

Haddenham to Aylesbury (via Waddesdon)		
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Haddenham to Aylesbury (via Waddesdon)

Start: Haddenham & Thame Parkway Station

Finish: Aylesbury Station

Haddenham & Thame Parkway Station, map reference SP 731 085, is 10 km south west of Aylesbury, 22 km east of Oxford, and 81m above sea level. Aylesbury Station, map reference SP 817 134, is 78m above sea level. Both are in **Buckinghamshire**.

Length: 25.3 km (15.8 mi)

Cumulative ascent/descent: 329/332m. For a shorter walk, see *below* **Walk options**.

Toughness: 5 out of 10

Time: 5 hours 45 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 8 ½ hours.

Transport: Haddenham & Thame Parkway (HTP) station is on the London Marylebone to Bicester main line. Aylesbury is on the Marylebone to Aylesbury line (also operated by Chiltern Railways). It is also served by a loop branching off from the Bicester line at Princes Risborough. Buy a 'Haddenham Return'-ticket, this is usually accepted at Aylesbury on the return, as it's more expensive than an Aylesbury return. You may have to pay a single Aylesbury to Princes Risborough ticket, where the lines meet. Journey times are from 34 mins to HTP and from 60 mins from Aylesbury, with up to three trains per hour Mondays to Saturdays, and up to two trains per hour Sundays.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train closest to 9.30 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 165 (Aylesbury & Leighton Buzzard)

OS Explorer Map: 181 (Chiltern Hills North)

Walk Notes:

This walk through some scenic northerly parts of Aylesbury Vale combines tranquil stretches of the Thame Valley Walk with more energetic climbs and nice vistas in between, heading north through Upper Winchenden and the Rothschild's Waddesdon estate, finally along a long tree-lined avenue up to Waddesdon Manor, situated on the prominent Lodge Hill.

After lunch in Waddesdon village, Eythrope Park (another Rothschild estate) is passed and the route follows the Thame River and the Bear Brook into Aylesbury's Centre.

Shorter Alternative Endings at Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station or in Stone are described. They enable a visit of Waddesdon Manor House and Gardens (tickets need to be bought or scanned at the Welcome Pavilion in the Main Car Park).

Walk Options:

Bus routes 16 and 17 (Marsh Gibbon or Bicester to Aylesbury) pass through Waddesdon and offer **an option for a shorter walk**, especially **useful if planning an extended visit of Waddesdon Manor's Gardens and Manor House**. It takes you to or from Aylesbury station (more than hourly, Mon-Sat). The nearest stop is at The Lion pub mentioned in the walk notes.

The walk also offers one Shortcut and two Alternative Endings:

- **a Shortcut** just before lunch (cut 2.5 km and 58m descent/re-ascent);
- **an Alternative Ending at Aylesbury Vale Parkway** station, one stop further up the line than Aylesbury and with less frequent service (cuts 5.4 km) [this can be even shorter if following the all-tarmac 'Waddesdon Greenway', see text and route map for details];
- **an Alternative Ending at a bus stop in Stone village for frequent services to Aylesbury or Haddenham** (cuts 2.4 km).

Lunch (details last updated 13/09/2021)

Waddesdon Manor Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0JH (<http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/>). Waddesdon offers several options for lunch and/or tea, from formal service to food-to-go; for details check here: <https://waddesdon.org.uk/your-visit/shop-eat-stay/>.

The Five Arrows Hotel and Restaurant High Street, Waddesdon Buckinghamshire, HP18 0JE (01296 651 727, <https://fivearrowshotel.co.uk/>). Open Wed-Sat all day and Sun 08.00-16.00. Food served Wed-Sat to 20.00. The Five Arrows is located 13.6 km (8.4 mi) into the walk. It is a Grade II listed building at the gates of Waddesdon Manor built on the site of an old coaching inn. Its name is derived from the Rothschild family emblem of a shield surmounted by five arrows, pointing upward and tied with a ribbon. Each of the arrows represents one of the five sons of Mayer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the Rothschild dynasty, who were sent by their father to establish banking houses in the five financial capitals of Europe - Frankfurt, Vienna, Paris, Naples and London.

Built in 1887 as part of Waddesdon Estate by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild it was originally used to accommodate the architects, craftsmen and artisans working on the Manor itself. It was designed by architect/builder, James Taylor, who lived locally in Bierton; in his own "authentic" English style of half timbering, elaborate Elizabethan chimney stacks, and wrought ironwork.

The Long Dog 116 High Street, Waddesdon Buckinghamshire, HP18 0JF (01296 651 320). The Long Dog is located 13.7 km (8.5 mi) into the walk and has small outside seating areas at the front by a busy road and at the quieter back. **This pub is now closed.**

94 Coffee Shop 94 High Street, Waddesdon, Bucks., HP18 0JD (01296 706 360). Open to 14.00 Wed-Sun.

The Lion 70 High Street, Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0LB (01296 651 227, <http://www.thelionwaddesdon.co.uk/>). Open 12.00-15.00 and 17.00 to late Mon-Thu, all day Fri-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 (not Mon-Tue) and 17.30-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. The Lion is located 13.8 km (8.6 mi) into the walk and also offers accommodation.

Tea - Aylesbury Finish (details last updated 13/09/2021)

The Honey Bee Trenchard Street, Fairford Leys, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 7AA (01296 708 363, <http://www.honeybeepub.co.uk/>). The Honey Bee is located 2.1 km from the end of the walk, and a Marston's pub. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

A plethora of options in Aylesbury City Centre (see Walk Directions), **recommended is:**

The King's Head King's Head Passage, Market Square, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 2RW (01296 718 812, <http://www.kingsheadaylesbury.co.uk/>). Open all day Thu-Sat and 12.00-20.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.00 and 17.00-20.00 Thu, 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-20.00 Fri-Sat and 12.00-14.00 Sun.

Tea - Stone Finish (details last updated 13/09/2021)

The Rose & Crown 2 Oxford Road, Stone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 8PB (01296 747 790, <https://www.roseandcrownstone.co.uk/>). **This pub is now closed.**

Tea - Aylesbury Vale Parkway Finish (details last updated 05/04/2023)

Miller & Carter Steakhouse 1 Sir Henry Lee Crescent, Berryfields, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0PE (01296 326 590, <https://www.millerandcarter.co.uk/restaurants/south-east/millerandcarteraylesbury#/>). Open all day every day. Food served all day every day. Smart casual dress code.

Esquires Coffee Unit 6, Concorde Square, Nimrod Street, Berryfields, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 1AS (01296 325 399, <https://esquirescoffee.co.uk/store/esquires-aylesbury/>). Open to at least 18.00 daily.

Notes:

Haddenham

The village name is Anglo-Saxon Hæðanhām, "Hæða's Homestead" or, perhaps Hædingahām, "the home of the Hadding tribe". Haddenham is renowned for its ponds which were used to breed Aylesbury ducks, and it is also the home of Tiggywinkles, the animal welfare charity and veterinary hospital.

Outer Aylesbury Ring

An 85 km/53 mile circular Long Distance Walk along the higher ground around the outside of the original Aylesbury Ring to produce a walk with good views through pleasant countryside and passing through many delightful villages and towns. Launched in 2013 and created by Aylesbury & District Ramblers, who have also produced leaflets, detailing 14 sections plus separate linked circular walks.

<https://sites.google.com/view/outeraylesburyring/home>

Wychert

Haddenham is known nationally as one of only a few wychert (or whitchet) villages. Wychert is Anglo-Saxon in origin (wit chert), meaning 'white earth', and refers to the local clay soil deposits. It describes a method of construction using the wetted clay mixed with straw to make walls and buildings, which are then thatched or topped with red clay tiles. The method is similar to that of a Cob building. To maintain the rigid nature of wychert it must not become too dry for risk of crumbling, nor too wet for risk of turning to slime. Keeping wychert well ventilated and not subject to excess condensation is therefore highly recommended. Render applied to a wychert wall must be of a breathable material – a lime based render is common practice. One of the largest Wychert structures is Haddenham Methodist Church.

Wychert Way

A 21 km (13 mi) waymarked, circular walk around Haddenham linking the surrounding Wychert villages and pubs of Cuddington, Chearsley and Long Crendon. Waymarked paths link the centre of Haddenham and the station to the walk.

River Thames

Nowadays seen as a 65 km (40 mi) long tributary of the longer Thames, there is a school of thought saying that the Thames upstream of Dorchester, where the Thames joins it, is called Isis, and that the Thames is only the confluence of Isis and Thame. What seems certain is that all three names go back to the Celtic "Tamesas/Tamesis" (probably meaning "dark"). The Thame's source is several small streams in the Vale of Aylesbury on the north side of the Chiltern Hills. These streams converge north-east of Aylesbury.

Waddesdon Manor

One of the seven great houses built in the Vale of Aylesbury by the Rothschilds in the second half of the 19th century (the others being: Aston Clinton, Tring, Ascott, Eythrope, Mentmore Towers and Halton). Waddesdon Manor, set in formal gardens and an English landscape park, was built on a barren hilltop overlooking Waddesdon village by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild (1839-1898) on farmland bought in 1874. He wanted a country retreat built in the style of a turreted Loire Valley châteaux and engaged the French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. It was meant to house his superb art collection and entertain the fashionable world.

Bequeathed to the NT in 1957 with the largest endowment the Trust had ever received, the Rothschilds ensured the family's continued involvement by naming a family member as the chairwoman of the management committee. To this day it is managed by a family charitable trust. As a family, the Rothschilds were the greatest art collectors of the 19th century, and the collection continues to grow through the patronage of family trusts.

Several films have been shot here, including the Carry On film Don't Lose Your Head, the Indian film Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham, and The Queen, in which interiors and the gardens doubled for Buckingham Palace. Waddesdon Manor has also been used in several television series. The house stood in for the exterior of the fictional Haxby Park in the second season of Downton Abbey (the interior was filmed at Halton House) and as Snow White's and Prince Wendell's castle in the TV mini-series The Tenth Kingdom. It was used as the O'Connell family's home in the film The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, and as the front part of the 'Hotel du Triomphe' in Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows.

North Buckinghamshire Way

A 53 km (33 mi) waymarked linear path from the Ridgeway near Pulpit Hill to the Grafton Way on the Northants border.

The Aylesbury Ring

A circular 50 km (31 mi) waymarked circular Long-Distance Walk around Aylesbury, through Wendover, Waddesdon and Aston Clinton, in parts sharing its course with the North Bucks Way.

Bernwood Jubilee Way

A 98 km (61 mi) waymarked circular Long-Distance trail from Brill, Bucks, developed by the Bernwood Ancient Hunting Forest Project within the ancient Forest boundary. Brill's close association with Bernwood,

as its administration centre, gave it an importance throughout the history of the royal forest and thus makes it an ideal starting/finishing point. The most northerly points of the route are near Oxford and Buckingham, the most southerly just north of Thame.
Opened in 2002, Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Year.

Bernwood Forest

One of several forests of the ancient Kingdom of England and a Royal hunting forest. It is thought to have been set aside as Royal hunting land when the Anglo-Saxon kings had a palace at Brill and church in Oakley, in the 10th century and was a particularly favoured place of Edward the Confessor, who was born in nearby Islip.

From about 1217 through to the 17th century the forest went through a gradual period of deforestation.

Swan's Way

A 106 km (66 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path from the Northants border near Milton Keynes through Bucks to the Ridgeway National Trail near Princes Risborough and along the Chilterns to Goring-on-Thames, Oxon.

Midshires Way

A 362 km (225 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path from Bledlow, Bucks to Stockport, Greater Manchester, linking the Ridgeway National Trail with the Trans Pennine Trail across the shires of Middle England.

Eythrope Park

Eythrope is Anglo Saxon in origin, and means "island farm", referring to an island in the River Thame that flows by the hamlet. The medieval village is deserted and all that remains are some earthen banks and ditches on the eastern side of Eythrope Park. The estate was bought in the 1870s by a branch of the Rothschild family, and belongs to them to this day. It provides a parkland setting for Waddesdon Manor as an ancillary property, Eythrope Pavilion had been constructed for Alice de Rothschild by the architect George Devey. The Thame was dammed in the 1880s to create the lake.

Thame Valley Walk

A 24 km (15 mi) waymarked linear walk along the Thame Valley from Aylesbury to Albury, linking the North Bucks Way with the Oxfordshire Way.

Round Aylesbury Walk

A circular 20 km (12 mi) waymarked walk closely circling around Aylesbury.

Aylesbury

The town's name is of Old English origin, its first recorded name *Æglesburgh* is thought to mean "Fort of Aegel".

Excavations in the town centre even found an Iron Age hill fort dating from the 7th century BC. Aylesbury was one of the strongholds of the Celtic Britons, from whom it was only taken in the year 571 by Cutwulph, brother of the King of the West Saxons; and it had a fortress or castle of some importance.

The Roman Akeman Street, linking Watling Street north of St. Albans with Cirencester, led through here (nowadays as the A41), providing the grounds for it becoming an important commercial centre in Anglo-Saxon times. It is also the burial place of St. Osgyth, a local noblewoman (from Quarrendon) martyred by Danish Vikings in 700, whose shrine at St. Mary's attracted pilgrims.

Aylesbury was declared the county town of Buckinghamshire in 1529 by Henry VIII, presumably to gain favour with Anne Boleyn's father, whose many properties included Aylesbury Manor.

The town played a large part in the English Civil War, when it became a stronghold for the Parliamentarian forces, and in 1642 the Battle of Aylesbury was fought and won by the Parliamentarians.

Nowadays the urban area has a population of 75.000, doubled since the 1960s due to new housing developments, and it is projected to rise by another 25.000 in the next ten years!

Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station

Aylesbury Vale Parkway is a new station on the former Metropolitan and Great Central Joint Railway, which formed part of the Great Central Main Line route linking London and Aylesbury with the East Midlands and the North. Its build was co-funded in 2006 by the Government, Chiltern Railways and Bucks Council and opened late 2008. It not only serves new housing developments on Aylesbury's north western fringes, but will also be a stop on the new East West Rail spur, planned to extend passenger services northwards to Bletchley and Milton Keynes.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station** on platform 1 and walk up a ramp towards the station building. *Turn left* around the building and in 25m *turn left* again to cross a metal footbridge across the tracks that in 50m leads towards **Thame Road**. *Turn left* along the road and follow it into the centre of **Haddenham**. In 830m pass **The Rising Sun** on the right. In 90m past the pub, by the Cottage Bakery on the left, where the main road turns right, *turn left* into **Fern Lane** following an **Outer Aylesbury Ring** marker on a post. Notice the walls on either side of this stretch, good examples of **Wychert Walls**, a wattle-and-daub-technique typical for this area. In 75m continue in the same direction with a Public Footpath marker along a lane between houses (to the left of The Old Brewery). In 160m *turn left* at a T-junction with a gravel lane opposite 8 Townsend, following an Outer Aylesbury Ring marker. In 15m reach a village green and *fork right* to continue along a road (**Townsend** initially).

In 170m *turn left* along **Rosemary Lane**, with a **Wychert Way Link** marker on a telegraph pole on the right. In 130m, just after passing a house called The Allondon on the left, *turn left* off the tarmac lane by a small footpath marker on the right (Cuddington 1¼, Chearley 1½) and in 15m go through a (missing) gate (320°). Continue in the same direction when the path emerges into a field, on a raised grassy margin with a boundary hedge on the right. In 680m leave the field in its far-right corner through a gap in the boundary hedge by the busy **A418** (Oxford to Aylesbury). Cross the road and continue in the same direction through a metal gate into a narrow grassy fenced-in path between fields. Views are opening up across the **Thame Valley** towards the hillock range you have to cross before lunch. Continue in the same direction downhill for 450m, first through a pasture, then into a wooded strip and then another grassy field, going through a few metal gates along the way.

Leave this last field at the bottom of the valley across **Dad Brook** and go through a metal kissing gate into the adjacent field. Follow Wychert Way Link and Public Footpath markers half right across this field (350°) along a usually well-cleared path towards a corner half way up the rise in front of you. In 200m leave the field in this corner into a grassy path through a wooded area with fields on either side behind the trees. In 125m ignore a path forking right and down to soon emerge from the wooded area over a stile into a narrow pasture. *Turn left* towards the upper-right hand corner of the field (340°). In 110m cross a stile into another field and follow markers across it towards a stile 200m away (60°). Over the stile *veer left* past allotments and over a stile to the right of a metal field gate into a field and cross it diagonally to the left of a large electricity pole towards the houses of **Cuddington** (15°). In 135m leave the field in its corner and *veer left* on a tarmac lane towards a road and *turn right* along the pavement.

In 50m, just *before* a bus stop, *turn sharp left* across a grassy area following a footpath signpost hidden in a hedge, and continue along a concrete lane between houses, soon with a field on the left. In 250m at the end of the last garden on the right and by a footpath marker post where a public footpath crosses, *turn right* off the concrete lane along a wide grassy field boundary, now with more gardens on the right. On your left you have views along and across the Thame Valley towards Winchendon, of your onwards route before lunch and the **Aylesbury Astronomical Society's** observatory on the hill chain half left. In 140m *turn left and down* in the field corner along its boundary *before* crossing the outflow of a series of ponds on the right. In 330m leave the field in the far-right bottom corner into a fenced grassy path. In 130m continue over a set of stiles in the same direction (ignore another stile on the right) along the right hand boundary of the next grassy field. In 190m in the far-right field corner cross the **Thame** over a two-railed wooden plank bridge (with metal gates either side).

Continue through another pasture and over raised wooden planks (to cross an often-muddy area in the field corner) to then cross a stile and emerge on a gravel path by a large house (**The Old Mill**). At the house corner ignore a footpath marker post about 20m to the left and a car wide track turning right between house and barn, **[!]** instead *turn right* along a field boundary towards a footpath sign and a marker post left of the concrete barn 30m away. Follow the marker across a large field along a usually well-cleared path, towards another footpath sign by a two-metal-railed footbridge over a stream 390m away (80°). *Veer left* across a smaller field and leave it in the far corner through a metal gate left of a metal field gate. Continue in this pasture towards a stile on its far side (45°). In 160m cross a set of stiles into the next pasture and follow its right-hand boundary. In 90m cross another stile onto a wooden plank bridge over a stream and continue in the same direction in the next pasture with a fence on the left. In 185m cross a further stile left to a metal field gate to continue across a farm track towards gap in a hedge 25m away.

[!] *Turn left on either side of this stile* and walk along the hedge and away from the river, gently uphill (20°), broadly following the same direction for 1.8 km all the way up the valley. **In more detail:** in 225m walk through a metal kissing gate left of a metal field gate. In the next field *veer left* towards another metal kissing gate to the left of two metal field gates 165m away. Past the gate follow the right-hand grassy boundary of the next field for 390m to leave it over a set of stiles 20m left of its far-right corner. Leave the next field in its far right corner over a stile in the right hand hedge to *turn left* and cross a set of stiles either side of a two-railed wooden plank bridge over a brook. Continue up the left-hand side of this next grassy field, soon on a steeper incline, and keep left when the field narrows towards the brow of the rise, then *veering up left* 50m from the end of the field, towards a stile in the top left-hand corner. Past the stile continue your way up towards a white house 130m away. Backwards glances reveal the **best views yet of the Chilterns**. Go through a wooden field gate to emerge on a tarmac driveway, which you follow up to the main road through **Upper Winchenden**.

Cross the road to proceed down **School Lane**, ignoring a footpath signpost pointing half right into a field. Notice the **Five Arrows Coat of Arms** of the Rothschild Family on the cottages lower down the road: a sign of this being part of the Waddesdon Estate. In 150m at a four-way footpath junction *turn right* across a stile into a large pasture to ignore the furthest right footpath towards a church. Rather follow the second-furthest right footpath across the field and through a dip towards some tree tops (on a bearing of 20°) for 320m. Eventually you can spot a metal kissing gate left of a wooden field gate. Go through it into the adjacent large grassy field and continue in the same direction *to the right of a fenced-in clump* of large trees around a pond 200m away. Continue in your direction past the trees and up an incline until levelling out in 60m (but short of the brow of the rise), when you *turn half left* towards **Waddesden Manor**, home of one arm of the Rothschild Dynasty, up on **Lodge Hill**.

Head towards the manor house for 1 km along what turns out to be a **ceremonial avenue** between rows of trees, first descending to go through a metal kissing gate in 310m, then in 340m crossing a brook at the bottom of this valley then re-ascending. **[!]** 350m after the brook crossing (at a T-junction with a footpath joining from left and behind through a metal gate in a boundary fence), just after being able to see the turrets and towers of the manor house again, **[!]** *turn half right* (15°) towards a marker post by a tree on the right. Follow the right-of-way through a metal gate on the right into a wooded area. In 65m emerge from the wood through a gap in a wooden fence and onto an estate road.

Here you have a choice:

For a shortcut to the lunch options, *turn right* here (for details see the end of the main walk directions under **Shortcut**).

For the main walk, *turn left* along the estate road. In 350m *fork left* to **Windmill Hill Farm**. From here you can again see the observatory on the hill range on the left. In 350m reach Windmill Hill Farm, a splendidly modernised farm complex built on the site of a redundant dairy farm (and now the **Rothschild Foundation's** library and meeting and education facility, as well as home to a growing collection of art and sculpture). Follow bridleway marker posts around the buildings: *turn left* and in 70m *turn right* on a gravel lane which curves right and in 125m re-joins a concrete estate lane. *Turn left* down this lane in continuation of your earlier direction (235°). In 225m *turn right* at a T-junction with another farm lane at a bend and with a bridleway joining from the left.

In 580m at an unmarked T-junction (when just being level with the manor house up right) leave the bridleway and **[!]** *turn right* with a **Windmill Hill Walk**-sign through a hedge gap and a metal kissing gate and across an un-railed plank bridge into a pasture. Follow its right-hand boundary uphill past a footpath marker post and in 360m in the field corner walk through a metal kissing gate into the next field. Continue in the same direction, but in 210m *turn right* through a kissing gate and then over an un-railed wooden plank bridge and over a stile into another field. *Veer left* (55°) to cut across the corner of this field uphill towards a wood, which you enter in 200m.

In 50m you reach the estate road to **Waddesden Manor** (up on the left) from its car park (down on the right).

- **For a detour to the Manor House, its Aviary and Gardens**, and its food options, *turn left* (**Note 1:** you are leaving the right of way, technically you have to be in possession of a ticket to the grounds [available at the car park, a long way down the driveway] or be an NT member; **Note 2:** Dogs are not allowed in the grounds); in 125m *turn right* up a grassy slope ('**Daffodil Valley**') along a usually well-mowed path. **A suggested route** around the grounds and back onto the route a little further along is shown on the route map and the gpx file.
- **Else** *turn right* with a footpath marker post and stay on the estate road for 360m, to a low footpath marker post on the right.

In both cases: **[!]** *Turn half left* by a low footpath signpost and marker post on the right, across a grassy area (65°), and head towards a metal kissing gate to the right of (and behind) a clump of some very large fir trees. Past the gate *veer left* (45°) to another metal kissing gate in 350m and enter a wood. Follow this path through the wood for 210m, crossing a tarmac lane along the way, until you emerge on the estate road (**Silk Street**) and *turn left*. The Shortcut joins from the right.

*) You reach the main road though **Waddesdon village** (High Street) by a war memorial, with the **Five Arrows** hotel and restaurant on your right. *Turn left* for the recommended lunch stop **The Long Dog** 140m away, en route passing **St. Michael's and All Angels** church on the right, *or right* – past the **94 Coffee Shop** – to the other potential lunch stop **The Lion** (reached in 200m), where you'll also find the **bus stop for services to Aylesbury**.

After lunch retrace your steps to the junction of High Street and Silk Street by the war memorial and turn down the Waddesdon Estate road. In 50m a footpath joins from the right out of woods (the morning route), in 180m, 20m before reaching the large wrought-iron entrance gate to the Waddesdon Estate, *turn left* off the tarmac lane along an earth track by a footpath marker on a low marker post. In 50m *veer right* into a grassy area (while the earth path turns left) and walk along garden fences on the left

(initially) and past a playground on the right towards **Waddesdon Schools**. In 190m continue in the same direction along a narrow tarmac path to the left of the main school entrance. In 135m a footpath joins from left through allotments. In 80m stay ahead on a grassy track when the tarmac path turns left into a housing estate, and in another 75m *turn right* with the fenced-in path around the school playing fields.

In 120m *turn left* through a gap in the fence with a **North Bucks Way** signpost and an **Aylesbury Ring** marker into a new car park extension for Waddesdon Manor. Cross the car park to a point 190m away, 20m left of its far-right corner (130°). Leave the car park into a wood through a gap in the trees with a North Bucks Way marker post. In 100m leave the wood on an un-railed concrete bridge onto a tarmac lane where you *turn right*. *Veer left* in 15m and cross a stile into a grassy strip between a large hedge on the left and a farm yard on the right (North Bucks Way, **Bernwood Jubilee Way** and Aylesbury Ring markers). In 90m *turn right* through trees just before a field boundary, in 40m passing a two-way marker post and continue along a field boundary and *veer right* along it (due S) and in 30m reach a tarmac path running right-to-left from Waddesdon Manor's car park.

This is the **Waddesdon Greenway, leading to Aylesbury Vale Parkway station**. It is the shortest of the endings and easy to follow, but it is tarmac all the way (apart from a short stretch where a bridge over the future HS2 line needs to be built first) and not very interesting as a walk. The route is displayed on the route map.

So, rather continue in the same direction and in 15m cross a tarmac estate road and head for a stile between trees 25m away. Cross the stile into a field corner and head up the field in the same direction as before along its right-hand boundary. Leave the field in the top right corner through a gap in the wooden boundary fence into trees. Follow this now meandering path first through trees, then a grassy area, then trees again, to leave the wooded area in 130m in its far left corner over a stile into a grassy field. Head half left across this field (150°) [eventually you'll have views of Aylesbury on the left and of Waddesdon Manor on the right] and leave it over another stile into a fenced-in grassy path which – in 20m – swings left through a wooden gate towards **Waddesdon Stud**.

In 35m pass a horse exerciser (an equine treadmill) on the left and then the stud stables to cross a stile to the right of a double metal gate onto a road in 200m. Cross the road and continue in the same direction up a tarmac lane. In 420m, near the brow of the hill, a bridleway joins from the left (**Swan's Way** and **Midshires Way**), and in 300m you come to a four-way bridleway junction by a house.

Here you have a choice:

For an Alternative Ending at Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, *turn left* here (for details see the end of the text under **Alternative Ending at Aylesbury Vale**).

For the main walk, continue in the same direction along a car wide track (a signposted bridleway) to the right of **North Lodge** (145°). *Turn left* in 630m with a Swan's Way marker at a footpath/bridleway junction, into a large field along a wide grassy field boundary and *to the right* of the boundary hedge (125°). In 400m continue in the same direction at the hedge corner on a wide raised grassy path between fields. In 240m leave the fields to continue in the same direction through a wooden gate. In 250m walk through another wooden gate and reach the tarmac driveway to **Eythrope Park** in 40m. *Turn right* along the tarmac lane. In 240m continue ahead at a junction with a tarmac lane joining from the right. In 250m you *turn left* with the lane (with a footpath joining from right) and in 180m, by **Bridge Lodge** (with a footpath joining from right), *turn left* towards a bridge over the outflow of Eythrope's lake (fed by the Thames).

In 65m cross the bridge. In another 65m, [!] just before crossing the Thame River, *turn left* along a tarmac lane with **Thame Valley Walk** and North Bucks Way markers, through a wooded area. Once out of the trees, spot **Burn Hill** 600m away on the right: made from Purbeck Rock, excavations have revealed evidence of Bronze Age burials. In 800m you go through a metal gate to the right of the entrance to Weir Lodge. In 55m cross a two-railed wooden bridge over an arm of the Thame opposite **Weir Lodge** (built for the Rothschild's boatman) and in 70m cross a two-railed wooden bridge over the re-instated and re-naturalised original course of the Thame (built to encourage fish migration). In 20m stay with the river and ignore a bridleway turning right through a metal gate. In 120m ignore a footpath turning right and up through a wooden gate but follow a Thame Valley Walk marker through a wooden gate into a field ahead to continue along its left-hand grassy boundary (50°). In 300m leave the field through a metal gate to follow the river.

In 80m you go through a metal gate left of a metal field gate and **have a choice:**

To shorten the walk and cut out the tarmac-heavy ending through Aylesbury (but requiring a bus journey), *turn right* along the right hand field boundary, gently uphill, and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Alternative Ending in Stone**.

For the Main Walk *veer right* (80°) – and away from the river – in the grassy field, heading for a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate 250m away. Past the gate continue in the same direction now with a hedge on your right. In 110m in the field corner go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate to continue along a car wide grassy path between barbed wire fence and hedge. In 210m ignore a footpath turning right at the corner of a wood to continue uphill with a Thame Valley Walk marker. You are now heading for the multi-year building site that will become **the High Speed 2 Railway line**. The exact route through it is liable to change depending on works progress. The right-of-way should always be clear and protected between fences though, and will eventually lead you into the remnants of a formerly larger wood.

In 80m *turn left* with Thame Valley Walk and **Round Aylesbury Walk** markers, ignoring a public footpath ahead through a metal kissing gate into a pasture, now with a hedge and a brook on the left and a field behind a wire fence and the outskirts of Aylesbury on the right. In 180m *turn left* with the path through the hedge and across the brook and in 110m emerge into **allotments**. Follow a gravel path through the allotments until you reach a road by a Bridleway sign (Lower Winchenden 4) where you turn left. In 15m *before crossing Bear Brook* on a bridge, [!] *turn right* along a narrow tarmac footpath past a black metal bollard. Ignore a right fork immediately, and in 320m rise up to a road (**Arcott Way**) to cross it and continue on the tarmac path beside the brook. In 85m ignore a car wide wooden two-railed bridge across the brook to the left, but take steps back down to the brook side path. In 130m *fork left* to continue along the brook side path.

In 90m you cross another wooden bridge over the brook into **Brimmers Way** and *turn right* along the pavement (with the brook now on your right). In 55m cross a road and continue to the right of a sports centre. In 75 you cross another road, with **The Honey Bee** pub on your left. In 55m cross a two-railed car wide wooden bridge over the brook and [!] *turn left* immediately with the brook at a T-junction of paths towards a busy road, with school fields on the right. In 65m follow the path around to the right. In 165m *fork left* and walk under a road to stay with the brook (now on your left), rather than rising to the road and crossing it. In 195m continue ahead on the tarmac path (160°) along a lesser brook and between trees on either side with houses behind, *but away from Bear Brook*, which swings left, ignoring a bridge and path to the left.

In 240m *turn left* across a car wide wooden bridge over the small brook and continue ahead away from the brook towards a road (**Fowler Road**). *Turn left* at the road along its pavement. In 50m *turn right* with the road at a junction, eventually straightening out on a bearing of 120° as you pass Chesterfield Place. In 270m at **Bearbrook Combined School** *turn left* into **St. Anthony's Close**. In 75m *turn right* with the fence around the school ground. In 135m cross a road and continue in the same direction through bike barriers along a tarmac path towards a main road. In 50m *fork left* to use an underpass to cross the main road and continue with **Bear Brook** again on your left and **Aylesbury College** on your right. In 450m *turn left* at a T-junction and continue up a ramp over the railway. In 125m *turn right* down steps to **Aylesbury Station** (with its coffee shop).

For other tea options continue uphill to a major road junction in 120m. Cross it to continue in the same direction under **Friars Square Shopping Mall**, pass the **Central Bus Station** on the right, and emerge in a corner of **Market Square**.

- you'll find chain pubs (**The Bell** [Wetherspoon] on the left and **The Green Man** on the right – but **currently closed**) and some cafés around **Market Square** and at the top of the square is the recommended well-preserved medieval coaching inn, **The King's Head** in a cobbled court yard, NT-owned but now managed by **Chiltern Brewery** as their taproom.
- for more options, leave the square at a five-way road junction in its top right corner (with **The Harrow** 20m on the right into **Kingsbury**, a quieter square with an elaborate Water Clock, as well as several cafés, pubs and restaurants (**La Salute**, **Buon Amici**, **The Feathers**, **The Rockwood**, **Malebon**, **Café Kingsbury**, **Emperors Lounge** [Brakspear] out through the top-right corner of the square, **The Coffee Tree** and **The Queens Head** to the left, off the square).

Shortcut (cut 2.5 km and 58m descent/re-ascent just before lunch)

Follow the estate road for 550m to a T-junction with the main estate road and continue in the same direction across a grassy area towards some wooden sheds. Continue right past the sheds (the bowling club house) and *veer left* along the estate road joining from the right. In 190m a footpath turns off to the right (the afternoon route), and in another 170m a footpath joins from the left out of a wood (the main route). Continue ahead and join the main walk directions at the asterisk *).

Alternative Ending at Aylesbury Vale (cut 5.4 km, 27m asc./desc. after lunch)

Follow the tarmac lane to the left with a wood on your right. In 315m *turn left* over a stile into a pasture and descend it due E initially and then towards the bottom-right corner. Cross a stile into a field and cross it to a point about 100m to the left of its far-right corner. In 410m cross stiles into the next field and continue towards its far-right corner. In 480m meet a wide tarmac path (the **Waddesdon Greenway**) and *turn right* along it through a spinney. On the far side, you follow the path between fences through an HS2-construction site for 490m (due E). The path leads onto a disused road (blocked on the left) and you *turn right* along it. In 300m, where the road turns left towards the **A41**, you continue in the same direction along a wide tarmac path. In 20m *turn right* with the path and in 40m *turn left*, now parallel to the A road. In 180m you cross the **Fleet Marston Brook** on a wide two-railed bridge and follow the tarmac the path for another 230m to *turn left* under a low railway bridge into a large car park. *Turn right* towards **Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station** 50m away. The **Miller & Carter Steakhouse** is about 100m away on the left. **Esquires Coffee** can be found in the right-hand corner of the large furniture store ahead.

Alternative Ending in Stone (cut 2.4 km)

In 110m you leave the field through a squeeze gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue along the right-hand boundary of the next field. In 120m, where the field boundary bears right, you continue in the same direction along a usually well-cleared path through the arable field's corner and in 90m continue in the same direction along a car wide farm track at a bend (this soon crosses an arable field and may be ploughed). Rise gently with the track and in 450m *turn left* with it to pass some barns of **Wadden Hill Farm**. In 70m, at a signposted three-way junction of the **North Bucks Way** and a footpath from the left, *turn right* past some more barns. In 55m, by a gap in a fence on the left, *turn left* into the arable field and follow its right-hand boundary, but if there is no walkable boundary, continue in the same direction along the car wide track *to the right of the field boundary hedge*.

Either way, in 220m you continue in the same direction (after turning left and right, if you walked to the right of the hedge), with a footpath marker on an electricity pole, along a left-hand field boundary. In 200m leave this field over an un-railed plank bridge and through a metal kissing gate into the next field and *veer ever so slightly to the left* towards the furthest left of three old trees about 100m to the right of some farm buildings. In 150m *turn left* along the field boundary with a yellow marker on a fence post, and in 70m walk through a squeeze gate to the right of a wooden field gate. In 40m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and follow a tarmac lane through **Upper Hartwell** hamlet. You ignore all ways off and in about 300m reach the **A418** at a T-junction, with (closed) **The Rose & Crown** pub on the right and a **bus stop for services to Aylesbury** on the left and **to Haddenham** opposite a little to the right.