How to get to the start

By train:
www.arrivabus.co.uk
You can also visit the station.

By bicycle:
There is a 17 mile circular walk from Berkhamsted railway station.

The 17 mile circular walk starts and finishes at Berkhamsted from anywhere in the country to the starting point. To plan a journey by public transport, call National Rail Enquiries 0845 600 5165 or visit www.londonmidland.com.

By bus: Arriva bus 500 stops in Berkhamsted High Street, a short walk from the station.

By car: There is a car park at the station and in several other places in Berkhamsted.

Points of interest

- Aldbury Nowers
- Aylesbury and into Oxfordshire
- The castle was built during the Norman conquest of England in the 11th century to control a key route between London and the Midlands. A motte and bailey castle was established here in 1086 by Duke Henry of Normandy, and it was enlarged by his brother, William the Conqueror, in 1087-8.

Points of interest from Berkhamsted railway station

- 8.5 mile southern circular walk from Bridgewater Monument, Ashridge
- 17 mile circular walk from Berkhamsted railway station

Wayside information

17 mile circular walk from Berkhamsted railway station.

Discover some Chiltern commons in these circular walks while enjoying extensive and varied views.

This is one of a series of walks through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It mainly follows rights of way most of which are waymarked as follows:

- yellow arrow footpaths (walkers only)
- blue arrow Bridewells (horse riders, cyclists and walkers)
- red arrow Byways (open to all traffic)
- purple arrow Restricted Byway (horse riders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles)

Please be considerate in the countryside:

- Keep to public rights of way and leave farm gates as you find them
- Keep dogs on leads near livestock and do not allow dogs into the water or canal

There are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns:

- Visit www.chilterncommon.org or call 0144 555500 for other Chilterns Country walks.
- Visit www.chilternsociety.org.uk or call 01494 771250 for information on the Chiltern Society’s walk programmes, to obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society.

Learn more about Chilterns commons at www.chilterncommon.org/commons

This leaflet has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board as part of the Chilterns Commons Project. The Project benefits from funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund and helps from volunteers.

Photographs kindly provided by © Eddie Blake
Description of route: The route follows paths and forest tracks on commons and across fields. Some paths are steep and can be muddy in places. There are no stiles. Take care, wear suitable footwear and allow time to rest and enjoy the extensive and varied views.

Map: OS Explorer 181

1. Leaving the main entrance at Berkhamsted station, turn left under the bridge onto Brownlow Road and cross over the mini roundabout. Pass the castle on your right. At the fork in the road keep left (turning into Castle Hill). After approx 50m take the right footpath through Kitchener’s Field car park.

2. Follow the path out of the far side of the car park and pass Ivinghoe Farm on your left. Continue up the tree line and take the footpath directly in front of you. You are now on Berkhamsted Common.

3. Proceed uphill until you reach the second waymarked crossing. Turn left onto bridleway 55, passing the edge of Berkhamsted golf course. After approx 100m, look at the hollows to your left. These are the remains of training trenches dug by the Inns of Court Officers’ Training Corps during WWI.

4. Continue along the bridleway for approx 1 mile until you reach Brickkiln Cottage. Turn right onto the track for 20-30m and then turn left onto the bridleway waymarked Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail.

5. Continue along the bridleway for approx 1/2 mile to the track leading to Coldharbour Farm. Turn right onto the track waymarked bridleway 47.

6. After passing Woodyard Cottages, go through the kissing gate on your left and follow the path across the field, keeping close to the fence on the right.

7. Leave the field at a kissing gate, turn right and then almost immediately left. Follow the footpath as it crosses a paved road and continue to Ashridge golf course.

8. Follow the path with the course perimeter fence on your right until you reach Prince’s Riding. Turn left towards the Bridgewater Monument. After crossing the B4506 you are on Aldbury Common.

9. If you are walking the shorter Southern circular walk, now return to Berkhamsted by following directions from point to point 1.

Start and Finish:

Southern circular walk 8.5 miles

Start/Finish: Berkhamsted railway station

10. Follow the Ridgeway to the woods and enter via a kissing gate.

11. After approx ¼ mile and at a path crossing, take the left hand path (leaving the Ridgeway). After about 50m take the right hand fork.

12. Leave the woods at a kissing gate and enter the golf course. Take the waymarked bridleway for approx 200m before turning right at the footpath sign. (Turn left if you are approaching from point 11)

13. After approx 1 mile and having crossed a road to Aldbury, the waymarked footpath narrows.

14. Proceed uphill until you reach the second waymarked crossing. Turn left onto bridleway 55, passing the edge of Berkhamsted golf course. After approx 100m, look at the hollows to your left. These are the remains of training trenches dug by the Inns of Court Officers’ Training Corps during WWI.

15. Continue along the bridleway for approx 1 mile until you reach Brickkiln Cottage. Turn right onto the track for 20-30m and then turn left onto the bridleway waymarked Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail.

16. Continue along the bridleway for approx 1/2 mile to the track leading to Coldharbour Farm. Turn right onto the track waymarked bridleway 47.

17. After passing Woodyard Cottages, go through the kissing gate on your left and follow the path across the field, keeping close to the fence on the right.

18. Leave the field at a kissing gate, turn right and then almost immediately left. Follow the footpath as it crosses a paved road and continue to Ashridge golf course.

19. Follow the path with the course perimeter fence on your right until you reach Prince’s Riding. Turn left towards the Bridgewater Monument. After crossing the B4506 you are on Aldbury Common.

20. If you are walking the shorter Northern circular walk, now return to Berkhamsted by following directions from point to point 4.

Start and Finish:

Northern circular walk 8 miles

Start/Finish: Bridgewater Monument, Ashridge

21. Follow the Ridgeway to the woods and enter via a kissing gate.

22. After approx ¼ mile and at a path crossing, take the left hand path (leaving the Ridgeway). After about 50m take the right hand fork.

23. Leave the woods at a kissing gate and enter the golf course. Take the waymarked bridleway for approx 200m before turning right at the footpath sign. (Turn left if you are approaching from point 11)

24. After approx 1 mile and having crossed a road to Aldbury, the waymarked footpath narrows.

25. [Note that care should be taken on this section to confirm the correct path/direction.] After a short period of time, the path branches to the left and then joins a bridleway. Turn right onto the bridleway and follow it to Northchurch Common. Continue following the bridleway, keeping the wooded area on your right. After approx 200m the bridleway (waymarked Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail) re-enters the woods for a short stretch and then forks first to the left and then to the right onto a waymarked bridleway.

26. Leave the woods through a small car parking area and follow Norcott Hill downhill. The road has no pavement, but is quiet.

27. When you reach the Grand Union Canal, turn left onto the canal footpath.

28. After approx 2 miles, you reach a black and red road bridge across the canal. Leave the canal and turn left onto the road to return to Berkhamsted station.