

## **Bletchley to Leighton Buzzard or vice versa**

**The obvious route is along the Grand Union Canal.**

**The stretch close to the river (the Ousel, which joins the Great Ouse at Newport Pagnell) is particularly attractive.**

**You will be unlucky not to see herons, and there may be other interesting birds.**

**The towpath is nearly all firm gravel or tarmac; not everyone will like that, but there is often enough grass beside it to walk on, and mud will not be a problem in wet conditions.**

### **Distance**

8.5 miles (14 km)

A slight rise from the canal to Bletchley station, otherwise flat.

### **Travel**

The canal is one mile and a quarter (2 km) from Bletchley station and nearly 600 yards from Leighton Buzzard station. There are frequent trains between Bletchley and Leighton Buzzard, on the line from Euston to Milton Keynes.

The X15 bus links Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard, Bletchley and Milton Keynes, about hourly, but less often on Sundays. The bus route crosses the canal at Leighton Buzzard.

### **Ordnance Survey Map**

This walk is all on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 192, Buckingham and Milton Keynes.

### **Refreshments**

There is a village shop in Stoke Hammond, a short distance from the canal, for provisions such as sandwiches, but the pub here does not open during the day except on Sundays.

The Three Locks pub, about the middle of the walk, and The Globe, just outside Linslade, serve food and welcome walkers, canal users and all.

You probably have more choice of refreshments between the canal and the station at Bletchley than at Leighton Buzzard (though not much on Sundays). This may be an argument for doing the walk from south to north.

### **Route**

Bletchley station is at grid reference SP868336 and Leighton Buzzard station (in Linslade) at SP910250.

There is not much to be gained by going along the canal north of Mill Farm (grid ref. 882329).

The pleasantest route between the canal at Mill Farm and Bletchley station is probably across the open space south of the schools half a mile (0.8 km) east of the station. At the roundabout just east of the railway bridges and south of the bus station pass to the north of the Brunel Centre. The street to the east of that is partly pedestrianised, with a variety of shops and some cafes etc.