

A Pilgrimage to Waverley

By the enchanting ruins of Waverley Abbey in the Wey Valley

Distance	3 miles (4.8km)
Minimum time	1hr
Ascent/gradient	164ft (50m)
Level of difficulty	Medium
Paths	Sandy and easy to follow, two sections on minor roads
Landscape	Gently rolling, well-wooded countryside
Suggested map	aqua3 OS Explorer 145 Guildford & Farnham
Start/finish	SU 870455
Dog friendliness	Generally good, but dogs must be on lead along roads
Parking	Waverley Lane between Farnham and Elstead
Public toilets	None on route

1 Turn right out of the car park, taking care to watch out for traffic, and follow Waverley Lane (B3001) as it zig-zags left and right over Waverleymill Bridge. Continue for 200yds (183m) until the road bears to the left. Turn right here, onto the public byway, and follow it through to a metal gate and public byway signpost.

2 Keep straight ahead and follow the path past Friars Way Cottage until you come to Sheephatch Lane. Turn left briefly, then right at the junction with Tilford Street; there's no pavement for the first 400yds (366m), so go carefully. Now follow the road past the school, over the River Wey bridge and onto Tilford village green, where you'll find the Tilford Oak and welcome refreshment at the Barley Mow.

3 To continue your walk, retrace your steps across the river bridge. Almost at once, turn left at the public bridleway sign just before the Post Office. The path climbs gently for 500yds (457m) and brings you to a tarmac lane. Turn left, pass Tilhill House, and continue up the narrow sandy track straight ahead. At the top of the short slope, fork right at the public bridleway waymark for the 400yds (366m) climb to Sheephatch Farm. Cross Sheephatch Lane, where a public byway sign points your way up the gravelled track directly opposite. The track leads you confidently through Sheephatch Copse, and soon you'll be dropping down through an ancient sunken way to rejoin your outward track at a metal gate and public byway signpost.

4 Turn left here for the easy walk back to Waverley Lane (B3001). Watch out for the traffic as you turn left, then retrace your outward route over Waverleymill Bridge and back to the car park.