

19: Cholesbury Common – A Ridge Walk

This walk starts on Cholesbury Common, north of Chesham in Bucks. The route follows a ridge of the Chilterns south-east across farmland before returning along a shady path beside a wood in the valley bottom west of the ridge.

OS Explorer 181, Land Ranger 165.
Distance: 5.5 miles (8.9 km).

Time: 3 hours.

A 2.8 mile (4.4 km) version is shown.

Park: On grass verge beside Vale Road on Cholesbury Common – HP5 2UH, GR SP935070

Route: Field paths and country lanes, parts of the route are steep and it may be muddy after rain, many climb-over stiles.

Not suitable for dogs as there may be livestock in the fields and the stiles are without dog access.

Access: Bus No. 194 (Wednesday only) from Tring to Chesham.

Refreshments: Public house on Cholesbury Common.

The St. Michael's Ramblers first walked this ramble on May 28, 2011.

1. Walk south-east along a well-defined path that follows the left side of Vale Road. After 400 yd, cross a lane leading down to the left and continue a further 300 yd.
2. Cross Vale Road and enter a signed path into woods, with a row of houses to the left. Beyond the gardens, turn left to follow a path that jinks along behind the row of gardens. Just before the path turns sharp left at the end of the gardens, take a path that veers away half right.
3. Continue along this path across a small field, over a stile then through a gate into the corner of a farmyard. Go straight on along the path, which now has a hedge on the left, to climb a further stile. Cross a footpath and continue straight on towards a substantial house (Hawridge Place). The path is now quite obviously near the top of the ridge.
4. Follow the path as it goes to the left of Hawridge Place, over a series of stiles in a narrow alley,

then crosses the main approach drive. Beyond gardens, climb more stiles, cross a narrow muddy lane and continue across an open field. Pass to the right of another large house (Hawridge Court).

5. For the shorter walk, turn right on a downhill path, at the bottom of the hill, turn right on a footpath beside a hedge and go on to Point 10. For the complete walk, continue along the upper path through a wide gap between hedges. This



path crosses open fields along the top of a broad ridge with distant views to the south.

6. After a mile, the path turns sharp left beside a hedge. Follow the path as it sweeps right to a junction of paths at the bottom left corner of the field.

7. Turn right at the bottom of the field along a hedge and after 200 yd turn left down a short flight of steps.

Continue first with a hedge then a fence on the right.

After admiring any livestock that may be on the other side of the fence, go over the stile in the corner of the field on to a wide track.

8. Turn right and then almost immediately enter a grassy path on the far side of the track. Follow this path as it turns left uphill towards a gate. Then just before the gate, turn right on another track along the edge of a wood and continue for 400 yd.

9. Where the track turns left to climb up into the woods, turn right down a short side path to a clearly visible stile in the edge of the wood.

Climb over the stile and turn left along the path beside the wood.

Follow this path for a mile, first beside woods, then beside a wide hedge to reach the narrow muddy lane described under Point 4.

10. Cross the lane and follow the path for a further three-quarters of a mile across open fields and twisting through a wood.

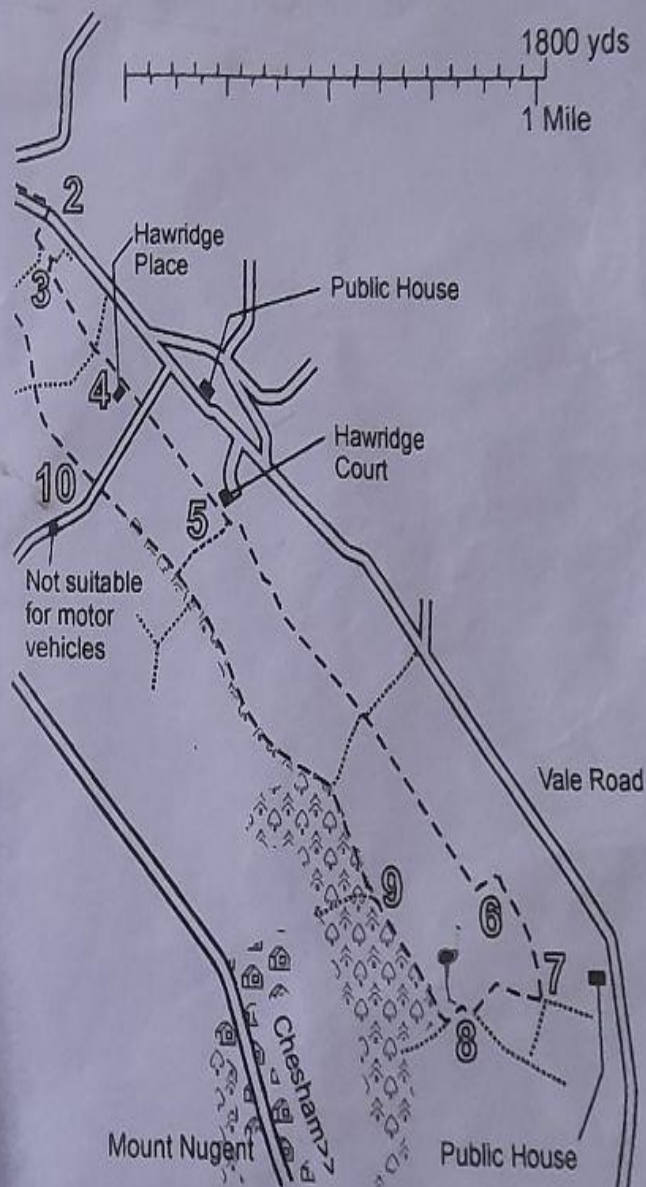
Finally, the path goes past some ruined farm buildings and a cottage before emerging on a short driveway. Walk straight along the drive to a lane.

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11. Turn ^{right} up the lane climbing steeply for 200 yd past houses and a windmill to return to the start point on Cholesbury Common.



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