

About the walk

Just a 45 minute train ride from London Marylebone and a few minutes walk from Wendover station you can enjoy the fresh air and fantastic views of the Chilterns countryside.

These two walks take you to the top of the Chiltern Hills, through ancient beech woods, carpets of bluebells and wild flowers. There are amazing views of the Aylesbury Vale and Chequers, the Prime Minister's country home. You might also see rare birds such as red kites and firecrests and the tiny muntjac deer.

You can finish your walk with a tasty meal, pint of beer or a cup of tea.

Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy!!



Features of Interest:
(see numbers on map)

1 **Coombe Hill Monument.** Memorial to the men of Buckinghamshire who fell in the Boer War. It was erected in 1904 and has been damaged by lightning on several occasions. The National Trust owns the hill.

2 **Chequers House and Estate** is clearly visible in the valley to the left of the hill. Best known as the country residence of the Prime Minister it was presented to the nation by Lord Lee of Fareham in 1917. The house is 16th century.

3 During early May there is a spectacular carpet of bluebells.



4 **Low Scrubs.** This area of woodland is special and has a fascinating atmosphere. The beech trees here were coppiced for firewood for centuries. This practice no longer takes place and as a result the wood is very dark and mysterious, quite different to other beech forests.

5 **The Ridgeway National Trail** – this long distance path runs 85 miles from Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire.

6 **Bacombe Hill** – Owned by Buckinghamshire County Council and managed as a nature reserve. Trees and scrub are cleared so that rare chalk grassland flowers and butterflies can thrive.



7 **Wendover Woods** – this is the habitat of the rare Firecrest, the smallest bird in Europe, which nests in the Norway spruce. This is also the highest point in the Chilterns (265m). The woods are managed by Forest Enterprise who have kindly granted access to those trails that are not public rights of way.

8 **Boddington hillfort.** This important archaeological site was occupied during the 1st century BC. Situated on top of the hill, the fort would have provided an excellent vantage point and defensive position for its Iron Age inhabitants. In the past the hill was cleared of trees for grazing animals. Finds have included a bronze dagger, pottery and a flint scraper.

9 **Coldharbour cottages** – were part of Anne Boleyn's dowry to Henry VIII.

10 **Red Lion Pub** – built in around 1620. Oliver Cromwell, Robert Louis Stevenson and Rupert Brook have stayed here. A coach left here each day in the Victorian times for the 'Old Bell' in Holborn, London.

Visitor Information

Wendover is a small historic market town at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. The town has a range of shops, pubs, restaurants and accommodation to suit most tastes and budgets. There is an information centre (01296 696759) or visit www.visitbuckinghamshire.org

Public toilets are located in the High Street car park.

There are no toilets or refreshments on the Coombe Hill walk, though there is often an ice-cream van in the Coombe Hill car park on busy weekends or during the summer. On the Wendover Woods Walk there are public toilets and a café (open seven days) at the Wendover Woods main car park.

How to get to the start

Wendover is located off the A413, five miles south of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.





By train: Wendover is easily reached by rail and the walk starts from the station. Chiltern Railways run direct services from London Marylebone (45mins). Trains also call at Harrow-on-the-Hill (connections with London Underground Metropolitan Line), Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, Chalfont & Latimer (connection for Chesham), Amersham Great Missenden, Stoke Mandeville, and Aylesbury. For train times and fares call National Rail Enquires on 08457 484950.

By bus: Bus service 50 links Wendover (Clock Tower) with Aylesbury, Monday to Saturday, every 30 minutes (not evenings). On Sundays and Bank Holidays there is a limited service on route 50, which also runs through to Tring, Marsworth and Ivinghoe. Bus Service T1 links Wendover with Aylesbury, Great Missenden and Chesham, Mondays to Fridays every two hours. For bus times call Traveline 0871 2002233.

By cycle: There is cycle parking at Wendover rail station and in the High Street.

Parking: There is a car park on the High Street, or limited on-street parking is available away from the village centre. It is also possible to follow these walks from the car parks at Coombe Hill (free) and Wendover Woods (£3).

This is one of a series of walks through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It mainly follows rights of way most of which are waymarked as follows:

-  'yellow arrow' Footpaths (walkers only)
-  'blue arrow' Bridleways (horseriders, cyclists and walkers)
-  'red arrow' Byways (open to all traffic)
-  'purple arrow' Restricted Byway (horseriders, cyclists, walkers and non-mechanically propelled vehicles).

Please be considerate in the countryside

- Keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them.
- Please keep your dogs under control.

If you have enjoyed this walk there are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns:

- Visit www.chilternsaonb.org or call 01844 355500 for other Chilterns Country walks from rail stations.
- Visit www.chilternsociety.org.uk or call 01494 771250 for information on the Chiltern Society's walk programme, to obtain Chiltern Society footpath maps or to join the Society.

The Chiltern Hills were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1965. This is in recognition that the Chilterns countryside is amongst the finest in England and Wales. The Chilterns Conservation Board is the body charged with protecting the AONB. www.chilternsaonb.org.

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www.buckscc.gov.uk

Chiltern Railways
www.chilternrailways.co.uk


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Chilterns Country

Views of the Vale Walks

Coombe Hill Walk:
3.5 miles, allow 1½ to 2 hours

Wendover Woods Walk:
7 miles, allow 3½ to 4 hours

Start and Finish:
Wendover, nr Aylesbury, Bucks


The Chilterns
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Coombe Hill Walk

Distance: 3 miles, allow 1½ to 2 hours.

Difficulty: Paths may be muddy after rain. Uphill for about 1 mile.

Access Information: This walk has 3 stiles, 4 kissing gates and narrow paths. It also involves a steady uphill climb.

Description of route:

→ Leave Wendover railway station and walk up to the main road. Turn right and then cross the road and over the bridge. Just after the end of the bridge take the footpath on the left. Go over two stiles and then follow the path across the field to another stile.

→ Turn right uphill along the lane. After about 80 metres turn left following the bridgeway between gardens and across the field. Do not go over the stile but turn right through the metal gate. Follow this path uphill for just over ½ mile.



→ At the top of the hill turn right onto a well surfaced bridgeway. After about 140 metres you will cross a private drive and the path ahead divides; take the right-hand path (the footpath). After about 180 metres turn left at a waymark post along a footpath through the wood. Follow this path until another waymark is reached, indicating a T-junction of public footpaths. Turn right here and keep going straight ahead until another waymark post is reached (after about 230 metres), where you turn left and follow the path through a dark section of wood to emerge at a National Trust car park.

→ Continue straight ahead to a wooden gate, and take the left-hand of two signed public footpaths. Just after the path begins to drop downhill, turn right onto the Ridgeway path, giving superb views over the Chequers Estate and the Aylesbury Vale. Continue to the Coombe Hill Monument.

→ From the Monument continue along the hilltop to the right, following The Ridgeway National Trail, passing a black Ridgeway waymark post (visible from the monument) and through the kissing gates across the bridgeway.

→ Keep straight ahead downhill, eventually through a kissing gate to the road. Take care crossing the road. Turn right and follow the road downhill back to Wendover Station.



Wendover Woods Walk

Distance: 7 miles, allow 3½ to 4 hours.

Difficulty: Uphill for about 2 miles.

Access Information: There are no stiles or kissing gates on this route. About a mile of the section from Wendover to The Hale is considerably uphill. There is an All Ability Trail suitable for wheelchairs near Wendover Woods main car park.

Description of route:

→ Leave Wendover railway station by the road and turn left past the Shoulder of Mutton pub. Continue along Wendover High Street past the shops. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and continue down the High Street.

→ Just after the last shop turn right onto a footpath (signposted "Ridgeway"), which passes through a park alongside a stream – continue to follow "Ridgeway" signs.

→ Go straight on, following The Ridgeway National Trail signs (which are waymarked with an acorn symbol) past the lake and church and along the road. At the crossroads go straight across, up Hogtrough Lane.

→ Continue to follow The Ridgeway, which forks left after Boswell's Farm into woodland. Follow this forest trail for over 1 mile gently uphill. You will eventually cross Hale Road and enter Wendover Woods.

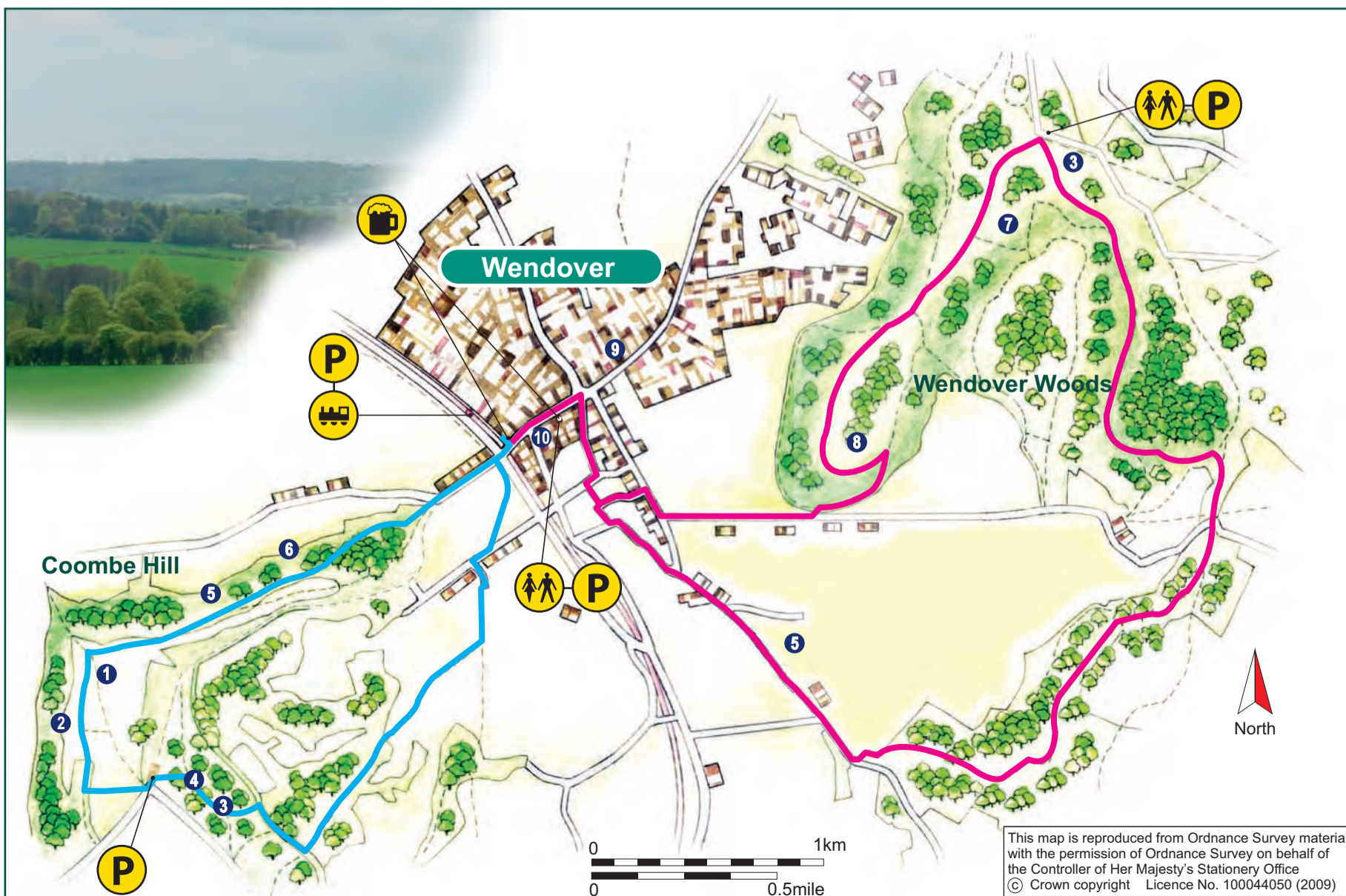
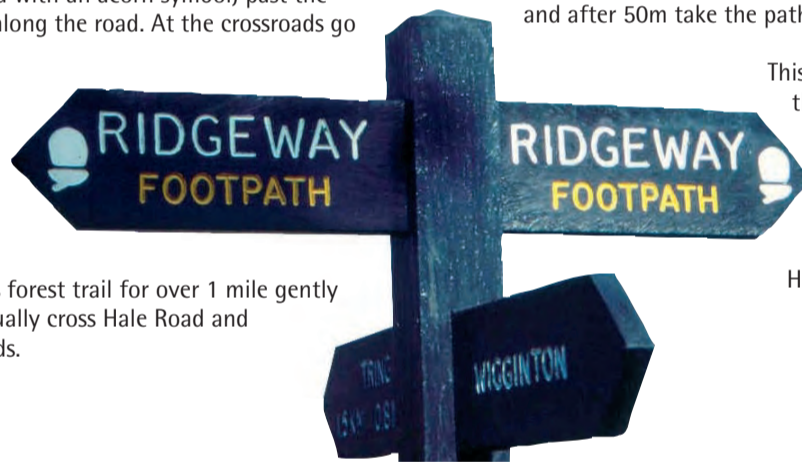
→ The Ridgeway drops down (via steps) to meet a bridgeway in a sunken lane. Turn 90 degrees left here (leaving the Ridgeway) and after some 40 metres take a public footpath to the right. Follow this well waymarked path uphill through the wood until it meets a wider stony track. Turn right along this track and follow it, climbing gently. At a fork of tracks take the right (upper) one which brings you to the Wendover Woods main car park.

→ Follow the tarmac road to the left (the café is ahead of you where you meet the road, if you wish to take refreshment) and turn left to follow a wide track for ½ mile, which passes picnic areas with barbecues. Keep straight on at a sign for Boddington Bank viewpoint. After 300 metres there is a piece of fitness equipment (part of the fitness trail): do not turn left here – go straight on and follow the track downhill. You will eventually meet another track, turn right and join this track, continuing downhill. Then carry straight on until you reach the road at the bottom.

→ Turn right and follow the road back to Wendover (please take care if walking on the road). At the junction turn right and after 50m take the path between houses on your left.

This brings you back to the park at the start of the walk. Follow the stream and then on to the Heron Path to come out on the High Street by the Clock Tower.

Turn left and walk back up the High Street to the rail station.



Key

Wendover Woods Walk
7 miles
Allow 3½ to 4 hours

Coombe Hill Walk
3½ miles
Allow 1½ to 2 hours

3 Features of interest

Public House

Toilets

Railway Station

Parking

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