

Free

Great Walks in the Chiltern District

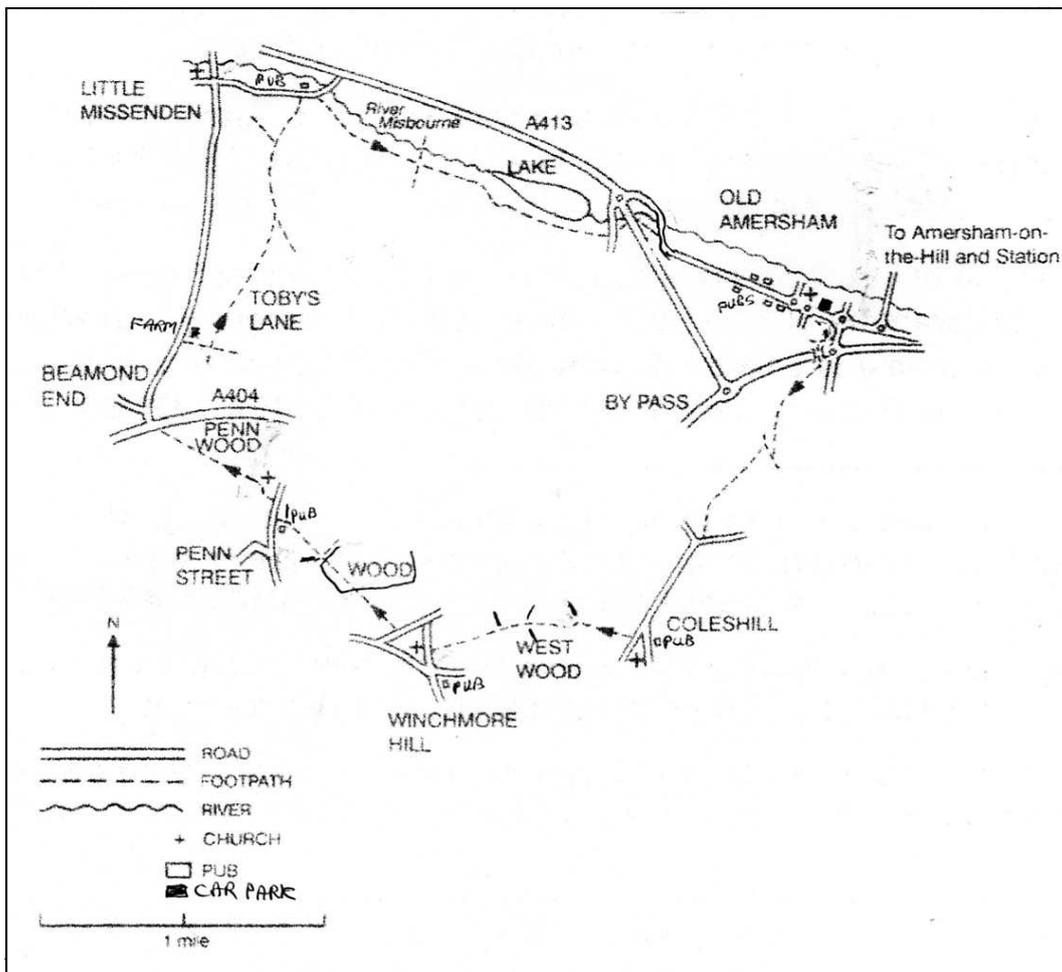
8 mile walk to Four Chiltern Villages (3-4 hours)

Wellies or boots are advised if it has rained recently. Yellow arrows on stiles and posts may guide you. Some of the stiles may have been replaced by gates.

This walk starts from The Dovecote car park in The Broadway, Old Amersham.

Buses 4, 336, 353, 62 and 52 stop nearby. Please note if you are intending to use the bus service, not all of the bus routes run on Sunday, for more details check the bus timetable on www.traveline.org.uk

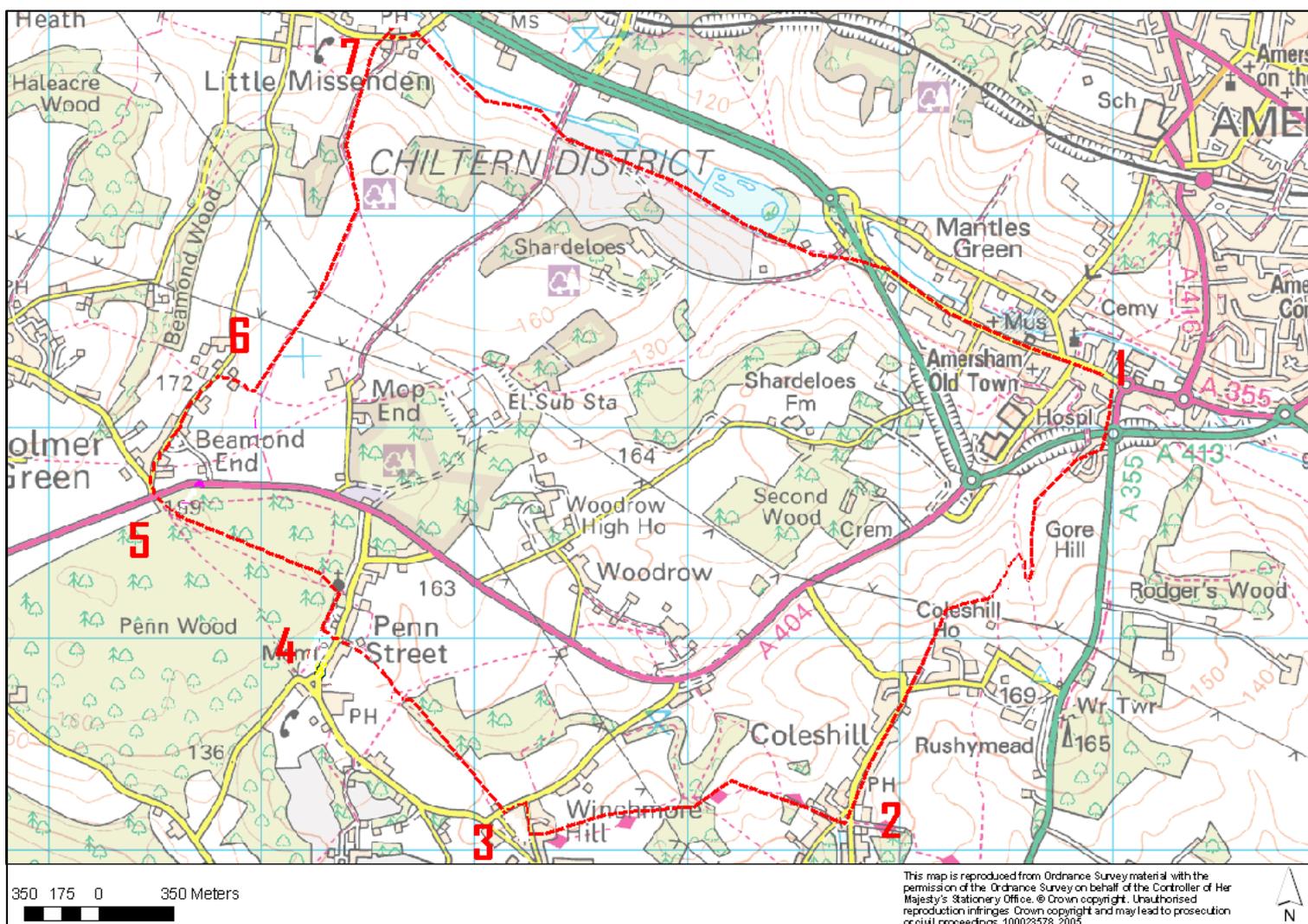
Amersham Station on the Metropolitan and Chiltern Lines is 1 mile up Station Road.



Public
Footpath



Chiltern
District Council



Turn left out of the car park (1) and then right up Gore Hill to the next roundabout. Take the tarred footpath up on your right and cross the by-pass by the Royle Footbridge. Turn right along the footpath behind gardens and then continue to walk upwards between fields for about 500 yards. Just before you reach a hedge, turn sharp right and walk up towards the end of a low bank (the path may not be easily visible). Turn left to walk above the bank to the end and then continue along the left side of a large field with views down to Old Amersham. Pass beneath the overhead cables and then turn left through a gap in the trees, across two stiles and alongside a white fence to pass Cherry Tree Farm and then continue to meet a road. Walk ahead along Village Road to Coleshill village centre (2).

Coleshill is a delightful village, at 550 feet high, with Georgian houses clustered round the flint-built All Saints Church. The Red Lion public house is to the left of it. Fork right before the church and after 100 yards, turn right towards Lands Farm. Pass through a wooden gate, continue across a stile, then take the left hand gate and continue to a stile at the end. You come out on a large field with extensive views to left towards Surrey and to the right over the Chiltern Hills towards Wendover. Walk down across the field to the left side of the first group of trees and make for the path through the wood ahead, West Wood. The wood is only 100 yards wide here; then walk on the right side of the hedge to reach the Methodist church in Winchmore Hill (3).

To the left is the Potters' Arms pub, recalling centuries of pottery making in the area. However turn right down The Hill, left at the bottom and then turn right in 200 yards along the footpath. Cross the field ahead through two kissing gates and a stile and continue into the next wood, Priestlands Wood, with a kissing gate at either end. At the end, go straight ahead across the centre of the field (the path may not be visible on the ground), passing a lone telephone pole and make for the stile at the other side. Cross this stile and the path takes you to Penn Street village opposite a pond (4). To the left is the large village green with The Squirrel pub down the road. If you do not want to stop here, turn right along the road for 50 yards and take the footpath on the left past the vicarage to Holy Trinity Church, another flint church, surrounded by azaleas and rhododendrons in season.

Turn left in front of the church into Penn Wood, the largest beechwood in the Chilterns, now being managed by the Woodland Trust. You first walk along an all-weather surface designed for wheelchairs and then the footpath continues ahead through this wood until you reach the busy A404 road to High Wycombe (5). Pass the wooden kissing gate and cross this fast road with great care (!) into Sheepcote Dell Road. Fork immediately right towards Beamond End, the 13th century ancestral home of the Penn family, who emigrated to and founded Pennsylvania.

If the wood was very muddy, you can walk the whole length of Beamond End Lane down into Little Missenden. On a dry day, just walk about 500 yards along the Lane, passing a pond, until you come to Oaklands Farm (6). Go through the gate on the right here and walk until you meet a path junction. Turn left here onto a wide bridleway, Toby's Lane, which can be muddy and overgrown. (If it is too bad, go back to the Lane) (6). Follow this for 1 mile, ignoring paths to the side and you eventually drop down and catch sight of Little Missenden (7). This is a beautiful village, your fourth and last, set in the Misbourne Valley, with water meadows and brown brick houses, dominated by the tower of St John the Baptist Church. This was originally Saxon, and nearby stood a Norman castle guarding the valley road.

When you reach the road, the church and village centre is to your left. Turn right by The Crown Inn and follow the South Bucks Way along the River Misbourne back to Amersham. You pass through a series of metal and wooden gates, skirt the edge of Shardeloes Lake with its wildfowl, and above to the right is Robert Adam's grand portico adorning Shardeloes Manor, once home for 300 years to the Drake family, squires of Amersham. The Way finally crosses the cricket ground behind the pavilion, out the gates of the Manor grounds, onto a path which dips under a road bridge alongside the river and then follows several pavements to reach Amersham High Street with many pubs, cafes and restaurants and the car park.

Simply Walk

These leaflets have been written to encourage you to be more active more of the time!

Walking is a great way to improve your health, it can help to:

Reduce your risk of coronary heart disease and diabetes reduce high blood pressure
Increase life expectancy, mood, confidence and stamina, help you to lose weight.....and it is free!

Experts recommend you to try and walk for 30 minutes at least 5 times a week to benefit your health....walk briskly for the best results, so that you can still talk but are getting warmer.

For those of you who are less active and want to start slowly there is a programme of short (1-2 miles) led walks to get you started.

For more information please contact Simply Walk on 01494 475367

Email: simplywalks@buckscc.gov.uk

or visit website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way

If you would like to know more about the local group of the Ramblers Association, or would like to know of more walks in the Chiltern District, please call Madeline Moody on **01494 727504** or look on the website **www.ramblers.org.uk** and click on local groups

There are many more walks within the Chiltern District, which are detailed in a number of leaflets and publications.

There are a number of books covering walks, including themed walks from pubs and tearooms. Many of these area available from tourist information centres, bookshops or your local library.

For more information , please ring the Tourist Information Centre at High Wycombe on **01494 421892**

Or contact the Marketing and Tourism Officer at Chiltern District Council on **01494 732023**

All our walks leaflets and visitor information can be found on our website at

www.chiltern.gov.uk



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