

## Coombe Hill Walk

**Distance:** 3½ 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, 3 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. 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 about 1km.



- ➔ At the top of the hill turn right onto a well-surfaced bridgeway. When you reach the driveway with cattle grid veer to the left slightly for a few metres and then turn left following the bridgeway path. Follow this path ignoring any smaller paths. You will eventually come out onto a country lane. Follow this road to the right, which will bring you to Coombe Hill car park.
- ➔ Near the entrance to the car park on the left is a wooden gate. Go through the gate and take the middle path. When you reach the second open area, find a gap in the gorse bushes on your left and walk through for a view over Chequers. Turn right and walk along the hilltop to the 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

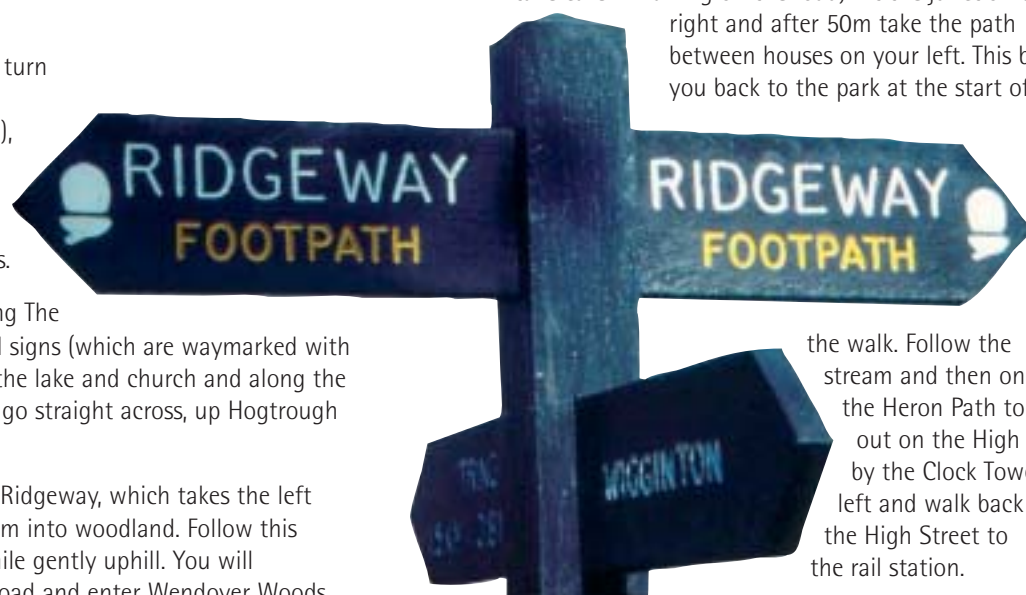
**Difficulty:** Uphill for about 2 miles.

**Access Information:** There are no stiles on this route, but 1 kissing gate (not wheelchair accessible, at the Hale into Wendover Woods). From Wendover along The Ridgeway to the Hale the paths are wide and firm (with some loose stones) but there is a considerable uphill slope. 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 takes the left path 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.

- ➔ Leave The Ridgeway by turning left, downhill and after 30 metres follow a footpath to the right and then join a marked horse track. Turn right and follow this track which takes you through the Woods to the main car park.
- ➔ Follow the tarmac road to the left, then turn left and follow the wide track for ½ mile, which passes picnic areas with barbecues to a final parking area. Keep straight on following the Boddington Bank Walk. 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.

- Public House
- Toilets
- Railway Station
- Parking







A coach left here each day in Victorian times for the 'Old Bell' in Holborn, London.  
Robert Louis Stevenson and Rupert Brook have stayed here. Oliver Cromwell,

**11. Red Lion Pub** – built about 1620. 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.

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

**9. Boddington hillfort**: This important archaeological site was occupied during 1st century BC, but probably earlier. 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.

**8. The Hale Quiet Lane**. This country lane is one of many in the area where drivers are being encouraged to share the road considerably with cyclists, horse-riders and walkers. Enterprise who have kindly granted access to those trails that are not public rights of way.  
Chilterns (265m). The Woods are managed by Forest of Entertainers who have kindly granted access to those trails that are not public rights of way.

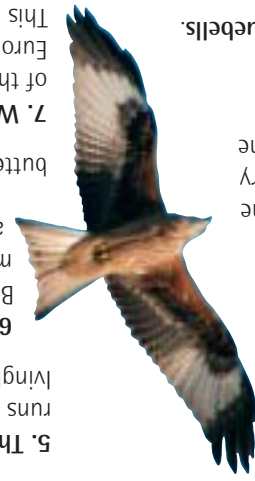


**5. The Ridgeway National Trail** – this long distance path runs 85 miles from Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire.

**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



**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.

## Features of interest: (see numbers on map)



## Walking gets you fit and keeps you healthy!!!

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 Vale of Aylesbury and Chequers, the Prime Minister's country home. You might also see rare birds such as red kites and firecrests and the tiny munjac deer. You can finish your walk with a tasty meal, pint of beer or cup of tea.

## About the walk

## 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, e-mail [wendovortourism@btconnect.com](mailto:wendovortourism@btconnect.com)) or visit [www.visitbuckinghamshire.org](http://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 Coombe Hill car park on busy weekends or during the summer. On the Wendover Woods Walk there are public toilets and usually an ice-cream vendor in 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 Enquiries on 08457 484950.




**By bus:** Bus service 54 links Wendover (Clock Tower) with Aylesbury, Monday to Saturday, every 30 minutes (not evenings). Bus service 161 runs on Sundays and Bank Holidays only, linking Aylesbury, Wendover, Aston Clinton, Tring and Marsworth. For bus times call Traveline 0870 6082608.

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

**Parking:** On Sundays use the car park off Wendover High Street. On other days this is 2 hour parking only. There is a £3 charge if you wish to use the railway station car park (if you buy a rail ticket to a nearby station). It is also possible to follow these walks from the car parks at Coombe Hill (free) and Wendover Woods (£2).

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:

### Path waymarking

-  'yellow arrow' Footpaths (walkers only)
-  'blue arrow' Bridleways (horseriders, cyclists and walkers)
-  'red arrow' Byways (open to all traffic)

**Please be considerate in the countryside** – keep to public rights of way, and leave farm gates as you find them. Please keep dogs under close control.

If you have enjoyed this walk there are many other wonderful walks in the Chilterns area including Chilterns Country walks from Tring rail station, Saunderton rail station and Henley rail station – call 01844 271300; The Ridgeway National Trail [www.nationaltrails.gov.uk](http://www.nationaltrails.gov.uk); walks in the Chilterns [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org); walks in Buckinghamshire [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk); Or buy Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 181 and make your own walk [www.ordsvy.gov.uk](http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk)

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. Call 01844 271300 or [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org).

The Chiltern Society is a charity working to protect and promote the Chilterns. To join or for details of guided walks call 01494 771250 or [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)

If you, or a member of your community would like this leaflet produced in another language or format (large print or audio cassette), please contact the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Chiltern Railways  
[www.chilternrailways.co.uk](http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk)

The Countryside Agency  
[www.countryside.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.gov.uk)

The Chilterns Conservation Board  
[www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)

The Chiltern Society  
[www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)

# 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