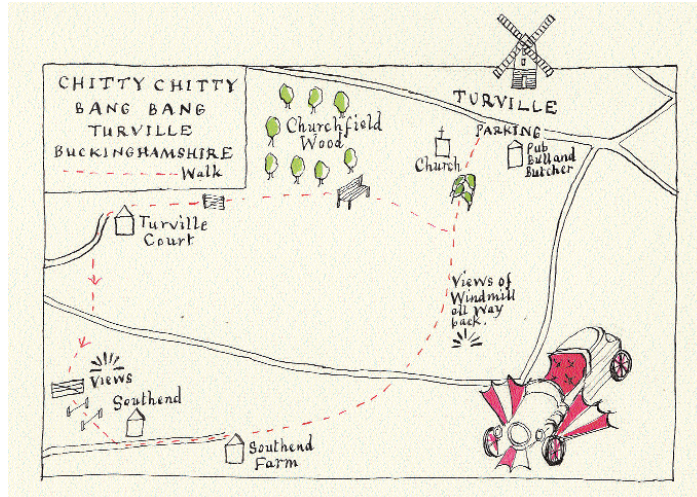


## 7. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Turville, The Chilterns, Buckinghamshire



### The Adventure

This is the place where they filmed the children's classic *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, complete with the windmill on the hill where Caractacus, Jemima, Jeremy and Grandpa Potts lived. The windmill is on the hill above the village and through a stretch of rolling green countryside less than forty-five minutes from West London.

Turville itself is a picture postcard village with a fabulous pub. It has been used for filming many times, including the *Vicar of Dibley* and *Inspector Morse*. Create an adventure, escaping to the top of the hill opposite the windmill. The paths take you through organic farmland owned by Turville Court Farm. There are wild flowers in abundance and poppies in the fields.

Sing the songs, tell stories of pirates, spies, castles and child catchers. Keep on the look out for the Vulgarian Baron Bombast and his child-hating wife. Watch out for flying cars.

**Map** Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 171

**Distance** 4 km / 2.5 miles

**Terrain** Rolling fields, clear paths, one mild uphill at the start of the walk. The last stretch is gently downhill all the way.

### What will I need?

- The words to all the songs from the movie (see page 58)
- A bag of toot sweets
- Fudge
- Binoculars for bird watching, looking out for pirates and to see the windmill in close up

### How to get there

Take the M40 out of London and come off at Junction 5. Turn left off the motorway towards Ibbstone. Soon after Ibbstone village is the County primary school. Turn right here, on a narrow lane down to Turville. Take the signposted left into the village. Park on the village green, between the church and the pub.

### What can we listen to on the way?

The *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* soundtrack. There are two CDs available. The one published by Pickwick is the original motion picture soundtrack with Dick van Dyke and Sally Ann Howes. The other is the original cast of the London stage show, published by Mr Bang Bang.



### Walk the Walk

- 1** Walk past the telephone box, towards the church, and take the left turning up the lane, past Sleepy Cottage and the village nursery school. The tarmac lane soon becomes a footpath shaded by trees.
- 2** Go through the gate at the open field and carry straight on for 90 m / 100 yards, before turning right through a wooden gate in the hedgerow. Follow a clear path up the hill through the open field, passing a conveniently placed resting bench at the top.
- 3** Look back at the view of the windmill behind you. Look out, too, for pairs of circling red kites as we are close to the area where these elegant birds were recently reintroduced to Britain. Head on to the gate at the very top. Walk straight on through the gate and along the hedgerow.
- 4** At the tarmac lane, follow the road left, past the big gates of Turville Court (the place to sing POSH). Then turn immediately left on to the marked footpath and into a field. Walk down, over the stile, heading straight through the field, steeply down to the bottom of the hill.
- 5** Cross over the lane and climb the stile opposite into the next field.



### MAKE A CATAPULT TO DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST THE WICKED BARON AND BARONESS BOMBURST OR VULGARIA'S EVIL CHILDSNATCHER

Find a stick with a y-shaped fork. Shorten the top branches of the y to about 8 cm / 3 inches and the handle to a manageable size for small hands. About 3 cm / 1 inch down, cut a notch in the bark and tie a length of rubber (a thick rubber band will work well) to both sides of the y. Give yourself just enough length to pull back slightly. Find some ammunition and fire, well away from others.

- 6** Head across this field in a perfectly straight line up to a five bar gate at the top. Climb over two stiles into an arable field, looking out for the views of the windmill to your left.
- 7** Halfway through this field, there is a fingerpost in the hedgerow pointing left. Bear left here, on a well-defined path cut through the wheat crop, towards some cottages.
- 8** Turn left on to a tarmac lane and past Southend Farm. You are now on the Chiltern Way, a well-marked footpath that takes you in a more or less straight line, downhill all the way back to Turville. Aim for the windmill directly ahead of you.

Once back in the village, it is worth popping up to the windmill to get a closer look, but it is a very steep climb. Bear in mind that it is on private land, on the other side of the fence. You get the best view of the windmill from the walk. But the views of the valley from the hillside are well worth the scramble.

### Eat Me, Drink Me

- The Bull and Butcher Pub, Turville, Henley-on-Thames.  
Tel 01491 638283 or online at [www.thebullandbutcher.com](http://www.thebullandbutcher.com).  
Lunch is served on Sundays and bank holidays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 12 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. the rest of the week.

Just what you want from a pub. Good food as well as a children's menu that serves Chitty Chitty Bangers and chips, and a beer garden. Ales from the Wychwood Brewery. Very busy so worth booking.

### Useful Information

- For information about the Chiltern hills and events in the area, contact The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty online at [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org).
- For places to stay or general tourist information visit [www.visitbuckinghamshire.org](http://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org).

### Did you know?

- The *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* film script was written by Roald Dahl, and the book by Ian Fleming of James Bond fame.

### Enticing Extras

- You can hire the original *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* car and make a day of it, driving through the country lanes before the walk. Contact Pierre Picton on 01789 204300 or look him up on [www.chittychittybangbang.co.uk](http://www.chittychittybangbang.co.uk).
- Print out the lyrics to all the songs from the movie before you go for a full belt sing a long, from [www.lyricsandsongs.com](http://www.lyricsandsongs.com).

### Rainy Day Options

- Visit the nearby Stonor Estate, with its 850-year-old manor house which has a fine collection of art, ceramics and wallpapers. Open from April to October. For further information visit [www.stonor.com](http://www.stonor.com).
- Drive south to Henley and the visit the River and Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley-on-Thames. Tel 01491 415600 or online at [www.rrrm.co.uk](http://www.rrrm.co.uk).

