

The route is waymarked at every gate and stile and major change in direction.

From the bus stop on the A4155 at Mill End, go through the village to the lane on the right just past Yewden Lodge. From Mill End car park, turn right and the lane is on the left.

Turn into the lane, then immediately left along the footpath to Hambleton.

In Hambleton, walk past the Stag and Huntsman public house and out of the village along a tarmaced drive (signed Private Road). Turn right at the fork, along a rough track, and walk back along the other side of the valley.

Turn left at the next fork, then right and then the path continues through woodland down to the Mill End road. Cross the road and after 50 metres turn right for the short cut back to Mill End or, for the main walk, continue straight on along the edge of the wood, then turn left between two fields.

Follow the path through Binfields Wood down to the road near Westfield Farm. Turn left at the road, then right at the church and down into the village of Medmenham.

Follow the road to the river's edge then follow the towpath until some houses are reached. Turn right, away from the river, then through the gate on the left into the lane. Follow the lane back into Mill End.

Features of Interest

- 1 Hambleton is one of the prettiest villages in Buckinghamshire with its cobbled pavements, a village pump and charming old cottages, built out of flint and brick. The church has parts that date back to the 14th century, though it was much restored and altered in Victorian times. Some fine oak panelling inside is reputed to be the bedhead which belonged to Cardinal Wolsey.



- 2 Many of the woods are dominated by beech trees, which grow well in chalky or well-drained soils, and would have been planted to supply the Chiltern furniture industry, based at High Wycombe. The timber is hard and strong and is easily worked, stained or bent into curves, making it ideal for chair making.



- 3 At the eastern end of Binfields Wood, there is an old pit out of which chalk rock was quarried for about ten years at the end of the 19th century. This type of chalk is harder than many of the sediments known as chalk and it was used as a building material for the nearby mansion, Danesfield, and also for a few houses in Medmenham.

- 4 Very little remains of the original Cistercian Abbey at Medmenham. Out of the ruins, an Elizabethan mansion was built, which was acquired by Sir Francis Dashwood in 1755. He added a cloister arcade and a ruined folly tower and used this building as a meeting place for the Medmenham Club. This Society was interested in art and literature, and possibly more sinister matters, and was later referred to as the Hell Fire Club.

- 5 The small wet woodland, Rodbed Wood, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The trees are mainly willow, alder and ash and underneath an interesting selection of wet-loving plants grow including yellow flag, marsh marigold and summer snowflake, known locally as the Loddon Lily.



- 6 Culham Court, on the south side of the river, is a square Georgian mansion built in 1770 with terraced gardens down to the river. George III once stayed here and was greatly impressed by the hot rolls carried by a relay of horses from his favourite London baker.



Public Transport: The High Wycombe/Marlow/Reading/Henley bus service stops at Mill End and Medmenham. The nearest railway station is at Henley-on-Thames. For further information telephone TraveLine 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline.co.uk

Car Parking: There are car parks at Mill End and on the A4155 near Westfield Farm. There are toilets at Mill End car park.

Refreshments: The two public houses on the route both serve food at lunchtime. There is also a village store in Hambleton.

This leaflet may be used in conjunction with OS Explorer sheet 172 or Landranger sheet 175.

This leaflet is available in large print or another language on request

Telephone: 01296 382171

Buckinghamshire County Council,
Rights of Way Group, County Hall, Aylesbury
HP20 1UY
www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way
email: row@buckscc.gov.uk

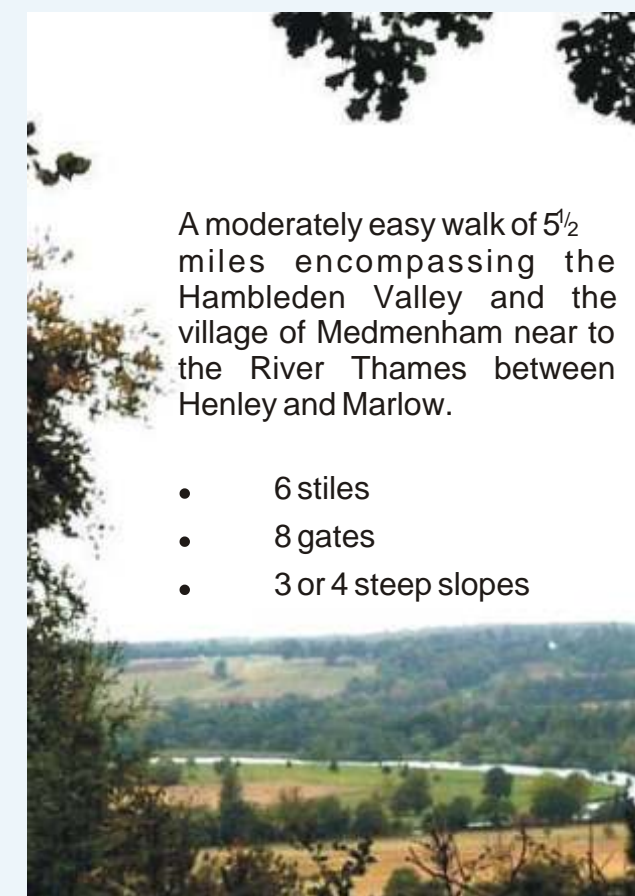
Other useful contacts:
Chilterns Conservation Board
01844 271300 www.chilternsaonb.org

National Trails Office
01865 810224 www.nationaltrail.co.uk

The Chiltern Society
01494 771250 www.chilternsociety.org.uk

© Copyright Buckinghamshire County Council 2003

Hambleton/ Medmenham Circular Walk



A moderately easy walk of 5½ miles encompassing the Hambleton Valley and the village of Medmenham near to the River Thames between Henley and Marlow.

- 6 stiles
- 8 gates
- 3 or 4 steep slopes

Rights of Way
Group

