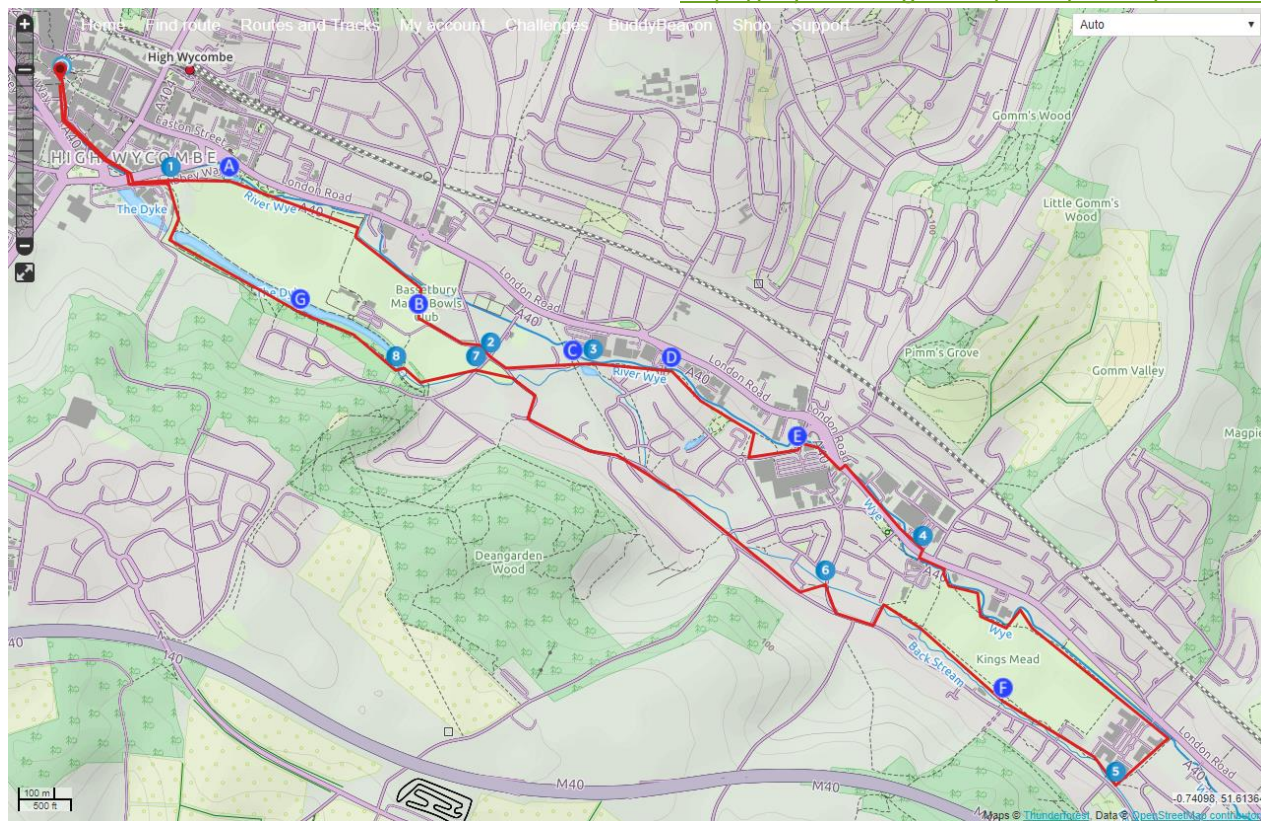


17. Pann Mill

5.5 miles

<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/OTI0MTU=>

With your back to the High Street on Paul's Row, turn left under the archway and follow the pedestrianised street for 50m then turn left into St Mary's Street. Pass The Swan theatre on your left then walk down some steps to reach Queen Victoria Road. Cross it, turn right then left through the paved gardens. Go over the pedestrian crossing and turn left to the information boards at the entrance to The Rye and Holywell Mead.

17.1 Follow the access road to the left then continue straight ahead on the wide paved footpath to the historic Pann Mill and River Wye. Stay in the same direction for a further 400m past a playground to a junction of paths. Continue straight on with the stream to the left, then follow the path to the right, passing the bowls club, to the entrance road to the Lido. Stay in the same direction to Bassetsbury Lane and turn right to the junction with Keep Hill Rd.

The Rye and Holywell Mead cover more than 53 acres. Rye Mead was used by local people for grazing cattle. Holywell Mead was the site of a Roman villa and watercress beds.

Pann Mill: Although only 10 miles long, the Wye has supported over 30 mills in its time. Although most have now disappeared, a notable exception is Pann Mill. There's evidence of mills on this site dating back to the 9th century. The current mill was restored after the main building was pulled down for road widening in 1971 (www.pannmill.org.uk).

Bassetsbury Manor: The Manor of Bassets Bury was granted by King John to Alan Basset in 1203 and comprised a manor house, a mill and a farm. It has an ancient tithe barn. The present building dates from c1746. Behind the bowls club is the still-intact Bassetsbury Mill, complete with water wheel.

17.2 After a further 60m, bear left along Bowden Lane towards a disused railway bridge. Go under it and the large pipe, to view the pond on the right. Funges Meadow Nature Reserve is owned by Wycombe District Council and managed by Chiltern Rangers. It's home to many different species of flora and fauna. The now disused railway was built during the 1850s and ran between High Wycombe and Maidenhead. The section to Bourne End was closed in 1970.

17.3 Continue in the same direction along the river bank, with the new Wye Dean development on the right. Cross the entrance road and, after 500m, follow the footpath round to the right to a roundabout in Wycombe Retail Park.

Turn left along Ryemead Way for 100m to another roundabout and cross it via a traffic island by the river bridge. Continue straight ahead on the wooden walkway to the left of the Pizza Hut building and walk beside the river to a metal artwork.

Turn left and take the pedestrian crossing over the main road. Turn right along the pavement past the Grade II listed St Anne's Church and Wycombe Marsh Baptist Church to a pedestrian crossing just before Gomm Rd.

Wye Dene has been developed on the site of an old sewage treatment works. Both the Wye and Marsh Brook flow through it and are a major feature. Look for the bubbling spring in the pooled area of Marsh Brook just on the right after the railway bridge. Sewage is now piped for processing at Little Marlow and the treated water returned into the Wye to augment its natural flow.

Wycombe Marsh Mill once stood on what is now Wycombe Retail Park. The work of art represents the paper-making machines, and is engraved with the story of the Machine-breakers Riot of 1830.

17.4 Cross the road, turn left for a few metres and right over the wooden footbridge into Kingsmead Recreation Ground. Turn immediately left and follow the riverbank path to the end of the playing fields, continuing ahead on a short section of The Chiltern Way. Cross the entrance to Kingsmead Business Park and follow the rough track to a T-junction. Turn right on the surfaced footpath for 130m to the next T-junction.

17.5 Turn right again along the bank of Marsh Brook (the Back Stream). Do not cross the bridge and follow the path keeping Back Stream on your left. Go past a car park on the right and stay in the same direction along the edge of the recreation ground for 630m.

Bear left over a bridge just after the playground up to a road – Kingsmead Rd. Turn right on the pavement for 100m and bear right down Beech Rd to the ford at the bottom.

Marsh Brook (the Back Stream) flows from the spring-fed watercourses in the grounds of Wycombe Abbey to join the main river in Boundary Park at Loudwater.

17.6 Do not cross it, but take the surfaced path to the left and follow it back up to Kingsmead Rd. Turn right along the pavement and stay on it to the road junction with Abbey Barn Rd. Taking care, cross it to continue along Kingsmead Rd for 200m, and go over a footbridge into Bassetsbury Lane. Follow the lane for 600m through an S-bend, cross the bridge over the Back Stream and climb the grassy slope on the left to meet Keep Hill Rd.

17.7 Cross the road, follow the stream to a waterfall and take the surfaced path behind it up to a path junction at the top.

17.8 Turn right along the wide path, keeping to the left of The Dyke, for 800m to reach the boating site and café at the end of the water. Bear right, follow the path to reach the entrance to The Rye and turn left to retrace the route back to the Guildhall.

The Dyke is an artificial watercourse supplied by the spring-fed watercourses in the grounds of Wycombe Abbey and eventually becomes Marsh Brook. There are more details on the information boards.