

How to get to the start

The circular walk starts and finishes in Wendover. To plan a journey by public transport from anywhere in the country to the starting point, call 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.info

By bicycle: There are cycle shelters at the stations in Wendover and Great Missenden.

By train: Both Wendover and Great Missenden are on the Chiltern Railways line between Marylebone and Aylesbury, so you can walk half the route and get the train back to your starting point. Call National Rail Enquiries 0845 600 5165 or visit www.chilternrailways.co.uk

By bus: Arriva run bus services to both Wendover and Great Missenden. Tel 0844 800 4411 or visit www.arrivabus.co.uk Tiger Line operate a service between Wendover and Great Missenden on weekdays only. Tel 01494 774411 or visit www.transportforbucks.net

By car: There are public car parks in both Wendover and Great Missenden.







High Street, Wendover

Ellesborough



This is one of a series of walks through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It mainly follows rights of way most of which are waymarked as follows:

-  'yellow arrow' Footpaths (walkers only)
-  'blue arrow' Bridleways (horseriders, cyclists and walkers)
-  'red arrow' Byways (open to all traffic)
-  'purple arrow' Restricted Byway (horseriders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles).

Please be considerate in the countryside

- Keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them
- Keep dogs on leads near livestock



Beacon Hill

There are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns:

- Visit www.chilternsaonb.org or call 01844 355500 for other Chilterns Country walks.
- Visit www.chilternsociety.org.uk or call 01494 771250 for information on the Chiltern Society's walk programme, to obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society.

Learn more about Chilterns commons at www.chilternsaonb.org/commons

This leaflet has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board as part of the Chilterns Commons Project. The Project benefits from funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund and help from volunteers.

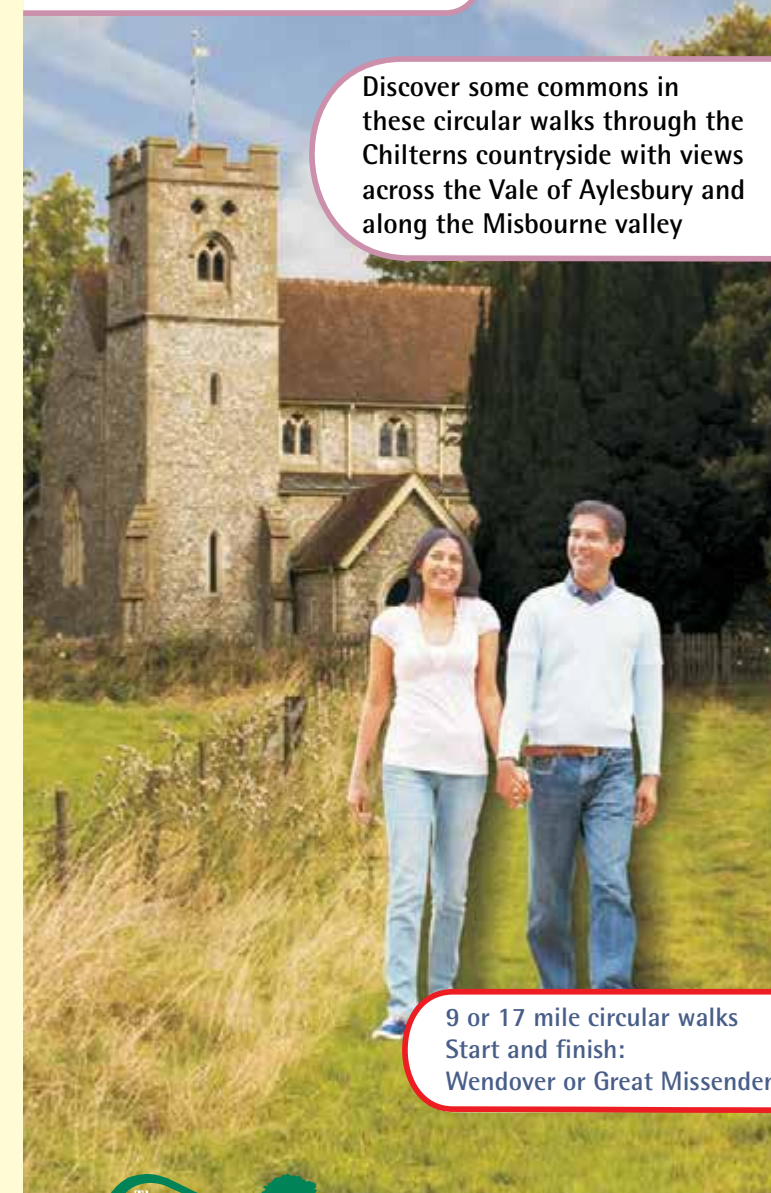


Photographs kindly provided by © Colin Drake

Chilterns Country

Walks on commons near Great Missenden

Discover some commons in these circular walks through the Chilterns countryside with views across the Vale of Aylesbury and along the Misbourne valley



9 or 17 mile circular walks
Start and finish:
Wendover or Great Missenden



an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Visitor information

Wendover is a historic market town offering cafes and pubs, shops, public toilets, a tourist information office and numerous other amenities. Great Missenden is a historic village, also with cafes and pubs, shops, public toilets and a railway station.

Take a break with a picnic on the commons and/or refreshments at a pub or café along the route. You will pass the Hampden Arms (01494 488255) in Great Hampden. The Russell Arms (01296 624411) in Butler's Cross is close to the route, and there are pubs and cafes in Great Missenden and Wendover.

For details of places to stay, visitor attractions and other walks, contact the Tourist Information Office in Wendover Clock Tower (tel 01296 696759) or see www.visitchilterns.co.uk

Points of interest

The following points of interest can be found on the walks. See map for locations.

A Wendover is an old and picturesque town. The main streets contain many old houses, usually with tiled roofs and a few thatched cottages. The Red Lion Hotel, a half-timbered building with brick noggin, is of particular note. Oliver Cromwell stayed here in 1642. Nearby, Wendover Woods is an attractive place to visit with 700 hectares of deciduous and pine woodland, and Coombe Hill, with its monument to the second Boer War, is worth a visit and offers tremendous views.

B Ellesborough The parish church of St Peter and St Paul stands apart from the village, high on the hill overlooking it. Built in the 14th and 15th centuries, it was restored and externally refaced in the 19th century.

Points of interest

C Beacon Hill There is a pillow mound on Beacon Hill – a man-made warren for farming rabbits. Rabbits were introduced by the Normans and farmed for their meat and fur. The ownership and consumption of rabbits indicated wealth.

D Chequers The Chequers Court Estate has been the country residence of the British Prime Minister since 1917. It may be named after Elias Ostiarius, usher of the Court of the Exchequer, who owned the land in the 12th century, or perhaps after the Chequers or wild service tree which grow in the grounds.



Chequers



Little Hampden

E Little Hampden common Today, the common is wooded but just a hundred years ago it was open and locals played cricket near the Rising Sun pub, now closed. The peaceful little 12th century church is decorated with 13th and 14th century wall paintings.

F Hampden House was owned by the Hampden family from before the Norman conquest until 1938. Towards the end of the family's time at the house they suffered financial problems and the house began to deteriorate. In 1938 the family decided to let the house, initially to a private girls' school and then to a film company specialising in the making of horror films. The house was eventually sold to an insurance group and the house has now been restored to its former glory. Look out for the magnificent cedar trees.

G Great Hampden common is popular with walkers, with numerous footpaths passing through linking the common with the surrounding countryside.

H Prestwood From medieval times until the 19th century, Prestwood had a large area of common of which the recreation ground is the final remnant. Local people grazed their animals on the common, gathered firewood and gorse. Orchards were planted over the common after it was enclosed and these have now been replaced by houses.

I Angling Spring Wood is an ancient woodland and contains some rare slugs and fungi. Roald Dahl, the famous children's author who lived in Great Missenden, used to walk in Angling Spring Wood which probably inspired the woods featured in Danny the Champion of the World.

J Great Missenden is a large village with many old buildings in the narrow High Street. During 1980, some television horror films were filmed in and around Great Missenden. In June 2005 the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre opened in the village to honour the work of Dahl. Great Missenden was also temporarily home to the writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

K Dunsmore occupies a hilltop position with access by two steep, single-track hillside lanes. Much of the surrounding land is owned by the National Trust and is heavily wooded with beech trees, and bracken.

South Bucks Way





Coombe Hill monument

Description of route:

The routes, which have been described in an anti-clockwise direction, mainly follow paths across commons, woods and fields, and crosses stiles. There are short stretches on lanes, and there are usually pavements in the villages. Some paths are steep and can be muddy in places. Take care, especially when crossing roads, wear suitable footwear and allow time to rest and enjoy the views. Map: OS Explorer 181 and a compass may help.

1 Leave the centre of Wendover by walking in a south-westerly direction from the market place, by the mini-roundabout to cross the bridges over the railway and the bypass. Turn right onto the track leading to a field. Follow the Aylesbury Ring sign-posted route for approx 2 miles across fields (passing between Wellwick Farm buildings) until you are directly below Ellesborough church. Take care crossing Chalkshire Road in Butler's Cross.

2 Just past a wooden shed, take the path over the stile up to the church. Go through the churchyard, cross the road and turn right. Very shortly, turn left through a gate and follow the path marked 'Circular Walk' up around the slopes of Beacon Hill and through the box woods to the private driveway to Chequers.

3 Cross the drive, go through the gate and, where the path forks, take the left path alongside the barbed wire fence. Keep to this path with the fence on your left until it joins the Ridgeway at a gate. Go through the gate and follow the Ridgeway path (marked with acorns), crossing the main driveway to Chequers and a minor road.

4 Carry on into the woods and turn right onto the South Bucks Way. Follow the South Bucks Way to the edge of Little Hampden Common and then through the common. On leaving the common, continue in the same direction on a broad path, past a terrace of cottages (where there's a stretch of tarmac road) to the triangular village green with a seat. (Note: a little further down the road is the village church which is well worth a detour.)

5 Turn right at the seat and follow the Chiltern Way to Hampden House.

6 Go through the gate and turn left. Go through a second gate and along the driveway to the church of St Mary Magdalene on your right. Turn right through the churchyard and leave by the gate behind the church. Follow the footpath straight ahead across fields and a farm road. Continue straight ahead across the next field, cross a narrow tarmac road, cross a field and on to a tarmac access road. Follow this to the left to a crossroads. The Hampden Arms is on your left.

7 Go straight over along Memorial Road for approx 600m. Follow this road when it turns to the right, then shortly afterwards take the footpath on the left signposted to Bryants Bottom.

8 We recommend using a compass on this stage to confirm direction due to the number of unmarked paths on the common. Once over the stile you are on Great Hampden common. Follow the path through the trees taking a left hand fork keeping the common boundary on the left and after a while a post and wire fence on your right (in the trees) until you leave the common by a stile.

9 Turn right at the road and go through a gate marked Denner Farm. Follow the drive to the left and, at the end, go over a stile and across the field. At the far side of the field and before the gate turn left (under a power line) to the road.

10 At the road, turn left and then turn right into a gravel drive after approx 10m, through a double wooden gate by a house and follow the footpath sign behind the house. Cross the field to another stile, go over the stile and cross the next field to a gate. Go through the gate and along a path to a pair of gates just before the road. Go through the gates (do not join the road) and follow the path along the edge of the field. At the corner of the field, go through the hedge and over a stile.

Hampden Bottom



11 Cross the road and follow the footpath through a gate, bearing left across the field to another gate. Take the path across the corner of the woodland to a field. Follow the path to the right alongside the wood, then on a clear path across three fields to a gate. Go through the gate and turn left, following the path through the corner of the field and on to the road (Wycombe Road).

12 Go straight on along residential roads - Sixty Acres Road leading to Honor Road. Cross Nairdwood Lane and, continuing in the same direction, take the footpath leading to New Road. At the end of New Road, turn right and follow the Chiltern Heritage Trail along the verge and then turn left beside Andlows Farm.

13 Continue through Angling Spring Wood, keeping to the right where the path forks. At the end of the wood pass Angling Spring Farm (was View Farm) continue down hill along Whitefield Lane. At the end of the lane, turn left onto London Road and into Great Missenden.

14 Walk through Great Missenden, turn left at the mini-roundabout and walk on the pavement until the road forks. Take the left fork, Rignall Road. Continue over the railway bridge to the last house on the right (just before the 40 mph signs).

15 Take the footpath through the gate on your right, across the field, keeping to the left on the first occasion that the path forks. Take the right hand fork when nearing the far side of the field. Go through the gate and bear left across the field to a gate in the hedge. Follow the South Bucks Way signs alongside and then through woods to a tarmac road. Cross the road and take the driveway through a small area of grassy common at Cobblers Hill Farm.

16 Continue to follow the South Bucks Way to Dunsmore.

17 Go straight on over the crossroads, marked to Dunsmore village only. The road becomes a track into the woods and forks shortly afterwards. Take the right fork on the brideway between fences and continue past a field on the right into the woods. At the next fork, take the left path, keeping close to the wire fence on your left, then take the uphill path on the left. At the waymarked cross paths, turn left (there's a yellow arrow on a tree) and this soon comes to a stile at the edge of the wood. Go diagonally across three fields and between houses.

18 Turn right onto the tarmac road and after approx 150m follow the signed footpath over a stile in the hedge on your left. Cross the field between the pylons. Follow the path over stiles until you reach the road. Turn right to go back into Wendover.

9 mile circular walk from Wendover

Follow the longer walk from point **1** to point **5** At Little Hampden village green, stay on the South Bucks Way and follow the signs, turning left, past the Queen's seat, through the woods, across fields and through more woods until you reach a gate on the far side of a field. Turn left onto the brideway where you will join the longer walk at point **16**

9½ mile circular walk from Great Missenden

Start following the description for the longer walk at point **14** the mini-roundabout in Great Missenden. Follow the route to the common at Cobblers Hill Farm. Leave the longer walk at point **16** and follow the signs for the Chiltern Way instead of the South Bucks Way. This will take you to Little Hampden village green where you will join the longer walk again at point **5**

