

## St Lawrence, Cholesbury – White Lion, St Leonards



St. Lawrence, Cholesbury



One of St Lawrence's main interests lies in its location. It is situated within the Cholesbury or Danish Camp, described as 'one of the most visible and impressive prehistoric settlements in the Chilterns', a 15 acre iron age fort.

It was built in the midst of a very poor community in 1220. There are no grand monuments and in fact the parish was declared bankrupt in 1832. But, due mainly to the efforts of long standing incumbent Henry Jeston, the church was rescued from financial ruin and restored in 1872.

The walk also takes in what is reputedly the highest pub in the Chilterns.



Take the drive from the church (1) and turn left twice to reach the road to Cholesbury Common. Go left and after a few yards take the footpath through houses on your right.

After the houses you'll reach a kissing gate and then head downhill to another. Continue straight on up the other side of the valley (you may be able to see the top of a windmill on your left) to a further kissing gate and then an old metal gate next to a barn. Follow the track past the farmyard, through a five bar gate and onto a concrete drive to Oak Lane. Turn left.

Bear right at the road junction (marked Asheridge), and you reach a further junction just past Braziers Farm where you fork right (again to Asheridge).

When you reach Cherry Tree Farm (a short distance past Little Cherries) turn right onto a bridleway. Go through one gate then the short distance to the next one. Keep straight across the next field, through the boundary hedge and onto the following field where you keep the hedge on your left

The path turns into a track when it reaches the edge of a Newssets Wood. After ignoring another track that comes in from the right continue for a few yards around the edge of the wood until you see a small gap in the trees on your right. At this point you may see a pond just inside the trees.



Go into the wood and follow the path past the pond and continue until you reach open ground. Then cross a field  $\frac{1}{4}$  left, to a stile and plantation. Once over the stile go left and then take the wide grass path through the plantation.

When you see Dundry Manor in front of you on the left you keep going forward but dip just inside Widow Croft and follow the edge of this wood. Back in the open follow the hedge straight on and you will come to the moat that surrounds the Manor.

At the end of the moat turn right onto the tarmac, follow the drive around to the left and turn left at the lane. Follow the lane as it winds left to the White Lion (2), an award winning pub that is perhaps the highest in the Chilterns.



Turn left out of the pub or, if you are not visiting it, go across the car park, and cross the stile next to a metal gate marked Chiltern Way into the adjacent field. Keep straight over the field, cross the lane and over the stile opposite. Go  $\frac{1}{4}$  right uphill over the next field following the Chiltern Way until the next stile and lane.



This is Buckland Common. Turn left into the lane, and after a short distance past Boot House, where it veers right, take the footpath on your left.



Cross the field  $\frac{1}{2}$  right with a blue house on your left. Go over a track and stile and keep on the Chiltern Way with a hedge on your right to the next stile.

Choose the footpath straight on (rather than right) to a stile in the opposite woods, under pylons (head for the second pylon from the left).

Once over the stile into Buckland Wood, initially follow the tree arrows. Ignore any path that deviates from the main one and you will eventually climb to a metal kissing gate next to an old show jumping fence. Then go out of the wood and follow the wooden / barbed wire fence until you get to a track.

Turn right onto this bridleway, past a derelict farm. Going uphill you reach and turn left on Shire Lane at Longcroft Farm. After a few yards turn right onto a footpath and follow the hedge to the side of the farm. At the end of the field there are a choice of paths in the trees on your right.

Take the path that bears left through the narrow wood, rather than the one to the right that continues around to the rear of the farm, or the one that goes diagonally. When you reach the end of the trees, turn right onto a track (this is actually the unmarked Footpath 77, a public byway) and head towards Shrub's Wood.



Go into the woods and, ignoring the first crossing footpath, eventually turn right onto Footpath 12 (look out for the large clear sign on your left that is half hidden). This crosses the path you are on after just under a mile (1.4 kms). Cross a stile and follow a hedge back to Shire Lane. Turn left and then immediately right to the side of 'Montana'.

You will quickly enter a wood passing a paddock on your left. Take the footpath left at the end of the paddock across a horses' field. Go through a metal kissing gate, then over a stile and into trees. Ignore the footpath that goes left, follow the path nearest to the fence, over a stile, and you will eventually reach the large ditch surrounding Cholesbury or Danish Camp.

Cross the ditch and go straight across the field, just before a 5bar gate and stile go right, back to the church through a wooden kissing gate.



*Location:*

*SP929072  
Explorer Map 181  
Chiltern Hills North*

*Length:*

*4¾ miles / 7.65 kilometres*

*Terrain:*

*An undemanding walk containing a mixture of woodland and open countryside with no steep hills*

