

Chiddingly

Chiddingly is essentially a rural agricultural settlement covering 7 square miles of countryside, with a population of about 710 people. There are 337 dwellings in the Parish, and of these about 55 have the word "Farm" in their postal address. Like Rome, it is founded upon seven hills: Burgh Hill; Thunders Hill; Holmes Hill; Scrapers Hill; Stone Hill; Pick Hill; Gun Hill. The parish is rural in character: it includes the village of Chiddingly and a collection of hamlets: the largest of these being Muddles Green and Thunder's Hill.

The church was built in the late 1000's after the Norman Conquest and the building continued into early 1300's when the tower was erected. Inside the church is an enormous alabaster memorial to the Jefferay family from the late 1500's. Sir John Jefferay was the Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who died May 23rd 1578. An old local legend is that the family were too proud to touch the ground with their feet, and walked to church stepping on drum shaped cheeses, which are represented by the shapes under the feet of the statues.

The 1830's brought rural unrest with the "Captain Swing Riots" breaking out in Sussex and East Anglia. Machinery was destroyed, and other damage was done to farms and churches in the area. The riots continued for two years, and resulted in 19 people being hanged.

During late 1944 a V1 flying bomb exploded near the church causing minor damage.

Stream Mill Bridge

The bridge at Chiddingly and its historical significance goes back to the 15th and 16th century when a bridge on this site, possibly with elements remaining in the present bridge, was associated with a forge and cannon boring ironworks at the nearby mill. The bridge and mill are integrally linked, and the grooves for sluice gates to control the flow of water from the millpond are visible on the north bridge supports.

The current bridge was built as a wooden structure in between years 2008 – 2010. The only possible access to see that is along the public bridleway as everywhere around is private property.

Source: www.chiddingly.gov.uk, www.villagenet.co.uk, www.wikipedia.org

The Chiddingly Large Ring

Walk overview:

Distance:	6 miles (10 km)
Time:	3 – 3.5 hour
Description:	The ultimate walk where you can see Chiddingly church, fields, hills and the meadows of the western landscape around The Gun.



The Gun
Gun Hill, Chiddingly
Heathfield, East Sussex
TN21 0JU

www.thegunhouse.co.uk
enquiries@thegunhouse.co.uk
Tel. 01825 872361



@GunHeathfield



find us on facebook



Leave the Gun and turn left. Walk along the road down the hill until a road bridge over a stream. Go over the bridge and continue for about 0.1 mile (150m) until a wooden signpost with a yellow arrow. Follow the arrow, go up the small hill and climb over a style **(1)** into the field. Continue straight and follow the edge of the field to the corner. Walk through the metal gate and carry on straight along the fence (follow the yellow arrow on the fence) until a road.

Turn right onto a road and keep walking for 0.2 mile (300m) until a crossroad with a rural road. Turn left onto the rural road and keep walking straight, over a bridge **(2)**, past a wooden signpost and along a small wall until a wooden gate at the end **(3)**. Climb over the style and follow the edge of the field. Climb over the next style (marked by a yellow arrow) and still keep walking straight along the edge of the field (you can see the tower of Chiddingly church). In the corner climb over a style and turn right onto the road. Enjoy the views of Chiddingly church and the graveyard and follow the road until a crossroad with a bigger road. Join the bigger road and keep walking straight along it for 0.6 mile (1km) until a fork crossroad with a rural road (there is a wooden 'Wealdenway' signpost on the right, but it's not easy to see it).

Walk straight onto the rural road, past the Friths Farm gate **(4)** and continue through the farm property. Pass the stables and behind a metal gate (which may be open), you can see a damaged signpost on the left. Turn right and go through the wooden gate **(5)**. Follow the path, go through a metal gate, over a bridge and continue along the path until a style **(6)**. Climb over it and keep walking along the path. Climb over the next style and continue along the edge of the field until a style with a post. Turn right (follow the yellow arrow), climb over the next style and walk down and up the hill. Keep walking along the path, later follow the path to the left **(7)** and continue over two styles until you reach the road.

Turn right onto the road **(8)** and keep walking until a bigger road (you walk through nice old-fashioned farm gate with a two owls). Turn right onto the road and continue along the road for 0.75 mile (1.2km) until a T-junction. Turn left (follow the 'Waldron' signpost) and walk along the road until you see an oast house on the right. Turn right onto the smaller road immediately behind the house **(9)**.

Follow the road until the road bears to the left, then keep walking straight along the line of white cedars. Walk along the path behind the farm property and go over a new wooden bridge **(10)** (see below and the last page of the leaflet) – *There is a nice waterfall just underneath the bridge*. The only possible access to see that is along the public bridleway as everywhere around is private property

Go across the road and climb over a style **(11)** into the field. Keep walking along the edge of the field and later across the field **(12)** down the hill. Go over the wooden bridge and follow the path up to hill (along the edge of the field). In the corner go through a wooden gate and turn right onto the main road. Follow the road until The Gun car park on the left and go back to The Gun.



*The Waterfall with The Stream Mill bridge
Taken from private property*