

MEDIEVAL WAVERLEY

An undulating circular walk from Tilford village passing close to The Sands village and the historic ruins of Waverley Abbey. The walk involves an uphill stretch to the top of Crooksbury Hill with good views to the South Downs on a clear day. There are some sections of road walking.

Start point:	Tilford village green
Grid ref:	SU 873434
Ordnance Survey Map:	Explorer 145 Guildford & Farnham
Distance:	9 km (5 ½ miles)
Typical time:	Allow 3 hours, with an extra hour for the detour to Waverley Abbey
Footwear:	Boots or Wellingtons
Transport:	There is very limited public transport to Tilford.
Parking:	Car park on Tilford village green
Facilities and Refreshments:	There are public toilets on Tilford Green by the school. There are three pubs along the route – the Barley Mow on Tilford green, the Barley Mow at The Sands at point 8, and The Donkey at point 9.

This walk follows public rights of way which cross private and public land. Information is included for your interest, but PLEASE respect people's privacy, keep dogs under control...and remember the Countryside Code.

Walk Directions:

- 1 From the village green, cross East Tilford Bridge.

This bridge over the River Wey was one of a series of medieval bridges spanning the river between Farnham and Guildford. The bridges all have a similar design and were probably built for the monks of Waverley Abbey.

- 2 Turn left along bridleway just before post office.

- 3 Turn left on lane, pass Tilhill house on right, then keep ahead on sandy track into the woods. Take right fork uphill. By entrance to Sheephatch Farm bear right along drive to reach road.

Hatch means a gate and probably refers to a gate in the boundary here of 521 acres of the Waverley Abbey lands.

- 4 Cross road and follow track opposite which goes through conifer plantations. After 400m turn left down broad cross track which later bears right. Continue ahead to road.

The ruins of Waverley Abbey can be seen through the trees to your left, and the 18th century Waverley Abbey House stands on the hill beyond them.

- 5 To visit Waverley Abbey ruins, turn left down road. Turn left at T-junction (BLIND CORNER TAKE GREAT CARE), cross river and turn left to Abbey entrance.

The road bridge over the River Wey has been rebuilt and widened on the site of a medieval bridge. By the entrance to the abbey there have been a succession of water mills. Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery in England, was founded in 1128 by Bishop Gifford of Winchester. The Abbey was built over a period of 150 years. Following the dissolution in 1536 much of the building stone was sold. Some of it was used to build Loseley House near Guildford.

6 Return to route.

Turn right up road. In 230m pass Keepers Cottage Stud Farm, then turn left on track to Crooksbury and Yew Tree Cottages. Follow track to reach road. Cross road and turn left along it. In 175m turn right into Crooksbury Hill car park. From back of car park bear left uphill on steep stepped path to reach trig point (white pillar) at top of Crooksbury Hill.

There are extensive views to the South Downs. In medieval times much of the area around here was part of the manorial waste of the Manor of Farnham which was held by successive Bishops of Winchester. Bishop Henry de Blois granted the monks of Waverley the right to pasture swine and cattle on the waste.

7 To descend stand with back to memorial plaque on the trig point. Go straight ahead and follow stepped path downhill, ignoring left fork. Just before reaching the road, turn left along path running parallel to road for 70m, then turn right to join road and continue to the crossroads at The Sands.

8 Turn right past the Barley Mow pub, and then in 230m turn right along straight track (Long Hill). Keep ahead on sandy track across Crooksbury Common and at wood edge continue ahead on track past houses to reach road.

9 Cross road with care. Turn right down lane to The Donkey pub. Keep ahead up track past Riversleigh Farm and at cross track turn left, then keep ahead for 1100m to reach road.

10 Turn right and follow road uphill. After 300m turn left on path just past house. Keep ahead between fences to join road, and continue ahead to reach junction. Turn left and then immediately right and continue along lane to meet main road. Cross road with care and turn left along pavement to cross bridge to reach village green.