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 9AJ). 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) shops 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.

Although often confused with the second Botting's Mill on Postford Pond, also referred to as 'Albury Mill', the mill on Weston Street is most famous for being burnt down and the attempted murder of its miller in 1830, leading to the arsonist's execution. Rebuilt in brick and with a water turbine, the mill flourished until 1910, when the Bottings moved to Postford.
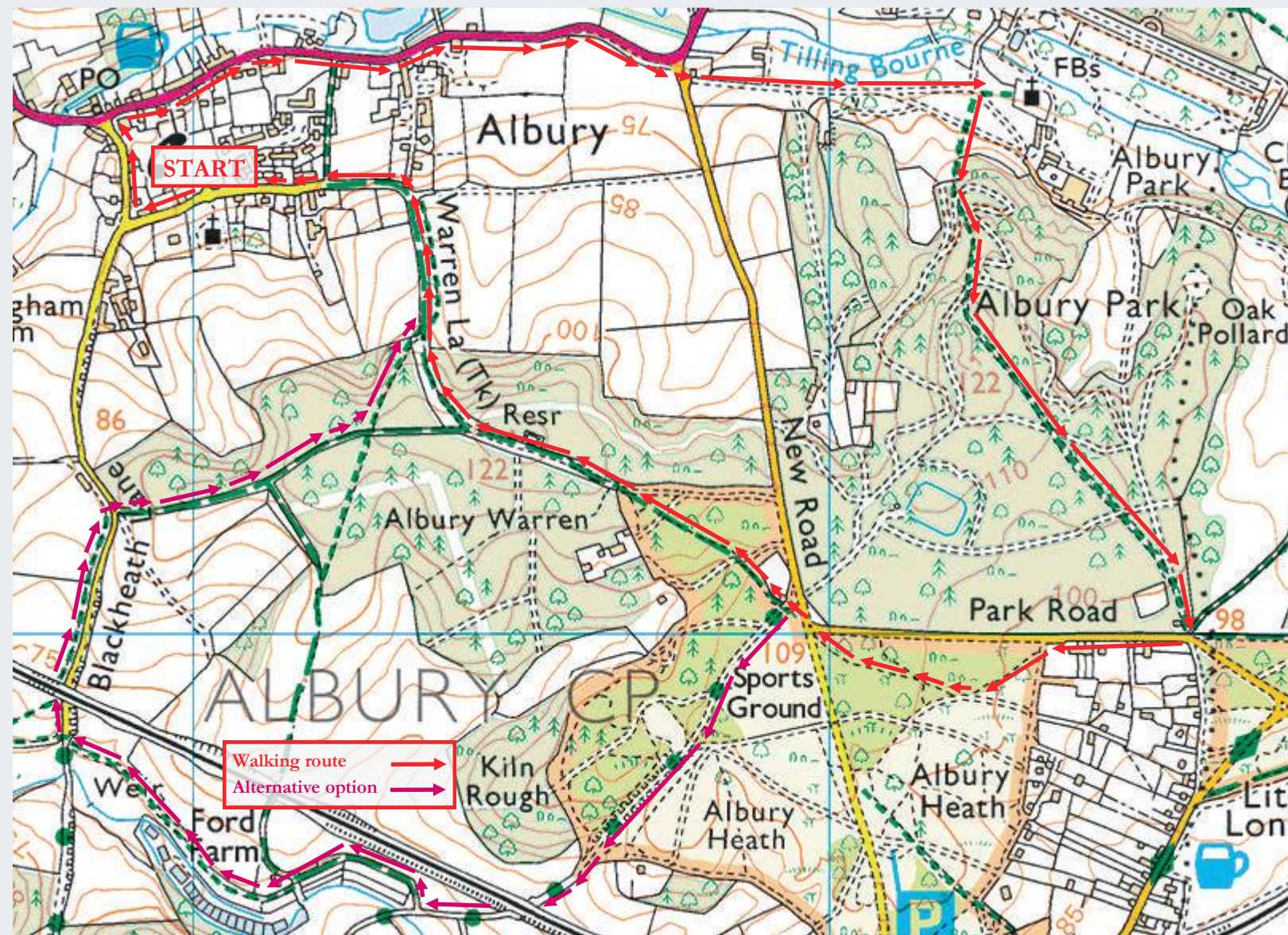
As you continue along the road, you will also pass the old building for **Albury Mill** on the left.

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**.

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

Walking route →
Alternative option ⇢

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Follow the road down to the **Saxon 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 Saxon 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 'Eldeberie' 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 exterior was almost entirely altered, including with 63 individually styled chimneys.

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.

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.

Albury Paper Mills

Charles Ball II
1761-1818
Master Papermaker at Albury Park Mill

- Born to Charles Ball (papermaker at Rush Mill near Northampton) and Margaret Bramley
- Baptised in 1761 in Farningham, Kent, near Eynsford Mill
- In 1780 (at the age of 21) married Martha Weaver of St Martin in the Fields at St Clement Danes, London
- Had four children, two of whom he would install to run his paper mills at Postford: Charles III (b. 1783) and Edmund Richmond (b. 1786).
- Though at Stoke Mill in 1790 and later Chilworth, built and ran Albury Park Mill from 1793 until he retired in 1810
- Upon retirement, built his house at Postford Hill, until moving to Lombard Street, London
- Died in 1818 (will dated 24 August) and buried in large tomb in Merrow

Letterhead engraving of the paper mill at Albury Park, showing its single-storeyed workshops, water-wheel and shuttered drying lofts © Guildford Museum

Postford Hill, now Postford House, built c. 1806

The Lower and Upper Postford sites were converted from the onset to the production of machine-made paper, specifically for the making of banknotes. In the 1830s and 1840s their business was flourishing, with their principal proprietor Sir William Magnay known as the principal papermaker of Surrey. However, by the 1850s trade was difficult due to the decline in the normal paper trade and shift away from Surrey. By 1865-75 the Postford mills, along with the Great and Little paper mills at Chilworth, had closed.

The former corn mill at Albury Park was converted to a paper mill under Charles Ball II in 1793, being worked by him and his sons Charles and Edmund Richard until 1809, when a lease of 61 years was taken out on two newly-constructed paper mills downstream at Postford. By 1810 the paper mill at Albury Park was closed, though it had later use as a laundry.

Hollander beating engines which made the paper pulp via a large horizontal 'swimming wheel', engaging smaller pinion wheels to drive the rollers of the beating engines (reproduced by John Day from Diderot's 1762-77 *Encyclopédie*). Fourdrinier machines then produced continuous sheets of paper from the pulp, largely coming to replace hand-made paper-making.

Watermark tracing for Charles Ball - circular knife and series of sharp teeth cut paper into required size (*Penny Magazine* 1833)

Cowper paper-cutting machine - marks sewn with fine wire on the mould

TIMELINE
1086 - By Domesday the manor of Eldeberie is held by Roger d'Abernon, to include a church and mill

1253 - Manor passes from d'Abernon family to Sir Edmund Bray through marriage

1645 - Earliest recorded drawing of the manor house under Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk

1660s - John Evelyn influences the layout of much of the Park grounds, including the grotto and canals

1665 - Little London founded(?) by Plague escapees

1784 - Captain Finch begins process of road diversions around the park in attempt to gain more privacy, leading to gradual move of original village to present site today

1819 - Albury Park purchased by Henry Drummond

1830 - Albury Mill burned down by James Warner, who was later hanged

1840 - Apostolic Church paid for by Henry Drummond

1841 - Old Saxon church closed and replaced by new parish church in the village

1895 - Albury Hall ceased serving as village school when it moved to new site on Albury Heath

1910 - Bottings move mill site to Postford Pond

1944 - General Montgomery addresses soldiers at Albury Heath just before D-Day invasions

1957 - Owners of former chemist christened their house 'Not the Old Pharmacy'

Find out more......
Albury Trust (1994), *A Short Guide to the Parish*
Crocker, Alan and Anne Philips (1996), *The Ball family, paper-makers of Surrey and Northern France*
Crocker, Glenys and Alan (2000), *Damnable Inventions: Chilworth Gunpowder and the Paper Mills of the Tillingbourne*
Walmsley, R Charles (1974), *Albury Park*

1st ed Ordnance Survey map 1870

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.

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

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

Other links
Albury History Society - **alburyhistory.org.uk**
Albury Parish Council - **www.albury.org.uk**
Surrey Hills AONB - **www.surreyhills.org**
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey's Past) - **www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/**

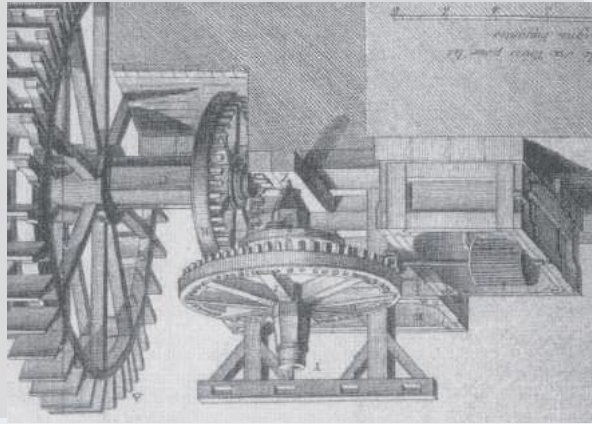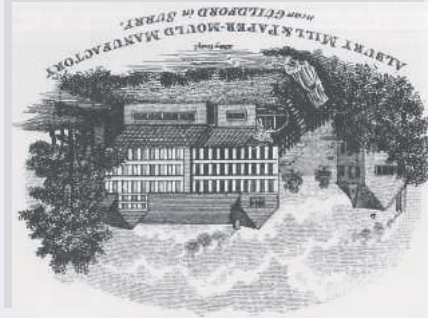Tillingbourne Tales HLF project - **www.tillingbournetales.co.uk**

TALES & TRAILS OF THE TILLINGBOURNE VALLEY

TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Albury

Explore more than 6km of unique historic architecture and scenic countryside, including the beautiful landscaped park and woodland of Albury Park

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