

*St Martha's is the start of the Downs Link, a 33-mile long distance trail linking the North Downs Way with the South Downs Way at Shoreham. Much of this follows the route of a redundant railway line, which makes for easy cycling.*

## Silent Pool

*Silent Pool was probably an old chalk quarry fed by underground springs and would have been a precious source of pure water in days gone by. The pool and nearby Sherbourne Pond became home to many different species of aquatic life and one can often glimpse the blue flash of a kingfisher as it darts across the water.*

*More recently the pool has had a tendency to dry out due to the springs feeding the Pool suffering from the lower than average annual rainfall.*

*Silent Pool has always been a popular place to visit and many feel an eerie stillness looking out over the still water surrounded by the evergreen box trees.*

*Legend has it that this is due to the fate of a woodcutter's daughter who was surprised by a nobleman on a horse as she bathed in the pool. Having failed to lure her to the bank, he rode his horse into the water and caused the girl to move out to deeper water where she drowned. When the woodcutter returned and found her body, he also found the nobleman's hat floating on the water. It bore the crest of none other than Prince John!*

## Self-guided Circular Trails

The following trails all start from outside the Visitor Centre, Newlands Corner car park and are waymarked by coloured discs.

**Deer Trail (white):** This will take about 45 minutes and passes mostly through woodland. There are no gates and the trail is mostly level. The first part of the trail is surfaced and is suitable for most types of wheelchair and pushchair (look out for the Lizard symbol), while the rest of the trail is recommended only for the more robust off-road type of buggy/scooter or pushchair. Look for yew trees and roe deer.

**Butterfly Trail (green):** Takes about 1 hour, across Albury Downs and returning along the Drove Road. Grassland surface with some slopes, no stiles. In spring and summer the Downs are covered in wildflowers which are visited by many different insects.

**Ox Trail (purple):** Takes about 3 hours and passes through all the sites mentioned in this leaflet. Varied landscapes with barriers including sandy tracks, hills, stiles and roads to cross.

**Geology 'Fossil' Trail:** Created by the Surrey RIGS Group, this trail shows how the underlying rocks play a part in forming the landscape and how the plants and animals depend on each particular rock type. About 8km (5 miles), steep in parts and can be muddy and slippery after rain. A booklet about this trail can be purchased from the Visitor Centre on Sundays.

**Easy Access Trails:** A map showing further waymarked routes within Newlands Corner and Albury Downs is available from the Visitor Centre. These trails are particularly suitable for people using either the Trampler buggy or their own similar vehicle, and robust off-road pushchairs.

The following trail starts from Halfpenny Lane car park, near Chilworth:

**Dragonfly Trail (green):** Takes about 1½ hours. Mainly sandy paths with some hills. Visits the church of St Martha's and an arboretum planted in 1900 with a variety of exotic cedars, spruces, pines and larches.

*We hope you have enjoyed your visit. If you have any comments, the Countryside Ranger for this site can be contacted on 07968 832504.*

*Surrey Wildlife Trust's mission is to protect and regenerate Surrey's wildlife.*

*The Trust is a registered charity (No: 208123). In partnership with Surrey County Council we currently manage 80 sites covering over 4,000 hectares of land, for nature conservation and public enjoyment. This includes the Trust's own nature reserves, SCC's countryside estate and land managed under access agreements with private landowners. A further 3,200 hectares are managed under a grazing contract with the MOD, making Surrey Wildlife Trust, in terms of land managed, the largest Wildlife Trust in England.*

### **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

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Visit our website: [www.surreywildlifetrust.org](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)



# NEWLANDS CORNER

## ST MARTHA'S & SILENT POOL



## Visitor Guide and Self-guided Trails

## Newlands Corner – St Martha's Hill – Silent Pool

*Throughout Surrey there are many open spaces managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust for their wildlife value and as places for people to visit and enjoy. Newlands Corner and the nearby areas of St Martha's Hill and Silent Pool are among the most popular of these. Owned by the Albury Estate, and open to the public under an access agreement with Surrey County Council, these sites are managed for nature conservation and informal recreation.*

### Newlands Corner and the Albury Downs

*Superb views, open downland covered in wildflowers and shady woodland alive with birdsong, all this can be found at Newlands Corner, which is approximately two miles south-east of Guildford town centre.*

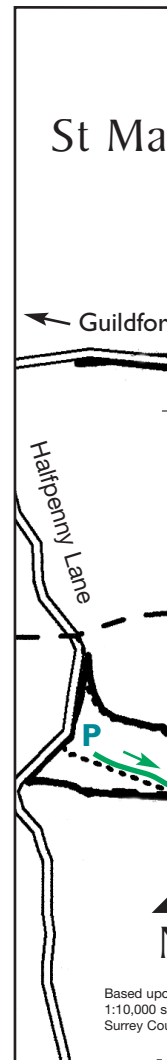
*The chalk grassland of the Albury Downs is a carpet of wildflowers in the spring and summer and is maintained by grazing animals and mowing at appropriate times of the year. In the woodland areas, to the north of the car park, local people once collected heather, bracken and gorse. These woodlands were once a valuable source of firewood and timber for building and the magnificent yew trees, which are found in the area, are many hundreds of years old. The famous novelist Agatha Christie staged her disappearance from here in 1926 causing a huge search of the Downs.*

*A Visitor Centre and snack bar is situated adjacent to the car park. This Centre is open daily.*

*The Centre, snack bar and picnic tables are all wheelchair compatible and the car park features blue badge parking spaces.*

*Public toilets are available including one for the disabled (Radar key).*

*Visitors with mobility problems can explore the area on designated paths using an electric off-road Trampler buggy especially designed for countryside use. This is available for free hire from the Visitor Centre. Pre-booking is required by calling 07891 850894 Sunday-Thursday or email: [kate.leopold@surreywt.org.uk](mailto:kate.leopold@surreywt.org.uk).*

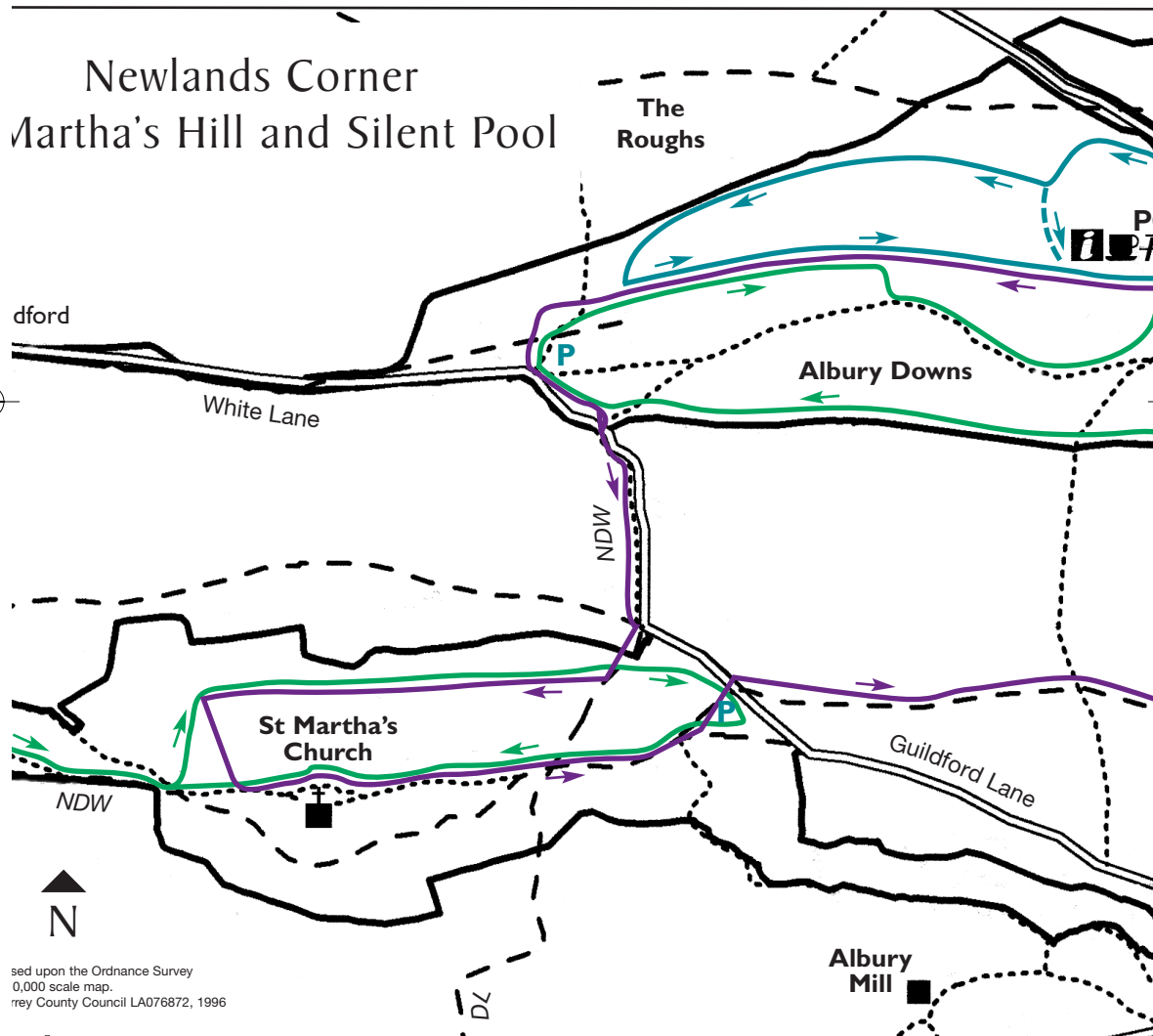


## St Martha's Hill

*St Martha's Hill forms part of the Greensand Ridge, rising to a height of 160 metres (525ft) above sea level. Its wooded slopes can be clearly seen from the southern edge of Guildford.*

*St Martha's is named after the church on the summit, part of which dates back to the Norman period. Several circular earthworks present near the*

## Newlands Corner St Martha's Hill and Silent Pool



**For details of public transport in Surrey call Traveline 0870 608 2608 [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)**

church suggest pre-Christian worship, though their true purpose remains a mystery. The upper slopes of the hill with their sandy soil give rise to heathland vegetation, which provides a home for reptiles such as lizards and adders. The lower slopes of Collyers Hanger to the south are covered with a more mixed woodland.

