

Hampden Monument walk

Devised by **Helen Lodge**

START: The Great Hampden Arms, Great Hampden, nr Great Missenden HP16 9RQ. Grid ref SP 845 015; tel: 01494 488255; www.thehampdenarms.fsnet.co.uk. The landlord has given permission to use the car park and would be delighted to offer you refreshments.

DISTANCE: 5.5 miles, with c150m of ascent over the length of the walk

TERRAIN: A moderate walk, mostly on paths and bridleways, and some lanes

MAPS: OS Explorer 181 and Chiltern Society 3 and 12

REFRESHMENTS: None on the walk

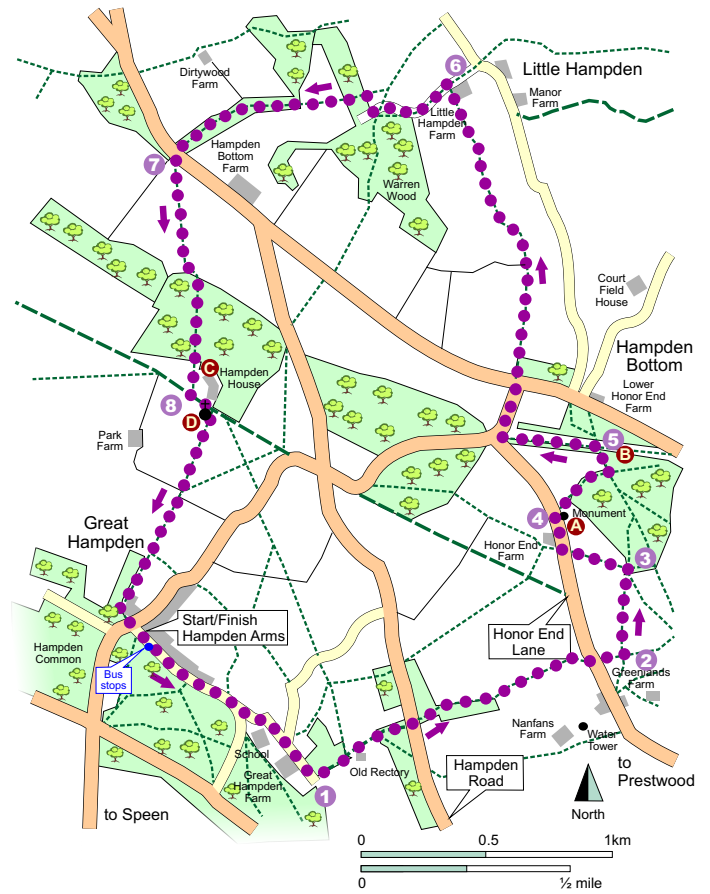
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Bus 333/334 from High Wycombe on Tuesday, Wednesday and school days.

Route

From The Hampden Arms, turn left into Memorial Road.

At the next junction continue straight ahead into School Lane.

1. Stay on this lane for c250m. Where a road joins from the left continue ahead for a further 180m to the next junction. Bear left in front of a thatched cottage onto a bridleway. Follow it to the left of the gates to the Old Rectory and a driveway, to reach a road. Taking great care, bear left across the road to a path. Enter the woods, head up the hill and through the tall kissing gate. Stay straight ahead as the path joins a gravel track from the right and continue through a kissing gate to big set of metal gates. Here, take the footpath on the right through a hedge and a kissing gate into a sports field. Keep to the left edge of the field and where that ends continue in the same direction, as the path winds around to a road. Cross it, turn right for a few paces, then left on a path into a wood. Follow it for c120m to a crossing path.
2. Turn left and continue along the left edge of the wood for c400m.
3. Just after the path passes under transmission cables, turn left over a stile into a field. Follow the line of the cables across it and go through a gate to a road. Turn right along it for c100m, passing Honor End Farm, to a set of two gates on the right. Go through the first for Hampden Monument.
4. On leaving the Monument take the second of the two gates and head across the field to Pepperboxes Wood. Follow the path down the left edge to a crossing path at the bottom. Turn left and go over a stile onto a wide strip of grass called 'The Glade'.
5. Turn left and head up towards Hampden House. At the road turn right and walk down it to a T-junction at the bottom of the hill. Carefully bear left across the road to a path in the hedgerow. Follow the path through a wood



- and into a field. Stay in the same direction up the hill, keeping to the right of the hedge and following the transmission cables. After c700m the path goes left through to the other side of the hedge. Continue to climb, following the field edge as it swings left, right and then all the way up to Warren Cottage.
6. Turn left to join the Chiltern Way. The path winds through a wood to a field. Turn left along its edge and follow it round to the right for c80m. Turn left into the wood and continue down to and over a stile into the next field. Bear half right downhill, through a gate at the bottom and ahead to enter the next small wood. Here, turn left on a track and continue through a wooded glade to a road.
 7. Carefully bear left across the road and go through the entrance to a field. Bear diagonally left uphill to enter a wood. The path climbs up through it and then levels out to a gate. Go through it into a field and continue straight ahead, past Hampden House on the left, to a track. Turn left along it to the church of St Mary Magdalene.
 8. Take the footpath on the right past the church entrance and through the grounds to a kissing gate at the back. Once through it, cross the field to the left of the fence and continue through three kissing gates to a lane. Cross it and the field ahead, eventually emerging between houses onto a gravel track. Turn left to the road and the Hampden Arms.

Points of Interest

Great Hampden was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Hamdenam. It is the ancestral home of the Hampden family, the most famous of whom was the English Civil War hero John Hampden. He was a wealthy landowner and MP, who opposed King Charles I's imposition of Ship Money, a tax to raise money for the Royal Navy. When the King tried but failed to arrest him and four other leading Parliamentarians in the House of Commons, it triggered a chain of events that led to the start of the Civil War. Hampden raised his own regiment and joined the war on the side of the Parliamentarians. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Chalgrove Field and later died at Thame. He was an important political and military leader, whose reputation has been eclipsed by that of his younger cousin Oliver Cromwell. For further information visit the website of the John Hampden Society, www.johnhampden.org.

A Hampden Monument: It was built by Lord Nugent in the early 19th century to commemorate the 200th anniversary of John Hampden's refusal to pay Ship Money. The inscription reads 'For these lands in Stoke Mandeville, John Hampden was assessed in twenty shillings Ship Money levied by command of the King without authority of law'.

B Pepperboxes Wood: Owned by the Woodland Trust and also known as Lodge Wood, it takes its name from the former lodges at the bottom of

The Glade, a long wide avenue leading to Hampden House. The Glade was reputedly cut in a single night to provide a view for Queen Elizabeth I on one of her two documented visits to the house.

C Hampden House: There was probably a significant house on this site before the Norman Conquest. The land was held by a man called Baldwin on behalf of Archbishop Stigland. After the Conquest, it passed to William Fitz-Ansulfe and was held by Otbert. Reputedly, both Baldwin and Otbert were ancestors of the Hampden family. The current house dates from the 14th century and has been rebuilt and remodelled many times. The most significant changes took place after 1743 when the Gothic style battlements were installed. In more recent times the House was a girls' boarding school, and was subsequently bought by Hammer Films, who made many pictures there over a four year period. It then lay empty, but was eventually restored and is now used as offices, and as a venue for weddings and occasional filming.

D Great Hampden church: The church of St. Mary Magdalene is situated c1 mile away from the main village and was built for the convenience of the Lord of the Manor. There has been a church on the site for many centuries. The current one dates back to at least the 13th century. John Hampden is buried somewhere under the flagstones of the church. One theory is that his remains were hidden so that the Royalists couldn't desecrate them.