

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



START from **Shere village car park** (GU5 9HE), off of **Upper Street**.

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

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



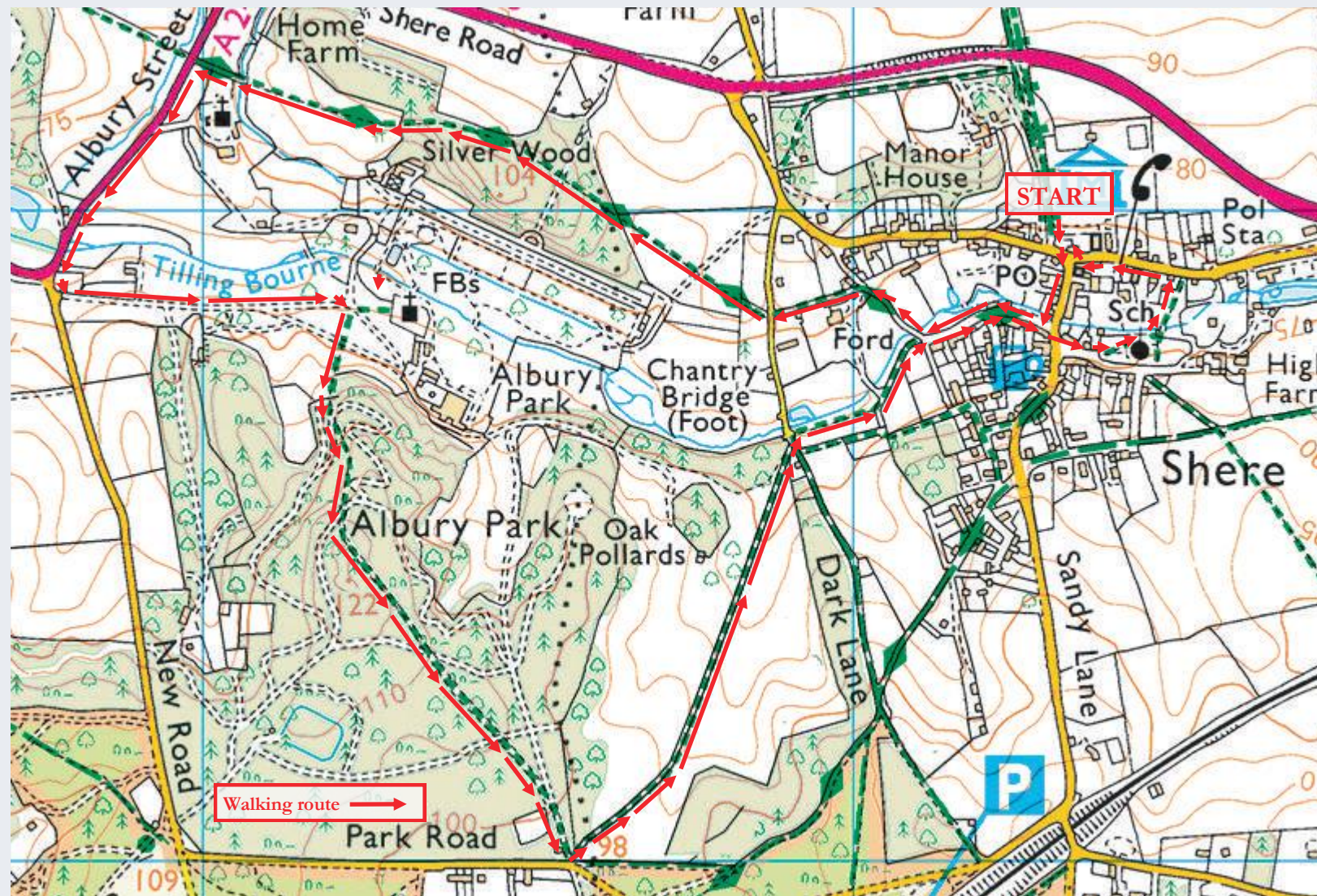
Turn right down **Lower Street**, following the stream to the road's corner junction. Follow the road to the right, crossing the **ford bridge**.

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



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

Continue through the woods, and then exit into a field, keeping the **Apostolic Church** on your left, to a kissing gate and the main **A248** road.



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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.

Turn left along the road passing the church (private no entrance) on your left and **Park Gate Pumping Station** on your right to the road junction. Turn left onto **New Road**, and then turn left again and through the **Albury Estate** gates. Follow the road to the **Saxon church** at its far end.



From the church, head back (approximately half left) to the tarmac drive, and continue up the hill past the public footpath sign and through the gate, into the corner of the woods.

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 an avenue of chestnut trees (and rather fine oak tree) north down towards Shere.

At the path junction, turn left and then right through **Vicky's Gate** into the field beside the Tillingbourne.



'The Old Prison' dates to the early 17th century, with its front wing said to have been used as the local lock-up. Certainly by 1900 though its use had changed, with its caretaker keeping a sweetshop there.

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 squint in the north chancel, associated with Christine Carpenter, 'Anchoress 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.



1st ed Ordnance Survey map 1870

1086 - Shere manor listed as 'Essira' in the Domesday Book and granted to William Warenne

c.1190 - Present church of St James completed in the Transitional style, presumably built over earlier church

1258 - 'Battle of Shere' in St James' churchyard, concerning disputed advowson between John Fitzgeoffrey, lord of the manor, and the abbot of Netley

1329 - Christine Carpenter, 'Anchoress of Shere', makes promise to live in holy place, being encased in cell of north chancel wall of the church

c.1450 - The house which now serves as the White Horse (formerly Cripps) is built, making it one of the oldest in the village, with the exception of Forge Cottage

1486 - Sir Reginald Bray acquires Shere Vachery manor

1588 - Captain Richard Hill led Shere company to London to help guard against Spanish Armada threat

1761 - Cricketer of Shere Edward Bound charged (though cleared) for playing during the Sabbath

1772 - Old Wall along west side of upper Middle Street built by William Bray

1885 - Fire station in Middle Street built

1897 - Original Parish Hall (now Shere Museum) built to celebrate Queen's Diamond Jubilee

1922 - First World War veterans honoured by having the Parish Hall converted to the Shere Working Men's Club, after completion of the new Village Hall

TIMELINE

Find out more...

Noyes, Ann (1996), *Shere Poverty: from parish workhouse to union workhouse*
 Shere, Gomshall, and Peaslake Local History Society (1981, 2003), *A Short History*
 (1981), *Old Houses in the Parish of Shere*
 (2001), *Shere: a Surrey village in maps*
 Shere Parish Council (1994), *The Parish of Shere: a pictorial record 1894 to 1994: Gomshall, Hobbunbury St. Mary, Peaslake, Shere*



Tudor Cottage, formerly Smith's, was originally built in the early 15th century

16th-17th century clothier's shears



In his will of 1646, John Stonhill of Shere left a callender for pressing his fustian and equipment for dyeing it, as well as several looms. As a countryside industry, weaving revolved around the husbandry season, and in many cases, the craft was undertaken from the cottages of the weavers themselves. The wealthier men in the trade were clothiers, many of whom were involved in farming and kept their own sheep.

Water-power was important to the trade for operating the fulling mills and processing heavy cloth. This was done by first scouring the cloth to remove dirt and oil, and then pounding it with heavy hammers to cause it to shrink and thicken. Shere was particularly famous for the weaving of fustian until the later 18th century, a hard-wearing cloth of mixed fibres, usually with a strong linen warp and densely packed weft of cotton or sometimes wool.



'driving stock' fulling mill (from Böckler's 1661 *Theatrum Machinarum Norwim*). The 'tappets' which in turn drive the hammer, striking the cloth in order to mill it.



16th century carved bench end from St Margaret's, Spaxton, Somerset, showing cloth-worker surrounded by the tools of his trade



'Specs' at the northern corner of Middle Street, a late 15th century merchant's hall house owned by the Parkhursts until 1603

- ◆ Born c. 1519, location unknown
- ◆ In c. 1546 (at age 27) married Alyce Gifson, daughter of John Gifson of Guildford, Clothier
- ◆ Had at least seven children, including George (b. 1547), who inherited his tenement and mill, and Walter (b. 1559), later a linen draper of Southwark
- ◆ Owned numerous properties in Shere, including Specs tenement, Green Mead and Greet's, and leased the Queen's Mead from Edward Bray
- ◆ Clothier whose properties and workers listed in will include mill, dyehouses and spinners
- ◆ Died 1563, with burial recorded on 20 December



John Parkhurst
 c. 1519-1563
 Clothier of Shere

Shere Cloth Trade

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 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

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.sheremuseum.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.surreyhill.org/society

Other links

Shere Village - www.sheredelight.com
 Shere Parish Council - www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhill.org
 Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey's Past) - www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/
 Tillingbourne Tales HLF project - www.tillingbournetales.co.uk



TALES & TRAILS
 of THE
 TILLINGBOURNE VALLEY

TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

Shere



Explore more than 5km of quaint historic village architecture and picturesque countryside, including the beautiful landscape around Albury Park

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