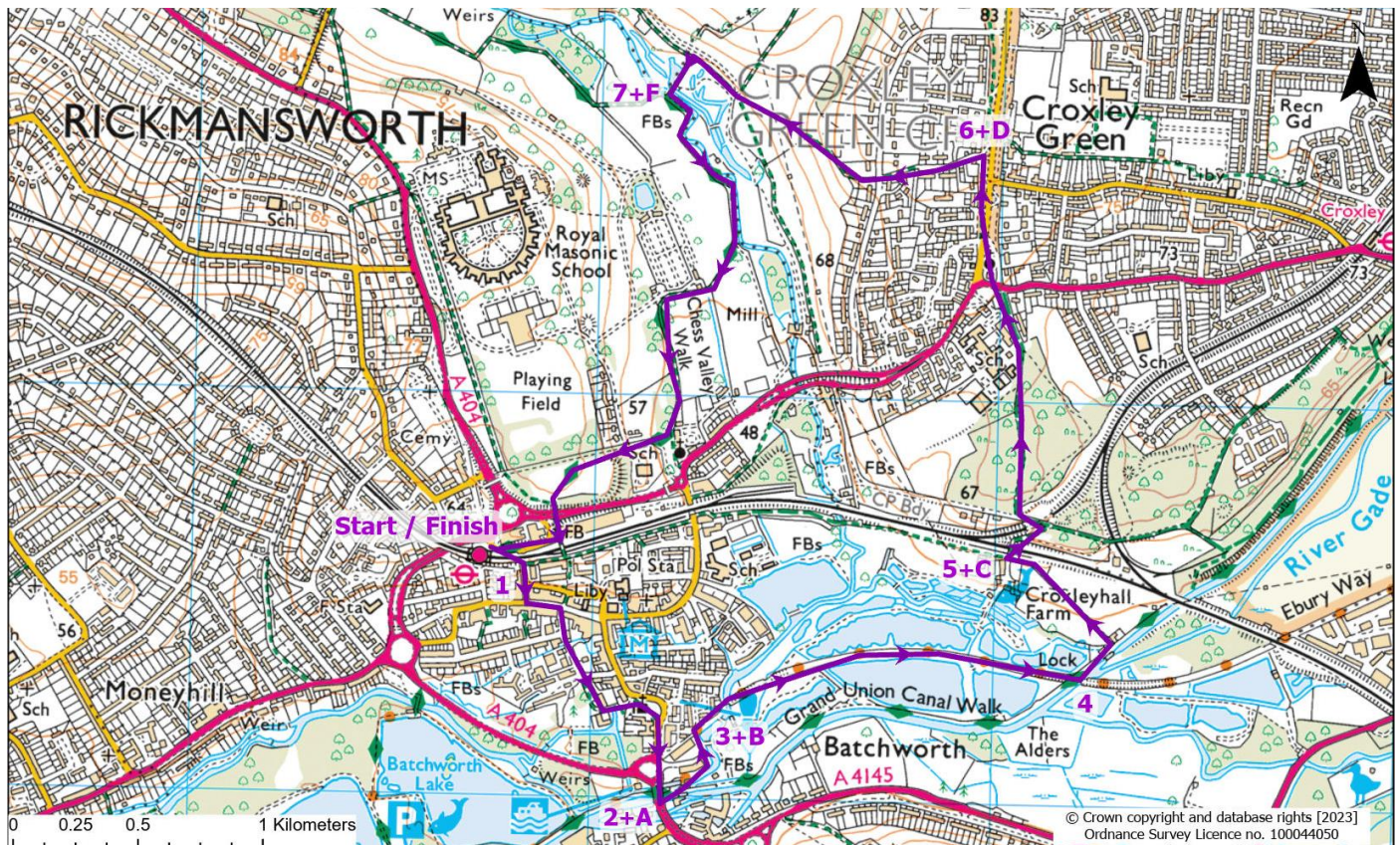


### Chess Valley Circular Walks – Rickmansworth

This walk passes the point where the River Chess joins the River Colne. The varied route includes rivers, woodland, fields, a village green and a canal.



**Start:** Rickmansworth Station, Station Approach, Rickmansworth WD3 1QY. Grid ref: TQ 057 946.

**Length:** 4 miles/6.4km

**Terrain:** A moderate stile-free walk which can be muddy at times. There are two east climbs with a total ascent of 200ft/60m

**Food & Drink:** Plenty of pubs and cafés in Rickmansworth, plus The Artichoke pub on The Green in Croxley

**Maps:** OS Explorer 172, Chiltern Society 28

**Parking:** There are a number of car parks in Rickmansworth – see [www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/car-parks](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/car-parks)

**Local Transport:** There are bus services near the station. Please check [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) for services

### Route

From Rickmansworth station entrance turn right down the hill, right again under the railway bridge and walk down to the High Street. Go left along it for 90m and turn right past the bollards into Bury Lane.

**1.** Walk straight along to the left-hand bend and stay ahead through the entrance gates to The Bury. Follow the driveway to the house and bear left on a smaller path. Follow the path as it bears right, turn left through the wall, left again past the church, then right along the path through the churchyard. Just past the bollards, cross the road and turn right along the pavement. Pass the roundabout and continue to a set of steps on the left just before the pedestrian crossing.

**2.** Turn left down the steps to Batchworth Lock Canal Centre and stay straight ahead on a path signed for The Ebury Way. Cross the bridge over Chess Weir and follow the path to an access road. Continue ahead between the fences and round to the right. This path becomes The Ebury Way.

3. Walk along the way for 900m to the bridge over the Grand Union Canal.

4. Take the path to the right down to the canal and turn left under the bridge to Lot Mead Lock 80. Turn immediately left between the houses towards All Saints Lane, follow the track along and round to the left to a junction by Croxley Hall Farm.

5. Turn right over the railway bridge and follow the track uphill to a T-junction. Turn left, walk along for 60m and turn right up a surfaced lane signposted to All Saints / The Green. Go past a school and some houses to reach a road (Watford Road). Cross straight over and walk along the road to the right of the church. At the junction cross to the other side of the road and turn right along the wide verge, passing the war memorial to The Artichoke pub and Green Lane.

6. Turn left into Green Lane, walk to the end and continue on a surfaced path to a road (Cophorne Road). Cross straight over and take the path opposite into a field. Follow the path round to the right and then fork left down through the field to a footpath junction at the bottom. Keep straight ahead for 150m, turn left and cross the bridge over the River Chess.

7. Turn left along its bank for 400m to the entrance to a playing field. Bear right just before the barrier and follow this path for 650m. Where the chain link fence on the right ends, turn right uphill past the entrance to Rickmansworth Park School and continue to climb up the surfaced path in the park. After 170m turn left across the grass towards the buildings. Cross the road bridge and turn immediately right down the steps. Turn left past the entrances to Waitrose and the station car park, walk down the hill and up the other side to finish at Rickmansworth Station.

### Points of Interest

**Rickmansworth** was a manor given to the Abbey of St Albans when the latter was founded in 793 by King Offa. The Rivers Chess, Gade and Colne, which give the district its name 'Three Rivers', provided water for the watercress trade and power for corn milling, silk weaving, papermaking and brewing.

**A. The Grand Union Canal** was the main artery for goods between London and Birmingham. The section through Rickmansworth was known as the Grand Junction Canal.

**B. The Ebury Way** follows the bed of the single-track railway that ran between Rickmansworth and Watford Junction. It closed in 1952.

**C. Croxley Great Barn** is ahead and to the left at waypoint 5. It's one of Hertfordshire's oldest timber-framed buildings, dating back to c1398, and is Grade II listed.

**D. Croxley Green** hosts the annual 'Revels', which featured in a 1970s TV documentary by John Betjeman.

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

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