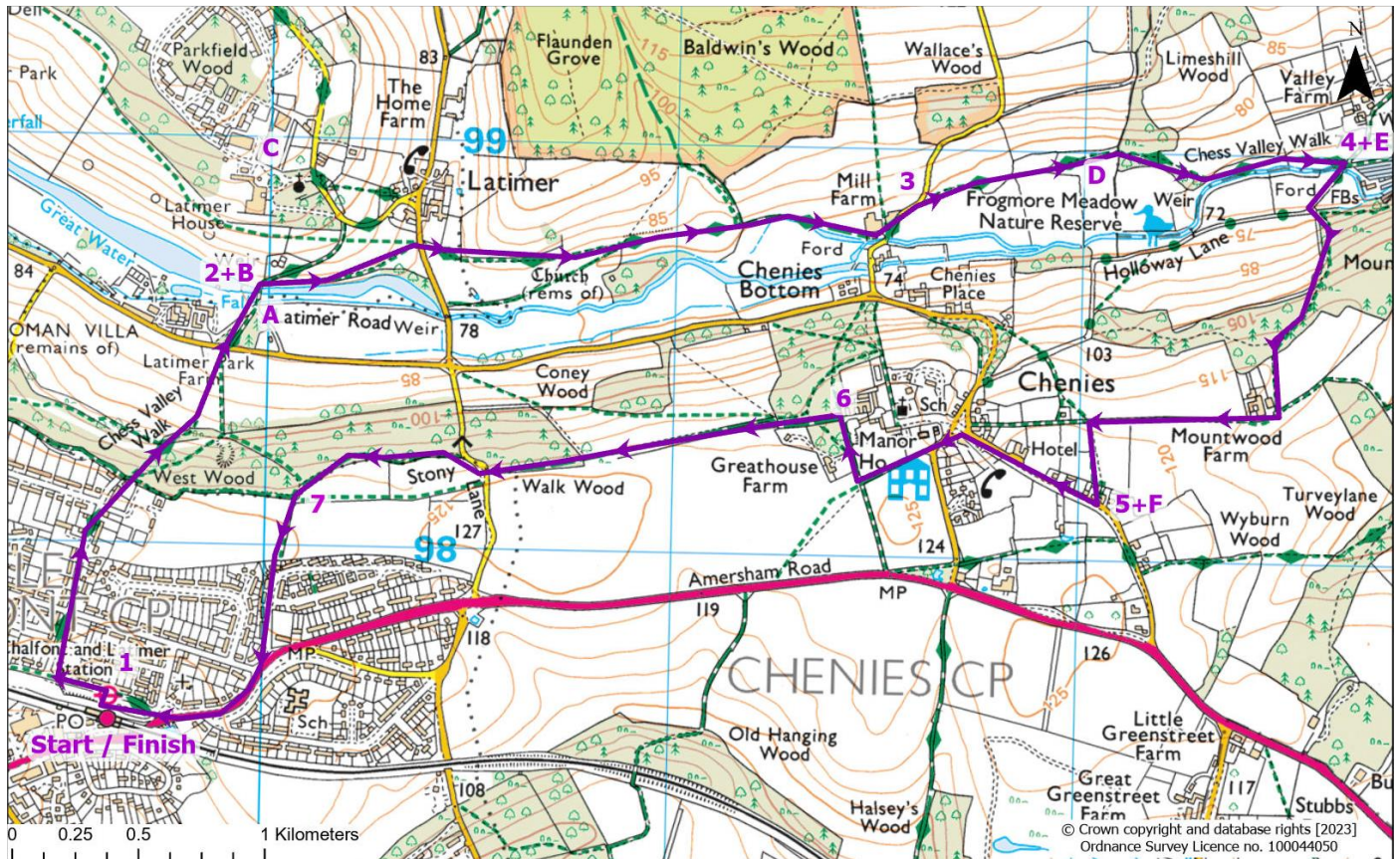


## Chess Valley Circular Walks – Little Chalfont

The Chess Valley has some of the most attractive countryside in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is a landscape rich in wildlife, with a long and fascinating history.



- Start:** Chalfont & Latimer Station, Station Approach, Little Chalfont HP7 9PR
- Distance:** 5.4 miles/8.7km
- Terrain:** A moderate stile-free walk which can be muddy at times. There is one steady climb up to Chénies village with a total ascent of 390ft/120m
- Maps:** OS Explorer 172 and Chiltern Society 5 and 6
- Refreshments:** The Bedford Arms & The Red Lion in Chénies, Crestyl Watercress Farm (seasonal), and pubs and cafés in Little Chalfont
- Parking:** Chalfont & Latimer Station car park, or others in the village
- Local Transport:** There are bus services near the station. Please check [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) for services

### Route

From the station ticket hall, cross the access road and go down the steps to Bedford Ave.

**1.** Turn left for 150m and first right up Chénies Ave. At Elizabeth Ave go straight across, continue along Chénies Ave to the very end and take the path into the woods. Cross the bridleway to a junction of two paths and fork left down to a wide track. Turn right and almost immediately left and continue down to a gate. Go through and turn left to descend to a gate at the bottom right-hand corner of the field. Cross the busy road and through the gate on the other side. Cross the field, go through the gate and straight ahead over the bridge (Neptune Falls).

2. Turn immediately right after the bridge and go through the gate. Follow the path as it first runs parallel to the lake then bears half left to a gate. Go through, cross the road and through two more gates into a meadow. Turn left and follows signs for the Chess Valley Walk for the next kilometre to arrive at a lane by Mill Farms Barns. Turn left up the lane for around 100m to a footpath on the right.

3. Turn right through the gate, follow the path between the fencing and through a gate into a field, part of Frogmore Meadows Nature Reserve. Cross the field following the hedgerow to the left and go through both a gate and a small wood. Follow the path past the viewing area to the concrete driveway and the entrance gates of Crestyl Barn and Watercress Farm.

4. From the entrance bear right and cross the bridge over the river. Walk along the lane for 150m and, at the right-hand bend, turn and then right uphill. Continue climbing up and along to leave the wood through a gate into a field. Keep straight ahead to the left of the farm buildings, go through a gate and turn right. Follow the path past the entrance to Mountwood Farm and continue along the driveway for 450m to a crossing path. Turn left through the gate, walk between the fences and two further gates to reach The Red Lion pub.

5. Cross the road to the wide verge and turn right along it to join the road by The Bedford Arms. Continue along the road into Chenies Village and keep straight ahead towards Amersham. Walk past the school and stay ahead along a wide stony track. On the right are the grounds of Chenies Manor. At the T-junction, turn right and walk along for 150m to a bridleway on the left just before the car park.

6. Follow the wide track, taking in the wonderful views over the Chess valley below, to meet a lane. Turn right and where it bends to the right keep straight ahead on the next bridleway. Ignore all paths down to the right and stay ahead for around a ¼ mile. Where the track rises up to the left and then bends right, keep straight ahead to enter a sports field.

7. Keep straight ahead on the left-hand edge to leave the field into a housing estate (Chessfield Park). Stay in the same direction to the main road and turn right to return to the station.

### Points of Interest

**Little Chalfont** was a collection of farmhouses until the coming of the Metropolitan Railway. In the 18th century a turnpike was built from Hatfield to Reading on what is now the main road through the village.

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

**B. Neptune Waterfall:** This dam (on the site of a medieval mill) was built in the 1750s to create a lake that could be seen from Latimer House.

**C. Latimer House (Place)** is famous for being an interrogation centre for senior prisoners of war including Rudolf Hess during WWII. It is now a conference centre and hotel.

**D. Frogmore Meadows** is a Site of Special Scientific Interest run by Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

**E. Crestyl Barn and Watercress Farm** used to be the last representative of a once major industry in the Chilterns.

**F. Chenies village and Manor:** The village was first recorded in the 12th century when it was called Isenhampstead. The Manor House is a Grade I listed building, visited by both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I on many occasions.

This walk is a variation of one published in the Chiltern Society's 50 Great Walks book.