How to get to the start

The 12 and 18 mile circular walks start and finish by the River Thames at Court Garden in Marlow. The 10 mile circular walk starts and finishes by the River Thames at Court Garden in Marlow. There are also buses from Lane End to High Wycombe or from Maidenhead, bus 800/850 between High Wycombe and Marlow is well served by local buses including bus 155.

There are car parks in Marlow and West Wycombe. The station is served by www.traveline.info

By bus:

Rail Enquiries 0845 600 5165 or www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

To obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society. Information on the Chiltern Society’s walk programme, to visit or call 01494 771250 for more details.

Learn more about Chilterns commons at www.chilternsociety.org.uk

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 help from volunteers.

Points of interest

• Chilterns Country walks.

Wheeler End Common

Moorend Common

Wycombe Air Park,

Chiltern Commons Project

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’ Bridleways (horsedrides, cyclists and walkers)

‘red arrow’ Byways (open to all traffic)

‘purple arrow’ Restricted Byway (horsedrides, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles).

Please consider the countryside

• Keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them

• Keep dogs on leads near livestock

Maxwell,

West Wycombe

There are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns:

• www.chilternswalks.org.uk or call 01844 355500 for other Chilterns Country walks.

• www.chilternsociety.org.uk or call 01494 771250 for information on the Chiltern Society’s walk programme, to obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society.

Learn more about Chilterns commons at www.chilternswalks.org.uk/commons

18 mile circular walk from Marlow

12 mile northern circular walk from West Wycombe

Chilterns

an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Walks on commons between Marlow and West Wycombe

Discover both wooded and grassy commons while enjoying extensive and varied views

Questions to the Commoners

• Do you think there is too much traffic on the common?

• Do you think there are enough footpaths on the common?

• Do you think there should be more restrictions on the activities on the common?

• Do you think there should be more facilities on the common?

• Do you think there should be more activities on the common?

• Do you think there should be more education on the common?

• Do you think there should be more conservation on the common?

• Do you think there should be more funding for the common?

• Do you think there should be more volunteers for the common?

• Do you think there should be more research on the common?

• Do you think there should be more legislation on the common?

• Do you think there should be more control on the common?

• Do you think there should be more monitoring on the common?

• Do you think there should be more enforcement on the common?

• Do you think there should be more public participation on the common?

• Do you think there should be more publicity on the common?

• Do you think there should be more engagement on the common?

• Do you think there should be more partnership on the common?

• Do you think there should be more collaboration on the common?
Description of route:
The route follows paths over hills and fields, through woods and across commons. Some paths are steep and can be muddy in places. There are a number of stiles. Take your time, wear suitable footwear and allow time to rest and enjoy the views.

Map: OS Explorer 172

With your back to the River Thames, leave Marlow's Court Garden Leisure Complex by turning left into Pound Lane. Follow the pavement for approx 900m.

Cross the road (A4155) and take the footpath. After just over 1km (and having entered Davenport Wood) ignore the path branching to the left. After 30m take the left-hand fork and continue to the road.

Turn right at the road and after approx 400m cross the I junction and enter Marlow Common. Continue through to the road (Frieth Road).

Turn left onto the road and after approx 300m take the footpath on the left. Follow the footpath downhill. Pass through a gate on your right and after approx 400m cross a stile and continue downhill until reaching a road.

Turn right and passing Holme Wood follow the road to the I junction and turn left re-joining Frieth Road and follow for approx 2km to Moor End (a hamlet).

Take the footpath on the right past a house and follow across grassed area and enter woods. Take the right fork and continue through Moorend Common. On leaving the common turn right and join the road for approx 100m. Cross the road and follow the footpath around the perimeter of Ditchfield Common, pass the church on the left and re-join the road, turn left and proceed to Lane End.

Turn right onto Marlow Road then almost immediately left into The Row. Walk across Harrow Common and, after approx 400m, turn left into Bullocks Farm Lane. Cross over the M40 and pass the 'Chequers' pub.

After approx 50m cross the Small Heath, bear half right and take the second downhill grass track to the path crossing at valley bottom. Continue, walking straight up to Wheeler End Common. The former 'Brickmakers Arms' pub is visible almost straight ahead. Head right and look out for the prominent white house and, at gravel track, turn right onto a tarmac road.

Turn left to pass 'Denham Farm' and, just beyond the last building, cross a stile to the right and then a field to a kissing gate. Walk beside the hedge on the left, crossing two fields and a stile before descending to a 6-bar gate.

Turn left and walk up a broad path to the top of the hill. Just before the open field, bear left to pass 'Bullocks Farm' and reach a road beyond.

Turn left onto the road. After approx 30m take the footpath on the right. Head left for a few metres, then turn right downhill and through Jane's Wood. At the far side of the wood take the path downhill.

Turn right onto the road and follow for approx 50m. Turn left onto a short access road and cross the A40. Follow the bridge path uphill past Great Cockshott Wood on the right. Leave the woods and continue along the path to a T junction.

Turn right and follow the bridge path downhill to the lane.

After crossing the lane, follow the footpath which crosses two roads. Then follow the path into a field and head uphill. Enter Butlers Hampstead nature reserve and walk diagonally across to the left and enter the wood.

Walk uphill and turn right onto the footpath which crosses your path at the top of the hill. You will pass a 'National Trust West Wycombe Hill' sign. Continue on and cross the car park to St Lawrence's churchyard. Walk through the churchyard and around to the front of the Mausoleum.

Take the path downhill. Ignore the first right hand (steep) turn to and follow the path to the right further downhill sign-posted 'Caves'. Follow the path to the lane (West Wycombe Hill Road) and turn right. Go past the school and turn left onto Chorley Road, then almost immediately turn right onto the A40.

After approx 100m turn left into Townsend Lane. At the top of the hill, take the track on the left which crosses Townsend Common.

After approx 100m and before the house, turn right onto the footpath. After approx 450m leave the woods and follow the footpath to the left, a field and enter Sunter's Wood. After approx 800m a path joins from the left. Then continue for approx 30m.

Take the path on the left (care should be taken to identify path). Head downhill, then uphill and join a track. Turn left onto the track and head downhill to Lane End Road.

10 mile circular walk from West Wycombe

Begin at car park by St Lawrence's Church (identified in point 1) and follow the route description to the start of point 2.

Turn right onto the sign-posted footpath. At the top of the hill (at Woodland Hall) take the left path following the perimeter of the school sports ground as it eventually heads downhill to re-join Marlow Bottom Road and turn right.

After approx 50m turn right onto a footpath. Follow it uphill through Hunts Wood and through a small housing development, then downhill to join a residential road (Oak Tree Road).

At the end of the road turn right onto Wyckham Road and follow for approx 200m and turn right onto the A4155 and follow for approx 300m.

Turn left at the obelisk on a small moundabout into Marlow High Street. After approx 500m turn right into Pound Lane which leads back to the Court Garden Leisure Complex.

12 mile circular walk from Marlow

Follow the longer walk from point 1 to point 2. At Lane End, turn right onto Marlow Road. After approx 250m turn left into Simmons Way. After approx 350m take the footpath on the right. Take the left fork to the reservoir. Follow the reservoir perimeter path to the right and then to the left and follow to the (SE) corner of the reservoir. Take the footpath heading SE and at the first junction take to the left. At the next path crossing, go left. On leaving the woods, follow the footpath along the northern border of Wycombe Air Park. At the far corner of the park take the footpath parallel and close to the M40 for approx 350m and turn right onto Clay Lane where you will join the longer walk between points 2 and after route has crossed the M40.