



# Oxted Circular walk

The Greensand Hills on the Surrey/Kent border to historic Westerham, with a choice of routes for the return leg.

- Length**
- Main Walk:** 19½ km (12.1 miles). Four hours 55 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.
  - Long Circular Walk, via Chartwell:** 22¾ km (14.1 miles). Five hours 50 minutes walking time.
  - Short Circular Walk, omitting Westerham:** 11½ km (7.2 miles). Two hours 55 minutes walking time.
  - Alternative Walk, finishing at Westerham:** 19¼ km (12.0 miles). Five hours 5 minutes walking time.
  - Alternative Circular Walk, from Westerham:** 10¼ km (6.4 miles). Two hours 45 minutes walking time.

**OS Maps** Explorer 147 & (for a small section at the start and finish) 146. Oxted, map reference TQ393529, is in Surrey, 15 km **SE** of Croydon. Westerham is in Kent.

**Toughness** 5 out of 10 (7 for the Long Walk, 6 for the Alternative Walk, 3 for the shorter walks).

**Features** Much of this walk is on the wooded Greensand Ridge running parallel to and just south of the North Downs. At various points in the walk there are views across the valley to these downs, contrasting with far-reaching views out to the High Weald from the southern escarpment.

The outward route is across the National Trust's **Limpsfield Common**, the **High Chart** (some of which is part of the **Titsey Estate**) and **Squerryes Park**. This brings you to **Westerham**, described by Daniel Defoe as a “neat, handsome, well-built market town”. Memorials in **St Mary’s Church** and two statues on the Green honour two famous residents, **General James Wolfe** and **Sir Winston Churchill**. Wolfe was born in the town and his childhood home, named **Quebec House** after his famous victory in 1759, is owned by the National Trust. The house is open Wed–Sun afternoons from mid-March to October; admission is £5.90 (2019).

The afternoon route starts with an attractive section up the open Darent valley and climbs onto the wooded Crockhamhill Common, from where an optional extension (see below) loops out to Churchill's family home **Chartwell**, also owned by the National Trust. The garden and restaurant are open throughout the year, but the house is only open from March to October; admission is £15.50 or £9 for the garden only (2019). The walk crosses over the outward route at Limpsfield Chart, continues through more parts of Limpsfield Common and returns to Oxted via the village of **Limpsfield**, which has retained many of its historic buildings.

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**Additional Notes**

This walk began as an attempt to extend the short Hurst Green to Oxted walk (2–16a) into Westerham but has evolved into a separate walk, almost as long as the main Walk 2–16. It was revised in 2018 to minimise overlaps with both its variations, in the process replacing a notoriously muddy stretch in the High Chart with a more appealing section via **Ridlands Grove**. The original start through Limpsfield has been transferred to the Oxted to Lingfield walk (#135).

The sections of the walk around Chartwell had been revised earlier because the National Trust locked some back entrances into the estate in 2015, presumably because a few walkers were using them to avoid paying the entry fee. The revised version does a short loop from Crockhamhill Common to Chartwell via Mariners Hill, and drops the original Long Walk's different route back to Oxted (which still features in several other SWC walks).

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**Walk Options**

The revised walk's crossover design allows for several variations. Most simply, you can do a **Short Circular Walk** (similar in concept to Walk 2–16a) by only going out as far as **Limpsfield Chart**. A short extra loop via Moat Farm was added to this option in 2019, but you could simply turn back from the main route.

The other variations all go via **Chartwell**. The **Long Circular Walk** loops out from Crockhamhill Common, taking in some fine views from Mariners Hill. It adds at least 3¼ km to the walk length; more if you also do the NT Estate Walk and/or visit the property.

This walk's original route to Chartwell is used here in the reverse direction to provide an **Alternative Walk**, looping back to Westerham. This would be useful if you spend time at Chartwell and want a shorter ending; Oxted is twice as far away. This design also means that you could do the second half as an **Alternative Circular Walk** from Westerham, although this is obviously easier for car drivers.

Chartwell has a bus service on Sundays and Bank Holidays when the house is open, so you could finish the walk there on those days (details below).

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**Transport**

There is a half-hourly service from Victoria to Oxted, taking 40 minutes. There is also a faster hourly service (Mon–Sat) from London Bridge, taking 28 minutes.

There is no station in **Westerham** but it is served by several bus routes for the walk options starting and/or finishing there. There are three Southdown services going **W** to Oxted (but none on Sun/BH), the 236 (Mon–Fri) and 594/595 (Mon–Sat); London bus 246 goes **N** to Bromley (starting from Chartwell on summer Sun/BH); and Go-Coach 401 goes **E** to Sevenoaks. Although much of its route is outside the London boundary, Travelcards and Oyster PAYG can be used on the 246, even from Chartwell.

If driving, Oxted station car park notionally costs £7 Mon–Fri, £6.60 Sat, £2.25 Sun & BH (2020), but is free after 10am (though often full on weekdays). Westerham has a large car park on the eastern edge of the town, free for the first three hours; street parking is possible away from the town centre.

**Suggested Train** Take the train nearest to **10:00** from **London Bridge** (or **Victoria**) to **Oxted**. A later train would be preferable for the Short Circular Walk.

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**Lunch** There are three large pubs to choose from in **Westerham**, about 9 km into the main walk variations. If it is not too busy the suggested lunch place is the **George & Dragon** (01959-563071), but the **Kings Arms Hotel** (01959-562990) and the **Grasshopper on the Green** (01959-562926) are reasonable alternatives and large groups would do well to disperse among all three. There are also several cafés and tearooms in the town (see below).

On the **Short Circular Walk** the suggested lunch place is the **Carpenters Arms** (01883-722209) in **Limpsfield Chart**, after 6¾ km (5¼ km with the short cut). The only alternative pub is the **Bull Inn** (01883-713469) in **Limpsfield**, just 1½ km from the end of the walk.

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**Tea** There are many possible tea places in **Oxted**, although you might be tempted a little earlier by a new tea place on **Limpsfield** High Street, **Coffee at Kiwi House** (01883-722785; open to 5pm Tue–Sat, 4pm Sun; closed Mon).

In Oxted's Station Road East the walk route passes **Costa Coffee** at #62 (01883-723149; open to 6.30pm Mon–Sat, 5.30pm Sun) and **Coughlans Bakery** at #76 (01883-716972; open to 5pm Mon–Sat, 3pm Sun); **Caffè Nero** is just past the station at #139 (01883-730220; open to 6pm Mon–Sat, 5pm Sun).



Near the station entrance on the other side of the railway are **Café Papillon** at 54 Station Road West (01883-717031; nominally open to 5pm Mon–Sat but may stop serving earlier; closed Sun) and a JD Wetherspoon's pub, the **Oxted Inn** (01883-723440).

There are just as many tea places in **Westerham** for the walk options ending there, plus all the lunch pubs listed above. Around the Green are the **Tudor Rose Tearooms** (01959-563391; open to 4.30pm Tue–Fri, 5pm Sat–Sun; closed Mon) and **Food for Thought** (01959-569888; open to 5pm Mon–Thu, 5.30pm Fri–Sun). Up the A25 towards Market Square there is a **Costa Coffee** (01959-563443) and **Deli di Luca** (01959-569726), and more places further along the main road.

There are several places which function as mid-morning and/or mid-afternoon refreshment places. The **Carpenters Arms** (see Lunch above) is passed in both directions between Oxted and Westerham, and on the walk options via **Chartwell** you could visit its popular (and usually busy) **Landemare café** (01732-866368).

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You can upload photos to the  SWC Group on Flickr (upload your photos) and videos to  Youtube. This walk's tags are:



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**By Car** **Start** RH8 9EU

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**Help** National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

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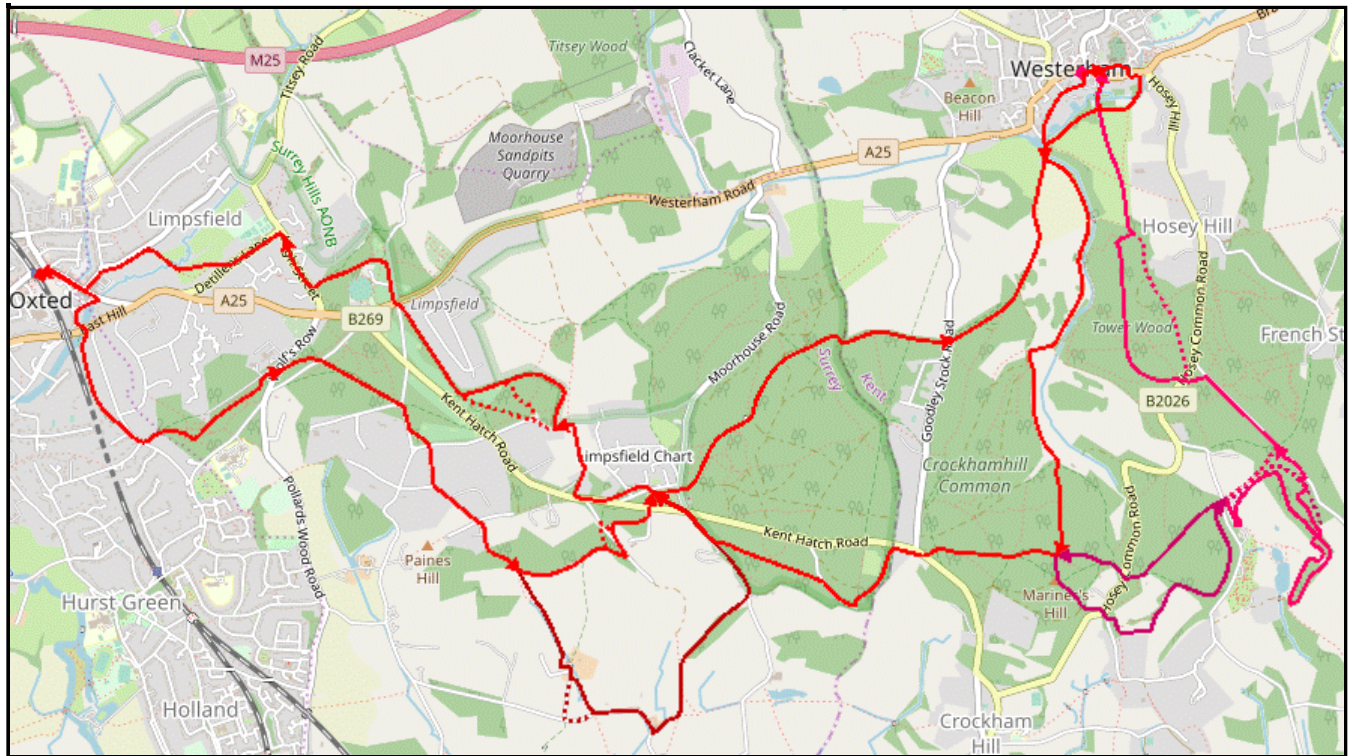
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# Walk Directions

## Walk Map



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## Walk Options ( Short )

- M. Main Walk (19½ km)
  - a. Long Circular Walk, via Chartwell (22¾ km)
  - b. Short Circular Walk, omitting Westerham (11½ km)
  - bi. Short Circular Walk, with morning short cut (10 km)
  - c. Alternative Walk, finishing at Westerham (19¼ km)
  - d. Alternative Circular Walk, from Westerham (10¼ km)

## Walk Directions

*If you are doing the Alternative Circular Walk (from Westerham), start at §F.*

### A. Oxted Station to Wolf's Road (2¼ km)

*This section is essentially the same as the ending of Walk 2–16a (in reverse).*

1. Arriving from London, go down steps and turn right to go through a small parking area. Turn right again and go down Station Road East for 275m. At the end of the shops **turn right** into Johnsdale. Where this splits in front of a small green, fork left. At the end of the road keep left and go down an alleyway to the A25.
2. **Cross this busy main road with great care** and take the bridleway opposite, to the left of a driveway. This old sunken lane climbs steadily and when you get to see the railway line on your right entering a tunnel, you are some way above it. 200m after crossing over a drive the track comes out onto Rockfield Road. Continue along it in the same direction.

- In 100m **turn left** opposite a minor road (Icehouse Wood) into the left-hand of two driveways, signposted as a bridleway and briefly joining the **Greensand Way**<sup>1</sup> (GW). After passing a house this comes out onto **West Heath** (part of Limpsfield Common), with the GW continuing along the leftmost of several paths ahead.

*The remainder of this section differs slightly from the Walk 2–16a route, taking a permissive bridleway close to the GW until the two routes rejoin. If you prefer you could simply follow the GW all the way to Wolf's Road.*

- Leave the GW by **bearing right** onto the sandy path curving gently away from it, with trees on the left and open heathland on the right. In about 150m **fork left** through the wooded common. Keep left through a small clearing and continue on a permissive bridleway, parallel to a lane (the GW) on the left.
- Keep ahead at path crossings, until in 400m the woodland path veers left and meets the lane in front of a large redbrick building, the former **St Michael's** school<sup>2</sup>. Turn right onto the lane to come to Wolf's Road.

## B. Wolf's Road to Tenchleys Wood (1¾ km)

- Cross the road carefully and continue on the bridleway opposite, heading **E**. In 200m this bends right towards another road (New Road). Cross over and go gently downhill on the continuation of the bridleway, now heading **SE**.
- Follow this bridleway through the wooded common for 500m, ignoring several permissive paths off to both sides. After going through a dip it climbs gently and eventually comes out onto a private road (Stoneswood Road) at its junction with Brick Kiln Lane.
- Go straight across Stoneswood Road and bear right to head **S** on Brick Kiln Lane. In 100m, just after a driveway on the left, **bear left** at a GW marker onto a path which leads to a golf tee. Cut across the front of the tee onto a short path through the trees and turn left briefly onto a lane (Chapel Road). Immediately after passing **Pains Hill Chapel**<sup>3</sup> **turn right** onto a signposted footpath, which goes between fences for 200m.
- At the end turn left onto Pastens Road, joining the main Walk 2–16 route from Hurst Green (1¾ km away on the right). The road bends right to head **SE** and soon there are fine views over the Low Weald. The lane ends at a T-junction with a private road (Tenchley's Lane) in front of some houses, with a four-way footpath signpost.
- Cross the road** (slightly to the left) and take the private drive to "Headland", which despite appearances is also a public footpath. In 40m, shortly before reaching a gate across the drive, **go through a wooden gate** on the left. Turn right and go all the way down a potentially muddy sunken path, with Tenchleys Wood on the left. At the end go over a stile into the top corner of a large field.

*If you are doing the Short Circular Walk without the short cut, go to \$M.*

## C. Tenchleys Wood to Limpsfield Chart *direct* (1¼ km)

- Do not take the obvious fenced path down the hillside, but instead **turn left** through a new metal gate to go along the top of the field. In 150m this new right of way continues through a metal gate up a small bank; the path becomes clearer but inconveniently leads you through a boggy area. After a further 200m go through two more gates, joining a bridleway coming up the hill from Tenchleys Manor which curves round to the right past Tenchleys Cottage.
- Shortly after passing the cottage there is a rather gloomy path going steeply uphill to the left, the continuation of the bridleway. The suggested route, however, is to carry on along the drive and **turn sharp left** at the end onto a tarmac lane. In 100m, just past the driveway to Spring Cottage, **bear right** at a footpath signpost onto a narrow path on the grassy bank. At the end go up a few steps and past the entrance to Quince House.
  - For a slightly shorter but potentially muddy route you could go up the steep bridleway and turn half-right at the top onto the driveway to Quince House, turning left in front of its entrance.
- Follow the waymarked footpath uphill from the driveway, past a couple of houses. It curves round to the right alongside a garden fence and into a wood. The right of way then continues through a parking area and along its driveway to the B269. **Cross this main road carefully** and keep ahead on a short grassy path through some trees. Ahead on your right is the **Carpenters Arms** on Tally Road, the suggested lunch place on the Short Circular Walk.

#### D. Limpsfield Chart to Goodley Stock Road (2 km)

14. Turn right in front of the pub to head **E** across the grassy area, staying close to Tally Road on your left. At the end go straight across a lane (Moorhouse Road) onto the signposted footpath opposite. Pass to the left of a short wooden fence and then **fork left** off the GW onto a broad grassy path, also leaving the Walk 2–16 route.
15. In 200m the path curves right, merging with another grassy path coming from High Chart car park on Moorhouse Road. In a further 100m, shortly after a path merges from the left and the main path bears right, **go straight ahead** on a narrow path. Keep ahead at path crossings<sup>4</sup> and follow the path into a hollow containing a large pond and some other pools of water, fed by **Yalden Spring**<sup>5</sup> under a sloping beech tree.
16. Go across the edge of the pond on a new wooden footbridge. On the other side, bear left onto a permissive ride into the Titsey Estate's **High Chart** (not the public footpath to its left), initially heading **N**.
  - If access through the High Chart is not possible (eg. because of forestry operations) you would need to devise an alternative route. One possibility would be to make your way back to the Greensand Way, which includes a waymarked Link Route from Goodley Stock into Westerham. If you have to take this route, continue the directions at [20] in §E.
17. The broad track curves round to the right and later there is a large area of young trees on your right. Stay on the main track as it makes several more turns to the right. The track eventually comes to a T-junction where you **turn left**, briefly heading **N**. Almost immediately there are two paths off to the right, the first leading into a wood and the second into the corner of a large farm field.
18. The simpler option is to **turn right** onto the first path, but the second would let you walk along the top edge of the field (parallel to the woodland path) with a fine view across the valley to the North Downs. Either way, keep ahead at a path crossing after 300m and continue to Goodley Stock Road at the far end of the wood/field.

#### E. Goodley Stock Road to Westerham (1¾ km)

19. **Cross the road carefully** (the traffic can be quite fast) and take the left-hand path into the Squerryes Estate, heading **NE**. In 150m keep left where the path splits, staying near the edge of the wood. The path ends at a T-junction where you turn left, joining a Link Route for the GW.
20. Where the path leaves the wood go across a track and through a metal kissing gate into **Squerryes Park** (Squerryes Court<sup>6</sup> is in the valley down to the left, not visible from the public footpath). Continue along a clear path in much the same direction, negotiating a few more gates and stiles and eventually going down a long slope towards Westerham.
21. At the bottom turn left, which takes you onto a track alongside the infant **River Darent**, just 2 km from its source. Opposite a large pond ignore a footpath on the right (the continuation of the GW and your return route after lunch), but shortly afterwards **fork right** at another footpath signpost to go gently uphill on a track. At the top keep ahead on a path between a couple of gates.
22. At the end go across a lane (slightly to the right) onto an enclosed path, which leads into the car park for the **Kings Arms Hotel**. Turn left and go through it into Market Square on the A25, with the **George & Dragon** opposite. Both of these large pubs<sup>7</sup> are possible lunch stops; for others turn right to find the **Grasshopper on the Green** and several cafés and tearooms.



#### F. Westerham to Squerryes Park (1 km)

23. From any of the lunch places make your way to the Green, with its statues of **General James Wolfe** and **Sir Winston Churchill**.
  - The main route goes past the parish church and Quebec House on the way out of the town, but involves a slightly awkward crossing of the A25. For an easier route you can cross the main road below the centre of the Green and go along an alleyway (Water Lane), turning right at the far end onto a path running along the bottom of a field. If you take this short cut, continue the directions at [27].

24. For the suggested route leave the green in its top right-hand corner to go past **St Mary's church**<sup>8</sup>, which is worth visiting. Pass to the right of the war memorial and leave the churchyard by a kissing gate near Church Cottage. Go down the short alleyway to the A25 and turn left.
25. **Quebec House** is on the left-hand side of this main road opposite its junction with the B2026 (Hosey Hill), but the walk route turns off the other side of the A25 before then. Unless you are visiting the house, therefore, *cross the busy main road with great care* as soon as it is safe to do so and turn into Mill Street, a private road which is also a public footpath.
26. At a parking area at the end of this short lane, bear right up a path and go through a metal kissing gate into a field. Follow the path to the right, crossing a footbridge over the **River Darent**. Go through a gap in the hedge ahead and keep right to walk along the bottom of the field. In 150m you pass a wooden kissing gate on the right, the route of the short cut.
27. Go all the way along the bottom of the field, with the river flowing through some large gardens behind the trees on your right. At the end cross the river on a footbridge, go over a stile and turn left onto a track. This leads into an open valley and splits; the right-hand path (uphill) is the outward route from Oxted but you *fork left* through a gap beside a metal fieldgate onto a permissive path through **Squerrys Park**.

### G. Squerrys Park to Crockhamhill Common (2¼ km)

28. Follow a clear path heading **SE** and later **S** along the valley floor for 1 km, with a wooded hillside behind the River Darent on your left; along the way you pass a number of old fish ponds. Eventually the path goes through a metal fieldgate onto a track, where you turn right (if the gate is locked, there is an old stile 20m to its left). Follow the path alongside a hedge for 125m to a path crossing.
29. *Turn left* at the path crossing, now on a public footpath. Ignore a path into the wood<sup>9</sup> on your right and go over a stile beside a fieldgate to continue along the valley (the right of way alongside the wood is now somewhat hampered by low branches but there is a well-used grassy path in the centre). At the end of the wood follow the central path across the grass towards Crockham House, passing an isolated house tucked away in the trees on the right.
30. On the far side go through a metal kissing gate and take the path just off to the right into the heart of the wooded **Crockhamhill Common**, climbing quite steeply at first. Ignore any temporary forest tracks or side paths and follow this woodland path as best you can for 500m, heading roughly **S**. The footpath eventually comes to a T-junction with a bridleway where you *turn right*. In 40m you come to another three-way path junction.  
*If you are doing the Main Walk (bypassing Chartwell), go to §L.*

### H. Crockhamhill Common to Chartwell (1¾ km)

31. At this second path junction *fork left* to head **S** again on the continuation of the footpath. In 150m you go past a clump of bamboo into a small open space in front of an isolated house, "The Warren". Veer left across its parking area and take a path back into the wood, then in 20m *turn right* at a footpath marker post.
32. Follow this narrow path gently downhill for 200m, heading **SE**, to come to a path junction at the edge of the wood. Immediately after merging with a bridleway from the left, *turn left* at a T-junction (essentially you are staying on the footpath as it crosses over the bridleway). After curving right the path straightens out to head **E**, with a large garden behind a hedge on your left.
33. The path comes out onto a road (the B2026) on the inside of a sharp bend, with a private road (Froghole Lane) off to the right. *Cross the main road with great care* and climb a flight of stone steps near the start of the side road onto a wooded part of **Mariners Hill**.
34. At the top of the steps *turn right* onto a woodland path, which soon comes to a bench at a viewpoint. Go through a new wooden gate, across a meadow and through another gate onto a path through a belt of trees, passing a **memorial**<sup>10</sup> stone.
35. At the end of the trees go down a short flight of steps just off to the left and turn left onto a fenced path. Follow this path around the edge of another meadow, with more fine views off to the right. On the far side go back into the trees and *turn right* at a path crossing onto a bridleway going downhill, heading **E**.

36. In 200m **turn left** at a path crossing (away from a new permissive path down to your right). After a short climb the path levels out, going along the top of a steep wooded bank.
- At a bench by a gap in the trees there is a fine view of **Chartwell** and its grounds on the other side of Mapleton Road.
37. The National Trust entrance to the property is 400m ahead. The path eventually meets the **Greensand Way**<sup>1</sup> (GW) and you turn right to go down a steep little bank onto Mapleton Road. The visitor entrance is opposite, while the GW continues on a footpath to its left.  
*If you are doing the Long Circular Walk (returning to Oxted), go to §K.*

## I. Chartwell to Hosey Common Lane (up to 2¾ km)

38. Unless Chartwell is closed to visitors, cross the road carefully into the grounds and **immediately turn right** onto a path down a grassy bank into the main visitor car park. The large **NT Café** is on the right at the far end, opposite the NT ticket booth for the house and garden.
- If the grounds are closed you will have to take the Greensand Way uphill alongside them, starting from the left of the visitor entrance. At the top turn left onto Hosey Common Lane and continue the directions at §J.
- The suggested route for this section is a complete circuit around the woodland at the back of the grounds on the NT's Estate Walk, but various suggestions are given for shortening it.*
39. From the café go back through the main car park and veer right uphill into the overflow car park.
- If you have been visiting Chartwell you could join the Estate Walk *en route* by going through one of the gates at the back of the grounds and turning left onto it. If you do this, continue the directions at [44].
40. You can get onto the start of the Estate Walk directly from the top left-hand corner of the overflow car park, or by going diagonally across the picnic area on the slope above it and leaving via a side gate beside a double wooden fieldgate.
41. Turn right onto the Estate Walk, uphill. About 40m beyond the picnic area it forks into two broad paths, both climbing steeply up the wooded hillside.
- If you want to cut out most of the Estate Walk (saving 1½ km), fork left. This leads directly to the exit onto Hosey Common Lane, where you can continue the directions at [47].
42. **Fork right** and follow the path uphill and round to the right, then on an undulating stretch for about 500m to a signposted path crossing. For the full walk, keep ahead at this crossing.
- If you want to cut out a loop of the Estate Walk (saving 1 km), turn left at this crossing and continue the directions at [45].
43. Follow the main path all the way down to the far side of the Chartwell Estate, where there is a (locked) fieldgate ahead. **Turn sharp right** to double back on a fenced path running along the back of the grounds, with fine views across the lake to the house.
44. Follow the path as it slopes up the hillside. Shortly after zig-zagging right and left it turns right again and climbs more steeply to a signposted path crossing. Go straight ahead, crossing over your outward route.
45. Take the path (signposted “Bomb crater” and “Chestnut coppice”) up steps and round to the left. After briefly going alongside a field **bear left** onto a newly-laid path through the trees, leaving the main estate path.
- If this path is closed for repairs simply follow the main estate path to the exit onto Hosey Common Lane and continue the directions at [47].
46. In 100m you pass the crater (with a distant view of the house) and later a small boardwalk around the coppice. The path then turns right and comes to a T-junction in front of a coppiced area of woodland. Turn left back onto the main estate path, which comes to the exit in 60m.
47. Leave the estate over a stile beside a wooden fieldgate and turn left onto Hosey Common Lane. In 200m you cross over the GW (the fall-back route from Mapleton Road when Chartwell is closed).

## J. Hosey Common Lane to Westerham (2½ km)



48. Go along this quiet lane through the wooded Hosey Common for 500m. At the end of a fenced-off area on the left, **turn left** onto a signposted footpath. This brings you to the B2026 (Hosey Common Road) in 125m, with a fieldgate opposite guarding the entrance to **Tower Wood**<sup>11</sup>.
- If access through Tower Wood is no longer permitted, turn right and take the signposted public footpath running along its boundary, gently descending for 750m before curving left and coming out into the bottom corner of a field. If you have to take this route, continue the directions at [51].
49. For the main route, go past the fieldgate and take the left-hand of two tracks into Tower Wood, initially heading **W**. The track curves gradually round to the right and comes to a meeting of tracks around the ruins of a large brick **watchtower**, smothered in ivy.
50. Go past this folly to continue in the same direction, gently descending on a long straight track heading **N**. In 600m it swings right and drops down more steeply. At the bottom of the wood **turn sharp left** onto the public footpath from Hosey Common Road, coming out into the corner of a large field.
51. **Veer right** to climb steeply uphill on a grassy path a little way out from the field edge. Go along the plateau for 200m, then take the left-hand of two grassy paths ahead (immediately after an oblique path crossing). In a further 150m go through a metal kissing gate and down a slope to the trees at the bottom.
52. Keep ahead through a wooden kissing gate onto a fenced path between gardens. After crossing the **River Darent** the alleyway (Water Lane) leads out onto the A25 opposite Westerham Green.  
*There are several tearooms and other refreshment places around the green. London bus 246 to Bromley leaves from the stop by Water Lane, and buses to Sevenoaks from the stop opposite. Buses to Oxted leave from the stop outside the Kings Arms Hotel (along the main road to the left, where there are more refreshment places).*

#### K. Chartwell to Crockhamhill Common (1½ • 3 km)

53. Unless Chartwell is closed to visitors, cross the road carefully into the grounds and **immediately turn right** onto a path down a grassy bank into the main visitor car park. The large **NT Café** is on the right at the far end, opposite the NT ticket booth for the house and garden.
- If the grounds are closed (or you do not want to visit the café), turn around and continue the directions at [56].
54. If you do not want to do the optional NT Estate Walk (a circuit through the woodland outside the ticketed area), retrace your steps from the café and go back out through the main visitor entrance.
- 55. Optional Estate Walk (+1½ km)**
- From the café go back through the main car park and veer right uphill into the overflow car park.
  - You can get onto the start of the Estate Walk directly from the top left-hand corner of the overflow car park, or by going diagonally across the picnic area on the slope above it and leaving via a side gate beside a double wooden fieldgate.
  - Turn right onto the Estate Walk, uphill. About 40m beyond the picnic area it forks into two broad paths, both climbing steeply up the wooded hillside.
  - Fork right** and follow the path uphill and round to the right, then on an undulating stretch for about 500m to a signposted path crossing.
  - Turn left** at the crossing, going up steps and round to the left. Follow the main path around the back of the estate, ignoring an exit onto Hosey Common Lane.
  - The path eventually veers left and drops steeply downhill. Go all the way down to the bottom and leave the grounds through the main visitor entrance.
56. Go back across Mapleton Road and up the steps in the steep bank opposite the visitor entrance, briefly retracing your outward route on the GW. At the top of the bank ignore several paths off to the left, including the permissive path from Mariners Hill. Stay on the GW for 500m as it heads **SW** through the woodland, ignoring signposted footpaths off to both sides along the way.
57. Towards the end of the wood go straight across a driveway and follow the path up to and then briefly alongside a high wooden fence. At the end of the fence bear right to go downhill on a sunken path which comes out onto the B2026 beside the drive you crossed earlier.

58. Cross the road carefully and continue on the driveway opposite, still on the GW. After passing the entrance to April Cottage **fork left** to go gently uphill on a rutted track, heading **W**. In 100m (at a bridleway marker post) **fork right** off the GW onto another bridleway, a narrow path climbing through the trees.
59. The path comes out into a more open area and curves slightly to the right. In 200m **bear left** at a path junction where the footpath from Westerham joins from the right. Retrace your earlier route for 40m to another three-way path junction.

#### L. Crockhamhill Common to Limpsfield Chart (2½ km)

60. At this second path junction **fork right**, staying on the bridleway and heading **W**. Continue for 250m, taking either fork where it splits. Just after these two arms rejoin you come to a five-way path junction, with an oak tree at one corner. **Take the second path on the right** (almost straight on), then in 30m **fork left** at an unsignposted path junction. In a further 250m the GW merges from the left.  
*The final set of path junctions is tricky. Essentially you will soon be veering left onto a footpath which emerges onto the B269 close to its junction with Goodley Stock Road. If you go astray and come out onto this long straight minor road running north-south, turn left onto it and then turn right at its T-junction with the B269.*
61. In 100m **bear left** onto a narrow path, leaving the GW which veers right. Go straight across a bridleway and follow the footpath as it winds its way through the trees towards the B269 (Kent Hatch Road); **take care when you reach it** as the traffic is quite fast and there is no pavement.
62. **Cross the busy main road with great care**, trying not to be distracted by the fine views ahead across the Weald. Turn right to walk alongside it: although the traffic is coming from behind there is slightly more room on this side of the road. 100m past the junction with Goodley Stock Road, and just before the road sign welcoming you to Surrey, **turn left** off the road into the driveway to Greystones, signposted as a public footpath.
63. At the end of the driveway **bear right** onto a narrow path through the trees, heading **SW**. In 100m **turn left** at a T-junction onto an awkward little path which drops steeply down to a tarmac driveway. Turn right onto the drive, then in 150m (as it starts to climb) **bear left** onto a signposted footpath. In 100m **keep right** and follow this path for a further 500m as it climbs gently along the wooded hillside (Scearn Bank).
- At a more open area halfway along, a short out-and-back detour up a path on the right would take you to a bench with a view over the trees to the High Weald.
64. The footpath eventually comes out onto a lane (Trevereux Hill) opposite “The Old School”. Turn right and follow the lane back to the B269.
65. Cross the B269 carefully (to the left of Moorhouse Road opposite) onto a small common, with **St Andrew's** church off to the right. Head **NW** across the common on a broad grassy ride to reach the **Carpenters Arms** on Tally Road, a possible mid-afternoon refreshment stop.  
*Continue the directions at §N.*

#### M. Tenchleys Wood to Limpsfield Chart via Moat Farm (2¾ km)

66. Follow the fenced path down the right-hand side of the field. In the bottom corner go over a stile and continue on an enclosed path towards some buildings. Just before the first house **turn right** as indicated onto a fenced path going around two sides of a small field with a pond. At the end turn right onto a driveway, with a good view of the picturesque **Tenchleys Manor**<sup>12</sup> behind another pond on your left.
67. At the end of the houses there is a footpath signpost on the left. You could continue along the drive and turn left onto the lane at the end, but the suggested route (cutting off a corner) is to **fork left** here: go across the grass to the tree boundary, cross a ditch on a wooden footbridge and go along the right-hand field edge to the lane (Itchingwood Common Road), coming out 150m further along.
68. The lane bends right at Moat Farm Cottages and then passes a cluster of buildings at **Moat Farm**, opposite a pond. Where it bends right again at the end of the buildings, **turn left** onto the grass verge and go through a small gap in the hedge (with an easily-missed footpath signpost leaning against the stone wall). Go up the left-hand side of a field and out through a metal kissing gate in the top corner.

69. Ignore a footpath off to the right and **keep ahead** along the left-hand edge of a large field, heading back towards the Greensand Hills. Near the top of the field **veer left** to go through a kissing gate in the hedge and **turn right** along the top edge of the next field, climbing gently and ignoring another footpath sloping downhill.
70. In the top right-hand corner go over a stile to continue in much the same direction on a woodland path, then out again into another field. Carry on along its right-hand edge, on a clear grassy path. Near the top of the field the path veers left up to a wooden fieldgate in the top corner. Go out along a short track and turn left onto a lane (Trevereux Hill).
71. After climbing steadily for 300m the lane levels out by "The Old School" (where the Main Walk joins from a footpath on the right). Continue along the lane to the B269.
72. Cross the B269 carefully (to the left of Moorhouse Road opposite) onto a small common, with **St Andrew's** church off to the right. Head **NW** across the common on a broad grassy ride to reach the **Carpenters Arms** on Tally Road, the suggested lunch place on the Short Walk.

#### N. Limpsfield Chart to Ridlands Grove (1 km)

73. Go past the left-hand side of the pub into Post Office Row. Follow this round to the left to walk parallel to Tally Road. At the end cross over Ridlands Rise and continue on the tarmac path opposite, slightly to the left. This eventually reaches and runs alongside the B269, with a side road (Caxton Lane) on the other side.
74. Just past this junction **turn right** into a driveway, signposted as a public bridleway. This merges with another drive from the left and goes past the buildings of Lombarden Farm. At the far end go through a narrow gap in a hedge and **turn left** as indicated, along the edge of a field.
75. Follow the field edge round to the right and keep ahead where the hedge ends, downhill on a grassy strip to a narrow road (Ridlands Lane). Ignore the signposted footpath opposite and **turn left** onto this quiet lane, taking care as there is no pavement. In 100m, where it bends right, **turn right** onto a bridleway into **Ridlands Grove**.

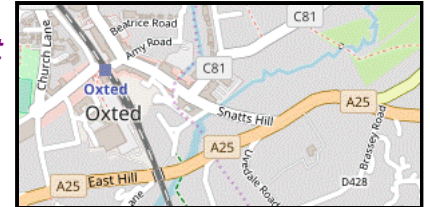
#### O. Ridlands Grove to Limpsfield (2¼ km)

*The suggested route goes around the edge of this open access wood (part of the National Trust's Limpsfield Common), but there are many alternative paths you could take.*

76. For the suggested route head **N** on the bridleway, turning right at a path junction after 100m to stay near the edge of the wood. The broad grassy path curves round to the left and goes gently downhill. 50m before turning left at the bottom of the wood **Hedgehog Hall**<sup>13</sup> is just off to the left, with **Peter Rabbit's Post Office** at the corner.
  - If you detour into the wood you might find two more whimsical creations on one of the paths from the car park on Ridlands Lane, **Fox Villa** and **Badger Barracks**.
77. Continue on the path along the bottom of the wood, then in the same direction alongside a golf fairway. At the far end **turn right** at a major path junction onto a long straight tree-lined bridleway heading **NW**, with a string of properties behind a high wooden fence on your right. In 500m go past vehicle barriers and through Limpsfield Chart Golf Club's car park to the A25, with a lane (Grub Street) opposite.
78. **Cross the busy main road with great care** to continue in much the same direction on a grassy path to the left of Grub Street, along the edge of the golf course. In 100m you cross the driveway to a cricket club (off to the left), then in a similar distance come to a wooden seat carved out of a tree trunk, next to a Limpsfield Community Orchard Walk waymarker. **Veer left here** across two fairways, passing a clump of three trees in the middle and **taking care as golfers are playing in both directions**.
79. Go through a gap in the trees into a small clearing and **turn left** in front of a bench with a view of the North Downs (ignoring a footpath going down to the right in front of it). Follow a clear woodland path sloping gently downhill, heading **WSW**. In 100m keep right at a path junction to descend more steeply down the wooded hillside.
80. The path eventually merges with a bridleway coming in from the right. Follow this out past a few houses and **turn right** to go down Limpsfield's narrow High Street. Near the bottom of this traffic-choked main street you pass **Coffee at Kiwi House** and the **Bull Inn** on the right, two possible refreshment stops.

## P. Limpsfield to Oxted Station (1½ km)

81. Make your way to the mini-roundabout on the High Street between the pub and the church and take the B2025 (Detillens Lane), passing a row of attractive half-timbered cottages on the left. In 300m (and 60m after passing a cul-de-sac, Padbrook, on the left) **turn right** onto a signposted footpath, a short path between garden fences which leads out through a gate into a meadow.
82. Keep ahead on a grassy path across the meadow, waymarked with a few wooden posts. As you approach some trees follow the path round to the right, past a vehicle barrier and across a footbridge over the infant **River Eden**<sup>14</sup>. Continue through a metal gate, past a small allotment and between houses to a residential street (Granville Road). Ignore the continuation of the footpath opposite and **turn left** onto the street.
83. At the end of Granville Road keep left to go past Oxted Library on Gresham Road. At the T-junction by Tandridge Council offices **turn right** onto Station Road East, which has several possible tea places. The station is on the left in 200m, with **Costa Coffee** and **Coughlans Bakery** before reaching it and **Caffè Nero** a little way past it.
84. For trains to London from Platform 1 (and other refreshment places) go through the subway and up steps on the right to the station entrance. **Café Papillon** is the first place on Station Road West; the **Oxted Inn** is off to the left.



## Walk Notes

1. The **Greensand Way** follows the course of a sandstone ridge just to the south of the North Downs. It runs for 175 km from Haslemere in Surrey to Hamstreet in Kent.
2. **St Michael's** school closed in 2002 and is now a block of luxury apartments.
3. **Pains Hill Chapel** is a small Independent Evangelical Church dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup>C.
4. At about this point you cross over the course of the **Roman Road** from London to Lewes. Just to the north, the road ran through what is now Clacket Lane Services on today's equivalent form of highway, the M25. Some Roman artefacts from the area are rather appropriately displayed there.
5. The small pool of water is **Yalden Spring**, said to be the uppermost source of the **River Darent**. This flows through Otford and Dartford into the River Thames.
6. **Squerryes Court** is an attractive 17<sup>th</sup>C manor house, owned by the Warde family since 1731. It was used as Hartfield in a BBC production of *Emma*. Since 2012 it has no longer been open to the public.
7. All three of **Westerham's pubs** were coaching inns. The George & Dragon took the private carriages and the Grasshopper Inn the public coaches.
8. **St Mary, Westerham** dates from the 14<sup>th</sup>C, but was extensively restored in the mid 19<sup>th</sup>C. Its bell tower contains a medieval spiral staircase, highly unusual in that it turns to the left.
9. This is the site of an Iron Age **hill fort**, although there is little to see as it is now completely overgrown.
10. The **Memorial** on Mariners Hill commemorates the gift of this land to the National Trust in 1904.
11. **Tower Wood** is part of the Squerryes estate and according to a Sevenoaks Council document "has long been used by the public with the consent of the owner".
12. **Tenchleys Manor** is a 16<sup>th</sup>C house with 19<sup>th</sup>C extensions and alterations.
13. **Hedgehog Hall** ("a little house for woodland creatures") was built by one of the National Trust volunteers with left-over timber after a woodland management day. Several more whimsical creations have since appeared.
14. The source of the **River Eden** is in the Titsey Estate, less than 2 km away on the slopes of the North Downs. It flows through Edenbridge and Hever and joins the River Medway near Penshurst.

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