

OXTED NORTH DOWNS ESCARPMENT



5½ miles (8.8km) 3hrs **Ascent:** 607ft (185m) **3**

Paths: Field edge paths, farm tracks, town roads, 12 stiles

Suggested map: aqua3 OS Explorer 146 Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate

Grid reference: TQ 395529

Parking: Ellice Road car park, off Station Road East, Oxted

On the dramatic chalk downlands.

- 1 Walk down Station Road East from Ellice Road car park. Turn **L** at Gresham Road then turn **R** at top into Bluehouse Lane and **L** again into Park Road. At bend, continue up signposted public footpath towards Woldingham. Cross stile beyond school playing fields, and head across field towards footbridge over **M25**.
- 2 Cross **motorway**, bear **L**. Follow path to stile. Nip over and swing **L** on to **North Downs Way** National Trail. Follow waymarked trail across Chalkpit Lane and past quarry fencing, until it swings to **R** for North Downs ridge. Climb as far as waymark post beyond wicket gate and bear **L** into National Trust's Oxted Downs estate.
- 3 Follow path through trees, cross stile. Turn hard **R** up rustic flight of steps. Don't miss view from seat half-way up, directly above **railway tunnel**. Swing **L** at top of steps. Follow National Trail to road at Ganger's Hill.
- 4 Turn **L**, and drop back down public footpath towards **Oxted**. Join bridleway half-way down, and carry

on across bridge over the **M25** on to lane past **Barrow Green Court**. Cross over **Barrow Green Road**, squeeze through wicket gate then follow footpath along edge of field past **Townland Pond** and on to Sandy Lane.

- 5 Turn **R**, pass underneath **A25**. Cross Oxted High Street at **Old Bell Inn**. Follow Beadles Lane for 200yds (183m) then turn **L** into Springfield and fork off on to footpath on **R**. Drop gently down to Spring Lane, and picturesque **Oxted Mill** (privately owned).

- 6 A 500yd (457m) diversion leads to **The Haycutter** pub. Cross straight over Spring Lane, zig-zag **R** and **L**, then take waymarked path through meadows to pub. Main route turns **L** past mill, and **L** again over stile at weir. Follow path through to Woodhurst Lane, and turn **L**. Fork **L** up narrow footpath at Woodhurst Park; cross **A25** into East Hill Road. At foot of the hill, turn **R** up Station Road West; then dive through station subway at top. Finally, turn **R** into Station Road East to return to start.

