TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Albury

This heritage trail takes in the distinctive Tillingbourne village of Albury, famous for its relocation a mile to the west in the 18th century. Explore its unique village architecture before meandering through Albury Park itself, a scenic parkland which combines medieval churches, landscaped gardens and woodland, all on the edge of the beautiful Albury Heath.

Length 4/6 km  Duration approx. 1.5/2.5 hours  Medium level of difficulty (steep climb)

START from St Peter's and St Paul's Albury parish church (GU5 9A). Suggested parking is along grass across from the church.

Walk west along the road with the church on the left and the war memorial on the right. Then turn right as the road curves north, following it to the Albury (Pratt’s) shop and green.

At the junction, turn right onto the main road (A281) and follow the pavement through the village, passing cottages and shops such as the former post office and pharmacy, as well as the houses atop of which are the famous Pugin chimneys.

The Tillingbourne runs behind the houses on the northern side of the road, and is especially visible behind the Drummond Arms, as well as the small park behind the Village Hall carpark.

As you continue along the road, you will also pass the old building for Albury Mill on the left.

Continue on the road past Weston House and the trout ponds on its north side.

At the road bend and junction, turn right onto New Road, then turning left through the gate, onto the road to Albury Park.

Follow the road down to the Saxton church, straight ahead. The church is open throughout the year to visit, and a stop is highly recommended.

The old church to the west of Albury House dates to Saxton times, including some of the surviving fabric (herringbone rubble construction in the north wall and a small window in the tower). Additions were made in the 12th (tower) and 13th century (south transept), with the painting of St Christopher on the nave wall of 16th century date.

From the church gate, turn north and walk over the tarmacked drive, to the public footpath on the other side. Take the path up the hill, and through the kissing gate, at the corner of the wooded hill.

Follow the path through the woods (it will gradually veer to the left as you reach the top of the slope).

The old village of Albury is what is now Albury Park, successor to the ‘Eldchene’ manor of the 1086 Domesday survey. The earliest recorded house was a half-timbered Tudor structure, to be replaced by a design of George Evelyn in the later 17th century. Under Henry Drummond’s ownership c.1850 and the architect A.W. Pugin, the extensor was almost entirely altered, including with 63 individually styled chimneys.

Follow the footpath and track down to the sunken laneway. Carry on along the track, following it around a left-hand bend, and onto Church Lane, back to the Start Point at Albury church.

Exit the woods as you go through a gate and onto a drive, passing South Lodge, before continuing to Park Road.

Cross the road and turn right, following the path along it, until you reach Heath Lane on the left. Turn left into Heath Lane, and then immediately right onto the footpath through the woods.

Follow the footpath into Albury Heath, and then turn right. Then immediately fork right again onto the sandy path, back into the woods. Follow the path to the road T junction.

Cross over New Road and onto the drive towards the Cricket Ground.

*Option here to extend walk 1.5km. Otherwise continue with the following directions*

The cricket ground is famed for a gathering of several thousand Canadian troops who were addressed by General Montgomery just before the D-Day landings in 1944. What is believed to be the spot is now marked by a memorial.

Take the footpath on the left side of the house, into the woods.

For more details (including alternative route), download the printable pdf (www.tillingbourneales.co.uk/places/trails).
Wildlife of the Tillingbourne

Brown Trout

The brown trout (Salmo trutta) is a medium to large silvery-brown fish with a creamy-yellow belly and dark back, covered in reddish spots surrounded with pale borders. It is distinguished from the rainbow trout by its dark tail fin and lack of purple side-stripe.

The trout live in fast-flowing gravelly rivers and feed on insect larvae, small fish and flying insects such as mayflies and damselflies. Unlike the rainbow trout, the brown trout is native, and requires healthier water to thrive.

Spawning occurs between January and March when eggs are buried in the gravel. When the young fish (fry) hatch, they feed on the nutritious yolk sac before moving on to invertebrates.

Get involved

The Surrey Industrial History Group (SIHG) is an active heritage group which researches, preserves and promotes the industrial legacy of the county through its annual lecture series, projects, publications, and conservation awards.

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

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