



Plane sailing

Join **Jo Vaughan** on this gentle countryside stroll and you could enjoy some aircraft spotting into the bargain...

JUST MINUTES from Gatwick Airport, the small village of Charlwood probably isn't somewhere you'd rush to visit. However, its rural charm hides a maze of footpaths, the most appealing of which are found in Glover's Wood. Famous for its bluebell displays in spring, the wood is a superb place to explore, but the surrounding tracks are often cut off by local landowners, so make sure you keep to our route to find a way round.

We start from The Street or Gloves Road, depending on how much parking is available, but either way the route is easy to pick up and, at the end of your stroll, The Half Moon pub is a great place to reward yourself with a real ale.

DIRECTIONS

1 From The Half Moon pub, enter the churchyard and walk along the pathway to the left of the church, along the crazy-paving. Pass the church entrance and the red dog litter bin. Continue along the pathway where it turns to tarmac, ignoring the public footpath sign on your left. At the road, cross it and continue straight ahead, down Glover's Road.

2 Continue walking along the road until you pass number 12 (with a brown gate and a 'Beware of the Dog' sign). Turn right just after this house, at the public footpath sign. Cross the stile and follow the yellow arrow down a narrow, muddy pathway. It soon opens up, so you are following the left side of a field.

3 Cross the wooden plank bridge and the stile, then follow the yellow arrow across the centre of the field, veering slightly right to meet a metal kissing gate. Pass through this and head through a small copse to a stile at the other end. Cross this and then continue ahead along the left-hand side of the field.

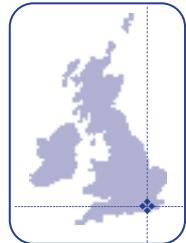
4 Cross the stile on the left and follow the little pathway along the edge of the woods. Stick to the main track all the time as it bends around to the left, following a very minor dip and a couple of stepping stones, all the time keeping the barbed wire fence (denoting the edge of the woodland) in sight to your right. Beware of low and fallen branches.

5 Go through a metal kissing gate and continue ahead, keeping to the left side of the field. Ignore the wooden signpost three-quarters of the way across the field, instead continuing to the end, before

turning right and then left at the next two signposts, respectively. Follow the line of the wooden fence around the farmhouse's paddocks, before turning left and right again, past the front of the farmhouse.

6 Go through the kissing gate by the footpath marker, and turn right down the concrete lane. At the T-junction, turn left and walk ahead past the 'Unsuitable for Motors' sign down a narrow footpath. Go past a variety of metal gates, until you reach a road. Turn left and follow the road.

7 Pass the houses and farm buildings and continue ahead. Just before a small '40' sign, you'll see a public footpath



Ordnance Survey
Landranger Map 187



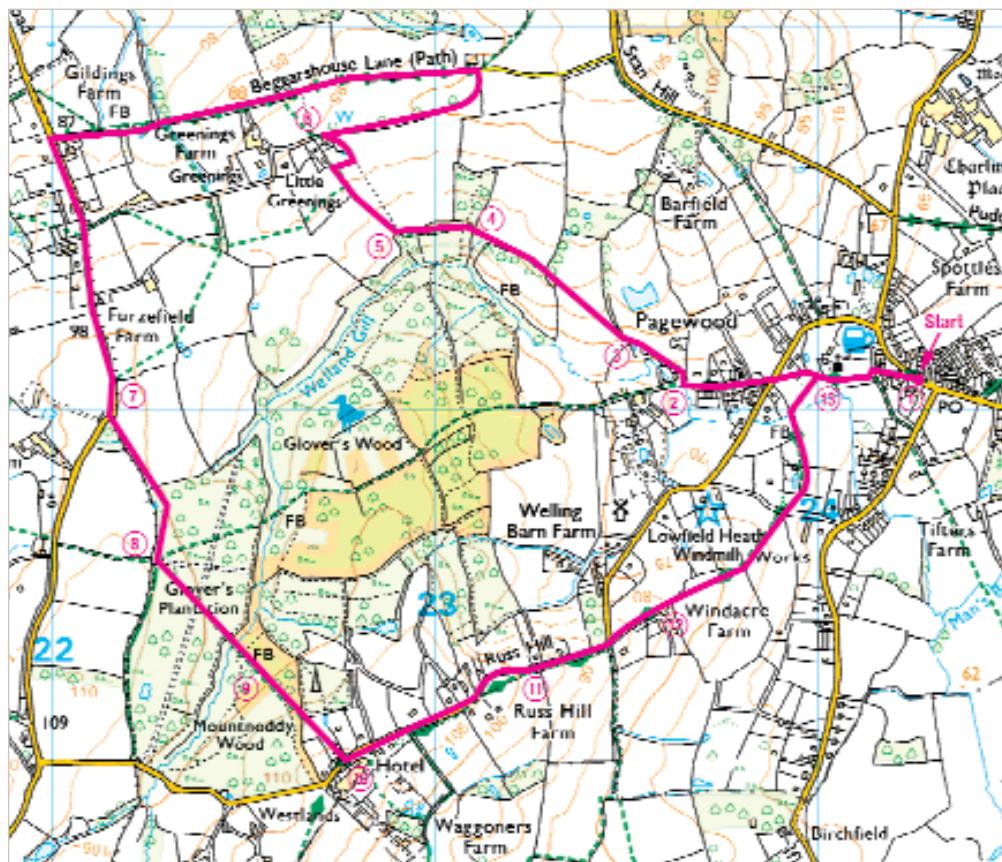
marked to your left. Ignore this and continue along the lane but quite soon after, on a right-hand bend, there's another signpost beside two metal farm gates marked 'Public Bridleway'. Take this to the left, passing down a narrow path between the gates with tall hedgerows on either side.

8 As you enter the woodland, keep straight ahead along the main track. A couple of minutes farther on you'll see posts on your left marked with blue and yellow arrows just 10 yards from one another. Walk past the first, but veer left at the second, leaving the main bridleway and following the yellow public footpath arrow down a much narrower path. This slightly wiggly path keeps to a pretty straight course through the woods, and there are more posts with yellow arrows to guide your way.

9 At one stage the path dives down into a small valley and across a wooden bridge where there are some steps – continue ahead. Just before you exit the woodland, take note of the footpath sign on your left which tells you to keep left towards a stile as the path forks. Cross this stile and then follow the direction of the arrow slightly diagonally left across the next field to another stile found to the left of a black barn. Cross this and walk to the right of the black barn, to the road.

10 Turn left along the road, past the entrance to Russ Hill Hotel. Cross the stile at the start of the hedgerow and keep left, still following the line of the road but on the field's edge. You can now see Gatwick's runway ahead on the right. At the end of the field, cross back onto the road and continue past Russ Hill House where, almost immediately, you'll see another stile on your right, past the entrance to Russ Hill Farm. Cross over this stile and continue in the same direction across the next field.

11 Pass over a stile and keep ahead along the edge of the next field.



Now ignore the stile ahead and veer left through the gate to the road junction. Immediately ahead, between a yellow salt bin and a sign for 'Windacres Farm', follow the public footpath sign that now takes you away from the lane (again in the same general direction), past a wooden seat. Look out for the white-painted windmill in the distance to your left. The path takes you alongside some buildings.

12 Cross the stile and keep to the left of the next field. Cross the two stiles at the corner and veer slightly left to diagonally cross the next field, heading towards the stile which you can see ahead. Cross this stile and then another one ahead of you. Continue through this

Ordnance Survey®

field, passing through a gap in the hedgerow. Now keep to the left side again where there's another stile, and another. Now keep to the right of the field until you see another stile in the corner – follow the arrow to the left.

13 Having passed over a small dyke, follow the arrow diagonally to the right to the wooden kissing gate. Turn right to re-enter the churchyard if you parked down The Street, or left if you parked in Glover's Road.

The Caravan Club Magazine recommends the use of Ordnance Survey maps – your ideal passport to Britain



INFORMATION

Club site: Amberley Fields, Charlwood Road, Lowfield Heath, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 0QA. Call 01293 524834. Open all year.

Distance: 4.5 miles/7.2km

Terrain: a mixture of good paths, lanes and muddy tracks

Number of stiles: 16

Essential equipment: Ordnance Survey Explorer 146 – Dorking, Box Hill & Reigate, hiking boots

Level of difficulty: easy

Refreshments: Charlwood village

Directions and parking: drive into Charlwood village and park where you can. All but the largest of motor caravans

will find room next to the parish church of St Nicholas Charlwood and The Half Moon pub (in The Street), where our walk starts. If there's no space, head to Glover's Road, as mentioned in instruction 1, and start from there instead.

Toilets: none

