

## WOLDINGHAM CIRCULAR



**Challenging Terrain**

**5.5 km  
Circular  
1.5 hours**

160515



### Access Notes

1. The walk has several long climbs and descents throughout.
2. There are no gates or stiles on route but you will need to negotiate a couple of flights of steps. Most of the paths are firm, but some sections can become muddy after wet weather so stout shoes or boots are recommended.
3. There are some stretches of road walking along quiet residential/access lanes so take care of any traffic at these points.

**An enjoyable 3.5 mile (5.5km) circular walk from Woldingham station. Woldingham sits in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is surrounded by steep hills and sweeping valleys.**

The walk follows quiet residential roads and passes through woodland and farmland. Look out for the old stone footpath markers at the ends of some of the paths. This walk is part of the Explore Surrey collection, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and Surrey County Council.

There are toilets at the station, open when the ticket office is open. If you are looking for refreshments there are a couple of options. There is a tearoom in Knights Garden Centre, just a few minutes' walk along Woldingham Road from Waypoint 5 and the village shops are a few minutes' walk south of Waypoint 1 (along Station Road past the church). Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 146 Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate. This walk follows public footpaths and bridleways that cross private land. Information is included for your interest, but please respect peoples' privacy, keep dogs under control and remember the Countryside Code.

## Getting there

The walk starts and finishes at Woldingham Rail Station in Surrey. For help with planning your journey by public transport please visit <http://journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info>. If you are coming by car, there are a few places to park near Woldingham Rail Station. There is a pay and display car park at the station, a district council pay and display car park on Woldingham Road near the station, plus limited parking along Church Road adjacent to the railway. The rail station car park fee is £5 per day on Mon-Sat and £2 per day on Sundays and bank holidays (correct Mar 2015).

Approximate post code **CR3 7LT**. Grid ref: TQ359563.

## Walk Sections

### Go → 1 Start to Station Road

Leave the front entrance of the ticket office into the station car park. Come out of the car park through the vehicle entrance and walk straight ahead, uphill, using the right-hand pavement of Station Road. Immediately

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after passing the electricity substation on the right, turn right up the tall flight of steps. At the top, bear left and follow the tarmac path (still climbing) to reach a junction with a road. (On the right you will see the first of many stone footpath markers along this route).

Turn left and continue through the residential estate. The estate was built on land bought by a Mr William Gilford after the railway was built in the late 19th century. The land was divided into lots of approximately one and a half acres each, and sold for housing. Gilford would only permit houses of more than £400 in value and stipulated that all buildings (except lodges) must stand at least 25 feet from the road, and could not be used for industry.

At the end of Park View Road, turn left for a short (but welcome!) downhill stretch to reach a T-junction with Station Road.

## 1 → 2 Station Road to Steps Junction



Cross over the road with care and turn right along the pavement. Immediately after the property called Sunnyside on the left, turn left to join a narrow footpath which leads you downhill between gardens.

At the end you will come to a road and you will see a choice of two footpaths opposite, one at 10 o'clock and one at 1 o'clock. Take the left-hand path (at 10 o'clock) and follow this for 850m passing first between houses and then through a section of woodland.

This path is known as Madeira Walk. Further along, where you emerge from the trees, there are excellent views to the left (north-west) towards London. You are looking at the gentle dip slope of the North Downs, and across the Caterham Valley. The valley is one of a number of dry valleys which run north-south across the line of the North Downs, and are thought to have been cut by northflowing rivers after the last Ice Age. The open area near to the path is a remnant of chalk grassland, which has

a rich variety of plants.

You will come to a small section of fencing at a signed junction of paths, with some shallow woodland steps visible ahead.

## 2 → 3 Steps Junction to Woldingham Garden Village



Bear slightly right here (at about 1 o'clock) to climb the shallow steps. Keep straight ahead on the path between fences and you will emerge to a crossroads with a narrow tarmac lane. Do NOT take the footpath which continues opposite, instead turn right along the residential road.

## 3 → 4 Woldingham Garden Village to High Shaw



You are now in Woldingham Garden Village, which was originally built at the beginning of the First World War to house the Public Schools Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. As war casualties mounted, it was converted into a convalescent camp. There was a comprehensive programme of entertainment organised for the residents, and people from Woldingham village used to walk to the camp along Madeira Walk to attend. The founder of the Garden Village was Henry Fuller Morriss. He was a scrap merchant and was once the Mayor of Bermondsey. He bought the camp just after the war for about £10,000. Small properties were badly wanted as 'Homes for Heroes' and many of the buildings were converted into bungalows. A number of these are still standing today.

Follow the main tarmac road around the Garden Village (swinging left, then left again, then right, then left), ignoring any footpaths signed to the sides. After passing property No. 1, you



will come to a T-junction with Hilltop Walk. Turn right and follow the road for just 90m to draw level with the property High Shaw on the left.

## 4 → 5 High Shaw to Woldingham Road



Turn right here to join the signed public bridleway which leads you downhill with a fence on the left. The bridleway becomes a tarmac access lane, continuing downhill between houses. At the bottom, you will emerge to a junction with a road, with the golf course visible ahead. Turn sharp left along Park Ley Road for just a short distance (40m), then fork right down the bridleway to reach a T-junction with Woldingham Road.

## 5 → 6 Woldingham Road to Railway Bridge



Turn left along the pavement for just a few paces then cross the road with care to turn right onto the bridleway signed to Gatwick and Redhill. You will emerge to a T-junction with the quiet tarmac access drive for Woldingham School. Turn left along this.

The valley you are now walking through is called Marden Park. The Marden Park estate was established in the middle of the 17th century, when a wealthy London banker and Lord Mayor of London called Sir Robert Clayton decided to build a luxurious country house for himself. He bought the desolate valley of Marden from Sir John Evelyn of Godstone, and Clayton's heirs continued to live here for many years.

Follow the driveway as it swings right to reach a railway bridge. Take extreme care here to pass under the bridge and stay on the drive as it swings left.

## 6 → 7 Railway Bridge to Marden Park T-Junction



Continue along the driveway and you will pass the old lodge property on the left (with the station buildings visible behind this). Continue along the driveway and, further along (approximately 830m after the railway bridge), take the first bridleway signed on the left which leads you towards Marden Park Farm.

A wealthy stockbroker, Sir Walpole Lloyd Greenwell, bought the Marden Park estate from the Claytons in 1906. Sir Walpole and his son, Sir Bernard, kept what was considered to be the finest collection of racehorses in the county. Marden Park Farm was built for their stud of shire horses, which was thought to be the best in England. After the Second World War the estate was split up. Marden Park Farm is now private housing and business units, and Marden Park House is now Woldingham School.

You will come to a property called Shires ahead. Go through the gap just to the right of this property and follow the path alongside the hedge. Continue along the paved section between the converted stables and barns to reach a T-junction.

## 7 → 8 Marden Park T-Junction to End



Turn left and follow the main track passing between farm buildings and fenced fields. The lane swings right, leading you over railway bridge, and then swings left to continue running parallel to the rail line down to the left.

The railway line from Croydon through Oxted to East Grinstead was built by the London, Brighton and South Eastern Railway Company, and opened in 1884. Woldingham station was originally known as Marden Park, and was very simple with one small shelter.

At the end of Church Road you will come to Woldingham Station on the left, where the walk began.

This walk is part of the Explore Surrey collection, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and Surrey County Council.

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[www.surreycc.gov.uk/explore](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/explore)

**Disclaimer**

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

**Walking Safety**

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

