

Walk 002 - Medmenham and Bockmer End

3.7 miles. OS Explorer Map 172, map ref: 805845.

This walk starts off from Ferry Lane, Medmenham, between Marlow and Henley on the A4155, near The Dog and Badger pub/restaurant. The walk sets off North, initially along a small country road, then on open and elevated grazing land. Your return South is through varied woodland, visiting the site of an Iron Age hill fort and settlement.

There are bus stops, on the Marlow - Henley route (High Wycombe - Reading), right by the crossroads (Ferry Lane/Bockmer Lane with A4155). If travelling by car from Marlow, turn left into Ferry Lane and park by the church.

- A. From the church, cross the A4155 and set off North up the small road opposite, which is Bockmer Lane. Continue straight past the Lodge Farm entrance on the left and straight past the School Lane junction on the right. Continue uphill until you reach the footpath sign on the left, as the road curves to the right. Cross the stile and walk diagonally across the corner of the field to the stile in the row of trees. There are pleasant views to the left over the valley. Head towards the way-marking post directly ahead and continue in that direction, towards the white Bockmer Farm that will come into view.
- B. Go through the gate, to the right of the building, and turn left along the track. After a short distance, fork off to the right, past a small outbuilding, over a stile, and then another into an enclosure. Cross the enclosure, which can get very sludgy after wet weather, and go through the kissing gate into the field. Continue diagonally half right across the field and through the kissing gate. Look half left across the field to a long hedgerow and head for the stile at the right hand end. Go over this and along the narrow path squeezing between the left fence and right hedge. Turn left onto the road and follow this round to the right at the T junction.
- C. Continue straight past the next left junction, following the sign to Marlow. Shortly after the buildings on the right, go over the stile and cross the paddock to the style on the opposite side (with white marks, some way to the left of the telegraph pole). Go straight across the drive into the woods and follow the white arrows leading you along the winding path. The woods become more open, continue straight down and up the gentle dip, and along the path eventually leading out of the woods. At the end of the enclosed path go through the gate, across the track and through the gate into the next area of woodland. Turn right and follow the path uphill. Continue along the path, following the Chiltern Society way-marking straight as a fenced garden appears on the left. As you get near to the end of the path, take a short path on the right, down to the drive. Turn right onto the drive.
- D. Follow the drive, taking the left of a Y, through a gateway with a white arrow on the left gate post. Continue straight uphill, past The Pheasantry and then some timber buildings on the right. Continue along this path to the end and turn half right along the small road. Pass the field to a group of attractive dwellings on the right, including the Old School, complete with bell, and then The Old Laundry. Turn left opposite The Old Laundry, through the kissing gate at the end of the path and continue across the track towards the woods. Turn right into the woods (white arrow on tree) and you are soon in the area that was once an Iron Age settlement, now complete with informative notice by the Archeology in Marlow group. Continue along the path to a notice marking the other side of the settlement, then follow the path half right downhill. Continue to the road, turn left and cross the A4155 back to where you started.