

# TILFORD WALK

## Birds & Bridges

This walk can begin at either **A** Frensham Ponds Visitor Centre or **B** The Rural Life Centre. From **A** follow the boardwalk from the rear of the Visitor Centre. Turn left then right onto a wide sandy track.

After 35m as track bears right, go ahead uphill and later go left to join a wide mown track. Bear right and continue until the mown track ends. Go left and follow bridleway, at fork bear right and follow bridleway to A287.

Cross road with care, taking the path almost directly opposite. Turn left at T junction. At cross tracks turn right along path with fences on left to car park.

Bear left, between the fence and the car park to road.

Cross road and continue along bridleway and at T junction turn left. Pass **Keepers Cottage**, cross river bridge and follow bridleway through **Pierrepont Home Farm**.

Cross farmyard and go right passing metal gate. Keep ahead and follow bridleway between fence and partly cleared conifer plantations. Bear right by house fence and proceed to **The Reeds Road**. Cross road, and take path opposite for 20m to waymark post.

If starting from the Rural Life Centre **B**, from entrance turn left, continue for 100m. Take bridleway on left, turning immediately right, continuing parallel to road for 500m. Turn left onto second bridleway to join the main route.

Continue ahead on bridleway through woodlands. When fence on left bears left continue ahead down to road. Cross **Tilford Road** and proceed along **Sheephatch Lane** opposite.

Cross road bridge then in 30m turn right uphill along path. Continue ahead as path veers right and left. Continue ahead to join tarmac track, passing **Tilhill House** then in 100m (opposite **Wey Cottage**) bear right, ignore stile on left, and continue on down hill to **Tilford Street** (The village shop is 30 metres to the left).

**FRENHAM**

### Frensham Great and Little Ponds

The Great Pond was created in 1208 at the site of a natural pond. The Little Pond formerly known as 'Crowsfoot Pond', was constructed in 1246 by building a stone wall across a shallow valley and damming the stream. Both ponds belonged to the Bishop of Winchester and provided the main fish supply to Farnham Castle when the Bishop was in residence.

### Kingfisher

The Kingfisher is a most colourful and spectacular bird seen by rivers and lakes, perching on branches and darting down to plunge for fish.

### Rural Life Centre

The Rural Life Centre is a country life museum, run by a charitable trust. Set in a delightful countryside setting, the museum comprises a large number of implements and devices marking over 150 years of farming. Visit [www.rural-life.org.uk](http://www.rural-life.org.uk) for opening times and further information.

### Farnham Heath

Most of these conifer plantations were established on what was once heathland. The RSPB is clearing the plantations to restore the heath. This will recreate suitable habitat for bird species such as the handsome Stonechat.

### Stonechat



**NOT TO SCALE**  
©Crown copyright. All rights reserved.  
Surrey County Council. LA076872.2003

### Meadowsweet

The creamy sweet fragrant flowers of Meadowsweet embellish rivers and stream banks.

Turn right, go over road bridge and past the **Barley Mow Pub**.

Continue to end of green, crossing roads to take footpath by **The Malt House**. Follow path through former plant nursery and proceed into woodlands.

Continue on path, which at times runs beside river, to pass through gate and join track.

Turn right and continue to **Meadow End Farm**. Go through gate, then take footpath ahead between fences. At kissing gate turn right along track.

At road, near **Frensham Little Pond** car park, turn left along **Priory Lane** for 100m, then right through gap in railings just beside unmade road.

Continue ahead to the right of small car park and bear right through woods to follow orange waymark arrows across the Common, over A287 and back to the **Visitor Centre**.

Today Frensham Common is valued for recreation and nature conservation. The safe, sandy beaches beside the Great Pond make this a popular site for visitors. The challenge is to balance public access and enjoyment with the demands of maintaining the area's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

