



Walk 6: Lower Earley Parks & Lake

A mainly flat walk that uses Lower Earley's network of paths and walkways/cycleways (alleys) to link Chalfont Park, Laurel Park, Moor Copse and the beautiful Maiden Erlegh Lake. A small amount of walking on broad pavements is required. (The route may be shortened at point 9 – see route instructions).

Length

3.4 miles (5.4 km). Allow 1½ hours plus stops.

Starting Point

Chalfont Court Car Park, Chalfont Way, Earley RG6 5HQ (adjacent Suttons Bowls Club)

OS Grid Ref: SU 7413 7000

w3w: ///levels.tricky.price

Bus: **No 19b:** Chalfont Court Asda stop (next to car park entrance) or
 No 21: Chalfont Circle stop and walk 300m along Chalfont Way past the red post box.
 (See route instructions for an alternative car park start/finish point and two alternative No 21 bus stops)

Refreshments

McDonald's, The Square, Lower Earley

Costa Coffee, The Square, Lower Earley (Near the BP petrol station).

Toby Carvery pub/restaurant, Chalfont Close

Asda Kitchen, Asda Lower Earley

Greggs, Asda Lower Earley

Route Instructions (See map attached for numbered points)

1



At the edge of the park and with your back to the car park, turn left and walk to a children's playground. Turn right and walk along the path with undergrowth on your left. Where the path splits take the left fork to come to metal railings. This is point **(2)** below.

2



Go through the railings and carefully cross Rushey Way at the traffic island. Turn left and walk downhill on the pavement to the roundabout; go right onto Beeston Way. This is point **(3)** below.

3



Immediately, cross Beeston Way at the traffic island and walk up a broad tree-lined path parallel to Rushey Way to emerge at a roundabout. Continue along Rushey Way on the broad pavement and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Continue along Rushey Way past Loddon Valley Leisure Centre to the bus shelter. This is point **(4)** below. *(Alternative Start/Finish Point – At Point 4, No 21 Bus, Chatton Close Asda stop)*

4



Turn left on the path between the bus shelter and a notice board to walk up a path with the Leisure Centre on your left to come metal railings. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Go through the railings and immediately turn right through more railings onto a broad tree-lined walkway/path 'alley'. Then, go through railings to cross Kerris Way and continue on the alley as it bears left slightly uphill. Ignore a path on the right through to an estate road and come to a turning just after a lamp post. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Turn right then continue on the alley to come to metal railings at an estate road – Stockbury Close. Cross this and continue on the alley to come to railings at Beech Lane. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Carefully cross Beech Lane and continue in the same direction along the minor road – also Beech Lane, Odd Nos 189 to 249 – to meet Rushey Way. Continue along Rushey Way on the pavement, crossing Marefield, to come to steps down to an underpass, about 20m before a bus stop. This is point **(8)** below. *(Alternative Start/finish point at point 8, No 21 Bus, Marefield stop.)*

8



Next to the top of the steps go through a wooden fence into Laurel Park. Keeping the hedge immediately on your left, walk across the park to the far end of the hedge to reach a brick sports pavilion. This is point **(9)** below. *(Alternatively, at point 8, walk down the steps and turn right to walk up a broad tarmac'd alley to the same building. Or 50m from the fence go left through a gap in the hedge to the alley.)*

The car park next to the building is an alternative start/finish point that is reached by driving to the end of Marefield from Rushey Way.

9



Immediately to the right of the pavilion, turn right down broad concrete steps. Cross the playing field diagonally right, aiming to the right of wooden railings, to the end of a hedge by a litter bin. This is point **(10)** below.

Alternative Route. *The walk can be shortened at point 9 by about 500m by walking to the left of the building and taking the path past a children's playground (swings, climbing frame, zip wire), then the right fork to meet the path by the lake at point 12.*

10



At the litter bin turn left to walk on a gravel path through Moor Copse past a nature information board to a split in the path. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Take the left fork and then immediately bear left onto a gravel path lined with wooden poles laid on the ground. Continue on the path as it gently rises through the woods, past more nature information boards. Ignore paths that come in from the left, and after 450m, reach Maiden Erlegh lake. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn right and take the path that passes to the right of the lake. Look for swans, Egyptian geese, mallards, moorhens, coots, gulls and perhaps a heron perched on a pole. Go through a wooden gate and continue on the gravel path. Come to the junction with Beech Lane by concrete bollards. This is point **(13)** below.

(Alternatively, at point 12, turn left and follow the path around the left side of the lake: it comes to the same bollards.)

13



Go through the bollards and turn left. Immediately cross Beech Lane at the pedestrian crossing. At the notice board cross the green space to Radstock Lane. At the road turn left to come to the junction of Radstock Lane and Redhatch Drive. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Turn right and after 120m carefully cross Redhatch Drive then turn left into Collins Drive. 120m later, after the garage to a 3-storey house on your left, turn left onto a gravel path. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Continue on the path, ignoring the bridge on your left after 150m and turnings to the right, until it comes to silver-painted railings (the gate is missing) by a concrete bridge over a small stream (ditch). Ignore the bridge and bear right on a gravel path that soon becomes tarmac, with green space on your right. Ignore turnings to the right to reach a T-junction with another path. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Turn left and pass through metal railings. Carefully cross Durand Road to come to an alley by the Salvation Army Centre. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Turn right through the metal railings onto a broad tree-lined alley. *(If refreshments are needed, turn left off of the alley to go through Asda's car park. Asda Cafe is at the right-hand end of the shop as you face it.)* Come to metal railings where the alley meets Chalfont Way. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Carefully cross Chalfont Way at the traffic island and, go through metal railings onto a tree-lined alley and pass the Bowls Club. After 100m by green metal railings to the pre-school, turn left to enter Chalfont Park. Journey's end is reached 100 m later at the car park.

