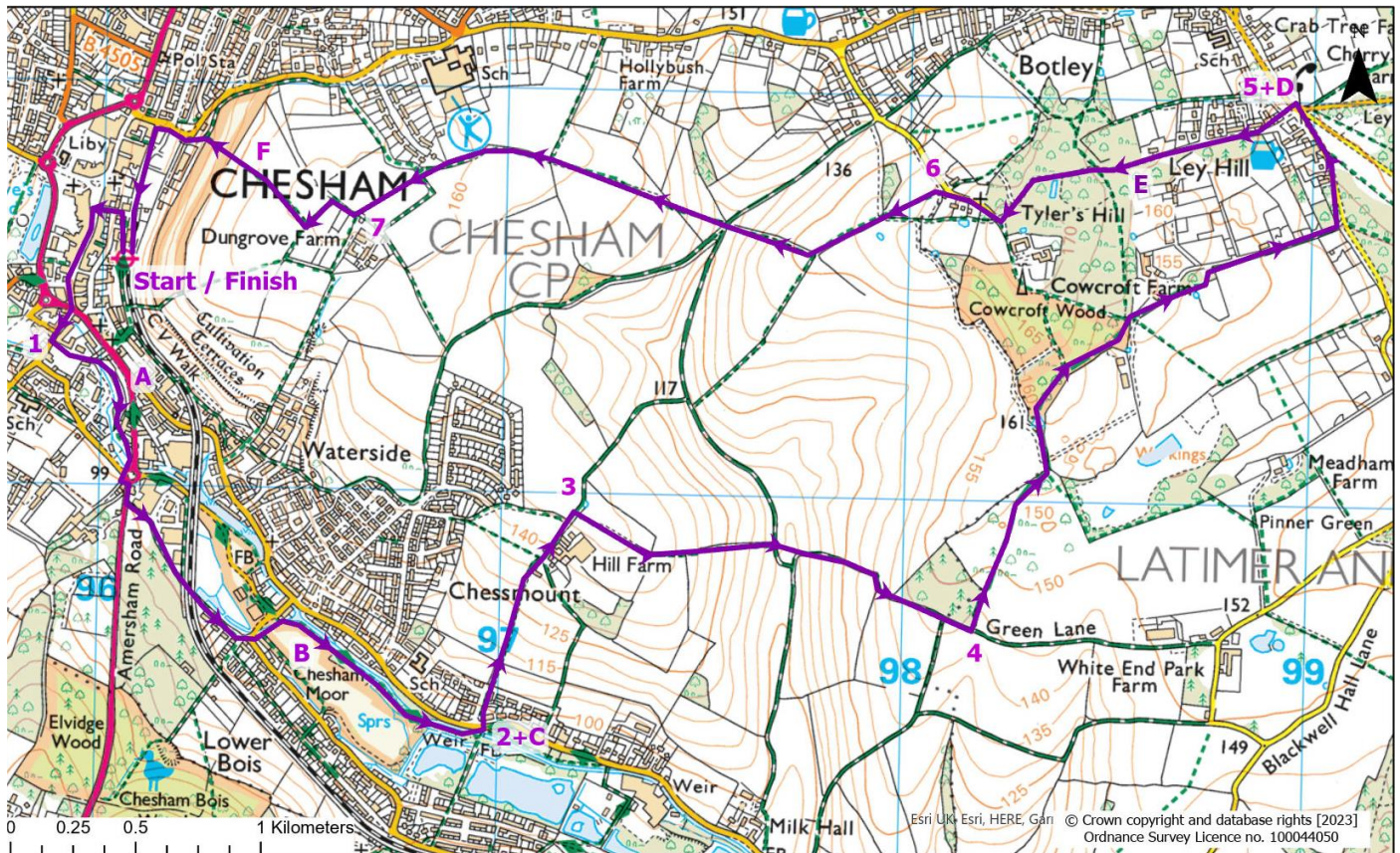


Chess Valley Circular Walks – Chesham Loop

This walk explores the network of paths in beautiful rolling countryside lying between Chesham and the cluster of villages of Tylers Hill, Ley Hill and Botley. It passes the Cowcroft Wood nature reserve where bluebells and wild orchids can be found during the early summer.



- Start:** Chesham Metropolitan Line Station, Station Approach, Chesham HP5 1DH
- Distance:** 5.6 miles/9km
- Terrain:** A moderate stile-free walk which can be muddy at times. There are three climbs with a total ascent of 560ft/170m
- Maps:** OS Explorer 181, Chiltern Society 17
- Refreshments** There are many places in the town. On the route there are The Crown and The Swan pubs in Ley Hill
- Parking:** Chesham Station car park, or others in the town
- Local Transport** There are bus services near the station. Please check www.traveline.info for services

Route

From the underground station, turn left down Station Road and left again into the High Street. At the far end, take the pedestrian crossing into Germain Street and continue to a path on the left just before the river bridge (signposted Chess Valley Walk and Chiltern Heritage Trail).

1. Turn left and follow the path through Meades Water Gardens to the main road. Turn right, cross Amy Lane and the main road to reach the far side of the roundabout. Turn right, follow the pavement uphill and turn left on a path between a factory estate and the Christmas tree farm. Fork right under the railway bridge and walk along an unmade lane. At the end go round to the left to a small bridge and cross the road

onto Chesham Moor. Follow the small stream on the left until it meets the River Chess, then turn right along its bank for 550m to reach a waterfall (Canon's Mill).

2. Turn left past the waterfall. Walk up the slope to a road and crossover to Hill Farm Road. Climb to the top of the hill, go through a gate and continue up past the farm buildings to a gate on the right.

3. Go through the gate, cross straight over the field and through a gate on the other side. Turn left downhill and pass through two further gates to meet a bridleway at the bottom. Go straight over and drop down into a field. Cut across its corner and turn right through a gap in the hedgerow to a bridleway. Turn left uphill, follow the bridleway round to the right then left, and continue for 250m to a kissing gate on the left.

4. Go through the gate, keep to the left-hand edge of the field and follow the path to the right-hand corner. Go through the gate, turn left to a wide gap between two fields and follow the track ahead between a fence and a hedgerow. Continue for 350m to a path junction by a Woodland Trust noticeboard. Turn right out of the wood, then immediately left and follow the bridleway for 600m to a lane (Blackwell Hall Lane). Turn left along it, past The Crown and The Swan pubs to the first turning on the left (Kiln Lane).

5. Turn left along it, past Cowcroft Nature Reserve, for 750m to Cowcroft Grange. Turn right downhill past the church and, just after the last house, go through a gate on the left on a path signposted Chiltern Heritage Trail.

6. Cross straight over the field, go through the next gate and stay in the same direction to the right of a hedgerow. Where it ends, turn right downhill, go over a crossing track and climb the hill ahead into a field. Follow the path diagonally across the field towards the right-hand end of the hedgerow ahead. (The actual line of the path may vary after ploughing). Go through the wide gap into the next field, keeping to its right-hand edge. Go over the access road to Dungrove Farm, through a kissing gate and cross the field ahead.

7. Turn right through a kissing gate, left through the next and follow the field edge for 80m to a gate on the right. Go through and keep straight ahead. Go past an oak tree and continue downhill through two gates to join a surfaced path. Turn left, continue to descend past The White Hill Centre to a road junction. Turn left along The Backs to return to the underground station.

Points of Interest

Chesham is situated at the headwaters of the River Chess, which is named after the town. Chesham is more widely known as the town of the four 'Bs'; Boots, Beer, Brushes & Baptists.

A. Meades Water Gardens was originally the pond for Amy Mill. Later it was used as watercress beds and is now restored to a river following work carried out by the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project.

B. River Chess: Please use the QR code for further information on this lovely river.

C. Canon's Mill dates from Saxon times and was in the Domesday Book. It was demolished c1960.

D. Ley Hill was well known for its tile, pottery and brick making industries.

E. Cowcroft Wood & Nature Reserve is an ancient wood. The clay soil was worked for three centuries to supply material for the local tile and brickworks.

F. Dungrove Field was once owned and farmed by Thomas Harding, Chesham's religious martyr. He was the last of the Lollards to die for his beliefs.

This walk is based on one designed by Chesham Walkers are Welcome.