TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Abinger

For more details, download the printable pdf (www.tillingbourne-trails.co.uk/places/trails)

START in the centre of Abinger Hammer village (RH5 6RX). There is a small village car park on the B2126 (Felday Road), next to the bridge, but otherwise parking is very limited (if no parking is available in Abinger, it may be best to park at Gomshall station and start the walk opposite Old Hatch Farm, adding 1km to the walk).

If starting from the centre of the village and Felday Road (fac ing the Post Office and Tea Room), turn left and walk along the A25, with the Tillingbourne on your left.

The forge at Abinger Hammer was likely situated on the extensive millpond where the 'Kingfisher' farm shop and watercress beds are today. The forge particularly flourished in the 16th century, and local tradition holds that guns were made there and used against the Spanish Armada. The Hammer Clock (in its present form) dates to 1909 and stands as a tribute to the village’s ironworking tradition, featuring a carved figure of a blacksmith known as 'Jack the Hammer'.

Hatch Farm is a Tudor farmhouse likely on the site of a medieval manor house, and was known as Harms Hatch in the 16th century. It took the name Stales in the 18th century, named for its family of occupants.

As you continue on the bridleway, you will pass two semi-detached houses on your right. Crossing the Tillingbourne you will come to a path junction just before a house gateway. Take the right-hand path, following the garden fence on your right.

As the path goes up the hill past Southbrook Farm, continue along it to the top of the rise. A small path then doubles back on your left and traverses across a field, which you should follow.

After 50 yards you will see a stile on your left. As you cross over, you will come out of the woods and arrive in another field.

Cross the field and enter the woods on the other side. Turn immediately right and continue on the path.

Turn right and continue alongside the side of the field, running parallel to the woods. In about 100yds, take the unmarked path on the left, towards a large oak tree in the middle of the field. At the other end of the field, cross the stile and turn right.

Continue on this path as it veers right, past the side of a house, and then left, carrying on until you reach Felday Road (*note the road is very busy*). Cross directly over the road and climb the stile to the footpath opposite.

In the next field there is a clump of trees at a bridge at the far right corner, at the field’s top end. Follow the path towards it (this path may not be visible all year) and the gap between the fields and marker. Turn immediately left by the stile over the low fence into a triangular-shaped field.

At the bottom of the hill you will come to Paddington Farm. Go left and then right through the farmyard between the barns until you come to a tarmac road. As you carry on down to the road towards the A25, you will pass Paddington Mill on your left and millpond on your right.

When you reach the A25, turn left at the village sign, and take the footpath verge next to the road (*be careful along this narrow path*). You will pass Kingfisher Farm Shop on the left and its watercress beds, before eventually returning to Felday Road and the Start Point (refreshments suggested at Tea Rooms by Post Office).

Though there was likely a Domesday corn mill at Paddington, the present building dates to c. 1840 and was run by nearby Paddington Farm. By 1915, however, it was used as a stable and later as a store for watercress containers, and is now converted to residential use.

Length 3.5 km Duration approx. 1.5-2 hours
Easy level of difficulty
Abinger

Wildlife of the Tillingbourne

Crayfish

The white-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) is a small, bronzo-coloured crustacean which has pale undersides on its claws.

As the only native freshwater crayfish to Britain, the white-clawed variety has been in decline since the introduction of the North American signal crayfish.

The crayfish inhabits shallow freshwater streams and hides underneath stones and rocks in small crevices where it forages for such food as invertebrates, carrion, water plants and dead organic matter.

The Surrey Wildlife Trust manages almost 8,000 hectares of land in Surrey (5% of the county) with the aim of creating a better future for the local wildlife, and for the enjoyment of local people.

To get involved, whether through volunteering, donating or adopting species to protect, please find out more and visit www.surreywildlifetrust.org

The Surrey Hills Society is an independent charity which encourages people to explore, protect and enhance the local landscape, including that of the Tillingbourne. In order to do this, volunteers are needed to help organise and support walks, talks and events for members, as well as various conservation projects within the AONB.

For more info, see www.surreyhills.org/society

Get involved

The Surrey Archaeological Society is an active group which has been unearthing the history of Surrey since 1854, with a well-stocked library and diverse research collection at the Abinger Research Centre.

To find out more about the work of SyAS and how to join, please visit www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Abinger

Tales & Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley

Tillingbourne Trails

Other links

Abinger Parish Council - www.abinger-pc.gov.uk
Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhills.org
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey’s Past) - www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/
Tillingbourne Tales HLF project - www.tillingbournetales.co.uk

So much to discover, so much to see.

Explore more than 400 miles of historic houses, maltings and scenic countryside in the heart of the Tillingbourne valley