

Description:

A stile-free walk of 5.5 miles encompassing the Hambleden Valley and the village of Medmenham near the River Thames between Henley and Marlow. Hambleden is one of the prettiest villages in Buckinghamshire with its cobbled pavements, a village pump and flint cottage. The church dates back to the 14th century.

Distance: 5.5 miles

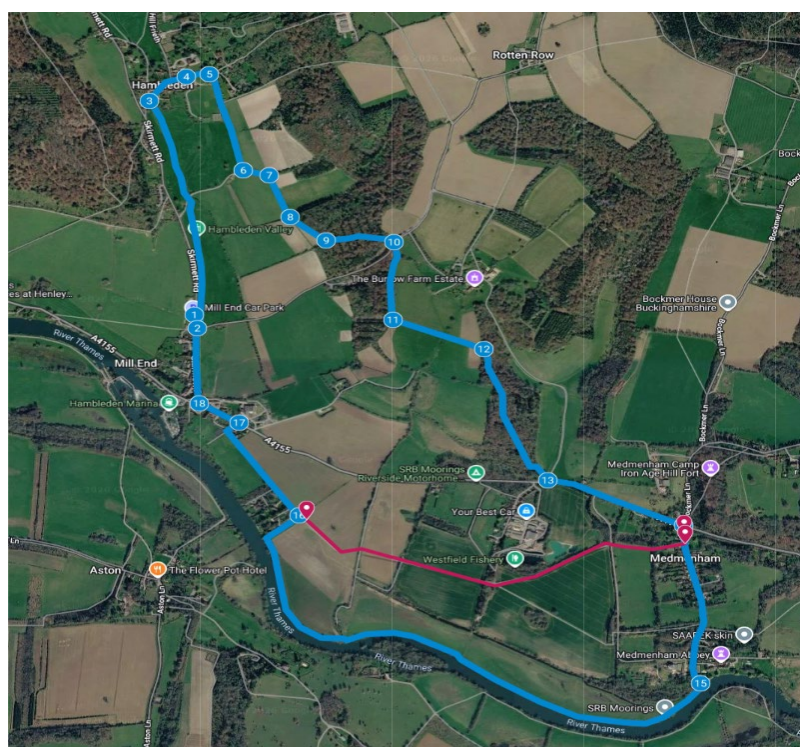
Duration: 3-4 hrs

Difficulty: Easy

Public Transport / Parking: Car park near start point can be found at Skirmett Rd, Mill End, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6TL

Refreshments / toilets: Cafes and pubs are available along the route in both Hambleden and Medmenham.

Highlights: Hambleden Valley, Medmenham village and Abbey, ancient woodlands, scenic riverside settings. *Map of route (link to online navigable map: [Online map for Hambleden and Medmenham Circular](#))*



Full Route Description:

The walk starts near the bus stop on the A4155 at Mill End – to locate this, you can search for Hambleden Weir, Mill End, Henley Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3AY. Locate the bus stop and head south. Go through the village to the lane on the right just past Yewden Lodge. Or if driving, from Mill End car park, turn right and the lane is on the left. Turn onto the lane, then immediately left along the footpath to Hambleden.

In Hambleden, walk past the Stag and Huntsman public house and out of the village along a tarmacked drive (signed Private Road). Turn right at the fork, along a rough track and walk back along the other side of the valley.

Turn left at the next fork, then right and follow the path through woodland down to the Mill End road. Cross the road and continue straight on along the edge of the wood, then turn left between two fields.

Follow the path through Binfields Wood down to the road near Westfield Farm, turn left at the A4155 road, then right at St Peters and St Pauls Church onto Ferry Lane and down into the village of Medmenham.

On the left down here is an optional diversion to see Medmenham Abbey. Otherwise, follow the road to the river's edge, turn right and follow the towpath until some houses are reached. Turn right away from the river, then through the gate on the left into Ferry Lane. Follow the lane back into Mill End.

Fun fact for reader curiosity: At the eastern end of Binfields Wood there is an old pit out of which chalk rock was quarried for about ten years at the end of the 19th century. This was used as a building material for the nearby mansion, Danesfield, and also for a few houses in Medmenham.

Once you reach the A4155 again you will need to turn left onto it and walk along for 2 minutes (0.1 miles) with CAUTION as there is no pavement. Turn right as soon as you reach Skirmett Road, where pavement resumes, and walk back to the start point of the car park and bus stop.