

7 As you head north towards Petsoe, look east to see the ancient woodland of Hollington Wood. Existing for over 400 years, ancient woodlands contain irreplaceable habitats and are havens for native species such as bluebells.

1. The south-east corner lies in the 'North Crawley Clay Plateau Farmland with Tributaries' LCA, the uplands of the area – it is relatively sparsely settled, the land primarily covered with large arable fields with some isolated pockets of woodland and mature hedgerow trees.
2. Olney lies in the 'Ouse North Undulating Clay Farmland' LCA, an area characterised by historic limestone villages and parklands, with panoramic views over the river valley.
3. Emberton Country Park is part of the 'Ouse Rural River Valley' LCA. This area is characterised by weirs and historic mills, riverside pastures and a generally tranquil nature.
4. Sherington is part of a broad band of the 'Ouse South Undulating Clay Farmland' LCA, which covers much of rural Milton Keynes. This is a landscape of limestone villages, paddocks, church spires/towers, and gently undulating farmland.

6 This walk crosses 4 of the 14 landscape character assessments (LCAs) within Milton Keynes, broad landscape divisions that record what makes each area distinctive:

SHERINGTON TO PETSOE END (2.7miles / 4.4km)

PETSOE END TO OLNEY (2.2miles / 3.5km)

- 8 Look to the east as you walk this section for impressive views across the River Great Ouse towards the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Olney.

The River Great Ouse is the longest of the 'Ouse' rivers in Britain - the name is thought to mean 'water' or 'slow flowing river'. It is the fifth longest river in Britain, rising in West Northamptonshire and flowing out to the Wash near Kings Lynn.



- 9 Just off-route is the village of Clifton Reynes – the church of St Mary is of Norman origin, and is unusual for the area, being completely ringed with battlements (castellations).

FACILITIES

- ❖ The Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes (off route)
- ❖ Public toilets, shops, cafés, pubs in Olney

- ### FACILITIES
- ❖ The White Hart, Sherington
 - ❖ Alban Hill Nurseries, Sherington (off route)

- 3 Follow in the footsteps of our ancestors as you walk along a holloway (sunken lane) through the remains of a deserted medieval settlement, thought to have been abandoned by the late 16th century. The church of St Mary was dismantled over time and parts used to repair the local mill and parsonage. Other remains include the manor house, crofts, a fishpond, and ridge & furrow.
- 4 The church in Sherington (old English for a farm associated with the family of Scira) dates from the mid-13th century, and is the only St Laud's in the country.
- 5 The White Hart has been serving the people of Sherington since the mid-18th century – it is part of the Sherington Conservation area which covers much of the old village.

Views from Ash Spinney south to Sherington



EMBERTON TO SHERINGTON (3.0miles / 4.8km)

MIKE MELLOR AND MILTON KEYNES RIGHTS OF WAY



The pioneering work of the late Mike Mellor (1944 – 2001), Rights of Way Officer for the then Milton Keynes Borough Council, has been commended for its originality and enduring success.

Mike was instrumental to the establishment of the headland maintenance scheme in 1992, which has proved highly successful in maintaining paths whilst engaging farmers and local communities. It was the first scheme of its kind in England and continues to engender cooperation and respect to this day.

This walk honours his memory, taking the traveller on a delightful journey through some of Milton Keynes' finest countryside.

To access information on other walks around Milton Keynes, as well as mapping of all the rights of way, please see our webpage:



- ### FACILITIES
- ❖ Emberton Country Park Cafe and toilets
 - ❖ The Bell & Bear, Emberton

- 1 Olney, thought to have been settled since the Roman period and once the centre of the local lacemaking industry, has hosted a pancake race since 1445, with women of the town racing from the marketplace to the Church of St Peter and St Paul.
- 2 Emberton Country Park, the first of its kind in the UK, spans 200 acres and was created in 1965 from an old gravel works. The park is home to a wide variety of wildfowl, and if you're lucky you might spot a kingfisher or Green Woodpecker. Take the time to admire the Dragonflies and Damselflies as you walk through – over 20 species have been counted here.

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OLNEY TO EMBERTON (1.6miles / 2.5km)



The Mike Mellor Way

A circular walk through Olney, Emberton, Sherington, and Petsoe End

NEED TO KNOW

Distance: 9.5 miles (15.22 km)

Time: Roughly 4 hours

Difficulty: A mixture of field path and quiet lane walking

Parking: Car Parks in Olney, road parking in Emberton or Sherington, or Emberton Country Park

Facilities: Public toilets in Olney and at Emberton Country Park. Various pubs enroute.

Passing through a field gate, the footpath continues towards Olney Church, with the Great River Ouse on your left. Keep on the riverside path to take you to Church Street in Olney (///rob.es.educate.park).

Walk along Church Street past the church, to join Bridge Street and head southwards (left). The route uses the footway next to the road and over the bridge, after which there is a signed path off to the right which takes you into Emberton Country Park.

At the four-way path junction with a double hedge-lined track (///undivided.nerve.rehearsal), take a sharp hairpin left (south-eastwards) to turn towards Olney. The path travels down a steep hill, becoming somewhat narrow in places, eventually reaching a series of three bridges taking you across the River Great Ouse.

The main route wends its way generally southwards through Emberton Country Park, to the south of the most northerly lake (Otter Pool), then to the east of the next (Heron Water).

For those walking without dogs, an alternative option is to walk down the bridleway to the west of Heron Water instead, then to cut east between two lakes through a narrow wildlife corridor, rejoining the marked route near the sailing club (///limelight.aspect.fattest).

From here, follow the wooded path south to the café, then head east back out to Olney Road.

The route travels straight over the first footpath junction (///smashes.workforce.vowel) then, after turning right into the next field, take the right-hand path heading north-east. You must make your way across the fields, which can be hard going during wetter months.

Cross a footbridge on the other side of the fields, then carry on along the footpath uphill to the east of a wooded area.

The route becomes a track, passing through a farm and turning into a fully metalled road. Continue into the hamlet of Petsoe End, following the road sharply left then back to the right.

Passing Hill Farm on your left, follow Petsoe End road north until you reach the T-junction. Take the footpath straight ahead through the gate (sometimes slightly hidden by vegetation) and follow it through the grazed fields and passed Rectory Farm.

When you reach the next road, cross over and follow the footpath northwest along arable headland.

Take the footway south into Emberton village. The route turns west at the road junction (right), leading you past the church and along the road until you reach a track on the left next to allotments (///chilled.latitudes.funky). Follow the track to a junction.

At the track junction (///legroom.loud.dynasties) go left (south) then turn left again to continue around the edge of the woodland. The route travels in a southerly direction across the fields, until it reaches a private road, close to Rectory Farm.

From the farm, follow the marked route until it joins the main road, then head left (east) towards some woodland. At the layby on the bend (///slows.tried.streaking) take the footpath right (south) along the track to the east of the spinney.

Continue straight on at the junction of routes – follow the headland for several miles, until you reach Sherington High Street.

The route continues along the field edges, crossing two footbridges. After the 2nd bridge, turn right (north-west) into the field and follow the footpath to the field's top corner, where there is a junction with another footpath (///presented.punks.plotter). Take the right-hand footpath and head north.

Follow the marked route through several arable fields – the route gradually turns north. At a junction of paths, take a right then quickly left (at ///loopholes.accusing.stretcher) to follow the route up the eastern side of a small woodland called the Seven Acre Covert.

Cross over the High Street and walk along Gun Lane in a south-easterly direction. At the road junction continue over into School Lane, then at the T-junction turn left onto Perry Lane.

Continue along Perry Lane (which becomes a footpath) to pass over the A509. You will come to a junction with a bridleway leading off to the left (north) – at this point (///conductor.routine.straying) bear slightly right on the footpath towards Gowles Farm. Cross over an arable field and then, at the junction immediately following the footbridge, take the left footpath to head north-east.

The Mike Mellor Way

KEY
— Mike Mellor Way
- - - Footpath
- - - - - Bridleway