



Country Escapes

Chequers and the Chilterns

Beech woods and bluebells; heady chalk ridges of short, springy rabbit-cropped grasses; blazing autumn colour – these are the classic images of the Chiltern Hills. Bodgers and charcoal burners once lived and worked in the woods here, fashioning legs and spindles for High Wycombe’s chair industry. Now the secluded woodlands and open slopes are the preserves of deer, badgers, red kites, foxes and other wildlife which reward the sharp-eyed visitor.

Princes Risborough to Wendover

You can begin in the unhurried, unspoilt market town of Princes Risborough. Leave the town turning right into New Road behind Marks & Spencer’s car park, past the fire station and turn left onto The Ridgeway after about 300 yards. Soon you bear right as the Trail leads steeply up Brush hill to Whiteleaf Hill. This is a pleasant place to take a breather, to see the ancient carving of a chalk cross, to enjoy the views back over Risborough towards the North Wessex Downs and to admire the delicate detail of wild flowers – amongst them harebell, autumn gentian, lady’s bedstraw and wild thyme.

From Whiteleaf continue downhill to Cadsden, crossing the lane beside the Plough Inn and climbing gently back up to the ridge and on to Pulpit Hill, a nature reserve below an Iron Age Fort.



Pulpit Hill nature reserve © Chilterns Conservation Board



Red kite © Gerry Whitlow

Fact File

Finding your way

The Ridgeway is way-marked throughout with the National Trail acorn symbol.

Maps

See map at end of document; also
OS Landranger 165
OS Explorer 181

Getting there

For details of buses and trains visit:
[Ridgeway Travel Planner](#)

Refreshments

Princes Risborough: Various pubs, cafés
Whiteleaf: [Red Lion](#) T: 01844 344476
Cadsden: [Plough](#) T: 01844 343302
Wendover: Various pubs, cafés

Public Toilets

Princes Risborough: Horns Lane 7.15am-8pm disabled access.
Wendover: Library Car Park 7:30am - 7:30pm, disabled access

From Cadsden The Ridgeway leads on to 19th-century Chequers, the Prime Minister's country home, entering the grounds by the same gate used by many visiting heads of state. A steepish climb will bring you to Coombe Hill, served by a National Trust car park on the Butler's Cross/Dunsmore Road. The hilltop monument to the Boer War marks the highest point of The Ridgeway in the Chilterns, a favourite spot for picnicking, flying kites or simply gazing over the patchwork farmlands of the broad Vale of Aylesbury to the Berkshire Downs and the Cotswolds beyond.

It's all down-hill from here as the Trail drops down into the attractive little town of Wendover, passing the station and following the High Street, just in time for tea.

Distance: 6½ miles/2¾ hours



Coombe Hill Monument © Elaine Townson

Whilst visiting the area

The undisturbed charm of the Chilterns countryside lingers in its little valley towns. You might explore the old-towns of Amersham, Chesham, Great Missenden or Beaconsfield which all share the same attractive hall-marks of half-timbered cottages, antique shops and pubs, giving them a relaxed and leisurely air.

On their doorstep is an intricate network of secluded lanes with lush verges of cow parsley and pink willow herb, linking tucked-away hamlets like Little Missenden, Hampden or Speen, each with yet another excellent pub. All provide access to some part of the 1,250 miles of way-marked footpaths and bridleways which criss-cross the Chilterns. There are a myriad of possible walks with many [promoted and waymarked choices](#)



Chequers from The Ridgeway © Jos Joslin

Accommodation

Princes Risborough: [Various B & B's, inns and hotels.](#)

Whiteleaf: [Red Lion](#) T: 01844344476

Cadsden: [Plough](#) T: 01844 343302

Wendover: [Red Lion](#) T: 01296 622266

17 Orchard Close T: 01296 623624

17 Icknield Close T: 01296 583285

Other places to visit

[Chiltern Brewery](#)

[Chiltern Open Air Museum](#)

[Hughenden Manor](#)

[Horses Trust](#)

[Milton's Cottage](#)

[Wendover Woods](#)

Tourist Information

[Visit Buckinghamshire](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Tourism](#)

Wendover: Clock Tower, High St.

T: 01296 696 759

Princes Risborough: Tower Court, Horns Lane T:01844 274795

Aylesbury: 8 Bourbon Street

T: 01296 330559

High Wycombe Library, 5 Eden Place

T: 01494 421892

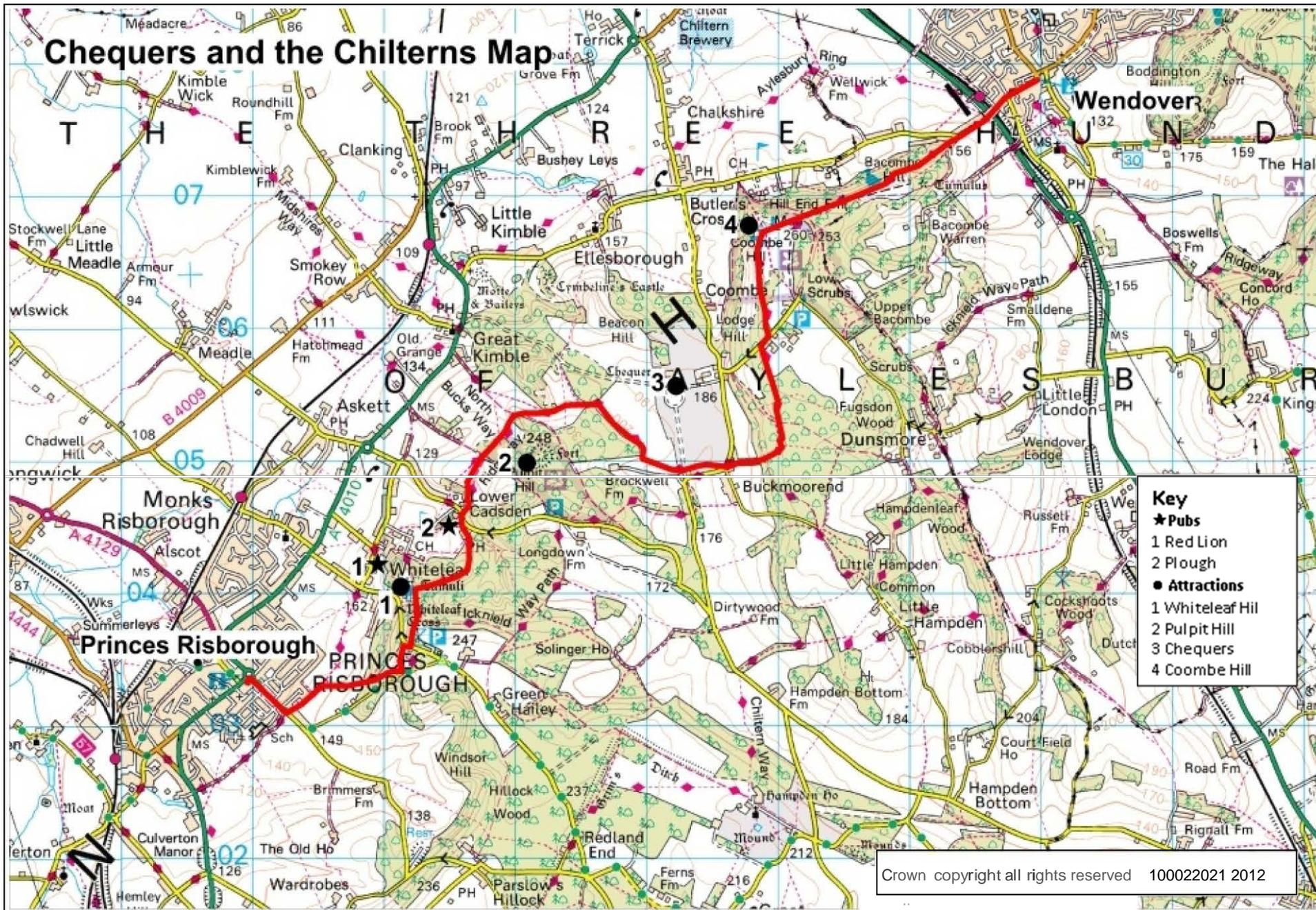


Rowan berries in autumn © Jos Joslin

Remember when out walking

- Wear appropriate clothing and strong, comfortable footwear.
- Carry water.
- Take a mobile phone if you have one, but coverage may be patchy in rural areas.
- If you are walking alone it's sensible, as a precaution, to let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.
- Please follow the [Countryside Code](#)

Chequers and the Chilterns Map



Key

- ★ Pubs
- 1 Red Lion
- 2 Plough
- Attractions
- 1 Whiteleaf Hill
- 2 Pulpit Hill
- 3 Chequers
- 4 Coombe Hill

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