This heritage trail takes in the sprawling wooded paths around Wotton House, one of the valley’s most popular former country houses. Explore the historic milling hamlets and garden features of the area, including the ornamental cascade at Broadmoor, taking in the scenic countryside, woodlands and millponds along the way.

Length 5 km  Duration approx. 2 hours  Moderate level of difficulty

START from car park behind the Wotton Hatch (RH5 6QZ) pub on the A25, by Wotton Village Hall.

Take the path on the left side of the village hall as it runs diagonally across the field, and then cross over the stile onto Wotton Drive.

Turn left and follow the drive towards Wotton House. At the end of the hedge on the left of the drive, cross the stile. Take the path on the left side of the field, crossing over the Tillingbourne and into the woods.

Wotton was conveyed to George Evelyn in 1579, though it is the Italian gardens of the 1600s for which the estate is best known. Restoration and further garden alterations took place in the 1860s, including a deer and kangaroo paddock.

*note it is worth following the drive down to take a look at Wotton House (now a private hotel which you can visit or have a drink at), before returning to the path*

Follow the track south along the valley to the Friday Street millpond. As you walk along this tributary, you can see a number of small ponds through the trees.

As the path becomes paved, follow it until you reach Friday Street by the corner of the pond corner. The building on your left is the site of the old corn mill.

*note you may wish to take a detour along the right (western) side of the pond, into the hamlet of Friday Street and the Stephen Langton Inn*

The mill pond in the hamlet of Friday Street is all that remains of the former mill site, other than the associated 17th century cottages and millhouse. Its corn mill is likely late 16th century in origin, though its high dam and sluice have also led to speculation of use as an iron mill. Regardless, the mill closed down c. 1736, likely for steepening the water gradient as part of Evelyn’s estate landscaping.

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

Turn left at the pond corner and follow the road (Noons Corner), with the pond on your right. Just past the pond take the small path on the right into the woods and up the hill.

Continue on the path as it crosses the two roads. Where it comes to a fork, go right and downhill, cutting behind the houses. Then go left, downhill between gardens, to meet the road at Broadmoor hamlet.

Carry on past the waterfall.

The ornamental cascade is supplied by a contour leat of the Tillingbourne, constructed c.1738 by the Dutchman Mr Jacobsen as a set piece of illusionistic garden-landscaping. Originally, it was part of an intricate system, complete with pavilion, statues and ornamental urns.

Turn left along the road, following it around the bend to the point where it forks to the right. Take this path, which continues along the Greensand Way into the Wotton Estate.

Continue following the path/track (Greensand Way), eventually onto a house drive and Sheephouse Lane.

As you approach the A25, go left and follow the road 400m back to the pub car park and Start Point.

© License No. 100019613
Get involved

Despite the tranquil beauty of the Tillingbourne, recent investigations by the Environment Agency showed its ecological status is still in need of improvement. The Surrey Wildlife Trust’s River Search project teaches volunteers to manage invasive non-native species during conservation action days, in order to survey, monitor and improve the river habitat over time.

To find out more, 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

Other links
Wotton Parish Council - wottonpc.wordpress.com
Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhills.org
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey’s Past) - www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/
Tillingbourne Tales HLF project - www.tillingbournetrails.co.uk

Explore more than 25 miles of wooded paths and beautiful countryside, including the mill ponds at Fisby Street