

LH9 - Ley Hill to Bovingdon and Whelpley Hill



Route n° 59773526

A 7 mile flat walk starting at The Crown, Ley Hill that takes quiet paths out to Bovingdon, then out across Bovingdon Airfield, now used as filming location, to reach Whelpley Hill, Across farm fields to reach Jason's Hill, and returning to Ley Hill.. Only 120ft of elevation.

Duration	3h 20	Difficulty	Easy
Distance	6.99 mi	Return to departure point	Yes
Vertical gain	98 ft	Activity	Walking
Vertical drop	75 ft	District	Latimer and Ley Hill
Highest point	541 ft	Area	Chiltern Hills
Lowest point	446 ft		

Description

(S/E) From The Crown, head across the facing lanes and take the footpath at the gap in the hedge on the corner of Bovingdon Lane. Follow the path as it heads parallel to the fairway of the golf course (take the fairway if muddy). Where the path meets up with other paths (near the tee spot) take a left **(1)**, and follow downhill, and at the bottom keep straight along the valley floor for around half a mile.. Take the path on the right **(2)** going slightly uphill and opening out to become Pocketshill Lane, and coming out on the Ley Hill / Bovingdon main road.

Cross over the road and on to Shantocks Hall Lane and after 100 metres take a gate on the left **(3)** to enter a Box Moor Trust managed area, previously Bovingdon Brickworks (POI A). Follow the paths to exit the site in the far right corner **(4)** and continue straight on to come out on the corner of Green Lane **(5)** with Bovingdon Green and cricket pitch to the right.

Keeping to the right, go over the green to the far end to join the road at the point where you see the footpath on opposite side of the road. Go down the footpath and where it joins another path turn left **(6)** The path will come out at houses on Austin Mead and follow the roadside to quickly join the junction for the busy Chipperfield Road. Turn right and then immediately take the footpath on the opposite side of the road. When the path opens out into a grassy field **(7)** turn left and exit by the kissing gate and straight on along Church Lane **(8)** with St Lawrence Church (POI B) to the left. Follow Church Lane around to the left and then take the right up Vicarage Lane to emerge at the B4505 Hempstead Road. Turn left and follow the main road to the double roundabout and cross over to pass by The Halfway House PH and then turn right at the roundabout onto Newhouse Road **(9)**

At the point where the road bends around to the left, take the footpath to the right and follow the perimeter fence of the prison HMP The Mount (POI C). After leaving the prison behind take the next left footpath **(10)** that goes directly across the airfield (POI D) and passes the TV studio buildings to the left. On reaching the far side of the airfield turn left and exit the airfield by the metal kissing gate **(11)** and loop around to turn right and follow the track that leads to the highly-regarded White Hart PH at Whelpley Hill.

From the pub, turn right along the road and after c. 150 metres take the footpath on the left hand side. Pass through a tree line to reach a large farm field and head over to keep to the left hand side of the field all the way to Moors Farm **(13)**. Go around the back of the farm buildings to the right and joining a footpath and then take the next left onto the tarmacked road that leads down to the B4505 and Rushmere Lane **(14)** From here it is an easy return to Ley Hill. Cross straight over the B4505 on to Jason's Hill Rd and keeping to the right hand side shortly take the emerging bridleway and then footpath running parallel to the road all the way back to the village. At the junction with Botley Road (POI E) keep going straight to reach the Crown.
(S/E)

In the nearby area

A Bovingdon Brickworks - the small area was taken over by the Box Moor Trust in 2001 and after being allowed to regenerate naturally, the site now has a wide diversity of flora and fauna including wildflower meadow, rare moths and butterflies, and grass snakes. Sheep and cattle graze in the area so keep dogs on

leads.

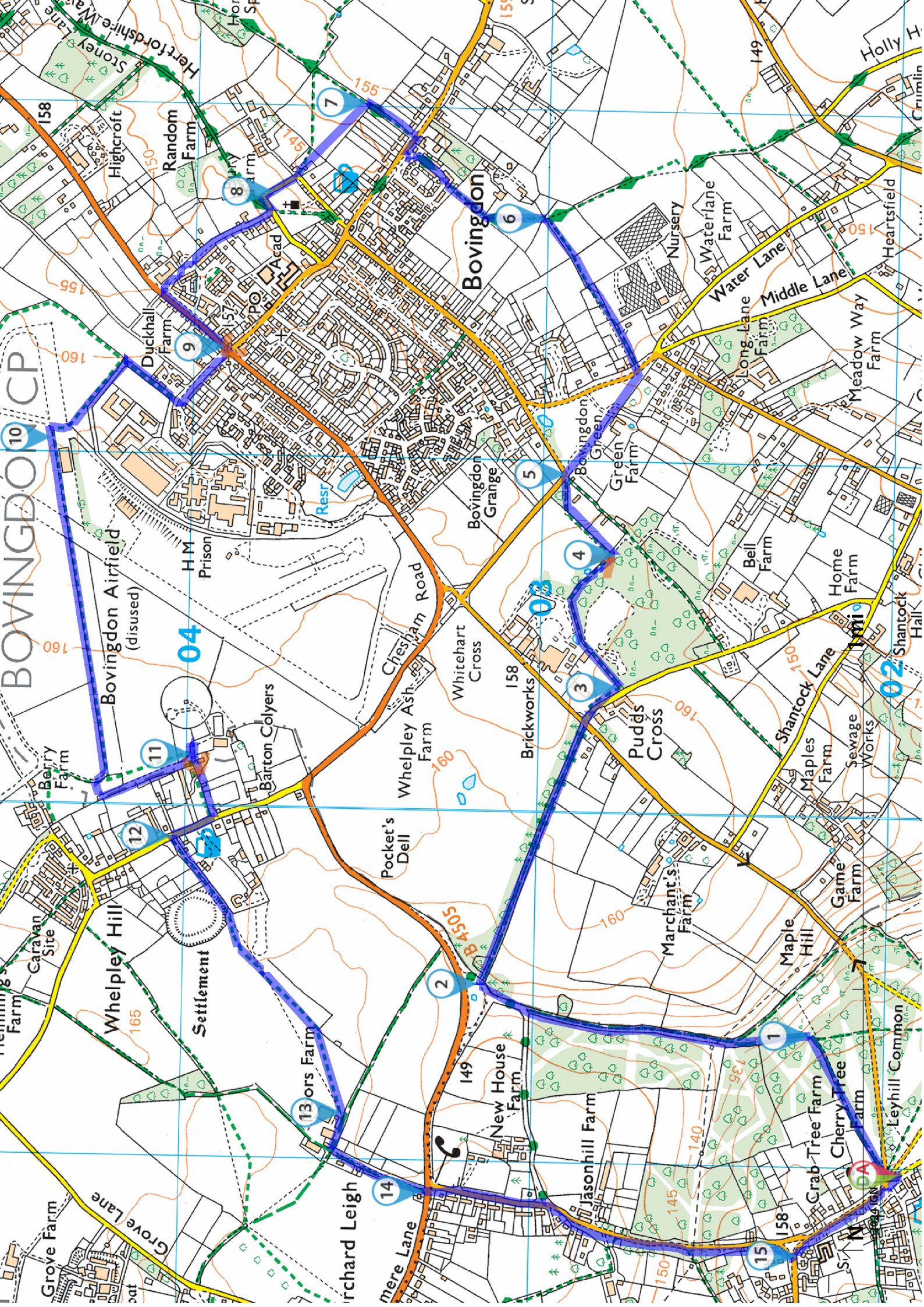
B St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon - a church has stood on the site since the 1200's when Bovingdon was part of the parish of Hemel Hempstead. The church prior to the current building was built around 1320 and the only remaining artifact from this time is a stone effigy to an unknown knight from c. 1360. In 1834 Bovingdon became a separate parish from Hemel and could then discontinue paying 20 shillings per annum to the vicar of Hemel for the support of the curate. Due to years of neglect the old church, other than the lower half of the tower, was pulled down in 1844, and the current church re-opened two years later.

C HMP The Mount - the prison was opened in 1987 in a corner area of Bovingdon Airfield. The prison accommodates just over 1000 Category C adult male prisoners. in 9 specialist units.

D Bovingdon Airfield - the airfield was opened in 1942 and immediately handed over to the US Air Force, where it housed Eisenhower's personal B-17. Amongst those stationed there during the war were Clark Gable, James Stewart, and William Holden, with entertainment visits from, amongst others. Bob Hope and Glenn Miller. The site was handed back to the RAF in 1947 and light civil aviation use also started. During the 1960's the airfield was used for cinematic war filming including The Battle of Britain and 633 Squadron and set the trend for future use. The airfield closed for aviation use in 1972 and the 60 acres were redeployed for alternative use, including the prison, and a small racing circuit for Red Letter day out gifts. The main alternative use however was TV and film studios, with ITV operating permanent production studio's and broadcasting Dancing On Ice and The Masked Singer from here. Major cinema studios use the site on a regular basis (often very secretive when filming) , and past films include Bohemian Rhapsody (mock up of Live Aid); Star Wars Rogue One; Harry Potter The Deathly Hallows;;James Bond - The Man With The Golden Gun and Spectre; 1917; The Crown; and Paddington 2.

E Lay Hill Gallows - the triangle junction of Botley Road and Jason's Hill Road (known as the Tyburn Tree and Gibbet's Green) is the site of the village gallows from day's gone by. The condemned were allowed a last pint at the (now closed) Swan PH.

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BOVINGDON CP

Bovingdon

Bovingdon Airfield (disused)

HM Prison

Whelpley Hill

Chesnam Road

Whelpley Ash Farm

New House Farm

Jasonhill Farm

Marchant's Farm

Pudd's Cross

Brickworks

Bovingdon Grange

Bovingdon Green Farm

Duckhall Farm

Random Farm

Waterlane Farm

Long Lane Farm

Middle Lane

Bell Farm

Home Farm

Shantock Lane

Maples Farm

Game Farm

Cherry Tree Farm

Crab Tree Farm

Leyhill Common

Shantock Hall

Meadow Way Farm

Heartsfield

Holly Hill

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