood for many people in Pirton. Near the Church you can see Toot Hill, a large mound or Motte that was once part of a 12th century Norman castle.

**The Motte and Bailey pub, tel 01462 712 641**

**Pegsdon Hills** - With stunning views from the top of the hills, this is one of the most spectacular reserves owned by Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust.

**Great Offley** appeared in The Domesday Book as Offelei or Offelgi, and is named after King Offa of Mercia, who died here shortly after he founded St Albans Abbey in 793.

**The Red Lion** (pub and B&B) Tel. 01462 768281

**The Green Man** pub, Tel. 01462 768256

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**Amenities and Attractions**

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