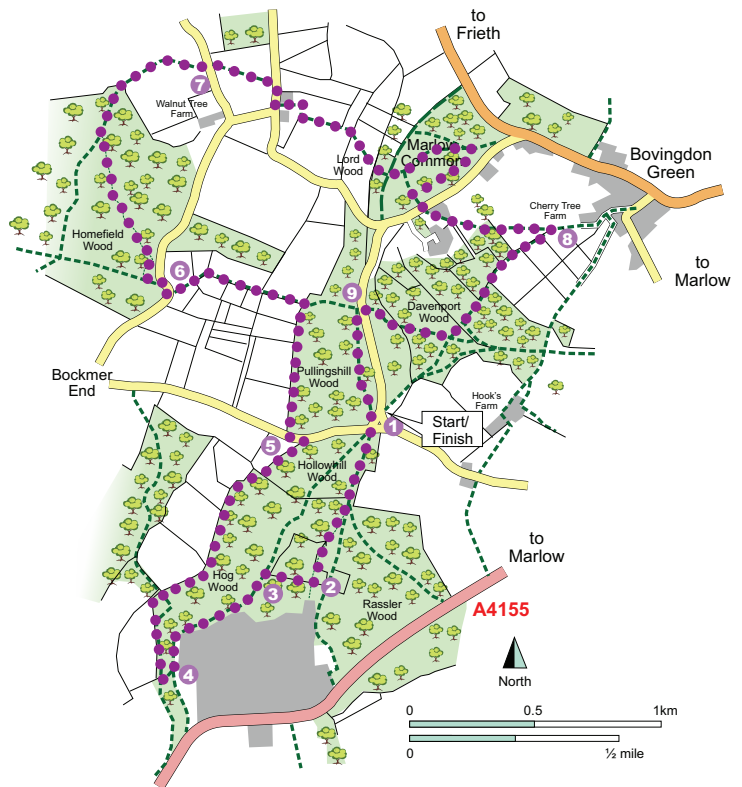


# Marlow Common walk

With **Paul Weller**

A beautiful walk through the beech woods of Marlow Common and the Chiltern Society's new nature reserve. Look out for bluebells in the spring, orchids in early summer, and deer and red kites all year round. There is a chance to look at the WWI training trenches near point 9.

- START:** Marlow Common, Grid ref SU 823 861  
Please park as close as possible to the 'triangle' formed by an intersection of roads at the south end of the Common
- DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles, with c600ft of ascent
- TERRAIN:** A moderate walk with some fairly short ascents and descents. It can be muddy in places. Eight stiles
- MAPS:** OS Explorer 175 and Chiltern Society 1
- REFRESHMENTS:** None on the walk. The Royal Oak at Bovington Green is nearby



## Route

- From the 'triangle', take the right fork down to a road. Cross it, pass timber posts and then continue ahead on a wide track. After c350 yards, where the field on the left ends, fork right to pass to the right of a fenced regeneration area. Follow the track all the way to a post at an opening to a housing estate.
- Take the path on the right just before the post and continue to a 'T' junction.
- Turn left and follow the edge of the housing estate to reach more timber posts. Here, bear right keeping to the narrower path close to the hedge on the left. Follow the flint wall round to a small lawned area and lane. Turn right down the lane for 200 yards to the first flint building on the left.
- Turn right down a waymarked path into a valley, keeping to the right of a wire fence. Where this ends at the bottom, turn right onto a crossing path. Follow this winding track for about 3/4 mile, ignoring all paths and gates either side, to reach a lane. Be careful of the tree roots and muddy patches on this stretch.
- Turn left, go round the right hand bend and up to a track on the right by a gate. Follow this track as it runs between meadows on the left and woodland on the right for c500 yards to a Chiltern Way post on the left. Take this path to reach a stile. Cross, turn left and follow the fence up to the next stile and a road. Turn right and walk along it for a few yards to the entrance to Homefield Wood.
- Take the cinder track into Homefield Wood. After 80 yards, bear right off the Chiltern Way and then fork left to a metal gate. Go through this and the next gate, and bear left up a gradual incline on a well-established track. At the top, fork right past a timber hut, follow the path down into a valley, then straight ahead uphill to emerge in a field. Turn right and follow the hedge until it bends to the right. Here, cut across the corner of the field towards a white waymarker post to the right of a house and then onto a road.
- Cross the road and the stile ahead, then bear half right over a field down to the next road. Turn right and, after c50 yards, turn left onto a waymarked path between houses to a stile. Cross it, and follow the fence on the left down to the next stile. Cross it, the farm track and a further stile into a field. Bear half right uphill. Go over a further stile and then ahead to a crossing bridleway. Take the path opposite into the Society new nature reserve. Stay on this path for c200 yards to the second crossing track. Turn right and follow this path, past a wooden seat on the left, to reach another crossing track. Turn left and proceed to a gate and a road. Cross it and take the track to pass to the left of Heathercroft House. Continue into fields and over two stiles.
- After the second one turn sharp right onto the Chiltern Way and follow it into the woods of Marlow Common. Stay in the same direction as the path goes down a short gradient, past a crater on the right, to a junction of paths at the bottom. Bear left and then fork right up a gradual incline to meet, after c100 yards, the next crossing track. Turn right and stay on the Chiltern Way for c300 yards as it crosses a small ditch. Take the next right and follow the white arrows as the path runs parallel to the ditch. Proceed a further 100 yards and then bear left, still following the Chiltern Way. Cross the road to the information board.
- Turn left and take the path that runs parallel with the road to return to the start of the walk.

*Paul Weller is a keen walker and a member of the Chiltern Society. Having retired he is now actively involved with the Path Maintenance Volunteers and also helps lead walks for the Society. Paul is also Vice Chair of Oxfordshire-based charity YoungDementia UK Homes, a charity supporting younger people with dementia and their families.*

**Map: Glyn Kuhn**