



# Woldingham Countryside Walk

**2½ TO 5½ MILES**  
**1½ TO 3 HOURS**  
**MODERATE**

## 1 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.

## 2 1¼ 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.

## 3 2¼ 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.

## 4 2½ 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.

## 5 3¼ 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.

## 6 3¼ MILES

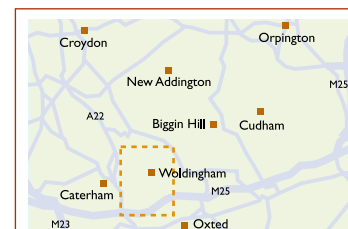
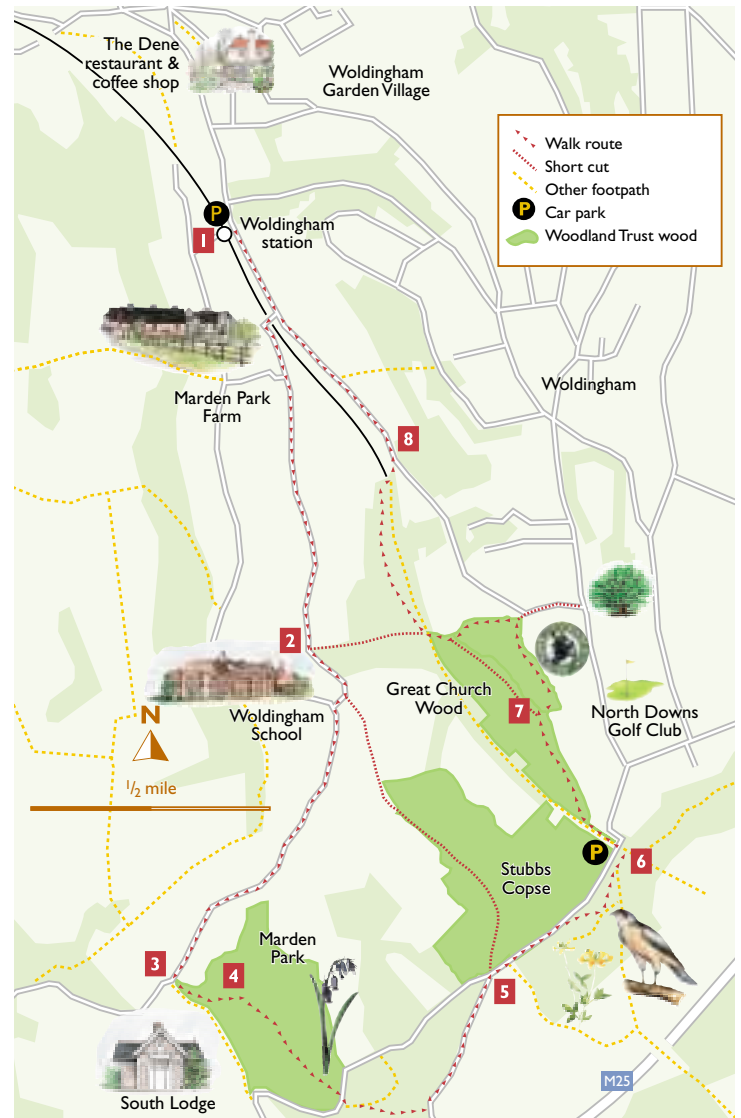
Turn left up 23 steps, turn R at road to car park. Enter Marden Park through gate, pass information board and bear R down surfaced bridleway, with chestnut-paling fence on L. At Great Church Wood, turn R up 51 steps (to avoid steps, carry straight on bridleway).

## 7 4 MILES

Continue up steep wooded slope to bench and kissing gate. Look out for signs of traditional coppice management and woodland fungi. (Turn R for 150m to visit *St Agatha's Church*; in the graveyard grow a yew and ash tree reputed to be 900 years old.) Turn L downhill, take care over cobbles, bear R at junction with bridleway and turn R down narrow footpath (see effects of 1987 Great Storm) to stile over railway tunnel. Follow path to L, cross stile and climb 3 steps on to Church Road.

## 8 5 MILES

Turn L and follow road back to Woldingham station.



### TERRAIN

Mostly surfaced paths and tracks, may be muddy in places, some steep sections with steps. There are 3 stiles and 2 more on the short cut between Woldingham School and Gangers Hill.

### PARKING

Woldingham Road car park, near the station. Cost: Mon–Sat 50p; Sun & BH free (grid reference TQ 359564).

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Frequent South Central train service from London Victoria to Woldingham. Travel time is approximately 30 mins. For times and fares, ring National Rail Enquiries on 0845 7484950.

Northdown Motor Services operates the

540 bus service from Redhill and Caterham to Woldingham station. Monday–Friday service only (telephone 020 8640 6668).

### REFRESHMENTS

The Dene restaurant and coffee shop behind Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham Road. Breakfast, lunch and snacks available (grid reference TQ359569; telephone 01883 652712).

### ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Croydon Tourist Information Centre (telephone 020 8253 1009)

Nearest YHA: Kemsing (telephone 0870 770 5890)

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 146, Landranger 187 (visit [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woods](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woods) to buy on-line)

### OTHER WOODS TO VISIT

See the Our Woods section on the Trust's website at [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk) and the *Exploring Woodland* guide to South East England (page 12 for details). Great and Little Earls and Staffhurst Woods are all nearby.