

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, woodland 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 6QQ) 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**.



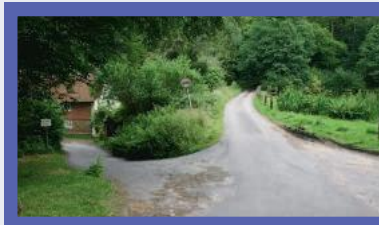
Turn left and follow the drive towards **Wotton House**. At the end of the hedge on the left of the drive, cross the stile. Take the path on the left side of the field, crossing over the Tillingbourne and into the woods.

Wotton was conveyed to George Evelyn in 1579, though it is the Italian gardens of the 1640s 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.

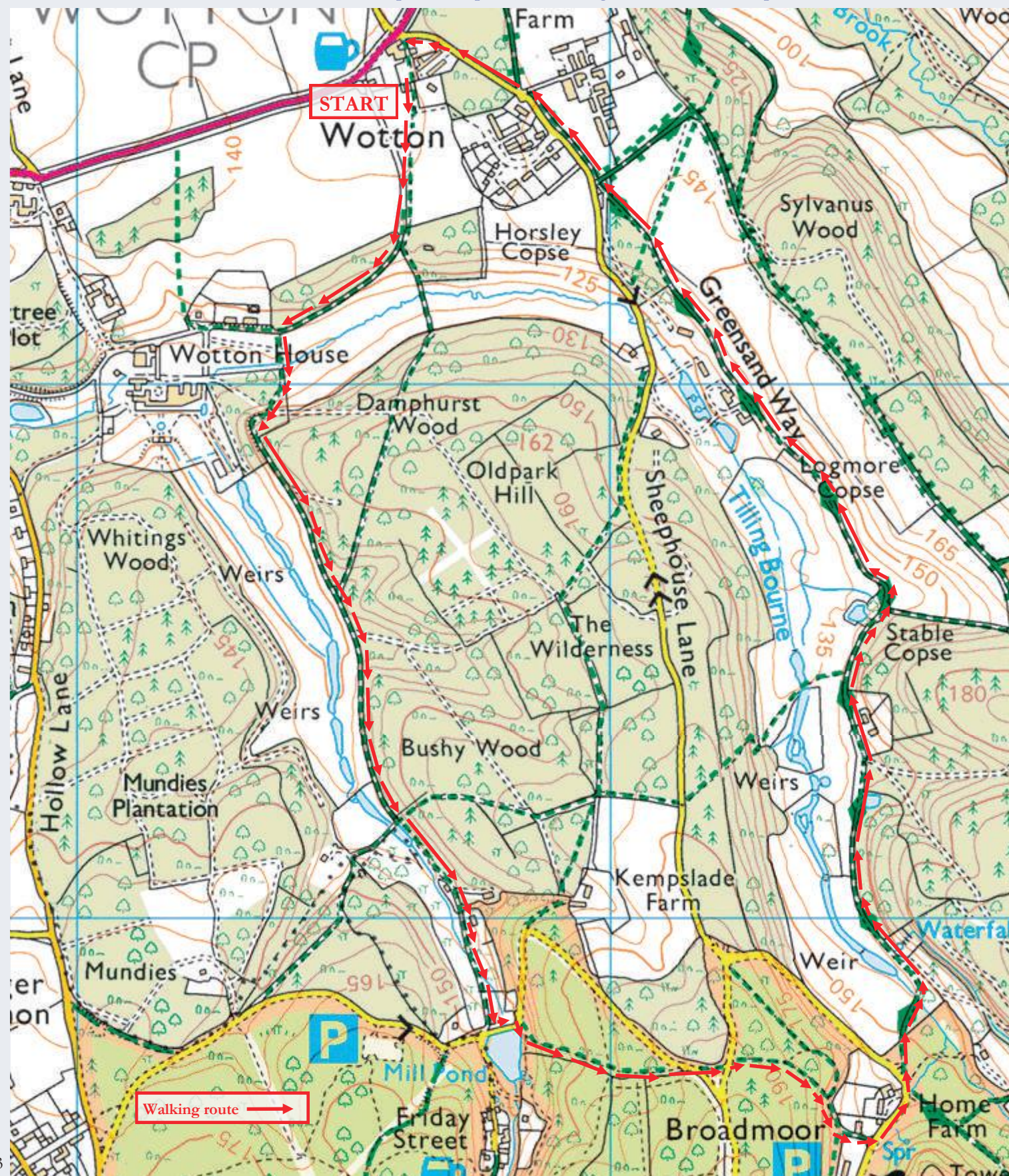


As the path becomes paved, follow it until you reach **Friday Street** by the corner of the pond corner. The building on your left is the site of the old corn mill.

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

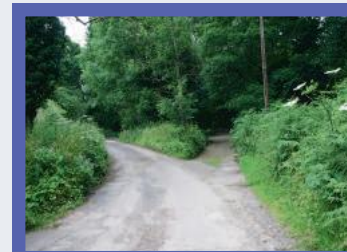
The mill pond in the hamlet of Friday Street is all that remains of the former mill site, other than the associated 17th century cottages and millhouse. Its corn mill is likely late 16th century in origin, though its high dam and slag have also led to speculation of use as an iron mill. Regardless, the 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.tillingbournetales.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.



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**.

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 illustrious garden-landscaping. Originally, it was part of an intricate system, complete with pavilion, statues and ornamental urns.



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.



1st ed Ordnance Survey map 1870

Find out more...

Brandon, Peter (1984, rev 2003), *The Tillingbourne River Story*

Brandon, Peter (1984), 'Land, river and water management in the Tillingbourne valley', *John Evelyn and his Gardens*

Fraser, Gill (2010), *John Evelyn and his Gardens*

O'Kelly, Terence (1988), *Abinger Common and Wotton*

1947-81 - Wotton House leased to Home Office and used as the Fire Service College

1870s - Fire damage requires restoration of Wotton House

1874 - Wotton school built to replace earlier 1851 building

1901 - Rifle Club founded by the Evelyns, believed to be oldest in the county

1858 - Post Office at the Wotton Hatch

Dutch merchant Theodore Jacobson

c.1740 - Lonesome Lodge (Tillingbourne House) built by Tillingbourne, including creation of miniature waterfalls

1735-41 - John Evelyn's pioneering landscaping of the legacy to poor boys of Wotton and Abinger

1717-8 - William Glanville, nephew of John Evelyn, leaves thousands of goodly oaks?

1703 - Great hurricane which stripped and destroyed 'many include a temple, mount and fountain

Wotton House, whose landscape features would come to 1643 - John Evelyn begins work on his 'Italian Garden' at newly erected cottages, enclosures and a mill?

1607 - Origin of hamlet at Abinger Bottom, including 'six c.1603-25 - Short-lived powder works near Wotton

1579 - Manor of Wotton conveyed to George Evelyn

1337 - Mill amongst possessions of William de Latimer

c.1100 - Normans built motte castle at Abinger Common mill

1086 - Domesday lists manor of 'Wodeton', including its

TIMELINE

17th century brass kettle

17th century iron fish hook with copper alloy wire line attached

landscaping projects.

Evelyn brothers' more aesthetic house to accommodate the moved further away from the its works on the west bank of the pond, by 1675 they were sketch of the estate in 1652 shows the pigeon house and Sweden that was obtained for such a purpose. Although a Evelyn's accounts describe a water-driven machine from lattice-work for windows, chains, rings, etc., and John would have in turn been made into wire goods such as ingots with calamine in order to make brass. This brass copper mills, the latter which treated imported copper copper plate, the Wotton site comprised a wire-works and (Elwix) Mill under Evelyn by 1622 to produce brass and 'Though a 'batter mill' was also established at Abinger and wire-drawing operations.

held by the Mineral and Battery Company's brass-plate failure of the powder mill in defiance of the monopoly Pigeon House site, established by Richard Evelyn after the wire mills which are most commonly associated with the 17th century powder works. However, it is the brass and House, possibly the location of George Evelyn's early Pigeon House Pond, just east and north of Wotton A small works was established at the millpond known as

Water-powered wire mill (from Vannoccio Biringuccio's 1540 *Pinthechnia*), where the turning wheel pulls the wire through a series of holes in the die plate, here held taut by tongs

c. 1640 (© The British Library Board)

Wotton House and pond, from Evelyn papers

Wotton House, taken from the top of the Grotto, by John Evelyn, 1653 (© Surrey History Centre)

in St Andrew Holborne

Possibly the Peter Brocklesby buried on 6 January 1684

◆ First leased brass/wire mills at Pigeon House Pond, Wotton c. 1628 from Richard Evelyn

◆ Had possibly two sons, Peter and Cooke in St Andrew Holborn, Camden

◆ In 1624 (at age 27) married Anne

◆ Born c. 1597, location unknown

◆ A 'Pewterer of London' before his arrival at Wotton (and briefly Elwix Mill, Abinger), he made brass and battery goods, and was rumoured to import 'foreigners' for their wire-making craft skills

Peter Brocklesby

c. 1597-1684?

Pewterer at Wotton Wire Mill

Wildlife of the Tillingbourne

Alder

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is a common tree of riversides, fens and wet woodlands, easily recognised by its rounded leaves and purplish buds. It has both male and female flowers: long yellow-brown catkins and small red 'cones' that ripen when pollinated.

The exposed roots of alders can provide fish with shelter from predators or high flows, and their leaves food for invertebrates such as caddis fly and water beetle larvae.

Alder's wood does not rot under water, and was used historically for the shoring-up of canals and riverbanks, as well as for making charcoal.

Wotton Wire Mill

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.surreyhill.org/society

Other links

Wotton Parish Council - wottonpc.wordpress.com

Surrey Hills AONB - www.surreyhill.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

Wotton

Explore more than 5km of wooded paths and beautiful countryside, including the mill ponds at Friday Street

1st edition 2016

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SurreyHills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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