

Chilterns Country

Visitor Information

The walks described here are ideal for access by public transport, either train or bus.

All of the walk options offer a delightful mixture of woodland walks interspersed with panoramic views, giving a real flavour of the Chilterns; one of England's most wooded Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Many of the woodlands are classified as 'Ancient semi-natural', reflecting their great age and their high wildlife interest.

The walks are mainly on un-surfaced tracks which can get muddy in wet weather. Stout footwear is recommended.

Refreshments are available on the walk at:
The Mulberry Bush, tel: 01494 726754.

Refreshments are also available in Beaconsfield, Seer Green, and at the Mayflower Barn in Jordans.

How to get to the start




By Train: It is suggested that station to station walkers should start at Seer Green & Jordans to take advantage of the more frequent services from Beaconsfield at the end of their walk. Monday to Saturday, Chiltern Railways run twice hourly services to Seer Green & Jordans from London Marylebone and from High Wycombe. Services hourly on Sundays. For times and information call Chiltern Railways on 08456 005165

By bus: Bus service 305 links High Wycombe and Uxbridge with Beaconsfield and Seer Green. For times call Traveline 0870 608 2 608.

By cycle: There is cycle parking at Seer Green & Jordans and Beaconsfield railway stations.

Parking: On street parking only in Seer Green and Beaconsfield. Please park considerately.

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:

-  Footpaths (walkers only)
-  Bridleways (horseriders, cyclists and walkers)
-  Byways (open to all traffic)

In woodland the route is also marked by the Chiltern Society with painted arrows on some trees.


Please be considerate in the countryside:

- Keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them.
- Please keep dogs under close control.

If you have enjoyed this walk there are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns area including other Chilterns Country walks from rail stations, call 01844 355500 or visit www.chilternsaonb.org or buy Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 172 and make your own walk.

The Chiltern Hills were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1965. This is in recognition that the Chiltern countryside is amongst the finest in England and Wales. The Chilterns Conservation Board is the body charged with protecting the AONB. www.chilternsaonb.org

If you or a member of your community would like this leaflet produced in another language or format (large print or audio cassette), please contact the Chilterns Conservation Board 01844 355500.

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Photographs: The Chilterns Conservation Board

Seer Green & Beaconsfield Walk

Circular Walk
6.5 miles (11km)

Station to Station Walk
5.5 miles (9km)

Start / Finish
Seer Green & Jordans Station to
Beaconsfield Stations



About the walk

Whichever length of walk you choose you will be rewarded with the sort of woodland experience for which the Chilterns are justifiably famed. The Chilterns AONB is about one-fifth wooded and this route gives a good introduction to the diversity of forest types that make up this defining landscape feature. You will walk through woodlands which are so biologically important that they have been selected as 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' and relatively new plantations of mixed conifers and broadleaved trees.



Between the woods are paths and quiet lanes offering extensive views over the rolling Chilterns landscape.

There are only two main road crossings, however these are across the busy A355 Beaconsfield to Amersham road and great care must be taken.

Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy!!

Set yourself challenges, but start gently and work up*.

Spend at least two sessions of 15 minutes each walking briskly enough to raise your heartbeat, get warm and breathe harder.

This walk lets you select longer walks as your fitness levels increase.

*Consult your GP if you have not exercised recently or have a known medical condition.

Features of Interest:

Seer Green is a composite name, the element 'Seer' being of French origin and meaning a dry place. In the manorial rolls of 1223 it was known as La Sere and, along with nearby Jordans, was just a hamlet in the parish of Chalfont St. Giles.

Jordans became a centre in England for the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers or Friends, founded in England during the 17th century. The Meeting House grounds hold the grave of William Penn, the founder of the State of Pennsylvania. Originally a 'province', Pennsylvania was granted to William Penn by King Charles II in settlement of a large loan made to the king by Penn's father. The province remained in the Penn family ownership until the American Revolution.



William Penn spent only a few years in America but his legacy was such that as recently as 1984 President Reagan granted William and his wife, Hannah, honorary citizenship.

The Meeting House and grounds are open every day and can be reached from the 'Mayflower Barn'. This barn was reputedly built with timbers from the ship, the Mayflower, which in 1620 took the Pilgrim Fathers to found the first colony in New England.

Groves Windmill at Coleshill can be spotted on the horizon from much of the northern part of the walk. The mill has now been converted but was built in 1856 for grinding cereals. Windmills were late-comers to the Chilterns, the area having firstly relied upon its many water-powered mills, e.g. along the Chess and the Misbourne. Windmill technology rapidly spread in dry areas so that the



late mediaeval skyline would have been marked by as many mills' sails as church spires.

Bekonscot Model Village is the world's oldest model village created in 1929 and featuring an entire miniature kingdom stuck firmly in an idyllic 1930s time warp. There are six little villages in a miniature landscape of farms and fields, castles and churches, woods, lakes and rolling hills. Each village is linked by one of Britain's largest public outdoor model railways. The Model Village is open to the public, further information on www.bekonscot.com Tel 01494 672919

Hodgemoor Woods

The central area of this 100 hectare (250 acre) woodland dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Surrounding this ancient core, secondary semi-natural woodland of the 18th, 19th and 20th century has developed. The wide range of soil types, its mixed history and the low intensity of past management has resulted in Hodgemoor having an extremely wide variety of woodland trees and shrubs. These include whitebeam, wild service tree, field maple, wych elm, aspen, crab apple and yew. This now unusual combination is thought to have once been typical of the Chiltern woodlands before the widespread planting of beech.

Hodgemoor is also rich in its fungi, flora, and butterflies. Breeding birds include such woodland species as woodcock, hawfinch, green and great spotted woodpeckers.





In 2003, the Brett Environmental Trust, Bucks County Council, Chiltern District Council, the Groundwork Trust and Forest Enterprise, brought together by the Hodgemoor Riding Association, celebrated the opening of £45,000 of trail improvements throughout the wood.

Bucks, Herts or Metro-land?

Our walk takes us into what was once an outlier of Hertfordshire and not part of Buckinghamshire at all. The parish of Coleshill was not absorbed into Bucks until 1844. Such oddities have gradually been weeded out by successive boundary reviews and local government re-organisations. However, this quirk of history is still recorded in local place names and 'Hertfordshire House' can be seen on the Ordnance Survey maps just west of our route.

Much of our walk passes through areas marketed as 'Metro-land' by the Metropolitan Railway. A century ago the railway had started its Country Walks books, suggesting walks in the Chilterns for visitors from London. A tradition which this leaflet is pleased to continue.

But the Metropolitan Railway also built houses, developing land it had bought for the construction of the line. Housing

following the railways created the social phenomenon of suburbia, permanently changing many small towns.

Beaconsfield was a relative backwater for many years following the development of railways and the decline of the old coaching route. But in 1906 Beaconsfield got its own station and a housing boom ensued, creating the New Town at the end of our walk.

Station to Station Walk

Distance:

5.5 miles (9km) Allow 3 hours.

Access Information:

The walk is mainly on un-made paths with soft surfaces.

There are no stiles on this walk.

The route is undulating with a few steep uphill and downhill slopes. The brideway through Blue Close Wood can get very muddy in the winter.

Route Description:

- ➔ At Seer Green and Jordans Station, take the gated path across the car park from the station building.
- ➔ Follow the path down to Longbottom Lane, turn left to the junction and cross carefully in to Bottom Lane. **Take great care on road crossings.**
- ➔ **Take care following Bottom Lane.** Take the brideway on your left after about 200m.
- ➔ Keep to the valley floor through Blue Close Wood and carry straight on into Bottom Wood and near its northern end take the brideway to the right, back onto Bottom Lane.



- ➔ Enter Hodgemoor Woods at the junction of Bottom Lane and Rawlings Lane and follow the waymarked brideway to your left.
- ➔ Follow the marked paths to the north-west corner of the wood at the footpath junction with the Amersham Road (A355).
- ➔ **Take great care crossing this road as it carries fast traffic. Take your time; look and listen before crossing.**
- ➔ Follow Magpie Lane for a short distance, taking the track on your left to Ongar Hill Farm.
- ➔ At the Farm, cross onto the footpath and then turn almost immediately left onto the waymarked brideway and follow it for 1km to Wood Cottage.
- ➔ Turn right and follow the path west into Great Beard's Wood.
- ➔ After about 700m, take the footpath left, heading south, and follow this through to Beaconsfield.

Circular Walk

Distance:

6.5 miles (11km) Allow 3.5 hours.

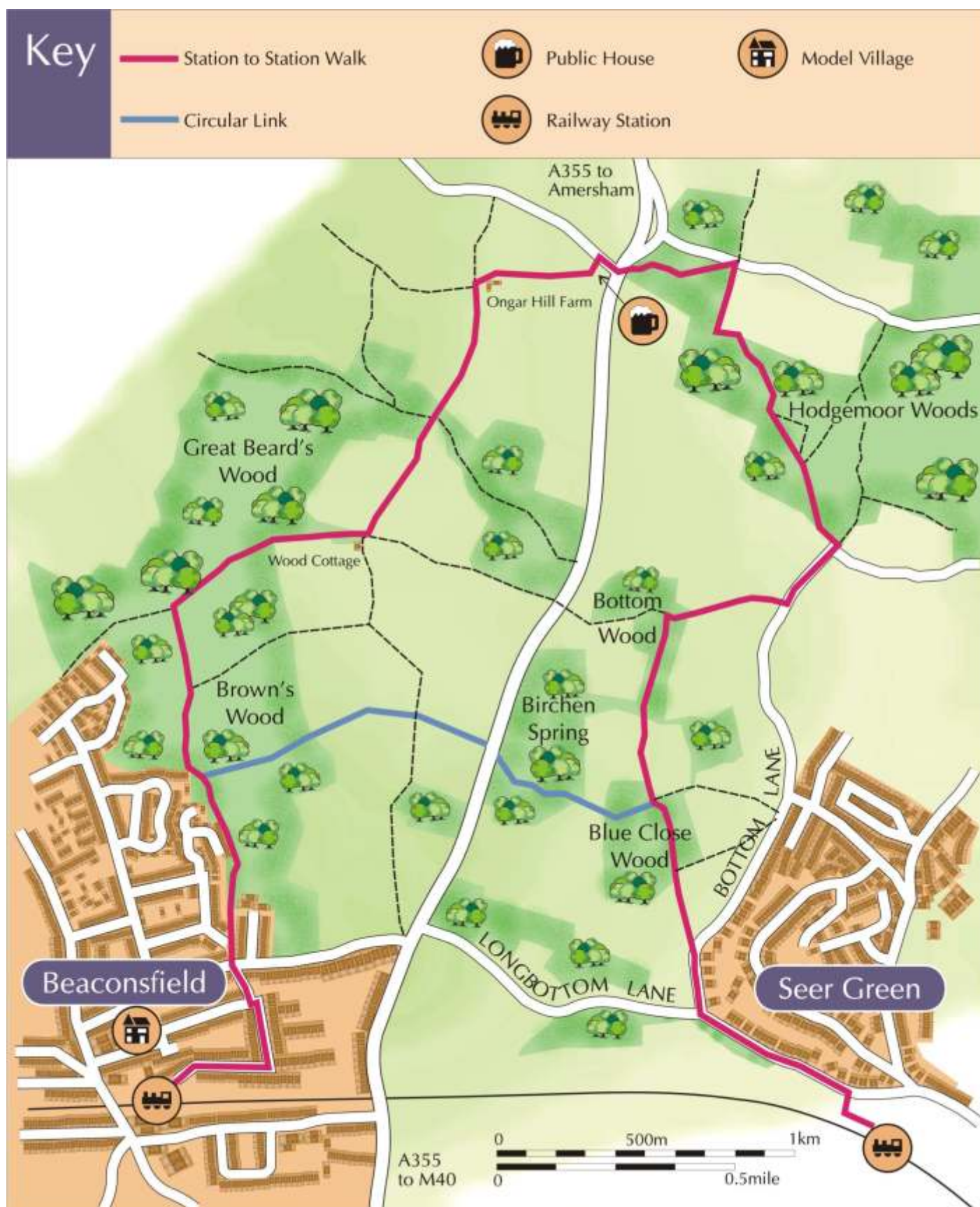
Route Description:

To follow a circular walk from Seer Green & Jordans;

- ➔ Follow the Station to Station route through to Great Beard's Wood and pick up the path heading south as before.
- ➔ After about 600m take the footpath left, heading eastwards.
- ➔ Continue to follow this path through to South Lodge and the Amersham Road.
- ➔ **Take great care crossing this road as it carries fast traffic. Take your time; look and listen before crossing.**
- ➔ Follow the path into Birchen Spring and continue to head generally easterly through to Blue Close Wood.
- ➔ Turn right onto the brideway back to Bottom Lane. Retrace your route to the station.



The Mulberry Bush



The Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

Respect Protect Enjoy