

Jubilee Walks in the Hilltop Villages

Cholesbury Hillfort & Buckland Common

1 The walk starts from the Full Moon. (See note about alternative start). Turn left out of the car park and cross the road onto the common. Unusually it is a private common owned by the Lord of the Manor. Notice the stone erected on the Cholesbury and Hawridge boundary bearing an inscription commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Carry on along the common passing to the left of the pond and reach the ground and pavilion of Hawridge and Cholesbury Cricket Club, founded in 1885.

2 Nearby is a bench. Its geometry is a reminder of the six-sided bus shelter it has replaced, which marked the six years of the Second World War. The two whitebeam trees commemorate the Millennium. Cross over the road signposted to Wigginton. The house facing you, called The Bury, used to be The Bricklayers Arms. Continue along the edge of the common a short distance to reach Cholesbury Village Hall (see overleaf).

3 On the gate to the left of the village hall is an interpretation board about Cholesbury Iron Age Hillfort, locally

known as the Camp (see overleaf). Go over the stile by this gate and follow the path into the Camp. The circle of trees marks the extent of the fort and you will see the ramparts on your return towards the end of the walk. A second stile brings you into Lower Bury Meadow. To the left is a dew pond known as Holy Pond and a first view of St Laurence Church (see overleaf).

4 Bear left round the pond and over a stile into Upper Bury Meadow. Then enter the churchyard through a kissing gate. Notice the interesting wooden grave marker and Victorian gravestones as you walk diagonally across the graveyard.

5 Leaving the churchyard by the gravel path with the Old Vicarage on the left, note a stone on the right on which is

engraved 'Faithful Old Gyp!'. Passing through the wooden gates you will see that they commemorate those who fell in the Great War. Shortly ahead, cross over Parrotts Lane and take the downhill footpath left of the entrance to Danesfield.

6 At the bottom turn right down Sandpit Hill, so called because of the local brick-making activities. Walk along the road, being aware of oncoming traffic. In the dip, turn off the road at a stile on the right. Follow the footpath up the right side of the field. Look for possible evidence of badgers' trails and latrines on the right as you near a gateway. Pass through, ignore a footpath to the left, and continue to the stile at the top left corner of the field. Go over the stile and keep to the left edge of the field and over another stile to pass a cottage known as The Potteries, recalling the local industry of Buckland Common. Continue along Broomstick Lane.

7 Joining Parrotts Lane again, turn left with Horseshoe Cottages opposite (see overleaf). Look out for the former Baptist Chapel. This part of Buckland Common was once called High Street and a number of houses used to be small shops. Reaching the common itself, today owned by the Parish Council and technically a village green, bear right and

cross diagonally to meet Little Twye Road. The white house on the right was formerly The Boot and Slipper.

8 Follow the road round the corner. Cherry Cottage and Russet Barn recall past orchards. Next on the left are Little Twye Cottages (see overleaf). Continue along and downhill to pass Beechwood Farm. If lucky you may see a flock of alpacas. The road becomes a bridleway passing woodland on the left. Where the bridleway enters the wood stop by the stile to the right to take in the view of Buckland Common and Cholesbury with the hills behind Chesham in the distance.

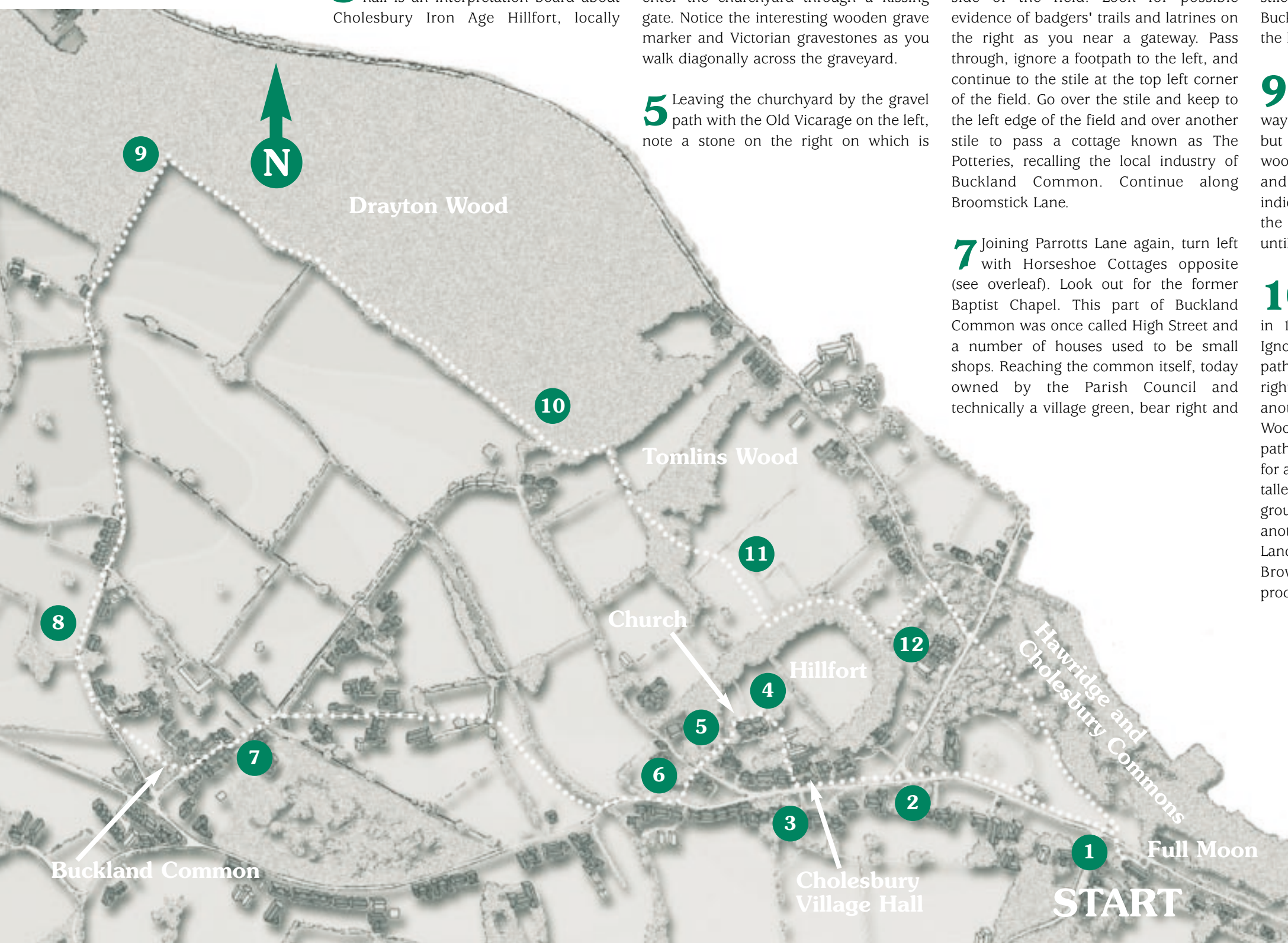
9 Go over this stile and take the footpath which meanders for some way through the trees of Drayton Wood, but keep close to the outer edge of the woodland. Ignore enticing paths that leave and join from the left. Undulations indicate the remains of clay workings for the nearby Dunton Brickworks, active until 1960.

10 Eventually at a stile on the right you will see Parrotts Farm, which in 1330 was owned by Thomas Perot. Ignore this stile and continue along the path as it curves gently to the left. Take a right turn over a stile and straight ahead another stile brings you into Tomlins Wood. Here, after about 10 metres the path forks. Take the left fork, looking out for arrow signs on trees. Go ahead through taller trees and look forward for open ground entered via a stile. Cross yet another stile after a gentle uphill climb. Landscaping has removed most traces of Browns Brickyard, which was in production here until the 1970s.

11 Over to your left is Shire Lane, indicating that Hertfordshire lies beyond. Follow the path as it descends gently along the edge of a small plantation of young trees. Reaching a stile, enter Cholesbury Hillfort (see overleaf). Turn left and follow the path along the outer of the two ancient ramparts. The magnificent trees are mature 150-year-old beeches. Take care where erosion has made passage difficult. Continue along the outer rampart until the path splits left and right.

12a Return to the Full Moon Take the left fork leaving the Camp and follow a path which reaches Shire Lane after a short distance. Turn right and at the T-junction cross over onto Cholesbury Common. Continue straight on. Choose the middle of three paths to reach the edge of the cricket pitch. Bear left and view the Windmill through trees (see overleaf). Keeping the edge of the trees on the left head back to the Full Moon.

12b Return to Cholesbury Village Hall. Take the right fork, cross the ditch and continue left on the inner rampart. A stile brings you inside the Camp. Bear left at a further stile to once again enter Lower Bury Meadow. Keep near to the edge and pass another dew pond. Take care crossing this often muddy and rutted field and head for the barn and stile to arrive back at Cholesbury Village Hall.



Note: Numbered sections refer to numbers on the map. Parts of this walk may be muddy at certain times of the year. The walk is mainly on the level but there are a number of stiles to be negotiated.

For an alternative start and finish point from Cholesbury Village Hall start from point 3.