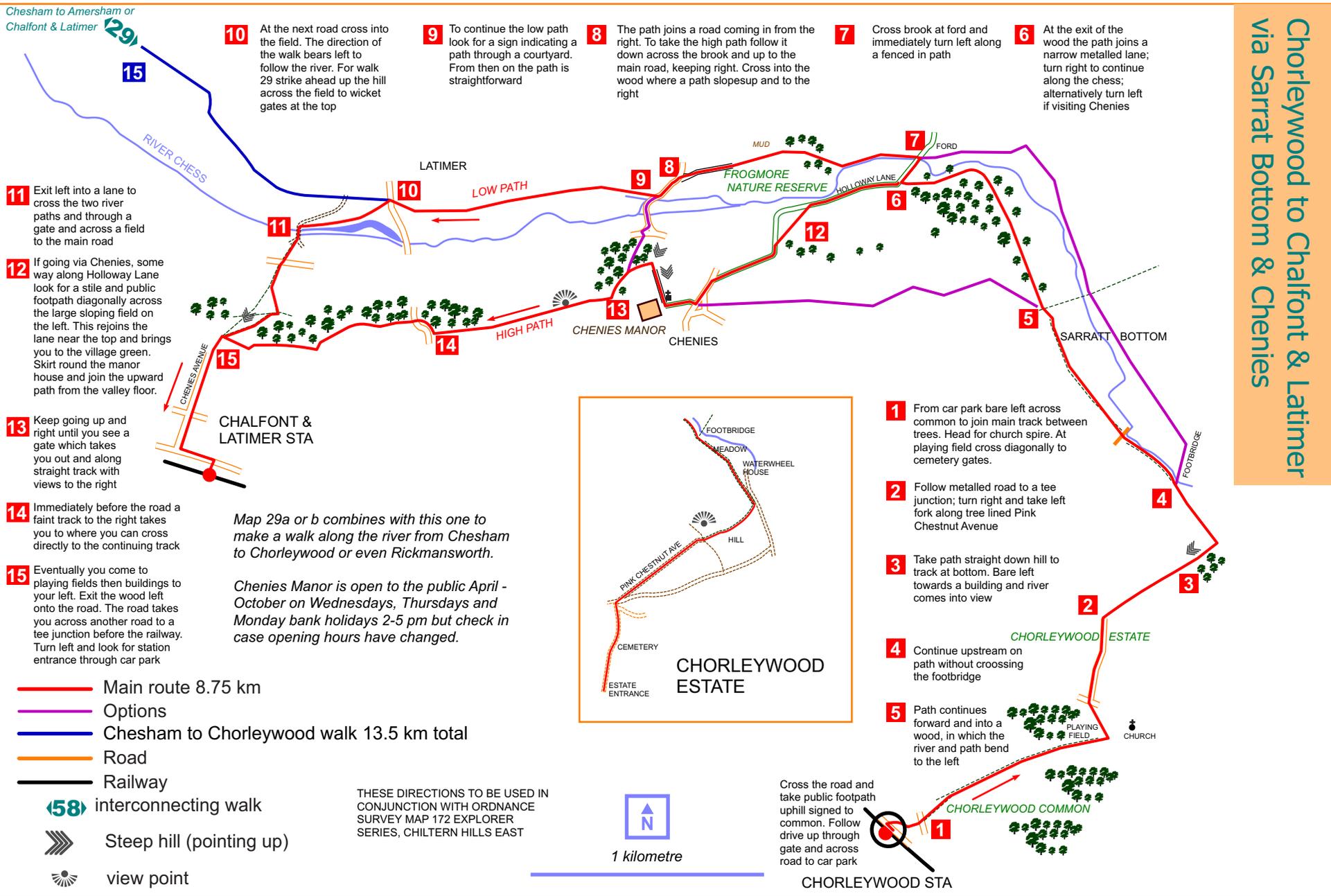


# Chorleywood to Chalfont & Latimer via Sarrat Bottom & Chenies



Chesham to Amersham or Chalfont & Latimer **29**

**15**

**10** At the next road cross into the field. The direction of the walk bears left to follow the river. For walk 29 strike ahead up the hill across the field to wicket gates at the top

**9** To continue the low path look for a sign indicating a path through a courtyard. From then on the path is straightforward

**8** The path joins a road coming in from the right. To take the high path follow it down across the brook and up to the main road, keeping right. Cross into the wood where a path slopes up and to the right

**7** Cross brook at ford and immediately turn left along a fenced in path

**6** At the exit of the wood the path joins a narrow metalled lane; turn right to continue along the chess; alternatively turn left if visiting Chenies

**11** Exit left into a lane to cross the two river paths and through a gate and across a field to the main road

**12** If going via Chenies, some way along Holloway Lane look for a stile and public footpath diagonally across the large sloping field on the left. This rejoins the lane near the top and brings you to the village green. Skirt round the manor house and join the upward path from the valley floor.

**13** Keep going up and right until you see a gate which takes you out and along straight track with views to the right

**14** Immediately before the road a faint track to the right takes you to where you can cross directly to the continuing track

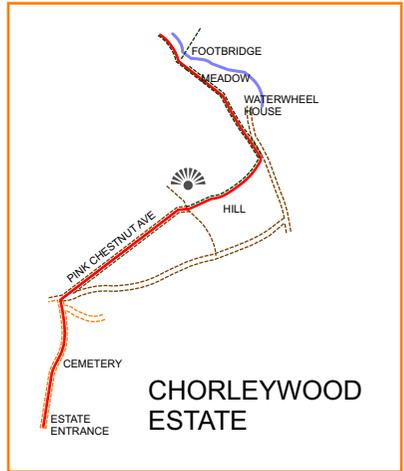
**15** Eventually you come to playing fields then buildings to your left. Exit the wood left onto the road. The road takes you across another road to a tee junction before the railway. Turn left and look for station entrance through car park

Map 29a or b combines with this one to make a walk along the river from Chesham to Chorleywood or even Rickmansworth.

Chenies Manor is open to the public April - October on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Monday bank holidays 2-5 pm but check in case opening hours have changed.

- Main route 8.75 km
- Options
- Chesham to Chorleywood walk 13.5 km total
- Road
- Railway
- 58 interconnecting walk
- >>> Steep hill (pointing up)
- ☀ view point

THESE DIRECTIONS TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 172 EXPLORER SERIES, CHILTERN HILLS EAST



- 1** From car park bare left across common to join main track between trees. Head for church spire. At playing field cross diagonally to cemetery gates.
- 2** Follow metalled road to a tee junction; turn right and take left fork along tree lined Pink Chestnut Avenue
- 3** Take path straight down hill to track at bottom. Bare left towards a building and river comes into view
- 4** Continue upstream on path without crossing the footbridge
- 5** Path continues forward and into a wood, in which the river and path bend to the left

Cross the road and take public footpath uphill signed to common. Follow drive up through gate and across road to car park

**27** Chorleywood to Rickmansworth via Old Shire Lane

### **Chorleywood to Chalfont & L via Sarrat Bottom & Chenies**

*An all time favourite of mine, this walk takes a very pretty stretch of the lower valley of the Chess, including short stretches of the river, a ford, the Chorleywood Estate and the opportunity to visit Chenies Manor. The route can be muddy and includes a steep hill down into the valley and back up again to gain the station.*

### **Chorleywood House Estate**

In the early 18th Century when it consisted of just two farms, Chorleywood Farm and Meeting House Farm. The land and property changed ownership several times until John Barnes bought the estate in 1822 and built a Regency mansion, called Chorleywood House, replacing the existing farm house. In 1892, the house was bought by Lady Ela Russell, a relative of the Duke of Bedford. She modified and enlarged the house. She developed the estate to be virtually self-sufficient, with her own farms and market garden. She created formal gardens and parkland near the house, and built cottages for her chauffeur and gardener behind the house. She installed electricity using her own generator housed in a building near the summerhouse. Water was pumped from the Chess by a waterwheel to a well which was also supplied by a spring. She built a chapel, and a drill hall. These buildings are still in use, and have recently been restored by Three Rivers.

Nothing came of later plans to turn it into a golf club, but this was during the depression of the 1930s. In June 1940, the mansion and land were bought by Chorleywood UDC together with Hertfordshire County Council and LCC and designated a public open space.

### **River Chess**

Once past the water treatment area this becomes Tony's favourite valley. The River Chess is a chalk stream, its water coming from the groundwater held in the chalk of the Chiltern Hills. The Chess is fed by springs which form where the water table reaches ground level. The mineral rich water emerges at a constant temperature of about 10°C. The unique character of chalk streams means that they provide a very rich habitat for wildlife, which makes the Chess a great place to come into contact with nature.

The River Chess Association lists Brown trout, brook Lamprey, Grayling, Bullhead, Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Mute Swan, Osprey, Stonechat, Water Rail, Water Crowfoot, Purple Loosestrife, Hemp Agrimony, Water Forget-Me-Not, Branched Bur-reed, Mayflies and Water voles, which are one of the UK's rarest mammals, See

<http://www.riverchessassociation.co.uk/wildlife.html>

### **Frogmore Meadow**

The site has marshy areas and fens beside the river, damp grassland and drier, more acidic areas. The river bank has water voles, and

damp areas are dominated by meadow foxtail and Yorkshire fog, with some marsh marigold and marsh bedstraw. Other typical plants are marsh marigold, greater bird's foot trefoil, ragged robin and the rare marsh valerian. Sedges abound and there are six species. The drier areas support plants such as betony. Butterflies include skippers, meadow browns, ringlets and marbled whites

### **Chenies Manor**

This Grade I Listed Building, known formerly as Chenies Palace, was owned by the Cheyne family who were granted the manorial rights in 1180. The manor remained in their possession until the end of the 15th century.

The semi-fortified brick manor house which forms the core of the present day structure was built by Sir John Cheyne around 1460. Both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I visited the house on numerous occasions accompanied by their Courts.

The original manor house was extended in the 16th century by John Russell, later 1st Earl of Bedford, to whom the property passed through marriage. In 1627, the 4th Earl of Bedford relocated the principal family seat from Chenies to Woburn Abbey. Chenies Manor then became a secondary home. In the 1950s the estate was bought by the present owners, the MacLeod Matthews family, who commenced a long process of restoration which continues to this day. Visit <http://www.cheniesmanorhouse.co.uk/>