



Walk 13: A Circuit of Lower Earley

This is a mainly flat walk that combines elements of walks 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10 with other paths to create a pleasing circuit of Lower Earley. The route starts at Chalfont Park in the west and goes to the river Loddon in the east and back without retracing your steps. It uses the area's extensive network of tarmac paths/cycleways and gravel paths to link parks, nature reserves and other green spaces with minimal use of pavements. **Warning:** After prolonged periods of intense rainfall the river Loddon is prone to flooding. The path beside the river from point 19 and in the Wood of Eagles after point 21 may be impassable. Alternative 'dryfoot' directions are provided in the route instructions should this be the case.

Length

6.1 miles (9.8 km). Allow 3 hours plus stops.

Starting Point

- Car** **Chalfont Court Car Park**, Chalfont Way, Earley RG6 5HQ (adjacent Suttons Bowls Club)
OS Grid Ref: SU 7413 7000.w3w: ///levels.tricky.price
- Bus** **19b** **Chalfont Court Asda** stop (next to car park entrance).
 21 **Chalfont Circle** stop and walk 300m along Chalfont Way past the red post box. Join the walk at point (2)
- 19b** **Dene Close** stop. Walk along Beech Lane to join the walk at Collins Drive, point (6)
 21 **Hawkendon Way** stop. Walk in the direction of bus travel to where Rushey Way crosses the underpass. Go down the steps and join the walk just after point (13).
- 4/Xa** **The George** stop, Wokingham Road. Walk down the road past the garage to a public
 19a/b/c } footpath sign opposite the George and turn right down the steps to start at point (19)

Refreshments

Near the Start at point (1)

- McDonald's. The Square, Lower Earley
- Costa Coffee. The Square, Lower Earley (opposite the BP petrol station)
- Toby Carvery pub/restaurant. Chalfont Way, Lower Earley
- Asda Kitchen, Asda, Lower Earley

Maiden Place Shopping Centre. Turn right at point (26), 200m turn left on alley towards Sainsbury's Local Rustic Café

Seven Red Roses pub

Near point (19)

The George pub

Route Instructions (See map below for numbered points)

1



Go under the yellow barrier at the entrance to the car park. Turn left and walk on the pavement to just past a mini roundabout. Cross the road at the traffic island to come to metal barrier. This is point (2) below.

2



Go through the barrier and walk along a path/cycleway to reach another metal barrier. (The Salvation Army Centre will be on your right.) This is point **(3)** below.

3



Go through the barrier and turn left. Cross Durand Road and go through a metal barrier. Immediately come to a turning on the right by a lamp post and a litter bin. This is point **(4)** below.

4



Turn right onto a tarmac path. Follow the path and ignore a path on your left. Soon after the path becomes gravel reach metal railings with a bridge over a ditch on your right. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Turn left and follow the gravel path with houses on your left. Ignore turnings left and right and where the path meets a road (Collins Drive), turn right to reach a T-junction with Redhatch Drive. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Cross the road where it is safe to do so and turn right. After 120m turn left into Radstock Lane (nos 2-18 Even). After 35m cross the road and take a path diagonally left across a green space with undergrowth on your left. Come to a notice board beside Beech Lane. Turn left and cross the road at the pedestrian lights. Turn left and immediately come to a gap in the hedge with concrete bollards. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Turn right through the bollards to enter Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve. After 50m go right then immediately left by a notice board to take the gravel path to the left side of Maiden Erlegh Lake. Keeping the lake on your right walk along the gravel path to reach a wooden kissing gate. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Go through the kissing gate and continue on the gravel path with the lake on your right. Cross a bridge over a weir to come to a bench. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Turn left and follow the narrow path as it winds its way through Moor Copse ignoring paths left and right, passing a bird hide and nature information boards. At a fork in the path bear left (the right fork goes up to a park). Continue along the dirt path to reach another fork in the path. This is point **(10)** below.

10



Take the left fork and immediately come to a crossing path. Turn left and follow the path round to the right with a small stream on your left and houses on your right. Go through a metal barrier and keep on the path with a green space on your right. After 80m come to a crossing path. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Carry on in the same direction between the hedge and the fence to reach a crossing path with a brown brick wall immediately in front of you. Bear left and follow the path until it reaches Gypsy Lane. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn Left and after 40m cross Gypsy Lane at the pedestrian crossing. On the other side face right and immediately bear left with yellow railings on your right-hand side on a path/cycleway down towards an underpass. This is point **(13)** below.

13



Go through underpass beneath Rushey Way – note the interesting murals. Follow the path (also called Gypsy Lane) as it goes between housing. Ignore turnings left and right. At the end of a green space on your left come to railings next to a lamp post. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Turn left through the railings. Follow the path anti-clockwise around the green. In front of house No 80 turn right and follow the path between wooden fences. Ignore turnings left and right to reach a small green with a children's play area. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Take the left fork (i.e. do not turn right). Very soon come to a crossing path by a lamp post. Go straight on between a wall and a fence to come to the green fence to Hawkendon Primary School. Continue on the path to cross a road (Mill Lane). 50m later cross Rushey Way at the traffic island. Continue in the same direction on the footpath between the houses and Thistleton Way. Come to Tinwell Close. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Cross the road and continue on the footpath to come to metal railings. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Turn diagonally left onto the gravel path that runs next to a fence. (Not the first left to a tarmac path). Follow the path with green space on your right 'The Meadows' to reach a wooden bridge. This is point **(18)** below.
Alternative Route: If the Loddon has flooded turn right at the railings. Follow the gravel path past a children's playground to re-join the basic route at the pedestrian crossing on Rushey Way – just before point 20.

18



Cross the bridge and follow the path as it bears right to reach another bridge over a stream. Cross the bridge and continue on the path to reach the foot of concrete steps with white handrails. This is point **(19)** below.
 The George pub is reached by going up the steps to Wokingham Road and crossing the road.

19



At the foot of the steps turn sharp right and follow the path for 900m beside the river Loddon to reach the Lower Earley Way. Follow the path round and cross Rushey Way at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left and follow the pavement for 50m back towards Lower Earley Way to come to a footpath on your right through the wood. This is point **(21)** below.

Warning. After periods of heavy rainfall, the river Loddon after point 19 may be flooded and the footpath under water or the river close to breaching its banks. If so, back track to point 17 and follow the alternative route.

20



Turn right onto the path into the wood, immediately bear left and come to a green space. Follow the gravel path past an information board about the 'Wood of Eagles'. Come to a fork in the path. This is point **(21)** below.

21



Take the left fork. Follow the path across a wooden-railed bridge to a park bench. Follow the path right, past another bench to come to a litter bin with a path joining from the right. Keep to the left to soon come to a bridge across a stream with metal railings. This is point **(22)** below.

Warning & Alternative 'Dryfoot' Route. After heavy rainfall, the area around the bridge may be flooded. If so, backtrack to the fork, turn left and, at a single storey building bear left onto the grass. At a children's playground bear right come to the end of Wickham Rd. Bear left and take the footpath between houses to come to Hambledon Close. Turn right and reach a T-junction with Kitwood Drive. Turn left, go past Yoreham Close to reach the 'hammerhead' at the end of Kitwood Drive. Go left and take the footpath to reach a T-junction with a gravel path by a litter bin. (This path is the basic route). Turn right and soon reach the bridge at point **(22)** below.

22



Go across the bridge and follow the path until it comes to a T-junction with a road (Elderberry Way). This is point **(23)** below.

23



Turn left and go to the end of Elderberry Way. Go through metal railings by the turning point and turn left. At the street sign 'Simmonds Crescent' turn right and soon left, opposite the street sign 'Gabriels Square' into Barn Croft Drive (no street sign). At the end of the houses come to two red brick pillars. This is point **(24)** below.

24



Pass between the pillars and take a path diagonally right to a gravel path. Continue in the same direction (not right to a play area) through some scrub to reach a gravel path by a litter bin and bench facing a green space. Turn left and follow the gravel path round past the BMX Track to come to a metal gantry gate with bollards. This is point **(25)** below.

25



Go to the gate to reach Pad Riddle Drive. Cross the road and turn right onto a gravel path that runs parallel to the road. Continue on the path ignoring turning points left and right. When the gravel becomes a tarmac straight on to straight bollards just before Gypsy Lane. This is point **(26)** below.

26



Turn left onto Cutbush Lane. Continue on the quiet road to reach a roundabout where Cutbush Lane meets Meldreth Way and Carshalton Way. Go across Meldreth Way to the left of the roundabout and continue in the same direction to come to metal railings where the road bends right to Washington Close. This is point **(27)** below.

27



Go through the railings and continue on the straight, broad, tarmac path (still Cutbush Lane), ignoring turnings to the left, to reach more metal railings. This is point **(28)** below.

28



Go through the railings and continue on the right-hand pavement across Kensington Close and then Conygree Close to reach a path on the right by metal railings and a public footpath sign. This is point **(29)** below.

29



Turn right through the railings onto a broad tarmac path. Ignore turnings left and right as the path climbs gently to reach an underpass beneath Rushey Way. This is point **(30)** below.

30



Go through the underpass and climb the concrete steps on the left to reach a T-junction with a tarmac path. Turn left and walk along the gently rising path to metal railings with the tall walls to the leisure centre behind. This is point **(31)** below.

31



Go through the railings and immediately turn sharp left through more railings onto a tarmac path. Continue down the path to reach a bus shelter and a notice board on Rushey Way. This is point **(32)** below. *(No 21 bus, Chatton Close stop).*

Alternative Route (avoids walking along Rushey Way). At point 31 turn right and then immediately left at the 'District Centre signpost. Continue on the path past the rear of the leisure centre, between the library and the church and under the covered walkway beside Asda. Reach a pedestrian crossing by Asda Café. Go over the crossing, through a barrier and bear left uphill to reach Chalfont Way. Turn sharp right, go across the pedestrian crossing and turn right. The car park is just past the bus stop.

32



Turn right and walk along Rushey Way passing Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, the service road to Asda and a pedestrian crossing to the roundabout where Rushey Way meets Chalfont Way. This is point **(33)** below

33



Carefully cross Chalfont Way at the traffic island to the right of the roundabout (towards Toby Carvery). Turn right and continue along Chalfont Way. Cross the service road by the petrol station at the traffic island to the left of the roundabout. Continue along Chalfont Way past the pedestrian lights and the bus stop to reach the car park and journey's end.

