

Hambleton & Medmenham

A style-free walk of 5.5 miles encompassing the Hambleton Valley and the village of Medmenham near the River Thames between Henley and Marlow

Circular Walk

Directions

- From the bus stop on the A4155 at Mill End, go through the village to the lane on the right just pass Yewden Lodge. From Mill End car park, turn right and the lane is on the left.
- Turn onto 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 tarmacked 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 follow the path 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, right at the church and down into the village of Medmenham. Follow the road to the river's edge, turn right and 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 flint cottage. The church dates back to the 14th century. 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.
- 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 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 used the house as a meeting



place of the Medmenham Club, 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 under neath 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.



Follow 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

Further Information:

Rights of Way & Access, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UY
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Email: row@buckscc.gov.uk
or visit our website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/rights_of_way



