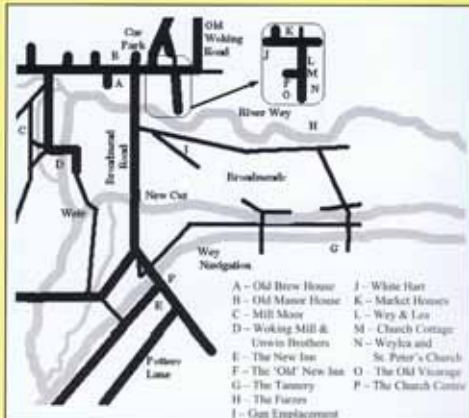


**A HERITAGE WALK AROUND OLD WOKING
(TO WOKING MILL and THE BROADMEADS)**



This walk should take up to two hours as a gentle afternoon or evening stroll and, although Mill Moor and The Broadmeads sometimes flood in winter, the walk should be accessible most of the year. In the summer some of the paths may become overgrown with nettles, so wear suitable clothing. Please follow the Countryside Code, respect the privacy of the owners and occupiers of the properties listed and enjoy your walk.

For a copy of the current programme of guided Heritage Walks, please send a S.A.E. to the publisher, or e-mail heritage.walking@world.com

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OLD WOKING

**A SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE WALK TO
WOKING MILL and THE BROADMEADS**



**WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS
ON THE HISTORY OF
OLD WOKING VILLAGE
AND THE SURROUNDING AREA**

By Iain Wakeford

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**A HERITAGE WALK AROUND OLD WOKING
(TO WOKING MILL and THE BROADMEADS)**

Introduction

The name 'Woking' was first recorded in the early 8th century when there was a monastery somewhere in the area of 'Uuocchingas' (see section on St. Peter's Church). The first part of the name comes from a 6th- or 7th-century chief - 'Uuocca' (there was no 'W' in those days) - whilst the second element 'ingas' means 'the settlement of...': Woking is the settlement of Wocca's people.

The Walk

This walk starts at the car park, off the roundabout in the centre of the village (opposite the turning towards Send). From the car park, cross the road towards the Post Office and turn right (heading away from the roundabout and the village centre).

The building next to the Post Office is the Old Brew House.

The Old Brew House

The first reference to a brewery in Woking appears to be in 1694 when the 'Falcon Brewery', formerly occupied by James Beauchamp and John Freeland, was 'surrendered' to James

The Old Brew House.



The White Horse Hotel, which at one time stood on the site opposite the Post Office and Old Brew House, in the early 20th century. It was later turned into a garage, before being demolished to make way for new houses.



Zouche (the Lord of the Manor). He then leased it to William Harvest Jr., who apparently rebuilt the brewery in 1715 (the date and his initials can still just about be made out above the door). The Harvest family continued to run the brewery throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, but by 1838 the brewery had been taken over by Thomas Newman, who was described as 'a common brewer' when he acquired the White Horse Hotel, opposite the brewery (where the new houses are now).

Nine years later Newman sold the freehold brewery and several public houses to George Robinson for £2,900.

At some time before 1855 the brewery had passed to Francis Robinson, but when he died in 1856 without any heirs, three trustees were put in charge - one of whom was William Strong (a member of a famous brewing family). In 1860 Isaac Strong bought the brewery for £8,000, but thirteen years later the family sold it to another well-known brewing family - the Charringtons.

Henry Charrington owned the site for only three years before selling it to Joseph Oldfield, who later sold it to Messrs Lascelles Tickner of Guildford. It was Lascelles who closed the brewery down in about 1890, ending at least two hundred years of brewing in the town. The Old Brew House was then put to various uses, but after a fire destroyed part of the old building, permission was given for it to be turned into offices and a new extension was

added to the side.

The building is a Grade II listed building.

The Old Manor House

This is also a Grade II listed building (dating from the mid-17th century), but despite its name it was never the Manor House. Woking Palace (on the meadows to the east of Old Woking), and later Hoe Place, were the homes of the Lord of the Manor. The Old Manor House was probably only the home of the Steward of the Manor.



The Old Manor House, opposite the entrance to Riverside Gardens.



Continue along the High Street, crossing the entrance to Riverside Gardens, until you eventually come to the bridge over the river to Unwin's and Mill Moor.

The bridge to Unwin's and Mill Moor.



The gate and stile from the lane on to Mill Moor.

Mill Moor
Mill Moor was once part of the common meadows of Old Woking, being harvested for hay in June and then closed until the 18th September when the townspeople could graze their cattle, sheep or horses.

The footbridge from Mill Moor back to the lane by Unwin's Mill.



If it is dry, you may like to continue the walk along the side of the small stream over Mill Moor, but if the ground is damp it is possible to continue along the drive to Unwin's Mill.

To take the route over the moor, cross over the stile to the side of the gate (on the right after the first bridge).

Then, with the stream on your left, take the path parallel to the lane until you come to another small footbridge.

Cross this bridge, turn right and return to the lane by the car park at Unwin's.



Turn down the lane beside the tennis courts to the front of the mill.

Woking Mill

There has been a mill in Woking - probably on this site - since Saxon times. It was mentioned in the Domesday Survey as being worth 11s 4d. At that time it was a corn mill, but in the 14th century there was a fulling mill, valued at 8s, as well as the corn mill bringing in 6s 8d p.a. By the 1670s the fulling mill had closed and had been replaced by another

corn mill, but by 1749 there was evidently a 'water-powered stuff mill' on the site as well as the two corn mills.

An auction in 1796 recorded a 'Capital Freehold Flour Mill' in the occupation of Mr. Ryde, whilst there was by then also a 'Leather Mill' occupied by a Richard Baker. It was this mill which was later converted into a paper mill by Alderman Venables of Guildford in 1835. By 1840 the paper mill had been taken over by Henry Virtue & Co.; and

The front of Woking Mill - remodelled in the late 19th century.





Unwin Brothers
Unwin's moved to the disused paper mill after a fire at their works in Chilworth in November 1895. They added to the old buildings and re-named it 'The St. Martha Printing Works' after their old site in Chilworth (overlooked by St. Martha's Church). By the turn of the century, Unwin's employed nearly 200 workers - some still walking daily from their old homes over the Downs!

in 1851 the Census Return for the Woking area records 54 paper makers in Woking (a corn mill was still in operation - run by Mr J. Fladgate). The paper mill finally closed in 1894 when the Woking Paper Co. Ltd. sold the site.

Unwin's Mill. The footpath runs along the front and then around the far corner of the mill.

Walk along the front of the mill and around the corner, taking the track to a gate and stile into a field.



The gate and stile at the side of Unwin's.

Cross the field to the footbridge over the 'New Cut'.



The stile above the door of Unwin's.

The weir, installed in the mid-1930s when the 'New Cut' was made to take flood water away from Old Woking.



Cross the bridge and turn upstream to the weir and then left across to the far corner of the field.

Cross over the stile on to the track and turn left, crossing the wooden bridge.

Where the lane turns sharp left, continue on the footpath to the



The footbridge over the Wey Navigation.

footbridge over the Wey Navigation. Turn left, after crossing the bridge, and walk beside the waterway to The New Inn and Cartridge.



The Wey Navigation

In the early 17th century, Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place had the idea of building what was to become the Wey Navigation. A Royal Commission was set up in 1635, but when the Civil War broke out Sir Richard (being a Catholic and Royalist) decided to flee the country and the idea of building the waterway was put on hold. It was not, however,

forgotten and in 1651 (in the name of the Corporation of Guildford) an Act was passed allowing the construction of the Wey Navigation. Whilst in exile, Sir Richard had contacted Major James Pitson who promoted the scheme on his behalf. Weston put up half of the £6,000 needed for the project and Major Pitson and two others invested a further £1,000 each. From later accounts it seems that Major Pitson was not always as honest as he could have been. By May 1652, when Sir Richard died, he had invested a further £4,000 and used at least £2,000

worth of timber from the Sutton Place estate. At the height of construction, up to 200 men were employed on the work. It was an immediate commercial success, with corn, flour, timber and other agricultural products being carried to London and items such as coal being transported on the return journey. Chalk, beer, bark (for tanning) and rags (for the paper industry) were also carried regularly; and in later years, gunpowder from the works at Chilworth was often taken by barge. In the early 20th century the waterway was in the

ownership of the Stevens family (who had worked on the waterway for many years) and it was Mr. H.W. Stevens who gave the navigation to the current owners - the National Trust - in the late 1960s.



The New Inn in the early 20th century.

The New Inn

A pub has probably occupied this site since about 1819, but it was not called the 'New Inn'. From later directories it appears that it was called 'The Free Trader', but the title map of 1843 does show a pub called the 'New Inn' - on the opposite side of Send

Cartridge.

Road and now a house. By the end of the 1850s the 'Free Trader' had changed its name to 'The New Inn' and the 'old' New Inn had closed.

Cartridge

The name is self-explanatory, this being the main 'cart' route between Old Woking and Send, as opposed to the 'foot' routes via the Broadmeads or Mill Moor.



At Cartridge, walk up and over the bridge, returning to the towpath on the other side of the Navigation via the steps down and under the bridge.

Follow the towpath past Cartridge Wharf to the high bridge at Wharf Lane and then on to the Tannery buildings by Tanyard House Bridge.



The 'old' New Inn.



The footbridge over the Wey Navigation.



Tanyard House Bridge.

The Tannery

The first reference to a Tannery at Send comes from the Send and Ripley Court Baron dated 26th April 1717, which records 'all that tanyard lately made'.

The Tannery was in use until 1929 when 'Johnny' Ashford retired. The old house, by the bridge, dated from the 18th century. It was demolished in the 1970s, to be replaced by the present office block.

The bridge from The Tannery to The Broadmeads.



The Woking Broadmeads

At one time the Broadmeads were Woking's Lammas Lands - common meadows on which the tenants of the Manor of Woking were allowed to pasture their animals from Lammas Day (1st August) until Sowing Time.

Once a year a meeting of the 'farren owners' was held to appoint a herdsman to look after the animals, with each owner being allowed one horse, mare or gelding, two cows (or 'beasts of that kind') and five sheep for each acre that he owned or rented elsewhere in the parish.

The Tannery in the early 20th century.



The Broadmeads covered 365 acres and in 1794 fifty people are recorded as renting strips at £1.10.0 p.a.

When you reach the old river, turn left and follow the path across the field towards Old Woking. Before you do, however, look across the river at the small mounds of sandy soil (often frequented by rabbits). This is 'The Furzes'

The Furzes

Between 1969 and 1975, excavations on this site revealed a series of ditches, a possible track-way and some post holes of a Romano-British building dating from

The path across the Broadmeads.



The Furzes.



As you cross the Broadmeads you will see in the distance (across the main road) Unwin's Mill, and across the river, St. Peter's Church, Old Woking.



The concrete building in the field is the remains of a World War II gun emplacement.

The entrance to the gun emplacement.



The gate on to Broadmead Road.

After the gate on to Broadmead Road, turn right and, crossing Broadmead Bridge, re-enter the village of Old Woking.

Broadmead Bridge

The old Broadmead Bridge was a many-arched wooden bridge of unknown date.

The White Hart



It was the scene of a terrible accident when, on the 15th January, 1873, a traction engine and threshing machine fell through the old bridge, killing three men. The present bridge was built in 1915, but has been strengthened in recent years.

At the roundabout, turn right and head down the High Street, past the White Hart, to Church Street.

The White Hart

This is not the original White Hart, although it undoubtedly includes portions from various dates. The picture below shows the twice-weekly coach

that used to leave for London from outside the Hotel on Mondays and Fridays. The charge was apparently eight shillings to travel inside and five shillings outside.

The Market House

In 1665 the town of Woking was granted a charter to hold a weekly market. The then Lord of the Manor, James Zouche, arranged for a 'Market House' or hall to be built in the High Street opposite the entrance to Church Street.

A Market Cross was apparently erected at the junction of the two roads, and although nothing is now left of the cross, part of the old hall may still



survive in the row of cottages (known as Market Cottages).

The Market House - now a row of cottages almost opposite the entrance to Church Street.

Turn down Church Street, retracing your steps to the High Street and the start of the walk, after viewing the Church and other buildings of interest.

Wey & Lea Cottage

Church Street contains a number of old and interesting properties including Wey & Lea Cottage, a late 15th-century 'open-hall' house



Wey & Lea Cottages

that was extended in the 16th century and again in the 19th century.

Church Cottage
Church Cottage dates from the 16th century, with the front part being added in the 18th century.



Weylea
This five-bayed, timber-framed house overlooking the churchyard dates from the mid-18th century. If you look carefully, you can see in the tiles the date that the roof was last repaired.

There is a story that the house was built by Alexander Robinson of Hoc Place.

Apparently he had an argument with the vicar and built the house three



Weylea
storeys high in order to hide the church from his view!

The Old Vicarage

This Grade II listed building dates from the early 19th century and could only have been the vicarage for a very short time, as it ceased to serve as such in about 1830.



The Old Vicarage.



The Saxon doorway - new within the tower, but originally the main door.

St. Peter's Church

As was mentioned in the introduction, in the early 8th century there was a monastery somewhere in this area. It was connected to an Abbey called Medehamstead at Peterborough and from a 9th century document we know that the monastery was dedicated to St. Peter. The Saxon ironwork on the door of St. Peter's Church may represent a connection between the old monastic foundation

and the present church. Unfortunately the Monastery was 'lost' (presumably as a result of a Danish raid) sometime in the late 9th century.

Although the iron work on the old west door of the church is Saxon - and there was a church recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 - none of the walls of the present church dates from before the early 12th century. The base of the tower is thought to date from about 1200-1220, with the upper part dating from about 1340.

At about the same time, the south aisle and the large east window in the chancel were added (1320-1350), while some of the windows in the Nave date from about 1360.

The arcade arches of the south aisle are 15th century, with the Zouche Gallery and the brick porch on the south side of the church dating from 1622.



The Church, showing the chancel (right) and south aisle (left).

The church was restored in Victorian times and on a number of occasions in the 20th century - including recent work on the tower and roof.

The St. Peter's Church Centre

The St. Peter's Church Centre was once the village school - built in the early 20th century as an extension to the original Church Street School.

That was built in 1848 as a 'National School', on the site of the village's almshouses - where the car park and entrance to 'The Cloisters' are today. Church Street School closed in 1981.



St. Peter's Church Centre.