

Freedom Pass circuit

Section 22 Chesham to Watford

Distance: 11.02 mi 17.63 km (shorter route), 11.26 mi 18.02 km (longer route);
to Watford Junction: 12.03 mi 19.25 km (shorter route), 12.69 mi 20.30 km (longer route).

Introduction

This is a fairly long section, going south-east. Most of the route is very straightforward, the middle part following the course of the Chess Valley Walk. There is one short stretch along a rather busy road without pavement or verge. To avoid this, an alternative route is provided, which is a little longer and much noisier.

Instead of ending at Watford station, you can continue to Watford Junction station.

One can eat at the start and end. There is a pub at Church End, about 2¼ hours from the start.

Directions

Turn left out of Chesham Station, down a short flight of steps, and left again alongside the railway line.

Keep on the path to the second of two bridges over the railway. Then cross over and carry on along the other side.

Keep left at the first fork, then straight ahead across two roads.

Go up some steps and keep going uphill.

Keep left at the junction of Whichcote Gardens and Trapps Lane.

Cross another road and go through staggered metal barriers.

Keep straight ahead, with the residential area on your right, until the path emerges by another road junction.

Go straight ahead along Larks Rise.

At the end, carry on along the path straight ahead.

Go through a kissing gate, then keep left along the edge of a field.

Keep straight ahead (do not go into the field on the left).

After another kissing gate, turn left then almost immediately right, through another kissing gate.

The path goes through more fields and kissing gates, and descends.

At the bottom, just before a step down, turn right along a lane.

At a fork, bear right.

Follow the path to the road, keeping to the left of the farm.

Turn left onto the road, without crossing it.

Turn left when the road bends right, and then almost immediately go through the kissing gate on the right. We are now on the Chess Valley Walk.

The path goes for several miles in a fairly straight line, roughly parallel to the river in the valley below on the right.

When you get to a driveway, turn right then left onto a minor road.

Go straight on when the road bends left.

Go through a farm gate (which you may not notice if it is open).

At the next fork, take the lower branch nearly straight on (but not the grass track to its right), to another farm gate and kissing gate.

Pass three fields on your left.

Carry on along the right-hand edge of a wood.

Keep on the path for several miles, as it takes you along the edge of the wood, past Latimer House, across a track, downhill across a field (here take the main path, not the track to its right), across a road, and straight on for several more miles along the valley.

At the next road, turn left, then carry straight on when the road bends left.

Keep following the path.

When you come to a fork in Frogmore Meadows, bear left into a wood.

Follow the path out of the wood, and bear left at the next intersection.

Keep going in the same general direction, eventually going along a concrete track and passing watercress beds behind a hedge on your right.

At the road, turn right.

Follow it round to the left uphill. This is where we leave the Chess Valley Walk.

Take the footpath on the right by Cakebread Cottage.

Follow the path along the right-hand edge of the first field, across a corner of the next field, straight across the next intersection, along a track uphill, along the right-hand edge of two more fields and through a churchyard.

Leave the churchyard through the rightmost entrance, turn left onto the road, then right at the next junction. (Keep straight ahead for 1 minute to reach a pub.)

When the road bends right, carry straight on through the kissing gate.

Keep on this path straight ahead, through several fields and a wood.

Shorter route

Cross over the motorway.

Cross the next road, and carry on along the track ahead.

When you get to the farm, turn left at the first T junction and right at the second.

Keep straight ahead on the farm track, keeping straight on when the main track

Longer route

Just before the motorway turn left.

Follow the path, initially alongside the motorway, then diverging from it.

Go straight across the road, then turn right very shortly after it.

Turn left immediately after the motorway.

bends right.

The track becomes a grass path beside a field. After the kissing gate, bear left along the left-hand edge of a field.

After a stile, bear right.

Keep on the main path through more fields towards the road.

Immediately before the road, turn right alongside it.

Join a driveway. When you reach the road itself, carry on straight ahead along it.

At the right bend, turn left.

Just before the school on the left take the footpath on the right.

Keep straight ahead along this path for several miles, ignoring various paths on either side.

Cross a country lane, and carry on up into the woods opposite.

Keep straight ahead across the golf course, some more woods, some more golf course, and yet more woods going downhill.

Cross the Grand Union Canal and the River Gade on the broad tarmac track.

To Watford:

Take the rightmost of three paths after the river.

Keep on this path, across the miniature railway and then alongside the river.

Pass a turning on the left that leads to the carpark. Take the next turning left, beside a wooded area.

Bear left at the fork.

Turn right at the end, and then left along Cassiobury Park Avenue.

You will shortly reach Watford Station on the right.

Follow the path all the way to the end. At first it is very noisy, but eventually it improves as the path diverges from the motorway.

At the end, carry straight on along the road.

Take the footpath on the right opposite Chandlers Lane.

Follow the path straight ahead, through Harrocks Wood and beyond.

Opposite York House School take the footpath on the left.

To Watford Junction:

Take the middle of the three paths after the river.

Follow the path straight ahead through Cassiobury Park all the way to the exit, where you join the route from Watford station.