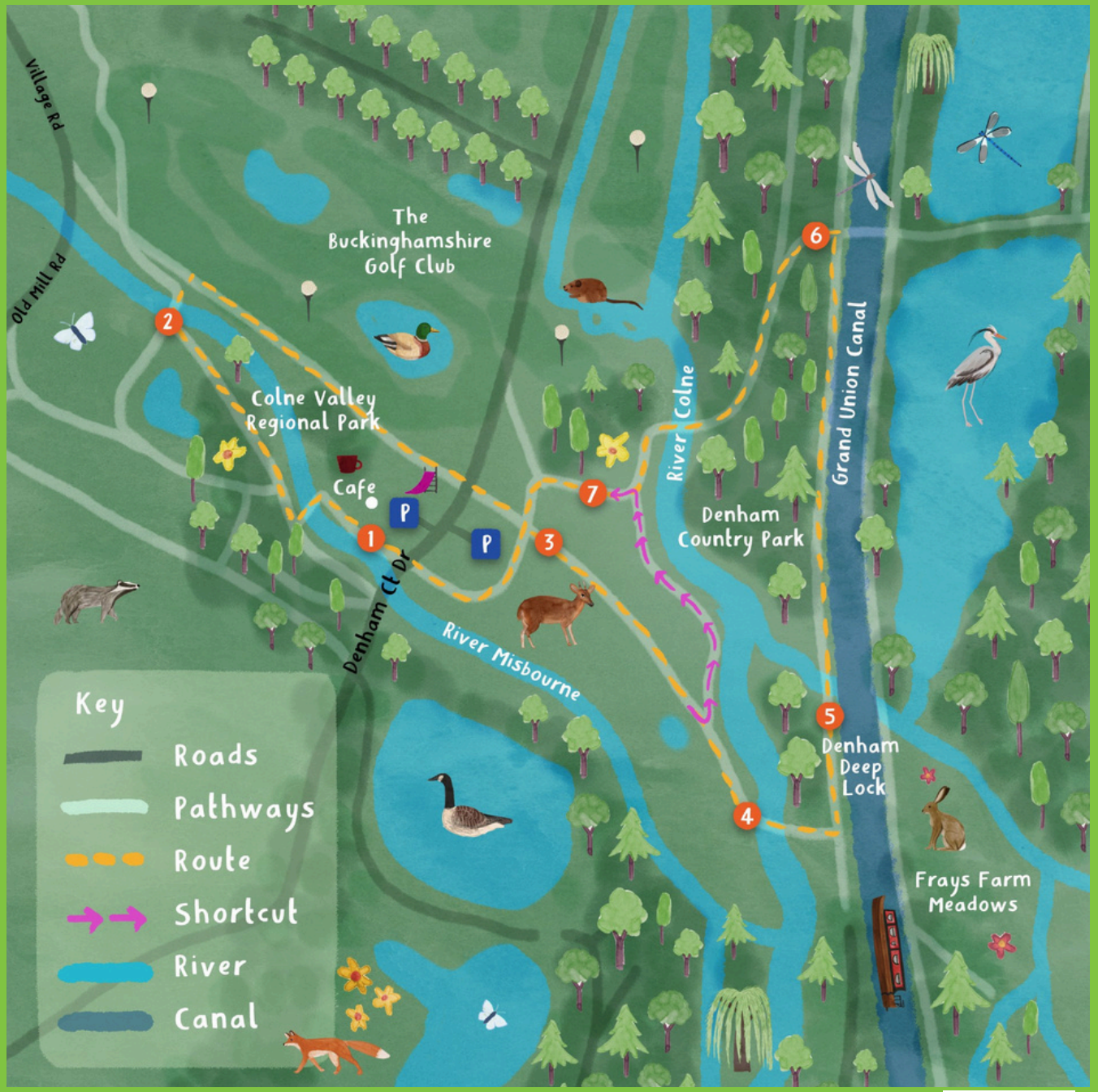

Find out more about chalk streams at chilternstreams.org

Discover other routes and the activity pack here:

River Misbourne Chalk Streams Challenge Walk



Route Information:

Length: 2.5 miles (4 km)
Terrain: Easy flat walking on good paths.
Start & Finish: Denham country Park Car park UB9 5PG
Parking: Pay and display. Parking only available until 7pm in summer
Please see our instructions for walking from Denham Village where there is street parking
Facilities: Toilets open during park opening times
Lakeside Cafe 9.30am - 5.00pm 7 days a week
Public Transport: Bus 581 from Uxbridge
Nearest bus stop is Priory Close.

CHILTERNS CHALK STREAMS PROJECT

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL est. 2020

Starting point - Denham Country Park car park



Go through the gate at the back of the main car park, follow the path ahead past the café.

1 The River Misbourne

On the left you will see the River. The Misbourne is 1 of only 300 chalk streams in the entire world! As you follow the route see if you can see all the features - gravel river bed, fast, clear water and plants growing in and around the river.

Cross the bridge over the River Misbourne. Turn right towards the railings and turn immediately left. Walk forward a few metres and turn right along the riverbank to shortly reach a T-junction. Then turn right, follow the path as it winds through the wood



2 Follow the flow

Here we cross the River Misbourne again. **Can you remember the special features of a chalk stream?** To see how quickly the river is flowing, drop something natural, such as a twig, into the water on one side of the bridge and time how long it takes to travel underneath and appear on the other side. Can you race your friends?

Cross the bridge and turn right through a gap in the railings. Continue along the track with the golf course on your left hand side



Using your spotter sheet, look out for different birds here. The lake often attracts a variety of wildlife

Go past a gate and, where the track ends, continue directly ahead to the right of the hedgerow.

Can you spot the Roman well?

Pass the playground on your right and go through a gate and cross the road.



Go through the gate and continue directly ahead signed towards Misbourne Meadow and the Grand Union Canal.

3 The Meadow

What can you spot in the meadow? Look for butterflies or listen for crickets.

Watch your step though, cows often graze here keeping the habitat in check



Go through the gate, under the overhead pylons and then through two further gates to a path junction. To avoid the canal you can take an optional shorter route here- Turn left and follow the track around the edge of the meadow until you reach the main track and pick up from waypoint OR for the longer route, continue straight ahead and cross the River Colne

4 The River Colne

The River Misbourne has made its journey from Great Missenden to here where it joins the River Colne.



The River Colne is a larger, deeper river that collects water from smaller rivers and streams as it flows towards the River Thames. Some of these smaller rivers, including the Chess, Misbourne and Gade are special chalk streams that begin in the Chiltern Hills. Together, they help feed the Colne and support lots of plants and animals along the way.

Can you spot any differences between The Colne and the Misbourne?

Continue on to the canal towpath, turn left along it.

5 Denham Deep lock

Locks were built to help boats move between sections of canal at different heights. Deep lock, is the deepest lock on the Grand Union Canal, lowering boats by almost 3.5 metres as they travel along the waterway.

Can you spot any narrow boats travelling on the canal?

Although not the same as the unique Chalk stream habitat, canals are still good places for wildlife watching. On a summers day you may see dragonflies darting around above the water.

Continue along the towpath for 400m to a footpath on the left just before the first bridge.

Turn left cross the bridge to a T-junction with Country park sign. Turn left to follow the winding track

6 The woodland

Look out for the brass rubbing plates as you explore the woodland. See if you can spot little streams, colourful plants, and different birds along the way. Keep your eyes on the trees for a Great Spotted Woodpecker tapping on the bark!



Go over 2 small and 1 large bridge. Soon after the large bridge, fork left and stay on the track to a T-junction.

Turn right to continue to a major junction (also Waypoint 3). Go past the sculpture and stay ahead past the car park on the right and follow the bend round to the right

7 Love your river

Can you spot the river again on your left?

The River Misbourne isn't as healthy as it should be. Pollution, litter, invasive species, and sewage can all harm the plants and animals that live there.

Can you do some research to find out what people can do to help protect the river? Maybe you could discover ways to reduce pollution, pick up litter, save water, or help wildlife thrive!



Pass through the gate on to the road. Bear left over the road, go through the gate and follow the path back to the starting point and the car park.