

The 4.5 mile walk is described in a clockwise direction starting from The Square off Church Lane, Great Missenden (SP898012). However, it may be joined at other places and followed in either direction.

**Waymarking** The walk is waymarked at every gate or stile or major change of direction, with yellow arrows on white discs.

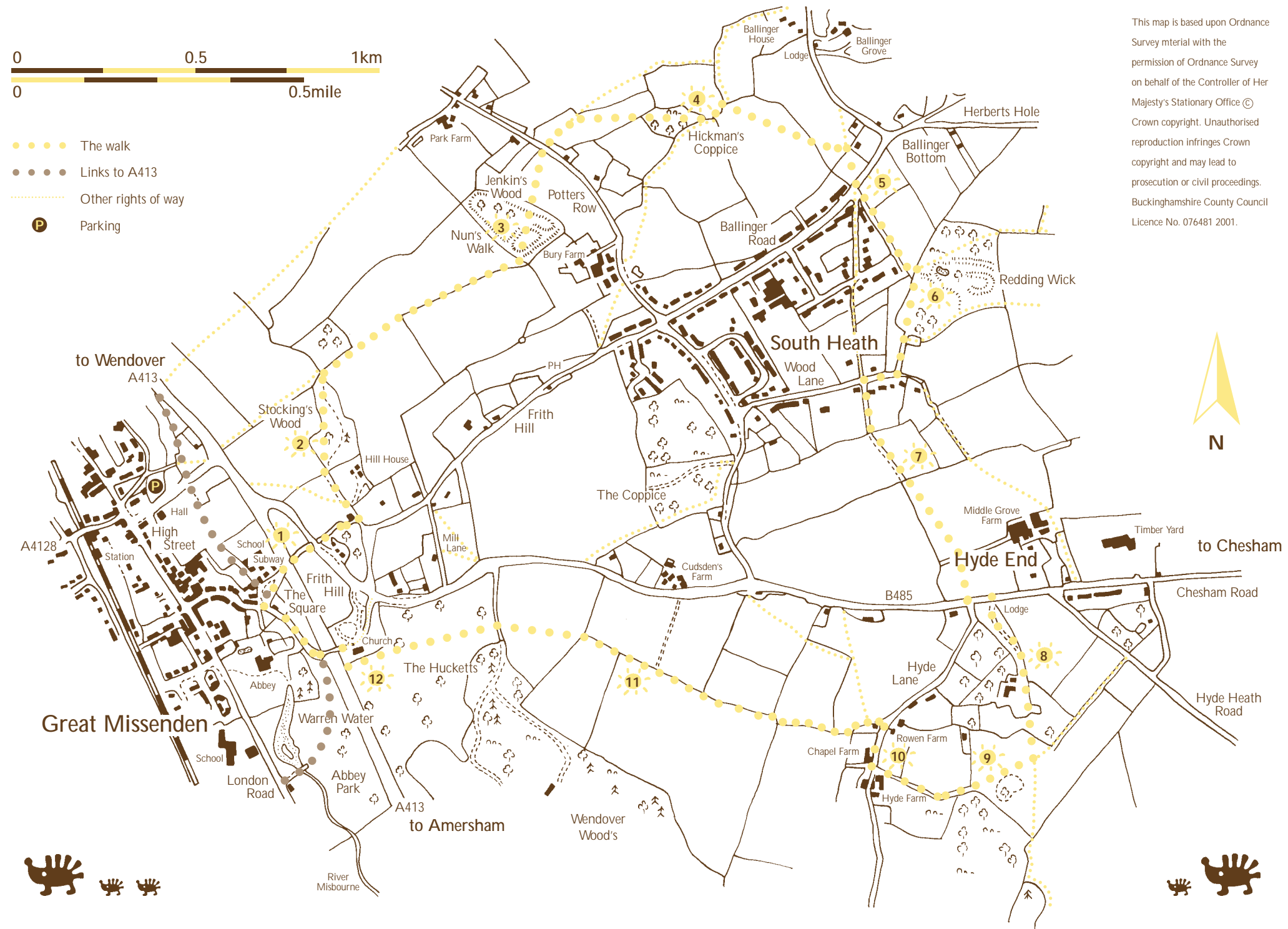


**1** From The Square take the subway under the A413 and follow the path up Frith Hill. At the top turn left and follow the waymarked route through to Stocking's Wood.

**2** Stocking's Wood is a good example of a Chilterns woodland. Twelve species of plants have been found in the wood which are indicative of ancient woodland, these include moschatel and primrose. Take care to guard against risk of fire when walking through woodland.

**3** Jenkin's Wood contains earthworks which are the remains of a twelfth or thirteenth century manorial site with typical large outer and small inner enclosures. The name "Nun's Walk" is something of a mystery as Missenden Abbey was for monks only, although at the time of its dissolution the monks were not always as pious as they might have been.

We can be more confident about the name of Bury Farm. "Bury" refers to a manor house, possibly with fortifications, and was frequently used as a suffix e.g. Aylesbury.

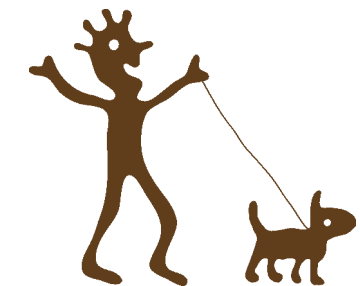


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**4** Carefully cross Potters Row and follow the path through Hickman's Coppice. This small woodland contains a mixture of beech, cherry, ash and oak with an understorey of hawthorn, hazel, rowan and holly.

**5** Carefully cross Ballinger Road and take the path down the eastern boundary of South Heath estate to Redding Wick.

**6** Redding Wick contains the well-preserved and impressive earthworks of a twelfth century manorial settlement. Again these consist of inner and outer enclosures. The manor site belonged to Missenden Abbey and had a Chapel and Chantry as part of a settlement for perhaps 50 people. The embankments around the site were as much for keeping domestic animals in and wild animals out as they were for defence. Although an ancient woodland site, Redding Wick is fairly species-poor, which may be the result of clearance and stock grazing when the site was inhabited.



**7** After leaving Redding Wick follow the path to its junction with Wood Lane. Ignore the footpath to the left and turn right, down the lane, taking the footpath to the left after 100 metres. The path crosses into pasture and it is likely that you will encounter sheep or cattle and horses, so please keep your dog under close control.

**8** Carefully cross over the Chesham Road and take the footpath down past Hyde Lodge and The Hyde.

**9** Turn right before the wooded pit towards Hyde Farm. The pit is left from clay working which supplied materials for local brick works, the nearest of which was at what is now the timber yard near Middle Grove Farm.

**10** After the 16<sup>th</sup> century Hyde Farm turn right up Hyde Lane and then left after about 100m onto the footpath back to Great Missenden.

**11** The descent back to Great Missenden affords good views over the wooded slopes behind the town. Hampden House can be seen in the distance whilst Missenden Abbey is directly below across the A413. The large field down to the church is parkland which made up part of the Abbey Park.

**12** The parish church of St Peter and St Paul mainly dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but was heightened and added to in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. From the church, cross the bridge and follow Church Lane back to The Square.

**Parking** Limited on-street parking is available at The Square, however, it is recommended that walkers should park in the large car park opposite the recreation ground. The signposted South Bucks Way provides a convenient link from the car park to The Square.

**Footwear** Many of the paths can be muddy at any time of the year and waterproof footwear is recommended.

**Maps** This leaflet can be used in conjunction with O.S. 1:25,000 Pathfinder Sheet SP80/90 or 1:50,000 Landranger Sheet 165.

**Public Transport** Great Missenden is well served with regular trains from London and Aylesbury and numerous bus services. For up to date information call the:



TRAVELWISE



**The Ridgeway** One of thirteen National Trails promoted by the Countryside Agency. The Ridgeway runs for 85 miles from Overton in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire. Further details about The Ridgeway and circular walks off it are available from:

National Trails Office, Cultural Services, Holton, Wheatley OX33 1QQ. Tel: 01865 810224.

E-mail: mail@rway-tpath-demon.co.uk  
website: www.nationaltrails.gov.uk

**The South Bucks Way** Starting from The Ridgeway at Coombe Hill, near Wendover, this 23 mile route descends through woods and farmland before following the River Misbourne, en route to Denham and the Grand Union Canal, near Hillingdon

**Further Information** For further leaflets or sets of leaflets, please contact Countryside Services, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1UY or phone 01296 382171. E-mail : countryside@buckscc.gov.uk or visit our website at www.buckscc.gov.uk



### Please follow the Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work  
Guard against all risk of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dog under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Take your litter home

Help to keep all water clean

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

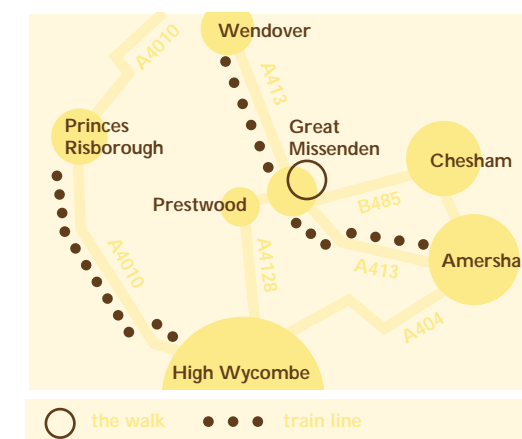
Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise

**Leave only footprints**

**Take only photographs**

**Kill nothing but time**



THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH  
THAMES & CHILTERN COUNTRY  
RURAL SOUTHERN ENGLAND  
THE SOUTH COAST

Designed by the Graphics Team 01296 382177  
Environmental Services  
Buckinghamshire County Council

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## Great Missenden Circular Walk

*A Chilterns walk through ancient woodlands, impressive earthworks and undulating countryside, with superb views over Great Missenden and the Misbourne Valley*



Countryside Services

