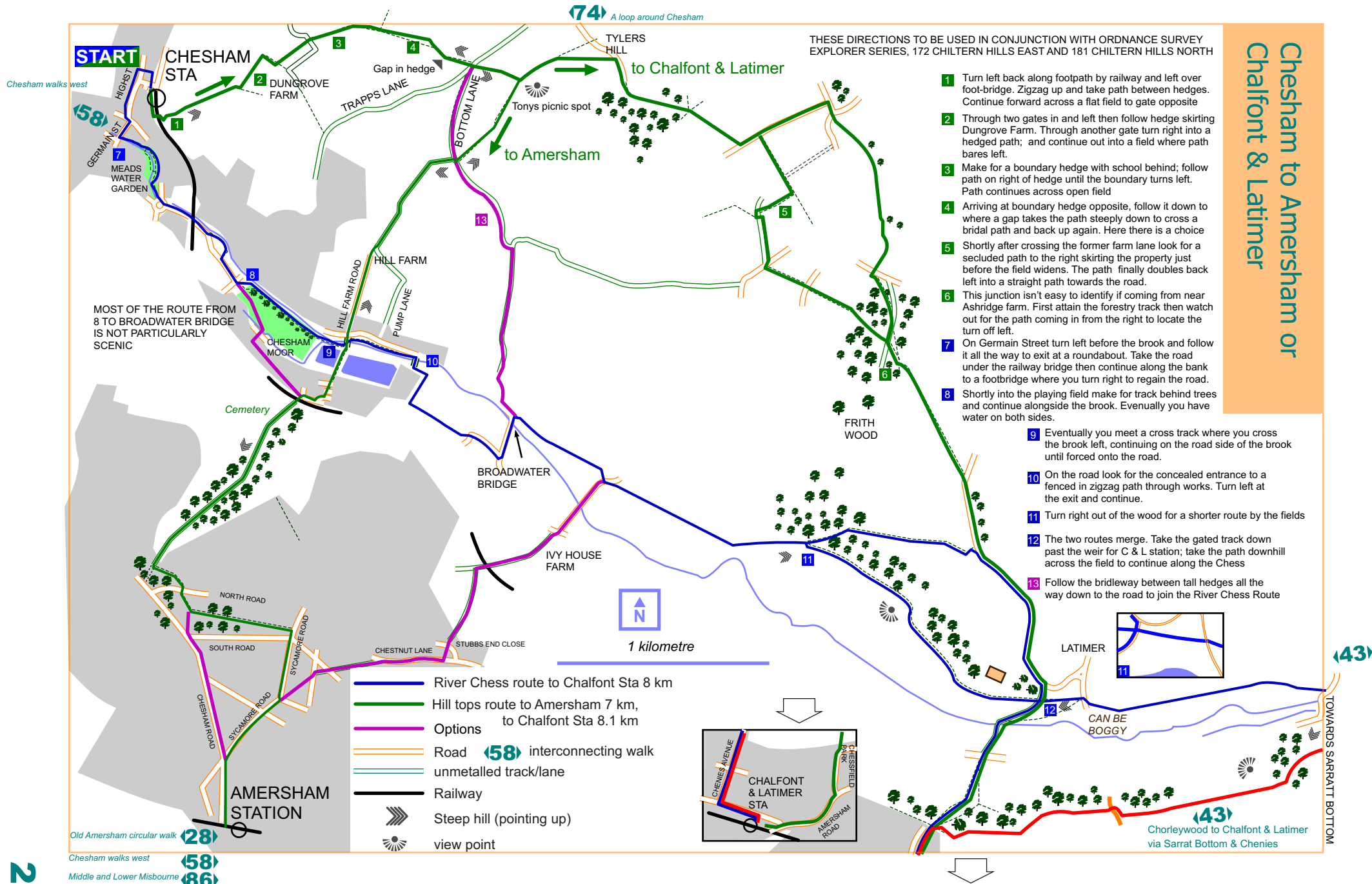


Chesham to Amersham or Chalfont & Latimer



Chesham to Chalfont & Latimer via Chess Valley

The market town of Chesham nestles at the top of the Chess Valley, which is the location of some of my favourite walks.

That said, the initial part as far as Broadwater Bridge is not idyllic, passing the outskirts of the town, a water treatment plant and some ribbon development.

Unless wishing to follow the river specifically or have an objection to steep hills consider starting the walk in green and make your way to the valley bottom after this point. All walks in the Chilterns are best done after a dry spell as parts can be muddy or boggy.

Chesham to Chalfont & Latimer via Tylers Hill

This is one of the high ground routes referred to in the last para. The walk into Latimer along the road is a bit tedious but the walk (apart from there) has some fine views across the valley.

Chesham to Chorleywood via Chess Valley 29/43

From whichever route on map 29 you choose to get to Latimer you have the option to continue down to Chorleywood.

Once you get to the ford at Holloway Lane you have an option on either side of the river. Much of the left side is, however, to country roads, separated from the river by a thick hedge. The other side is distant from the river but on tracks, not road.

There is a steep climb out of the valley to get to Chorleywood.

Chesham

Chesham lies at the confluence of four dry valleys formed by the meltwater at the end of the last ice age which deposited onto the bed rock of chalk, alluvial gravels, silts, on which the town now sits.

Chesham is named after a pile of stones and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. In medieval times industries included flour production, woodworking and weaving of wool. A small-scale woodenware industry making shovels, brooms, spoons and chairs, began in the 1500s, followed by leather goods and beer.

Chesham developed as a market town which prospered through its manufacturing industries fuelled by a series of mills which sprung up along the River Chess. Until the 19th century the town was centred to the south-eastern end of the present High

Street. Most of the present-day town centre's development took place during Victorian times.

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>