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Little Kimble to Saunderton

Start: Little Kimble station

Finish: Saunderton station

Length: 17km (10.6 miles).

Time: 5 hours. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.

Transport: Trains go from London Marylebone to Little Kimble, journey time just over an hour. Little Kimble is three stops down the line from Saunderton, so buy a day return to Little Kimble.

OS Landranger Map: 165

OS Explorer Maps: 172 and 181

Chiltern Society Maps: 3, 7 and 14

Little Kimble, map reference SP 823067, is in **Buckinghamshire**, 7km south of Aylesbury.

Toughness: 4 out of 10

Walk Notes: This is a gentle Chilterns, showing all the characteristics of this range of hills. In particular, there are lots of fine beech woods on the walk, which show display vibrant autumn colours in late October or early November. Several of the woods, particularly in the later part of the walk, also have bluebells in late April. The walk is not all wooded, however, and has some good open stretches and a number of fine views. Though the terrain is undulating, gradients are in general not taxing. It is strongly recommended that you bring along a compass. There are a couple of sections through woodland,

where in the absence of other distinguishing landmarks, having a compass will greatly facilitate. (If you are unsure how to use a compass, refer to the section at the end of this text.)

Walk options:

a) Monks Risborough start: Little Kimble has a very reduced train service these days - it is "the least used station in Buckinghamshire". It is easy to start this walk from the better-served Monks Risborough, by following the directions for this option at the end of the main walk text. This route is about the same distance as the main walk start.

You may as an alternative, vary the route via Lacey Green and taking lunch at The Whip Inn. This adds 1km to the walk.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train nearest to 9.45am from Marylebone Station to Little Kimble.

WALK DIRECTIONS

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

Coming off the platform into the station car park *turn right* down the pavement. After 30 metres, fork right along a fenced in footpath, with the railway off to your right-hand side. After 140 metres go through a wooden kissing gate into a field and continue in the same direction along the right-hand edge of the field. After 130 metres *by a kissing gate on the right-hand side, turn left* down across the field for 70 metres to go through a wooden kissing gate (to the left of a wooden fieldgate) into the next field. In 75 metres go through a wooden kissing gate into the next field and go up its left-hand side. After 160 metres at the top right-hand corner, *where the field narrows, turn right through a wooden kissing gate* (to the left of a metal fieldgate).

In 40 metres go through a gap to the right of a wooden fieldgate to pass by a school building on your right-hand side. In 25 metres *turn right down a road, and after 50 metres turn left* up some steps to go through a metal gate and in 30 metres cross over a stile to go along the left side of a field, your initial direction 220 degrees. After 100 metres cross a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate (just after a pond on your right-hand side). In 35 metres go to the right of a redundant stile and veer right towards a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate.

After 60 metres go over the stile, to follow the line of mini pylon poles to a wooden gate at the end of the field, your direction 230 degrees. After 120 metres go through the wooden gate just to the left of one of the mini pylon poles into the next field and go along its left-hand side. In 80 metres go through a wooden gate on the far side of the field and cross a sand shingle driveway. After a further 35 metres cross a stile into a field, keeping in the same direction. In 90 metres *at the right-hand field corner, cross a wooden*

bar then [!] *turn diagonally left across the field, along a wide fenced in path towards a stile to the right of a house, your direction 170 degrees. (Do not turn right along the North Bucks Way.)*

[§] In 130 metres go over the stile to go up an initially sand shingle drive, your direction 140 degrees. After 170 metres go through a wooden gate (to the left of a cattle grid) [2] to then cross the Aylesbury Road. Continue straight ahead up a car wide track (bridleway), your direction 140 degrees. In 400 metres you pass by a corrugated metal barn (Grangelands Farm) on your left-hand side. Continue forward, slightly uphill, now on a car wide earth track, your direction 130 degrees.

In 380 metres *at a path junction [3], turn sharp right, (partially back on yourself) along a footpath, your initial direction west. After 50 metres go through a metal kissing gate into a field and follow a footpath across the ridge, your direction 240 degrees. In 250 metres exit the field through a metal kissing gate and then another immediately after, to go down a fenced in footpath through a wood. In 160 metres cross a road and go through a metal gate (to the left of a metal fieldgate) into a golf course. Go up the left-hand side, your direction 210 degrees. In 250 metres, just past a thatched cottage on your left-hand side, turn left to follow a fenced in footpath. After 310 metres you come out to a slip road and turn right for 35 metres to reach **The Plough** on your right-hand side.*

Veer left (to the left of a car park ahead) to go through a metal kissing-gate (to the right of a double metal fieldgate) to go along a car wide track through a wood, your direction 120 degrees. In 300 metres *at a cross-paths [4], continue ahead up a path ignoring all paths forking to the right and left, your initial direction*

150 degrees. After 250 metres where the path levels out, continue now following white arrows on trees. In 300 metres ignore a permissive path down to the right, to then pass by a redundant stile on your right after 20 metres. After 10 metres *at a footpath junction marked by a stone post, turn left up a bridleway, your direction 100 degrees, and in 20 metres continue in the same direction up a footpath, (where the bridleway turns down to the left).* Follow this path ignoring all turnings off for the next 700 metres to cross a stile (to the right of a double wooden fieldgate) to come out to the entrance to Solinger Farm and turn right down a lane, your direction 150 degrees.

In 180 metres **[5]** *where the lane swings round to the left, turn right over a stile (to the left of a double wooden fieldgate) and then turn left down a footpath (which subsequently goes uphill), into another wood, your direction 150 degrees. After 450 metres, where the footpath starts to level, follow it round to the right. in 150 metres ignore paths to the left and right, then in a further 130 metres pass by a redundant stile on your right to reach a cross-paths.*

Continue straight on along a car wide track, your direction 210 degrees. In 150 metres you emerge from the wood into the corner of a field to continue down its right-hand side, your direction 220 degrees. In 250 metres at its right-hand corner, continue ahead into a wood, your direction 220 degrees, following the path and white lines on trees. In 450 metres go through a wooden kissing-gate to reach a road. **[6]** *Turn left then right down a side lane, following a signpost to Lacey Green, your direction 200 degrees. In 180 metres (just past a house on your right) turn right to go through a wooden kissing gate after 15 metres and follow a footpath through a wood. In 140 metres cross a track, then continue along a car wide track, your direction 280 degrees. In 400 metres pass by a redundant stile on your left, to reach a cross-paths, where*

you turn left, your direction 210 degrees.

In 180 metres go through a gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate, and turn left down a driveway to reach a main road after 35 metres. Turn right to reach the **Pink and Lily** on your left after 60 metres.

Coming out of the Pink and Lily *turn right down Lily Bottom Lane* passing by the Pink and Lily on your right-hand side, your direction 120 degrees. *In 500 metres, you reach a shingle drive on your left (sign posted Chiltern Way).* **[7]**

There are now two alternatives. (i) Continue with the standard route, or (ii) Take the route via Lacey Green (this will add 1 km).

(i) Standard route

Turn left up the shingle drive. In 50 metres, 20 metres before a derelict wooden fieldgate and a 3 armed footpath signpost, fork right for 15 metres to go through a horse-blocking barrier, to go along the right-hand side of a wood, your direction 120 degrees. (In muddy conditions you may prefer to take an intermittent footpath to the left, ensuring you do not wander too far from the right hand side of the wood.)

*After 1km at a cross paths **[8i]** turn right to leave the wood along a fenced in footpath across a field, your direction 250 degrees. In 180 metres go over a cross paths (passing under HV cables) and continue across the next field along a fenced in footpath. In 200 metres enter a wood to follow the footpath down through the wood. In 250 metres you emerge from the wood at a T-junction **[9i]** and turn left down a bridleway, your direction 110 degrees. In 400 metres ignore footpaths to the left and right.*

*After 100 metres just before a house ahead to your right. **[10i]** Turn right to go through a wooden gate after 10 metres to then go up the initially fenced*

in right-hand side of a field following the right-hand edge of the field, subsequently veering to the left. After 220 metres at the upper right hand corner of this field, go over *a stile on your right-hand side, and after 7 metres turn left over another stile to go down across a field*, with fencing on your left, your direction 140 degrees.

In 100 metres at the corner of the fencing on your left, continue in the same direction. In a further 130 metres *veer left for 35 metres to cross a stile*, to go down through a lightly wooded area. *After 40 metres cross a stile and a road, to go through a wooden gate* to go along a fenced in footpath.

Rejoin the route at the asterisk [*] below.

(ii) Route via Lacey Green

In a further 20 metres, (just before a brick building), turn right up a bridleway, your direction 220 degrees. After 100 metres fork right over a stile [8ii]

Short cut: continue up this potentially muddy bridleway for 1km to [10ii] and turn left at the path T-junction. (Misses out Lacey Green.)

to slice the left-hand corner of a field, your direction west. In 150 metres cross a stile into the next field and veer slightly right, aiming for its right hand corner, your direction 240 degrees. After 350 metres go over a stile (to the left of a metal fieldgate) to *go along a fenced in car wide track*.

*In 240 metres, at a car wide cross paths, go over a stile to your right into a field, to cross the field, aiming for a stile in its right hand corner, your direction 250 degrees. After 180 metres go over the stile into the next field and continue ahead, your direction 230 degrees. (In the distance, slightly to your right you can see **Lacey Green Windmill**.)*

After 250 metres cross a stile into the corner of the next field to go up its right hand side, your direction 250 degrees. In 150 metres go over a stile to go along the right hand side of this next field. In 120 metres *exit the field to turn right along the pavement of the main road* to reach a crossroads after 20 metres with **The Whip Inn [9ii]** on your right.

From The Whip Inn, turn left along Main Road in a south easterly direction along the pavement. *In 300 metres, turn left along Goodacres Lane, your direction 50 degrees. After 120 metres the tarmac lane becomes a shingle track between hedgerows. In 80 metres with a car wide entrance to a field ahead (and a metal fieldgate on your left hand side), turn right along the right hand side of a field bordered by a hedgerow, your direction 140 degrees.*

In 400 metres at the right hand corner of the field, continue along a path now between hedgerows (passing by a house on your left-hand side). After 50 metres cross over a car wide shingle track with a bridleway down to the left **[10ii]**, to continue between hedgerows.

After 40 metres go through a metal kissing gate, into the upper corner of a field to continue along its upper right hand side with a valley down to your left. After 270 metres and *40 metres before the end of the field turn right over a stile* into the next field. *Turn left* along its left-hand side for 35 metres to then cross over a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate, to continue along a car wide concrete track along the left side of a field with a mini pylon cable run on your left, your direction 100 degrees.

After 380 metres the car wide track comes down to a metal fieldgate. Cross over a stile to its right into the upper corner of a field. Follow the right hand side of this field, and after 80 metres *follow the footpath round to the right, to go through a car wide gap (past a redundant stile on your right), to go up*

the right hand side of the field, your direction 160 degrees.

In 140 metres at the right hand corner of the field, cross over a stile to continue along the right hand side of a small field. In 35 metres *go over a stile into a garden, and in 20 metres turn right up a shingle drive (in front of the house) to follow the drive round and down to the left away from the house.*

After 60 metres at a junction turn left down a wide shingle track (which subsequently narrows), sign-posted public footpath, your direction 80 degrees. In 70 metres, turn right over the first stile (to the right of a wooden fieldgate) to go down across a field, with fencing on your left, your direction 140 degrees.

In 100 metres at the corner of the fencing on your left, continue in the same direction. In a further 130 metres *veer left for 30 metres to cross a stile, to go down through a lightly wooded area. After 40 metres cross a stile and a road, to go through a wooden gate to go along a fenced in footpath.*

[*] After 30 metres cross a stile and *turn right along a valley leading into a field, your direction 160 degrees. After 400 metres at the right-hand corner of the field cross a stile and another after 35 metres to continue along the left-hand edge of the next field. In 240 metres at the left-hand corner of the field cross over two stiles and continue along the right-hand edge of this next field. After 280 metres at the right-hand corner of the field go through a metal kissing-gate (to the right of a metal fieldgate) and after 15 metres turn right to go up the right-hand side of a field towards a wood, your direction 220 degrees.*

In 140 metres at the top right-hand corner of the field, cross over a stile to *enter the wood. Follow the path up through the wood marked by yellow arrow on trees every so often. In 500 metres at a footpath cross paths, [11]*

turn left, your direction 160 degrees, down through the wood (with a field off to your right). In 120 metres, at the bottom of a hill, continue past a house on your left, behind green metal railed fencing as the footpath starts to ascend again.

After 150 metres veer right through a gap in the fence, to emerge from the wood after 20 metres to follow a path across a field, your direction 200 degrees. In 180 metres cross a stile to the left of a double metal fieldgate and turn right up a road. In 250 metres you reach a T-junction. [12] (For the Black Lion, turn left and after 180 metres turn right along Woodlands Drive to reach the Black Lion after 60 metres.)

Cross over the road, turn right for 10 metres and then turn left through a wooden fieldgate leading through allotments. In 100 metres go through a wooden gate and in 20 metres take a footpath veering to the right, your initial direction 280 degrees. In 70 metres ignore a turning to the right (leading to a metal kissing gate), to turn half-left. After 30 metres at a footpath junction, turn right, your direction 210 degrees.

After 70 metres cross a car wide track (which leads to the black metal gate entrance to a small yard on your right). Follow the right-hand footpath with the small yard on your right-hand side, your direction 260 degrees. In 60 metres you pass a mini pylon pole 7 metres to your right. [!] Veer slightly to the left, your direction 260 degrees, along an initially indistinct path. In 50 metres cross over a path and continue in the same direction, now west along this feint path that slowly becomes more distinct and starts to gradually descend.

In 130 metres the path merges with a bridleway from the left. Continue down the bridleway, your direction 290 degrees. In 35 metres ignore a bridleway up off to right. After 100 metres **[13]** *cross over a road and continue up the bridleway, your*

initial direction 250 degrees. *In 450 metres where the path forks (by the end corner of wire mesh fencing 20 metres to your right) fork left, down the path, your initial direction 250 degrees. In 50 metres the footpath turns right (away from the main car-wide track - leading to a double wooden fieldgate) and you follow the path downhill for 70 metres to go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden fieldgate, into a field, to go down across the field aiming for the bottom hedgerow corner of the adjacent field, your direction 320 degrees.*

In 200 metres at the corner of the adjacent field on your left, turn left down a path with a hedgerow on your left-hand side, your direction 250 degrees. In 100 metres the path merges with a car wide track. In 70 metres go through a metal kissing gate (off to the right of a wooden fieldgate) to enter a field.

There are now two alternatives **(i)** The recommended shorter route up across this field, or **(ii)** Field border if particularly muddy / recently ploughed.

(i) Across the field. *Turn half-left to go up across this field along a permissive path, your direction 290 degrees. In 450 metres at the far corner, go through a metal kissing-gate (left of a metal fieldgate), and in 10 metres turn half right for 15 metres to go through a wooden kissing-gate (left of a wooden fieldgate). Rejoin the route at the double asterisk [**] below.*

(ii) Field border. *Go down the left-hand side of the field, your direction 240 degrees. In 200 metres at the left-hand corner exit the field through a metal kissing gate and turn right up a footpath along the right-hand side of a field with fencing to your right. In 350 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate.*

[]** *Go up the right-hand side of the next field. At the top right-hand corner of this field, ignore a wooden kissing gate*

and follow the footpath round and down to the left. In 150 metres go through a wooden kissing gate, to continue down the right-hand side of the next field.

In 40 metres turn right through a large gap into the next field, and follow the path along the side of a wood (on your right) for 50 metres to then veer left along a permissive path across the field, your direction 320 degrees.

*In 370 metres at the field boundary (by a double metal fieldgate), **[14]** turn left along the path which runs parallel to Smalldean Lane beyond on your right-hand side. In 300 metres go to the right of a redundant gate and veer right for 50 metres to join the lane. In 150 metres you reach a crossroads with the A4010. Cross over and for the tea stop turn left for **The Golden Cross** pub after 50 metres. Otherwise continue ahead under the railway bridge and turn right up Saunderton Vale for Saunderton Station.*

a) Monks Risborough start

- 1) Coming off the platform at Monk's Risborough, turn left on the road
- 2) In 650 metres you pass the White Cross pub and come to a T-junction, where you turn right, ignoring a not very obvious path straight ahead
- 3) In 100 metres, just beyond the Three Crowns pub (in its parking area), turn left up a signposted footpath.
- 4) Go through a gate and beyond take the path that veers slightly right up a grassy strip with fences left and right, ignoring a path slanting left across a field.
- 5) In 70 metres go through a gate and on up the right-hand side of a field.
- 6) In 80 metres pass into the next field and keep on up its edge, with a line of trees to your right

7) In 200 metres go through another gate and on up the right-hand edge of a field

8) in another 200 metres, with a wood ahead, turn right over a stile and take the car-wide fenced path slightly right, aiming to the right of a house (ie not the path into a field to the left).

You now follow the main walk directions from [§] (just before [2] in the text).

- needle.
4. With the arrow on the base plate pointing towards the direction that you intend to walk, you can now read off the bearing.

Lunch and Tea places

The Golden Cross *Wycombe Road, Saunderton, HP14 4HU (tel 01494 565974)*. Open all day. This is the suggested tea stop.

The Pink and Lily *Pink Road, Parslows Hillock, HP27 0RJ (01494 489857)*. Food served noon – 2pm Mon – Fri. noon – 2.30pm Sat & Sun. Located 7.5 km from the start of the walk, this is the suggested lunch stop.

The Plough *Casden Road, Lower Casden HP27 0NB (01844 343302)* Food served noon – 2pm Mon – Sat. (to 2.30pm Sun) Located 3 km from the start of the walk, this is an earlier possible lunch stop.

The Whip Inn *Pink Road, Lacey Green, HP27 0PG (01844 344060)* Food served.

How to take a compass bearing

1. Point the fixed arrow on the base plate of the compass in the direction that you intend to walk.
2. Hold the compass at waist level, (ensuring you are not close to any metal objects such as a metal fieldgate) and allow the needle to settle.
3. Turn the rotating face so that the red north marker lines up with the red