Princes Risborough and Coombe Hill
Whiteleaf Cross, Ellesborough, the Hampdens

Distance: 19½ km=12½ miles easy-to-moderate walking
Region: Chilterns Date written: 15-aug-2010
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Refreshments: Cadsden, Great Hampden, Parslow's Hillock, P.Risborough
Map: Explorer 181 (Chiltern Hills North)

In Brief

This is a hugely stimulating, varied walk in the Chilterns which will leave an enduring impression on everyone who undertakes it. It takes you deep into Chiltern forests along a line of hills, including the highest spot, then back through the small villages that deck the lower slopes.

This is a big zipper walk which combines two shorter walks in this series. You need to browse, print or download the following two guides:

Princes Risborough, Great Hampden
Coombe Hill, Dunsmore, Ellesborough

Zip points, where you switch to the other walk, are marked in the guides, using the “zipper” symbol.

The terrain is undulating but the gradients are gentle, apart from one modest climb. The ground underfoot is easy, so good walking shoes are normally adequate, except in wet conditions. There are no unavoidable nettles. Dogs should be welcome.

The author is grateful to the Adventurous Walks books for revealing the wonderful country and routes on which this walk is based.

This walk begin at Princes Risborough, Bucks, postcode HP27 0JN. Park off New Road. The railway station is about 1 mile from the walk. Begin at the start of the Princes Risborough, Great Hampden walk.

Alternatively, start at the Lower Scrubs NT (Coombe Hill) car park off Lodge Hill, Butlers Cross, nearest postcode HP17 0UR, grid ref SP 851 063. Begin at the start of the Coombe Hill, Dunsmore, Ellesborough walk.

For full details, see below under (Getting There).
Getting there

By train: begin at Princes Risborough station, a 1-mile bus ride from the start.

By car: **Princes Risborough** is off the B4009 Chinnor Road. It can be reached via junction 6 of the M40, by following the signs. Ignore signs for the station. Turn **right** as directed for the town. Continue directly ahead over the large roundabout (next to the dome-shaped church) onto New Road and park anywhere. The town is also reachable from Aylesbury or High Wycombe.

For the **Lower Scrubs** (Coombe Hill) car park, go to the large roundabout in P.Risborough, as above, but turn **sharp left**, direction **Aylesbury**. Follow this road, the A4010, for 2½ miles to a roundabout with a junction right for Wendover, Butlers Cross. Turn **right** here and follow the road through Ellesborough. ½ mile on, at Butlers Cross, turn **right** opposite the Russell Arms on the Missenden Road. In 1 mile, turn **left** at a small grass triangle. The car park is in ½ mile.

It is also easily accessed from the A413 near Wendover, through Dunsmore.

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