

Walk 2 - Chilham - Magnificent Mansions and Majestic Trees

Difficulty:- 4 miles (6.25km) 1 steep path uphill, 1 steep path downhill, 2 stiles, 3 gates.

Time:- 2 hours (no stops).

Bus:- 652 Monday to Saturday (Ashford/Canterbury).

Train:- Chilham Railway Station.

Start and parking:- Chilham Village Car Park, Taylors Hill, off A252, with Public Toilets.

Food stop:- Chilham.

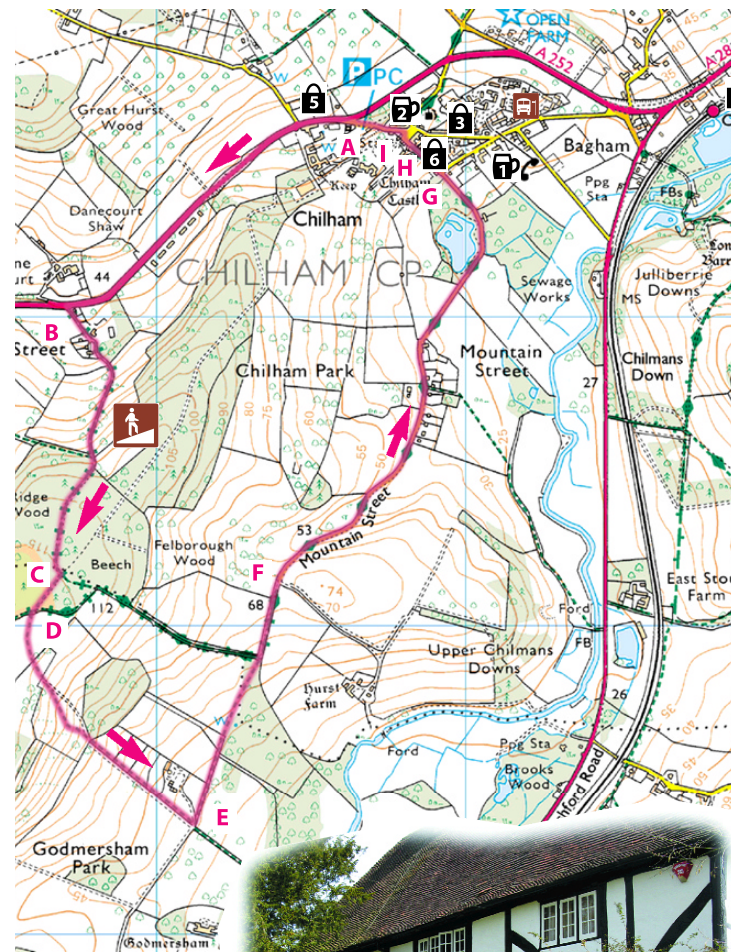
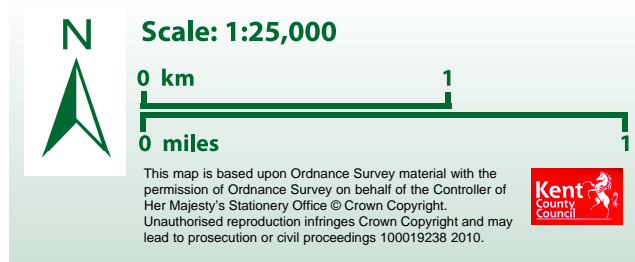
Key:- L = Left; NDW = North Downs Way; R = Right.

Start at the A252 Chilham Car Park. L onto A252 pavement A. L Dane Street B. Enjoy the architecture of the small settlement at Dane Street. Each April there is a carpet of wood anemone.

R at big beech tree and fork in path towards summit C. Cross the NDW to stile L of deer leap D. The wall prevented deer from returning to the Forest. **Foot path diagonally R across field to stile and second field follow yellow markers downhill. Through gate and continue downhill to point where farm tracks meet E.** For a description of Godmersham Park see Countryside around King's Wood (overleaf). Towards the bottom of track is the Deer Lodge where the Park's Deer Keeper lived. **L farm track to stile/gate, continue straight ahead.**

Along the lower path, on the right, there is abundant mistletoe. Chilham is a mistletoe "hot spot" probably because of the narrowness of the valley creating a slightly damper environment. Mistletoe is semi-parasitic, living partly off host trees such as apple, poplar and lime. **Gate – please close, continue straight ahead.**

Corner of lane (Mountain Street), continue downhill/straight ahead F. Mountain Street's name is probably derived from the family of de Opmantion (1348) and was once the main road between Ashford and Canterbury. It was also known as "the road of a Thousand and One Toads" (Pilgrimage to Canterbury, H Fearon, 1956), sadly this is no longer the case. For information about Chilham Castle see Countryside around King's Wood (overleaf). **Turn L into School Lane, Chilham G.** Note the Elephant House to the left. **R at end of School Lane into Chilham Square H. Exit Square via Taylors Hill down to A252 and public car park I.**



Key

- Walk 2
- Steep incline
- Bus stop
- Car park
- Toilet
- North Downs Way
- Public footpath
- Public bridleway
- Restricted byway
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Access land
- PUBS**
 1. Woolpack Inn, Chilham CT4 8DL ☎01227 730351
 2. White Horse Inn, Chilham CT4 8BY ☎01227 730355
- SHOPS**
 3. Chilham Post Office CT4 8BX ☎01227 733894
 4. Chilham Shop CT4 8DX ☎01227 730348
 5. Badgers Hill Farm, Chilham CT4 8BW ☎01227 730573
 6. Shelly's Tea Rooms, Chilham CT4 8BY ☎01227 730303

