From the car park entrance, turn left and cross the road to turn down Middle Street, past the wells, shops and fire station, to the Tillingbourne and bridge.

The well which is cut into the 18th century ‘Old Well’ on Middle Street was dug in 1886. It was a gift from the Spurrowood sisters of Drydown, who wanted to ensure a non-alcoholic alternative drink for the village and its pub-goers.

Turn right down Lower Street, following the stream to the road’s corner junction. Follow the road to the right, crossing the ford bridge.

Follow the road uphill and, crossing the road, take the small footpath on the left beside a house and garden wall.

The Catholic Apostolic Church was built around 1840 under the architect William Macintosh Brookes, and paid for by Henry Drummond, who wanted it in sight of his mansion. The church was administered by a college of Twelve Apostles, but was closed upon the death of the last Minister, and is now closed to the public.

Continue following the path through a field to a gate leading into the woods.

This heritage trail takes in the beautiful and popular village of Shere, one of the valley’s best preserved historic communities. Explore not only the many intricacies of the village itself, but also the gentle walk through the fields to Albury Park and back, following the course of the Tillingbourne and taking in the historic churches, houses and river features (both natural and man-made) along the way.

Length 5 km Duration approx. 2.5 hours Moderate level of difficulty

Follow the path through the woods, bearing slightly left, and exit the woods onto a drive through a gate, past South Lodge. Before reaching Park Road, bear immediately left onto the path between the fenced fields.

Follow the river back to the road corner in Shere. Turn right and follow Lower Street back to the village bridge by the White Horse pub.

Cross over Middle Street to the square and continue on to St James’ church, taking time to explore its interior.

The church of St James is recorded in Domesday and thus of Saxon origins, though the earliest part of the existing church dates to c. 1190. One of the most notable features of the interior are the quatrefoil and squat in the north chancel, associated with Christine Carpenter, ‘Anchorex of Shere’.

Exit the graveyard on the left side of the church through a gate, crossing the bridge over the Tillingbourne.

Follow the path into a small recreational ground, past the swimming pool on your left, to the road (Gomshall Lane). Turn left and cross the road, and then take the drive between Shere Museum and the Village Hall, back to the car park and Start Point.
TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Get involved

Shere Museum houses a substantial local collection of artefacts, in particular domestic and agricultural equipment, as well as the new Tillingbourne Gallery. In order for the Museum to be open to the public though, volunteers are needed to help staff it.

To find out more about Shere Museum and how to volunteer, please visit www.shereumuseum.co.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
Shere Village - www.sheredlight.com
Shere Parish Council - www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk
Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhills.org
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey’s Past) - www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/
Tillingbourne Tales HLF project - www.tillingboroughtales.co.uk

Shere 

Tales & Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley

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

Wildlife of the Tillingbourne

English Oak

The English oak (Quercus robur), also known as the ‘Pedunculate Oak’ due to its acorns growing on stalks (peduncles), is a deciduous tree easily recognised for its broad rounded leaf lobes and acorns.

The oak’s acorns are prized as both fodder and a winter food source for wildlife. Though common, it is a highly valued timber tree, also providing shelter and nesting for birds and insects alike.

The oak’s leaf burst occurs in mid-May, gradually ripening throughout the summer, before taking on a brownish colour in the autumn.

The Surrey Hills Society supports the Pedunculate Oak Conservation Project.