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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.

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.

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).

Current Issues:

[Link to map](#) of the impact of the proposed HS2 railway on this walk.

Work has now commenced. Whilst work is in progress an alternative route has been written up. (The prior route for the present has been left in the text and crossed out.) When the work has been completed the original route with necessary changes will be written up.

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 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 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*, through a lightly wooded area, 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 go through a metal gate to go up a fenced-in footpath, your initial direction 10 degrees. After 150 metres veer right 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 7 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 metal kissing gate 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 go through a metal gate, 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, to then go 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 through a metal kissing-gate 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 go through a metal kissing gate, and continue in the same direction across a field, (bordered by a fence on your right-hand side). In 180 metres, having crossed the field, turn right at a footpath post. Continue along a field boundary (bordered by a fence on your right-hand side), 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 go through a metal gate. [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 metal gate in the corner of the field, your direction 140 degrees.

After 180 metres, at the corner of the field, go through the gate. 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.

(i) or shortcut (ii)

i) 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.

ii) Turn half right to go diagonally across a field and in 160 metres cross a stile.

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 go past a redundant stile and turn right along a fenced-in footpath, going under mini pylon cables.

In 180 metres, at a wooden field gate (marked 'Private') on your left, ignore a stile on your right, to keep straight on along the fenced in footpath along the field edge. In 100 metres, in the field corner, the path veers right to a stile. Cross this and keep straight ahead around an encroaching holly bush to emerge in five metres in the corner of two fields.

Keep to the right of the hedge here. In 50 metres ignore a path over a stile into a wood and instead keep on down the right-hand edge of the field, your initial direction 260 degrees. In 250 metres, at the end of the field, ignore a broad gap into a field and instead cross a stile 20 metres to the right of it. Fork left down the left-hand edge of a small field to cross a stile hidden to the left of a metal field gate in 60 metres.

Carry on in the same direction across the field beyond, heading for a stile in the middle of the tree line 150 metres away, your direction 150 degrees. Crossing this, after 20 metres you reach a road, where you turn left.

In 200 metres you reach a crossroads in the centre of the village of South Heath. Turn right here. The road is level, curving gently left and right, with a pavement down its left-hand side. But in 700 metres it turns slightly more decisively right and starts to go directly downhill. In 150 metres, near the bottom of the hill, just before the road curves hard left, fork right off it down a tarmac drive, signposted as a bridleway. In 30 metres follow this drive to the right, ignoring a gravel track slanting left, and in another 30 metres turn left downhill, following a signpost for National Cycle Route 57.

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].

c) Alternative walk directions for a Great Missenden Circular walk:

<Book 1 Great Missenden directions>

[1] [Numbers in square brackets refer to the map in the book] Coming off the train, cross the footbridge and *leaving Great Missenden Station building, turn left*, your direction 20 degrees. *At the T-junction, turn right downhill*, your direction 50 degrees.

In 60 metres, *at the next T-junction go left*, your direction 320 degrees (to the right is the High Street).

In 25 metres, *turn right onto Walnut Close*, your direction 50 degrees. In 60 metres, at the end of this, take the tarmac path going to the left of the double garage of house number 18.

In 20 metres ignore a footpath to the left and a car park to the right to keep straight on, initially with a green metal fence to your left. In a further 100 metres, *pass through a metal kissing gate and turn right*, your direction 160 degrees.

In 40 metres go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a wooden fieldgate. *Cross the road and continue straight on*, on a tarmac path down the left-hand side of a green space, signposted South Bucks Way, your direction 160 degrees.

In 300 metres you emerge onto a road, with a residential cul-du-sac to your right. Keep straight on, and in 70 metres *you come out into an oval-shaped green [2].*

Turn right to follow the edge of the green for 40 metres until you are in front of a brick and flint house on its far side (bearing 160 degrees from the point you entered the oval-shaped green). *Pass to the right of this house* up a tarmac lane signposted South Bucks Way (Church Lane, though the signpost is not that

visible. The first cottage on the left is called The Pound).

Follow this lane as it climbs uphill. In 200 metres, ignore the South Bucks Way footpath off down to the right, to continue on a bridge over the A413 to the **Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul**.

If you want to visit the church, its entrance is on its left-hand side, but otherwise *pass to the right of the church*. 30 metres up its right-hand side, look out for a rusted kissing gate in the fence to the right (it may be hidden by foliage in summer).

[!] *Turn right through this kissing gate, and then turn left uphill, ignoring a faint path straight ahead if you can see one. Aim to the right of a clump of three large trees 80 metres ahead, and towards an electricity pylon high on the ridge in the far distance (again, this may be less visible in summer), your direction 80 degrees.*

In 450 metres, at the top of the field, go over a stile (a nice view backwards here), across a car-wide track, and over another stile to continue in roughly the same direction as before (now 100 degrees) across an open field, heading to the right of the nearest pylon ahead.

In 250 metres, go over a stile to continue with a hedge on your left-hand side, your direction 130 degrees. In 250 metres, pass under an HV cable run and in 300 metres, at the far end of the field, cross another stile to continue straight on, now with the hedge on your right.

In 160 metres, go over another stile to continue along the field edge, with a house visible ahead. In 100 metres, before you get to this house, *turn right* over a stile into light woodland and carry on down a gravel path. In 40 metres you emerge onto a lane. **[3]**.

[</Book 1 Great Missenden directions>](#)

Turn left along the lane, your direction 30 degrees. After 400 metres at a T-junction with Chesham Road, cross over to go over a stile into a field, and veer slightly left aiming for a stile in the fence on the far side, your direction 350 degrees. In 100 metres go over the stile into the next field. Veer slightly left

aiming for the left-hand corner of the field. After 220 metres, cross over a stile (to the right of a metal fieldgate) to go up the right hand side of the next field, your direction 330 degrees. After 160 metres cross over a stile in the right hand corner of the field to go along a fenced in footpath, your direction north. After 150 metres *turn right along a lane*, your direction 80 degrees.

In 100 metres turn left to go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate to go along a fenced in footpath *through a lightly wooded area*, your direction 20 degrees. *After 80 metres at the edge of a wood* (marked by a wooden footpath post on your right-hand side). *Turn right* along a footpath *along the right hand side of the wood*, your direction 80 degrees.

After 250 metres at the right hand corner of the wood, follow the footpath out of the wood through a kissing gate (left of a metal fieldgate) and *continue in the same direction along a car wide track across a field*, your direction east. After 150 metres the car wide track joins a hedgerow on your left-hand side. After 140 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a metal fieldgate into the next field to continue along its left-hand side.

After 200 metres at the left-hand field corner go through a wooden gate to *turn left along a lane*. In 180 metres you pass by the entrance to Redding's Farm on your left. After a further 30 metres *turn right to enter a wood, through a metal-chained squeezegate* marked by a metal public footpath signpost, your initial direction 30 degrees. Continue down through the wood. In 200 metres *leave the wood via another metal-chained squeezegate*.

Great Missenden circular walk: You now use the main Chesham to Great Missenden walk directions from [4].

Great Missenden to Chesham walk: You now use the 4b Chesham circular walk directions – separate document

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 Tuen-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.