

TILLINGBOURNE AT WORK

An undulating walk in the Surrey Hills, starting from Chilworth station and passing through farmland, woodland and parkland. The route crosses the Tillingbourne stream, which used to power a number of powder, paper and cornmills in the area. Part of the walk follows the Pilgrims Way, running from Winchester to Canterbury.

Start point:	Chilworth station
Grid ref:	TQ031472
Ordnance	Explorer 145 Guildford and Farnham
Survey Map:	
Distance:	12 km (7½ miles)
Typical time:	Allow at least 4 hours, with extra time for stops or detours
Footwear:	Stout shoes, boots, Wellingtons
Transport:	For help with planning your journey by public transport please visit www.traveline.info .
Parking:	There is no car parking available at the station. If travelling by car, park in car park on Guildford Lane to the east of St. Martha's Hill, and start the walk from point 6.
Refreshments:	The route passes close to a number of pubs: The Percy Arms pub opposite Chilworth Station, the William IV at Little London, 5 minutes walk south of point 3. There are a number of pubs and shops in the village of Shere (a short walk from point 4).

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 Chilworth railway station turn right along the A248 for 470 metres. Opposite Longfrey Farm turn right along track to cross railway bridge and bear left through gap by cottage. Cross the field, then go up bank and over a stile. Cross the field to top corner. Go through kissing gate and turn right to follow fence and then line of bank across field. Continue up track with line of trees on left to pass Postford Farm Cottages. Continue downhill following track, cross stream and continue along the track until it meets a lane. Turn right then immediately left over stile next to metal gate. Keep ahead with bank on left and Bourne Stream on right. Pass Little Ford Farmhouse, and through the kissing gate, turn left through gateway.

The farmhouse is a timber-framed building dating from the sixteenth century. The waters of the Bourne, a tributary of the Tillingbourne, are used for growing watercress.

- 2 Turn left again through gate to pass farm on left. Follow track through gate and between trees to railway. Cross over railway with care. Go ahead uphill, pass clump of trees and keep ahead across field. 20 metres after fence corner on right, turn right over stile and follow path through wood. Go over cross path, then at top of rise, turn right along sandy track. Keep ahead, for about 400m, passing an area where stacks of

wood are sometimes kept. Keep ahead through the woods before crossing a drive. Continue on the path firstly to cross over a track in dip and then a lane to eventually reach road by cricket ground. Cross road and continue along Park Road opposite for 550 metres to reach South Lodge of Albury Park on left hand side of road.

- 3 From South Lodge take the middle path and go through kissing gate to right of driveway. Continue along remnants of an avenue of Chestnut trees, and keep ahead to pass to left of lodge. Turn left along track and cross footbridge over the Tillingbourne.

(If you wish to detour into the village of Shere, take the footpath on your right before crossing the stream, and follow it for approximately 300m to reach the village. There are a number of pubs and shops in the village).

The Tillingbourne rises on the slopes of Leith Hill and flows westwards to join the River Wey at Shalford.

- 4 Keep ahead up lane then in 180 metres turn left up path. Go through kissing gate and across field to another kissing gate and follow path to kissing gate. Go ahead across field going 50 metres to left of church. Pass through kissing gate to road.

The church was built in 1840 by Henry Drummond, the then owner of Albury Park, to serve the Holy Catholic apostolic or 'Irvingite' church founded by his friend Edward Irving, a former Church of Scotland minister, in 1832.

- 5 Cross road with care. Go through kissing gate and keep ahead with fence on right. Cross stile and go along edge of wood and over cross track to Weston Woods sand quarry. Keep ahead through woods for 260 metres. At end of path bear left and merge with track. Pass Timbercroft and continue ahead along track to reach lane. Turn left and in 10 metres turn right up track. Keep ahead along left-hand edge of field then follow path ahead across field. Go over cross track and keep ahead for 600 metres to reach road and St Martha's car park.

(If you wish to detour from the walk at this point and climb St Martha's Hill, follow the broad sandy track from the car park and continue ahead uphill to reach the chapel after half a mile. There has been a chapel on the site for over a thousand years, and parts of the present chapel date back to 1190. The Downs Link long distance path passes close to hill, linking the North Downs Way to the South Downs Way).

- 6 To continue the walk from the car park, with back to road go through top left hand corner of car park and immediately turn left on second small path and head for the fingerpost ignoring path back to road. Cross broad sandy track and go ahead on path. Bear right down valley and then bear left with path. Follow for 540 metres.

Down through the trees on the right the Tillingbourne and an old mill stream can be seen. Gunpowder was manufactured in this valley from at least 1625, when the East India Company set up mills here, until the end of the First World War and the remains of works of various dates stretch for two miles westward down the valley. Colyers Hangar on the left is old coppice woodland. The wood was used to produce charcoal, one of the ingredients of gunpowder.

- 7 At Waterloo Pond turn right on track and turn right again to pass Postford Mill Pond, and former mill building now converted into residential and office buildings.

Over the years there has been a series of powder, paper and cornmills in this area relying upon the Tillingbourne for water power.

- 8 Cross bridge by millpond sluice then bear right on path between fences. Cross stile and continue along field edge.

The Admiralty Cordite Works were built in this area in 1915, during the First World War. The remains of a stove house can be seen by the modern pond to the right and the row of cottages were converted from the cordite press house.

- 9 Cross footbridge and stile and continue ahead across field passing foundations of the Admiralty Cordite Works. Cross stile and go across field to stile.

Beyond the stream on the right some remains of the Smokeless Powder Works built in the 1890's can be glimpsed. The middle section of the former gunpowder works is owned by Guildford Borough Council and stretches for over a kilometre down the valley. Substantial remains of the modernised works of 1885, the canal used for transport and water power, roller mill stones for mixing the gunpowder and the site of the older water powered mills can be seen. To visit the works turn right on track, cross bridge and turn left alongside canal.

- 10 From stile turn left along track to road. At road turn right to return to station.