

London Countryway 7: West Wycombe – Great Missenden

Start West Wycombe Pedestal Roundabout HP14 3AA (SU834946)

Finish Great Missenden Station HP16 9AZ (SP892013)

Distance 3½ hours, 14km

Difficulty Moderate

Route West Wycombe Flinthall Farm – Lees Woods – Naphill Common – Naphill (3.7km, 1 hour) – North Dean – Pigotts Wood – Bryants Bottom – Stony Green Hampden Road – Nanfan Wood – Prestwood Honor End Lane (5.4km, 1½ hours) – The Glebe – Prestwood Farm – Rignall Farm – Mobwell – Great Missenden Misbourne Meadows (4km, 1 hour) – Great Missenden Station (600m, 10 mins)

Region / Local authority SE England / Buckinghamshire – Wycombe, Chiltern

Terrain Clear, easy to follow but mainly unsurfaced paths. Several gentle to moderate ascents and descents, stile-free until Naphill then several stiles. For accessible walks around West Wycombe contact Chilterns AONB.

Surroundings Heritage village, busy road with pavement, rolling chalk hills, field paths, farm tracks, woodland, wooded common, village street, residential streets, water meadow, urban footpath, country town.

Transport Hourly buses (two-hourly Sundays) West Wycombe – High Wycombe. Trains from High Wycombe: frequent (half hourly Sundays) London Marylebone; half hourly (hourly Sundays) Princes Risborough (change for Aylesbury), Leamington Spa, Warwick, Birmingham; two hourly Stratford-upon-Avon. At least half-hourly buses (hourly Sundays) Naphill – High Wycombe or Aylesbury. Infrequent buses at Upper North Dean and Bryants Bottom. Hourly buses (two-hourly Sundays) Prestwood – High Wycombe or Great Missenden. Half-hourly trains (hourly Sundays) Great Missenden – Amersham, London Marylebone or Wendover, Aylesbury.

Maps OS Explorer 172, 181; A-Z Street Atlas High Wycombe & Marlow; Chiltern Society Maps 1 High Wycombe & Marlow, 12 Hughenden Valley & Great Missenden [http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?](http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&oe=UTF8&num=200&start=219&msa=0&msid=117966169375523396049.00046414d40d8252e7b70&ll=51.571008,-0.76768&spn=0.003161,0.006899&t=h&z=17)

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*From **High Wycombe station** (full range of shops, pubs, cafés and services), walk down Station Approach, cross Amersham Hill (A404), turn left and almost immediately right along Castle Street to **High Wycombe Church**. From here you can follow the route described at the end of the last section in reverse (5km, 1¼ hours) to reach **West Wycombe Flinthall Farm**. Or cut diagonally in front of the church, turn left along Church Street and first right along pedestrianised White Hart Street. Shortly enter **Eden Shopping Centre** on the left and at the central public space turn right towards the cinema. *To walk along the main road*, turn right to reach **Oxford Road** (A40) and then left, continuing all the way to the **Pedestal Roundabout**. Or keep ahead to the **bus station** and catch a bus to the roundabout (*garage with shop*).*

*From the roundabout, facing towards West Wycombe, turn right along Bradenham Road (A4010). The link from the previous section soon joins from the right by the gate to the recreation ground. Turn right at the footpath sign opposite **Flinthall Farm**.*

From the previous section, keep ahead at the footpath sign.

*To continue on the route, follow the footpath diagonally across the field and under the **Chiltern Main Line** railway then uphill along a right hand field edge. Continue ahead through scrubby woodland and along a left hand field edge. Keep ahead at a footpath waymark, descending alongside willows and through a woodland. Keep ahead uphill through fields to a barn. Cross the yard in front of the barn and turn left along a surfaced farm track, **Cookshall Farm Drive**, which curves right. Just before the drive bends left uphill, turn right at a footpath sign along a broad grass track through **Lees Wood**. Keep ahead slightly uphill as the track becomes a narrower woodland footpath. At the end of the woods go through a kissing gate and keep along the obvious path across a field towards a gate into woods at **Downley Common**.*

Just inside the wood, turn left at a T-junction along a clear bridleway signed with blue waymark arrows as H12/BW84. Keep ahead across a broad track, entering **Naphill Common**, and follow the H12 waymarks across numerous junctions and deeper into woods where the woodland edge curves out. Eventually you reach a post where a yellow-waymarked footpath, H5, forks right towards a fingerpost in the distance. Follow H5 to cottages by a green. Turn right to leave the common and continue along a residential street (Forge Road) to a T-junction with Main Road, **Naphill**.

Turn right along Main Road, *passing bus stops and the Black Lion pub set back on Woodlands Drive on the right*, and just past No 155 by a footpath sign cross left to another footpath sign. *Continue ahead here for shops and pub.* Go through a kissing gate into a small field and follow the path to a stile in the right hand corner. Over this, follow the path ahead across fields and to the right of some trees. Go through a broad gap in the hedge and immediately turn left diagonally through the next field towards **North Dean Woods**. Cross a stile into the woods and keep ahead. Fork keep left downhill on a well-defined track. Keep on the broader track to cross a stile into a field. Keep ahead to a gate onto a lane (Clappins Lane). Turn right and very shortly reach a T-junction with Speen Road at **Upper North Dean** (*bus stops*).

Turn left and very shortly right, past Under the Hill cottage, on an enclosed path uphill. Over a stile keep uphill towards houses. Go over another stile into the corner of woods and almost immediately right along the edge of woodland. Keep ahead past sheds and continue where a tarmac lane (Pigotts Hill) joins from the right, passing houses at **Pigotts**. Keep left along the surfaced track and ahead to the gates of Little Pigotts house. Here turn right alongside the garden wall, and almost immediately left downhill through woodlands, curving right. Keep ahead at the next junction to a gap in a fence and between thick hedgerows, then along a right hand field edge towards a T-junction with a lane (Bryants Bottom Road) by houses at **Bryants Bottom**.

Turn left and opposite the bus stop go right along a narrow enclosed path uphill to barns at **Denner Hill Farm**. Keep ahead across a gravel track past the barn, soon reaching a T-junction at a surfaced drive. Go right and by garages turn left on a broad, roughly surfaced track. Keep ahead between hedgerows, through a gate and

immediately left through a gap on the hedge then right again straight away along a right hand field edge under pylons downhill to a lane (Hampden Road). Turn left and almost immediately right through a gate on a footpath uphill towards **Nanfan Wood**.

Go through a gate into the wood and ahead on a clear path. Keep ahead at a crosspaths to the corner of the wood, through another gate and along a right hand field edge. Through another gate continue along the field edge, then through another gate along a broad track through a rough meadow to a lane (Hangings Lane). Turn right to a junction with Honor End Lane, **Prestwood**. *For shops, pubs, bus stop turn right to reach Prestwood High Street (A4128) – bus stops along to left.*

Cross and keep ahead along Greenlands Lane, very shortly turning right on Kiln Road. Just after the road bends left, go right under a wooden arch on a short gravel path past a row of pretty cottages at **The Glebe**. Keep ahead along the street to a junction where you join Chequers Lane. Follow it as it bends left and go right at the T-junction along Moat Lane to reach **Prestwood Farm** on the left. Take the signed footpath left along the concrete drive and keep ahead on a fenced grassy path past farm buildings. Keep ahead across a crosspaths and through a gate. At the next junction keep left on a broader track downhill, soon going right into **Rignall Wood** at a footpath sign. Keep left on the broader track at a fork, ahead across a crosspaths and along a fenced path to a lane (Rignall Road) opposite **Rignall Farm**.

Turn right and shortly left on a roughly surfaced drive to Coney Cottage. At the cottage turn right through a gate and along a broad grass strip. Cross a stile and keep ahead, bending slightly left of the field edge. Go right through a kissing gate at the next corner to a gate by a tunnel under the railway (the Aylesbury line). *Just before the railway the **South Bucks Way** joins from the left.* Go under the railway and past a normally dry pond (the source of the river Misbourne) to emerge through a gate on a road (Aylesbury Road) opposite the Black Horse pub, **Mobwell**.

Cross, turn right and just past the pub follow South Bucks Way and footpath signing through a gap on the left. Go past a barrier and across a grassy car park, through another gap and along a track through water meadows, roughly following the Misbourne – a normally dry stream – to your right. Go through a gate into the next field and keep ahead, eventually nearing the left hand edge, paralleling a main road (A413). Continue between two hedges and shortly reach a stile to the road on your left in **Misbourne Meadows**. *The London Countryway continues left across the stile.*

For Great Missenden station, keep ahead through a gate and along the right hand edge of a long paddock, through another gate. Nearing a road you reach a gate on your right. The South Bucks Way continues ahead towards the road here. Turn right through the gate, cross the Misbourne and continue on the footpath past a car park on the left, then along a residential street (Walnut Close) to a T-junction with High Street, **Great Missenden**. Turn left along it, very shortly reaching a mini roundabout with Station Approach (A4128) on your right. *The **Chiltern Heritage Trail** joins from High Street ahead. Full range of services around this junction and further ahead down High Street; bus stops further along High Street.* Turn up Station Approach, soon reaching **Great Missenden station** on the left. *Refreshments, toilets in station.*