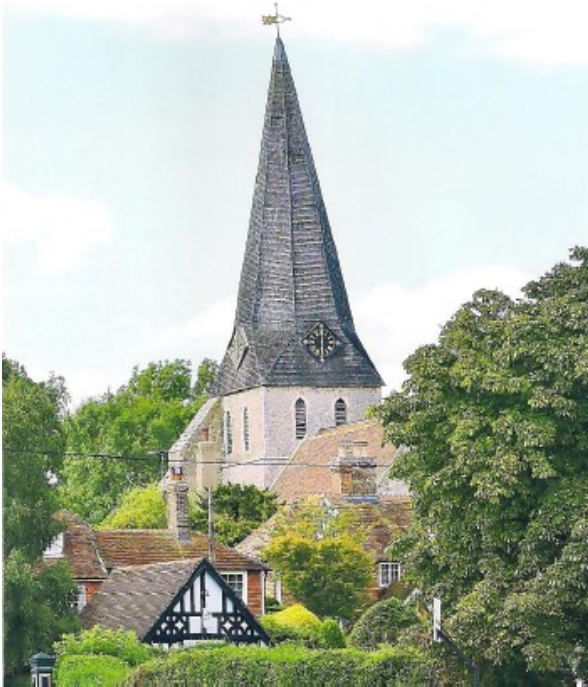


WOODCHURCH

FOOTPATH

WALKS



Walk 6

Maiden Wood

Approx. 2 ³/₄ miles

Allow 1 ¹/₂ hours

Woodland and arable walk, using stiles and gates.

Lovely in springtime for bluebells, and butterflies in the summer.

Directions

Starting on the North side of the Village Green a public footpath sign stone (AT231) (1) is set about 10 metres from the road, close to the wrought iron gates leading into the churchyard. The 'Old School House' is on the left-hand side with the 'Pavement' of Bethersden Marble. The footpath continues through the churchyard to the left of the War Memorial and church until you reach the far side of the churchyard (2). Turn left, keeping the old Rectory on your right. When you enter the field keep right against the hedge until you reach the metal kissing gate at the edge of the field (3). Cross to the far corner of the field, following the hill downwards until you reach the metal kissing gate in a copse of trees (4). Continue across the field until you reach a wooden bridge across a deep ditch (5). This ditch used to carry vast amounts of flood water to Shirley Moor.

Follow the footpath across the corner of this field to a metal kissing gate (6). Turn right. Keep to the edge of the field with the wood on your right until you reach the ditch which is straddled by a railway sleeper bridge and a metal kissing gate (7). The path follows the edge of the field with the vineyard on your right to a pond surrounded by oak, hawthorn and hornbeam (8). After the pond walk along the edge of the field until you reach a ditch straddled by a railway sleeper bridge (9).

After crossing this bridge turn to the right and walk along the edge of this field, always keeping the deep ditch to your right. The ditch bends left and you will reach the point where 3 ditches meet (10). Then bearing slightly to the left walk across the next field and across another ditch (11) to the corner of the wood (12). Turn right, and keeping the wood to your left, follow along the edge of the field until you reach the road (13).

This walk continues to the left along Cuckoos Pit Lane for about a ¹/₂ mile past Maiden Wood and Maiden Wood Farm on your left. After approximately 50 metres past Haycross Farm there is an iron gate in the hedge on the left (14) (AT233). To follow the footpath across this field follow the direction indicated by the footpath sign and aim towards the right of the farm buildings that are behind the trees. You will reach an iron gate leading into the farmyard (15). When you enter the farmyard turn immediately right where you will see the entrance to Maiden Wood straight ahead (16). Take care as this area can be quite uneven due to tractor ruts in the ground. Follow the path through this chestnut wood and then to a stile (17). Continue straight ahead across the field until you reach a metal kissing gate (18) then across the next field to another metal gate and across a wooden bridge (19). From here turn left and follow the edge of the field until you reach a metal kissing gate (20). Turn right and the the path continues across the field towards the hedge on the right-hand side. Follow the hedge until you reach the metal kissing gate by the two cottages (21).

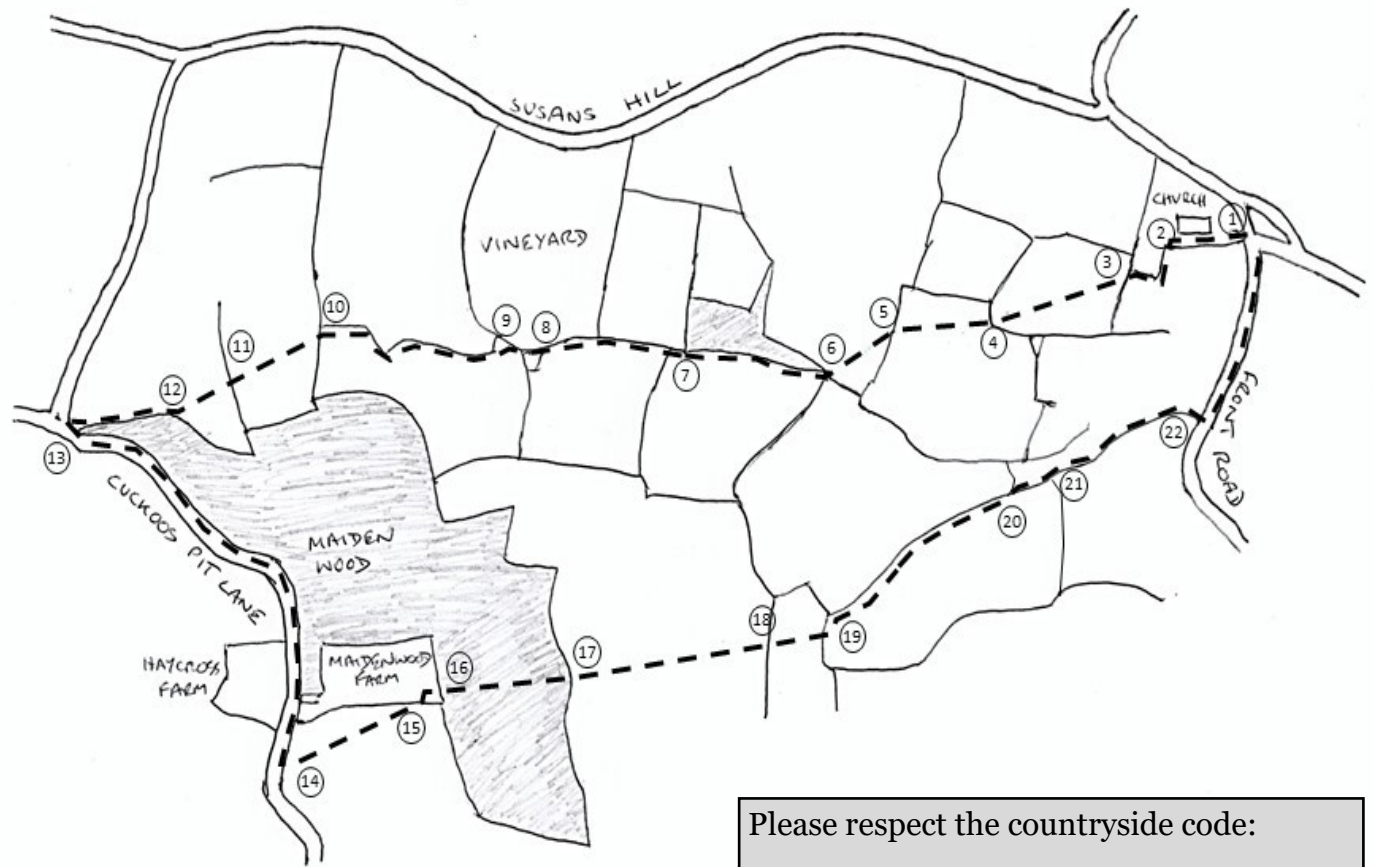
Walk down the service road with the cottages to your right. Townland Green lies in the triangle to the right and here are gardens which have been under cultivation since before the Enclosure Act. The footpath joins Front Road (22) after passing Townland Green Cottage built as two cottages in 1850.

Turning left into the Front Road the route continues past listed cottages on the right. The old Post Office occupies part of a very old house which once incorporated a bakery.

On the right is the Village Hall, which lies back from Front Road behind Woodchurch HUB. The hall was built in 1951–2 from funds raised by the people of Woodchurch as a Memorial to those who died in World War Two. The car park is on the verge of the Village Green; the Green having been donated by the Schreiber family in 1859 as an 'open space' for the enjoyment of the people of Woodchurch and became a charity in 1925.

.....

Parking can be found in the village and in the car park at the Memorial Hall. Please do not block drive ways and access points.



Bluebells in Maiden Wood



- Please respect the countryside code:
- Keep to paths
 - Leave gates as you find them
 - Keep dogs on lead near farm stock and on roads. Clean up after your dog.
 - Protect wild flowers and wildlife
 - Take your litter home
 - Guard against all risk of fire
 - Take care on country roads

This walk was originally published by **The Woodchurch Footpath Group** in the early 1980's. It was reviewed and updated by Woodchurch HUB in 2020. For more information contact Woodchurch HUB www.woodchurchhub.uk