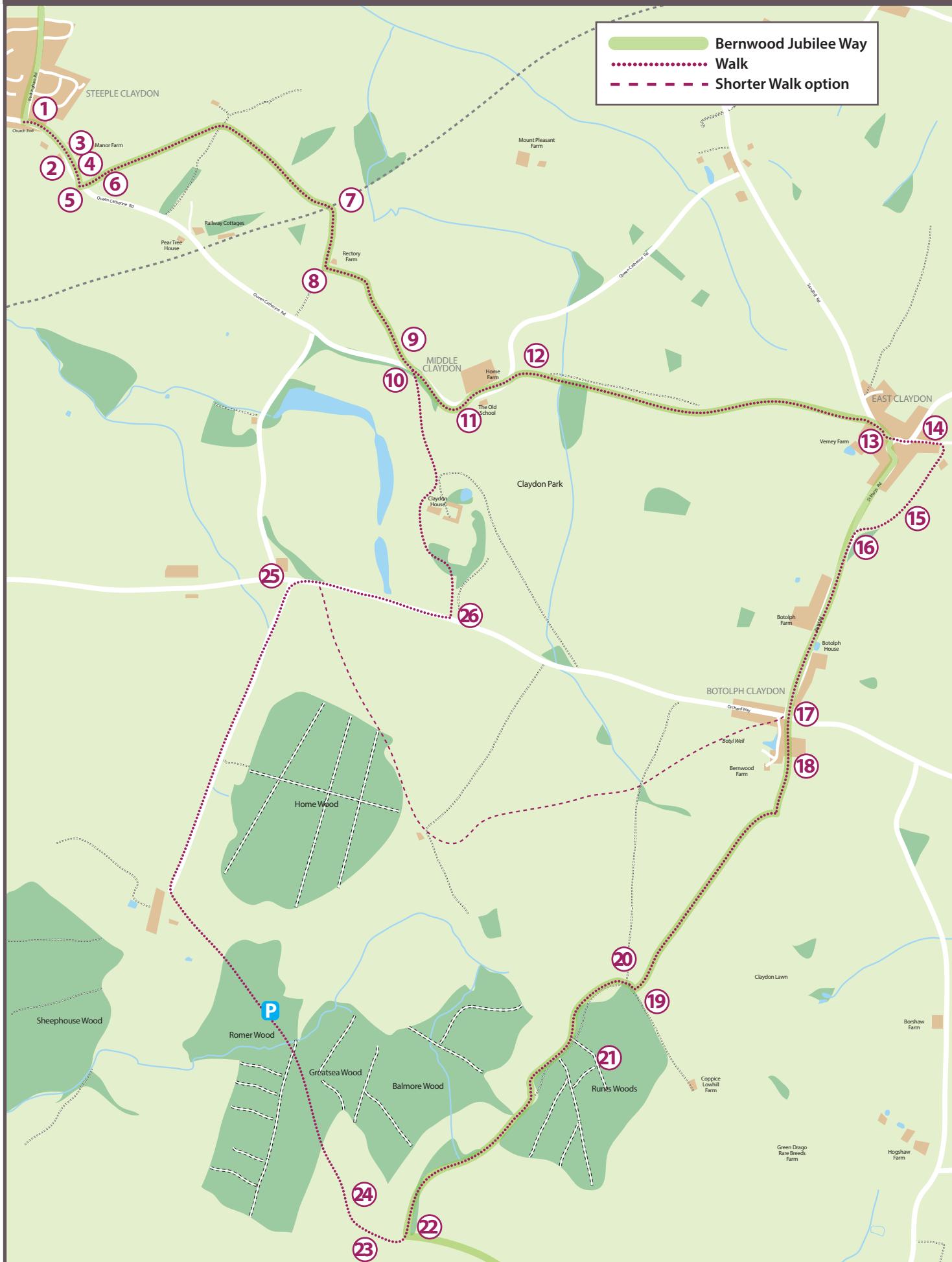


The Claydons & Claydon Wood Walk - Bernwood Jubilee Way

Total walk distance either 12k (8 miles) or 16k (10 miles)



This section of the Bernwood Jubilee Way provides a choice of two walks. The walks take in three parishes known collectively as 'The Claydons' - Steeple Claydon, Middle Claydon and East Claydon (East Claydon also includes the hamlet of Botolph Claydon).

1. Begin the walk on Queen Catherine Road, Steeple Claydon and proceed up the hill to the parish church
2. The parish has a fair number of listed buildings, one of which is Camp House
3. Adjacent to the churchyard, to the north-west, is the site of the former manor house at Manor Farm
4. The parish church of St Michael is believed to date from the C14
5. To the right of the graveyard is a large ditch-like feature believed to be a hollow way associated with the former medieval village
6. From the bottom of the graveyard the route heads off across the fields towards Rookery Farm before heading south east to the parish boundary with Middle Claydon
7. The parish boundary is crossed in the middle of the railway line
8. The route continues, heading towards the right of Rectory Farm and then heads south east directly through a double hedgerow
9. The walk then heads towards the entrance to Claydon Park
10. The route enters onto the main road opposite the entrance to Claydon House, from here bear left along the verge and follow the main road towards the village of Middle Claydon
11. The Almshouses at this point were previously located to the north-west of All Saints church and were moved by Ralph Verney, second Earl
12. On the far side of the village the route then travels alongside the cemetery and on to East Claydon
13. The walk enters the village and turns right along Sandhill Road and proceed along this road for approximately 250 yards
14. Turn right into Church Lane. The earliest part of St Mary the Virgin Church dates from the early C13 and was heavily restored in 1871
15. From the small green in front of the church follow a surfaced footpath that passes a large veteran oak tree
16. Along this path the walk passes the 'mushroom seat' an unusual local feature found on St Mary's Road to the north of Botolph Claydon
17. The route enters Botolph Claydon - the village has many listed buildings including Weir Cottage, built around 1700, with a traditional timber frame under a half hipped thatched roof

At the crossroads the walker has the option of shortening the walk by turning right along Orchard Way then taking the path on the opposite side of the road heading towards Muxwell Farm. From Muxwell Farm the alternative route skirts along the edge of Home Wood, proceed to Catherine Farm to pick up and continue the walk from point 26

18. From the road junction at Botolph Claydon the walk enters an area of historic woodland - cross the road and proceed down Weir Lane and through Bernwood Farm
19. After crossing the arable fields the footpath meets with a bridleway, follow the bridleway to the right for a short distance
20. The point is reached where the three bridleways merge then bear left to pass the edge of Runt's Wood
21. Runt's Wood is a fragment of the ancient Forest of Bernwood and to the right of Runt's Wood is the similar sized Balmore Wood
22. Follow Three Points Lane until a point is reached where another three bridleways meet
23. Turn right and proceed in the direction of Finemerehill House where there are good views across Aylesbury Vale and the Oxford Plain
24. Retrace your steps back to the route and take the right hand side bridleway towards Greatsea and Romer Wood
25. Follow Three Points Lane for 1.3km until the main road is reached opposite Catherine Farm
26. At the end of the lane turn right and follow the main road until South Lodge, the southern entrance to Claydon Park

Past Claydon House the walk bears right through a bridle gate to enter the car park next to the main entrance to the House. The main road is reached just beyond the entrance gate and from there the walker can retrace their steps back to Steeple Claydon via points 11 to 1

