

Amersham to Chesham

History and Points of Interest

Amersham is made up of two different areas: the historic old town and the modern Amersham-on-the-Hill which developed with the coming of the railway. Amersham probably comes from the Saxon 'Agmodesham'. The first record of a settlement was in the 8th century along what is now the north side of the High Street.

A Amersham Martyrs

In 1931 a memorial was erected to commemorate the Amersham Martyrs. The first martyr was burnt at the stake in 1511 with a further six in 1521. They were persecuted by the established church for being Lollards whose crime was wanting the Bible to be available in English.

B River Misbourne

The Misbourne is a chalk stream fed by groundwater, which is stored in the aquifer – layers of chalk rock which work like a sponge, soaking up water until it emerges at ground level. The Misbourne rises near Great Missenden and flows through Old Amersham to join the River Colne near Denham.

C St Mary's Church

The church dates from the 12th century although its origins may go back to Roman times. The church was extended during the 14th and 15th centuries.

D Market Hall

The Market Hall was built in 1682 by Sir William Drake, the Lord of the Manor. In one corner is the old 'lock up' along with a later water pump dating from 1785.

E Notable Buildings

The High Street is full of listed buildings, many dating back to the 15th century. There are too many to individually list here but detailed information can be obtained at the Amersham Museum located at Number 49. Interestingly it is housed in a medieval

hall built around 1480 and is probably the oldest residential building in the town. In September each year the High Street comes to life with the Charter Fair which was granted by King John in 1200.

F Town Mill

Amersham had three mills listed in the Domesday Book. The Town Mill was an ancient corn and flour mill that was adapted for the manufacture of paper in the late 18th century.

G Windmill Plantation

This is an ancient woodland. There is a wonderful display of bluebells in the spring.

H Mayhall Farm

The farm is made up of a number of historic Grade II listed buildings dating from 17th and 18th centuries.

I Wey Lane Allotments and Workhouses

Chesham had two workhouses and both buildings are still standing. Along the footpath next to Thomas Harding School is the 17th century Poor House. When it became too small the workhouse moved to Weylands which is located further down Germain Street. The allotments opposite the school were the workhouse gardens.



About these leaflets:

This leaflet is one of a series of walks all of which are downloadable from the Walkers are Welcome pages at www.chesham.gov.uk

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Amersham to Chesham

'Station to Station'

Chesham Walks
10

4.5 miles



Amersham to Chesham

Chesham Walks
10

Start: Amersham Metropolitan Line Station

Finish: Chesham Metropolitan Line Station

Terrain: STILE FREE. 4.5 miles of easy walking with one climb

Maps: OS Explorer 172 & 181; Chiltern Society 6 & 8

Refreshments: Pubs and cafés in Old Amersham and Chesham

From the station turn left downhill to the second mini roundabout and left under the railway. Where safe, cross the road and continue downhill. Opposite no. 101 Station Rd, turn right to enter the woods and take the wide path up to a clearing. Turn left to exit the woods and then left again. Follow the path as it skirts the field edge down to the Amersham Martyrs Memorial.

- 1 Continue for a few more paces to meet a path on the left emerging from a hedge. Turn right across the field and all the way down to the bottom to meet another path. Turn right and follow the river Misbourne to a brick bridge. Turn left across the bridge and go straight ahead towards St Mary's Church. Take the stone paved path to the left of the church and the left fork just after the church entrance. Turn left into Church St and then right at the mini roundabout.
- 2 Pass the old market place and continue along the High St. Near the end turn right into Mill Lane and continue to its junction with School Lane. Take the path directly opposite. Stay on this past a football pitch and through a hedge into a field. Cut across the corner of the field to a path on the other side. Turn right and go uphill to a railway line. Read the warning signs and cross with extreme care. Go through the gate on the other side and immediately bear left up into Hervines Wood. Follow the wide path ahead as it runs parallel to a ditch on the right. At the end of the playing fields turn right to cross the ditch. Do not turn immediately left but bear half left on a path and follow the fence line. After a track joins from the left continue between fences. Where the fences end

turn left and immediately right to follow the woodland path as it runs parallel to the playing fields. Stay on it to exit the woods through a hedge. Ahead are the houses in Berry Field Park.

- 3 Do not go into the housing estate. Turn left on a wide path between the wood and the houses. Go straight over one road and turn right at the next into Weedon Lane. At the end turn left into Copperkins Lane. Walk along the pavement and then the wide, grassy verge for 350m. Cross and take the lane to Mayhall Farm. Turn right on the bridleway that runs in front of the farm and follow the hedge on the left. Where that ends turn left to a metal gate.
- 4 Go through this gate and the next to emerge into a field. Turn left along its edge into the next field. Continue straight on with the hedge now to the right. The path descends giving good views of Chesham. Where the hedge ends, follow the footpath straight across the field and through a further gate. Go down the steps, then straight down across the next field to the hedge corner. Keep ahead through another gate, then straight ahead to exit the field in front of the 'Scope' buildings in Fullers Close.
- 5 Turn left, follow the road round to the right then left onto Fuller's Hill. Turn right on the pavement down to its junction with Wey Lane. Keep straight ahead into Germain St, cross the river at the Town Bridge and continue to the pedestrian crossing. Cross into Market Sq and proceed along the High St.
- 6 For the station, turn right up Station Rd. For a bus back to Amersham, continue along the High St to the bus stops in The Broadway.

