

10 Follow the footpath across the field and through the woodland. On leaving the wood, walk across the next field towards another belt of woodland. On reaching the woodland turn left and continue for 140m to the end, here turn right and walk diagonally through the field opposite and exit onto Skibbs Lane.

11 Turn left on Skibbs Lane and walk to Chelsfield village. In the hedgerows grows wild clematis or traveller's joy. In the summer it produces creamy-green flowers and in the autumn masses of feathery fruits give it the name 'old man's beard'. From the lane you may glimpse a view of Chelsfield Park Hospital, originally a mansion house.

12 On reaching the end of Skibbs Lane the circular walk continues straight ahead. However you may wish to walk into the village. Opposite The Five Bells pub is a row of 18th and 19th century listed cottages, once the village shops and bakery. To the rear of the pub is a Wesleyan chapel c. 1872 and close by the school dates from 1823. Next to the school is Cross Hall, a large 16th century weather-boarded house.

To continue the walk, enter the park up the steps onto footpath 248A and walk to the opposite corner, next to the allotments. Go over two stiles and turn right. Continue for a short while and take the footpath through the hedge on the right. Follow this path through a field following a line of telegraph poles and exit onto the bypass. Cross over to the footpath and continue through a field to Church Road. Cross over, then turn right up the track on your left and go through the car park back to the church. Enter the churchyard, turn right and take the left hand path back to the starting point at Chelsfield Green car park.



How to get there...

BUSES:

208 Orpington to Lewisham
273 Lewisham to Petts Wood
R2 Petts Wood to Biggin Hill
R3 Chelsfield Village to Locksbottom
R7 Bickley to Orpington

TRAIN:

Nearest station: Chelsfield

CAR:

Turn off the main Sevenoaks Road (A223) at Warren Road. Continue to head east until the junction with the Highway.

PARKING:

Chelsfield Green car park, The Highway, Chelsfield - PAY AND DISPLAY, or some limited parking in surrounding roads (restrictions may apply).

Please check www.tfl.gov.uk for further details or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

Additional Information...

This 6.5 mile walk starts at the Chelsfield Green meadow and takes the walker by Chelsfield village, the Norman Church of St Martins, open farmland and Goddington Park.

In the Domesday Book Chelsfield is written as 'Cillefelle', 'Cile' signifying cold and 'fold' a plain or field. One of the oldest parishes in West Kent, Chelsfield originally included most of Farnborough and Green St Green, and was part of the vast possessions of William the Conqueror.

Walks



around the Borough

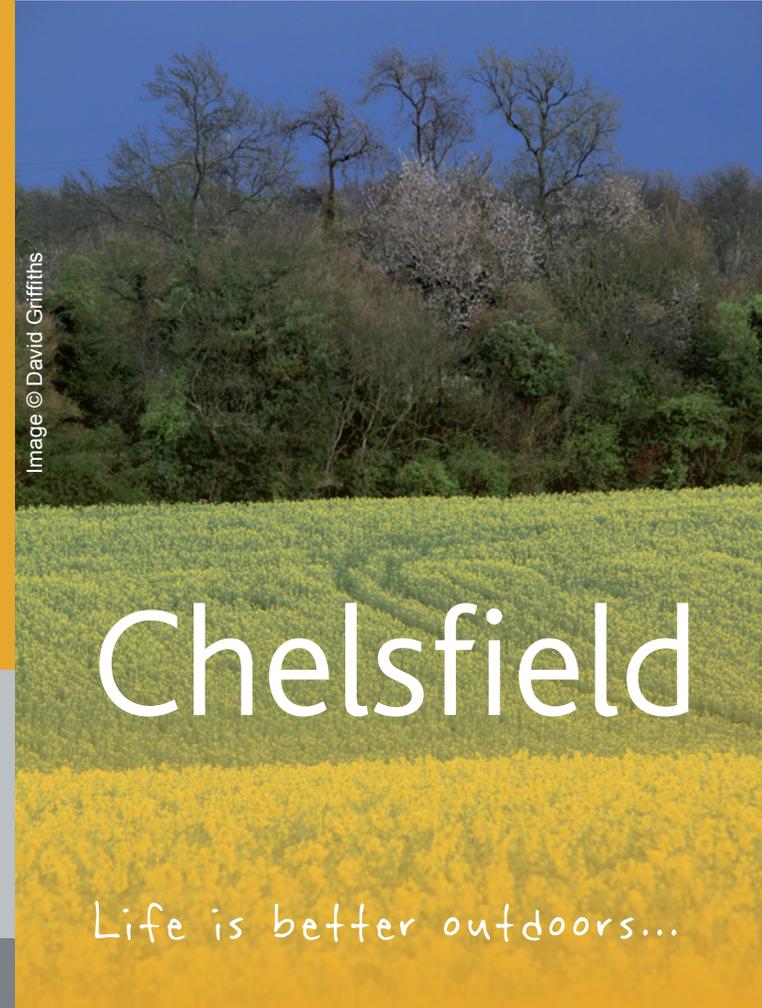


Image © David Griffiths

Chelsfield

Life is better outdoors...

Starting point: Chelsfield Green car park,
The Highway, Chelsfield

Distance: 6.5 miles

Duration: 3½ hours

Chelsfield

- 1 Start from the information board at the end of the car park and follow the path for 600m through the green. Chelsfield Green is managed by The London Borough of Bromley as a summer meadow to increase diversity of local wildflowers and insects. It is also a picnic area. After 600m just before the green narrows for the second time, turn right and cross Warren Road. Follow the diagonal path across the field and arrive at the Church of St Martin of Tours. Follow the footpath round into the graveyard.
- 2 At the far side, turn left and follow the path out of the graveyard through a kissing gate and on to the Orpington By-pass. The church tower houses the oldest surviving peal of bells in Kent. There are five bells, c.1672, from which the local pub gained its name. Cross over and on to footpath 259 opposite. Continue along this footpath to the end.
- 3 The end of the footpath brings you out opposite Chelsfield Lane. Cross over and walk 300m up Chelsfield Lane passing Lillys Farm on the right. The farmhouse was rebuilt after the original was demolished by a flying bomb in 1944. Climb the first stile on the left onto footpath 208 and continue diagonally across the field.
- 4 At the end of the path continue straight on into Goddington Park. As you enter the park turn immediately right and follow the hedgerow to the far corner of the park – you will pass the pavilion on your left. You pass Goddington House, which is in mock-Elizabethan style and replaced a smaller Georgian manor. Continue following this path until you reach a short section of made path and follow this out on to Avalon Road.

- 5 Turn right at Avalon Road, then reaching a T-junction, turn left and walk 350m along Chelsfield Lane past Tripes Farm. Shortly after Tripes Farm turn right onto footpath 210 over a stile, cross a paddock to Skeet Hill Lane and turn left. Just before you reach the junction with Chelsfield Lane take footpath 199 to the right. Continue to the end, and continue for a further 130m through a field to reach some cottages. Here turn right and walk 150m to Griff's Wood. At the corner of the wood turn left and after 150m make a right turn and climb two stiles.

- 6 Follow the footpath between a woodland and a paddock for 200m, turning right before the farm. On reaching the track to Griff's Wood Cottage, turn left and walk on to East Hall Road. Turn right on the road and after 100m take the footpath on the left. Follow this around the boundary of the field to a stile in the opposite corner. Cross over this stile and follow the short gravel track to Bleak House Farm. Cross over the second stile and walk through Bleak House Farm yard. Follow the footpath straight ahead following the hedge line on your right until you reach a large gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and turn immediately left. Follow the footpath along the hedgeline through the next two fields, keeping the hedge on your left at all times. Continue till you reach another hedgeline that crosses your path. Here, head diagonally across the field to a stile. Climb over the stile and head diagonally across this next field heading between the house and the farm buildings towards another stile. Climb this and turn right onto a track.

- 7 Continue straight ahead along the track, following a line of large trees on your left. This line and others in the vicinity have a continuous history dating back to the early Middle Ages.

- 8 When you reach a stile, cross over and keeping the tree line on your left, go straight ahead across the field to the gate. Continue straight on, across the next three fields and head towards the corner of the Crown Wood.

- 9 Climb the stile and walk past the edge of the wood, with the paddock on your right. Continue past the farm buildings, through a kissing gate, cross Gorse Road and over the stile opposite. Follow the fenceline to the next kissing gate and then follow the hedgeline on your left, bearing right towards Micklewood Farm. This brings you out on to Skeet Hill Lane. Cross over this road and up footpath 211.

