

The Full Moon Pub

'The Full Moon' serves food at lunchtimes including Sunday, and every evening except Sundays. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders are welcome and there is a large garden with a view of the windmill and the Common. Call 01494 758959 for reservations.

The Iron Age Fort Walk

Cholesbury is an ancient hill top village situated in the Chiltern Hills, which are officially designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has much to interest the visitor, especially the Iron Age Hill Fort, one of the most impressive prehistoric settlements in the Chilterns. The Fort can be reached from the shorter of the two walks in this leaflet. It was probably constructed in the Middle Iron Age (300 – 100 BC) and occupied, perhaps intermittently, from the Roman Conquest in the mid-First Century A D.

The area is criss-crossed with footpaths and bridleways and additional routes for riders have recently been created across the common land. It is rich in wildlife, including fox, badger and muntjac deer; birds including pheasant, woodpecker, and barn owl; butterflies include marbled white, orange tip, and meadow brown. The beechwoods, bluebells and orchids all add to the great diversity of life to be found here.

These walks start on common land. Common land is unusual, as the 'commoners' have rights to grazing and other activities, such as cutting turf, though they are not the owners of the land.

Cholesbury is part of a civil parish that includes the villages of St Leonards, Buckland Common, Hawridge and some smaller outlying settlements. There are three churches, four pubs, and a school. Cholesbury Village Hall was built in 1895 and, as well as being a meeting place for local societies, is well known for 'fund raising' cream teas during the summer. Cricket has been played on the Common for over a hundred years.

Two large working farms remain, but most agricultural land has been divided up, usually to keep horses or sheep. Highland cattle, alpacas, and ostriches, can also be found. There is a blacksmith, a farrier, livery yards, dog boarding kennels, a car repair business and an agricultural engineer. Brick making was common in this area, and the remains of clay pits can be often seen. HG Matthews Brickworks at Bellingdon still produce hand made bricks.



This is one of a series of walks through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It follows rights of way most of which are waymarked as follows:

Footpath (walkers only)

Bridleway (horse riders, cyclists and walkers)

Byway open to all traffic

Restricted Byway (horseriders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles)

Please be considerate in the countryside – keep to footpaths, especially through crops, and leave farm gates as you find them. Beware of traffic when using or crossing country roads.

The Chilterns Conservation Board works to conserve the natural beauty of the Chilterns and to increase public understanding and enjoyment of them. For more information contact 01844 355500 or visit www.chilternsaonb.org

The Chiltern Society is working in partnership with the Chilterns Conservation Board and county councils to promote rural enterprise and walking in the countryside. The production of this leaflet was undertaken by The Chiltern Society in association with Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards Local History Group and its associated web site: www.cholesbury.com

For more information or further walks in the area contact: 01494 771250

Chilterns Conservation Board 2009

Chilterns Country



The Iron Age Fort Walk

Walk Description: Long: 5m (8km)
Short: 2 1/2m (4km)

Walk Time: Long: allow 2 1/2 hours
Short: allow 1 1/4 hour

Start / Finish: The Full Moon, Hawridge Common
Nr Chesham, Bucks

How to get to the start

By train: Take the Metropolitan Line to Chesham, buses serve Cholesbury from Chesham. For details of train and bus times ring Intalink Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

By car: Cholesbury is situated 2 miles south of Tring and 2 miles north of Chesham. The Full Moon is opposite Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons. You can park at The Full Moon or just off the road on the edge of the Common, but do not drive on to the Common itself. The Full Moon has cycle parking facilities.

Notes on the walk Anticlockwise from The Full Moon



The Full Moon. Both walks start opposite the driveway to this 17th century pub. For the short route, turn half left downhill across the Common to the trees. For the long route follow the waymarked bridleway straight across the Common downhill to the valley bottom. Turn right and almost immediately left to cross a stile and make your way uphill with the hedge on your left towards Tring Grange Farm.



Grim's Ditch. An ancient earthwork of uncertain origin, although probably pre-Saxon, along which runs The Chiltern Way (a recently created long distance path. Call 01494 771250 for details).



Cholesbury Camp. The Fort consists of a large ditch with ramparts crowned by beech trees. It covers an area of 10 acres, within which is situated the Holy Pond and St Laurence Church. The Church is one of two in the county to be found inside a hill fort. The original Norman church, having fallen into disrepair, was rebuilt sympathetically in 1872.



The Windmill. (Not open to the public). First recorded in 1863 as a smock mill and used for the milling of flour, by the 1880's it had been rebuilt in stone and continued to be used for grinding corn until the outbreak of the First World War. During the Second World War, the Mill was used as a lookout post. Subsequently it became derelict, but in 1968 it was restored as a dwelling and given a new set of dummy sails.

