

The **SURREY HILLS** was one of the first landscapes in the country to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958. It is now one of 38 AONBs in England and Wales and has equal status in planning terms to a National Park. The Surrey Hills AONB stretches across rural Surrey, covering a quarter of the county.



For further information on the Surrey Hills please visit www.surreyhills.org

The **DOWNLANDS PARTNERSHIP** provides a countryside management service in northeast Surrey from Tadworth to Tatsfield, in Croydon and Sutton plus in to Bromley with its conservation grazing programme. Downlands is one of the Surrey Countryside Partnerships and works on chalk grassland, ponds and woodland sites with the essential support of conservation volunteers.

For further information on the Downlands Partnership, including volunteering opportunities and details of other local walks, please visit www.downlandsproject.org.uk.

Registered charity the Downlands Trust supports the aims and work of the Downlands Partnership; find out more at www.downlandstrust.weebly.com or visit their Facebook page.

THE NORTH DOWNS WAY is a national trail which follows the chalk scarp of the North Downs for 153 miles from Farnham to Canterbury and Dover, passing 8 castles and 3 cathedrals. To find out more please visit www.nationaltrail.co.uk

THE NATIONAL TRUST manages land on the scarp edge at Hanging Wood and South Hawke including woodland, scrub, and chalk grassland. The Trust, a charitable organisation, acquires areas principally for conservation and landscape and has a policy of open access to the public. Please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk for further information.

THE WOODLAND TRUST a charity founded in 1972, is concerned with the conservation of Britain's woodland heritage. Its objectives are to conserve, restore and re-establish trees, plants and wildlife, and to facilitate public access. For more information please visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

EXPLORE SURREY after enjoying this walk, why not carry on exploring Surrey? Discover more about the beautiful countryside on your doorstep by visiting www.surreycc.gov.uk/explore or follow @ExploreSurreyUK

The reprint of this leaflet (January 2016) has been funded by the Surrey Hills Board and produced in partnership with the Downlands Partnership.



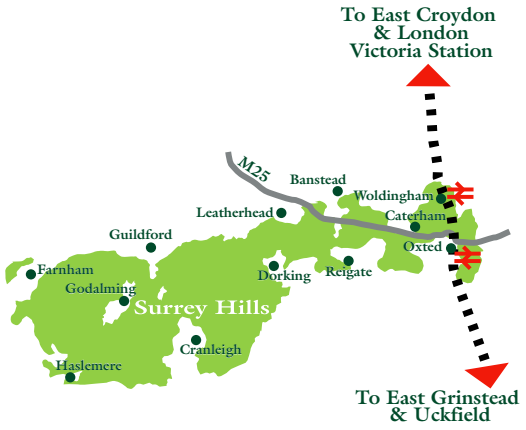
TRAVEL INFORMATION

There is a frequent Southern Railway service from London Victoria to Woldingham station. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes.

For train times, fares and general rail information please contact National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484950.

For more information about Southern Railway please visit www.southernrailway.com.

For information on bus routes that serve Woldingham station please visit www.surreycc.gov.uk.



Printed on environmentally friendly paper
Front cover photo © Countryside Agency/Tina Stallard
Design and illustrations by
Far Post Design, www.far-post.co.uk



Surrey Hills



@SurreyHillsAONB

www.surreyhills.org



Discover the delightful
**Woldingham
Countryside
Walk**

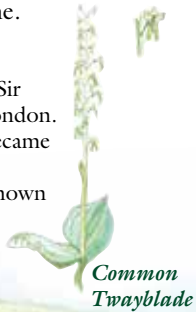


www.surreyhills.org

DISCOVER WOLDINGHAM COUNTRYSIDE

For a perfect day out in the Surrey Hills catch the regular train service from London Victoria. Don't forget to bring some sandwiches and a drink. In just half an hour your train will be pulling into Woldingham Station, and within seconds you will be breathing in the fresh air and beauty of the Surrey Hills countryside. Follow the main walk route or one of the shorter options and stop from time to time to rest, admire the panoramic views and to take refreshment. After your leisurely walk, head back through Knights Garden Centre to the Dene Tea Room, ideal for a light lunch or high tea before relaxing on the train home.

Discover the **Marden Park** estate, established in the 17th century by Sir Robert Clayton, Lord Mayor of London. The house, rebuilt in the 1880s, became the Convent of the Sacred Heart - a Catholic boarding school, now known as Woldingham School.



Common Twayblade

Explore **St Agatha's Church**, first recorded on this site in 1270. The present building dates from 1832, and was restored in 1889 by Sir Walpole Greenwell. The church is claimed to be the highest as well as the smallest in Surrey. A centuries-old yew tree grows on the south side and an ash tree, reputed to be 900 years old, grows by the west door.

Stroll through **chalk grasslands** on slopes at South Hawke and below Great Church Wood. They are rich habitats of fine grasses and small flowering plants such as birdsfoot trefoil and twayblade which support butterflies birds and mammals. These have become rare habitats with the loss of traditional sheep grazing and the decline in the rabbit population. Hawthorn and dogwood scrub have invaded and today conservation relies on scrub clearance and the reintroduction of grazing.



Common Birdsfoot Trefoil

Wander through the mature **woodlands** which include native oak, ash, cherry, beech, whitebeam and field maple. Fallen trees provide a habitat for insects and fungi. Coppicing is being introduced in some areas to encourage spring flowers and butterflies. This technique involves regularly cutting trees such as hazel and hornbeam to the base or stool to stimulate regrowth. Rapid sprouting of smaller stems provides timber for beanpoles, firewood and charcoal.



Dog Rose



Bluebell



Gatekeeper Butterfly



Just a few minutes walk down the valley there is a delightful tea room at **Knights Garden Centre**. A perfect way to finish your day out with a light meal or tea and cakes before catching the train home. For more information telephone 01883 652712 or visit www.knights-gardencentres.co.uk

• FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE • *Respect. Protect. Enjoy.*

Please

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Take your litter home.
- Fasten all gates.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.



Little Owl



Valleys and Views

WOLDINGHAM COUNTRYSIDE WALK

Explore hidden valleys, chalk downland and varied woodlands on this 5½ mile scenic route. Allow at least 3 hours to enjoy the full route, while several shortcuts give you options for shorter walks. The route is marked by signposts and waymarks bearing the walk symbol.



..... Main Route
 Short Cut

This walk begins and ends at Woldingham Station (grid ref 359563) and is covered by Ordnance Survey Explorer map 146. This route is now stile free.

Stout walking boots are recommended as some paths may be muddy.



A Step off the train at Woldingham Station and turn right along Church Road. Just before Church Road Farm turn right over railway bridge then left towards Marden Park Farm. Pass buildings on right and keep ahead on bridgeway.

There are pleasant views across the peaceful valley on your right.

B (For a shortcut turn left uphill at the first junction, then turn left again to join path back to station). Pass the first shortcut on the left and keep ahead on road with Woldingham School on right passing a cemetery and the second shortcut. (For a shorter route go through the kissing gate on the left, follow path uphill and go through second gate into the woods. Follow path, bearing right to Gangers Hill and left to rejoin main route at Three Ways). Bear left through iron gates onto Horse Chestnut Avenue and follow road up valley.

Horse chestnut was introduced into Britain in the sixteenth century. Look back down the valley to glimpse the red brick mansion, now Woldingham School.



Horse Chestnut

G Follow path, bearing left around woodland margin and through gate. (A detour to the right to visit St Agatha's Church is well worthwhile). Turn left downhill then bear right at junction. Continue downhill and take narrow footpath on the right. Follow path downhill then turn right over railway tunnel entrance.



St. Agatha's Church

The tunnel was constructed between 1878-1884. Over a mile long, it was a great engineering feat of its time. The cutting provides a haven for wildlife; listen for birdsong here.

H Follow path to Church Road, turn left and continue ahead to Woldingham Station.

NOT TO SCALE
 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
 Surrey County Council, LA076872,2802

C At South Lodge bear left then immediately turn left and uphill into Marden Park Woods.

This path, part of the North Downs Way National Trail, leads through a pocket of rich chalk grassland, with early purple orchids and St John's Wort and on through scrub and woodland. You may find primroses and violets but dog's mercury and mosses dominate under hawthorn, field maple and hazel. Look for fungi on fallen branches.



Roe Deer



Early Purple Orchid

D Continue ahead to large, many-trunked beech tree. Take right fork to Gangers Hill. Cross with care and follow bridgeway ahead past Hanging Wood Farm. At Tandridge Hill Lane turn left and follow path uphill beside road.

Look out for the huge stool of a dead beech tree and remnants of an old boundary line. There are maple, ash and cherry as well as beech here.



Dogs Mercury

E At path junction where North Downs Way turns right, turn left up steps, cross road with care to car park. Continue ahead through gate and along path. Turn right up wooden steps into Great Church Wood. (For a shortcut keep ahead, rejoining main route at next junction.)

Coppicing is being introduced into this ancient woodland to encourage a wonderful display of spring flowers.



Kestrel



St. John's Wort



Beech Tree

E Pass through barrier and follow road with care to Three Ways junction with Gangers Hill. (For a shortcut here cross road with care and follow path ahead through gate, woods and field to Woldingham School, and retrace earlier route to Woldingham Station). Turn right along road then join bridgeway on right, still following North Downs Way through South Hawke.

Look for butterflies on buddleia, rosebay willowherb and bramble. Sparrowhawk and kestrel hunt above the ridge. Sheep and goats are grazed below to maintain the diversity of the chalk grasslands. Enjoy the views across the ridges and valleys of the weald beyond Oxted.