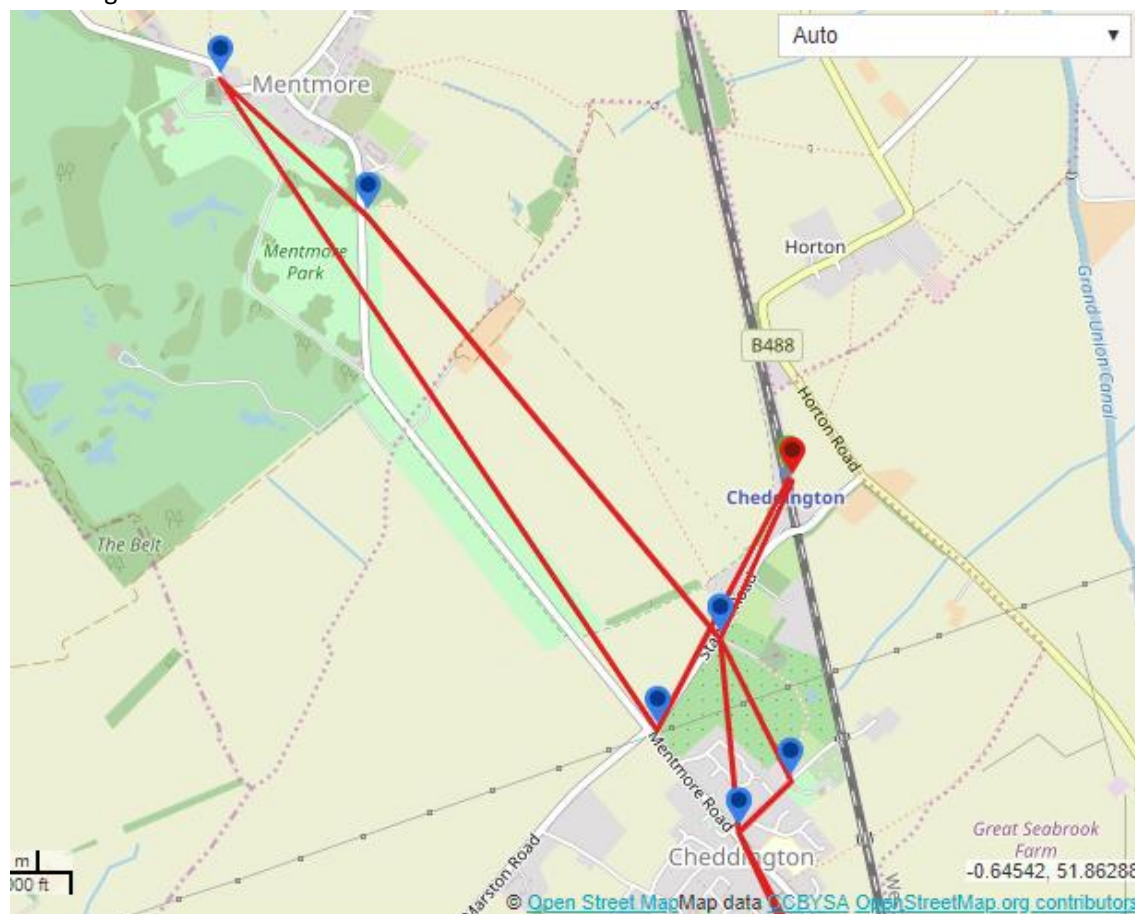


6a. Cheddington Mentmore

4.5 miles

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

This walk takes you from Cheddington station up to Mentmore, returning by a different route to St Giles' Church, Cheddington.



6.1 Leave the station, crossing the car park and walking down the access road. At the main road turn right away from the railway bridge towards Cheddington Village.

6.2 At the mini-roundabouts turn right, signposted to Mentmore. Walk beside the road on the left-hand verge, which widens to a broad strip of grass, views of Mentmore Towers in the distance. Pass Mentmore Golf Club on the left. The road bends right at a cottage which was the South Lodge of the house. (Just after the Mentmore sign, take note of a public footpath on the right: you will return to this and take the path at later.) Climb the hill into the Arts & Crafts village of Mentmore. Pass the village green, where you can admire the Arts & Crafts houses built for the Mentmore Estate workers. The main road bends left and descends slightly to St Mary's Church. This ancient church (Grade 2* listed) is open during daylight hours.



6.3 St Mary the Virgin Church Mentmore. Having looked at the church, retrace your steps to the Green. Notice the ornamental gates leading to Mentmore Towers (not open to the public). Planning permission has been granted for the building to become a luxury hotel. Descend the hill past the Stag and back to the Mentmore sign noted at 6.2. Here you take the footpath on the left.

6.4 Cross the stile and through some scrub to a large field. The footpath is indistinct in summer but clear in winter. Follow the field boundary on the left and then cross the field. Aim for the farmhouse under a clump of trees (telegraph poles to the left and large grain stores to the right). Continue skirting

the farm house and gardens on your right, then follow the telegraph poles along a grassy strip that marks the path across the next big field. At the end of the field just before the line of houses and the fence, turn right and follow the field boundary along a wide grassy strip to a big opening in the trees. Follow the waymarked path to the left, ignoring the wide path to the right which used to be the branch railway line from Cheddington to Aylesbury. Go through a kissing gate and follow the path up a neatly mowed lawn which is maintained by the owner of the house on the right. At the main road near the station turn right. Shortly you will see a sign up Church Path pointing towards St Giles Church. Here you will turn left up to the church.

St Giles was built on the site of a Roman pagan temple, which explains why it is located outside the ancient Domesday village of Cheddington on a hilltop. The church is open at weekends. Its treasures include a Jacobean pulpit 'from which it is impossible to preach a poor sermon,' a matching altar, the poor box dated 1517 and a peal of bells from the time of Queen Elizabeth I.