

How to get to the start

These 10 and 16 mile circular walks start and finish at Chalfont & Latimer railway station. 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



Common blue butterfly

By train: The station is served by Chiltern Railway and London Underground Metropolitan line. Call National Rail Enquiries 0845 600 5165 or visit www.chilternrailways.co.uk or www.tfl.gov.uk/tube

By bus: Bus 71, operated by Carousel Buses, runs between Little Chalfont, Chesham, Amersham, and Latimer. Call 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

By car: There is a car park at Chalfont & Latimer station



Weir below Latimer House

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 and do not allow dogs into the river



Green veined white butterfly

A section of The Chess Valley Walk has been integrated into this walk

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 between Chesham and Chipperfield
Discover Chiltern commons in these circular walks while enjoying extensive and varied views

10 and 16 mile circular walks
from Chalfont & Latimer railway station



The Chilterns

an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Visitor information

Take a break with a picnic on the commons and/or refreshments at a pub along the route.

Little Chalfont has many places to eat including Chinese, Indian and Italian restaurants. The 'Sugar Loaf' pub and the Pomeroy Inn both serve food.

There are numerous pubs on the second half of the walk (ie the Eastern circular walk). Pub names have been **highlighted** in the Route Description.

For details of places to stay, visitor attractions and other walks, contact the Tourist Information Office in Chesham Town Hall (01494 774842) 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 Latimer. The village is made up of a number of 17th and 18th century houses around a village green. Latimer House (Place) was built in 1863 after the original Elizabethan house was destroyed by fire. Once the seat of the Cavendish family, it was the home of the National Defence College from 1847 to 1971. During World War II the house became an interrogation centre for senior prisoners of war, including Rudolf Hess. It is now the Latimer Place conference centre and hotel. Below the house is Latimer Park Farm which was the site of a Roman farm villa in the 1st century.



Latimer House

Points of interest

B The River Chess The River Chess springs from Chesham and continues as the River Colne to its confluence with the Thames. The River Chess is reflected in Chesham's traditional pronunciation of 'Chess-um'.

C Weirhouse Mill. This is the most complete and well preserved mill on the river. Besides corn milling, it was also used for the manufacture of paper.

D Canons' Mill. The site of a Saxon corn mill referred to in the Domesday Book. It was last worked in 1937 and was demolished around 1960.

E Chesham Moor. The Moor (an old English name for marsh) is actually a large island. It was created in the 10th century by Lady Elgiva who diverted the River Chess. Historically, the floodplain meadows provided lush grazing for livestock. Today the moor is a common.

F Big Round Green. This little common is well placed on local bridleways to provide a place to stop shelter and enjoy the seclusion.

G Ley Hill Common. The old clay quarries in the woodland are evidence of the local brick making industry. The common is home to the village cricket pitch and golf course and is a wonderful mix of ancient grassland and recent deciduous woodland abundant with bluebells in spring and with varied native wild plants, flowers and fungi throughout the year.

H Flaunden. Flaunden sits high on a gentle slope looking down towards the valley of the River Chess. Old Flaunden was on the banks of the River Chess in Buckinghamshire but owing to constant flooding was moved up the hill into Hertfordshire in the early 19th century. Flaunden has two pubs, The Bricklayers Arms and The Green Dragon.

I Chipperfield Common. This common was once heath land, but since grazing stopped here in the 1930's, it has become mostly secondary woodland. It contains two early Bronze Age burial mounds, five ponds and eight sweet chestnut trees that date from the 1600's.



River Chess

J Pond at Commonwood. This small common with its pond is a reminder that water was an essential common resource.

K Commonwood Common. An attractive wood crossed by well-trodden paths. The common is in three sections separated by country lanes and provides a natural

habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. Commonwood House, built in 1932 in a mock Tudor style, faces the common. Parts of the exterior are redbrick and timber framed with other parts having a rendered textured finish. The roof has several peaks which are likened to that of a Gambrel shape.

L Sarratt. The village of Sarratt is surrounded by open fields and bordered to the south by the River Chess. Sarratt dates from about AD 700 and has been used as a location in several television and film productions.

M Dawes Common. An attractive 12 acre wood crossed by well-trodden paths, the common is a small but diverse wood, with oak, birch, cherry, hornbeam and rowan. Several open areas with grass, bracken and remnant gorse remain and are managed for their flora and insect interest.

N Watercress Beds. Watercress is one of the oldest green vegetables known to man. The River Chess, with its clean mineral-rich spring water, is ideal for producing this wonderful superfood once a major industry in the Chilterns.

O Frogmore Meadows. A Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest, this is a small meadow haven, untainted by fertilisers and pesticides, where wildflowers and water voles abound.



Watercress beds



Description of route:

The route follows riverside paths and tracks on commons and across fields. Some paths may be muddy in places. There is one stile. Take care when walking the short distances on country lanes. Wear suitable footwear and allow time to rest and enjoy the extensive and varied views.

Map: OS Explorer 172, 181 and 182

1 Leaving Chalfont & Latimer station ticket hall, cross the access road and descend the steps to Bedford Avenue. Turn left and, after 200 metres, turn right into Chenies Avenue. Continue to the end and take the path into the woods.

2 Cross over a brideway and take the left hand fork downhill. At a wide track turn right and almost immediately left and follow this path downhill to and through a kissing gate. Cross the field then cross the Latimer Road via the kissing gates.

For the shorter Eastern circular walk, cross the field and go through the gate. Follow the driveway over the bridge and pass through the gate on your right. Follow the river then cross the field and turn left at the road. Pass Latimer Green and, after approx 300 metres, turn right onto the uphill footpath. At the top of the hill take the path to the left sign-posted Flaunden. The path takes a right then a left turn. Continue in the same direction when joining the road. Pass The Green Dragon on the left and continue to Hogpits Bottom wood. Then follow directions from point **15** to point **30**

For the full walk, or the shorter Western circular walk,

3 Cross the field and go through the gate. Follow the driveway over the bridge and uphill. Just before the end of the driveway turn left through a gate.

4 Walk past the downhill side of Latimer Place. Go through the next gate and follow the path along the edge of the wood. After about a third of a mile as the path descends, go through a footpath waymarked gate on your right. Turn left and continue downhill to another gate at an entrance to a field. Cross the field and, keeping to the right of the hedge, continue all the way to Blackwell Hall Lane. Bear left down the lane.

5 After a few paces turn right along the gravel driveway to Blackwell Lodge. Go around to the left and then ahead through a gate into a field. Continue in the same direction through three further gates to drop down to a brideway. Turn left to join a busy road and turn left to walk past the recycling centre.

6 Turn right into Holloway Lane. Where this bends left, bear half right along a track to the right of Watercress Cottage.

7 After approx 300 metres look for a possibly hidden metal gate on the right and take the path as it winds its way through an industrial site. Cross a metal bridge and turn immediately left to walk along the river bank to the site of Canons' Mill. Here, turn left and immediately right to follow the riverside walk.

8 Follow the river and cross the sports ground (on Chesham Moor) then turn right, cross the river and at the T junction turn left into Waterside (a road).

9 After approx 100 metres, turn right into Trapps Lane and continue uphill. Pass Big Round Green on your left. Continue into Bottom Lane (a paved road) until reaching Tylers Hill Road.

10 Turn right and, after approx 250 metres, turn left before the church onto a public footpath. Cross the field to the far right hand corner.

11 Enter the wood at a kissing gate. (Selecting the correct path through the woods can be challenging – a compass might help.) Follow the path to the right. At the first large pit follow the path to the left until approx half way round the pit. Take the path to the left. Follow a winding path (narrow in places) around further pits. Turn left onto a broad path leading to Kiln Lane.

12 At the road junction there are two pubs to your right The Swan and The Crown. Take the turning to Latimer/Flaunden passing through Ley Hill Common.

13 Pass the golf club and farm buildings on your left. Take the footpath on your left and follow for approx 1 mile.

To return to Latimer for the shorter Western circular walk, turn right onto the road and walk with care for approx 400 metres before turning left onto a footpath. At the top of the hill turn right onto the path signposted to Latimer and follow it downhill to the road and turn left. Immediately after passing Latimer Green, go through the gate on your right and take the left-hand fork and follow the river. Then follow directions from point **28** to point **30**

14 Turn left onto the road and walk with care uphill into Flaunden passing The Green Dragon on the left and continue to Hogpits Bottom wood. (The Bricklayers Arms is a short walk to the left).

15 Enter the woods on a path signposted Chiltern Way. Leave the wood at a kissing gate and turn right on the road.

16 After approx 200 metres, take the left path into Woodman's Wood. At the fork take the left path waymarked Hertfordshire Way. Turn left onto the road.

17 After approx 50 metres turn right onto Windmill Hill. Immediately take the path on the right (entering Chipperfield Common). At the top of the hill, take the right hand fork. Continue on the Hertfordshire Way, initially keeping houses on your right.

18 When reaching a pond on your left, turn right onto a narrow footpath.

19 Leave the path at a kissing gate and, continuing in the same direction, join the road. Turn right at the Cart and Horses. Pass the Pond at Commonwood hidden behind a hedge on your left and continue to Commonwood Common and take the right hand fork. Follow the road through the common, cross a road, continue to the village green at Sarratt (and The Boot and The Cricketers.)

20 Directly cross the green, turn right onto the road for a few metres and turn left onto a footpath signposted Dawes Common 1/2 mile.

21 Enter Dawes Common at a kissing gate and take left hand fork. Cross the road and re-enter the wood at another kissing gate.

22 Leave the wood and join a drive signposted Chiltern Way. After approx 50 metres take the path on your right.

23 Cross the field and walk through the churchyard (Church of the Holy Cross) to an access road. (The Cock Inn is approx 50 metres to the left.)

24 Cross the access road and go through a kissing gate to take the path downhill. Leave the path at the gate, continue a few metres down a track and turn right onto the Chess Valley Walk. Pass through a gate to the left of a house and telegraph pole. Follow the path to a wooden gate at an entrance to a wood. Walk through the wood to a lane and keep in the same direction to the end.

25 Where the lane turns right uphill, take the concrete driveway on the left signposted to Latimer. At the watercress beds, look for the path ahead past a couple of metal rails. Continue on the wooden walkway past the orientation boards (crossing a stile) for Frogmore Meadow Nature Reserve. The path emerges into a field at a gate. Follow the grassy track ahead through a further gate and then between fences to a lane. This section of the path can be muddy at times. Turn left along the lane.

26 Turn right on a gravel driveway by Mill Farm Barns. At the end of the gravel go through the wooden gate on the left and follow the path in the same direction for nearly a mile. Just before a road, take the gate on the right.

27 Cross the road, go through the gate and take the left hand fork and follow the river.

28 Pass through the gate, turn left onto the driveway, cross the bridge and go through the kissing gate on the left into a field. Cross the field and then cross the road via two kissing gates.

29 Go uphill via the right hand fork footpath. Leave the field via a kissing gate and after approx 20 metres enter the trees. Continue uphill crossing a wide path. After approx 50 metres take the right fork and continue uphill, cross a brideway to a cul-de-sac leading directly to Chenies Avenue. Turn left at the end of Chenies Avenue onto Bedford Avenue.

30 After approx 200 metres, turn right to return to the Station.

