

Chorleywood to Chesham

History and Points of Interest

The Romans settled in the area building villas, a small village and a mill. The Saxons called it 'Cerola Leah' which means a clearing or meadow in the forest. Since then it has been known as Bosco de Cherle, Churl's Wood and Charleywoode. Major population growth came with extension of the Metropolitan Railway in 1889.

A Chenies Village and Manor

The village was first recorded in the 12th century when it was called Isenhampstead. It later became Isenhampstead Chenies from its connection with the Cheyne family, who built the Manor. It was shortened to Chenies in the 19th century. The Manor House is a Grade I Listed Building which was visited by both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I on many occasions. For a time it was the seat of the Russell family, (Earls, later Dukes of Bedford) before they decamped to Woburn. The gardens were voted Garden of the Year in 2009.

B River Chess

The Chess 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. Regular winter rainfall is needed to recharge the aquifer and keep the chalk streams of the Chilterns flowing throughout the year. Typical chalk streams like the Chess are shallow and narrow, with gravel beds and clear, warm water. We take our water from the aquifer too, so we need to use water wisely in order to reduce our impact on chalk streams and their wildlife.

C Dodds Mill

Originally called Chenies Mill it was first mentioned as a corn mill in 1200. It later became used for fulling, where newly woven cloth was beaten and scoured with wooden hammers, stretched out to dry on tenterhooks and then combed. In the 18th century the mill was bought by the Dodd family who converted it to papermaking. In the 19th century it reverted to corn milling and later to cattle feed. It finally closed in 1933.

D Martin Top Farm

On a clear day there are fine views towards London. The Shard, Canary Wharf and the Post Office Tower can be seen.

E Flaunden

The village is in Hertfordshire. The old village used to be located down by the River Chess and in Buckinghamshire. It is thought that

the move took place to escape both flooding and the plague. St Mary Magdalene Church was erected in 1838 and is said to be the first church designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Besides churches, he designed St Pancras Station Hotel and the Albert Memorial.

F Ley Hill

A small village on the outskirts of Chesham. It boasts two pubs: The Swan which dates from 1520 and The Crown which was first licensed in 1822.

G Cowcroft Wood and Nature Reserve

An ancient wood, part of a complex of woodland known as Tylers Hill. The clay soil has been worked for three centuries to supply material for the local tile and brickworks. Oak and beech are predominant but other species include wild cherry, ash, birch, sycamore and hornbeam. The ground flora includes wild orchids, bluebells, male fern and occasional bramble in the more densely shaded areas with ground ivy, lesser celandine, dog's mercury and occasional primroses.

H Lord's Mill

There has been a corn mill on the site since Saxon times. The last one was built in the 17th century and ceased milling in the 1950s. It was demolished in 1988.

I Meades Water Gardens

Originally the location of the millstream for Amy Mill, of which now only the sluice gate remains. The site was then converted for use as watercress beds and later ornamental gardens. In 2008 the river was restored as part of a project to regenerate the 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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Chorleywood to Chesham

'Station to Station'

Chesham Walks

8

8.5 miles



Chorleywood to Chesham

Chesham Walks
8

Start: Chorleywood Metropolitan Line Station

Finish: Chesham Metropolitan Line Station

Terrain: 8.5 miles of easy walking on paths and lanes with 250m of ascent

Maps: OS Explorer 172 & 181; Chiltern Society 5, 17 and 28

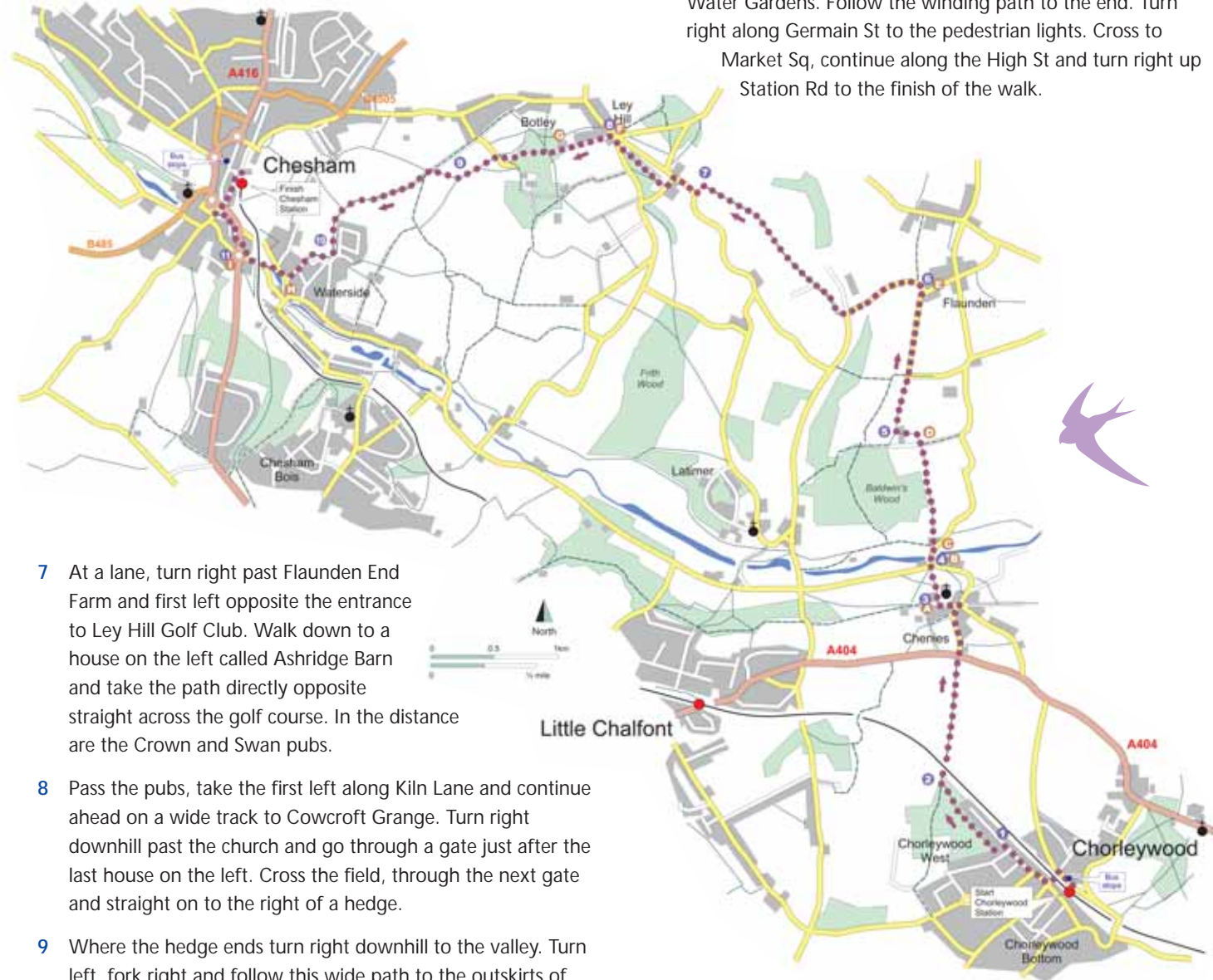
Refreshments: The Crown & Swan pubs in Ley Hill and pubs and cafés in Chesham

From the station turn left downhill, left under the railway and first right into Whitelands Ave. Where the road turns left uphill, continue straight ahead. Soon after Carpenters Wood Drive, take the footpath on the left up into the woods.

- 1 Ignore the first path on right by the fencing, walk uphill for a few paces and turn right on a wide path. Follow it as it runs parallel to houses, drops into a dip and then climbs to a path junction. Turn left and follow the path to the corner of the wood.
- 2 Turn right under the railway and continue all the way to a main road. Cross with care and walk along the lane into Chenies village. Turn left just after the school down to the Green. Turn left again up the gravel drive to the gates of Chenies Manor.
- 3 Turn right along the path between the walls of the Manor and the church down into a wood. Stay straight ahead as the path drops steeply to a road. Cross the road with care and bear right down the lane opposite. Turn left along the lane and over the river Chess to reach Mill Farm Barns.
- 4 Go through the wooden gate and keep straight ahead on the gravel drive between the buildings up to a field gate. Pass through and climb to the hilltop. Continue straight on for 500m to the entrance to Martin Top Farm. Cross the drive and take the bridleway opposite.
- 5 Where the bridleway bends left immediately after a barn, turn right through a gate. Follow the path towards Flaunden, along the field edge and through a gate to a byway. Turn left

and immediately right, then follow this track to the church at the edge of Flaunden village.

- 6 Taking great care, turn left along the road past the church and round the left hand bend. Continue to the bottom of the hill. Where the road turns sharply left go straight ahead uphill on a bridleway. Follow this often muddy track for 1.5km.



- 7 At a lane, turn right past Flaunden End Farm and first left opposite the entrance to Ley Hill Golf Club. Walk down to a house on the left called Ashridge Barn and take the path directly opposite straight across the golf course. In the distance are the Crown and Swan pubs.
- 8 Pass the pubs, take the first left along Kiln Lane and continue ahead on a wide track to Cowcroft Grange. Turn right downhill past the church and go through a gate just after the last house on the left. Cross the field, through the next gate and straight on to the right of a hedge.
- 9 Where the hedge ends turn right downhill to the valley. Turn left, fork right and follow this wide path to the outskirts of Chesham.

- 10 The path becomes a pavement. Follow it round to the right and stay on it as it descends across two roads to the bottom of the hill. Turn left, cross the road and then the river at the footbridge. To the left are the remains of Lord's Mill. Turn right along the river bank to the roundabout at Amersham Road.
- 11 Cross to a brick wall. Turn right then left through Meades Water Gardens. Follow the winding path to the end. Turn right along Germain St to the pedestrian lights. Cross to Market Sq, continue along the High St and turn right up Station Rd to the finish of the walk.