

A **WALK** AROUND

**WENDOVER**

**WALK #1**  
DISTANCE 1 MILE  
TIME 30 MINUTES



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**When John Leland,**  
Henry VIII's antiquary, visited  
Wendover in 1533, he described  
it as "A town having two  
streets, well builded with  
tymbre".

Many timber-framed houses  
still stand but have had  
elegant remodelling.



## 1 CLOCK TOWER

**Originally a small market hall** built in 1842, the Clock Tower was gifted to the people of the village by the then Lord of the Manor, Mr. Abel-Smith, with the three-faced clock purchased through public subscription and fitted a year later. The building was also once used to house the parish fire engine and lock-up.

Turn left onto Tring Road and walk up as far as the thatched cottages on the left hand side of the road.

## 2 COLDHARBOUR



**An ancient row of cottages** that run along the Icknield Way, one of the oldest roads in Britain, these once provided rough accommodation for travellers. There were dwellings here on the map of 1620, but the current timber-framed, thatched cottages were built in the 17thC. No.10 contains parts of the cruck trusses from an earlier building. They are sometimes referred to locally as 'Anne Boleyn Cottages', as they were reputedly given to Anne Boleyn as a wedding present from Henry VIII.

## 3 BANK FARM

**Another Grade II listed building** and the last working farm in Wendover-proper, Bank Farm is thought to be the oldest house in the town.



Behind the front is a much earlier building with the north-east wing boasting a complete bay and two trusses that date from the 15thC.

## 4 THE WATERMILL

**While the earliest record** of a local watermill is Domesday Book, where two mills are noted,



there is also a millpond on the site of the current mill on a map of Wendover from 1620. The mill was last worked in 1923 and converted into a private residence in 1931.

## 5 PARADISE HOUSE

**An 18th century building** which in fact contains a far older structure, Paradise House displays a Sun Fire Insurance mark and policy number also covering the neighbouring kiln, Malthouse and barn. Now a Grade II listed building, it was also home to the Hoare family in the 1800's. Elizabeth was the miller of the adjoining watermill and her sisters ran a school for young ladies.



## 6 BUCKSBRIDGE HOUSE

**Another Grade II listed building** containing older elements behind an attractive façade added in 1780, Bucksbridge House belonged to the Stace family from 1620 until the 19thC. In 1621 a member of the family named William Hakewell was told to investigate



Parliamentary rights by John Hampden, in order that Wendover and several other local towns could exercise the right to elect Members of Parliament.

## 7 THE CHURCH

**Refurbished many times** since its erection in the 13thC, the church would have been much more central to the original village, before the demands of trade and the need for a market place meant a gradual drift towards the



crossroads of the Icknield Way and the London Rd. During the Civil War, Cromwell's troops made camp here and, it's thought, left the graffiti to be seen on the columns to the east side of the cross aisle.

## 8 THE BAPTIST CHURCH

**Baptists first met in two cottages** on this site in the 1640s, before building a Meeting House in 1735 with the help of the Annual Assembly of the General Baptists in London. The land was originally owned by John Hampden and is now apartments.

## 9 THE KING AND QUEEN

**A quintessential small pub** full of character, The King and Queen is one of many pubs in the village. There is an almost certainly apocryphal story that a tunnel once linked this



pub's cellars with the Red Lion's, in order that ladies of sporting character might make their way to visit the more up market residents of the larger coaching inn.

## 10 BACOMBE LODGE

**A prominent and attractive** three-storied brick house on South Street, this was formerly the residence of the newspaper proprietor William G Neal, as well as having been a furniture shop. It is currently a nursery school.



## 11 POUND STREET

**Named for being the site** of the stray animal pound in the 17thC, the cottages on this street date back to the 15th and 17th



centuries and are all Grade II listed. The oldest are numbers 6 and 8, and they were a gift to the residents from the last lord of the manor.

## 12 THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON



**Called The Railway Hotel** when the railway first arrived in 1892, the pub has since been extended into the neighbouring cottage. 'The Shoulder' is another 17thC building with a later façade and parapet.

## 13 LIME TREE HOUSE

**An 18thC mid-Georgian building** that stands proud amongst the smaller cottages of Pound Street, Lime Tree House was once the farmhouse for Lime Tree Farm. You can still see stables through the arch on the street, and the front lawn was once camomile.



## 14 THE MANOR WASTE



**This open space** at the top of the high street was traditionally used as a resting place for livestock on their way to market as well as a site for fairs. Fairs have been recorded here as early as 1214, when the lord of the manor, Hugh De Gurney was permitted to hold a fair on May 11th.

## 15 BOSWORTH HOUSE



**Sitting on the opposite side** of the high street to the Manor Waste, Bosworth House boasts distinctive circular chimneys. Important early 16thC wall paintings were discovered in this beautiful building and sent to the collections of the V & A Museum. As with many of the larger buildings in Wendover, it was once a farmhouse.

## 16 BACK STREET

**Once a section** of the ancient Icknield Way, Back Street was made into a back way to the main high street in the 16thC, as market traders made stalls permanent. The cottages in back street are a mix of 17th and 18thC and boast many fine original features.



## 17 VINE TREE HOUSE

**A 16thC timber-framed building**, and once again an old farmhouse, Vine Tree House was re-fronted in the 18thC with the Georgian façade it retains today. In 1700 an inventory taken shows the farm here as having an impressive 68 acres of land, and in 1951 it appears to have been briefly listed as a hotel.





## 18 20 HIGH STREET

**Formerly another pub** called The Two Brewers, this building was originally a pair of cottages built in the 17thC. William Dancer, the licensee, left a complete inventory of his estate on his death in 1774

which showed the value of both building and contents as £72 – with the beer worth £20!

## 19 THE WHITE SWAN

**Another characterful little pub**, which has previously been part of an extended concern with The Two Brewers. In 1697 the licensee William Darvill is shown to have been indicted for swearing. They were indeed different times and legislation from both the 18th and 19thC is evidence of a desire to curtail the drinking trade.



## 20 THE RED LION

**Certainly built earlier than the 1669** date marked on one of the pub's timbers. A regular stage coach ran from here to The Bull in Holborn throughout the 1800s, and Oliver

Cromwell, Ruper Brooke and Robert Louis Stevenson have all stayed in the inn, while John Wayne is also said to have dropped in for a drink.

## 21 WOOLERTON HOUSE



**Named after a local GP**, Dr Edwin Woolerton who lived in the house for over 50 years in the early 1900s, this is another old building with a Georgian façade.

## 22 THE OLD SCHOOL

**Built in 1869** on land given by the then-Lord of the Manor Lt-Colonel Philip Smith. Seven other members of the Smith family paid the 1554 building costs and the school was intended to benefit the manufacturing and agricultural labouring classes. The buildings were converted into houses in 1976, when the town's schools moved to their current sites.



## 23 THE OLD TOWN HOUSE

**This elegant building** at the foot of the high street was once the town's Literary Institute. Now privately owned it was originally given in 1863 by Capt. Philip Smith as a memorial to his father, Mr. Abel Smith the Lord of the Manor. It housed a reading room, library and billiard room and was well-used by many local groups. During Henry VIII's reign, a 'towne house' is listed on the site.

## 24 THE OLD COACH HOUSE



**Known formerly as** The Maydynhed Inn and later as the Corner House Hotel, the earliest known reference to a licensed premises by name in Wendover is a reference to the Maydenhed Inn from 1514. The old coaching arch can still be seen.

## 25 THE OLD COTTAGE

**Another beautiful 16thC cottage** with some later features, many of the old houses in Wendover would have had similar jettied upper floors as this one. From 1877 the fire station was housed to the left-hand side of this building, where two houses from the 1960s now stand.



## 26 THE OLD MANOR FARMHOUSE

**Boasting a 17thC timber frame** and re-fronted in the 19thC with Georgian sash windows, this old house also exhibits possible Civil War-era graffiti in its upper rooms, very similar to that found in St Mary's Church.

## 27 THE GRANGE

**Probably dating from the 17thC** but altered later, the front garden wall of brick and the vernacular local flint is from the 18thC.

Wharf Rd leads to the end of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Junction Canal. To see the Windmill go about 100 yards further along Aylesbury Road and look to the left at the driveway with a footpath sign. Built between 1796/1804 is unusually tall. The sails were removed in 1904, when an engine was installed. The Mill ceased working in 1926 and was converted into a dwelling in about 1931.



## 28 THE OLD HOUSE

**Recorded in documents** dated 1605, this building is likely to be far older. An elegant, large house showcasing its original carriage arch leading out onto the street, The Old House lends wonderful character to a hugely attractive row of buildings which mark the start of the Aylesbury Road.

## 29 32-34A AYLESBURY RD

**15thC timber-framed cruck houses**, altered later in the 17thC, these houses in fact still boast some of their original, medieval features, albeit re-configured or re-used.



### 30 CHILTERN HOUSE

**Built in the 16thC** and added to throughout the 17thC, this building was re-fronted in 1725, the date given on the rainwater head. Used in the 19thC as Chilton House Academy, a letter dated from 1843 survives in the Aylesbury Archives written by a son informing his father of his school holiday dates and thanking him profusely for his education.



### 31 STURRICK HOUSE

**An early example of a 16thC 'hall house'**, with a first floor inserted later, the old close timber frame remains at the back of the north end of this building. In 1911 this was a Temperance Hotel.



### 32 THE RED HOUSE

**The Red House is Grade II listed**, and shows some remarkable and distinctive period features such as the flush framed windows and red brick dressing. Previously home to a rather large household consisting of a GP (and member of the Royal College of Surgeons) his wife, seven children and three servants.



### 33 THE GEORGE AND DRAGON



**Previously known** as simply The George, in 1578 The Joan Bradshawe Charity gave £20, half the annual rent of The George Inn to the poor of the parish. The other half

went to the poor of Halton. A much altered building, it nonetheless retains much of its charm – but be prepared for the low beams when ordering at the bar!

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**KEY**

- ★ START AND FINISH
- ROUTE ONE WAY
- ROAD
- FOOTPATH



We hope you will enjoy following this walk around the town. We have started at the Clock Tower but it can be joined at any point.