



Map: Glyn Kuhn
Photos: Colin Drake

The Chiltern Link

With **Andrew Clark**

Thanks to the Society's Donate-a-Gate scheme* you can now experience open fields, lovely beech woodland and the peace and quiet of classic Chilterns countryside, all without the need to clamber over stiles.*For more information see Points of Interest.

START: Wendover Station, Station Approach, Pound Street, Wendover HP22 6BN. Park in Wendover Library car park, High Street, Wendover HP22 6DU

FINISH: Chesham Station, Station Approach, Chesham HP5 1DH

DISTANCE: 9 miles/14.5km

TERRAIN: Easy walking on good paths, with numerous gates. Total ascent of 500ft/150m

Route

From the station entrance, walk up the slope to the main road, turn left down through the village and turn right along Heron Path, on the right just before the mini-roundabout and clock tower.

1. Continue ahead along the surfaced path all the way to a lane in front of St Mary's Church. Turn left along the lane to a road junction and cross to a minor road directly opposite to pass Wellhead Cottage on the right. Stay on this gradually rising and later unmade track for 1km to the entrance to Boswells Farm and its lovely avenue of trees. Continue for a further 200m to a path junction where The Ridgeway turns to the left. Walk straight on for a few metres and, at the fork, take the footpath on the left uphill to the top. Go through a gate past Concord House.
2. Go through the next gate directly ahead into a field. Cross it, go through the next gate, walk straight ahead to the left of the hedge and through two more gates onto a road.
3. Turn right for a few metres and left along the concrete driveway for Kings Ash Barn. Where it ends, turn right through two gates into a paddock and continue ahead through two further gates to the edge of a large field. Walk directly ahead to the right of the hedgerow for

MAPS: OS Explorer 181, Chiltern Society 3 & 8

REFRESHMENTS: Plenty of pubs and cafés in Wendover and Chesham, and The Cock & Rabbit pub at The Lee

LOCAL TRANSPORT: Wendover is served by mainline trains between Marylebone and Aylesbury, and Chesham by Metropolitan trains from Baker Street. There's an interchange at Chalfont & Latimer. For bus services please check www.traveline.info.

- the next 1.3km to a crossing farm track. Go through the gate into a field, fork left towards the houses and pass through two further gates. In this field there's an option to visit the old and new churches by taking the stile on the right. Otherwise, continue through the field and a gate onto a road. Turn right along the road and, at the village green, fork right to the road junction by The Cock and Rabbit pub.
4. Turn right, then immediately left along the lane for 350m to the first bend. Turn left on a wide path into the woods. Follow this wide track through two gates and continue ahead to go through a further gate onto a road.
5. Cross to a stony lane directly opposite and walk along to Rose Cottage. Turn right along a wide track and, near the end, take the footpath on the right. Go through a gate and climb up the track. At the top, continue ahead on a path between a field and hedgerow. At the T-junction, turn right past a gate and walk between the fields for 500m to a gate. Go through it, turn left and through the next gate to an unmade lane. Turn right, walk along the lane for 65m, and keep to the left of The Old Cottage. Follow the path along and down through a gate to a lane.

Continued overleaf



St Mary's Church, Wendover



The Lee

6. Turn left along the lane and take the bridleway on the right just after the junction with Little Hundridge Lane. Follow this bridleway for the next 2.3km along Herberts Hole to a lane. Turn right along it for 140m and turn left through a gate into a field. Cross this field and the next to go through another gate onto a lane.
7. Cross it, climb up and follow a wide path uphill keeping straight ahead through a small wood to emerge into Lowndes Park. Continue straight ahead with woodland on the right and a grassy slope on the left, then bear half-left up the grassy track to the top of the hill to see the excellent views over Chesham from the information board

and 'Rolling Pin' mound. Bear half-right down the hill through the community orchard to rejoin the path to the right of the hedgerow. Stay ahead past the Guides HQ on the left and the large iron gates on the right. Follow the surfaced track round to the right to the main road, Church Street. Cross over and turn left along the pavement to the dual carriageway, St Mary's Way. Take the pedestrian crossing over it, turn left and immediately right along Church Street. Turn left into the High Street and right up Station Road to finish the walk at Chesham Station.

Points of Interest

The Chiltern Link is an official Buckinghamshire Council-promoted route set up to follow closely the ancient trade route from Wendover to Chesham. It also links The Ridgeway National Trail with The Chess Valley Walk, allowing the route to be extended to Rickmansworth.

Donate-a-Gate is a scheme whereby members of the public can mark a special event such as an anniversary or an important birthday, or remember a special person. At the same time, it helps improve access and safety for the thousands of walkers who enjoy the Chilterns. The Chiltern Link became stile-free this year when one donor provided the funds for nine gates. Since the scheme started in 2005, over 630 gates have been donated, and installed by our path maintenance volunteers. Its success has only been possible thanks to the generosity of the donors and close co-operation between the Chiltern Society, the Buckinghamshire Council Rights of Way team and landowners. The scheme is run by Stuart Gulliman on behalf of the Society. You can find out more on our webpage: <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/donate-a-gate/>.

Wendover is a market town that lies on the ancient Icknield Way and nestles at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. Its name comes from the Celtic term meaning 'white waters', which refers to the chalky deposits in the local streams. On leaving the town, the route passes Rope Meadow and St Mary's Church. The Rope Meadow and Hampden Conservation Area is a wild flower meadow which was once the site of Albert Payne's rope and sack business, and was given to the town in 1936. During the summer it's rich with wild flowers and grasses. The parish church of St Mary's dates back to the 13th century, although there are records of an earlier building. During the Civil War, Oliver Cromwell's troops were camped in the town and some of their graffiti can still be seen at the church. One local legend says that Cromwell himself stayed overnight at The Red Lion Inn and addressed his troops from one of the upstairs windows.

A. Hogtrough Lane: The origin of the name 'Hogtrough' is unclear, but as early as 1620 the lane is recorded as being the way to Chesham. It's thought to have been well used by packhorses carrying shoes made in Wendover to the main centre of this local industry in Chesham.

B. The Lee is one of the most beautiful villages in the Chilterns. Its name derives from the Old English *leah* meaning 'a clearing in a wood'. The village encircles its large green, and has many beautiful brick houses. One of them is Lee Manor, once home to the Liberty family (owners of the Liberty department store in London). Sir Arthur Liberty bought the last two wooden hulks from the Royal Navy and used timber from them to construct the shop's 'Tudor' facade. Only one ship had a figurehead, that of Admiral Lord Howe, hero of the battle of Ushant in 1794. It was brought to The Lee and positioned at the top of the rear drive to the Manor. Following the death of Sir Arthur's nephew in 1952 it was moved to its present site at Pipers, a few hundred metres from the green. The Lee has been used many times as a location for the TV series *Midsomer Murders*.

C. Herberts Hole: The origin of this unusual name isn't known, but could possibly derive from 'harbour', a drover's name for an overnight resting place. Over the last few years, the owners of the Hundridge Estate have planted new hedgerows beside the path. Some of the older ones have been dated to the 15th century, corresponding to the strong enclosure movement at that time. Some of the fields to the western end of Herberts Hole were given the name 'Stubbins', after the stubs or stumps of trees left in the ground as woods were cleared to create fields. *Several of the Points of Interest have been taken from leaflets produced by Buckinghamshire Council and Chesham Walkers are Welcome.*

Photographs of Wendover, The Lee and Chesham can be found on our PhotoGroup's website: www.chilternphoto.org.uk