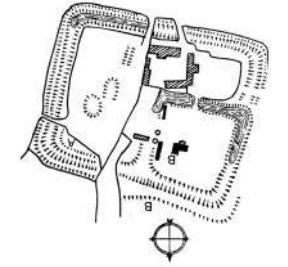




Brockhurst Farm: At the entrance is the old granary dating from 17th or 18th century. They are often raised to keep the grain dry and away from rats.

Orchard Leigh: During the 19th century, fruit growing was a very lucrative crop and there were many orchards across the Chilterns. Orchard Leigh was one of the largest at over 100 acres. The nearby house of the same name was once known as the Healthatorium, one of the first health farms in the country. The founder, a Czarist Russian called Dr Liff, went on to found Chamneys which is a few miles to the NW of Chesham.



Grove Farm: Although not directly on the walk the farm contains the fortified medieval moated Ashley Green House. It marks the site of the old manor house of the Cheyne family who were featured in an edition of the Channel Four programme *Time Team*. It was later owned by the Lowndes family, the most famous of whom was William Lowndes, Secretary to the Treasury.

Moors Farm: Formerly known as Mose Farm and was part of the medieval Grove Farm estate.

Whelpley Hill Fort: Probable Iron Age or medieval defended enclosure, 4½ acres (1.8 hectares) in extent. The single rampart and a ditch are gradually disappearing under the plough.

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Bovingdon Airfield: Was built in 1941/42 as an RAF bomber airfield. It was then handed over to Chesham's wartime memorabilia. First licensed in 1889.



White Hart pub: Was originally a 15th century farmer's cottage and a favourite for USAF during WWII. The officers mess was a shed in the garden. There is evidence of a tunnel from the cellar, possibly a priest run.

Whelpley Hill: Another hamlet of Chesham. The name is probably from the Saxon 'Hwelpa's Hill'. In the Middle Ages there was also a family called 'Wheaply'. The plague hit the village hard in 1592 and 1593. Berry Farm dates from the 16th century, but has been much altered and added to in later times. It also has an 18th century timber framed barn.

Sales Farm: This area of the Chilterns has many farms built in the 16th and 17th centuries when there was a rapid growth in agriculture. Sales Farm is a Grade II listed 17th century timber-framed house. It was once part of the Grove Farm estate, which in previous times was one of the manors of Chesham.

Golden Eagle pub: Grade II listed 17th century inn with 18th century alterations and extensions. There are claims that it is haunted. At one time the landlady was the sister of Phyllis Calvert, the film actress.

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Ashley Green: Originally a hamlet within Chesham parish. The name probably derives from the Saxon 'Easlie' meaning ash wood or field. There are reputed to be a number of underground sandstone caves, with the entrance to one at the Water Board site passed on the walk. It is even said that there is a passageway going from the caves to Berkhamsted Castle.

The Griffin pub: A curious pub with an interior full of old artefacts and a corner dedicated to Chesham's wartime memorabilia. First licensed in 1889.

Elgiva Theatre: Elgiva was the wife of Saxon King Edwyn. As part of her divorce settlement she was given lands in and around Chesham.

Quaker Meeting House: It is said that Cromwell attended a service here during the Civil War of 1642.

Chesham Mosque: Opened in 2005 with over 1,700 people attending. Money was raised both locally and nationwide to fund the construction.



This is a walk into history; whether it is ancient history with an iron age fort or a reminder of a more modern conflict, a Second World War airfield where USAF bombers took off on their bombing raids. In your imagination you might see ancient Britons defending their homesteads or watch personalities such as Clark Gable, James Stewart and Glen Miller or the wife of the President, Eleanor Roosevelt, encouraging the airmen. The airfield is on the Bucks-Herts border and the walk explores that patchwork of farmland, woods and hidden corners of this part of Bucks, close to Hertfordshire. The walk is 8½ miles (14km) but there is the opportunity to rest and be refreshed at a number of pubs on the way.

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How to get to Chesham

Chesham is an ideal location for ramblers, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts. It is well served by public footpaths and has good connections with the extensive path network of the local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

By train or bus

Chesham is only 55 minutes (approx.) from London – Metropolitan Line – direct trains from Baker Street, see www.tfl.gov.uk or telephone 0343 222 1234; Chiltern Line – trains from Marylebone and change at Chalfont & Latimer, see www.chilternrailways.co.uk or telephone 0845 748 4950. Bus services are available and can be checked at www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelinfo or www.traveline.info.

By road

The town is less than 30 miles from Central London and easily accessible from the M1, M25 and M40 motorways, with scenic drives through countryside to the town.

Maps to accompany Walk 6

O/S Explorer Map Chiltern Hills North (181), Chiltern Society Footpath Map (17).



© Chilterns Conservation Board

- Other Chesham Walkers are Welcome walking routes are:
- 1 The Chesham Heritage Trail (2 miles)
 - 2 The Chesham Outer Ring (7.5 miles)
 - 3 Tylers Hill, Ley Hill and the Chess (5 miles)
 - 4 Chesham Bois and the Beech Hangers (4 miles)
 - 5 Chartridge 'Hills and Vales' (8 miles)
 - 6 Ashley Green 'Farms, Forts and Fighters' (8.5 miles)
 - 7 Little Chalfont to Chesham (6 miles)
 - 8 Chorleywood to Chesham (8.5 miles)
 - 9 Great Missenden to Chesham (6.1 miles)
 - 10 Amersham to Chesham (4.5 miles)
 - 11 Chesham – Waterside (Historical)
 - 12 Chesham – Old Town (Historical)
 - 13 Chesham – Town Centre (Historical)
 - 14 Chesham – Thomas Harding (Historical)

Visit www.chesham.gov.uk (click on the Walkers are Welcome tab) and www.chilternsaonb.org

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Ashley Green 'Farms, Forts and Fighters'

Chesham Walks 6

8.5 miles

Ashley Green 'Farms, Forts and Fighters'

Chesham Walks 6

Starting points

● **From the Underground Station:** take the first left down Station Road and turn right into the High Street. At the far end go round the left hand corner and take the pedestrian crossing over St Mary's Way into the Albany Place Car Park at the Elgiva Theatre.

1 From the car park walk towards the entrance and, just before Link House, turn left down Parrotts Path. At the end turn right into Bellingdon Road, walk along it for 400m and, opposite the Mosque, turn right through the gates into Chesham Cemetery. *Part of the cemetery is managed for the general benefit of wildlife, particularly butterflies.* Once inside, bear right and continue through to reach Berkhamstead Road.

2 Turn left, walk along the road for 600m and at the mini roundabout continue ahead into Vale Road. Where the pavement ends, cross the road, walk along the grass verge, then briefly along the road and turn right through a gate into a field. Climb steeply uphill to the left of the hedgerow into a wood. Follow the path round to the left and then fork left on a path that runs parallel to Vale Road. At the end turn right uphill and almost immediately left.

In spring look out for bluebells and the lovely white flowered wood anemones along this and the following section of the route. Follow this path as it twists uphill to a path junction near the top of the wood. Turn left, go past a stile and continue to a T-junction. Along the way there are good views over the Vale. At the T-junction turn left and descend through two gates and Little Pressmore Farm to return to Vale Road.

3 Turn right and taking great care walk along the road to the Black Horse pub. Here, take the wide track directly opposite

and stay on this bridleway as it winds gently uphill to pass Flamstead Farm. *Here there is a good chance of seeing yellowhammers moving along the hedgerow. Note the remnants of traditional hedge laying.* Stay on the bridleway, past a majestic 150 year old oak tree on the left, to meet a lane, Hog Lane.

4 Turn right along the lane to reach Chesham Road, where a short diversion to the left leads to the Golden Eagle pub. Cross the road onto the village green (known as the Green and Glebe Meadow). Take the track to the right of the Community Centre and, just before the entrance to the sewage plant, take the path on the right down and through a gate. *On the left is a hedgerow that provides a good habitat for butterflies on warm, sunny days.* Stay on this path between the fences and through a gate. Continue to descend further keeping to the right of the hedgerow. Where it ends at a junction of paths, turn right up a slight slope to the edge of a field. Please note that the path ahead is sometimes ploughed over or hidden by crops. Walk straight across the field to a stile and gate to the right of an electricity pylon. *This is a good place to appreciate the beautiful views and to listen for skylarks singing above the fields.* Go through and bear diagonally left up the steep slope to pass through the next gate in the tree line at the top. The ground is often very muddy here. Continue uphill on a wide bridleway to pass Sales Farm. Ignoring paths to the left and right, go through the gate ahead and straight across the field. Head for a gap in a hedge and then onto Whelpley Hill Park. Follow the surfaced path straight through the park to a road junction at Whelpley Hill.

5 Turn left along the road towards Berkhamsted, past the village pond and the old church. Where the road bends to the left

continue straight ahead past Jubilee Cottages and take the path to the right of the entrance to Berry Farm. This leads to a gate. Go through it, turn left, follow the path between the fences past the old runway of Bovington Airfield and through a gate onto a wide track. Turn right along it to a road by the White Hart pub.

6 Turn right and walk along for about 100m to Meadow Cottage. Cross the road, go through a kissing gate opposite and keep to the left hand edge of the field. On the right are the remains of a Neolithic settlement. Towards the end of the field go left through a gate and wooded area to the edge of a field. The route across the field may change after ploughing. Keep straight across the corner, follow the field edge round to the right to the next corner then bear right across the field to the left hand corner of the buildings of Moors Farm. *A good place for bats, owls and swallows.* Follow the path as it veers right behind the buildings and on to a concrete farm track. Where a bridleway crosses keep ahead to the right of a pond. *Mallard ducks will usually be found there.* The bridleway then enters a field. Turn right along its edge to reach two kissing gates opposite each other at the end.

7 Go through the left hand one and keep straight ahead to the right of the fence to leave the field through a gate onto Rushmere Lane. *In early spring look to the left in the field – there may be a flock of golden plovers.* Cross the road to a path between houses, pass a field on the left, go through a gate and across towards the row of pylons. Go through a gate, drop down the steps and continue straight ahead under the electricity cables. Keep to the left of a line of trees and where that ends, turn right by a barbed wire fence into a field and follow the path round to the left through a gate onto Lye Green Road.

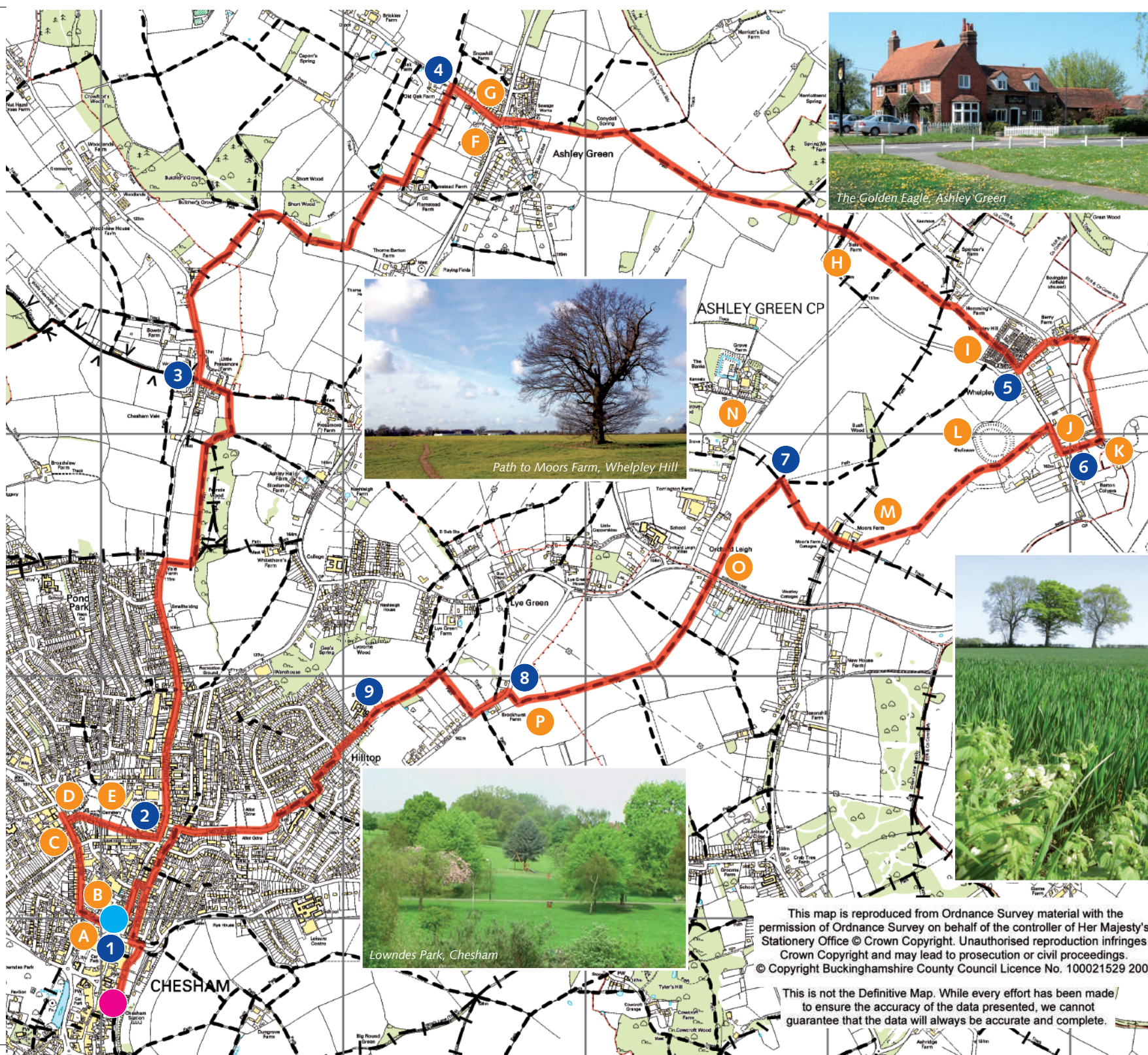
8 Turn left along the road and take the gravel track on the right just before the 30-mph sign. Pass through the gate and keep straight ahead for 200m to a gate at the corner of the fencing. Turn left through it, follow a line of electricity pylons past the playground of Brushwood Junior School and through a gate into Brushwood Road.

9 Keep straight ahead down to Nalders Road, turn left and immediately right into The Spinney. At the bottom, turn

left and look for a path at the far end on the right. Follow this path and pavement downhill, past Heritage House School and Chesham Leys to Cameron Road. Turn left down past the allotments and just after Turners Walk turn left into an alleyway. Follow this over Eskdale Avenue and along Upper Gladstone Road to Queens Road.

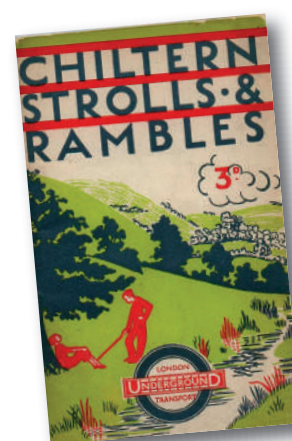
● **For the Underground Station:** continue ahead into Gladstone Road and where that bends left keep straight ahead to White Hill. Cross, turn left uphill and right into The Backs. At the far end is the station.

● **For Albany Car Park:** turn down Queens Road to Berkhamstead Road. Turn left and cross over at the pedestrian crossing. Continue along the road to the car park.



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This is not the Definitive Map. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented, we cannot guarantee that the data will always be accurate and complete.



We hope that you have enjoyed this series of local walks. The Chiltern Hills have long been a favourite with those wanting to get out of town and into the countryside, as this London Underground walking book from 1934 demonstrates!

