



Woldingham to Oxted walk

Close to London, this walk combines stretches of both The North Downs Way, and the Greensand Way.

Length	<p>Main Walk: 16¾ km (10.4 miles). Four hours 20 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 8 hours.</p> <p>Short Walk, omitting Godstone: 11½ km (7.1 miles). Two hours 55 minutes walking time.</p>
OS Map	Explorer 146. Woldingham, map reference TQ359563, is in Surrey, 2 km S of Warlingham.
Toughness	5 out of 10 (3 for the Short Walk).
Features	<p>This walk is only just outside the London boundary and yet the first part through Marden Park and a steady climb up the side of the valley into Marden Park Woods feels completely rural. In these woods the route joins the North Downs Way and heads west on an undulating stretch, still mostly through woodland. This section ends at a fine viewpoint on Gravelly Hill, a good picnic spot if you can put up with the incessant grumbling from the M25 below.</p> <p>The walk then descends from the North Downs ridge into the attractive village of Godstone, which features a large green and a good choice of places for lunch. The afternoon route mostly follows the Greensand Way, heading east from Godstone to Oxted. This section is quite different in character: a more open landscape dotted with small settlements, including one with a magnificent ancient tree in its churchyard, the Tandrige Yew.</p> <p><i>In wet weather the chalk paths in the first half of the walk can be slippery. There are also some potentially muddy stretches throughout the walk, especially on the alternative afternoon route via Broadham Green.</i></p>
Walk Options	There are alternative routes for both the start and finish of the Main Walk, allowing you to do a slightly longer or shorter walk respectively. In addition, the directions include two short cuts which reduce it by up to 2½ km.

Directions are also given for a **Short Walk**. This takes the alternative morning route to South Hawke and then descends immediately from the ridge into Old Oxted, omitting Godstone. The Main Walk's two afternoon routes then make up an (optional) afternoon loop out to Tandridge.

Additional Notes

The start of the Main Walk was changed in 2015 to include a new permissive path between the two parts of Marden Park Woods, reducing the stretch along the North Downs Way which overlooks the M25. The original route via South Hawke was retained as the 'alternative morning route'.

Some changes were also made to the Short Walk in 2018. A new permissive path through Great Church Wood was included, and the direction of the Tandridge loop was reversed to take advantage of a newly-refurbished lunch pub (see below).

Transport

There is a half-hourly service from Victoria to Woldingham, taking 35 minutes. Buy a **return to Oxted**, which is one stop further down the line. In addition to the half-hourly Victoria trains Oxted has a faster hourly service (Mon–Sat) to London Bridge.

There are several useful bus routes from Godstone Green if you want to finish the Main Walk after lunch. Metrobus 400 runs hourly to Caterham and Redhill (two-hourly Sun); Southdown 409 runs hourly (Mon–Sat) to Caterham; Southdown 410 runs hourly (two-hourly Sun) to Oxted and Redhill.

If driving, Woldingham station car park costs £5.20 Mon–Sat, £2.15 Sun & BH (2018). At weekends parking space is also available in Church Road. Oxted station car park is free after 10am, but you are unlikely to find a space during the week.

Suggested Train

Take the train nearest to **09:50** from **Victoria** to **Woldingham** for the **Main Walk**. If you take the next one, you could do the short cut in §2b to catch up a group on the earlier train. For the **Short Walk**, take the train nearest to **10:50**.

Lunch

The **Main Walk** route passes **Godstone Vineyards** (01883-744590) and if its cafeteria is open you could detour there for mid-morning refreshments. The suggested place to stop for lunch is **Godstone**, 9½ km along the main route, which has three pubs and two tearooms around its large village green. The **Hare & Hounds** (01883-742296) serves typical pub food; the alternatives are the **White Hart** (01883-742521) and the more up-market **Bell Inn** (01883-741877). Light lunches are available at the **Green Rooms of Godstone** (01883-740407) opposite the Hare & Hounds, and the **Old Forge Deli Café** (01883-743230) near the White Hart.

There are several more pubs before you reach Oxted, although these are more conveniently placed for the **Short Walk**. This goes through **Old Oxted** after 5½ km, another village with three pubs close together on its short High Street: the **Old Bell** (Chef & Brewer, 01883-712181), the **George Inn** (01883-713453) and the **Crown Inn** (01883-717853). A little further on, however, the suggested lunch place on this variation is **The Haycutter** (01883-776955) in **Broadham Green**, which re-opened in Autumn 2017 after a long closure. A final option (requiring a short detour) is the **Barley Mow** (01883-713770) in **Tandridge**.

Tea

There are several cafés and coffee shops in the main part of **Oxted**. Two possible tea places in Station Road West are **Robertsons** at #42 (01883-712777; open daily to 5pm), a specialist coffee shop with a small tearoom at

the back; and **Café Papillon** at #54 (01883-717031; nominally open to 5pm Mon–Sat, 2pm Sun, but may stop serving earlier). There is also a conveniently placed JD Wetherspoon's pub right next to the station, the **Oxted Inn** (01883-723440).

There are more tea places in Station Road East, on the other side of the station; eg. **Caffè Nero** at #139 (01883-730220; open to 6pm Mon–Sat, 5pm Sun), **Coughlans Bakery** at #76 (01883-716972; open to 5pm Mon–Sat, 3pm Sun) and **Costa Coffee** at #62 (01883-723149; open to 6.30pm Mon–Sat, 5.30pm Sun).

Help Us! After the walk, we would love to get your [feedback](#)

Photos Upload your photos to the [SWC Group on Flickr](#), and [videos to YouTube](#). This walk's tags are:



By Car **Start** CR3 7LT **Finish** RH8 9EU

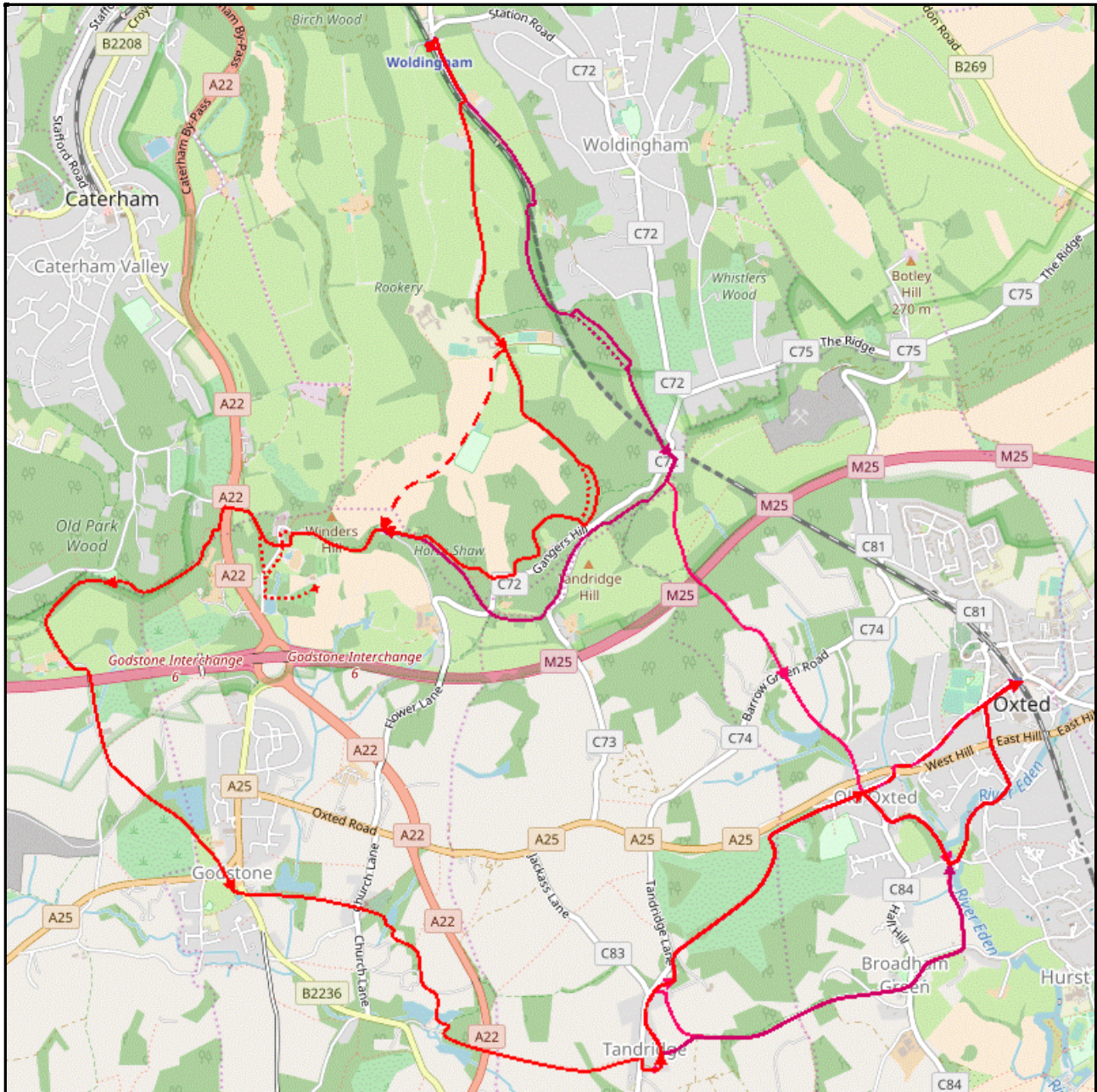
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Walk Directions

Walk Map



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Walk Options (Main | Short)

- M. Main Walk (16¾ km)
 - i. Main Walk, with alternative route (morning) (17¼ km)
 - ii. Main Walk, with alternative route (afternoon) (16¼ km)
 - iii. Main Walk, with both alternative routes (16¾ km)
- a. Short Walk, omitting Godstone (11½ km)
- ai. Short Walk, omitting Tandridge loop (7½ km)

Walk Directions

If you are doing the Short Walk (or the alternative morning route on the Main Walk), start at §3.

1. Woldingham Station to Woldingham School (2 km)

Leave the station through the entrance to its car park and turn sharp right up Church Road. There is a board on the left with a map of **Marden Park**¹ and the **Woldingham Countryside Walk**² (WCW). Go along this lane for 500m to Church Road Farm, with fields up to your left and the railway in a cutting on your right.

Just before the farm buildings, with a partly-concealed WCW signpost on the left, **turn right** onto a bridge across the railway. The track bends left past some modern cottages to reach Marden Park Farm. Keep ahead past the farm buildings, ignoring footpaths off to both sides. This bridleway now goes **S** between hedges for 1 km, rising gently above the valley on your right.

Ignore a path off to the left signposted to South Hawke and continue downhill past the buildings of Woldingham School. After passing a small cemetery on the left there is a footpath ahead leading into a field where the driveway turns right.

2. Woldingham School to South Lodge (2¾ or 1¼ km)

The main route meanders through some attractive woodland in the valley ahead, but if you are in a hurry you could take the short cut along the school's driveway in §2b.

a. Main route (2¾ km)

Go over the stile and follow a grassy path along the left-hand side of the long valley, climbing gently. At the top of the slope keep left and go through a wooden kissing gate into **Marden Park Woods**³. Turn right and follow the main woodland path for 400m, initially heading **SE** and ignoring paths off to the left (unless you want to explore the maze of twisty paths around the deep marl⁴ pits in this Open Access wood).

You come to a major path junction in front of a large beech tree where the simplest route is to keep ahead (slightly to the left), following a WCW waymarker and ignoring broad paths off to both sides. In a further 150m, at a Woodland Trust signpost, ignore a path on the left to the car park and again keep ahead. The (potentially muddy) path bends slightly right to head **S**.

If this main path is too muddy there are several places where you could switch to a parallel alternative path away to your right, but this has become slightly awkward to follow.

In 200m the main path reaches a wooden vehicle barrier in front of a lane. Do not go out onto the road but instead **turn right** onto a broad path going down the slope. Keep left at a little triangle of paths to head **W** down into the wood (if you were on the alternative path, keep right at this path junction). In 150m **veer left** through a wooden barrier onto a signposted permissive path into woodland around Chaldons Farm (if you miss this, the original path soon peters out at a fence in front of a field).

You will be following a clear path for 500m through this wood. In about 150m it bends left and climbs back up the slope, heading roughly **S** and soon with a more open area visible off to the left. After a similar distance turn right as indicated by a small "Path" sign, going back downhill again. At the edge of the wood the path veers left, then finally turns right to emerge in the corner of a small open area dotted with trees at the head of a valley.

Continue alongside a low hedge and go between wooden posts on the far side into another part of Marden Park Woods. Turn right onto a woodland path and in 100m fork left at a path junction. In a further 100m there is another fork with a signpost for the **North Downs Way**⁶ (NDW) ahead on the left-hand path but the suggested route is to fork right. This permissive path runs parallel to the NDW for 200m, past a row of magnificent beech trees. At the end, veer left and right at path junctions to join the NDW.

The NDW soon comes out at a clearing with a bench and views of Godstone and Tilburstow Hill, then drops steeply downhill to leave Marden Park. The path merges with a track from the left and meets a driveway from the right (the short cut route) in front of South Lodge.

b. Short cut (1¼ km)

For the short cut, follow the drive down to the right. At the bottom of the slope turn left through the school gates and simply follow its long driveway all the way to South Lodge, past playing fields and then farmland. At the end **turn right** onto the North Downs Way.

Continue the directions at §5.

3. Woldingham Station to South Hawke (3 km)

Leave the station through the entrance to its car park and turn sharp right up Church Road. There is a board on the left with a map of **Marden Park**¹ and the **Woldingham Countryside Walk**² (WCW). Go along this lane for 500m to Church Road Farm, with fields up to your left and the railway in a cutting on your right.

Keep ahead past the farm buildings onto an unsurfaced lane. In 300m keep ahead at a four-way footpath signpost. In a further 300m, as indicated by a WCW signpost on the left, **veer right** down a few steps and go through a metal kissing gate onto a path between fences. This heads slightly away from the lane and then zig-zags right and left over the entrance to a railway tunnel. Follow the path **S** for 600m as it climbs steadily uphill through a mossy wood.

After a final climb **turn left** at a T-junction marked by a three-way signpost. In 100m you come to another path junction, with a new wooden signpost. You could fork right onto the bridleway leading directly to the car park at South Hawke (the original route), but the suggested route is to **fork left** uphill and then **immediately turn right** onto a path into **Great Church Wood**⁵.

Stay on the main woodland path as it meanders through this Local Nature Reserve, heading **SE** and with occasional glimpses of the bridleway down to your right. In 400m another path merges from the left and you go down a flight of steps cut into the bank. Turn left onto the bridleway at the bottom, rejoining the original route. The path climbs gently for 500m, with views across the valley on your right, and eventually leads into a small car park.

If you are doing the Short Walk (omitting Godstone), go to §10.

4. South Hawke to South Lodge (2¼ km)

Leave the car park and cross the lane (Gangers Hill) carefully. Go down a short flight of steps opposite (slightly to the right) and turn right onto the **North Downs Way**⁶ (NDW), heading **SW**. After 150m there is a bench at the top of Oxted Downs from which to admire a fine view⁷ to the **SE**, with the Greensand Hills behind the towns of Oxted and Limpsfield.

For the **Main Walk** continue along the NDW. In 75m follow the main path round to the right and uphill, ignoring a bridleway ahead into the woods. The path turns left to run alongside Gangers Hill. At the end ignore signposted footpaths off to both sides and continue along the lane for 75m to a junction.

Turn left briefly onto the single-track road (Tandridge Hill Lane) going downhill and take the signposted footpath on its right-hand side. Follow this path downhill, slightly above and away from the road. Eventually the path descends a few steps and goes alongside the lane for a short distance. Go through a metal kissing gate and bear right onto the signposted bridleway into Hanging Wood.

The bridleway climbs gradually, with a small field on the right, then meets a lane (Gangers Hill again). Cross over the lane, go up steps opposite and through a wooden barrier. Head **NW** along a clear path through the woods, turning half-left after 250m at a NDW signpost. In a further 200m the main route (which has been on a parallel permissive path) joins from the right.

The NDW soon comes out at a clearing with a bench and views of Godstone and Tilburstow Hill, then drops steeply downhill to leave Marden Park. The path merges with a track from the left and meets a driveway from the right (the short cut route) in front of South Lodge.

5. South Lodge to Gravelly Hill (2¼ km)

Head **W** along the NDW (which the main route follows all the way to Gravelly Hill). The track bends left and right, then passes a vineyard⁸ and some cottages on the left. At the end of the fence on your left the NDW turns left, as indicated by a four-way footpath signpost.

If you want to detour to Godstone Vineyards (which has a cafeteria), follow the route in §5b.

a. Main route

Turn left to stay on the NDW. The path goes down steps alongside the fence and curves right to meet a lane (the continuation of the track you were on). Cross over onto the footpath opposite, going up a few steps and following the potentially muddy path as it curves left and then right. 200m from the lane the path drops down to merge with a sunken byway from the left.

b. Route via Godstone Vineyards (+1¼ km)

For the detour, **keep ahead** at the signpost and follow the lane downhill and round to the left, passing a large storage facility. In 350m the lane merges with a byway from the right (your return route). On reaching a fishing lake **turn left** for the vineyard, which is a further 300m along this access road.

Afterwards, retrace your steps down the access road and turn right. In 125m **fork left** onto the byway, rejoining the main route from a path on the right after 300m.

Go along the byway for 150m. Soon after open fields appear on the right, **turn left** and cross a field to a footbridge over the A22. Go across it and **turn left** into a wood, following the NDW sign. The path twists round to the right and then climbs a short flight of steps where you turn left at the top. Soon there is another flight of steps and again you turn left at the top.

The path now straightens out and heads **SW** for 400m, then bends right and goes up a short slope. In 200m bear left to come out onto an open patch of ground alongside Gravelly Hill road, with a fine view towards the South Downs.

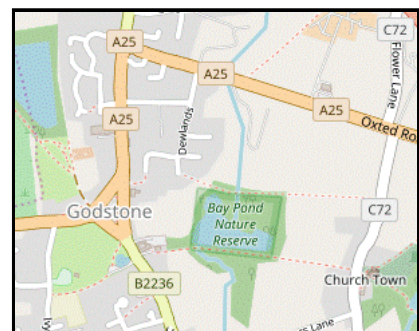
6. Gravelly Hill to Godstone (2½ km)

Continue **W** alongside the road, taking either of two paths half-left into the trees at the end of the open ground (they soon merge). This becomes an attractive path going gently downhill between yew trees. After 400m **fork left** (leaving the NDW), now going more steeply downhill, and at the next junction again take the left fork. This track continues downhill, eventually coming out onto a farm road in front of the M25.

Turn left and follow the road **S** onto a bridge across the motorway, which leads to the **Orpheus Centre**⁹. Ignore a footpath on the left 50m after these buildings, but in a further 75m **go over a stile on the left** at a second footpath sign. Turn half-right and head **SE** across the field towards a wood.

Cross a works access road in front of the wood and follow an enclosed path through the trees, with security fences and plenty of forbidding notices to discourage access to the disused reservoirs on both sides. At the end the path enters a field and heads towards some houses; leave the field through a gate and turn right to reach Godstone¹⁰ green.

The first of the possible lunch stops is on the left, the **Hare & Hounds** pub. To reach the others (or to continue the walk) cross the A25 carefully and head **SE** on the edge of the village green, passing the **Green Rooms of Godstone** and the **Old Forge Deli Café** on the other side of the main road. The walk route continues on a path to the right of the **White Hart**, on the B2236 opposite the village pond; the **Bell Inn** is a little further along this road.



7. Godstone to Tandridge (3 km)

Leave Godstone by a tarmac path heading **E** to the right of the White Hart, signposted to the Parish Church. You pass to the right of White Hart Barn, then the large **Bay Pond**¹¹ comes into view on the left. The path eventually reaches Church Lane, opposite **St Nicholas'** church¹².

A short detour to the right would take you to the attractive mock-Tudor St Mary's almshouses; the houses are private but the beautiful little chapel (on your left as you go in) is open to the public.

Enter the churchyard and pass to the right of the church. The path bears right and goes gently downhill¹³. Leave the churchyard and continue in the same direction along a narrow path which bends around Glebe Water. At the end of the pond the path turns right and then curves left uphill in front of a strange avenue of tightly-packed conifers. Go across a field and continue on a path through a small copse.

On reaching an open field, turn right and go down the side of the field, heading **S**. Bear right past a gate with a redundant stile to leave the field, joining a bridleway coming in from the right. Follow this track round to the left in front of some old stables.

50m after the stables, **turn right** at a footpath sign and go over a stile. This leads downhill to a path between Leigh Place Ponds, although the larger pond is now screened behind a high wooden fence. At the end of the smaller pond **turn left** to walk alongside it. In 75m **turn sharp right** to go past Leigh Mill House and down to a T-junction, where you **turn left** to join the **Greensand Way**¹⁴ (GW).

Follow this path gently uphill, heading **E** with a fence on your right. At the top of the rise keep ahead to meet the A22 and **cross this busy road with great care**. On the far side the GW continues through farmland for 900m, at first gently uphill and then across a dip where you go through a gap in some trees.

The path eventually comes out between houses onto Tandridge Lane. Cross the road and turn right to go past the **Barley Mow**. **Turn left** onto a footpath (imaginatively named The Walk) going past its "Ramblers Rest" bar. The path turns left to go past the back of its beer garden and in 100m comes to a Y-junction in front of the entrance to a small garage block, with a narrow path (the continuation of the GW) branching off to their right.

If you are doing the alternative afternoon route (via Broadham Green), go to §14.

8. Tandridge to Old Oxted (2¼ km)

At the junction **fork left** (leaving the GW) and follow the path gently uphill between houses and gardens. At the top turn right onto Tandridge Lane and keep right at a minor road junction after 100m. Go across two driveways to come to the tarmac path leading to the church.

Go up the path and through the lychgate into the churchyard. As you approach **St Peter's** church¹⁵ (which is usually locked) you pass the magnificent **Tandridge Yew**¹⁶. **Turn left** between this ancient tree and the church to rejoin Tandridge Lane, then almost immediately **bear right** onto a signposted footpath through a small copse. At the end of the trees, cross a driveway and go through a kissing gate into a field. Follow the grassy path uphill to another gate, which leads you onto a golf course.

The path heads **NE**, slightly downhill through trees. At the end of the trees keep ahead across a fairway, aiming just to the left of a house. Take the tarmac drive which starts alongside the house and follow it all the way through the golf course, taking care as you cross more fairways near the end. After leaving the course and crossing its access road, turn right onto a tarmac path above the A25.

The path descends and later curves away from the main road, following the course of the old Godstone Road. A slip road from the A25 joins from the left and you continue to a crossroads in the centre of **Old Oxted**, with the **Old Bell** opposite and two more pubs ahead if you want to break for refreshment.

9. Old Oxted to Oxted Station (2 or 1 km)

The main route to the station loops round via Oxted Mill, but if you are in a hurry you could take the short cut along roads in §9b.

a. Main route (2 km)

From the crossroads head **S** on Beadles Lane for 200m, then **turn left** in front of a new housing development¹⁷ into Springfield. Where this street bends left **keep ahead** on a signposted footpath, briefly along a driveway and then a narrow fenced path to its right. This soon curves round to the right, later with a stream on the left. Follow the path past a mill pond to Spring Lane, with the converted **Oxted Mill** ahead on your left.

Go past Oxted Mill to the sluice-gate at the end of the mill pond and take the signposted footpath on the left, over a stile into a meadow. Follow the grassy path heading **NE**, later with gardens and a stream on the left. Cross the stream at a weir and go up a driveway to a road (Woodhurst Lane).

Turn left and go along the road for 100m. At its junction with Woodhurst Park **turn half-left** onto a tarmac path between fences, which climbs steadily and in 200m comes out onto the A25. **Cross this busy road with great care** and go straight ahead down East Hill Road. Turn right at a roundabout into Station Road West.

b. Short cut (1 km)

From the crossroads head **E** down the High Street, soon passing the **George Inn** and the **Crown Inn**. Just before the last house on the left **turn left** onto a tarmac path leading to an underpass. On the other side of the A25 continue along the path to a road junction and **turn left** into Church Lane, signposted to the station and town centre. In 600m keep ahead at a roundabout into Station Road West.

The station is at the end of this road, 225m away. There are two possible tea places towards the end of the parade of shops on the right: **Robertsons** and **Café Papillon**. The **Oxted Inn** is on the right of the station entrance.

You could also take the pedestrian tunnel under the station and go through a small parking area into Station Road East: **Caffè Nero** is on the left; **Coughlans Bakery** and other coffee shops are down the road to the right.



10. South Hawke to Barrow Green Road (1½ km)

Leave the car park and cross the lane (Gangers Hill) carefully. Go down a short flight of steps opposite (slightly to the right) and turn right onto the **North Downs Way**⁶ (NDW), heading **SW**. After 150m there is a bench at the top of Oxted Downs from which to admire a fine view⁷ to the **SE**, with the Greensand Hills behind the towns of Oxted and Limpsfield.

For the **Short Walk** go through a gate with a yellow waymarker near the left-hand end of the fence at the viewpoint. Follow a grassy path down through the field, initially near its left-hand edge and then slanting steeply down to the right. At the bottom of the slope go through a metal kissing gate and continue on a broad grassy strip between fields. Go over a stile beside a metal fieldgate, joining a bridleway coming in from the right.

Cross the M25 footbridge and continue on the bridleway for 750m, with numerous "Private Property" signs and CCTV cameras to dissuade you from straying off the right of way. Towards the end you pass the buildings of **Barrow Green Court** behind a high security fence on the left, and farm buildings on the right where the path meets Barrow Green Road.

11. Barrow Green Road to Oxted Mill (1¾ km)

Cross Barrow Green Road carefully and squeeze through an inconspicuous metal gate in the hedge opposite onto a footpath between wire fences, still heading **SE**. On your right you pass **The Mount** (a small hill) and later the tree-lined **Townland Pond**. At the end turn right onto Sandy Lane and head **S** along it for 200m, passing under the A25 and going up to a crossroads in **Old Oxted**.

The full Short Walk returns here after looping through Broadham Green and Tandridge (which also have pubs), but if you want to break for refreshment now there are three pubs within 100m on the left: the **Old Bell**, the **George Inn** and the **Crown Inn**.

From the crossroads head **S** on Beadles Lane for 200m, then **turn left** in front of a new housing development¹⁷ into Springfield. Where this street bends left **keep ahead** on a signposted footpath, briefly along a driveway and then a narrow fenced path to its right. This soon curves round to the right, later with a stream on the left. Follow the path past a mill pond to Spring Lane, with the converted **Oxted Mill** ahead on your left.

If you are not doing the Tandridge loop, complete the directions at §15.

12. Oxted Mill to Tandridge Lane (2½ km)

Go straight across Spring Lane onto a driveway, joining the **Greensand Way**¹⁴ (GW). The drive veers right and left past garages and continues alongside Mill House End's garden. After passing the house go through a metal kissing gate and follow the path across three fields, negotiating some potentially muddy stiles between them. The path comes out onto Tanhouse Road opposite **The Haycutter**, the suggested lunchtime stop on the Short Walk.

The walk continues on the broad grassy strip alongside Tanhouse Road (ie. turn left if coming out of the pub). Where this opens out onto a small triangular green, bear left to cut across it. On the far side cross Broadham Green Road and continue on the signposted bridleway off to the left by the 40mph road signs, heading **W** through a gap between the houses alongside the green.

In 200m keep ahead at a crossing, now on tarmac driveway. In a further 200m you need to **keep left** where the drive swings right into some private properties. On the next stretch the sunken bridleway can be muddy, but if necessary you can veer off it to the left in some places.

The track climbs gently and then goes steadily downhill, with occasional views across the Eden Valley through the trees on the left. At the bottom of the slope the path goes under a low bridge and continues between hedges, with a meadow on the left. In 150m there is a gate into the meadow which is the continuation of the GW.

If you want to visit the Barley Mow, follow the directions in §12b.

a. Main route

Stay on the bridleway, leaving the GW. The track soon curves right and climbs steadily, eventually becoming a tarmac driveway. After going past farm buildings it curves left to come out onto a minor road (Tandridge Lane) at the top of the village. Turn right onto the road and cross another driveway to come to the tarmac path leading to the church.

b. Route via the Barley Mow (+500m)

For the pub **turn left** through the gate and follow a grassy path sloping up to the right. At the brow of the hill keep right and go up to a metal kissing gate in the corner. Go through this onto a short sunken path through a belt of trees, which turns left and merges with a broad path from the right.

You soon pass the beer garden of the **Barley Mow** on the right and the path swings round to its "Ramblers Rest" bar. After visiting the pub retrace your steps up the path behind its beer garden as far as the path junction where you came down from the right.

At the junction **fork left** (leaving the GW) and follow the path gently uphill between houses and gardens. At the top turn right onto Tandridge Lane and keep right at a minor road junction after 100m. Go across two driveways to come to the tarmac path leading to the church.

13. Tandridge Lane to Oxted Station (2¾ km)

Go up the path and through the lychgate into the churchyard. As you approach **St Peter's** church¹⁵ (which is usually locked) you pass the magnificent **Tandridge Yew**¹⁶. **Turn left** between this ancient tree and the church to rejoin Tandridge Lane,

then almost immediately **bear right** onto a signposted footpath through a small copse. At the end of the trees, cross a driveway and go through a kissing gate into a field. Follow the grassy path uphill to another gate, which leads you onto a golf course.

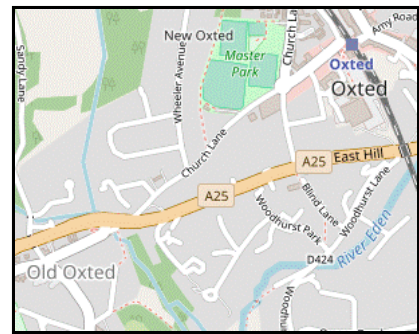
The path heads **NE**, slightly downhill through trees. At the end of the trees keep ahead across a fairway, aiming just to the left of a house. Take the tarmac drive which starts alongside the house and follow it all the way through the golf course, taking care as you cross more fairways near the end. After leaving the course and crossing its access road, turn right onto a tarmac path above the A25.

The path descends and later curves away from the main road, following the course of the old Godstone Road. A slip road from the A25 joins from the left and you continue to a crossroads in the centre of **Old Oxted**, with the **Old Bell** opposite and two more pubs ahead if you want to break for refreshment.

From the crossroads head **E** down the High Street, soon passing the **George Inn** and the **Crown Inn**. Just before the last house on the left **turn left** onto a tarmac path leading to an underpass. On the other side of the A25 continue along the path to a road junction and **turn left** into Church Lane, signposted to the station and town centre. In 600m keep ahead at a roundabout into Station Road West.

The station is at the end of this road, 225m away. There are two possible tea places towards the end of the parade of shops on the right: **Robertsons** and **Café Papillon**. The **Oxted Inn** is on the right of the station entrance.

You could also take the pedestrian tunnel under the station and go through a small parking area into Station Road East: **Caffè Nero** is on the left; **Coughlans Bakery** and other coffee shops are down the road to the right.



14. Tandridge to Oxted Mill (2½ km)

At the junction **fork right**, staying on the GW. The narrow path soon turns right to go up through a belt of trees. Go out through a metal kissing gate into a meadow and follow a grassy path straight ahead, then slightly to the left and downhill. At the bottom go through an old gate and turn right onto a track.

Head **E** along this bridleway, soon climbing gently and with occasional views across the Eden Valley through the trees on the right. The track can be muddy, but if necessary you can veer off it to the right in some places. In 800m you join a tarmac driveway going gently downhill, then in 200m go straight across the driveway to Oxted Place. After a further potentially muddy 200m you come out between houses onto a green in front of Broadham Green Road.

Cross the road and turn half-left to go across a small triangular green. In the far corner bear right onto a broad grassy strip alongside Tanhouse Road. In 150m cross the road opposite **The Haycutter** and go over a stile onto a grassy path heading roughly **N** across three fields, negotiating some potentially muddy stiles between them. At the end of the last field go through a metal kissing gate and continue between a house and stables to come out onto Spring Lane, with the converted **Oxted Mill** on the right.

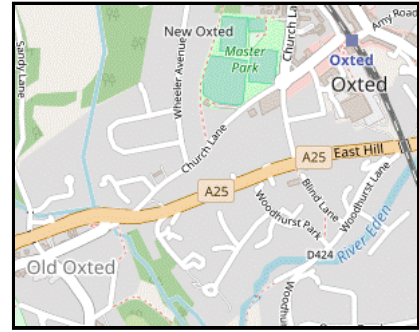
15. Oxted Mill to the Station (1¼ km)

Go past Oxted Mill to the sluice-gate at the end of the mill pond and take the signposted footpath on the left, over a stile into a meadow. Follow the grassy path heading **NE**, later with gardens and a stream on the left. Cross the stream at a weir and go up a driveway to a road (Woodhurst Lane).

Turn left and go along the road for 100m. At its junction with Woodhurst Park **turn half-left** onto a tarmac path between fences, which climbs steadily and in 200m comes out onto the A25. **Cross this busy road with great care** and go straight ahead down East Hill Road. Turn right at a roundabout into Station Road West.

The station is at the end of this road, 225m away. There are two possible tea places towards the end of the parade of shops on the right: **Robertsons** and **Café Papillon**. The **Oxted Inn** is on the right of the station entrance.

You could also take the pedestrian tunnel under the station and go through a small parking area into Station Road East: **Caffè Nero** is on the left; **Coughlans Bakery** and other coffee shops are down the road to the right.



Walk Notes

1. **Marden Park** and its estate were built up by Sir Robert Clayton, Lord Mayor of London in 1679-80. The original house was replaced in 1879 and the buildings at the centre of the estate are now Woldingham School.
2. The **Woldingham Countryside Walk** essentially follows the triangular route defined by Woldingham station, South Hawke and South Lodge, with optional routes into Marden Park Woods. It is waymarked in both directions.
3. **Marden Park Woods** are split into two sites on the North Downs ridge, linked by a permissive path around the back of Chaldons Farm. The woods are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust.
4. **Marl** is a mixture of clay and limestone, formerly added to sandy soils to improve their fertility.
5. Now part of Marden Park Woods, **Great Church Wood** was once owned by Sir Adrian Boult, the conductor.
6. The **North Downs Way** runs for 246 km along the length of the North Downs (with two sections at its eastern end), from Farnham in Surrey to Dover in Kent.
7. The Greensand Hills behind Oxted and Limpsfield are known as the **High Chart**, while in the distance is the high ground of the **Sussex Weald**. The prominent redbrick building on the hillside opposite used to be **St Michael's** school; it closed in 2002 and is now a block of luxury apartments.
8. **Godstone Vineyards** have been producing white, rosé and sparkling wines since 1988.
9. The **Orpheus Centre** is a performing arts centre for young disabled adults, founded in 1998 by Richard Stilgoe.
10. Even William Cobbett (normally a stern critic) acknowledged in his classic *Rural Rides* that **Godstone** was “a beautiful village”. He was less complimentary of its neighbour, Bletchingley: “happily for Godstone, out of sight”.
11. **Bay Pond** used to provide the water power for a large gunpowder factory in the 17thC. It is now managed as a Nature Reserve by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.
12. **St Nicholas, Godstone** dates from the 13thC, replacing an earlier Norman church. The north aisle was added in 1845 and the whole church was restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1872-3. He also designed the mock-Tudor St Mary's almshouses alongside St Nicholas.
13. Off to the left of the churchyard path there is a **sarsen stone memorial** to Edmund Seyfang Taylor (1853-1908), who under the name **Walker Miles** wrote and published a series of “Field-Path Rambles”: pocket-sized walking guides for Surrey and Kent which were known for their meticulous attention to detail. He was a founding member of the Federation of Rambling Clubs, which in 1935 became the Ramblers Association.
14. 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.
15. **St Peter, Tandridge** dates from around 1100. It was restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 19thC, and there is a marble tomb-monument in the churchyard to his wife (Lady Scott) who died in 1872. The church contains a reproduction of the famous *Ghent Altarpiece*, by the van Eyck brothers.
16. The **Tandridge Yew** is a female tree which still produces berries. It is exceptionally tall and has a girth of 11 metres. Judging by its measured rate of growth it is at least 1,000 years old; some sources speculate that it is much older. There is a yew tree of a similar age in the village of Crowhurst, 4 km south of Tandridge.
17. The new housing development at Springfield is on the site of Oxted's **Old School**, as shown by the “Oxtead National Schools 1872” inscription preserved on the stone wall.

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