

The Chiltern Link

This walk follows the ancient trade route from Wendover to Chesham.
An 8 mile walk through classic Chilterns countryside linking
The Ridgeway National Trail with the Chess Valley Walk

Linear Walk

Directions

- From Hale Road, walk down Hogtrough Lane. At Concord Wood, continue along the footpath through the wood. At the end of the wood, cut straight through Concord House following the public footpath sign.
- Turn left when entering the field to follow the field edge onto King's Ash. Cross the Chesham Lane and enter the field again. Walk towards The Lee on the field edges following the sign posts.
- Emerging onto the main road in The Lee, turn right into the village. At the junction, veer right to go round the southern side of the Village Green. At junction on the Cook & Rabbit Inn, turn right into a stone surfaced track.
- Continue down the track for another 30 metres and enter woodland footpath on left hand side. Carry on along the woodland track and at end of track cross the main road in Ballinger Bottom. Continue along the track and enter the footpath as signposted.
- Walk through the woods and enter the field. Keeping on the field edges, take a right at the junction at the bottom of the field. Continue walking south until the footpath meets the stone surfaced track. Go slightly left and through the gate to continue southwards. The footpath comes to junction with Herberts Hole. Enter the Herberts Hole stone surfaced track.
- At end of the track, walk on Drydell Lane for 145 metres before entering the field again. Walk across the field and cross Pednor Road. Go up the hill and turn right at the top towards Chesham Town. Walk down to the pond through Lowndes Park and turn right into Bury Lane. The walk finishes at High Street.



Features of Interest

- The origin of the name "Hogtrough" is unclear but as early as 1620 the Lane is recorded as being the way to Chesham. It is thought to have been well used by pack-horses carrying shoes made at Wendover to the main centre of this local industry at Chesham.
- The woodland mainly consists of beech with conifers, several interesting plants have been identified in Concord wood including broadleaved helleborine, lady's mantle and in clearings, the Chiltern gentian, the county flower of Buckinghamshire. The willow warblers arrive in spring from East Africa.
- The disused church dates back to 13DC with 19 DC replacements. Churchyard stands a memorial to Arthur Lasenby Liberty, a draper from Chesham who founded the famous Liberty Store in Regent Street in London. Whilst living at the Manor House Arthur Lasenby Liberty was responsible for extensive rebuilding of the village including creation of the green.
- Two unusual features of the green are the sarsen stone at the western end of the green and the large Hertfordshire puddingstone near the Cook & rabbit Inn. The puddingstone was brought from Mobwell near Great Missenden early this century. The sandstone sarsen is more local, having been removed from a field at Lee Gate in 1911.



- Among the tree species, Bellows Wood contains holly and hornbeam, Holly was held to have magical properties, a belief which came about by its habit of producing fruit in the winter when most other trees are dormant. The hornbeam is associated in this area with parish boundaries.



- At the Herberts Hole, the hedgerows in this area have been dated to the 15th century, corresponding to a strong enclosure movement at this time. The abundance of hazel in the hedgerow suggests that the hedges are all that remains of the ancient woodlands which once covered the area.
- Some of the fields to the western end of Herberts Hole were given the name "Stubbins" after the stubbs or stumps of trees left in the ground as woods were cleared to create fields.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Further Information:

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or visit our website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way



The Chiltern Link Route

