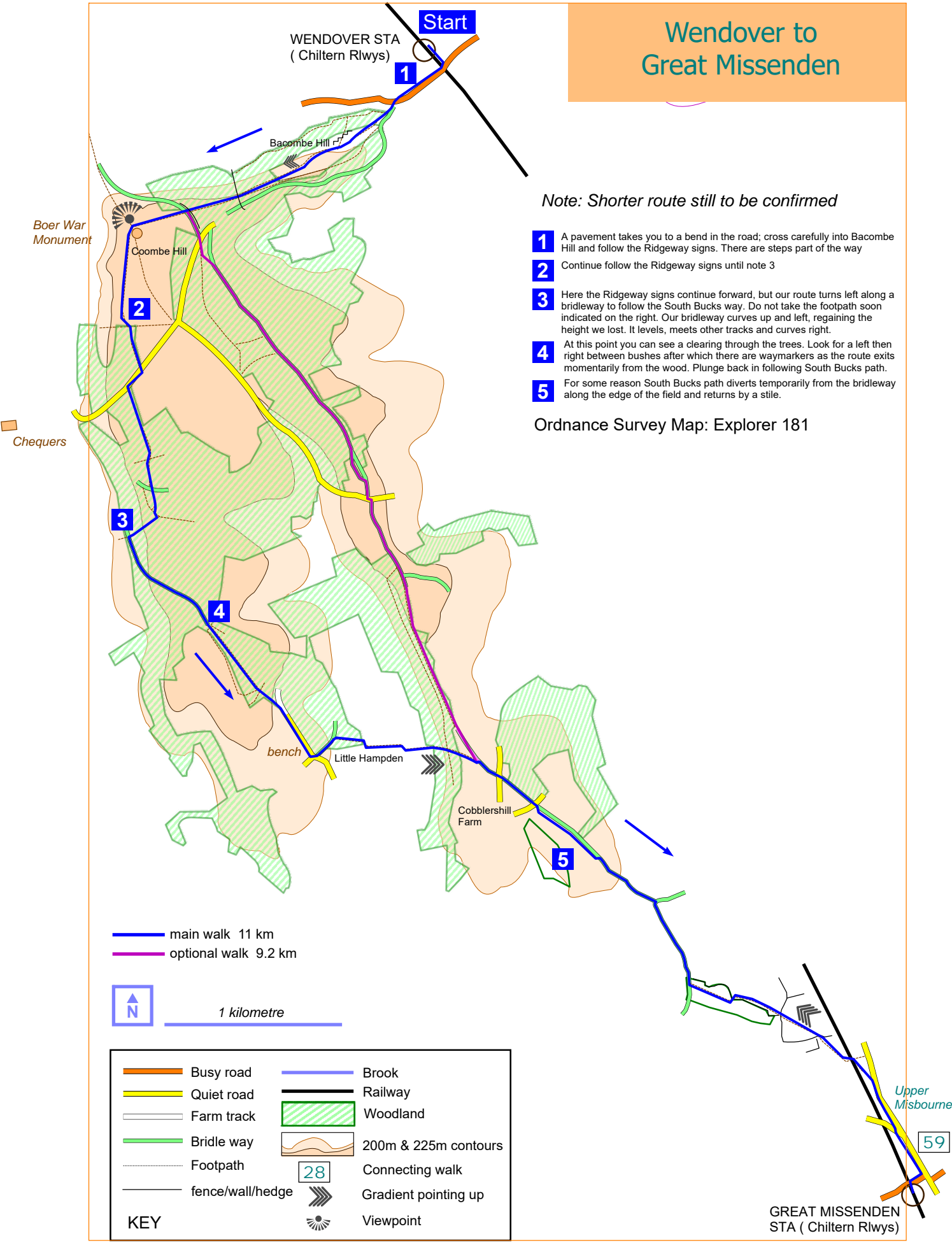


Wendover to Great Missenden

Note: Shorter route still to be confirmed

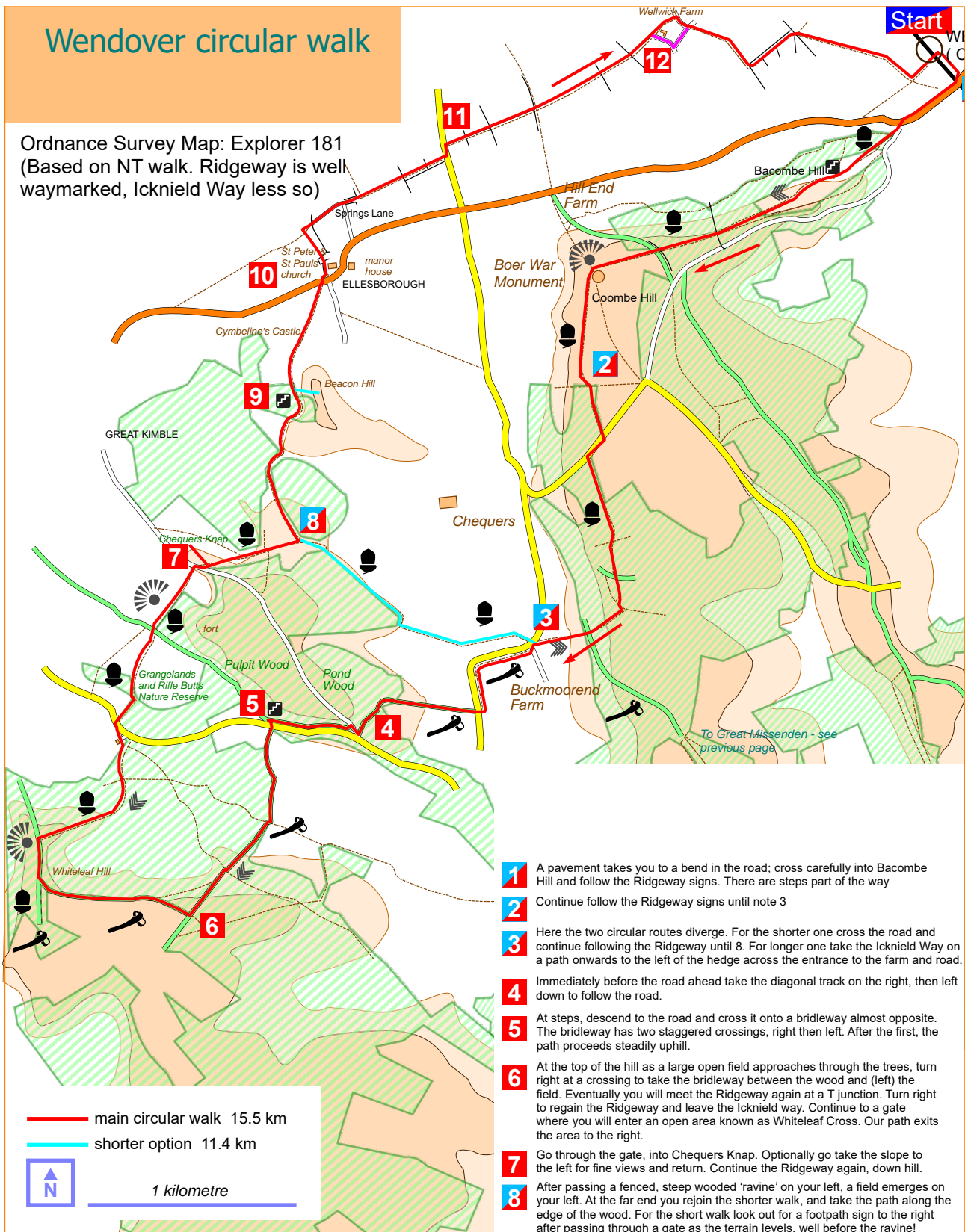
- 1** A pavement takes you to a bend in the road; cross carefully into Bacombe Hill and follow the Ridgeway signs. There are steps part of the way
- 2** Continue follow the Ridgeway signs until note 3
- 3** Here the Ridgeway signs continue forward, but our route turns left along a brideway to follow the South Bucks way. Do not take the footpath soon indicated on the right. Our brideway curves up and left, regaining the height we lost. It levels, meets other tracks and curves right.
- 4** At this point you can see a clearing through the trees. Look for a left then right between bushes after which there are waymarkers as the route exits momentarily from the wood. Plunge back in following South Bucks path.
- 5** For some reason South Bucks path diverts temporarily from the brideway along the edge of the field and returns by a stile.

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 181



Wendover circular walk

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 181
(Based on NT walk. Ridgeway is well waymarked, Icknield Way less so)



— main circular walk 15.5 km
— shorter option 11.4 km



1 kilometre

	Busy road		Brook
	Quiet road		Railway
	Farm track		Woodland
	Bridle way		200m & 225m contours
	Footpath		Connecting walk
	fence/wall/hedge		Gradient pointing up
			Viewpoint

KEY

- 1** A pavement takes you to a bend in the road; cross carefully into Bacombe Hill and follow the Ridgeway signs. There are steps part of the way
- 2** Continue follow the Ridgeway signs until note 3
- 3** Here the two circular routes diverge. For the shorter one cross the road and continue following the Ridgeway until 8. For longer one take the Icknield Way on a path onwards to the left of the hedge across the entrance to the farm and road.
- 4** Immediately before the road ahead take the diagonal track on the right, then left down to follow the road.
- 5** At steps, descend to the road and cross it onto a bridgeway almost opposite. The bridgeway has two staggered crossings, right then left. After the first, the path proceeds steadily uphill.
- 6** At the top of the hill as a large open field approaches through the trees, turn right at a crossing to take the bridgeway between the wood and (left) the field. Eventually you will meet the Ridgeway again at a T junction. Turn right to regain the Ridgeway and leave the Icknield way. Continue to a gate where you will enter an open area known as Whiteleaf Cross. Our path exits the area to the right.
- 7** Go through the gate, into Chequers Knap. Optionally go take the slope to the left for fine views and return. Continue the Ridgeway again, down hill.
- 8** After passing a fenced, steep wooded 'ravine' on your left, a field emerges on your left. At the far end you rejoin the shorter walk, and take the path along the edge of the wood. For the short walk look out for a footpath sign to the right after passing through a gate as the terrain levels, well before the ravine!
- 9** Care is needed on the path behind Beacon Hill, which is narrow and partly stepped, with a steep drop down on the left.
- 10** The route goes through the churchyard, along a wall on the left; up along and down a slope and across a field. Turn right to access a stile into Spring Lane.
- 11** At the road turn left for 60m, cross it and go through a metal gate onto a footpath, which is a continuation of the Aylesbury Ring Path. On meeting a gate, the path continues along the edges of three fields to a stile.
- 12** Continue along the Aylesbury ring, past Wellwick farm. The route here is confusing. You can turn right up a track before Wellwick House, then taking first left between buildings, or continue across field to the farm and take an unmarked track right, up between buildings. Look for a way marker on a post in the open field. The path turns diagonally right, then again, then left along the edge of a field, then diagonally right again. When parallel with the railway station take the path left to cross a footbridge that takes you to the entry side of the station.

walk notes

Wendover to Great Missenden

This walk first follows the Ridgeway National route and then the South Bucks Way. Fine views across the Vale of Aylesbury give way to woodland. The South Bucks way continues down the Misbourne valley; see map 59.

The Chiltern Escarpment

The Chiltern Hills are formed by an outcrop of chalk, overlain by clay-with-flints, on the north-western side of the London basin. The chalk strata were tilted creating a dip slope that falls gently towards the south-east. To the north-west, the hills end abruptly at a steep escarpment, which overlooks the Vale of Aylesbury.

About 105 million years ago the Earth warmed; sea levels rose to cover the land. Initially, land nearby resulted in the deposits of types of marine sedimentary rocks, now represented by the Gault Clay and the Upper Greensand. As the nearby land disappeared, layers of chalk up to 600 metres thick gradually developed from soft calcareous ooze, largely composed of disc-shaped calcite plates called coccoliths: the remains of millions of microscopic plankton.

Much later, the continental plate slowly crumpled, creating mountain ranges including the Alps, but also shaped the syncline of the London Basin, leading to the development of the North Downs, South Downs and Chiltern Hills. Sediments continued to collect in the downfolds of the basin as the new ranges of chalk hills were forced upwards. Up to 320 metres of sediments were deposited in the London Basin, as the Chilterns became dry land again. Chalk is soft, but resists erosion more than the clays and sandstones of Southern England, so it now forms ranges of low hills.

Rivers that formed on the uplifted areas began to erode the hills, leading to the deposition of further sediments in the basins, gravels, sands, silts and

clays.

Chequers

A building has stood on the site since at least the 12th century. Its name has been attributed to one of its earliest residents.

The house was designed and owned by William Hawtrej in 1565.

As soon as it was completed, Queen Elizabeth I ordered its use for the detention of Lady Mary Grey, younger sister of Lady Jane Grey, who had married Elizabeth's serjeant porter Thomas Keyes without the monarch's consent. She was held at there from 1565 to 1567 as punishment and to ensure she had no heirs with a claim to the throne.

The house passed through the hands of many wealthy families, including in 1715 that of John Russell, grandson of Oliver Cromwell. Sir George Russell, another ancestor, made drastic changes to the property in 1832, remodelling the property in the then modish neo-Gothic style.

Fortunately, when the Astley family acquired Chequers in the late Victorian era, they restored it to its original Elizabethan glory under the guidance of Sir Reginald Blomfield.

The 1,000 acre estate has been in public hands since 1917, when its then owners, former minister and First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Arthur Lee and his American heiress wife Ruth, donated it to the British government on the grounds that the prime minister should not necessarily be expected to own their own rural retreat, a gesture representing a sea change in UK politics.

Boer War Monument - Coombe Hill

The majority of Coombe Hill was once part of the Chequers Estate. It was presented to the National Trust by the UK government when they were given the Estate in the 1920s.

One of the oldest features on Coombe Hill is the remains of late prehistoric (Bronze or Iron Age) cross-dyke, which is a visible earthwork. It consists of a shallow ditch about 8.5m across and 0.5m deep running from southwest to northeast on the west facing slope about 400m south of the monument. It was probably dug to defend a route or to demarcate a territory.

Coombe Hill Monument is one of the first and largest examples of a war memorial erected to honour the names of individual men who fell whilst fighting for their country. The monument was erected in 1904, by public subscription, in memory of 148 men from Buckinghamshire who died during the Second Boer War. It has since been badly damaged by lightning. The monument and a few square metres of surrounding land are owned by Buckinghamshire County Council, not the National Trust.

Much of this info is extracted from National Trust web site <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chilterns-countryside/features/the-geology-beneath-the-chilterns-countryside>

