TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Shalford

This heritage trail takes in some of the most western of the Tillingbourne villages, scenic Shalford, on the banks of the River Wey. Explore the ins and outs of the original settlement, including Shalford Mill and the church of St Mary, before continuing through the meadows and along the Wey itself, absorbing both the beautiful countryside and historic monuments of the area.

Length 4.5 km  Duration approx. 2 hours
Easy level of difficulty

Return to the A281, cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn right along the pavement in front of the white cottages. You will soon reach the war memorial, the double stocks and the entrance to Shalford Churchyard.

Although the current St Mary’s was only dedicated in 1847, it is at least the fourth building on site since the first Saxon (9th century) church. The Victorian church is built in Early English style.

Walk through the churchyard on a roughly diagonal course, keeping the church to your right. Turn left down the narrow path between two memorial crosses opposite the blue doors at the side of the church. Follow the path into the trees and you will emerge onto a terrace path, opposite the premises of the Thames Water Treatment Plant.

Keeping the waterworks to your left, turn right and follow the terrace path. The bridge provides a last glimpse of the Tillingbourne before it joins the River Wey.

On reaching the playing fields, leave the terrace path and turn left, following the edge of the woods on your left.

Keep the field to your right, past a bench on the left, then turn left to five barred gates and an interpretation board. Go through the gate into the meadows. Continue on this path (The Pilgrims’ Way). As you cross a small wooden bridge, you can just see the ruins of St Catherine’s Chapel to your left above the tree line.

Continue until you reach the Wey Navigation. Turn left and cross the footbridge. After crossing go down and round back under it, following the bank over the Golden Sands. Continue along the towpath until St Catherine’s Lock is reached. Cross the bridge and weir, and then take the path beside the canal.

Pass the Lengthmans cottage and follow the path as it turns left across the Riff Raff weir over the river. Continue with the river on your left, as the path goes steeply uphill to the kissing gate at Dagley Lane.

Turn right here and follow Dagley Lane, past the allotments. Go back over the pedestrian crossing to return to the Start Point at Shalford Station (refreshments suggested at Snoopy Fox Café).

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

Beautiful demoiselle

The beautiful demoiselle (Calypte alyceus) is one of only two British damselflies with obviously coloured wings. The females have brown wings and a green body, and the males have dark-coloured wings with a white wing spot against a metallic blue-green body.

The male species undertakes courtship behaviour to attract the female, by resting on bankside vegetation while awaiting them, and then using his fluttering flight as a display. Their main flight period is late May until the end of August.

Get involved

A place like Shalford Mill needs a team of committed volunteers to make it happen. Luckily, Shalford has just such a team of people who muck in with all the jobs that need doing to keep it up and running. This can include help with guided tours or other events which run throughout the year.

To find out more, visit the Mill’s website or email shalfordmill@nationaltrust.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

Other links

Shalford Village - shalfordvillage.co.uk
Shalford Parish Council - shalfordpc.org.uk
Shalford Mill - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shalford-mill
Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhills.org
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey’s Past) - www.exploring surrey past.org.uk/
Tillingbourne Tales Hlf project - www.tillingbourne tales.co.uk

TALiEOf the Tillingbourne VALLEY

Shalford

TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Explore more than 40m of beautiful historic sites around the village, including one of the most complete mills along the valley.

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Tales & Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley