The Chiltern Way – Basic Guide

Document under development – please redownload regularly

1 Introduction

1.1 About the project

The Chiltern Way was created by the Chiltern Society as a Millennium Project. To mark its 20th Anniversary, we created directions for walking the route on ViewRanger, opening the route to a whole new audience. ViewRanger is no longer available so we have uploaded the routes to Ordnance Survey's OSMaps platform. Now you can view the route on explore.osmaps.com and navigate along the route using the OSMaps App on a smartphone. This year, 2022, we are publishing these basic directions as a series of downloadable pdf leaflets to help walkers until the new version of the Chiltern Way guide is printed.

The Chiltern Way, North Chiltern Trail and Southern Extension have been published. We are currently working on the Berkshire Loop.

1.2 What will be provided

The Chiltern Way and extensions are divided into stages of from 8 to 15 miles. For each stage, the route guide gives basic instructions on how to follow the stage. When following a route on the app you will see where you are in relation to the route on an interactive map. You can also view the instructions on the internet or print them off as a pdf document together with a basic map of the route.

1.3 Further information

For a fuller guide to the route, we recommend the guide-book for the route: **The Chiltern Way & Chiltern Way Extensions** by Nick Moon. This gives more detailed walk directions together with information on the places you walk through and OS Maps showing the route and points of interest. You can get the book from the Chiltern Society or from Amazon.

The latest updates to the route and other information to help you plan your walk can be found on the Chiltern Way page on the Chiltern Society website.

1.4 In this note

Section 2 gives information to help you follow the route: how the route is waymarked and the terminology and conventions used in describing the route. Sections 3 and 4 explain how to find the route instructions and use them: (3) as a set of leaflets and (4) with the OSMaps App. Section 5 gives links to the OSMaps stages. In section 6 we acknowledge the people who have supported this initiative.

1.5 How you can help us

We want people to enjoy walking the Chiltern Way, so if you come across any issues with paths on the walk or have suggestions on how we could improve the route instructions, please let us know. To contact us:

- Email to: office@chilternsociety.org.uk
- If you are using the OSMaps App, a rating is helpful.

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2 Following the Chiltern Way

2.1 Waymarking

The Chiltern Way and Extensions are well waymarked for both clockwise and anti-clockwise walking. You should find:

- Fingerposts where the route leaves a road.
- Disks at path junctions and sometimes at intermediate points.
- In woodland, look out for white painted arrows on trees with the letters "CW" at key points.

Chiltern Society volunteers check waymarking regularly, but you need to be alert as our signage can be disrupted or hidden by natural and un-natural events (posts fall down due to rot or collisions, markers are hidden by overgrowth etc).

There are only a few miles of the trail where waymarking is not possible, principally on common or access land where the route is not following a Right of Way. Here you need to pay close attention to the directions and map (on-screen or physical).

2.2 Terminology and Conventions

The Route Directions have been created as a group effort (see Acknowledgements) and so the style may vary from section to section. As a minimum you will find instructions on where to go at key junctions and places where you need to pay extra attention to navigation.

The notes will often refer to distances to walk in metres (eg. Walk along the road for 100m). A typical walker will take 1½ minutes to walk 100m (fast walker 1 minute, slow walker 2 minutes).

Most of the route follows Public Rights of Way (ROW), so where the notes mention footpath, bridleway or byway, you should see the associated waymarking provided by the Local Authority, supplemented with Chiltern Way signs.

	OS Landranger 1:50000	OS Explorer 1:25000	Waymark	Access for*	Notes
Public footpath				Walkers only	
Public bridleway				Walkers, horseriders and cyclists	Cyclists should give way
Restricted byway				Walkers, horseriders, cyclists and carriage-drivers	"Road Used as Public Path" on older maps
Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)				All traffic (may only suit off-road vehicles)	

*Access for disability vehicles in all cases

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3   Using pdf Leaflets

We are preparing leaflets covering the stages of the original Chiltern Way. Each leaflet provides a set of walk instructions for the stage together with a linked map (Openstreetmap). You will probably find it helpful to use these in conjunction with an Ordnance Survey map.

The table below shows the stages. The adjacent link will download a pdf for the stage from the Chiltern Society website.

Published as a collection of eleven stages:

Chiltern Way 1 - Hemel H'std to Chalfont St Giles	ChilternWay01.pdf
Chiltern Way 2 - Chalfont St Giles to Marlow Bottom	ChilternWay02.pdf
Chiltern Way 3 - Marlow Bottom to Stonor	ChilternWay03.pdf
Chiltern Way 4 - Stonor to Ewelme	ChilternWay04.pdf
Chiltern Way 5 - Ewelme to Stokenchurch	ChilternWay05.pdf
Chiltern Way 6 - Stokenchurch to Wendover Dean	ChilternWay06.pdf
Chiltern Way 7 - Wendover Dean to Aldbury	ChilternWay07.pdf
Chiltern Way 8 - Aldbury to Chalk Hill	ChilternWay08.pdf
Chiltern Way 9 - Chalk Hill to Streatley	ChilternWay09.pdf
Chiltern Way 10 - Streatley to Peter's Green	ChilternWay10.pdf
Chiltern Way 11 - Peters Gn to Hemel Hempstead via Redbourn	ChilternWay11.pdf

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4 Using with the OSMaps App

In this section we only provide notes specific to using the App with the Chiltern Way Routes. We have assumed that you know the basics of using the App.

4.1 Find a Stage on the Website

Routes are stored on the osmaps.com website.

- Use "Find route" with "Walk/Hike and "Trusted Routes" selected. Go to the area you want to start from by dragging the map or using the "Search locations" box. Scroll down the list of routes in the tab on the left, looking for routes beginning "Chiltern Way…". Select the stage you want from the list displayed below the map. You can look at the description, waypoints and map.
- Alternatively, use the appropriate link in the "Current Status" section below (a list of the stages in each of the trails).
- If you want to use the route on the App, make sure you are logged-on on the website. Click on the heart icon next to the route name. The route will appear on the App after a few minutes in "Routes" under "Favourite routes".

4.2 Find a Stage on the App

Use the "Find routes" option with "Walk/Hike and "Trusted Routes" selected. Click "FIND ROUTES".

The map will show icons at the start point of routes in the area. Click on a point to see the details. When you have found the route you want to follow, you can start navigation right away or "Favourite" the route to use later.

4.3 Start Navigation

You will find routes that you have favourited as above under the "Routes"/"Favourite routes" tab. Select the route you want to walk:

- The App will show the route on a map. You can zoom and pan to see the detail of the route.
- You will find details about the route, including the start point, in the route description. Drag up the section at the bottom of the screen to view.
- When you are ready to start (ideally at the start point for the stage), select "Start Route".

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5   OSMaps - Links

The tables below give lists of the published stages together with the link to that stage on osmaps.com. If clicking the link doesn't work, copy and paste address into browser.

5.1   Chiltern Way

Published as a collection of eleven stages:

Chiltern Way 1 - Hemel H'std to Chalfont St Giles	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11011408
Chiltern Way 2 - Chalfont St Giles to Marlow Bottom	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178574
Chiltern Way 3 - Marlow Bottom to Stonor	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178575
Chiltern Way 4 - Stonor to Ewelme	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178563
Chiltern Way 5 - Ewelme to Stokenchurch	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178565
Chiltern Way 6 - Stokenchurch to Wendover Dean	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178577
Chiltern Way 7 - Wendover Dean to Aldbury	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178568
Chiltern Way 8 - Aldbury to Chalk Hill	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11179080
Chiltern Way 9 - Chalk Hill to Streatley	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178567
Chiltern Way 10 - Streatley to Peter's Green	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178573
Chiltern Way 11 - Peters Gn to Hemel Hempstead via Redbourn	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/12699507

5.2   North Chiltern Trail

A collection of four stages, forming a 43 mile circular route around the North Chilterns.

NCT1 - Lilley to Barton	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178569
NCT2 - Barton to Gt Offley	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178570
NCT3 - Gt Offley to Peters Gn	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178562
NCT4 - Peter's Green to Lilley	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178572

5.3   Southern Extension

The 4 stages of the Southern Extension visit the south-west of the Chilterns. Can be made into a circular walk using part of Chiltern Way stage 4 in reverse.

SE1 - Upper Bix Bottom to Sonning Common	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178566
SE2 - Sonning Common to Whitchurch	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178578
SE3 - Whitchurch to Woodcote	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178564
SE4 - Woodcote to Ewelme	https://explore.osmaps.com/en/route/11178579

5.4   Berkshire Loop

Being documented.

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6   Acknowledgements

6.1   Creator

The Chiltern Way was designed by Nick Moon in 2000 as a Millennium project for the Chiltern Society. Nick's guide book, updated and extended periodically since launch, is the best and most comprehensive guide to the Chiltern Way (section 1.3 above has details).

6.2   Contributors

The walk instructions uploaded to ViewRanger/OSMaps were created from scratch rather than being a transcription of the guide book. The following is a list of Chiltern Society volunteers who contributed directly or indirectly to these instructions:

Louis Upton, Peter Wilkes, John Ingold, Paul Wisdell, Mike Fox, David Harris, Paul Coleman, John White, Jenny Gilmour, Andrew Clark, Paul Mason, John Rowe, Nigel Agar.