Chess Valley upstream circular walk from Chenies

This walk is either 3 or 2 miles and starts on Chenies Village Green. The longer route is more interesting as it passes near Latimer Park, Latimer House and through Latimer village. The road at Latimer Bottom on the short route is liable to flood after heavy rain making it impassable unless you are wearing wellies or stout walking boots. On both routes the section approaching Mill Farm is also liable to flooding but not usually to so great a depth.

You could also start this walk at Stony Lane (map reference TQ 005982 = a UC6 walking clockwise; UA17 anti-clockwise) where there is a small car park and walk into Chenies for a pub lunch.

Chess Valley upstream circular clockwise

UC1. Take the gravel path towards Chenies Manor and St. Michael's Church.

UC2. Immediately before the Manor gates, turn right down a path between the Manor and the Church.

UC3. When the path enters a wood, take the left-hand path which does NOT go downhill.

UC4. Emerge from the wood and enjoy the view across the Chess Valley towards Latimer Village.

UC4.a. For the short route, pass through the kissing gate immediately on your right. Stay near the top of the field as the path descends diagonally, heading in the direction of Latimer.

UC4.b. At the opposite side of the field, go through another kissing gate and follow the path slowly downhill to Latimer Cross-Roads.

UC4.c. Cross the road heading downhill along Latimer Bottom towards Latimer Village.

UC4.d. Immediately after crossing the river go through a kissing gate on the right. (If it's flooded, take great care – there are ruts in the flooded verge which can take you by surprise).

UC4.e. Remaining in the valley cross the stepping stones over a small stream and follow the obvious path, initially in the valley, to a pair of gates at the far side of the field. At this point you re-join the longer route at (UC13).

UC5. For the longer route, continue on the level path, Lady Cheney Walk, into Walk Wood and then to Stony Lane.

UC6. Turn right and go about 60 yards down Stony Lane. Cross the road and take the higher path on the left-hand side staying just below the edge of the field.

UC7. After just over ¼ mile, the path turns left and, if you continued straight on, would go into a playing field. At the point where it turns left, take the path to your right heading diagonally downhill to a kissing gate.

UC8. Go through the kissing gate and continue downhill to cross the Chesham to Chenies road.

UC9. Cross straight over the road, cross the field and continue to cross the River Chess. Look left to see the weir. At this point you could go through the gate on the right and follow the path alongside the lake to resume this walk at (UC12).

UC10. Follow the track up the hill to emerge onto a road near the entrance to Latimer House.

UC11. Turn right heading downhill and walk along the road through Latimer Village, keeping right throughout, towards the river valley. Turn right at the bottom of the hill towards the river valley.

UC12. As you exit the village, where The Village changes to Latimer Bottom, take the path on the left (signed Chess Valley Walk). Pass through a kissing gate and follow the path just above a solitary oak tree. The path rises to run slightly above the river valley to a pair of gates.

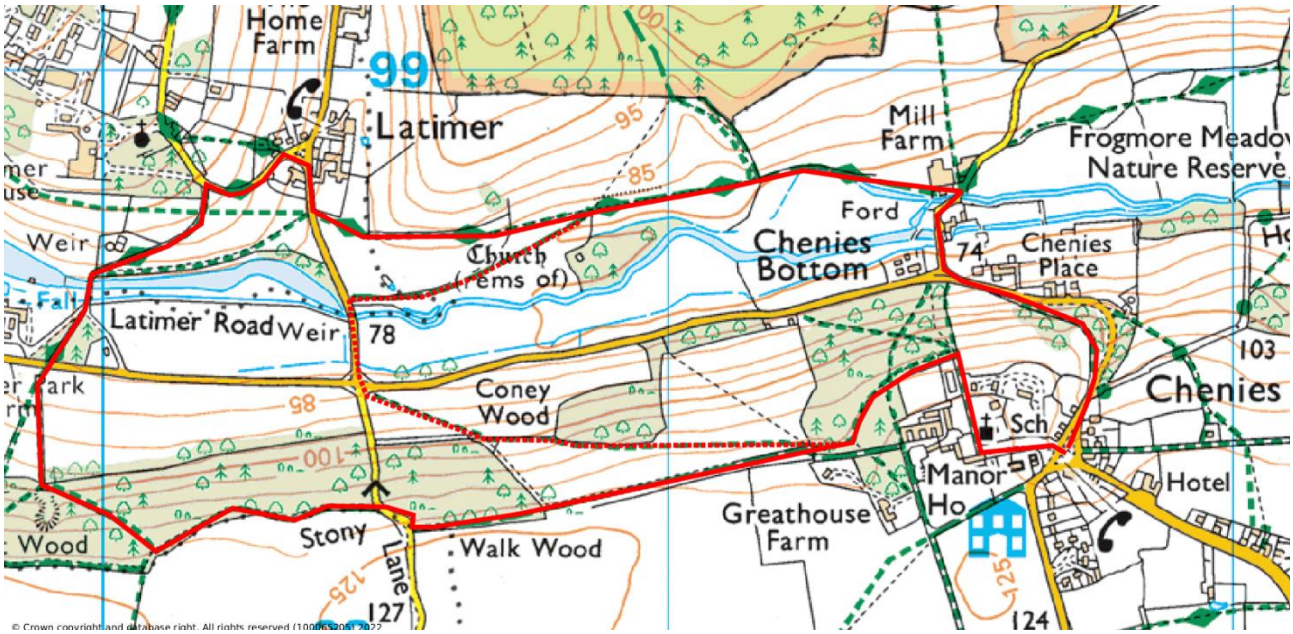
UC13. Pass through the 2 gates and continue through another gate straight ahead to Mill Farm. (As you approach Mill Farm, the path is almost at river level and can become very wet and muddy – unfortunately there is no viable alternative route).

UC14. At Mill Farm you could turn left, signed Chess Valley Walk and join the local circular route at (LC6).

UC15. Turn sharp right on the road and pass back over the Chess and the mill stream.

UC16. Turn left at the T-junction and walk up the road for about 100 yards.

UC17. Take the footpath path, up some steps, on the right which runs parallel to and above the road, to emerge back onto the road at the bottom of Chenies Village Green.



Chess Valley Upstream Circular Walk – short-cuts are shown as dotted lines

Chess Valley upstream circular anti-clockwise

UA1. At the bottom of Chenies Village Green take the path on the left which runs above the road

UA2. When this exits onto the road, cross to the opposite side and continue downhill on the road for 100 yards

UA3. Turn right down Mill Lane towards the River Chess

UA4. Cross the mill-stream and the Chess itself and turn left through a metal gate behind Mill Farm

UA5. Follow this path until it reaches a pair of gates.

a. Here the short route goes slightly down-hill and diagonally across the field

b. When the path emerges onto the road turn left along Latimer Bottom

c. Cross the main road at the cross-roads and climb 4 or 5 steps to take the path diagonally across the field.

d. Stay on this path until it joins with Lady Cheney Walk.

e. Turn left through the kissing gate into the wood. At this point re-joins the long route at UA19

UA6. (For the longer route), continue straight ahead keeping just below the field hedge.

UA7. Pass by a solitary oak tree and continue ahead to a wooden kissing gate.

UA8. Pass through the gate and onto the road where it changes from The Village to Latimer Bottom. At this point you could go through the gate straight ahead and follow the left-most path alongside the lake to Latimer weir and then resume this walk at (UA11).

UA9. Turn right into Latimer Village and then keep left through the village – the road rises up hill.

UA10. At the entrance to Latimer House take the path on your left down-hill.

UA11. Cross the River Chess just below Latimer Lake weir.

UA12. Continue through a kissing gate to reach the road.

UA13. Go straight ahead up the hill keeping to the left-hand side of the field towards West Wood.

UA14. On entering the wood take the prominent track diagonally up-hill to your left

UA15. At the top of the hill, about 50 yards before the path emerges onto the playing field take the bridleway on the left remaining just below the top of the wood. (There is a sign post here but the signs are not visible unless you look behind you).

UA16. When the path emerges onto Stony Lane, go straight across onto the permissive path and follow the permissive path alongside the lane for about 50 yards.

UA17. Take the level bridleway on your left through Walk Wood. This is Lady Cheney Walk.

UA18. When the path curves slightly right, continue straight ahead through a kissing gate into the wood.

UA19. Go straight through the wood

UA20. Turn right at the end of the wood heading up-hill along a path past a disused tennis court and then between two walls. Chenies Manor is to your right and St Michael's church to your left

UA21. Turn left on reaching the Manor Drive and continue to the Village Green.