Whyteleafe Circular walk

Bluebell woods, fields, valleys and nature reserves on the London/Surrey border.

**Length**

**Main Walk:** 16½ km† (10.3 miles). Four hours 15 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 8 hours.

**Short Walk, omitting Chaldon loop:** 12 km† (7.5 miles). Three hours 5 minutes walking time.

**Alternative Walk, starting from Coulsdon:** 14¾ km (9.2 miles). Three hours 45 minutes walking time.

† Add ¼ km (0.15 miles) if starting from Upper Warlingham station. See Transport below.

**OS Maps**

Explorers 146 & (for a small section around Kenley) 161. Whyteleafe, map reference TQ338585, is on the London/Surrey border, 8 km S of Croydon.

**Toughness**

5 out of 10 (4 for the Alternative Walk, 3 for the Short Walk).

**Features**

This walk covers a stretch of the Green Belt on the London/Surrey border which since July 2019 has been designated the South London Downs National Nature Reserve. It starts with a climb onto Kenley Common and a long stretch around the perimeter of Kenley Airfield, a well-preserved example of those pressed into service for the Battle of Britain in 1940. The airfield is no longer licensed for use by powered aircraft but (weather permitting) you will see gliders being catapulted into the air by winches and can stand directly under their flight path as they come in to land.

The walk continues across Coulsdon Common where some features will be familiar from the Riddlesdown to Coulsdon walk (2–15). You soon pass the lunchtime pub but unless you want to cut the walk short (or take a very early break) there is an hour-long loop across Happy Valley in order to see the internationally renowned 12thC ‘doom mural’ in Chaldon church. The route back to the pub goes past a historically interesting burial ground, a salutary reminder of the time – not so long ago – when large numbers of people with mental health problems were confined in asylums.

Although this ‘Chaldon loop’ covers much the same ground as the Book 2 walk, the actual overlaps in the two routes have been minimised and are all in the opposite direction.

The afternoon section starts by weaving its way back across Coulsdon and Kenley Commons, this time going around the other side of the airfield. After a stretch along a newly-restored patch of downland it takes a northerly loop through woodland to Kenley before crossing the valley. One last climb onto Riddlesdown is followed by a level stretch through the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area, where you can look back across the valley to your earlier route. A flight of steps then takes you down to a park café in Whyteleafe Recreation Ground and a choice of return stations.

**Walk Options**

Although it misses out Chaldon church, an obvious Short Walk can be made by switching to the afternoon leg at the first sight of the lunch pub, saving 4½ km.
addition, the walk's interlacing design between Whyteleafe and Coulsdon Common allows other such short cuts, and indeed much of it could be done as separate short circular walks.

The astute reader will have deduced that this rather eccentric-looking walk was in fact created in this way, by stringing together the author's various 'lockdown loops' around Whyteleafe during the Covid-19 restrictions.

The attractive stretch of Green Belt along the top of Farthing Downs into Happy Valley is covered in Walk 2–15, but for convenience its final section from Chaldon church is described here in the opposite direction, making an Alternative Walk starting from Coulsdon.

This alternative start would also be worth considering if the outward trains to Whyteleafe were disrupted. You could combine these two walks in other ways, for example by extending this walk out to the North Downs Way or by heading for Coulsdon after the lunch stop. There are many nice paths to choose from in Happy Valley if you want to devise a longer route there.

If you want to abandon the walk at lunchtime there are frequent buses to Coulsdon and Croydon along the main road by the pub. The directions also point out where you could divert to Whyteleafe and Kenley stations on the afternoon leg.

Transport

There are two railway lines in the valley through Whyteleafe, each with a station. The most convenient starting point for this walk is Whyteleafe itself, with a half-hourly Southern service from London Bridge taking 34 minutes (but much longer on Sundays). Nearby the rather misleadingly named Upper Warlingham station (see Walk Notes) has a half-hourly service from Victoria, taking 31 minutes.

For the Alternative Walk Coulsdon South has a half-hourly service from Victoria (hourly on Sundays) plus half-hourly Thameslink trains via London Bridge.

The stations in Whyteleafe and Coulsdon are all in TfL Zone 6, so you can use Oyster PAYG or buy a Travelcard. All these lines go through East Croydon.

If driving, the station car park at Whyteleafe costs £6.70 Mon–Fri, £3.70 Sat; Upper Warlingham £7 Mon–Fri, £6.60 Sat; Coulsdon South £6.90 Mon–Fri, £3.25 Sat; all are £2.25 Sun & BH (2020). All these stations are popular with commuters and you might not be able to find a parking space during the week.

Suggested Train

Take the train nearest to 09:45 from London Bridge to Whyteleafe for the Main Walk (an hour later for the Short Walk), or 10:30 from Victoria or London Bridge to Coulsdon South for the Alternative Walk.

Lunch

The suggested lunch pub (and indeed the only convenient place on the walk route) is The Fox (01883-340737) on Coulsdon Common, reached after 8¼ km on the Main Walk, 6½ km on the Alternative Walk and 3¾ km on the Short Walk. Part of the Vintage Inns chain, this is a large and popular pub/restaurant with a wide range of food options and a beer garden, well away from the main road.

Tea

In Whyteleafe the suggested tea place is the small Pavilion Café (01883-770666; open daily to around 4.30pm) in the Recreation Ground, a friendly place serving hot drinks and a selection of home-made cakes.

On the A22 between the two stations stronger fare is available at the refurbished Whyteleafe Tavern (0121-272 5499) and a small micro-pub, the Radius Arms (07514-916172). In the same parade of shops there is also a Village Bakery and the Whyteleafe Café, but both are likely to be closed at the end of a walk.
Help Us!

After the walk, we would love to get your feedback.

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

![swcwalks](https://www.flickr.com/groups/swcwalks) ![swcwalk363](https://www.youtube.com/c/WhyteleafeCircular)

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Walk Directions

Walk Map

All maps © OpenStreetMap contributors
Walk Options

M. Main Walk (16½ km)
   a. Short Walk, omitting Chaldon loop (12 km)
   b. Alternative Walk, starting from Coulsdon (14¾ km)

Walk Directions

If you are doing the Alternative Walk (from Coulsdon), start at §D.

A. Whyteleafe • Upper Warlingham Station to the Kenley Tribute (2¼ • 2½ km)

The most convenient station for this walk is Whyteleafe, but it is only a little further from Upper Warlingham.

1. Starting from Whyteleafe Station

   a. The shortest way to start the walk is to leave the station by a path at the front of the platform and turn right onto the road (Whyteleafe Hill), going over the tracks at the level crossing.
      • If the crossing stays down for a London-bound train, you could go over the footbridge to the other platform and cut across the car park to Whyteleafe Hill.

2. Starting from Upper Warlingham Station (+¼ km)

   a. Arriving from London, go up the steps in the middle of the platform and turn left on the footbridge to come out by the car park entrance. Bear right across the small forecourt and turn left to go down Station Road.

   b. At the bottom turn right onto the A22 (Godstone Road) and cross the main road carefully at the traffic island. A little further on, veer left down St Luke’s Road. At the bottom turn left and go over the tracks at the level crossing by Whyteleafe Station.

3. Go past the station car park and a primary school and turn right at a crossroads to go up Hornchurch Hill. At the next crossroads turn left into Hilltop Road, climbing more steeply. Immediately after this road bends right turn left through a gap in the hedge and go up a few steps onto Kenley Common.

4. Take the grassy path to the right of the information board, climbing towards a wooden gate in the hedge. Go through this and follow the path as it curves gradually to the right, still climbing steadily. At the top of the field keep ahead through a gap in the trees and go through a gate into the next field.

5. Follow a faint grassy path climbing towards its top right-hand corner. At the top bear slightly left to head W onto a tarmac area on the edge of Kenley Airfield, passing between the end of its main runway and a hedge. You will be going around the airfield’s perimeter for the next 1¼ km.
      • At the start it is worth detouring onto the low mound straight ahead, which has a Kenley Heritage Trail information panel “The Battle of Britain” about the attack on the airfield on August 18th 1940. A path off the mound on the far side lets you carry on around the perimeter.

6. The perimeter path eventually passes the airfield's short runway, swings round to the left and comes to the RAF Kenley Tribute in front of a wartime blast pen, where there are more information panels about the airfield's history.

B. The Kenley Tribute to The Fox (1½ km)

7. Take the tarmac path out to the road behind the memorial (Hayes Lane). Cross over and go through the gate opposite onto Coulsdon Common. Follow the track through a belt of trees and continue on a grassy path sloping diagonally down across a large meadow.

8. In the far corner bear right up a wide grassy strip. At the top keep right to start going back downhill, but almost immediately turn left onto a grassy track with a wire fence on the right. In about 100m there is a gate into this grazing enclosure (The Maze) and if it is not locked you can cut through it to the bottom corner; otherwise continue around its perimeter.
9. Go down to a road (Stites Hill Road) and cross over into another part of the wooded common. Go uphill on a track and fork left where it splits, now on a permitted horse ride.
   - If this ride is excessively muddy you could take a nearby parallel footpath on the edge of the common, alongside the garden fences.

10. On the horse ride keep ahead at path crossings. The ride gradually bends left and merges with the footpath by a white-painted Coal Tax post\(^5\) beside the B2030 (Coulsdon Road). Cross the road carefully and continue briefly on The Grove opposite, then go back onto the common through a gate on the right with a footpath signpost.

11. Follow the direction of the signpost, away from the broad grassy strip alongside the road and heading W. Follow a clear path through a lightly wooded part of the common to reach a gate in a wooden fence. Go through this and across a patch of grass towards The Fox pub on the far side.

   *If you are doing the Short Walk (omitting the Chaldon loop), go to §F.*

C. The Fox to Chaldon Church (2¼ km)

12. If you are not stopping at the pub this time – the walk returns here after the loop out to Chaldon – pass to the right of its parking area to come to Fox Lane and turn left (you can get onto the adjacent meadow by the pillar box to walk along a grassy path instead of the lane). Go through a height barrier at the entrance to a car park and immediately veer right through a belt of trees into the corner of a meadow.

13. Follow a grassy path going diagonally across the meadow. In the far corner there is a wide gap in the trees into another meadow and three paths into the wood on your left. Turn left onto the middle of these three paths, to the right of one waymarked as a permitted horse ride.

14. In 100m the woodland path emerges into the top of a long narrow open area, sloping down to the left. You could follow the path back into the trees on the right but the suggested route is to take the narrow chalky path along the top of the grassland. At the far end both routes lead out onto the side of Happy Valley\(^6\).

15. Bear left down the slope, aiming for a wide gap in the belt of trees across the valley floor. Go through this and continue up the other side of the valley: either on a faint grassy path sloping directly up towards the opposite corner or – just as nice – a more obvious path going straight uphill and turning left along the top edge, joining the Downlands Circular Walk\(^7\) (DCW).

   *The remainder of this section follows the Walk 2–15 route (in reverse).*

16. In the corner follow a potentially muddy track uphill through the trees and continue on a clearly-marked path across a large farm field. In 200m it bends slightly left and a little further on starts to slope downhill to the right-hand side of the field, eventually coming to a gap in the tree boundary.

17. Go through the gap and turn left onto a minor road (Ditches Lane). At a Chaldon village sign in front of a little triangle of roads fork right to go up to the church of Ss Peter & Paul\(^8\), which is well worth a visit to see its famous medieval wall painting.

   *Continue the directions at §E.*

D. Coulsdon South Station to Chaldon Church (4¼ km)

   *As noted in the introduction, this section simply follows the ending of the Walk 2–15 route (in reverse).*

18. Arriving from London, take the tarmac path away from Platform 2 and turn left onto Reddown Road, joining the London Outer Orbital Path\(^9\) (LOOP). At the top turn right onto Marlpit Lane, then almost immediately turn right again into Downs Road, the start of a long but gentle climb up Farthing Downs\(^2\).

19. Where Downs Road curves right after 200m keep ahead through a wooden gate next to a cattle grid onto the downland. The suggested route is to take the grassy path to the right of Ditches Lane which has good views to both sides of the ridge, but in practice you could take any of the paths parallel to this lane.
20. On the right-hand path you climb steadily for 700m and eventually pass an old-fashioned finger post in a small clump of trees. A little further on there is a toposcope off to the left on a stone plinth, and a long level stretch along the top of the ridge brings you to another gate by a cattle grid. Go through this and keep ahead up to a car park, where there is a group of City of London information panels about the area and its history.

21. To continue the walk cross the lane and go across the grass towards the left-hand end of a group of cottages, where there is an information panel for Happy Valley. Take the broad woodland track indicated by a wooden signpost for the start of the Downlands Circular Walk (DCW).

22. Stay on the main track through Devilsden Wood for 600m (following the LOOP and DCW waymarkers), eventually coming out into the top corner of a sloping meadow. Keep right to go along its top edge, signposted to Chaldon Church. In the next corner take the path ahead into a belt of trees, leaving the LOOP. Keep left at path junctions to emerge into another meadow and go all the way along its top edge, as before.

23. In the corner follow a potentially muddy track uphill through the trees and continue on a clearly-marked path across a large farm field. In 200m it bends slightly left and a little further on starts to slope downhill to the right-hand side of the field, eventually coming to a gap in the tree boundary.

24. Go through the gap and turn left onto a minor road (Ditches Lane). At a Chaldon village sign in front of a little triangle of roads fork right to go up to the church of Ss Peter & Paul, which is well worth a visit to see its famous medieval wall painting.

E. Chaldon Church to The Fox (2¼ km)

The start and finish of this section follow the Walk 2–15ab route (in reverse), but the central stretch across the golf course is different.

25. From the church fork right at the triangle of roads to go back down to Ditches Lane, then immediately turn left onto a signposted footpath. Go up the southern edge of the large farm field you crossed earlier and continue alongside Piles Wood to a track. Leave the DCW by veering right and left to continue in the same direction along a residential street (Leazes Avenue), with a striking line of redwoods on its left-hand side.

26. At the end of the street keep ahead on a signposted bridleway across a golf course (Surrey National), initially downhill on a grassy track between hedges and then up through a copse. At the top it curves right and comes to a (slightly askew) three-way footpath signpost, with the clubhouse on your left.

27. Go across an access road and veer left onto a track going down past the side of the clubhouse, the continuation of the bridleway. As before, this goes across a dip and back up through a copse. At the top the bridleway bears right to continue on a straight level path between hedges, but an information panel for the small Burial Ground on your left here is worth a look.

28. The path across the golf course ends at a T-junction where you turn left onto a bridleway between the course and a residential area, including the redeveloped Caterham Barracks. In 500m cross over The Grove, go through a kissing gate and keep ahead across a lightly wooded part of Coulsdon Common. On the far side go through another kissing gate and across a patch of grass to The Fox pub.

F. The Fox to Whyteleafe Bank (3 km)

The short stretch to Stites Hill Road follows the Walk 2–15 route (in reverse).

29. Leave the pub's car park and turn right onto Fox Lane to reach the B2030 (you can get onto the adjacent meadow by the pillar box to walk along a grassy path instead of the lane). Buses go to Coulsdon, Purley and Croydon from a stop here if you want to abandon the walk.

30. To continue the walk cross the road carefully and take the path opposite through the wooded common. Where it splits fork right, soon passing a house off to the right and swinging round to the right. After passing a pond the path drops down to a road (Stites Hill Road).
31. Cross over and go uphill on a permitted horse ride, with a fenced enclosure (The Maze) on your left. As it swings round to the left **fork right** to stay on the horse ride, uphill through the trees.  
   - If this ride is excessively muddy you could take a nearby parallel footpath on the edge of the common, alongside the garden fences.
32. Follow the ride into a semi-open area (taking either fork where it splits), with the Merlewood Estate Offices off to the right beyond the footpath. In front of another grazing enclosure **veer left** alongside its fence, passing some fine ornamental trees. Follow a path diagonally down across a small meadow to the bottom corner.
33. Go through a wide gap beneath some large trees and bear slightly right up a larger meadow to an exit in the tree boundary at the top (not the gap in the far corner where the Main Walk came in). At the top go up a steep little bank and out through a gate onto a road (Hayes Lane).
34. Cross over and go through the gate opposite onto the small part of Kenley Common fringing the airfield. Follow the main path through the trees, but where it swings left to go past a high brick wall (a remnant of the old military Rifle Range) **keep ahead** up a short slope. At the top go through a gap in the low wall and keep ahead to come to the perimeter fence around Kenley Airfield.
   - On days when there are no gliders operating you might be able to take a short cut across the airfield. If the gates in the fence are open and you decide to do this, aim for the orange windsock 500m away; go out through a gate beyond it and continue the directions at [36].
35. At most times you will have to turn right and go around the airfield’s perimeter for 800m. After passing the hangars the path turns left to head N along its eastern side. Shortly after passing a weather station and the windsock there is a City of London information board for Kenley Common on the right, opposite the gate in the perimeter fence.
36. Although you could continue around the airfield the suggested route is to **veer right** off the perimeter here, onto a grassy path going downhill alongside Coxes Wood. In 150m there is a tree hedge stretching away to the left above a sloping area of grassland, with broad grassy paths on both sides of the hedge. **Turn left** and go all the way along the lower of these undulating grassy paths, at the top of Whyteleafe Bank.
   - You could also take the higher path (on the left of the hedge) for the first 250m, which leads to an information panel “The Restoration of Whyteleafe Bank”. If you do this, go down a linking track here to complete this stretch on the lower path.

**If you want to skip the rest of the walk and go directly to Whyteleafe station, follow the directions below.**

37. Finishing at Whyteleafe Station (+600m)
   - At the end of the low hedge on your right, turn right and go steeply downhill to the fence at the bottom of the downs. Go through a gate, zig-zag right and left through another gate to go down an awkward flight of steps to a residential cul-de-sac. Turn right and then veer sharply left to go out to the main road. Turn left and go down Whyteleafe Hill for 300m; you can cut across the station car park to Platform 1, for trains to London.

G. Whyteleafe Bank to Riddlesdown (2½ km)
38. To continue the walk **turn left** at the end of the low hedge onto a broad grassy path, uphill. In 50m **turn left** again through a fieldgate into the corner of a large meadow. Ignore the path straight ahead and **turn half-right** onto a grassy path going diagonally across it.
39. In the far corner bear right to go through a gap in the trees, crossing over the outward route of the Main Walk just before it went past the airfield’s main runway. Keep ahead at a path crossing to continue on a track heading N, initially between grassy banks and then on the edge of woodland.
   - Alternatively, you could take a parallel route along the top of the adjacent meadow for 350m, with views across the valley to your return route above Riddlesdown Quarry.
40. At the end of the meadow on the right keep ahead at a path crossing with a City of London information board for Kenley Common. Follow this woodland track (shown as Hawkhurst Road on maps) gently downhill for 500m, eventually coming to a cleared area on the right with views across the valley. Before the track leads into the road ahead, turn left onto another woodland track (Longdown Road on maps).

41. In 350m, again just before the track leads into a road, turn right onto a signposted footpath. Follow this twisting narrow path downhill alongside garden fences for 400m, eventually coming out onto a residential street (Valley Road).

- If you want to skip the rest of the walk Kenley station is 600m away to the left, on Valley Road (see Walk Map).

42. To continue the walk cross Valley Road onto a path leading down to the railway line. Cross the tracks carefully and go up Bourne View to the A22 (Godstone Road). Cross this main road carefully and take the short path opposite. Turn left to go along Garston Lane, parallel to and just above the main road. At the end of this cul-de-sac turn right at a footpath signpost and go up a flight of steps between houses onto Riddlesdown².

H. Riddlesdown to Whyteleafe • Upper Warlingham Station (2¾ km)

43. At the top of the steps ignore the footpath sign pointing left and bear right uphill on a chalky path, crossing a small open area. Go through a wooden kissing gate and follow a winding path up steps through a copse. Through the chainlink fence on the right you can see that you are crossing over the southern end of the Riddlesdown Tunnel on the Croydon-Oxted railway line.

44. At the top you come out onto a strip of grassland. Go though a gate in the hedge on the right and follow a grassy path slanting uphill, soon crossing over a stony track (Riddlesdown Road). Carry on along the top of the grassland for a further 250m and take the second gate on the left (the first would take you up through a copse to a residential street).

45. The second gate takes you into the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area¹³. Take a clear grassy path going diagonally across the meadow to the top right-hand corner and go through a gap in the trees into another meadow. For the next 1¼ km you will be following grassy paths along the top of the downs, always heading roughly SE.

46. The path through the first meadow stays about 50m from its left-hand edge. After going through a gap in the hedge at the far end take the right-hand of the two paths ahead. In 150m (shortly after passing a wooden bench) fork left where the path splits. The right fork carries straight on past a few more benches but later it has to veer left; it appears that the original right of way was diverted when the large quarry at the far end cut deeper into the hillside. The new path simply straightens out this kink.

- At this point you should be able to make out some of your earlier route across the valley, including the end of the main runway on Kenley Airfield.

47. The path continues along a broad grassy strip past the top of Riddlesdown Quarry¹⁴, protected by metal railings. At the far end go through a gap in the belt of trees ahead and follow a path across another large meadow, curving slightly to the right. On the far side take the right-hand of two paths towards the trees ahead. This goes into the trees and leads to the top of a long flight of steps.

48. Go down the steps into Whyteleafe Recreation Ground. The suggested refreshment stop is the Pavilion Café in the low building to the left of the tarmac path leading to the small car park on the far side: you can veer left towards it (or the car park for that matter) before reaching the bottom of the steps.

49. To complete the walk leave the Recreation Ground through the car park. Turn right onto the B270 (Hillbury Road) and go under the railway bridge.

- To go directly to Upper Warlingham station, turn left at the mini-roundabout and go all the way up Station Approach. If the booking office is locked, there is a gap onto Platform 1 (for trains to London) by the car park ticket machines.
50. For other refreshment options, or for Whyteleafe station, carry on down Hillbury Road and turn left onto the A22 at the large roundabout. The **Whyteleafe Tavern** is on the other side of the road at the roundabout; the **Radius Arms** and the **Whyteleafe Café** are in the parade of shops ahead on the left-hand side (although the café will probably have closed).

51. **Finishing at Whyteleafe Station**

- Either take the alleyway from the pedestrian lights by the shops or go down the road from the roundabout. If the level crossing is down, you can reach Platform 1 (for trains to London) via the footbridge from Platform 2.

52. **Finishing at Upper Warlingham Station**

- Carry on along the A22 and *turn left* into Station Road to come to the station at the top. If the booking office is locked, there is a gap onto Platform 1 (for trains to London) by the car park ticket machines.

**Walk Notes**

1. The station on the Oxted line was named *‘Upper’ Warlingham* when it opened in 1884 to distinguish it from another Warlingham station, lower down the valley on the Caterham line. It retained the unnecessary prefix when the other station was renamed Whyteleafe South in 1956.

2. **Kenley Common**, **Coulsdon Common**, **Farthing Downs** and **Riddlesdown** are owned and managed by the City of London Corporation. They are four of the seven “City Commons” in Surrey and south London which were purchased in the 1880s to preserve the area as open countryside for Londoners.

3. **Kenley Airfield** is one of the three RAF stations (with Croydon and Biggin Hill) specifically tasked with the defence of London in the Battle of Britain. It is owned by the Ministry of Defence and in active use by RAF air cadets and Surrey Hills Gliding Club, but the surrounding land is part of Kenley Common and open to the public.

4. The **RAF Kenley Tribute** was sculpted by Bridget Kendall in white Portland stone and installed in August 2000. It honours all the personnel who served between 1917 & 1959.

5. Cast-iron **Coal Tax posts** were erected in the 1860s to mark a taxation boundary. A levy on coal had been brought in to help pay for the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666, and with the growth of road and rail transport it was no longer practicable to collect it in the Port of London.

6. **Happy Valley** was purchased by Croydon Corporation in 1937 as public open space, in part to link the neighbouring City of London Commons into a contiguous area of Green Belt land.

7. The **Downlands Circular Walk** is actually two overlapping circular walks around Happy Valley and Chaldon. The longer (6 mile) walk runs between Farthing Downs and the North Downs Way; the shorter (3 mile) option is similar to this walk's ‘Chaldon loop’ from The Fox pub.

8. **Ss Peter & Paul, Chaldon** dates from 1086 and is Graded I listed. Its west wall is covered with a 12thC ‘doom mural’ in red and yellow ochre, the earliest known English wall painting. Intended as a visual aid to religious teaching, it depicts the ‘Ladder of Salvation of the Human Soul’ together with Purgatory and Hell.


10. The **Burial Ground** has been preserved as a memorial to the thousands of patients of St Lawrence’s Hospital (formerly Caterham Metropolitan Asylum) who were buried here between 1916 & 1965. A chapel on the site was demolished in 1971 and the hospital itself finally closed in 1994. The garden is ringed by black pines and also contains a fine western red cedar.

11. **Caterham Barracks** were built in 1877 as a depot for the Foot Guards regiments. After the barracks closed in 1995 the site was redeveloped by Linden Homes as ‘The Village at Caterham Barracks’.

12. The **Merlewood Estate Offices** are the operational yard for the City of London Corporation, housing their stock of Sussex cattle and Jacob’s sheep which graze the commons.

13. The **Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area** is jointly owned by Croydon and Tandridge Councils and the Whitgift Foundation. The three owners are working with Natural England to restore the 200 acres of chalk downland under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

14. Chalk was mined at **Riddlesdown Quarry** from the late 18thC to 1967, and burnt in kilns to produce lime. The site was bought by the City of London Corporation in 1996 and is part of Riddlesdown’s Site of Special Scientific Interest.