

Great Missenden to Chesham

History and Points of Interest

Great Missenden is a large village which includes the hamlets of Little Hampden, Ballinger and South Heath. It has two claims to fame: a medieval abbey and the home of author Roald Dahl. Missenden is Old English for 'valley where marsh plants grow'. The abbey was founded in 1133 by William de Missenden who inherited the land from Walter Giffard, a knight of the Norman Conquest. After the dissolution of the monasteries there were many owners. Henry VIII passed it to Elizabeth I who gave it to Robert, Earl of Leicester. He in turn passed it on Sir William Fleetwood whose family held it until the mid 18th century. Today it is owned by Buckinghamshire New University. The High St and Church St areas contain many Grade II listed buildings.

A The Church of St Peter and St Paul

The age of the church is unknown but it is probably of Saxon origin. Today's church is largely from the 14th and 15th centuries. Take time to visit the grave of Roald Dahl by following the BFG footprints from the memorial bench. The church also provides wonderful cream teas on a Sunday during the summer months.

B Hyde End

At the time of writing, this beautiful valley and surroundings are threatened by the proposed High Speed Two railway development. Nearby are the Grade II listed buildings of Hyde Farm. It is possible that if the project goes ahead that the section around Point 3 would become impassable.

C Redding Wick Moat

A well-preserved and impressive earthwork of a 12th century manorial settlement with inner and outer moats.

The main use for moats was not for defence but to store water in dry areas or even for a display of wealth. This manor would have belonged to the nearby Missenden Abbey.

D Herbert's Hole

The origin of this unusual name isn't known but could derive from 'Harbour' a drover's name for an overnight resting place.

E Blind Lane

An ancient packhorse trail between Chesham and Great Missenden.

F Lowndes Park



A major historic feature of Chesham and donated by the Lowndes family to the town in 1953. The land was first recorded in the 12th century.



About these leaflets:

This leaflet is one of a series of walks all of which are downloadable from the Walkers are Welcome pages at www.chesham.gov.uk

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Great Missenden to Chesham

'Station to Station'

Chesham Walks

9

6.1 miles



Great Missenden to Chesham

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9

Start: Great Missenden Station

Finish: Chesham Metropolitan Line Station

Terrain: 6.1 miles of easy walking on paths and lanes with 120m of ascent

Maps: OS Explorer 181 Chiltern Society 8

Refreshments: None on route. Plenty of pubs and cafés in Chesham

Go left from the station entrance and right down Station Approach. At the bottom, turn right along High St and, just after the Roald Dahl Museum, turn left along Church St. Shortly after the last row of cottages on the left, turn right up Church Lane and walk to the entrance to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church.

1 Go round the back of the church to a metal kissing gate. Go through into a field, turn immediately left and bear diagonally right uphill towards an electricity pylon on the horizon. At the top, go over a stile, cross the access road to

Rook Wood and then the stile opposite. Continue over the top of the field to a stile at the corner of a hedgerow. Cross it and stay in the same direction for 750m keeping at first to the right of the hedgerow and after a stile, to the left. Pass the next stile and after 100m, turn right over a stile to a lane.

2 Turn right past Chapel Farm then left onto a concrete track in front of the gates of Hyde Farm. Follow the track downhill and where it climbs to the right keep straight ahead over a stile on the left. Climb the hill to the left of a small wood. 50m past the wood turn left on a crossing path and follow it to a (soon to be visible) stile in a hedgerow. Go over then ahead to cut across the field corner to meet the right-hand end of a hedgerow. Follow it round to the left and keep to the field edge all the way to a kissing gate at the end.

3 Go through to the main road. Turn left along the pavement to the junction with Hyde Lane. Taking great care, cross the main road to the footpath opposite and over a stile into a field. Go straight ahead across the field to the next stile. Cross, continue in the same direction to the right of a fence all the way to a third stile near the bottom left-hand corner of the field. Go over, continue ahead and cross a further stile to eventually meet a lane.

4 Turn right along it for 100m and, where it bends right, turn left into a wood. Where the fence on the right ends, turn right and follow the path keeping to the inside edge of the wood. At the end, go through a gate and stay in the same direction for 600m, passing through two more gates to reach a lane.

5 Turn left along it and, just after the entrance to Reddings Farm, take the path on the right through a squeezer gate into a wood. Follow the path downhill and through the next gate onto a wide track. Turn right and take this often muddy track for 1.5km to reach a tarmac lane. Turn right along it and, after 100m, turn left through a gate. Bear right over two fields and two gates to a lane. Cross, go through the gate opposite and climb up into a wood. This path emerges into Lowndes Park. Bear diagonally left up the side of the hill and along to a small mound that overlooks Chesham.

6 From the mound, walk downhill to the main path that crosses the park. Turn left and leave the park by the gate at the left-hand end of the lake. Go over the pedestrian crossing, turn left and follow the pavement round to the right, past the car park entrance, to The Broadway. (Here there are buses back to Great Missenden). Turn right along the High Street and then left up Station Rd to the finish of the walk.

