Oxted to Lingfield walk

A short climb over the Greensand Hills followed by a gentle walk across the Low Weald, with a fine bluebell wood at its centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Main Walk: 19½ km† (12.1 miles). Four hours 45 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Walk, to South Godstone: 16½ km† (10.3 miles). Four hours walking time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alternative Walk, to Edenbridge: 17¾ km† (11.0 miles). Four hours 20 minutes walking time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS Maps</td>
<td>Explorers 146 &amp; 147. Oxted, map reference TQ393529, is in Surrey, 15 km SE of Croydon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toughness</td>
<td>4 out of 10 (3 for the Short Walk, or with the shorter start).</td>
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<td>Features</td>
<td>The walk goes across a meadow to the neighbouring village of Limpsfield, where a stained glass window dedicated to St Cecilia in St Peter's Church commemorates the celebrated musicians who are buried in its churchyard. It then heads south over the wooded Greensand Ridge and the remainder of the walk is across the Low Weald, a gently rolling landscape of scattered settlements. The Weald was once entirely forested and one of the few surviving remnants is Staffhurst Wood, a Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Many of the trees in this ancient woodland were felled in the 1930s and it was further damaged in World War, when it was used as an ammunition dump. It has now been re-established as a traditional 'coppice with standards' wood: hazel and hornbeam cut every few years under large oak, ash and beech trees allowed to grow to their full size. It has a fine display of bluebells in spring and many varieties of fungi in autumn.</td>
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† Subtract 3 km (1.8 miles; 45 minutes) if starting from Hurst Green. See Walk Options below.
The afternoon section is mostly across low-lying farmland but there are also a number of low hills with surprisingly good views. The walk crosses the River Eden and comes to a small settlement with a magnificent ancient tree in its churchyard, the Crowhurst Yew. There are some attractive old farmsteads and manor houses in this rural area and you get a peep at one of the best preserved, Crowhurst Place.

The route into Lingfield is across a flat plain and then through the newly-designated Lingfield Nature Reserve, which includes a Community Orchard. The conservation area around the grand parish church contains many well-preserved buildings from the 16th-18thC. By the village pond there is another ancient tree (the Lingfield Oak) and a cage which was still being used to imprison miscreants in the late 19thC. Although Lingfield Park Racecourse is not on the walk route, the village and trains will be more crowded on race days and you might want to consider one of the alternative walk endings, described below.

### Walk Options

The triangle of railway lines surrounding Staffhurst Wood means that several alternative endings are feasible. Directions are included for a Short Walk heading west from Crowhurst to South Godstone (although this is not a great place to end a walk), and an Alternative Walk heading south-east from the lunch pub to Edenbridge.

You can shorten any of the walk options by 3 km by using the original start of the Hurst Green to Chiddingstone Causeway walk (2–16), joining the Main Walk route at Tenchleys Manor (the directions are included here). This shorter start from the station after Oxted is worth considering if you miss a train and want to catch up the main group.

Few buses venture down the lanes around Staffhurst Wood and you would almost certainly need to call a taxi if you wanted to abandon the walk altogether.

### Additional Notes

The first two sections of this walk (to Ridlands Grove) were transferred from the Oxted Circular walk (#63) when it was redesigned in 2018, making this walk's Oxted and Hurst Green starts more distinct and reducing the overlap with Walk 2–16.

A loop through Edenbridge Water Meadows was added to the end of the Alternative Walk in 2019.

This walk originally included a circular option back to Oxted. An extended version of that route was used for a Godstone to Oxted walk (#277), taking in both of Surrey's ancient yew trees. That walk has the same lunch pub and several more variations (including a Circular Walk back to Oxted or Hurst Green) can be obtained by switching to one of its afternoon routes.

### Transport

There is a half-hourly service from Victoria to Oxted, Hurst Green and Lingfield on the East Grinstead line, taking 40 minutes to Oxted. There is also a faster hourly service from London Bridge to Oxted, Hurst Green and Edenbridge Town on the Uckfield line (Mon–Sat; changing at East Croydon and/or Oxted on Sundays).

The station at South Godstone (called Godstone but 4 km south of that village) is on the Redhill–Tonbridge branch line, which no longer has any through services to London. It is usually quicker to return via Redhill, and the suggested ‘via East Croydon’ ticket (see below) is only valid on this route. There is also a station called Edenbridge on this line, but at the end of the Alternative Walk it is more convenient to return from Edenbridge Town.
Buy a **return to Lingfield** for the Main Walk and a **return to Edenbridge Stations via East Croydon** for the other options (although in practice a Lingfield ticket might be accepted).

If driving, Oxted station car park notionally costs £6.60 Mon–Sat, £2.25 Sun & BH, but is free after 10am (though often full on weekdays). Hurst Green and Lingfield station car parks both cost £5.95 Mon–Sat, £2.25 Sun & BH (2019).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Train</th>
<th>Take the train nearest to <strong>10:00</strong> from <strong>London Bridge</strong> (or <strong>Victoria</strong>) to <strong>Oxted</strong>, or <strong>10:30</strong> if starting from <strong>Hurst Green</strong>.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>On all the walk options the only conveniently-placed pub for a lunchtime stop is the <strong>Royal Oak</strong> (01883-722207) on the edge of Staffhurst Wood, 10¾ km from Oxted and 7¾ km from Hurst Green. A “Grumpy Mole Restaurant” since November 2016, this up-market country inn is likely to be fully booked inside at weekends but has plenty of space in its garden, with fine views across the Low Weald. It serves a good range of locally sourced and freshly-cooked food to 3pm, from <em>à la carte</em> meals to bar snacks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>On days when it is open the suggested tea place on the full <strong>Main Walk</strong> through the centre of <strong>Lingfield</strong> is <strong>Joyce’s with Best Wishes</strong> at 30-32 High Street, an excellent tearoom with a pretty patio garden (01342-832428; open March–October and pre-Xmas to 4.45pm Mon–Sat; closed Sun &amp; BH). Other places near the village pond are the <strong>Red Rum Caffé</strong> (01342-459752; open to 5pm Mon–Sat, 3pm Sun), a <strong>Costa Coffee</strong> (01342-837843; open to 6pm Mon–Sat, 5pm Sun) and the <strong>Greyhound</strong> pub (01342-832147). The closest place to the station (also passed on the direct route) is <strong>The Star</strong> (01342-832364), just outside the Old Town. On the <strong>Short Walk</strong> the <strong>Lagham</strong> pub and Indian restaurant (01342-892104) is conveniently situated across the main road from <strong>Godstone</strong> station. The walk route also passes the <strong>Brickmakers Arms</strong> (01342-892212) 1¾ km before the finish; this pub reopened at the end of 2017 after being closed for many years and now specialises in Mediterranean dishes. On the <strong>Alternative Walk</strong> there are several tea places on <strong>Edenbridge</strong> High Street. If you are not in time for <strong>The Minstrel</strong> at #86 (01732-863100; open to 4pm Tue–Sat, 3pm Mon, closed Sun), there is a branch of <strong>Costa Coffee</strong> at #64 (01732-866883; open to 6pm Mon–Sat, 5pm Sun) with longer opening hours. The town’s three pubs are <strong>The Old Eden</strong> (01732-862398), the <strong>King &amp; Queen</strong> (01732-867896) and Ye <strong>Old Crown Inn</strong> (01732-864479).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help Us!</td>
<td>After the walk, we would love to get your feedback You can upload photos to the <strong>SWC Group</strong> on <strong>Flickr</strong>, and <strong>videos</strong> to <strong>YouTube</strong>. This walk’s tags are:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>![swcwalks](<a href="https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/assets">https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/assets</a> SWC walk logos.png) ![swcwalk135](<a href="https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/assets">https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/assets</a> SWC walk logos.png)</td>
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<td>By Car</td>
<td><strong>Start</strong> RH8 9EU <strong>Finish</strong> RH7 6EF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help</td>
<td>National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>Nov-19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Walk Directions

Walk Map

Walk Options ( Main | Short | Alt. )

M. Main Walk (19½ km)
   i. Main Walk, from Hurst Green (16½ km)
Walk Directions

If you are doing the shorter start (from Hurst Green), start at §4.

1. **Oxted Station to Limpsfield Church** (1½ km)

   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 200m. In front of the Council Offices turn left into Gresham Road. After passing Oxted Library, turn right and go along Granville Road for 250m.

   Before #24 turn right onto a narrow footpath between hedges. After passing the houses and a small allotment go through a metal gate, now with a meadow on your left. Follow the path across a footbridge over the infant River Eden¹, past a vehicle barrier and round to the left. Continue on a grassy path heading E across the meadow, waymarked with a few wooden posts. On the far side go through a wooden gate and along a short path between garden fences to a residential street (Detillens Lane).

   Turn left and go along this street for 300m to a T-junction with Limpsfield’s High Street, where there is a row of attractive half-timbered cottages on your right. Turn left at the mini-roundabout, cross over the road and go up a slope into St Peter’s churchyard. The public footpath continues to the right of the church (eventually leaving the churchyard in its opposite corner), but you might like to detour ahead to find the gravestones of some celebrated musicians² overlooking the road.

2. **Limpsfield Church to Ridlands Grove** (2¼ km)

   Make your way through the churchyard to an exit in its northern corner. Follow a path between hedges which later bends right and comes to a path junction by a small parking area. Turn right onto a footpath heading SE, with a field on your left behind a wire fence. Follow it round to the left at the field corner. Where the path splits, fork left across a small dip and continue along the right-hand edge of a field. At the far end, go down steps on the right to a sunken lane (Sandy Lane).

   Turn right onto the lane to head SE again, climbing gently with open fields on your left and later a wood. In 500m, at a sharp right-hand bend, keep ahead past a vehicle barrier into a wooded part of Limpsfield Common. Follow the main path uphill, slightly to the left, to meet another lane (Grub Street) by the corner of a golf course. Continue in much the same direction on a grassy path along the edge of the golf course, parallel to Grub Street on your left, to reach the A25.

   **Cross this busy main road with great care** and cut across a minor road and Limpsfield Chart Golf Club’s car park. At the far end go past vehicle barriers onto a long straight tree-lined bridleway heading SE, with a string of properties behind a high wooden fence on your left.

   In 500m you reach a major path junction at the end of the houses. Do not take either of the brideways ahead, but turn left onto the signposted footpath along the edge of the fairway, heading NE. Where the fairway ends, keep ahead into a semi-cleared area of woodland, Ridlands Grove.

3. **Ridlands Grove to Tenchleys Manor** (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.

   For the suggested route keep ahead along the bottom edge of the wood. At the corner follow the path round to the right, passing Peter Rabbit’s Post Box; 50m ahead, Hedgehog Hall³ is just off to the right. Keep left at all path junctions to stay near the edge.
of the wood, climbing gently. In the top left-hand corner of the wood the path comes out onto a narrow road (Ridlands Lane) by a bridleway signpost.

*If you detour into the wood you might find two more whimsical creations, Badger Barracks and Fox Villa. Most of the woodland paths lead to the car park on Ridlands Lane, with the bridleway exit 100m further down the lane.*

**Turn left** onto the quiet lane, taking care as there is no pavement. 100m from the bridleway exit and just after a 30mph sign, **turn right** through a wide gap to go uphill on a grassy strip between fields, a public bridleway. In 250m (now with a hedge on your right) **turn right** as indicated through a gap and continue along a driveway past the the buildings of Lombarden Farm. Where the drive splits after 100m, **fork left** and follow it out to the B269.

Turn left briefly onto a tarmac footway. As soon as it is safe to do so **cross the main road carefully** and **fork right** into Caxton Lane (as shown on a wooden signpost), which is also a public bridleway. In 150m the most direct route is to **bear right** onto the signposted continuation of the bridleway, a narrow and rather gloomy path down to the right where you would **turn sharp right** at the bottom onto a driveway.

*This steep downhill path is quite short but can be awkward when muddy. For an easier route you can continue down Caxton Lane for a further 250m and then turn sharp right at a footpath signpost onto the driveway, which doubles back to pass the bottom of the bridleway.*

Either way, continue along the drive (now a bridleway), past Tenchleys Cottage and sloping down to the left. Ignore a footpath off to the right and simply continue downhill on the bridleway, heading S along field edges. In 500m you pass a small group of houses including the picturesque Tenchleys Manor on the left. Opposite a pond the route from Hurst Green joins from a footpath on the right.

*Continue the directions at §5.*

### 4. Hurst Green Station to Tenchleys Manor (3 km)

*This section is the same as the start of Walk 2–16.*

Arriving from London, leave the station by an exit near the front of the platform (to the right of a small shelter). Go up a flight of steps to the road bridge over the railway, turn left and follow the main road for 500m as it curves gently round to the left.

Just after passing Home Park, where the road name changes from Hurstlands to Wolf's Hill, **turn right** onto a tarmac path between fences. Go across a residential road and follow the path to the corner of a playing field, guarded by high green railings. Follow the path around two sides of the field. At the end bear slightly left onto a tree-lined fenced track, climbing gently, which leads to Pollards Wood Road.

Cross this road carefully and continue on the footpath opposite. This goes alongside a large wooded depression and then curves round to the right, uphill. At the top go through a gap in a wooden fence and continue past a large house, along its driveway. This leads into a private road going past more houses to a minor road (Pains Hill).

Continue on Pastens Road opposite. It 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.

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 behind another pond on your left.

### 5. Tenchleys Manor to Staffhurst Wood (2 km)
Follow the driveway out to a lane (Itchingwood Common Road). Go straight across this onto a path between wooden barriers and follow this bridleway around the edge of a meadow. In 150m the path bends left and crosses a footbridge over a stream. Continue along the right-hand edge of some large fields for 450m, heading S. The path then crosses a ford and later bends right to come to a house at Stockenden Farm.

With the house on your right, turn left through a metal kissing gate. Go past a pond on your right and continue along the right-hand side of a large field. In the next corner there are two metal kissing gates; go through the right-hand gate and veer left onto a path along the edge of a small wood. Follow the path over a stile, up a flight of steps and across the Uckfield railway line.

On the other side go uphill across the corner of a field, slightly away from the left-hand side. At the top go over a stile in the fence and bear right to go diagonally across a series of paddocks, with stiles in the fences separating them, to reach a minor road (Grants Lane). Cross the lane and make your way over an awkward stile onto the signposted footpath opposite. Go straight ahead across the field and over a stile into Staffhurst Wood.

6. Staffhurst Wood to the Royal Oak (2¼ km)

The suggested route is not the shortest way through this attractive wood to the lunch pub. There are several places where you could veer right to head for St Silvan's car park, from where the route of the Alternative Walk (in reverse) would take you across Dwelly Lane and Caterfield Lane onto a path through Great Earls Wood to the Royal Oak.

Go up to a path crossing in 50m and turn left onto a broad path heading S, ignoring a stile ahead into a field (the continuation of the public footpath). Now simply follow the main path for 800m, eventually coming to a minor road (Staffhurst Wood Road) running through the centre of the wood.

Do not take the continuation of the broad path opposite, but take a less obvious path 20m to its left. This soon veers left in front of an assart (woodland clearing) and runs alongside it. After passing the corner of the assart turn right at a path crossing onto a broad path, keeping the clearing on your right and heading S.

Keep ahead at the next path crossing, with a fieldgate into the assart on your right. At the next path crossing turn half-right with the main path, which soon merges with a path from the left heading W alongside a larger assart.

At the corner of this clearing turn left in front of a pond to cross over its outlet, then in 25m fork right uphill at a post with a yellow waymarker. Follow this path as it heads W through the wood for 250m to come out onto a road (Dwelly Lane) opposite a cottage. Cross the road carefully (slightly to the right) onto the signposted footpath opposite, which bends right to go through a strip of woodland parallel to the road.

This soon turns left to become a fenced path between paddocks and a field. At the end go over a stile and turn half-right to cross a field towards a stile in the hedge on the far side, 175m away. Go over this and down the right-hand side of the next field, directly towards the lunchtime pub. Unless there is a new back gate into its beer garden follow the field edge round to the left; just before reaching Caterfield Lane you can go up a bank and cut through a small car park to the Royal Oak pub.

If you are doing the Alternative Walk to Edenbridge, go to §12.

7. The Royal Oak to Crowhurst Church (2¾ km)

Turn left out of the pub and go down Caterfield Lane for 75m (or retrace your steps through the car park). Just past the footpath where you arrived, cross the road carefully and take the farm lane opposite, signposted as a public footpath and heading W. Follow this past
farm buildings, including the imposing Sunt Barn on your left. At the end of the farm keep ahead across a field towards the East Grinstead railway line. Cross the tracks and continue in the same direction up the right-hand side of a large field, initially with a wood on your right and then a hedge as you descend. Go over a stile next to a fieldgate onto a junction of tracks in front of the buildings of Foyle Farm.

**Take the first track on the left**, alongside a hedge. After passing a large barn, keep left to continue for 500m on a track between a hedge and a strip of woodland, eventually heading **S**. Go over a stile beside a metal fieldgate into a meadow and continue in roughly the same direction across some ditches and then the **River Eden** itself on a wide footbridge. On the far side bear right along a field edge and continue past a fieldgate into the corner of a large field.

Go up the right-hand side of this field, alongside a row of trees and parallel to the East Grinstead railway line off to the left. In 250m, about 50m before reaching the Redhill–Tonbridge line ahead, **go over a stile on the right** and through a small plantation into the corner of a field. Continue alongside the railway line for a short distance and then **turn left** at a crossing point to go over the tracks.

On the other side make for a wide gap in the hedge 100m ahead (the right of way cuts across the field but if there is no clear path it is not much further around the edge). At the gap **turn right** to head **W** along the left-hand edge of another field. In 200m follow a grassy track round to the left and past a house. Go out along its driveway and continue along a minor road (Crowhurst Lane) in the same direction, taking care as there is no pavement.

In 250m, opposite the 16th **Mansion House**, **bear right** up a short flight of steps and go through a lychgate into a churchyard. Standing in front of **St George's** church is the magnificent **Crowhurst Yew**, one of the oldest trees in England.

*If you are doing the Short Walk to South Godstone, go to §11.*

8. **Crowhurst Church to Moat Farm** (2¾ km)

Go past the church and leave the churchyard through a wooden gate into the top corner of a field. Make your way down to a gap in the hedge at the bottom of the field, 50m out from the near corner (strictly speaking the right of way is to carry on along the top of the field for 125m and turn sharp left at a footpath signpost). Go through the gap into the next field and continue in the same direction as if you had taken the longer route. On the far side go over a stile and along a fenced path to a farm driveway.

Cross the drive and go over another stile. **Turn half-right** and make your way across two fields to a line of trees on the far side. Go through a metal gate, across a footbridge and **turn right**, heading **SW**. Another stile then takes you onto a grassy path at the edge of a plantation of young trees, with a tree-lined stream on your right.

In 300m, where another path comes in from a footbridge over the stream, **turn left**. In 50m follow the path as it curves right to go up the left-hand edge of a large field. **Crowhurst Place** is up ahead on your right, partly hidden by a tall hedge. In 400m go through a wooden kissing gate and across the manor house's private drive.

Continue to head **S** on the footpath, at first across a patch of grass and then through a group of trees. At the end of the trees follow the path round to the right. 100m later, where the way ahead is blocked by a fieldgate, veer left and right to continue along the top edge of a large field, with a wire fence and hedge on your right and fine views on your left towards Lingfield and (on the hill beyond) East Grinstead.

Continue into a second field, then in 150m **turn left** by a wooden bench and footpath marker and follow a grassy path downhill towards a metal fieldgate. Go through this and keep ahead down the right-hand edge of another large field. At the bottom go over a stile and turn right onto a green lane, heading **W**. In 300m this comes out onto a driveway, where you turn left; behind the trees on your right is a large body of water at the aptly-named **Moat Farm**.

9. **Moat Farm to Lingfield Nature Reserve** (1¾ km)
Immediately after Moat Farm's driveway crosses a stream and turns right, go over a stile on the left and across a broad strip of grass to a fence. Turn left again to go alongside the fence (doubling back, so you get to see your previous route away to the left). In 200m you come out into a large field and turn half-right to follow a faint grassy path across the middle of it, heading SE.

On the far side go over a stile in the hedge and bear right to go along the field edge. In 100m veer right through a gap in the hedge and continue in your previous direction on a grassy path leading to a rusty fieldgate, 125m away. Go past this and across a concrete bridge over Ray Brook. Follow a fenced path to a T-junction, turn left and continue on a narrow path around the buildings of Sugham Farm, ignoring gates leading into fields or the farm.

After a short stretch over a boardwalk, with a pond off to the right, keep left onto a green lane. This soon turns sharply right and you continue along it for 250m to Lingfield Common Road. Turn left briefly onto the road, then in 25m turn right into a tree-lined lane, gently uphill. In 200m fork left and follow the lane past houses and round a bend to the right. Go past the entrance to Coldharbour Farm and through a kissing gate into Lingfield Nature Reserve.

10. Lingfield Nature Reserve to the Station (2 or 1½ km)

Immediately after entering the reserve bear right off the main path onto a grassy path towards a group of trees, Coldharbour Copse. As you go through the trees and come out into Beacon Field the path forks and there is a choice of routes to complete the walk. The direct route in §10b bypasses the town centre (with its choice of pubs and tearooms) but does pass one pub if you want to break for refreshment.

a. Main route (2 km)

For the main route fork right and follow a path along the right-hand edge of Beacon Field, heading SSW. In the corner of the field follow the path briefly round to the left, then near the old fire beacon turn right onto a surfaced path into a small Wildflower Meadow. This leads into the Community Orchard, where the simplest continuation is to stay on the surfaced path along its left-hand side.

Near the way out there is a small information panel identifying the different fruit trees, next to a wooden bench by some large chestnut trees. You might like to wander around the orchard before continuing the walk.

The perimeter path passes some small gardens off to the left and leads into a track. Follow this out of the reserve to a residential street at a bend. Turn right and go along Vicarage Road for 300m to its T-junction with the B2028 (Plaistow Street). Keep left to come to the Old Cage and the 400-year old Lingfield Oak beside the village pond.

The Greyhound pub is just off to the right on Plaistow Street and there is a Costa coffee shop on the left-hand side of East Grinstead Road, heading S away from the pond. For other possible tea places, or to continue the walk, go around the pond on the main road (or a footpath on its northern side) into the High Street. The Red Rum Caffé and Joyce’s with Best Wishes tearoom are in the parade of shops on the right.

For the suggested route to the station (1 km away), head E along the High Street for a further 100m and then turn left into Old School Place. Where this turns left after 50m, keep ahead on an alleyway which leads into the churchyard of Ss Peter and Paul, a surprisingly grand parish church which is well worth visiting; its entrance is through the west door in the tower.

b. Direct route (1¼ km)
For the shorter route fork left and follow a path along the left-hand edge of Beacon Field, heading SSE. On the far side of the field go through a gap in the hedge and keep ahead across Jenner’s Field, eventually passing to the left of a children’s playground in the far corner.

Go through a wooden kissing gate onto a junction of tarmac paths and take one heading in much the same direction (still SSE). At the end go down steps, across Vicarage Road and up another tarmac path into Lingfield’s Old Town. After passing the attractive Guest House (now a library) a short flight of steps takes you into the churchyard of Ss Peter and Paul, a surprisingly grand parish church which is well worth visiting; its entrance is through the west door in the tower.

If you have been visiting the church turn left out of the west door and then left again onto the path along its south side. Leave the churchyard in its south-east corner and continue along a short street of fine old houses. At the end of this street The Star pub is directly opposite on Church Road; this is the last refreshment stop before the station, 500m away.

To complete the walk take the signposted public footpath on the north side of the pub, which becomes a tree-lined tarmac path heading E between fields. Later it goes alongside the high wall of New Place and comes out onto Station Road. Go straight across this into the approach road to the station. Platform 1 on the near side is for trains to London; if the ticket office is closed, the entrance is on the left.

11. Crowhurst Church to Godstone Station (3½ km)

For the Short Walk go past the church and leave the churchyard through a wooden gate into the top corner of a field. Head W along the top edge of this field and then three more, with good views on the left. At the end of the last field go over a stile onto a broad woodland path through Ashen Plantation, with a wire fence on the right.

At the far end leave the wood via the right-hand of two stiles. Turn three-quarters right and go down across a field. At the bottom go over a wooden footbridge in the hedge and continue on a fenced path to a residential street in Crowhurst Lane End. Turn left and go along the street to a T-junction with Tandridge Lane, with the Brickmakers Arms opposite. Take the footpath to the right of the pub, heading W and parallel to an embankment on your right carrying the railway line. Now simply continue alongside it for 1½ km, initially between fences and trees and later with open fields on your left. At the end you pass farm buildings off to your left and come out onto the A22. Cross this busy main road with great care to the pavement opposite and go under the railway bridge.

The entrance to Godstone station is ahead on the left, opposite the Lagham pub. A ramp at the back of its car park leads up to Platform 2, for trains to Edenbridge and Tonbridge. For trains to Redhill, cross the footbridge to Platform 1.

12. The Royal Oak to Grants Lane (1¼ km)

For the Alternative Walk turn right out of the pub. Opposite its main car park take a signposted footpath into Great Earls Wood, heading N. In 100m keep ahead at a path crossing (by a small wooden bench), then 25m later fork right, leaving the public footpath. Follow this permissive path for 200m as it heads E through a chestnut coppice, going straight ahead at a path crossing halfway along. At the end go past a fieldgate to return to Caterfield Lane.

You have a limited view of the traffic so cross the road with great care and go down the short link road opposite. Cross Dwelly Lane carefully into Staffhurst Wood Road, with the unusual St Silvan’s House on the left and a signposted footpath on the right. The shortest continuation is to take this footpath into the southern part of Staffhurst Wood and keep ahead after 125m where a broad woodland path merges from the left.

If the footpath is overgrown you could go along Staffhurst Wood Road for 100m and turn right onto a broad woodland path opposite the car park, which soon turns half-left and merges with the footpath.

Either way, continue along the broad woodland path, heading SE. In 100m, where the main path curves right, fork left onto a narrower path to continue in much the same direction. In a further 100m follow the path over a crosspaths and through wooden horse barriers,
turning half-left. The path soon swings right in front of a gate leading into an assart, to head SE again alongside this woodland clearing.

In 250m keep ahead at more path crossings (again with wooden barriers) to continue on a broad woodland path, passing a larger assart on your right and still heading SE. In a further 200m go past a metal vehicle barrier and out onto a minor road (Grants Lane).

13. Grants Lane to Edenbridge Golf Course (1½ km)

Turn right onto Grants Lane, taking care as there is no pavement. In 250m ignore a signposted footpath on the right opposite Black Robins Farm. In a further 50m turn left off the road onto a farm track, then immediately veer right across a patch of grass to follow the right of way to a metal fieldgate. Go through this and bear slightly left across a field for 100m, towards another metal fieldgate in a gap in the hedge (near where two sets of overhead cables cross).

Go through this gap and bear right to go diagonally across a large field on a faint grassy path, heading SE and gradually approaching the Redhill–Tonbridge railway line on an embankment. On the far side of the field go over a stile and up a long flight of steps to cross the tracks, then down the other side.

Bear left across a field to its far left-hand corner and go out onto a minor road (Honeypot Lane). Cross the road to continue on an inconspicuous footpath just off to the right, over a plank bridge and a concealed stile in the hedge (not the farm track a little further away, which is also a footpath). Continue along the left-hand side of a field for 250m, with Kent Brook behind the line of trees on your left.

The fields from here to the golf course are used for grazing horses and you might have to make your way around (or through) temporary fences to follow the right of way described here.

Near the far left-hand corner go over an old stile into a smaller field and continue near its left-hand edge. In the next corner turn left onto a potentially muddy track and go through a pair of metal fieldgates into another field. The exit is a metal gate in a fence 150m away behind the clump of trees ahead on your right, but you might have to take a longer route alongside and possibly through more temporary fences before turning right on the far side.

Go through the gate onto Edenbridge Golf Course.

14. Across Edenbridge Golf Course (1 km)

These directions attempt to follow a right of way heading roughly south-east across the golf course, but where sections have become overgrown and neglected a more pragmatic alternative is suggested. The situation might improve because the Vanguard Way is being rerouted to go across the eastern part of the course and some new yellow VGW waymarkers have started to appear. Note that there are no signs to warn you about flying golf balls, so take care when crossing fairways.

Go across the grass to the first marker post and then bear left across a fairway towards a broad grassy path through some rough grassland. A concealed marker post in the belt of young trees on your left indicates that the right of way is actually through these trees, but it is much easier to continue briefly on this golfers' path. However, do not follow it to the next fairway but turn left almost immediately to go across the rough grassland (parallel to the right of way in the trees on your left).

In 100m you meet another golfers’ path coming from a gap in the trees and can join that. In a further 100m veer right in front of a large oak tree (surrounded by metal fencing at the time of writing) to go around the back of a green, rejoining the right of way (including the rerouted Vanguard Way) from a narrow path on the left.

Follow the path through a belt of trees and bear left across a fairway, aiming to cross a ditch running across it by a wooden plank bridge between two yellow posts. This should bring you to a gap in the trees on the far side with another marker post. In the next fairway there is a large pond ahead on your left, guarding the green.

Skirt around the left-hand side of the pond and go past a wooden signpost (pointing to the 18th tee) with a VGW waymarker. Go up to a belt of trees ahead on the left separating two more fairways and continue through the trees for about 50m. At another marker post turn half-right to cut diagonally across the right-hand fairway. Look for a narrow path leading through the rough to a path running parallel to the fairway and turn left onto it.

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15. **The Golf Course to Skeynes Road** (1¼ km)

Follow the tree-lined path alongside the fairway. In 50m it goes around a concrete vehicle barrier and curves right to go gently uphill, alongside a low wire fence. In 150m you come to an unsurfaced driveway and **turn left** onto it, away from the house.

*For the most direct route to the station (bypassing the town centre) you could continue to follow (in reverse) the start of Walk #277a, but the only refreshment place on this route is the Leisure Centre Café in Stangrove Park.*

For the full walk **turn right** off the drive after 25m, onto a signposted footpath heading S. This enclosed path soon comes out into the corner of a large field, with notices about keeping to the footpath. Follow the grassy path near the right-hand field edge to the next corner and go out to a path T-junction in front of a field, with the buildings of **Skeynes Park** partly visible on the far side.

Turn left and follow the path alongside a wire fence, initially heading E and then turning right at the field corner. Later the path curves gradually to the left and eventually goes across some rough grassland towards a belt of trees in front of a housing estate. Go through a gap in these trees and past an old stile onto an enclosed path heading S to a residential street (Skeynes Road) on the outskirts of Edenbridge.

16. **Skeynes Road to Edenbridge Town Station** (2½ or 1¼ km)

*The suggested route takes a short loop to the south of the town and returns through some attractive water meadows alongside the River Eden, passing a number of refreshment places along the town’s High Street. The direct route in §16b only passes Costa Coffee on the way to the station, although the other places are not far away.*

a. **Main route** (2½ km)

For the route via the water meadows **turn right** onto Skeynes Road. At the T-junction with Lingfield Road **cross the main road carefully** and make your way past a wooden barrier in the hedge opposite, with a L2B waymarker. On the other side bear left to continue along the grassy margin of a large field, heading S.

*This is not a public right of way, but the waymarker implies that this well-trodden field path is a permissive route used by one of the London to Brighton events.*

Go all the way along the field margin, ignoring one or two gaps into the large recreation ground behind the trees on your left. In the corner cross a stream (Kent Brook again) on a plank footbridge and **turn left** at a path crossing. Go through a hedge and follow this public footpath along the edge of a copse for 250m, heading E parallel to the brook (hidden in the trees on your left).

At a path T-junction **turn left** to go back across the brook on a new wooden footbridge. Continue briefly along the right-hand side of the recreation ground, then in 50m **bear right** onto a path through a gap in the trees into **Edenbridge Water Meadows**. There are several paths you could take through this lightly-wooded area, but for a straightforward route stay on the main path as it bends slightly right to head NE.

In 250m the path swings left in front of a weir and continues alongside the **River Eden** towards a modern road bridge. Veer left up a short slope (with an information panel about the water meadows at the top) and bear right onto a short tarmac path to the town’s bypass.

Cross the main road carefully at the traffic island and take the tarmac path alongside the river. In front of a seating area by the **Stone Bridge**, take the path on the left up to the High Street. Unless you want to visit The **Old Eden** pub (just past the roundabout on the right) **turn left** onto this long straight road, passing some fast-food shops and then The **Minstrel** coffee shop, opposite the **King & Queen** pub at the junction with Church Street.
For other refreshment places you could carry on up the High Street (passing Ye Old Crown Inn and Costa Coffee) and perhaps switch to the direct route at [*] below.

For the suggested route **turn right** into Church Street and go through its lychgate towards the parish church of **Ss Peter and Paul**. Its entrance is on the south side, but to complete the walk take the tarmac path to the north of the church, along an avenue of lime trees and then the northern edge of the churchyard. At the end go through a gate in the low wall on the left and along a short tarmac path leading into the end of a cul-de-sac (Churchfield).

Follow this street out to a T-junction and **turn left** briefly into Forge Croft, then **turn right** into Greenfield. At the end go past vehicle barriers onto another residential street (Grange Close). The station is just off to the right but Grange Close turns away from it, so after 100m you have to **turn right** down a short link road and then turn right again at the bottom to reach it. Platform 1 on the near side is for trains to London; if the ticket office is closed, the entrance is on the right.

**b. Direct route (1¼ km)**

To head directly for the station **turn left** onto Skeynes Road and go past Springfield Road to reach a green on the right. Make your way across (or around) it to the opposite corner and into a cul-de-sac (Ash Close). At the end continue on a fenced tarmac path leading to Crouch House Road and keep ahead towards traffic lights 150m away. Go straight across the town's bypass onto the short link road leading to the High Street, where there is a branch of **Costa Coffee** on the left.

[*] There are more refreshment places in the other direction, but to complete the walk go past the coffee shop and along the road for 300m. After going over a small rise, and just before the road bends left towards traffic lights, Edenbridge Town station is signposted to the right.

*The town's other station (on the Redhill–Tonbridge line) is 1 km further away on the long straight road ahead, the B2026.*

To finish at Edenbridge Town **turn right** into Station Approach and go all the way along it to the station. Platform 1 on the near side is for trains to London; if the ticket office is closed, the entrance is on the right.

**Walk Notes**

1. The **River Eden** is one of the main tributaries of the River Medway, which it flows into outside Penshurst. Its source is in the Titsey Estate, 2 km north-east of Oxted on the slopes of the North Downs.
2. The composer **Frederick Delius** (1862-1934) and conductors Sir Thomas Beecham and Norman Del Mar are buried in the churchyard of **St Peter, Limpsfield**. Delius was born in Bradford and spent most of his life in France; he had no connection with the village but his friends thought he should be buried in a typical English country churchyard.
3. **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.
4. **Tenchleys Manor** is a 16thC house with 19thC extensions and alterations.
5. **St George, Crowhurst** dates from the 12thC, with later additions and rebuilding. This small parish church is unusual in that it largely escaped the attentions of the 19thC restorers.
6. The **Crowhurst Yew** is a male tree with a girth of 10 metres. Judging by its measured rate of growth it is at least 1,000 years old; some sources speculate that it is much older. In 1820 it was hollowed out and a cannon ball dating from the Civil War was found inside it, partially overgrown with new wood. There is a yew tree of a similar age in the village of Tandridge, 4 km north of Crowhurst (and another in the village of Crowhurst, East Sussex, a source of confusion in the historical records).
7. **Crowhurst Place** is a moated manor house dating from around 1450, with many 17thC alterations. In 1681 the Gainsford family arranged for the construction of a stone causeway to the church “it being before a loathsome duttie way everie stepp”. A new owner restored the house in 1920, adding structures like the dovecote and the mock-Tudor gatehouse visible on the left as you cross the driveway.
8. The house at **Moat Farm** was built in about 1800, replacing an earlier building. Many of the large houses in this area were moated and the body of water which remains gives some idea of its size.

https://www.walkingclub.org.uk/walk/oxted-to-lingfield/
9. **Lingfield Nature Reserve** is a varied set of habitats created from some unused fields to the north of the village. It developed out of a **Lingfield Wildlife Area** established by local volunteers in 1994 and now includes wildlife ponds, a wildflower meadow, a community orchard and several small gardens.

10. The **Community Orchard** has been planted with several unusual fruit trees – medlar, quince and mulberry – as well as apples, pears, plums, cherries and various nut trees. It is not managed commercially and visitors are invited to take fruit for personal consumption.

11. The **Old Cage** was built in 1773 to confine local miscreants. The last inmate was a poacher in 1882.

12. **St Peter & Paul, Lingfield** mostly dates from the 14thC, although there are traces of a much earlier Saxon church. It contains a fine collection of monuments and brasses to the Cobham family.

13. **New Place** was built in 1617 around the core of a medieval hall house. It is said to be the only surviving Jacobean stone mansion in Surrey. Much of the ashlar came from a monastery demolished in the Reformation.

14. **St Silvan’s House** was built in 1898 as a Mission Room and was licensed as a church from 1930-2013, before being converted into a residential dwelling.

15. **Kent Brook** is a minor tributary of the River Eden. Its source is in the Greensand Hills near Limpsfield Chart and this stretch marks the county boundary between Surrey and Kent.

16. The **Vanguard Way** runs for 105 km “from the suburbs to the sea”, from Croydon in south London to Newhaven in East Sussex.

17. The main building at **Skeynes Park** is a small Gothic mansion, built in 1840. The house with the clock tower is the former stable block, now a separate residence.

18. The 16 acres of **Edenbridge Water Meadows** are actively managed by the Great Stone Bridge Trust for the benefit of wildlife, with visitors being asked to stay on the mown paths.

19. The single-arch **Stone Bridge** was built in 1836, replacing an earlier six-arch bridge. In the 12thC an abbot called Eadhelm ordered a bridge to be built over the river at this crossing point on the London–Lewes Roman road, and the Anglo-Saxon “Eadhelmsbrigge” gave its name to the river as well as evolving into the modern town name.

20. **St Peter & Paul, Edenbridge** was rebuilt and extended in the 13thC and there is little trace of an earlier Norman church. It contains some fine memorials and a poignant tombstone to Ann Jemett. The tower clock has an hour hand only.

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