Chiltern Heritage Trail - Cycle Route

The Southern Way

£1

CHILTERN HERITAGE TRAIL

MILTON ROUTE

Chiltern District Council
Community & Leisure Services

Chiltern Heritage Cycling Trails

The Chiltern Heritage Cycling Trail is the District Councils Millennium project. The trail (divided into three loops) links the Districts two towns and fourteen parishes and visits many of the areas picturesque villages and places of historic interest.

The Milton route based towards the South of the District is so named because of the areas connection to the famous author and parliamentarian John Milton. Based in Chalfont St Giles during the Great Plague, this is where Milton wrote his epic poem 'Paradise Lost' and the sequel 'Paradise Regained'.

Although parts of these routes are on bridleways or purpose built paths, the majority are on public roads. You must expect to see motor vehicles at any time on the road so please take care, especially on narrow and steep lanes.

Before setting off please ensure that your bike is in good working order and that you are adequately clothed. You are advised to wear a cycle helmet which conforms to British Standard. Please follow the Country Code and the Highway Code. Extra care should be take when cycling with children.

Look out for the artworks which have been commissioned along (or nearby) the route. Their location is highlighted on the map overleaf with an 'A', and the enclosed leaflet provides further information. If the leaflet is missing or if you would like further details please contact the Community Arts Officer on 01494 732759.

Accommodation is available along the three loops for cyclists wishing to stay overnight. Please contact the Tourism Unit for details at the Council Offices on 01494 729000.

For information on the National Cycle Network please contact Sustrans on 0117 929 0888 or visit the website www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk. For details of the Chiltern Society Cycling Group please call 01494 715725.

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FOX'S

The Chiltern Heritage Cycling Trail has been divided into 3 loops — The Milton, Hampden and Harding loops (named after famous historical people connected to this region).

Each loop is approximately 25 miles long and starts and returns to Amersham (although you can of course join and leave the loop at any point).

The routes are described as a clockwise ride (but can be done in reverse) and each route is clearly signposted by colour coded fingerposts and waymarkers. The Milton route is signposted by a green disc (see front cover of the brochure).

The route is covered by the OS Landranger map, sheet no 165 (Aylesbury) and a small part of OS map 175 (Reading & Windsor).

Key to abbreviations used in the route description:
(!) care, L, left; TL, turn left; LH, lefthand; R, right; TR, turn right; RH, righthand; SO, straight on; XR, crossroads; ph, public house; T-J, T- junction; RAB, roundabout; TL, traffic lights.

Directions

Milton Route - The Southern Way

Main route: 25 miles

From Chiltern District Council office turn R down King George V Road. TL on to unmade track just past park (Hyrons Lane). At XR (Woodside Road) go SO (!) into Green Lane and at TJ TR into Plantation Road. Follow this to TL on to Woodside Road (!) and SO at miniRAB (!) but dismount to go under railway bridge and TL on to cyclepath in White Lion Road. Continue to Little Chalfont, where take second R (!), using existing pedestrian refuge if necessary, into Burtons Lane. SO at XR.

Short cut: Alternative route to avoid an offroad section, advisable in winter. TR at XR into Roughwood Lane. TL at TJ into Nightingales Lane. Take first L, Deadhearn Lane, and follow to TJ, where go L into Gorelands Lane. Follow this to pass on L, first, the Chiltern Open Air Museum and then Buckinghamshire College, Newland Park, to rejoin main route at Shire Lane.

Main route: **Go SO at XR (continuing on Burtons Lane). TR (!) at Chalfont Lane, just before Chorleywood West. TR (!) at TJ into Shire Lane. At first bend go SO, now Old Shire Lane. The surface deteriorates and becomes a track (can be muddy in winter) and descends increasingly (!). At the bottom, in woods, TL and continue for a level 500 yards to a gateway. At this TR, still on bridleway, and up again, until gateway on R which gives access to about 50 yards of path to the rear of Newland Park college buildings and an access road. This road emerges at XR with Gorelands Lane. SO into Shire Lane. At Horn Hill TR just before Dumb Bell ph into Rickmansworth Lane. Into Chalfont Common, where TL into Denham Lane. Take third on R (Copthall Lane), then 5th on L (Hillfield Road). TR at TJ into Grassingham Road. At bottom, just before A413, TR on to cyclepath, Use central refuge (!) to cross A413 to lane leading to Community Centre (Ambulance station on your right). SO to pass Lady Gibb Millennium Wood entrance and cross River Misbourne (usually dry). SO to pass Community Centre car park then TL onto new path across Recreation Ground into Gordon Close. TR then L into Church Lane. At the end of this road dismount and use pedestrian crossing to go R up Market Place, passing shops (!). After shops fork R (!) into Gold Hill North, climbing to reach Goldhill Common. Bear R at junction with Gold Hill West (!) which becomes Grove Lane.**

Main route: **Continue along Grove Lane, to TR into Bowstridge Lane. Care in narrow dip and on final descent into Chalfont St Giles, (green and shops on R). TL at TJ to climb up Dean Way (!) passing Milton's Cottage on L.'**

Alternative, which avoids offroad section, advisable in winter. At TJ at end of Bowstridge Lane go R, through shops, to TL into Silver Hill. This climbs to become Bottrells Lane. SO through Hodgemoor Woods to A355 and main route.

Main route: **Dean Way passes Back Lane on R at its crest, just before Three Households, where SO at miniRAB. Continue to Twitchells Lane, where fork L. This leads down past Jordans village (entrance on R), and becomes Jordans Lane. In dip TR (!) into Long Bottom Lane. After a half-mile TR to climb School Lane (Bayne Hill), into Seer Green. TL into Orchard Road, fifth on L before church. At TJ at the bottom of Orchard Road TR (!) into Bottom Lane. When this narrow lane turns R take L-hand bridleway into Hodgemoor Woods. This initially keeps to edge of field on the L but veers right to reach another field edge on R. It turns R to emerge on to Bottrells Lane, at gate, where TL and drop to TL on cyclepath by A355, by The Magpies ph. Cross A355 (!) to reach cyclepath which TR into Magpie Lane.**

Short cut. At fork TR up Windmill Hill and continue through Coleshill village. At end of village TL into New Road and descend (!) to A404 and TR on to main route. This section is 1 mile and cuts 4 miles from main route. Less short cut: Fork L into Chalk Hill to TL and rejoin main route, avoiding Coleshill. Quarter mile, cutting three-quarters of a mile (and more hill!) off main route.

Main route: **At fork in Magpie Lane keep R up Windmill Hill and pass pond before taking sharp L into Manor Way. This drops down Barracks Hill. SO (!) at junction with Chalk Hill. Sharp TL at first junction and pass Hertfordshire House, through trees, to TJ where L(!) into Fagnall Lane. This bends right to become Marrods Bottom. SO at XR (!) into Penn Bottom. Continue for 1 mile to TR up to Penn Street village with Penn Wood on the L. At TJ, with green on L, TR by triangle. This is Whielden Lane. Continue past Winchmore Hill signs to drop down to rump of old road, Whielden Gate, just before A404, where TR (!) to pass Queens Head ph. Here take cyclepath alongside A404, crossing junction with New Road (!) to reach Whielden Street where TR (!). Go under bridge and pass hospital to miniRAB in Old Amersham. TR into High Street then after 150 yards TL into Dovecot Car Park. Follow round to join path to the back of Tesco. At far corner of Tesco TL over footbridge then immediately TR into path to Station Road. Cross Station Road (!) and walk to TR up First Avenue (!). From First Avenue (steep climb) TL into Hundred Acres Lane and at XR SO into Highland Road (!). At miniRAB TR (!) to cross Hyrons rail bridge (!), TL and immediately R and return to King George V Road and the start point.**

This text has been supplied by John David who has worked with Sustrans and Chiltern District Council. Tel: 01494 721276.