



The route is waymarked throughout.

The first part of the route follows the



Thame Valley Walk and is waymarked accordingly.



From the bus stop on the Chearsley road in Long Crendon, take the lane signed "Village roads only" and then immediately bear left past College Barn. At the crossroads, the church and the Old Court House are to the left. Carry straight on and, at the end of the lane, follow the enclosed path to the fields. Continue through the fields towards the river following the Thame Valley Walk waymarks.

At the river, do not cross the culvert but turn to the left and enter the next field. The path continues to Notley Abbey. Follow the fenced path past the house along the track to Notley Farm, then take the track to the right behind the buildings.

From here pass by Lenton's pond, cross the river and then the railway line. Follow the path across the fields into Chearsley and then take Shapps Lane, where the route diverges from the Thame Valley Walk, up to the village green.

Cross the Crendon road and follow the waymarked path away from the centre of the village. At the farm track, turn right and walk up to meet the Chilton road. Then turn left and follow the road.

About 200 metres past the railway bridge, take the footpath to the right. The path re-crosses the road at Wombwell's Farm. Follow the path to the left of the farm track, cross several fields, then join another track leading to College Farm. Turn right just before the farm buildings and follow the waymarks back into Long Crendon.

Features of Interest

- 1 The Court House at Long Crendon was the first property to be obtained by the



National Trust in 1900. Dating from the early 15th century, the building was originally connected with the medieval cloth trade. Up to the Victorian period, it was used to hold manorial courts.



Parts of the church of St Mary's date back to the 13th century. South of the church there is evidence of medieval fishponds, possibly connected with an early manor on the site.

- 2 Notley Abbey was founded in 1162 by Augustinian monks and was reputedly one of the richest monasteries in the country with a large church containing five bells. A legend associated with Notley Great Bell says that at the time of the dissolution, it was thrown into the River Thames and later raised by a local diver. However, as it emerged, a devil-like figure was seen sitting on the bell, the chains broke and the bell sank back to the bottom, never to be seen again!

- 3 A large dovecote stands on the hillside overlooking the river. It is likely to have been constructed from the stone of Notley Abbey in the 16th or 17th century.



- 4 Legend has it that the Lords Gallows once stood on the hill beside the crossroads in Chearsley. Several skeletons have been found close by.

- 5 During the 18th century, Long Crendon was the centre of a thriving needlemaking industry, which was carried out in workers' cottages. Many of the cottages in Long Crendon High Street have special cupboards beside the fireplaces for storing the finished needles. In some instances, the cupboards were accessible from adjoining cottages so that needles could be passed between them to undergo the different production processes.



Public Transport: Long Crendon and Chearsley are served by regular bus services from Aylesbury, Thame and Oxford. For further information telephone Traveline 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline.co.uk.

Car Parking: Parking is available in Long Crendon village and alongside the Chilton road.

Refreshments: There are public houses and village shops in both villages.

Many of the paths can be muddy at any time of the year so the use of stout footwear is recommended.

This leaflet may be used in conjunction with OS Explorer sheet 180 or Landranger sheet 165.

This leaflet is available in large print or another language on request

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Long Crendon/ Chearsley Circular Walk

A moderately easy 5 mile walk encompassing part of the flood plain of the River Thames and the villages of Long Crendon and Chearsley to the south west of Aylesbury near the Oxfordshire border.



- 30 stiles
- 6 gates
- several moderate slopes

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