



For more information about red kites visit www.chilternsaonb.org or 01844 355500.

Between July and September you might notice the kites have gaps in their wings and tails look rather tatty. They are moulting, and growing new feathers, something they do every year. Don't be surprised if they are less active than normal during these months.



Red kites have a wingspan of 1 1/2 m and have a forked tail. Listen out for their high pitched mewling calls "weeoo - wee - wee". They are mainly scavengers, picking up carrion from the roads and surrounding countryside, but will catch small mammals, insects and worms. Sometimes teddy bears are found in their nests, presumably mistaken for dead animals!

Red Kites: These magnificent birds of prey were re-introduced into the Chilterns in the early 1990's by English Nature and the RSPB. Human persecution had led to their extinction in England by the end of the 19th century; in fact red kites last bred in this area in around 1830. Now, around 200 pairs are breeding in the Chilterns and this is one of the best places to see them gliding overhead.

4 Fillingdon Farm. A local art dealer holds exhibitions of African art here several times a year.

3 The Wycliffe Centre helps UK churches engage in the work of bible translation. It is named after John Wycliffe who, in the late 1300's, became the first person to translate the bible into English. He was an early church reformist and 44 years after he died the Pope ordered his bones exhumed and burned. www.wycliffe.org.uk



2 Bottom Wood is owned by the Chiltern Society and managed by volunteers as a nature reserve, helped by the Chilterns Woodland Project. This ancient wood contains a wide range of trees, including many wild cherries and in early May there are beautiful displays of bluebells. The old well in the wood is now capped in concrete for safety but once provided water to the local villages during a drought in the 1920's. There are also several old sawpits in the valley bottom where timber used to be cut.



1 The Church of St Mary the Virgin dates from the 13th century and still has some of the original wall paintings. In the 1650's religious fanatics covered the paintings in whitewash and they were only revealed during the 20th century restoration.

Features of interest: (see numbers on map)



Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy.

This is close to the place where red kites were first re-introduced and you will be very unlucky if you don't see several of these wonderful birds.

You can start, break or finish your walk with a tasty meal, or refreshing drink.

Piddington walk has no stiles or kissing gates and in dry weather is suitable for all terrain pushchairs.

There is a choice of walks depending on how far you want to go or how much time you have. The Piddington walk has no stiles or kissing gates and in dry weather is suitable for all terrain pushchairs.

These circular walks pass through beautiful Chiltern valleys with panoramic views, ancient beech woods and rolling farmland.

About the walk

Visitor Information

Studley Green is a village with no toilets or shops. There are two pubs and a coffee shop where you can get refreshment/use toilets on the walk. Pubs serve food lunchtimes (12-2) and evenings (after 6).

Garden Centre, Studley Green (01494 485965).
Coffee shop open seven days 10.30am - 4pm.

Three Horseshoes Pub, Radnage (01494 483273).
Open lunchtimes & eves.

The Crown, Radnage (01494 482301).

Dashwood Arms, Piddington (01494 881330).
Open lunchtimes & eves.

For details of places to stay, visitor attractions or other Chiltern walks and rides contact Wycombe Tourist Information Centre 01494 421892 or www.visitbuckinghamshire.org

How to get to the start

You can start the walks from the garden centre on the A40 in Studley Green, between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch, Bucks. You can also start the walks from the pubs in Radnage or Piddington.

By bus: There is a regular 7-day service between High Wycombe and Stokenchurch which calls at Studley Green. Call Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or www.buckscc.gov.uk for times.

By cycle: There is cycle parking at the Three Horseshoes pub in Radnage.

Parking: You can park at the garden centre, but note the car park is closed after 5pm. If the garden centre car park is full or closed you can use the car park at the community centre across the road in Studley Green. You can also park at one of the pubs if you buy food or drink, but please check with staff before leaving your car.

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.
- Please keep your dogs under control.

To download this and other Chilterns walks and rides leaflets visit www.chilternsaonb/activities.asp or call 01844 355504 or buy Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 171 and make your own walk www.ordsvy.gov.uk

The Chiltern Hills were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1965. This is in recognition that the Chilterns countryside is amongst the finest in England and Wales. The Chilterns Conservation Board is the body charged with protecting the AONB. www.chilternsaonb.org.

The Chiltern Society is a charity working to protect and promote the chilterns. To join or for details of guided walks or to obtain footpath maps call 01494 771250 or www.chilternsociety.org.uk.

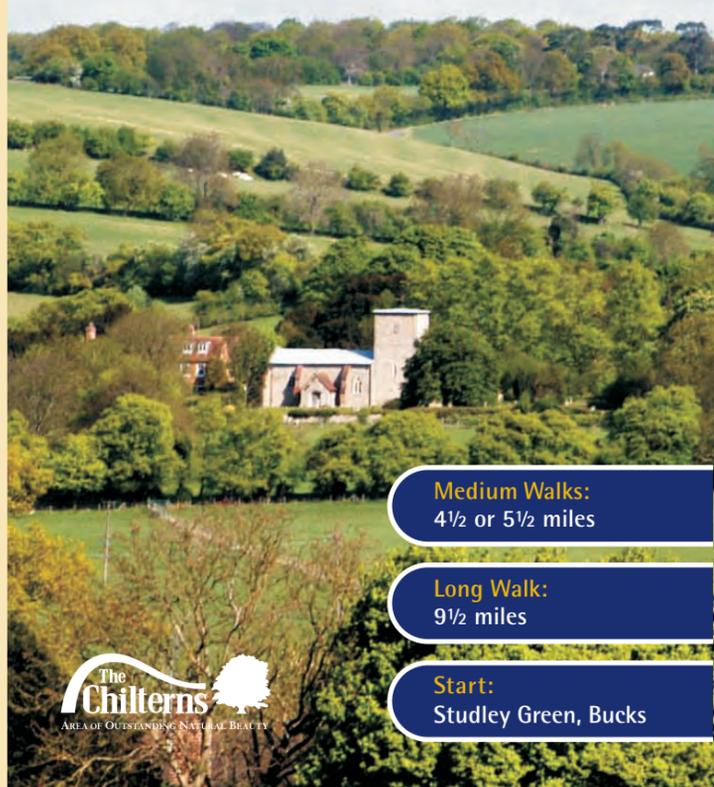
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Chilterns Country

Red Kite Walks



Medium Walks:
4 1/2 or 5 1/2 miles

Long Walk:
9 1/2 miles

Start:
Studley Green, Bucks



Piddington Walk

Distance: 4½ miles, allow 2½ to 3 hours

Access Information: No stiles, kissing gates or steps. Paths muddy in places after wet weather. Mainly gentle slopes with one steeper uphill slope for 50m. In dry weather it is suitable for all terrain pushchairs.

→ From the Garden Centre, cross the main road and turn right towards West Wycombe. In 300m turn left through the gate of a house called Nutfield and go down the footpath (if you arrive by bus, cross the road and turn left, the path is 50m in the direction of Stokenchurch).

→ Where the footpath forks, bear left and carry on down the path between a hedge and a fence. Turn left when you reach the road and in 10 metres turn right still on a tarmac road.

→ After 100m the tarmac surface ends but keep straight on and go through the left metal gate. At the end of the path go through the gate into Bottom Wood. Turn right onto the brideway with the information board on your left. The brideway continues through the wood for about 1 mile, eventually becoming a track.

(In winter the brideway is muddy, to avoid this there is a permissive footpath to the right, opposite the information board and this almost immediately bears left. Follow the path when it bears down left, through a gap in the fence, marked by two white topped posts, and then go uphill on the other side of the brideway, continuing until it joins the main brideway further on.)

→ After you leave the wood follow the track around to the left and then straight on past Ham Farm to the A40. Cross the road (take care!) and with the Dashwood Arms pub on your left go up Chippis Lane for 20 metres and take the brideway to the right.



→ Follow the brideway past Fillingdon Farm and continue along the brideway, past a junction with other paths by a small wood, and along the right hand side of a hedge towards the corner of the next wood.

→ At the edge of the wood follow the brideway left along the edge of a field with a hedge on your left. Continue to follow the brideway through a wood, using the white arrows on the trees to guide you.

→ 50 metres before you reach a road there is an arrow on a tree on the left pointing up the hill to the right. The footpath itself is 15 metres past the tree on the right and you should follow this up the hill.

→ At the top of the hill bear left in the direction of the arrow and continue along the fence until you reach a wood yard. Turn right through a gap in the fence into the Wycliffe Centre, past the first of the huts and keep to the left of the beech hedge, past the water tower and across the main tarmac entrance road. Continue along the track until you reach a brideway, turn left and follow this until you reach the A40.

→ Cross the A40 and turn left towards Stokenchurch for about 400m to the Garden Centre.

Radnage Walk

Distance: 5½ miles, allow 3 to 3½ hours

Access Information: 2 stiles, several steep uphill slopes, paths likely to be muddy in winter and slippery when wet.

→ From the Garden Centre, cross the A40 and turn left towards Stokenchurch. After about 100m turn right onto the footpath and head diagonally right across the field towards the corner of the wood. Follow the path through the wood, indicated by the white arrows on the trees, until you reach the lane.

→ Cross the road bearing slightly right and take the drive before the house. When the drive bears right to garages continue ahead on a narrow footpath heading uphill. Continue as the path runs mainly between fences and hedges for about 300m until a gravel track is reached giving access to a house on the right. Cross the track and follow the fenced footpath to the right between trees until the path drops downhill to reach a junction of footpaths and brideways at the end of a tarmac road. Bear left onto the road and follow it for nearly 300m until Green Lane is reached on the left. Walk the full length of Green Lane for 700m to a T junction.

→ Turn left here onto the oddly named City Road and after 80m turn right onto a footpath by a war memorial. (For refreshments at The Crown continue along the road a short distance and the pub is on the right. Follow this path for 500m initially gently downhill and later more steeply downhill as the path bears left through a wood. Near the end of the wood at a junction with a brideway from the left continue ahead more gently downhill.

After a further 100m bear right on to a gravel track giving access to a house on the left, to eventually reach the road at Bennett End. (For refreshments at the Three Horseshoes Pub continue straight up Horseshoe Road for 100m to the pub on the right. Leaving the pub turn right onto the road enjoying the fine views of the Radnage valley through gaps in the hedge on the right for 400m until the main walk is rejoined where a footpath marked Chiltern Way joins on the left as the road starts to go downhill).

→ To continue the main walk from Bennett End turn left onto Grange Farm Road and after 550m turn right when it splits, towards Grange Farm. Just before the farm turn right onto a footpath (signposted Chiltern Way). Follow the path up the hill, past the telegraph pole and through the gap in the hedge at the top.

→ Continue to follow the Chiltern Way (sign after 20m to right) crossing a small tarmac lane. Veer right down a tarmac drive, past Andridge Farm buildings and cottages and a line of conifers. Bear left until you reach the road, then turn left and follow the road to the junction.

→ Then turn left along another road. After 50m turn right, along the drive of Kirk Stile house, and follow the footpath, right, towards the church, across the road and into the churchyard.

→ Cross the churchyard towards the back and over a stone stile in the wall and follow the Chiltern Way across two fields. When the path splits, bear right (leaving the Chiltern Way) and aim for the right hand side of the wood. Follow the path between the field and the wood, then after the wood continue to follow the path along the slope for ½ mile ignoring other paths. Eventually there is a waymark where the path leaves the field edge and climbs up another steep hill towards Bledlow Ridge. When you reach the junction with a brideway turn right onto the brideway back down into the valley until you reach the road at the bottom.

→ Turn left along the road and then turn right after 350m onto the footpath (ignoring the brideway before this). At the end of the footpath you reach a road. Turn left along the road for 50m then turn right onto a footpath through a gate, before Ashridge Farm drive. Cross the field and head for the right hand end of the large barn. Pass through the gate, marked with an arrow, and straight on past the pond and down the track, through the farmyard. Carry on across the next field between the hedge and the fence passing through two gates into a sunken path into Bottom Wood. Carry on downhill through Bottom Wood until you meet the main brideway. Turn right and follow the brideway. Leave the wood bearing left through a gate, along a wide path between two fields and through another gate at the end.

→ Turn sharp left uphill at the side of a house called Two Ways. After 50m, opposite a cottage called The Cottage there is a gap in the hedge on the right. Go through it and follow the path across a tarmac road and between the gardens of two houses. You will come out on to the A40 through the gate of a house called Nutfield. Turn right along the footpath of the A40 for 300m until you are opposite the Garden Centre.

Long Walk

Distance: 9½ miles, allow 4½ to 5 hours

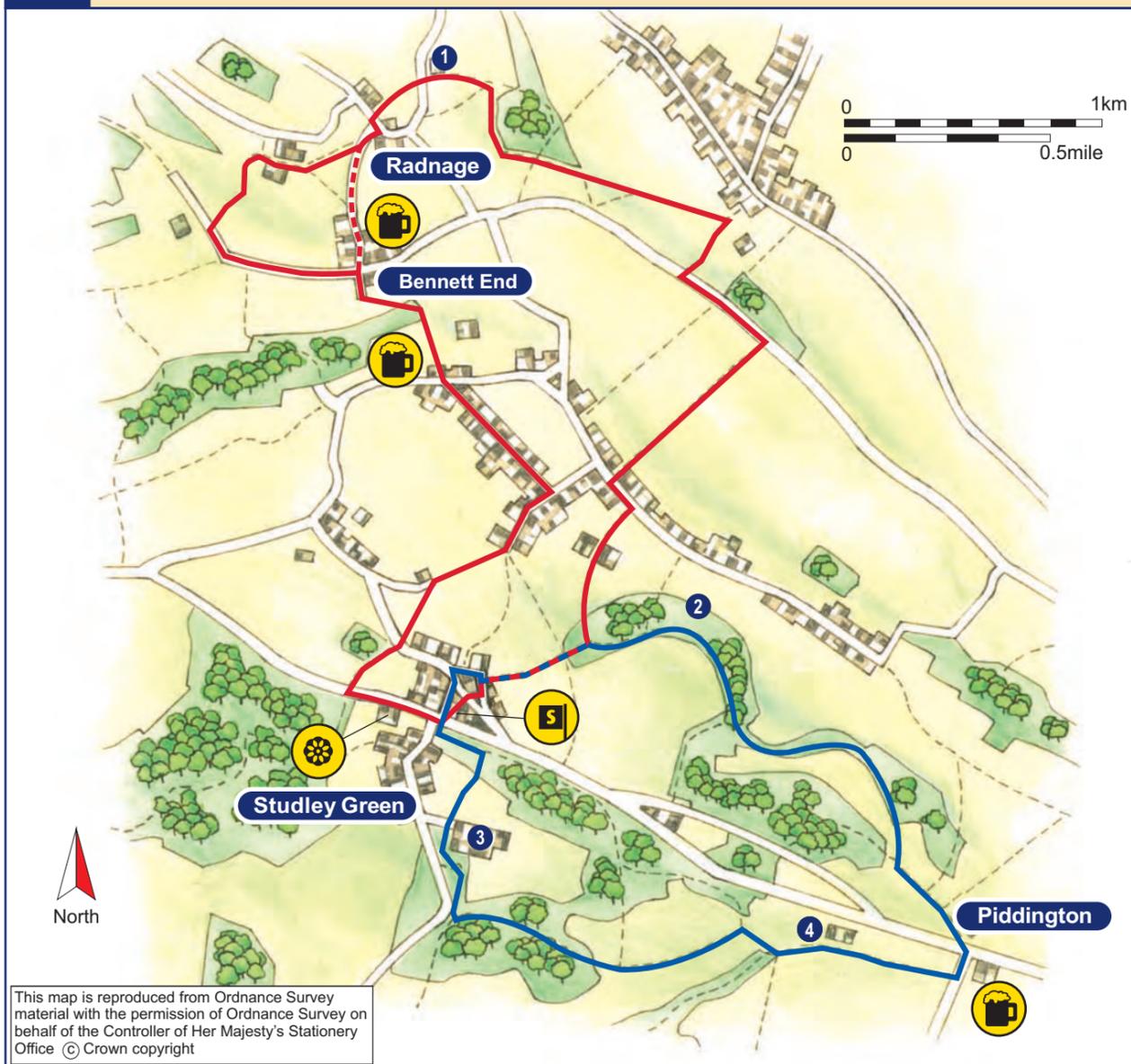
Access Information: 2 stiles, several steep uphill slopes. Paths can be muddy in winter and slippery when wet.

→ Follow the instructions for the Radnage Walk until you enter Bottom Wood, then instead of turning right, turn left and follow the instructions for the Piddington Walk.



Key

- Piddington Walk
- Radnage Walk
- Public House
- Bus Stop
- Garden Centre
- 4 Features of interest



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