

Out and about

In celebration of Heritage Open Days 2006, this gentle stroll will take you through some of Woking's prominent historical sites.

Follow in the footsteps of one of Woking's most celebrated residents, the author of *The Time Machine*, H.G.Wells, by taking a trip into the past and a closer look at the fascinating heritage sites on offer in Woking Borough.

Slip on some comfy shoes and let your imagination take over as you get an insight into the rich tapestry that makes up Woking's heritage.

Key facts

Start/finish: Woking railway station – south side (platform 5), Oriental Road, Woking

Distance: Two miles

Time: Allow two hours

Type of walk: Easy, flat in general. Pathways on Horsell Common may be uneven, or muddy after wet weather. If you prefer to drive this route, there are small car parks at each site.

Please remember: Treat the sites with respect, especially religious or burial sites. Children and pets should be supervised at all times.

The route

1. Shah Jahan Mosque

The mosque is a short walk (approximately 15 minutes) from the railway station, and the entrance is found on the left hand side of Oriental Road, between the Woking Homes entrance and the James Walker building.

Commissioned by Dr Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner to provide a place of worship for Muslim students at the Oriental Institute nearby. It was the focus for the development of Islam in Britain during the first half of the 20th Century.

Opened in 1889, this is the oldest purpose-built mosque in Britain and is now a Grade II listed building.

The mosque welcomes visitors and offers guided tours for those wishing to find out more about the history and design of the building. Please avoid visiting on Fridays and at prayer times.

www.shahjahanmosque.org.uk



Turn left out of the mosque, back on to Oriental Road and continue straight over the mini roundabout, to the junction with Maybury Hill.

On your left is the Lion Retail Park – once the site of the Oriental Institute.

In 1880 Dr Leitner took over the former dramatic college to establish a centre for Indian visitors and for Europeans to learn about life in the Far East.

On your right is St Paul's Church, built in 1895 as a Chapel of Ease to Christ Church, Woking.

Turn left along Maybury Hill, continue underneath the railway arch, and go straight on through

Horsell East and Woodham

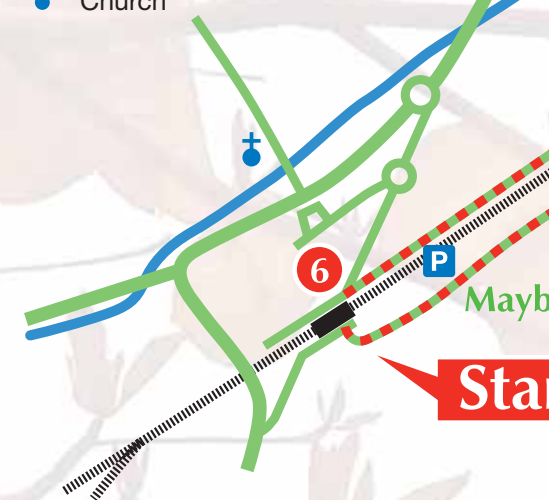
Horsell Common

A245

Six Cross
Round

Key

- Roads
- - - Footpaths
- - - Route on footpath
- River/stream
- P Parking
- ⊕ Church

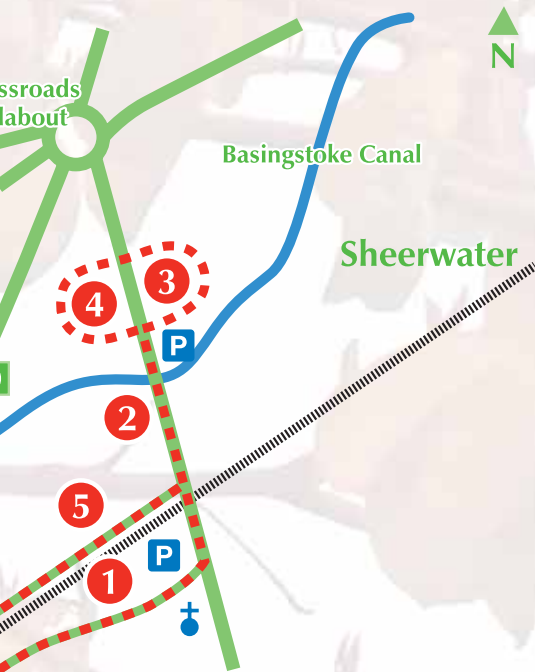


two sets of traffic lights. Continue to Monument Bridge, which crosses over the Basingstoke Canal (this road is called Monument Road from here to the Six Crossroads in the distance).

2. The Basingstoke Canal

The Basingstoke Canal traverses the Borough from Brookwood to West Byfleet. It was built between 1788 and 1794 to open up trade routes from London to the coast, but was never completed past Basingstoke. A short walk along the canal towpath, you can see the remains of industrial heritage, in the form of an ancient crane, which would have been used to unload barges of timber until the mid 1900s.

Return to Monument Road and cross with care to the Britannia Wharf Business Park and enter the woods by the car park. This is the south-east corner of Horsell Common and walking a short distance into the woods will reveal a unique Grade II listed site.



arch, on to Maybury Road. After a short parade of shops, look for the blue plaque on one of the semi-detached villas.

5. H.G. Wells

His novel *The War of the Worlds* features many places in and around the town, including Horsell Common – the site of the Martian landing. As a tribute to the author, a modern sculpture of a Martian towers over visitors to Crown Square.

Famous author, H.G. Wells, came to Woking in 1895 and lived in Maybury Road until late 1896.

Broadway, alongside the railway, to arrive back at the railway station and the end of the walk.

6. The Martian

If you'd like to see the Martian sculpture, cross at the traffic lights and bear right down Chertsey Road. After 50 metres the road joins Chobham Road on the left from where the sculpture can be seen. There is an interpretive plaque underneath the sculpture.



At the end of Maybury Road, cross the road, and continue down

3. The Muslim Burial Ground

The burial ground was built in 1915 to receive burials of Indian Army soldiers who died at the Indian Army Hospital in Brighton Pavilion, during the First World War. The site was chosen because of its close proximity to the mosque – at that time the only mosque in the country. During the late 1960s, the bodies were relocated to the cemetery at Brookwood.

The design of the Muslim Burial Ground reflects that of the Shah Jehan Mosque.

Turn back to Monument Road and cross the road. The footpath leading away from the road will take you to another heritage site, after about 100 metres.

4. Bronze Age Bell Barrow

A barrow is an ancient burial mound and this one measures 157 feet across and 5 feet in height, with an 8 foot wide ditch. As it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, excavation of the site is prohibited. A smaller, less complete barrow can also be found near the Muslim burial ground.

Follow the path back to Monument Road and turn right. Turn right just before the railway

Heritage Open Days 2006

Heritage Open Days is a national event that celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public, or charge for admission. Every year, on four days in September, buildings across the country, ranging from parish churches and castles to ancient cemeteries and palaces, open their doors to the public.

Coordinated nationally by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage, this year's event will run from **Thursday 7 September to Sunday 10 September**.

There are a number of sites in Woking that will be taking part. For a full list of places opening in the Borough, visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Discover a world of history on your doorstep

One site that will be offering a rare public opening will be Woking Palace. Owned and run by Woking Borough Council, the palace was the former home of Lady Margaret Beaufort and was much favoured by Henry VIII, who often visited Woking to hunt in the surrounding parkland.

Woking Palace will be open to the public on **Saturday 9 September and Sunday 10 September**, from 10am to 5pm on both days. The costumed Tudor re-enactment group, Arriere-bans, will be entertaining visitors on both days at the palace, between 10am and 5pm.

Woking Palace is located one mile east of Old Woking Village – along Carters Lane. (There will be a marked footpath from the village centre.) Visitors with access difficulties should contact Barry Williams, at Woking Borough Council, on **01483 743443**.