

## Chillerton Inner Ring

This circular route is an amalgamation of two routes, much used by local residents and dog walkers, on either side of Chillerton Main Road. The paths and Bridleways involved are the nearest off-road walking areas to Chillerton Village. However, if completing either half of the route on its own, the return to the starting point involves a walk back along the main road.

The route between **Brook Lane** and **Garn Lane** overlooks Chillerton Village, on one side, whilst being overlooked itself by Chillerton Down and Tolt Copse on the other.

Starting from **Brook Lane**, the initial approach involves some steady uphill walking whilst the **Garn Lane** approach, in the opposite direction, has a shorter uphill beginning.

When undertaking the full circular route, **Hollow Lane**, alongside the Village Hall, is the nearest point from which to cross between **Garn Lane** and the other half of the route, over a short section of the main road.

**Points of interest:** This walk takes in views of Tolt Copse and Chillerton Down as well as towards the Eastern coast of the Island

**Access:** From any of the following: Brook Lane: **Grid Ref:** SZ 49196 84391, Garn Lane, Loverstone Lane, Playground Lane, Hollow Lane: **Grid Ref:** SZ 48692 83771

**Distance:** 3 ½ - 4 miles

**Time:** Each half of the route, undertaken on its own, will take under one hour whereas the full circular route is likely to take between 1 ½ and 2 hours to complete.

**Difficulty:** Generally fairly easy including moderate climbs and descents.

**Terrain:** Paths and tracks clearly defined although some may be overgrown for a while in Spring time. Some muddy sections in winter.

**Stiles:** One, if following the route between Playground Lane and the track to and from Loverstone

**Gates:** No functioning gates, just permanently open gateways.

**Dogs:** The whole route is dog friendly

**Bus:** No 6 (Newport/Ventnor) Main Road Chillerton

**Parking:** Chillerton Main Road

**Toilets:** None

**Refreshments:** None

**The following route is described from Brook Lane, although this walk may be accessed from any of the starting points listed above.**

The walk starts at the junction of Main Road Chillerton and Brook Lane where a ford runs beside the road with white railings and a small footbridge. Cross the bridge into Brook Lane and take Bridleway G8 signed towards Sheat Farm and Newbarn Farm. This a sunken, poorly maintained tarmac road rises with houses on the left side and sycamore trees interspersed with some mature oak and ash trees on the right.

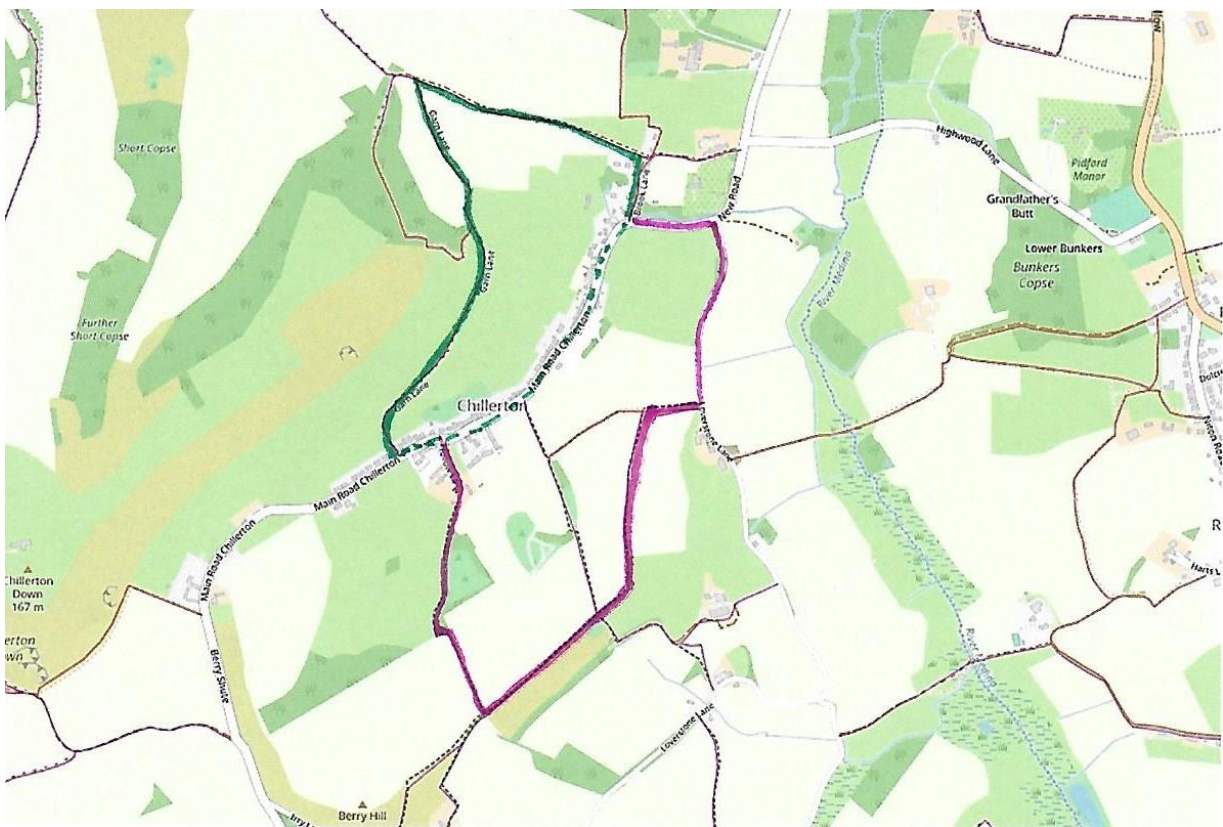
As Brook Lane reaches a four way intersection, after Hill House, on the left, leave the tarmac by turning left. The signpost signifies the direction as a Public Bridleway only (Which is actually G8 but this is not shown) *Do not continue straight ahead onto Footpath G11*. You are now on a sunken hilly track which continues to climb with banks and overgrown hedgerow trees on the right.

The track continues to rise gently before levelling out as views open up over the fields to the left and Tolt Copse, ahead. Before Tolt Copse is reached there is a Public Bridleway sign on the left pointing out 'Main Road Chillerton 1mile'. Follow this route which is slightly downhill with the hedge on your left and Tolt Copse across the field on the right. At the end of the field, pass through one time gate access to the next field, alongside a Bridleway sign and continue ahead with the hedge still to the left.

Chillerton Down now provides the backdrop on your right hand side beyond the field and there are glimpses of Chillerton Village to the left.

At the end of the field the way ahead becomes a sunken track overhung by trees. It ends by the sign 'GARN LANE' at Chillerton Main Road. Although this is a relatively quiet road, it is necessary to remain aware because it can be busy at times. Turn left down the road with bungalows on the left and Greenlands Close on the right. An extensive grass verge soon appears to the right in front of Greenlands housing and this ends at the Village Hall, next to 'HOLLOW LANE'. The start of the second half of the walk commences from here.

If the intention is to complete one half of the walk only, the starting point, at Brook Lane, is reached in less than 10 minutes, by continuing on the road.



To start the second half of the 'Inner Ring Walk', turn right onto Hollow Lane Lane. This route soon becomes sunken and is a cool 10 minutes trek uphill on a hot day. The track eventually emerges from the trees and curves to the left briefly before curving to the right and straightening out between two hedges, as it crosses between the fields on either side. Telegraph poles line this track on the left hand side.

This section of the track ends as it joins a track running to the left and right in front of the last telegraph pole. Views overlooking the valley below and away to Appuldurcombe Down can be seen over the gate by the telegraph pole. To continue on the 'Inner Ring' route, turn left here, ignoring the gate (The Public Bridleway sign post nearby, on the right but not on your current route, points this direction as G15 Loverstone). This ridge is to the South East of Chillerton Main Road and heads off in a North Easterly direction parallel to the Main Road.

Follow the path alongside the hedge and telegraph poles to the right and fields to the left. Ahead in the distance you should be able to make out the excavations at Bardon Vectis and you might be able to spot the tower of Whitecroft, some way off in the distance. Chillerton Down is over to your left. Pass by a reservoir on your right, just before the last telegraph pole. A gate here leads to Loverstone. At this stage, it would be possible to shorten your journey by walking across an indistinct route across the field, on your left, to a clump of trees which is at the head of a walk down to Chillerton Village past the children's playground.

To continue, stay on the path you are on, with the hedge still on the right. You will now have views over Rookley to the right. The path begins to go downhill, via a one-time gateway, to a wooden electricity pylon. Here it is again possible to shorten your walk by crossing the field to your left and climbing over a stile to descend to Chillerton Village by the children's playground. This route goes across the country side with just a short walk on the road back to the starting point at Brook Lane.

To extend the Inner Ring Walk further, involves about a twenty minute walk on roads on the way back to the starting point at Brook Lane.

Turn right at this point and descend by the track which runs down through the field to Loverstone Lane at the bottom. Turn left on this tarmac road which gradually becomes a sunken route as the banks and trees rise above it on the approach to Chillerton Main Road.

At Chillerton Main Road, turn left to follow the road, past Sheat Manor on the right, to the starting point at Brook Lane. Remain alert to traffic on the road especially due to the bends which create blind spots.