

(The route from Chestfield Recreation Ground or Sainsbury's Car Park)

10a From *the Recreation Ground* follow The Ridgeway for 300m and cross the wide footbridge over Swale Brook. On your left is Grasmere Pastures.

10b From *the car park* climb the steps or ramp at the left of the main entrance to the store to take you up to the paved straight path that leads south to your right. For 250 metres the path passes the rugby pitch and some housing to Primrose way road. Cross the road and carry straight on. Cross the road to the next way marker post. Turn right on the shingle path on The Ridgeway down to Grasmere Pastures, about 150m. Cross the wide footbridge over Swale Brook and take the left fork over another narrow footpath bridge. *Follow the way markers to the far left side of the Pastures where there is a narrow graveled path to the side of a white house, or walk next to the woodland and Brook on your left until reaching this path.*

11. Follow the graveled path for 30 m. Cross another small footpath bridge and follow the shingle path to Grasmere Road. After reaching Grasmere Rd. Turn right. *This part of Grasmere Road is typical of much of the early development of Chestfield as a village. The road is unadopted and has individually constructed houses of very varied sizes built since the 1920s.*

12. Walk 200 m. to Blackberry Way on your left. At the end of Blackberry Way join the field path going to your left. *In contrast to Grasmere Rd this is a modern unified development, landscaped with interestingly different kinds of planting and leading down to open fields.*

13. Follow the path for 450 m. past the Cricket Ground on your left walking on the bank of the Swale Brook until reaching open grassland to your left. This is Radfall Recreation Ground. For those who started the walk at the Recreation Ground, your car is at the far side of the Green.

(If you started at Radfall Rec continue by returning to section 1)

Distance: 3.4 miles, 5.6 km
Time: approximately 2 hours

Terrain: Level with slight inclines. In wet weather some muddy sections. No stiles but one flight of about 10 steps or a ramp.

Start/end point. Either Chestfield or Radfall Recreation Grounds or Sainsbury Car Park close to Chestfield and Swalecliffe Railway Station
OS explorer map 150



Chestfield Parish Circular Walk



A 3.4 mile/5.6 km circular walk round the edge of Chestfield village and through the village's conservation area. The walk includes field-side walking, a section alongside Swale Brook, passes the Tudor Manor buildings, and skirts the village's Golf Club course, and the Cricket and Rugby Club grounds.



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Directions

(If starting at Sainsburys/Chestfield Recreation Ground go to section 10)

1. Park in Radfall Recreation Ground and looking to the rear perimeter of the field walk 400 m. west along the right hand edge of the open area until reaching the opening to the path on the far side. Turn *left* along the leafy path for 500 m to join Chestfield Rd *This ancient right of way is marked by a stone white 15 foot high "stag horn" like tree stump destroyed by lightning some 20 years ago*

2. Cross the road and walk right for 150m until the path forks left away from the road and under the Thanet Way bridge. *This is the only part alongside a busy road. Take care of children and keep any dogs on a lead.*

3. On the far side of the bridge turn left up the track that curves back to run alongside the Thanet Way for 250 m. Then take the right turn along the field-side path for about 75 m. until you reach the path on your left through a belt of trees onto the golf course. *Chestfield Golf Course is bisected by two rights of way. The first leads you east up the hill in front of you to its summit giving a fine view over the village to the sea. Please do not disturb golfers even though you have right of way.*

4. Walk 400 m. east up the hill to its summit. *From the summit you turn left and walk north down the hill where you will enter Chestfield's conservation area.*

5. Walk 350 m. north downhill to woodland, follow the path through trees for 50 m, then go over the Thanet Way tunnel and down to Shrubhill Road. *The planting on the landscaped roof of the tunnel that you walk over shows how planting designed for a shallow earth environment can still be bird and animal friendly.*

6. Walk 500 m. along Shrubhill Rd, across Molehill Rd and along The Drove to the little cross roads. Turn left, signposted to Swalecliffe. *At the crossroads on your left is the ancient Manor House. St Thomas Moore's daughter Margaret lived here. A story has it that after*

her father was beheaded by Henry VIII she buried his head in the Manor Gardens, and it has never been discovered. As you leave the crossroads on the right are some ancient houses made out of the old Tythe Barn. Converted in the 1920s they incorporate windows and features from old church buildings, including the magnificent stone rose window.

7. Walk 100 m down The Drive then turn right into Meadow Drive. Walk 100m along Meadow Drive to cycle barriers, then continue straight on for another 100m to a further set of cycle barriers. Go straight on for 500 m. crossing the Share and Coulter / The Ridings road and down the PROW CW69 alleyway until the finger post at Maydowns Rd directs you left. *This long straight walk takes you through a variety of the ways we use to make walking through a built up area more pleasant. These include hedging, wide grass verges, and paths fenced with semi natural planting.*

8. Walk 350 m. west along Maydowns Rd to the main Chestfield Rd. *You will pass a large number of trees that were planted in a collaboration between the Parish Council and local residents. The Council paid for trees if the residents provided the space in their gardens and agreed to their future maintenance.*

9. Cross Chestfield Rd and 25 m. to the left is a traffic free road, closed with bollards. Walk along this road to a small paved path that opens on to Reeves Way. (150 m.) Turn left and pass the Chestfield Health Centre and Rugby Clubhouse. 25 m. on your left is Sainsbury's car park. At the entrance to Sainsburys car park take the short stretch of tarmac path alongside the netball court on PROW CW67. Walk 200m straight along the edge of the Rugby pitch - take care when matches are being played.



Route Map



Chestfield Parish Council has developed this Walk as part of its contribution to helping Chestfield residents have an increasingly healthy lifestyle, along with its outdoor gym on the Village Green, and as an opportunity for newcomers and others to meet one another.

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