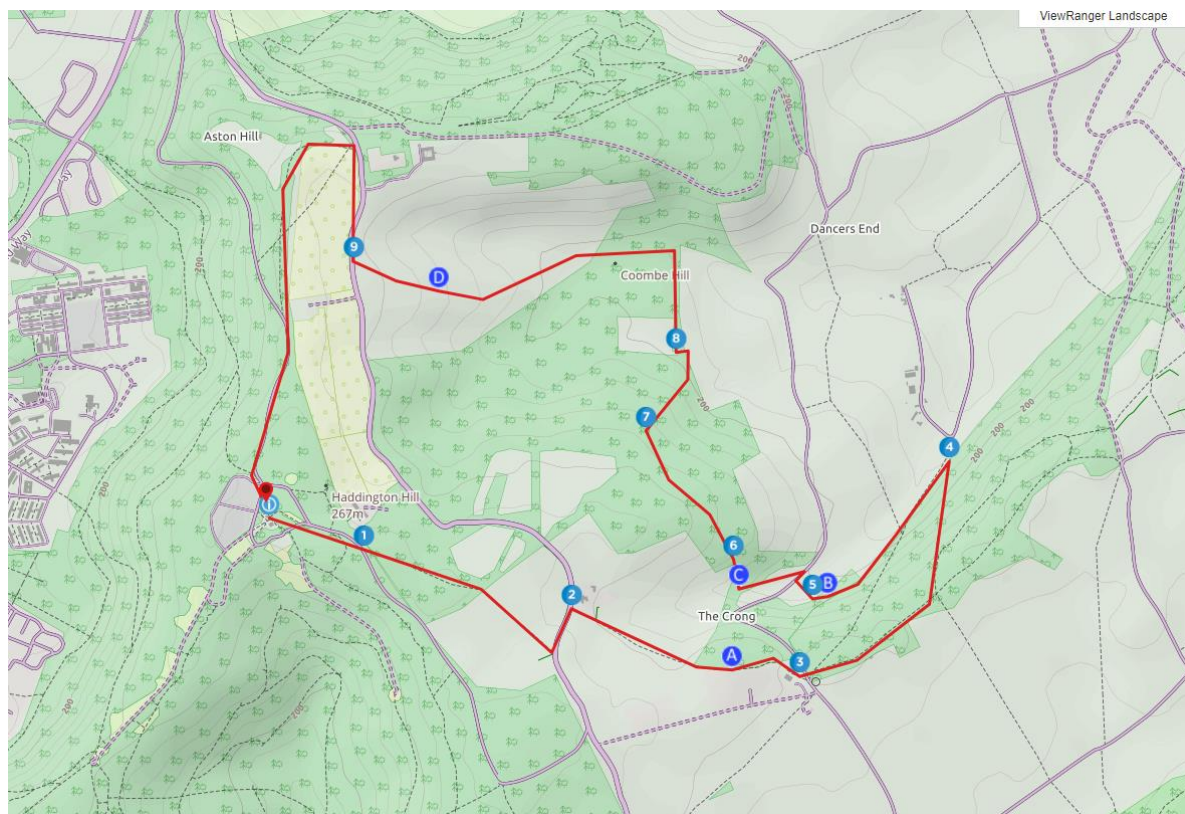


## 24. Wendover Woods : Dancers End

4.6 miles

<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/Njg2OTE=>

Many trails available, mapped and signed by the Forestry Commission. This particular walk is wonderful any time of year and especially in autumn. An immensely interesting, stile-free walk on easy but sometimes muddy tracks. One steep climb. Total ascent 180m/590ft. Look out for Chiltern gentians, beechnuts, various types of fungi and maybe the sight of an edible dormouse. All of this plus the display of autumn colours in both Dancersend valley and Wendover Woods.



24.1 Facing the information office, follow the path round the side, leading to the vehicle exit road. Proceed along the road and through the barriers to the elevated electricity transformer on your left and take the path alongside.

Follow the winding woodland path, ignoring paths to the left and right, to a gate at the edge of the wood. Go through the gate, cross the middle of the field to pass the next gate and onto a road. Turn left along the road for 140m to a gate on the right signed for the Icknield Way.

24.2 Go through the gate and continue along the bridleway whilst taking in the lovely views on the left towards Dancersend, Tring and Ivinghoe Beacon. Pass through two more gates, enter Black Wood and stay on the bridleway to meet a lane.

24.3 Cross directly over the lane and follow the Ridgeway for 500m through Northill Wood to the start of Pavis Wood. Where a signpost shows a footpath crossing, turn left on the footpath and after 100m fork left down a sunken path to the bottom of the hill.

24.4 Just before reaching a lane, turn sharp left on a bridleway for 300m to a 4-way path junction. Do not follow the bridleway uphill to the left but continue straight ahead on the footpath for a further 300m to reach a field gate. Go through into the yard of Dancers End pumping station.

24.5 Bear right past the offices and go through the brick gateway, noting post 1 of the Tree Trail on the right. Go down the access drive to a lane and turn right along it for 50m to a gate on the left. Go through this gate and the one to the left to enter Dancersend Nature Reserve. Follow the permissive path along the valley floor, go through a gate and stay in the same direction as the line of overhead cables. The path then bends right under the cables and down to a gate.

24.6 Go through the gate, take the steps ahead and follow the purple Tree Trail markers past posts 2 and 3 to the top of the hill. At the junction with a wide grassy ride, go straight over to the public footpath opposite and follow it for 250m to meet a sunken track.

24.7 Turn right downhill for 300m and where it bends to the right to become a major track, turn left towards a metal gate. Go through the wooden gate on your right.

24.8 Take this path for 100m and, where the Wildlife walk bears left, stay straight ahead to follow the edge of the wood. Follow this path until you come to a field gate ahead. Here turn left on a wide track along the valley floor. Go through the next gate and almost immediately bear right on a smaller path to pass through the next gate into a field. Bear half left up through the middle of the field, go under the overhead cables and head towards a fence line and nesting box on top of a thick pole at the top. Pass through a gate, turn right and continue to climb to the left of the fence through three further gates to reach a road.

24.9 Taking great care, turn right along the road for 400m to a footpath on the left just after the entrance to Aston Hill Lodge. **Note:** this house sign is on the gate which may be open and therefore difficult to spot. Take this path, go forward for a few metres and then turn right along the driveway to the gates of The Chalet. Bear left on a track to the side of the gates, continue forward through a tall deer gate and then on to meet the access road to Wendover Woods. Stay in the same direction to follow the road for 650m to reach the café, toilets and car park.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk. Please remember to rate the walk and add comments. We are interested in how we could improve the instructions or the route and would like to hear about any issues with paths on the walk.