THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE COLNE VALLEY





Points of interest/history

(A) Note Rutherford House on your right just after Oak End Way. This was the site of a house called Elm Close where Margaret Rutherford, the British film and theatre actress, lived in the 1960s. She is buried at St James's Church, Gerrards Cross, on the A40 Oxford Road.

(B) Until the 1970s Lower Road was the main A413 road to Amersham. The woodland ahead is a remnant of the grounds of the 18th century Chalfont Park House on the far side of the modern A413.

(*C*) Look out for a good range of butterfly species and wildflowers in this meadow in summer.

(D) It is well worth doing this walk in springtime to experience the smell and flowers of a patch of Wild Garlic - a native Allium also known as Ramsons - at the entrance to the wood.

(E) There are interesting contrasts here. There are good views from the bridge over the M25 motorway - see how it has been cleverly engineered to fit under the older railway viaduct – all very close to the attractive paths through Denham Marsh Wood and Oakend Wood.







Varied scenery with a landscape of the old and the new with great views from the sides of the Misbourne Valley



Access: Several stiles and some small hills. Muddy paths in winter. In summer, some paths can get a little overgrown.



Refreshments:

Shops and cafes in Gerrards Cross near the station. A pub, the Ethorpe Hotel at way point 1.

Public Transport:



Frequent trains and buses to Gerrards Cross



By Road: Free on-street parking is available on Sundays in Oak End Way and some other roads in Gerrards Cross, but is difficult on other days. The most convenient pay car park is in Station Road, just off route. The walk can be started at various places in Gerrards Cross, if you are travelling by car.

Postcode: SL9 8PP



OS Grid Ref: TQ 002 888

Latitude: +51.5891, Longitude: -0.5549

What3Words: lock.slope.cable

Explore the **Colne Valley Park** Countryside on your doorstep



For points of interest/history, turn over when you see this

1) From Gerrards Cross Station, walk up Station Approach and turn left into Packhorse Road. Cross and continue in the same direction. (A) After passing South Park Crescent, turn right down an alleyway (public footpath). Follow the alleyway over a road. At the next road (Lower Road) turn right. (B)

2) Turn left immediately onto a public footpath and into a wood. Walk along the main path through the wood, carefully cross the A413, and then follow the path through a meadow crossing two stiles, a roadway and two more stiles to a track. (C) Cross two branches of the River Misbourne and follow the track uphill. Continue between the golf course and farm buildings to a field.

3) Bear slightly right across the field heading towards buildings in the trees (Chalfont Lodge Nursing Home). By the nursing home, turn right onto the roadway and follow it to Slade Oak Lane. Turn right onto this road, watching out for vehicles. Follow it for just over 1/2 mile under the M25, through Nockhill Wood, past scattered large houses and slight bends in the road. Just before a wire fence and gate on the right, take a signed public footpath on the right. (D)

4) Follow this path through Denham Marsh Wood, eventually passing under power lines, and then turning left when you reach the M25 fence. After 300 yards, turn right and cross the motorway via the bridge. (E) Turn left, then immediately right on a signposted footpath through bushes and scrub. This continues along the left hand edge of Oakend Wood and down the hill. At the bottom turn left and immediately right over two foot bridges across the River Misbourne. Continue ahead along the right hand edge of the field to the A413.

5) With great care cross the A413 and turn right, walking along quieter Lower Road that runs parallel to the dual carriageway.

6) Take the second turning on the left (Oak End Way) and continue uphill. When you reach the main road (Packhorse Road) at the top, turn left back towards the station.

