



An ancient sweet chestnut on Old Street

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

Be safe—plan ahead and follow any signs
 Leave gates and property as you find them
 Protect plants and animals,
 and take your litter home
 Keep dogs under close control
 Consider other people

*For the full Countryside Code and information on where to go
 and what to do visit
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk*

Always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking
 in the town or countryside. No responsibility is accepted by the
 authors of this leaflet for the state or condition from time to
 time of the paths comprised in these walks.



**Chieveley Parish is in the North Wessex Downs
 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Compiled by members of Chieveley Parish
 Council with the assistance of
 Dick Greenaway.
 Thanks to Simon Barnett for arranging
 publication.**

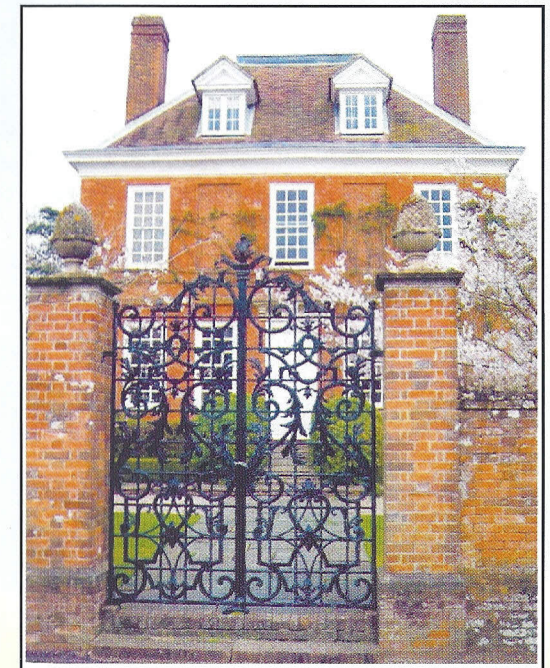
**Thanks also to Vic Bates, the cartographer
 who was responsible for producing the map
 & designing this leaflet.**



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CHIEVELEY PARISH

*Footpaths, Bridleways
 and Byways*



CHIEVELEY PARISH COUNCIL

CHIEVELEY PARISH – FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND BYWAYS

This leaflet gives descriptions of the footpaths, bridleways, byways and restricted byways in the parish of Chieveley, Berkshire.

Chieveley lies some four miles (six and a half kilometres) north of Newbury and, like so much of West Berkshire, is in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village lies on the dip slope of the Berkshire Downs. The parish is a mixture of large open fields, woods and coppices.

The path network is very extensive with forty nine paths of various classifications and many links to other parish networks. The paths offer walks and rides over differing terrains such as Ancient Woodlands, old coppices, across fields and along dry valleys.

For more information on the wider network you should use the Ordnance Survey Explorer map 158 (Newbury and Hungerford) This map shows all Public Rights of Way. Similar leaflets to this one have been produced by the Parish Councils of Frilsham, Yattendon, Ashampstead, Hampstead Norreys and Basildon. They illustrate the path network to the east of Chieveley.

A team of parishioners wrote the route descriptions and production of the leaflet was funded by the Parish Paths Initiative. This scheme aims to encourage local people to become involved in looking after and promoting their path network. It provides local councils and groups with the necessary funding, help and advice to complete projects like this.

THE HISTORY OF CHIEVELEY

Chieveley Parish, in common with many Downland Parishes, has a rich history.

The place name of Chieveley derives from the Old English Cifa's Leah which means The field or clearing of Cifa. Although there was certainly settlement here long before the Saxon Period, the archaeological record shows that this high waterless ridge was less intensively settled than the more fertile valleys on either side. A water supply will always have been a problem. Bussock Hill Fort was built in the Iron Age (about 500BC) and its small size indicates a small population. Even in the Roman Period there seems to have been only a limited amount of settlement although the area was certainly exploited. The area was probably cleared of woodland at an early date and it is possible that by the Roman Period there was less woodland in the landscape than there is now. The medieval parish originally included Leckhampstead and Winterbourne as well as Chieveley, Curridge and Oare.

It is likely that populations have always been small due to the difficulty of providing a reliable water supply. Domesday Book (1086) records 28 farmers, 10 smallholders and 3 slaves for Chieveley, probably making a population of about 200. Leckhamstead had a very similar community. Curridge had 2 freeholders, 2 farmers and 7 smallholders.

NATURAL HISTORY

The underlying geology is chalk, but this is generally overlain by very acid clay with flints. The pits visible as hollows in some fields and woods provided chalk which was ploughed into the soils in large quantities to break down the clay. Other pits were dug for gravel and for brick making materials. The woods and hedges are home to roe and muntjak deer and to growing numbers of badgers. Buzzards and red kites are commonly seen.

WALK DESCRIPTIONS

Path 1. Runs from School Road between houses to the Churchyard entrance. Pass through the Churchyard and Lychgate to join Church Lane. Note the village War Memorial.

Path 2. Passes between the former Wheatsheaf pub, now a private residence, and the Mount. A narrow, well used track with trees to the right and a view over a paddock.

Path 2a. starts at the High Street between Woodlands and Chieveley House as a narrow alley between brick walls widening to a well used path. Chieveley House was built c 1700. Note the canopy of Lime trees and a Strawberry tree.

Path 3. A short, unremarkable path passing from Green Lane behind the Red Lion public house to emerge at the top of Graces Lane.

Path 3a. A short, narrow track linking Green Lane and Horsemoor.

Path 4. Runs from East Lane across a field to Graces Lane. The different levels caused by ploughing show that this is an ancient boundary.

Path 5. Links Path 7 to the Wantage Road at Bussock Mayne. These fields were Chieveley's Common Fields. The bridleway bridge was built when the M4 junction was improved in 2004/05.

Path 5a. is often muddy in winter. It runs through Bussock Wood which hides an Iron Age hillfort.

Path 6a. Byway through Horsemoor area linking to Green Lane.

Path 7. Green Lane was the original north – south road through the village. It now ends at the M4.

Path 8. Leads across arable fields to Radnall's Farm and the A34. Look for the badger tunnel under the A34. Footways link to the M4 Services and beyond.

Path 9. is part of the ancient track to Snelsmore East Common. Path now truncated by M4. See path 36.

Path 10a. Links paths 11 and 12, now truncated by the Motorway.

Path 10b. The southern end follows an ancient winding hedge which existed in 1761.

Path 11. The junction of 10 and 11 provides a good view to the south and west. The species poor hedges and the name New Road probably mean that this is an Enclosure Award road and about 200 years old.

Path 12. This is Gidley Lane. The banks on either side lined with ancient field maple and ash coppice stools show that this is an ancient drove road linked to the market at East Ilsley.

Path 13. This is a very ancient drove road. Note how deeply it is sunk into the landscape and the large banks on each side crowned with very old coppice stools of field maple and ash. Look for a badger sett.

Path 14. Footpath follows arable field margins and links School Lane and Ogdowen Barn.

Path 15. The southern end of this follows the channel of the Winterbourne. Further north it follows a steep lynchet caused by ploughing. Look for a large badger sett in a chalk quarry.

Path 16. Is known as Morphetts Lane. Note the Hazel coppicing and bluebells in spring.

Path 17. The straight hedge with only hawthorn and blackthorn indicates an Enclosure hedge planted about 200 years ago. The large oak stool has survived from the older landscape.

Path 17a. Look for the massive wych elm coppice stool in the field centre. Its girth of 7.9m shows that it was part of an earlier hedge.

Path 18. This is Old Street, an ancient drove road linking the Ridgeway to the Kennet Valley. Note the large coppice stools on the banks, particularly the magnificent sweet chestnut near Path 13. This is many centuries old.

Path 19. Walk west along Bradley Court drive and then south along the lime tree lined track. Limes are rich in nectar and attractive to bees and butterflies. Their scent in Spring is beautiful. Note: There are steep steps at the southern end of this path.

Path 20. The name Copyhold Farm shows that the farm originated in the medieval period and its tenancy agreement was recorded on the Manor Roll. There is an attractive small pond. Look for primroses.

Path 21. Joins Priors Court Road to Curridge Road. Look for mature oaks.

Path 22. Crosses Faircross Plantation, a mixture of planted conifers and self sown birch.

Path 23. This path links to a Hampstead Norreys path leading to Langley Park and Bothampstead. Look for coppiced ash, oak and field maple in the hedge and owl pellets near the barns.

Path 24. Borders arable land and provides a short cut to school for Oare children. The pond was originally the water supply for animals and is now owned and managed by Chieveley Parish Council.

Path 25. Provides access to Oare Common.

Path 26. In 1761 this Byway, known as Doctor's Lane, was an access path from Old Street onto the extensive heathland around Faircross Pond. It would have been a drover's path. Look for Doctor's Row which is a woodland conservation area.

Path 27. Look for mature oaks and two older trees near the Warren. These are about 160 years old.

Path 28. This bridleway runs through open farm land to Fisher's Crossing on the site of the disused Didcot to Newbury railway.

Path 29. Runs through Curridge Green to Path 28, then through open arable land to Path 27.

Path 30. This is Chapel Lane. It led to the Primitive Methodist chapel, now Chapel Cottage. 6 Kiln Terrace was the village shop and post office. The brick kiln was in the area behind the terrace. It ends at the WI hall which was built about 1923.

Path 31. Runs across a field and through a hazel coppice with oaks. Look for bluebells in spring.

Path 32. Look for three ancient pollard oaks.

Path 33. Runs along the parish boundary to Fisher's Crossing on the old Didcot to Newbury railway. It is likely to have been an Anglo-Saxon boundary.

Path 34. Runs from Curridge to Newbury through the adjoining parish. Look for corn buntings in spring.

Path 35. links the Bunk public house to Copyhold Farm. Looks modern but is likely to be ancient.

Path 36. Is an ancient track that, with Path 9, linked Chieveley to Snelsmore East Common. Look for 350 year old oak pollards near Curridge Road.

Path 37. Runs from path 49 across a field, which was probably the original marsh, to the Road Depot. Marshes were valuable for grazing.

Path 38. The Manor Lane part of this path was called Pig Lane. The species rich hedge on the steep lynchet to the north shows that this is an ancient boundary. Look for a large wych elm.

Path 39. Another access path to Oare Common. At the Parish Boundary it turns south and follows the boundary to the end of Path 26.

Path 40. Runs along the north of a restored landfill site.

Path 41. Passes Curridge Riding School and 'The Whitehouse' to join the Curridge Road.

Path 44. Runs along the south side of Bussock Wood which contains an Iron Age hill fort. Look for ancient hedges and large oak trees.

Path 45. This number is not allocated.

Path 46. Runs through the gate on the right of the driveway and along the side of the drive.

Path 47. Runs from Chapel Lane to the school. The school was originally a late 19th century Anglican chapel.

Path 48. Runs alongside the M4 to the Priors Court Road.

Path 49. The western side of this ancient road ran to the grazing and hay growing marsh to the north. It is deeply sunk and often very wet and muddy. Look for primroses, bluebells and many other flowers on its banks. The north end has been diverted around the sand quarry. The eastern side is another ancient drove road through hazel and oak copses rich in bluebells.

Permitted Path. This follows the Winterbourne channel. The original channel was probably along the field to the west.

To Wantage

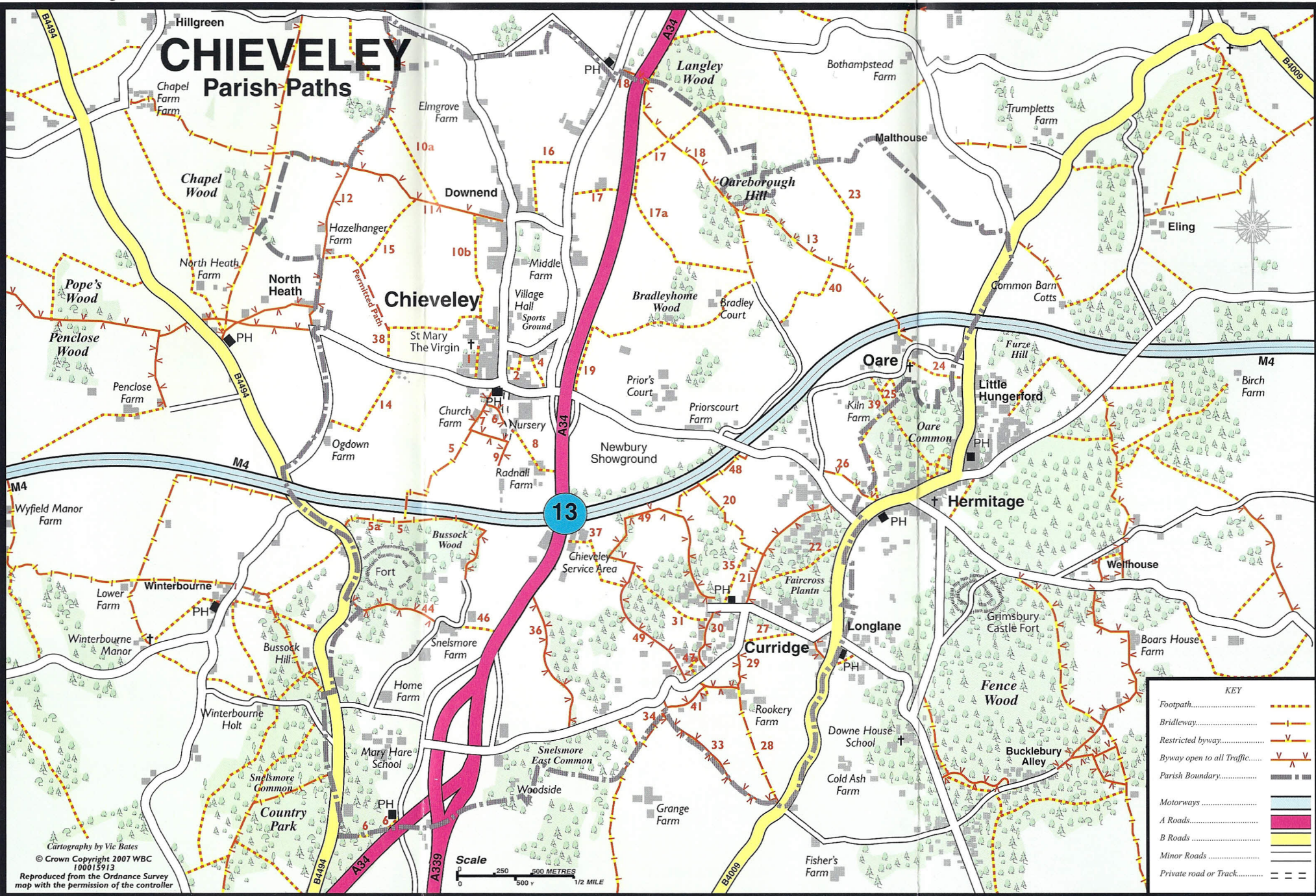
To Oxford

To Aldworth

To London

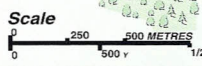
To Swindon

CHIEVELEY Parish Paths



KEY

Footpath.....	-----
Bridleway.....	-----
Restricted byway.....	-----
Byway open to all Traffic.....	-----
Parish Boundary.....	-----
Motorways.....	-----
A Roads.....	-----
B Roads.....	-----
Minor Roads.....	-----
Private road or Track.....	-----



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To Winchester

To Newbury

To Newbury