Woldingham Countryside Walk

2½ TO 3½ MILES
1½ TO 3 HOURS
MODERATE

START
From information board outside Woldingham station, turn R along Church Road. Just before Church Road Farm, turn R over railway bridge and immediately L, towards Marden Park Farm. Continue straight up gently sloping bridleway, taking in views across the valley to the R.

1 ¼ MILES
For a short cut, turn L at first junction up a surfaced bridleway, then L again to follow path back to Church Road and on to station. Continue on made-up road, passing Woldingham School on R and cemetery on L. For a short cut, cross stile straight ahead, follow uphill path, sticking to wood edge, and cross stile into Marden Park. Follow main path, bearing R to reach gate at entrance, turn L on Gangers Hill to rejoin main route. Bear R on tarmac road and then L through iron gates on to Horse Chestnut Avenue. Worth a look back to see view of 19th-century mansion, once part of the Marden Park estate, established by Sir Robert Clayton, Lord Mayor of London. In 1946 the house became the Convent of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic boarding school, but since 1985 it has been known as Woldingham School. Continue past playing fields on L.

2 ¼ MILES
At South Lodge, bear L and then turn immediately L, through squeeze gap into Marden Park. A successful local fundraising campaign in 1993 enabled the Woodland Trust to secure the future of this ancient woodland. Pass information board and climb steep 200m section of path with care.

3 MILES
Take a moment to sit on the bench in the chalk grassland clearing and enjoy spectacular views over Godstone and Bletchingley; on a clear day you can see as far as the South Downs. In early summer orchids and stripe-winged grasshoppers are found here. Continue on path through scrub woodland, ignore minor path to L, and, at large multi-stemmed beech tree on path, bear R down to few steps and squeeze gap at wood entrance. Cross road (Gangers Hill) with care and follow surfaced path down past Hanging Wood Farm (take care on 100m steep section) to cross stile on L just before Tandridge Hill Lane. Follow woodland path uphill beside road (uneven in places), turn L up 11 steps, go through barrier and follow path up to barrier by road. Go to Three Ways T-junction.

3¾ MILES
For a short cut, cross road with care and enter Marden Park through gate. Follow path through woodland, bearing L to cross stile, stick to wood edge, cross stile to Woldingham School. Retrace route to station. At T-junction, turn R. After 50m, turn R on to surfaced bridleway, parallel with road. Path bends R along a fairly steep muddy section for 30m and then L to a seat overlooking a fenced clearing with views over the Weald beyond Oxted. On the ridge above, tawny owls can often be seen hunting at dusk.

4 MILES
Turn left up 23 steps, turn R at road to car park. Enter Marden Park through gate, pass information board and bear R down surfaced bridleway, with chestnut-paling fence on L. At Great Church Wood, turn R up 51 steps (to avoid steps, carry straight on bridleway).

5 MILES
Turn L and follow road back to Woldingham station.