

Boundary Walk - Long Route Description

From Church to Downley Common

Start in the carpark at St Michael and All Angels Hughenden. Say a little prayer as you start. Head southwards across the open parkland, through a gateway beside Hughenden Stream. Continue in same direction, through a kissing gate, keeping the stream on your left. At the small footbridge, do not cross the bridge but bear right, to cross an avenue of lime trees diagonally. Continue straight to the children's playground. Here is an unavoidable delay for all children!

Keep to the left of the playground, out onto the road (Coates Lane). Cross over and go up the steep road opposite (Tancred Road). Pass Disraeli Crescent on your right, and then turn right onto the footpath through Tinkers Wood.

There are many paths through this wood. It doesn't matter which you choose, but keep more or less to the same direction, (west curving to northwest) with houses on your left, and the land sloping downhill to your right. If you go too far downhill you'll come to the Disraeli monument. Have a look at it while you're there, and then head uphill to the far end of the wood where the path will have curved northwards.

Continue on narrow path out of the wood to Littleworth Road. Turn right. Follow Littleworth Road to the T-junction with Coates Lane. Turn left. After 40metres turn right by a large oak tree and a 'School' sign. This is Downley Common.

Follow the right hand edge of the common gently downhill for about 40m and then enter the wood following the path downhill to the junction of five paths at the bottom. Take the path straight across, going uphill, and after about 80 m keep left at the fork.

The path comes close to a rough-surfaced track which you should keep on your right. At the corner where the track meets the tarmac road, turn left and after 25 m turn right on the bridleway and into the woodland.

From Downley Common to Speen

Follow the bridleway straight ahead for 500 m before going over a crossing path and along a section which is often rather muddy. In a few metres, pass one of the Naphill ponds.

Continue ahead to a large oak tree (usually with a tyre swing on it) in the centre of the path and bear slightly right, following the path. Keep going on the bridleway for 1.5 km until arriving at a few brick and flint cottages. Continue in the same direction leaving the cottages on your right and after just a few metres, opposite No.1, take the marked footpath to the left to go into the wood.

After 40 m at a waymark post take the left option, through a kissing gate and cross a small field to another kissing gate. In few metres turn right on to the track running behind houses (the bluebells should be quite a show here in their season). Keep on this path until eventually reaching the road by a sign "Walters Ash". Turn right and follow the road a short way to the junction, turn right here signed "Naphill & Walters Ash" and along the main road for a few metres before taking a marked footpath left onto, at first, a wide path which narrows and then joins a tarmac roadway. Turn right along the roadway, and then where the roadway goes left and just before a second speed bump, take a path right into woods.

On leaving the wood, keep to the right hand edge of the field for 100m before taking a path going left across the field soon passing a clump of trees lying slightly downhill. Go through a pedestrian gate and follow the fence on your right downhill to a kissing gate and then a stile at the bottom. Go over the stile and then straight ahead uphill. The large green building visible on your left is part of the Horse Trust charity which cares for around a hundred horses so many of the horses you will see here are in its care.

At the top of the hill, keep ahead through a wooden gate following the left hand field edge and keeping the same direction, go through a metal kissing gate adjacent to a timber field gate. Follow the field edge and through a couple of pedestrian gates down to the road arriving at Speen Church.

From Speen Church to Great Kingshill

At Pye Cottage, cross the main road and look for a well concealed public footpath between two low wicket fences and through a gate marked "Chervil Meadow". The County's footpath sign is very overgrown so keep an eye out for it. The path goes along through some gardens, down some stone and then timber steps arriving at Coleheath Bottom track. Turn right and about 20m before meeting a road, turn left on a public path up through woods, keeping straight, to meet Spring Coppice Lane, where you turn left

After 120m take footpath right, across fields, downhill, under pylon wires, to Bryants Bottom Road.

Cross Bryant's Bottom Road and follow up a very steep path for 180m and turn right following the footpath. Pass through a few fields and join onto Denner Hill Farm Rd then follow along the gravel track for about 1km.

Passing through Acrehill Wood, go past Dennerhill House and onto tarmac lane. After looping between various buildings, cross a stile on the left and follow footpath parallel to lane. At the corner of the field, the path turns left. Follow it down to cross Hampden Road.

Slightly to the right is Perks Lane. Follow this uphill for 600m. Be very careful on this lane as it's quite narrow in places. After the double bend, take footpath right, into Longfield Wood.

After 1km take the left fork (left arrow on tree) and then the path curves to the left and comes out onto Hatches Lane. Be careful on this lane too as it's also quite narrow.

Turn left and follow up the lane to A4128 Missenden Road at Great Kingshill. Turn left and cross at the pelican crossing onto the Recreation Ground / Cricket Pitch for picnic lunch.

If the weather is bad, the picnic will be in the Village Hall. If so, do not turn left to the pelican crossing, instead turn right and follow the main road to the next road on the right, New Road, with Village Hall on the far corner.

After Lunch: Great Kingshill to St Michael and All Angels Hughenden

From the cricket pitch, cross the main road (pelican crossing) and go left, past Hatches Lane to the next road New Road, (with the Village Hall on the corner). At the far end of New Road turn left along footpath for 100m to meet Pipers Lane and turn right along the lane.

At the school entrance, fork left down Boss Lane. Where the tarmac road turns right into the school, just continue straight ahead down the rough track.

If you haven't yet picked up your stone for the cairn, there will be plenty to choose from along this rough track. Gomms and Bubbles wood on your left has wonderful bluebells: are they out yet?

Follow Boss Lane about 1km until it becomes tarmac again, and then meets Hughenden Valley Road.

Turn left past the mini-roundabout and then cross the road, and up the path to Village Hall. Go round the Village Hall to the right and across the football pitch to the path behind the far goalposts. After 30m turn left into the field. (The Hall and grounds have been closed after damage from Storms Dudley and Eunice, and you may need to follow the alternative route to the left of the Hall, passing behind the houses and out into the field.)

Once in the field, follow the path, through several fields along the valley, to arrive opposite the church car park. (Sometimes there are black cattle which like to gather at the kissing gates: talk nicely to them and they'll let you pass.)

Go into the church grounds and when everyone has arrived, we'll build our cairn.