

**Summary:** Difficulty: MODERATE, Distance: 7.3 miles, Ascent: 207m

## Overview

Chiltern Way from Sonning Common to Whitchurch Hill via Mapledurham.

**TERRAIN:** Easy walking in open country and woods. Undulating, with one steep slope after Mapledurham  
**START:** Bird In Hand Pub, Sonning Common B481

**FINISH:** Whitchurch Hill, Recreation Ground

**FOOD AND DRINK:** The Sun Inn at Whitchurch Hill. The Bird in Hand at Sonning Common but not open for lunch weekdays

**COMPLETING THIS STAGE:** No public transport within the route.

**PARKING:** Roadside lay-by parking in Kennylands Road. Ample parking at Whitchurch Hill recreation ground. Very limited parking at Mapledurham.

Visit [Chiltern Way](#) for information and news. You can view a detailed map on [OS Maps](#) and follow this stage on the app. The next stage is [6 - Whitchurch to Woodcote](#).

For more detailed information on this stage and on the Chiltern Way we recommend the "Chiltern Way including the Berkshire Loop" book by Nick Moon available from the [Chiltern Society](#).

## Route Description

### 1: Start

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU71567919 LatLon 51.5071,-.9702

From the Bird in Hand pub, cross the main road (B481) to a footpath opposite which leads into the Sonning Common Millennium Green. Keep to the left edge of the green along a gravel path through some woods to a wooden gate on the left that opens on to Bird in Hand Lane. Turn right and then left on Kennylands Road for about 100m to a field gate on the right.

### 2: Kennylands Road

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU71537897 LatLon 51.5052,-.9707

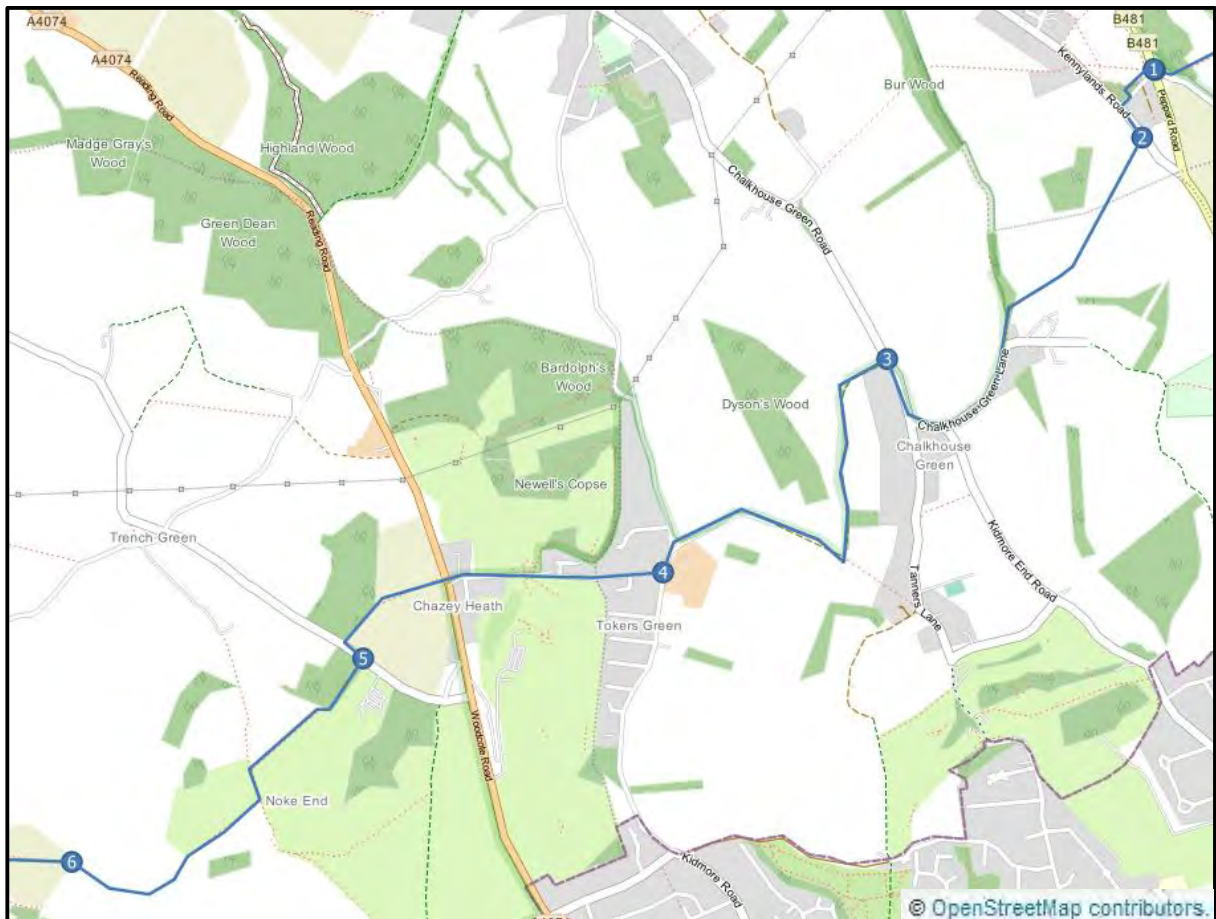
From the field gate follow the well-defined footpath across a field to a gap in a hedge and a gate into a fenced path between pastures. At the end of this path another gate opens into a short wooded section and to a gate into the garden of a house known as Thimble Cottage. Keep to the right through the garden to reach a paved lane and turn right towards Chalkhouse Green. Follow the lane with cottages on the left, passing a road entering from the left and a traditional red phone box on the right. Pass the end of Tanners Lane and then some houses on the left to reach the entrance to a Restricted Byway on the left after the last house.

### 3: Waypoint 3

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU70747827 LatLon 51.4990,-.9822

The rough flinty bridleway slopes down to turn left at the bottom, where it levels out and along for about 600m to reach a T-junction at a fence. Turn right and follow the gravel track sloping gently up to join and turn left on a road in Tokers Green with houses to the right. Turn left on this road for a short distance.

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## 4: Tokers Green

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU70057760 LatLon 51.4931,-.9922

Turn right on to Rokeby Drive, a residential road that soon crosses Mapledurham Golf Course before reaching the busy A4074. Cross this busy road and a few yards to the right take a footpath through a hedge gap into a field and follow the path across the field to enter a short wooded section and a road. Turn left here for about 50m.

## 5: Newell's Lane

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU69127732 LatLon 51.4907,-1.0057

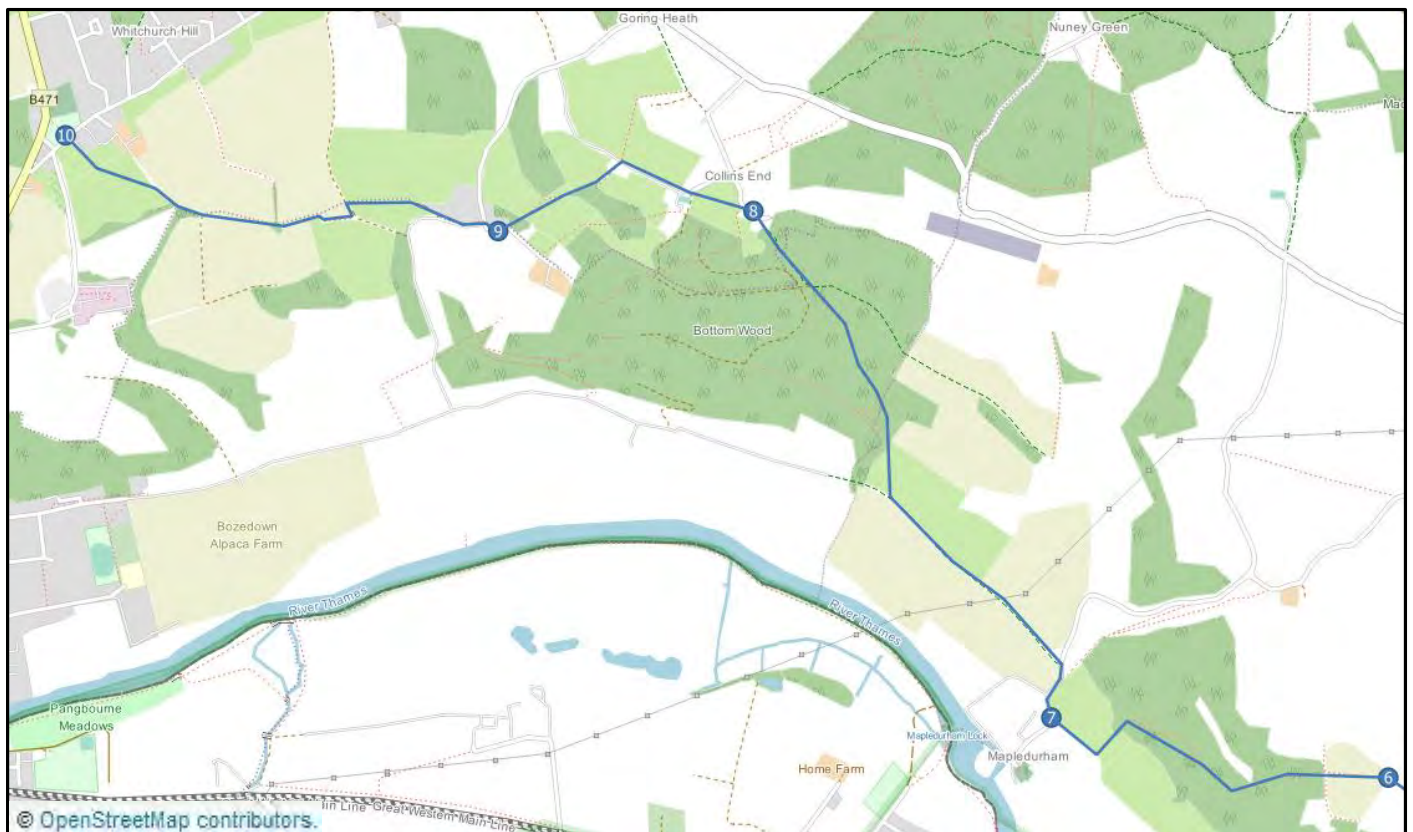
Turn right onto a bridleway known as Newell's Lane sloping downwards with woods to the right and Caversham Heath Golf Club to the left. Turn left where a path joins from the right and then right, ignoring a track on the left. After crossing a part of the golf course the path follows the left boundary of a field before entering a fenced section followed by a concrete drive between farm buildings and passing Rose Farm House.

## 6: Pond Lane

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU68227668 LatLon 51.4850,-1.0188

When you meet a paved drive called Pond Lane at a T-junction, go straight across to a wooden gate into a field. Take the footpath across this field to a gate entering woods. The path then slopes downhill through the woods, passing a brick-built tower or folly on the left. Ignore crossing tracks to reach a gate into a field. At the bottom of this field a gate opens to a road. Turn right and reach the village of Mapledurham.

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## 7: Mapledurham

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU67107686 LatLon 51.4868,-1.0349

Follow the road round to the right, passing the gated entrance to Mapledurham House Watermill and Turbine on the left. Continue to a track to the left. Follow this track between hedges on both sides for about 750m to a kissing gate on the right that opens into a grassy meadow. The path then slopes quite steeply upwards for about 150m to reach a point with a good view behind of Mapledurham House and of the Thames and into Berkshire beyond. A gate opens into woods where the path begins to slope down taking a right fork. After passing a plantation of new ash trees on the right, and at the bottom of this slope, go directly across two tracks and immediately onto a path sloping up between banks caused evidently by erosion over many years. At the end of this sloping section continue on to a paved drive passing Holly Copse Cottage and Holly Copse house on the left.

## 8: Holly Copse

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU66097853 LatLon 51.5019,-1.0491

Where the lane swings right, keep straight ahead on a bridleway, rejoining the paved lane after 150m. Keep ahead on the paved lane for a further 200m then turn left on a track between hedges and houses to a gate into a field. Cross this field to a gate from which the path goes to the right with woods on the left then through a kissing gate onto a narrow path fairly steeply down. Cross a field passing a solitary oak tree to the left. The path then slopes up to a gate that leads into a short wooded section and to a road at Path Hill.

## 9: Path Hill

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU65257845 LatLon 51.5013,-1.0613

Turn right here and then, after a few metres, turn left at a junction by the sign for Oxford Renewables. Pass Pilgrim Cottage on the right, then Path Hill House and then bear right at Oak Cottage, leaving the road on a short gravel track. Follow the grassy path up a slope keeping a hedge to the right. Looking southward to the left is a nice view over open Thames Valley countryside and towards Reading. At the end of this slope a gate leads into a narrow, hedged path. Turn left and very soon

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reach a gate on the right into a large field. Keep to the left side of this field, pass through a line of trees into another field. Initially there is fence to the left and then a thick hedge. About half-way along this hedge is a narrow gap to a gate that leads into a grassy meadow. The path goes at an angle across the meadow to an ancient iron kissing gate and a paved drive with a terrace of cottages to the right. At the end of this short drive reach a road with the Whitchurch Hill recreation ground ahead,

## **10: Whitchurch Hill**

**Coordinates:** OSGB SU63817875 LatLon 51.5041,-1.0820

We hope you have had a good walk. We are committed to making the Chiltern Way as enjoyable as possible, so if you feel we could improve the directions or came across any path problems, please leave a review or contact us directly by e-mail: [office@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:office@chilternsociety.org.uk).