

Greensand Ridge

The Greensand Ridge is the ‘backbone’ of Greensand Country: an escarpment that runs through the area from Leighton Buzzard to Gamingay, offering stunning views and sanctuary to wildlife and walkers alike.



The Greensand Ridge is at the heart of what makes Greensand Country special. It is the area’s most prominent landmark; a backdrop to the landscape’s rich natural and cultural heritage; famous for its varied geology that supports a diversity of plants and animals; and a haven for outdoor pursuits – from gentle ambles, to more energetic rides and rambles.

The numerous woodlands are amongst the most popular features of the Ridge, some of them ancient and steeped in history. Rushmere Country Park to the west and the RSPB nature reserve at The Lodge near Sandy are loved by visitors and for good reason. Late April is an especially magical time to visit, with swathes of bluebells and the songs of woodland birds.



View from Greensand Ridge

Exploring the Ridge

There's no better way to explore Greensand Country than the Greensand Ridge Walk: a long-distance route of some 42 miles from Leighton Buzzard north-west to Gamlingay, but you don't have to tackle it all at once! The route is divided into a number of more easily manageable sections (each from 5 to 10 miles) and is well connected to public transport, with each section starting and finishing near main line railway stations and well served by buses, so you can hop on and off as you choose. If you prefer to travel on two wheels, the 37 mile Greensand Cycleway / Cycle Ride route accompanies the Greensand Ridge Walk. It's a great ride to enjoy in one go, but you may prefer to split it into shorter sections. Whether you're a seasoned walker, cyclist or seeking a more leisurely stroll, the Ridge Walk or Cycle Route are an ideal way to take in the landscape and enjoy its variety of rolling hills, picturesque valleys and wildlife-rich woodlands.

Looking After the Ridge

The Greensand Trust is an independent environmental charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge and wider area. It seeks to improve access, understanding and enjoyment of the Ridge for the benefit of everyone.

The Trust welcomes volunteers and offers a range of opportunities for people to get involved in improving the environment. If you're keen to help make a difference then get in touch, they'd love to hear from you!

People Say:

"I visit the Greensand Ridge whenever I'm in England."

"I love exploring the Greensand Ridge by foot or by bike. The nature that you discover, the pine woods and varied countryside along the way, is just wonderful."

"Walking or cycling the Ridge is a real focal point for us. Seeing the different landscapes and enjoying cake and coffee stops along the way. It's a real treat".

"The Ridge is a really interesting place. Great for dog walks and cycling from village to village. And enjoying the local pubs!"

"Having walked all 46 miles across the Greensand Ridge I can say for certain that it is fantastically diverse walk. Ampthill Park, for me, is the great 'don't miss.'"

Action Points:



Promote the Ridge to visitors, explain to them why it's special and make the most of this unique feature for promoting your own business (remember: you belong to a special landscape!).



Explore the section of the Greensand Ridge Walk that is closest to you. Treat yourself to a 'pit stop' in a local pub or café along the way. Go and enjoy it for yourself... and then tell your customers about it. You might like to download a print off a copy of the route map, so you can point out places for them to visit.



Provide facilities for your active visitors (if possible). Things like drying space for boots and waterproofs, storage space for bikes, hearty food and packed lunches can make a huge difference and encourage repeat visits.



Publicise guided walks run by local organisations and let your customers know about them in advance, so they can come prepared.



Use place names along the Greensand Ridge as names for your rooms, or items on your menu, to help link your business to the landscape.

Info and Resources:

The Greensand Trust:

www.greensandtrust.org

Greensand Ridge Walk:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/82/countryside/434/walking/2

www.visitengland.com/experience/greensand-ridge-walk

Greensand geology:

www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk/leaflets/RIGSLGreen1.pdf

www.geolsoc.org.uk/ks3/gsl/education/resources/rockcycle/page3812.html