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## Chesham to Great Missenden

### Through the Chilterns via Lee Common

**Start:** Chesham station

**Finish:** Great Missenden station

**Toughness:** 3 out of 10

**Length:** 15.5km (9.6 miles). For a short walk variation, see *below* **Walk options**.

**Time:** 4 hours 45 minutes. For the whole outing including trains, sights and meals allow 8 hours 30mins.

**Transport:** The Metropolitan Line underground runs frequently to Chesham (journey time: 54 minutes from Baker Street). Take the underground train nearest to 9.50 am. Chesham is in Transport for London zone 9, so a one-day travelcard out to zone 9, combined with a single from Great Missenden to Amersham is an option. Trains back from Great Missenden to Marylebone run twice an hour (hourly on Sunday; journey time: 45 minutes). If driving, it is recommended that you leave your car at Chalfont and Latimer station and catch the Metropolitan line one stop to Chesham. The return from Great Missenden is two stops to Chalfont and Latimer station (London bound service).

**OS Landranger Map:** 165

**OS Explorer Map:** 181

**Chiltern Society Map:** 8.

Chesham, map reference SP 961016, is in **Buckinghamshire**, 17km south east of Aylesbury.

**Walk notes:** This walk makes for an easy day out from London. It starts in Chesham, the hustle and bustle of which is soon left behind for sloping fields, woods and hamlets. The route follows the Chilterns Link, but diverts at Herberts Hole to take a higher, southerly path. It then picks up the Chilterns Link again through to Ballinger Bottom and Lee Common, and so to lunch in the charming village called The Lee. After lunch the walk continues on a gently undulating course, before a gentle climb through woods up to Frith Hill and down a steep descent into Great Missenden.

**Walk options:** Directions for the shorter variation are given at the end of the main walk text.

**a) Shorter walk:** You may reduce the length of the main walk by 6km (3.7 miles) to 9.5km (5.9 miles) by following the main walk directions given until [5]. Then follow the directions before picking up the main walk directions again at [9].

Other options for this walk are available on the website of the Saturday Walkers' Club [www.walkingclub.org.uk](http://www.walkingclub.org.uk) in the 'Time Out Country Walks 2' section.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

### [1] [Numbers refer to the map.]

Coming out of **Chesham station** go straight ahead for 30 metres and then *turn left down Station Road*. In 80 metres, *at the bottom of Station Road, turn right* onto The Broadway. After 40 metres *turn left at the war memorial*. After 100 metres cross over a zebra crossing to the left of a roundabout. Continue straight up a tarmac path to *enter a park*.

In 40 metres, *just past a small brick building on your right, turn left* along a car-wide tarmac path, your direction 210 degrees. Below on your left-hand side is Scottowe's Pond. *After 250 metres*, at the end of the car-wide tarmac path, (with the church of **St Mary** further ahead), *turn right up a tarmac path* and follow a footpath signpost to Lower Pednor and Chartridge, your direction 290 degrees.

In 100 metres, immediately after passing by the entrance to Chesham Bowling Club on your right, leave the tarmac path to go up a parallel earth footpath to the left. In 80 metres you pass by a footpath signpost on your right with a footpath arrow marked Chiltern Link and come out into a field. Continue ahead in the same direction along the left-hand edge of the field, with a wood to your left. (In muddy conditions you may prefer to veer right up the field and continue along the clearly defined path that runs about 40 metres parallel to the lower path.)

After 500 metres where the field comes to an end, head down into a lightly wooded area, your direction 300 degrees.

**[2]** After 80 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area *to take a footpath* marked by a footpath signpost arm 'Footpath – Pednor Road' *half left diagonally down across a field* (with young trees), your direction 280 degrees.

In 120 metres *cross a lane* to go through a wooden kissing gate. Here the footpath forks. *Take the left fork* marked by a

Chiltern Link signpost, diagonally across a field, in the same direction 280 degrees.

In 250 metres go through a wooden kissing gate and veer left up across a field, your direction due west. In 120 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal fieldgate and *turn right along a lane*, marked by a Chiltern Link signpost.

*After 80 metres, just past a double wooden fieldgate, turn left up a bridleway*, marked by a metal bridleway signpost **[3]** (partially hidden by foliage in summer), your initial direction 280 degrees.

In 80 metres the bridleway enters a holloway and ascends more steeply. After 350 metres you pass by double wooden fieldgates to your left and right as the bridleway levels out and runs parallel to a car-wide track on the left. (In muddy conditions it may be preferable to walk along this track.)

After 600 metres the bridleway comes out onto a car-wide track; continue straight ahead. In 550 metres you pass Barnwood Farm on your right. Just beyond the farm go to the left of a wooden gate to continue along a tarmac lane. After 500 metres, *at a T-junction with a lane*, with a white house (Little Hundridge Orchard) on the left, *turn right along the lane*.

In 60 metres ignore a footpath off to the left and continue slightly downhill. In 180 metres you pass by a footpath signpost on your left at the entrance to Redding's Farm. After a further 30 metres *turn right to enter a wood through a metal-chained squeezegate* marked by a metal footpath signpost. Go down through the wood, your initial direction 30 degrees. In 200 metres *leave the wood via another metal-chained squeezegate*. **[4]** *Turn left* along a car-wide earth track, your direction due west.

In 220 metres you *come out onto a lane* with a footpath signpost marked 'Chiltern Link' on your right. Follow this signpost to continue along the lane, passing by Herbert's Hole Cottage on your right.

*In 40 metres turn right, marked by a Chiltern Link signpost to your left, and cross over a stile to go up a fenced-in footpath, your initial direction 10 degrees. After 150 metres veer right (following a black arrow) and then left. In 130 metres, the footpath joins a shingle lane.*

*In 50 metres, where the lane curves right, turn left through a wooden kissing gate (left of a metal fieldgate), to pass by a pond (often dried up in summer) on your right. In 10 metres turn right through a metal gate to go along a fenced-in footpath on the right-hand edge of a field, your north.*

*In 260 metres go over into the next field, and in a further 250 metres at the right-hand corner of this field you reach a wooden kissing gate with footpath arrows ahead and to the left on its left post. [5]*

[If you are intending to take the shorter walk refer to the **Shorter walk directions** at the end of this main section.]

*Otherwise, for the main walk, go through the kissing gate and continue down the right-hand side of the field. After 50 metres turn right over a stile to enter Bellows Wood. In 8 metres turn left, marked by a black arrow on a tree ahead.*

*Continue down the footpath along the edge of Bellows Wood. After 100 metres turn left, (indicated by a three-armed metal signpost), to leave Bellows Wood, to go along a fenced-in footpath on the lower right-hand edge of a field.*

*After 300 metres you pass by a two-armed metal bridleway signpost on your left to enter a wood, now going slightly downhill along the right-hand side of the wood, your direction 290 degrees.*

*In 400 metres you emerge from the wood onto a car-wide track, (by a multi-armed signpost on your left), following the direction of the Chiltern Link. Further on the bridleway curves round to the right to reach after 120 metres a T-junction*

*directly in front of Rose Cottage, Ballinger Bottom. Turn left along a shingle car-wide track. After 50 metres you cross a road and go through a metal kissing-gate on the other side.*

*Follow a metal signpost for the Chiltern Link, passing under some mini pylon electricity cables to enter a wood, your direction 330 degrees.*

*In 600 metres go through a metal kissing-gate to the right of a wooden fieldgate and emerge from the wood into an open field. This is **Lee Common**. Continue in the same direction along the left-hand edge of the field, with the fenced-in wood on your left. After 100 metres go through a metal kissing gate, going under a mini pylon cable run and continue in the same direction through a wood.*

*After 280 metres you emerge from the wood and veer right onto a shingle lane, your direction 300 degrees. In 350 metres you reach a T-junction, with the **Cock & Rabbit Inn**, the recommended lunch stop directly in front of you.*

*After lunch, from the front entrance of the pub turn right for 10 metres to the corner of the village green and then turn left along the road. In 35 metres, at the corner of the green, you pass the village war memorial on your left and turn half right along the road signposted Lee Common, your direction 70 degrees.*

*After 180 metres, just past the entrance to some farm buildings, turn left to follow a footpath signpost [6], your initial direction 30 degrees. In 35 metres go through a kissing-gate and continue along the now fenced in footpath gently downhill. In 100 metres go through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction along the left-hand edge of a field bordered by a hedgerow.*

*After 150 metres, at the left corner of the field, go through a wooden kissing-gate to enter a wood, to go along its left-hand edge.*

*After 220 metres on reaching a footpath junction with a white arrow to the left and right on a tree ahead, turn left, your direction 315 degrees. In 180 metres ignore a footpath to your right and continue for a further 180 metres to come out to a road.*

*Cross the road and continue along a driveway marked by a metal signpost on your right. In 30 metres, at the corner of a garden on your right, veer right along the right-hand edge of the field, your direction 320 degrees.*

*In 280 metres, at the right-hand corner of the field, you enter a wood. Continue in the same direction, ignoring a stile on your right after 15 metres. After a further 25 metres turn left by a footpath post [7], your direction 230 degrees. In 160 metres you are now on the left-hand edge of the wood with a field beyond.*

*After 120 metres you emerge from the wood and cross a car-wide gravel track and a stile, into a field. Continue along the right-hand edge of the field. In 150 metres you enter a small wooded area. After 20 metres you pass by a small pond (often dried up in summer) on your left. In a further 20 metres you emerge from the wooded area. Continue on the footpath along the left-hand edge of a field, your direction 230 degrees.*

*In 300 metres, at the left-hand field corner by a footpath post on your left, turn left to join the Chiltern Link. Continue along the left-hand edge of the field bordered by a hedgerow, your direction 150 degrees.*

*After 140 metres you pass by a small wood on your left, now going along the right-hand edge of the next field. In 250 metres at the end of the field you cross a farmyard track with a three-armed metal footpath post on your right. In 10 metres go over a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate. [!] Continue straight ahead along a footpath running parallel to the upper side of a small embankment (which acts as a field boundary) on your right, aiming just to the right of a clump of*

*trees, your direction 160 degrees. (Ignore the Chiltern Link route diagonally across the field towards the houses to your left.)*

*After 200 metres cross over a stile, with a yellow (footpath) arrow on its right-hand post, and continue in the same direction across a field. In 180 metres, having crossed the field, turn right at a footpath post. Continue along a field boundary, towards some houses on the far side of the field, your direction 210 degrees. In 250 metres, after crossing the field, the footpath leads out onto a car-wide track and in 35 metres you come out to a lane. Turn left down the lane. After 60 metres you reach a triangular road junction.*

*Cross over the road to take a car-wide bridleway on the other side, marked by a metal bridleway signpost. Continue on through this tree arbour bridleway, your direction 120 degrees. [!] After 250 metres you pass some large wooden sheds on your left, just as you emerge from the tree arbour. Immediately turn sharp right to cross a stile. [8]*

*Go along the left-hand edge of a field, bordered by a hedgerow, your initial direction 250 degrees, passing under some mini pylon cables after 20 metres. Continue along the footpath as it curves to the left with the hedgerow. [!] After 200 metres the footpath diverges from the hedgerow to go diagonally across the field, towards a stile (right of a metal fieldgate) in the corner of the field, your direction 140 degrees.*

*After 180 metres, at the corner of the field, go over the stile. Continue ahead across a field, aiming for the right corner of a field jutting onto this field, marked by a white topped footpath post, your direction 120 degrees. In 300 metres, at the corner of the adjacent field marked by the white topped footpath post, go to the right of the corner of the adjacent field, to continue in the same direction now along the left-hand edge of the field bordered by a hedgerow. After 100 metres at the corner of the field, cross a stile into the next field and continue along its left-hand edge.*

After 140 metres, at the corner of the field, *cross over a stile to go diagonally across a field, towards a wooden mini pylon pole*, your direction east. In 180 metres, *having crossed the field, turn half right along the left-hand edge of the field bordered by a hedgerow*, your initial direction 120 degrees. After 120 metres cross into the next field.

In 250 metres, at the left-hand corner of the field, exit the field to go past a pond (often dried up in summer) on your right. After 25 metres go through a car wide entrance into the corner of a sports field, to continue along its right-hand edge.

In 140 metres, *at the right-hand corner of the sports field*, ignore a stile on your left to *turn right*, your direction 210 degrees. In 20 metres go over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate. **[9]**

15 metres further on cross another stile to the left of a metal fieldgate and continue along the left-hand edge of a field, your direction 220 degrees. *In 100 metres cross a stile and turn left along the left-hand edge of a field. In 25 metres at the field corner, follow it round to the right*, your direction 190 degrees.

*In 100 metres at the field corner cross a stile and turn right along a fenced-in footpath, going under mini pylon cables. In 180 metres, at a wooden fieldgate (marked 'Private') on your left, turn right over a stile.*

Go along the left-hand edge of a field, your direction initially west, going under mini pylon cables after 100 metres. In a further 110 metres follow the field edge round to the left for 40 metres and then round to the right to resume the previous westerly direction.

After 220 metres, at the left-hand corner of the field, go through a gap into the next field. Continue ahead towards a wooden gate on the far side of the field. In 100 metres go through a fieldgate gap and through a wooden kissing-gate after 20 metres to then *cross a road and a stile*

*into a field. Turn half left to cross the field towards a wood, your direction 190 degrees. In 180 metres go over a stile to enter the wood to follow a clearly defined footpath.*

In 200 metres, at the edge of the wood, go past a redundant stile to *emerge from the wood into a field*. Continue ahead for 10 metres and then veer right along the left-hand edge of the field, your direction 250 degrees. After 180 metres you go under some National Grid electricity cables where the footpath starts to descend.

200 metres further go through a wooden kissing gate to carry on downhill, your direction now 240 degrees. In 160 metres the footpath meets a wood on the right-hand side. After 50 metres go through a wooden kissing gate and continue downhill along a fenced-in footpath.

*In 70 metres, at the bottom corner of the field, [10] go through a metal kissing-gate and turn half left to go through another metal kissing-gate into a wood.*

*Turn right, (ignoring a footpath ahead up into the wood), to go along the right-hand edge of the wood, with a fence on your right. After 40 metres follow the footpath as it curves to the left and uphill along the right-hand edge of the wood.*

In 250 metres you *emerge from the wood*, to continue along a fenced-in footpath. After 140 metres you go through a wooden gate onto a car-wide track and pass the entrance to Frith Hill Stables on your right with concrete stallion heads on the brick gateposts. In 30 metres *turn right steeply downhill*, marked by a footpath post, your direction 250 degrees.

After 160 metres go through a pedestrian underpass below the A485 to continue downhill in a cutting. In a further 100 metres go through another pedestrian underpass below the A413 to arrive on the outskirts of Great Missenden. In 30 metres veer left along the road to the left-hand side of a green. In 80 metres *at*

*the end of the green continue along the road as it curves to the right.*

After 250 metres you reach a T-junction with the High Street. Turn right along the High Street. After 60 metres you pass by the Café Twit on your right-hand side, and in a further 180 metres you reach the **Cross Keys** on your left, the suggested tea stop. In 80 metres turn left up Station Approach and after 120 metres you come to **Great Missenden station**.

## WALK OPTIONS

### a) Shorter walk directions:

*Follow the main walk directions to [5].*

*Go through the kissing gate and turn left along the top left-hand edge of the field, your direction 260 degrees. After 300 metres, at the left-hand field corner, go into a wood through a wooden kissing gate. Continue along the footpath, with back gardens behind fencing to the left and the wood sloping down to the right, your direction 290 degrees.*

*In 300 metres, where the footpath forks (marked by a wooden footpath post), fork left up a fenced-in footpath, your direction 250 degrees. In 180 metres you go past a wooden horse blocking barrier to come out onto Chiltern Road. Turn right to reach a T-junction after 15 metres, where you turn left, your direction south. After 140 metres you turn right along Blackthorne Lane with The Pheasant Inn (closed) on your right.*

*In 25 metres, turn left to go along the left-hand side of a sports field, your direction 200 degrees, initially passing by a children's playground on your left. In 100 metres go through a gap between the hedge on your left and a cricket pavilion on your right. After a further 50 metres, at the left-hand corner of the sports field, veer slightly left to continue ahead, with a wooden fence on your left, your direction 210 degrees. In 20 metres go over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate.*

*You now follow the main walk directions from [9].*

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## Lunch & tea places:

**Cock and Rabbit Inn** *The Lee, HP16 9LZ (01494 837540)*. **Open/food served** noon-2.30pm, 6-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-3pm, 7-10.30pm Sun. Located 8 km from the start of the walk, the Cock and Rabbit serves decent Italian food. It is the suggested lunch stop for the main walk.

**The Pheasant Inn** (tel 01494 837236), Ballinger Common, 7km from the start of the walk. Currently closed and [subject of a local campaign](#) and may yet reopen as a pub. If it does reopen in the future, it is the suggested lunch stop for the short walk.

**Café Twit** *High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0AU (01494 892192)*, **Open** 9.30am-5pm Tue-Sat; 10am-5pm Sun.

**Cross Keys** *High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0AU (01494 865373)*. **Open** 11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun. **Food served** noon-3pm, 7-10pm Mon-Sat; noon-4pm Sun. This pub offers tea and coffee and is the suggested tea place. It also has a well-regarded restaurant should more sustenance be required.

**Picnic:** Lee Green, which borders onto the Cock and Rabbit Inn, and the edge of the sports field opposite the Pheasant Inn make a good picnic spots.