

OLD HOUSES OF WEST HORSLEY

The historic centre of West Horsley contains a remarkable number of old houses dating from the 14th to the 18th Centuries. Most are to be found on or close to The Street, which is the focus of this self-guided heritage walk.

Walk distance	2 miles
Start & Parking	Elevated lay-by off the A246 near the Bell & Colvill garage roundabout
Refreshments	The Charcuterie Box, The William IV, The Barley Mow
References	Buildings in the Horsley Heritage List are quoted here using a prefix HH plus their reference number. See www.horsleyheritage.info
Access	Many heritage buildings on this walk are private residential dwellings with viewing only permissible from a public footway or right of way.

WALK DESCRIPTION

From the elevated lay-by take the footpath to Butlers Hill and follow to join The Street, then continue along this road for 1.1km to the West Horsley Village Green. The return route includes two loops: the first goes along Rickson Lane, Tintells Lane & Silkmore Lane; the second follows Pincott Lane & Ripley Lane before returning along The Street to the Bell & Colvill garage.

a) Butlers Hill

Near the crest of the elevated lay-by look for a Public Footpath sign to the left of **Hatchfield House**. Follow this narrow track for around 100 metres where it joins the tarmac of Butlers



Hill. After passing The Cottage, the next house on your right is **Highbank**, the first medieval hall house of this walk, (*see left*). Highbank dates from 1386 and is a four-bay open hall house. Unusually, it is built of elm with the roof supported by crown posts. Typical of early medieval houses, it has an internal jetty in the open hall. The first owner was Walter Isaacs building on land bought in 1387 from the Reeve of the Manor, Thomas atte Hulle.

Continuing down Butlers Hill on the left side we can see **Tunmore Cottage** followed by

Tunmore Farmhouse, an early 16th Century hall house. Tunmore means village pond and there are at least five small springs near the house which flow into Tunmore Pond nearby.

b) The Street: Butlers Hill to the King William IV pub

Butlers Hill now joins The Street beside a wide junction where on your right is a board commemorating **The Pound**, the site of a former stray animal pound. Cross over this busy road very carefully since there is a blind bend close on your right.

Follow the right-side pavement for about 90 metres to reach **Britains Farm**. This is a Grade II listed hall house from the 16th Century with records of Willim le Breton farming at this site in 1383. Village carpenters lived here for three centuries before Britains became a farm once again. It was one of the houses painted by Helen Allingham in the late 19th Century.

Continue on The Street past Cranmore Lane to find a group of three joined medieval cottages dating from around 1600, perhaps earlier. The middle cottage, **The Old School House**, is thought to be the first built and functioned as a Dame School, hence the name.

Next to The Old School House is **The Parish Room**, originally the Village Reading Room, where villagers who had recently learned to read could find books. Across the road is **St. Mary's School**, built in 1861 in an old orchard, it was the first purpose-built school in West Horsley and an example of the Gothic Revival style. We shall see it closer later in the walk.

Another 50 metres down The Street on the left is the **King William IV, (HH11)**. Built in the 18th Century it was originally two Georgian cottages, converted into an alehouse in the 1830s. In the early 1900s it was popular with cyclists down from London; they still come here today.

c) The Street: King William to the Village Green

Continue down The Street past Pincott Lane and reach the Methodist Chapel, built in 1876. Next door is the West Horsley Village Hall dating from 1924. Opposite the village hall on the right side of The Street we can see **Eversley**, an early brick house built in 1671.



Soon after passing the junction with Silkmore Lane we come on the right to a short access road leading to **Barcombe Farm (HH1)**. This is a three-bay medieval hall house, (*see left*) dating from 1550, although the site goes back to 1293, when Manorial Records report Roger le Foghel, Reeve of the Manor, lived there.

Another 80 metres along The Street and still on the right side we find **The Old House (HHL13)**. After the 1722 Act was passed, this became the village poorhouse and later a workhouse. The first overseer of the poor there was one George Poore. Its name then became The Old Poorhouse.

Continuing along The Street we come next on our left side to the **Barley Mow (HHL2)**. In the early 16th Century former pikeman, Thomas Farley, obtained a license to sell ale from his two-bay cottage here. In subsequent years the names changed – first The Mount Eagle, then The Harrow and in 1751 it was re-named as The Barley Mow.



Further down The Street on the left side we soon reach the **Old Cottage, (HHL14)**, a four-bay medieval hall house built around 1445, later home to a family of weavers, (*see above*).

The Old Cottage lies between an old tentering green, where woven cloth was tethered to dry, and an old water mill. In the 19th Century it was converted into three small cottages for agricultural workers, before it returned to being a single home.

To the right of the Old Cottage is **Winterfold** from the early 15th Century, a two-bay hall house remains from a previously larger building. Winterfold is the furthest we walk along The Street, so here we turn around, cross the road near West Horsley Motors to reach the West Horsley Village Green with its ornamental village sign and several benches for those wanting a rest.

c)Rickmans Lane, Tintells Lane & Silkmore Lane

From the Village Green we now walk back along The Street, past the Barley Mow, then enter Rickmans Lane on the right. About 60 metres down Rickmans Lane, opposite Vine Cottage, turn left into Tintells Lane. There are some fine houses along this road, including **Nightingales Cottage** half-way down on the right, built in the late 17th Century for a wheelwright named John Hill. From here onwards this lane becomes a narrow footpath.

At the end of Tintells Lane we turn left into Silkmore Lane. The first house on the left is **Tabora Cottage**, built in the late 17th Century, and the only house on Tintalow Green before it was enclosed in 1802. The name Silkmore derives from ‘selac mere’ meaning ‘draining pond’. There were formerly several ponds here that helped drain the tentering green.

Continue down Silkmore Lane and after 80 metres we find **Silkmore** on the right. The main part of this house is a three-bay structure from the 15th Century with an older wing on the south side. This building is thought to have been a farmhouse for a time until it was divided into two dwellings in the 19th Century.



About 100 metres further along Silkmore Lane on the right we find **Yew Tree Cottage, (HH25)**, dating from around 1600, (*see left*). This was originally a two-bay house, but in 1830 a small brick cottage was added at the southern end. In 1970 the separate dwellings were combined into one. At the end of Silkmore Lane we now re-join The Street and head right (ie southwards) past the King William pub once more. After 100 metres we enter Pincott Lane on the right.

d)Pincott Lane & Ripley Lane

Some 100 metres along Pincott Lane on the right side is **Pincott Farm, (HH16)**. This timber-framed house (*see right*) was originally a 16th Century barn, converted into a house when fire destroyed the original. Records show Richard Pykenot living on the site in 1294. The Pykenot family continued in residence for several hundred years.



At the end of Pincott Lane, we turn left into Ripley Lane. Opposite we can see the wrought iron-gates of the National Trust's **Hatchlands Park** estate. Ripley Lane is a very busy road with no pavements, so you should walk on the grass verges, the right side is the widest.

After 150 metres reach Old St Marys road on your left side, which leads into a new development beside the Old School House. Walk up this short road and head right across the car park to find a gate leading into The **West Horsley Village Orchard**. This small park, owned by the Parish Council, is a relaxing place for a short break. Walking on through the orchard, pass through the far gate and arrive back at The Street once again.

e) The Street again, briefly

Crossing the busy junction of Ripley Lane, on your right is a private drive leading up to the **Old Rectory**. There was originally a medieval building here built on glebe land which was rebuilt in 1819 by the Rev. Charles Weston, the Rector and Lord of the Manor, who retained an older 17th Century extension built by Parson John Platt. As Lord of the Manor for Cobham, Parson Platt is famous for ordering the destruction of the Diggers' houses on Cobham Common in 1650.

Continuing along The Street for a short distance, we walk past Britains Farm once more and after 90 metres arrive at **Sumners**, (*see right*). This is the last of the medieval houses on our walk and one of the oldest in West Horsley. Sumners is a Grade II listed medieval hall house dating from the 15th Century; the core is possibly earlier. This house was once called Kembers, after occupants who were in the wool-combing trade. The present name refers to the Sumners family who bought the nearby Hatchlands Park estate in the 18th Century, now a popular National Trust site.



Continue along The Street, past Walnut Tree Close and the small row of shops to reach the A246 roundabout beside the Bell & Colvill garage. Cross over The Street carefully here, go past the bus stop and join the access road leading up to the lay-by and back to our starting point.

Further information

More detailed information about the buildings mentioned here may be found in the 87-page book by Pam Bowley ***Old Houses in West Horsley*** available in the Horsley library. If you wish to buy this book, copies are available from the Post Office in Bishopsmead Parade, East Horsley.