

THE HORSLEYS GRAND TOUR

This self-guided walk around East Horsley and West Horsley offers views of 24 buildings of heritage significance including the two largest within the Horsleys (*Horsley Towers & West Horsley Place*) as well as the two oldest (*St Mary's Church & St Martin's Church*).

Walk distance	3.8 miles.
Start	Station Parade, East Horsley. (NB: This is a circular walk which may be started at any convenient point along the route if so preferred.)
Parking options	Station Parade car park (<i>up to 3 hours</i>) Kingston Meadows car park (<i>up to 4 hours</i>)
Refreshments	Quaich (<i>Station Parade</i>), Annaré (<i>Bishopsmead Parade</i>), Duke of Wellington (<i>A246</i>), West Horsley Place café.
References	Structures in the Horsley Heritage List are quoted here using the prefix HH plus their reference number. See www.horsleyheritage.info
Access	Many heritage buildings on this walk are private residential dwellings; viewing is only permissible from a public footway or right of way.

WALK DESCRIPTION:

a) Ockham Road South

From the Station Parade shopping area in East Horsley, walk south along Ockham Road South. After 450 metres reach a decorative 'East Horsley' village sign beside a three-way road junction. Cross over carefully and walk between the two gateposts to enter Pennymead Drive.

b) Pennymead Drive & Pine Walk

Besides the Pennymead Drive entry sits **Sheepwash Lodge (HH20)** on the right side, a locally-listed house built by Lord Lovelace in 1852, it served as one of the gatehouses of his Horsley Towers estate. The nearby pond was used by villagers for washing sheep fleeces, hence the house name.

Pennymead Drive was one of the first roads developed by Frank Chown in the 1930's and contains some fine examples of his distinctive 'arts & crafts' designs, including some distinctive thatched properties. Three more Chown houses in Pennymead Drive are locally listed: **Little Thatch** and **Autumn Cottage** follow Sheepwash Lodge whilst **Dray Cottage** is five more houses down. **Quested House (HH17)** is on the left side of Pennymead Drive near the end and is probably Frank Chown's largest house with impressive decorative brickwork.

At the end of Pennymead Drive lies a crossroads. Go straight ahead and enter Pine Walk. On your left is **Pennymead Lodge** built in 1851 by Lord Lovelace. It was originally called Laundry Cottage as the place where all of the Horsley Towers laundry was previously done. Pine Walk is another tree-lined private residential road which you follow for its full length.

c) *Horsley Towers*

At the end of Pine Walk you will find a gate leading into the De Vere Horsley Towers estate. The tarmac road narrows as it enters the De Vere Horsley Estate. Public access is permitted along this road, although not into the land on either side. After 250 metres you emerge from the woods to find a small lily pond and an excellent view of Horsley Towers.



Horsley Towers (HH10) was a country house constructed in the 1820's for wealthy banker, William Currie (*See left*). His architect was Charles Barry, who later designed the Houses of Parliament. After Currie's death in 1829, the East Horsley Park estate, as it was then known, was acquired by Lord Lovelace, who set about making substantial changes. He was married to Ada Lovelace, a mathematician and the only legitimate child of Lord Byron; her inheritance

helped provide funds for his ambitious works in East Horsley. At Horsley Towers this included adding a third level to the main building plus distinctive Italianate twin towers, which immediately gave the building the name it still bears today. He also encircled it with a complex of walls, tunnels, arches and a decorative cloister. Today Horsley Towers operates as a luxury hotel and wedding venue.

Continue along the estate road to its end to reach **Bishopsgate Lodge (HH3)**, built in 1869 as one of five gatehouses around the Horsley Towers estate, (*see right*). Then it provided a home for the estate carpenter: now it is a residential dwelling. Originally the two circular towers either side of this road were joined by an arch, as still remains at Guildford Lodge later on our route. Here, however, the arch was removed in the 1920's to allow passage for larger motor vehicles from Ockham Road South.



d) *Ockham Road South (again)*

After Bishopsgate Lodge turn left into Ockham Road South. Over the road is **St Martin's Hall (HH22)** built in 1860. For a hundred years this building served as the main primary school for East Horsley - currently it is a business centre with multiple tenants. To the left of the business centre is **Ye Olde Shoppe**, an elaborate Lovelace building from 1862 which replaced previous medieval cottages that functioned as butchers, grocers and a dairy.

Follow the left pavement of Ockham Road South southwards past a matching pair of Lovelace cottages: **Tower Cottage** was built in 1862 and **Red Rose Cottage** built in 1867, located on what was originally the old village forge and carpenter's shop. Adjoining Red Rose cottage is **Sartor Resartus**, a large and elaborately decorated Lovelace house. This site was previously occupied for several centuries by a family of tailors called Webb, hence the unusual name of this house which means in Latin '*the tailor re-tailored*'.

Adjacent to Sartor Resartus is the 12th Century **St Martin's Church (HH21)**, the oldest building in East Horsley. Take the footpath and view the interior with its fine stained-glass windows. This Norman structure had much of its chancel and churchyard walls rebuilt by Lord Lovelace during the 1860's. A Covid memorial window is the most recent addition.

In the north-east corner of the churchyard, behind the church, can be found the **Lovelace mausoleum**. Built during Lord Lovelace's lifetime in typical style of flint and polychrome brick, this mausoleum became his final resting place after his death in 1893.

Leaving St Martin's Church, over the road we see the **The Old Manor House** built in 1868 with elaborate Lovelace decorations and fine chimneys. Despite the name it never actually functioned as a 'manor house'. Lord Lovelace had it built for a wealthy tenant.

Continue along the Ockham Road South pavement past the churchyard wall and above sits a decorated **belvedere** or gazebo. This elevated cockpit served as a look-out where a local choirboy would wait before signalling to the Rector the arrival of Lord Lovelace's carriage.



After the belvedere is a 'Private Road' parallel to Ockham Road South. Follow it and get an interesting view of **Guildford Lodge (HH9)** at the end. Built in 1860 this distinctive gatehouse (*see left*) originally served as the main entry into the Horsley Towers estate. Now it is a private residence at the entrance to Guildford Lodge Drive, a short private road. Located in a prominent position and with highly distinctive twin towers, Guildford Lodge is probably the most photographed house in East Horsley.

e) Epsom Road

Cross over the A246 junction to pass the **The Duke of Wellington (HH6)**. There has been a coaching inn here since 1562, although the current public house was largely rebuilt by Lord Lovelace in 1863.

Follow the busy A246 Epsom Road westwards past Wimbledon Carriage to reach Fearn Close. On the corner sits **Polepit Cottage**, a Lovelace cottage from 1863. Continue along the Epsom Road and cross the parish boundary into West Horsley. About 250 metres later is the entry road leading into West Horsley Place, to which we shall return a bit later. For now, continue along the A246 another 200 metres, then cross over to view **St Mary's Church (HH23)**.

St Mary's Church (*See right*) is the oldest surviving building in the Horsleys. It is a Grade I listed structure, whose foundations were laid in 1030 by the local Saxon thane, Thored. Six years later this same thane divided up his land of 'Horsalege' and donated the eastern portion to the Archbishop of Canterbury, thereby establishing the division between East and West Horsley which exists today.



Throughout the Medieval period various noble families were associated with St Mary's including the Raleigh's - the embalmed head of Sir Walter Raleigh is believed buried in the Nicholas Chapel. From 1200 onwards the church was richly decorated with fine wall paintings. Lime-washed over during the Reformation they went undiscovered until the 1970's.

f) West Horsley Place (HH24)

After leaving St Martin's Church, re-trace your footsteps back along the A246, passing **The Lodge**, a 19th Century Grade II listed building. With no public access to the main West Horsley Place house from the public bridleway, there are good views of the main façade through the trees along Epsom Road. Follow the entry road towards the main car park and reach Place Farm. The coffee shop and surrounding buildings are away to the left and publicly accessible.



West Horsley Place (*See left*) dates from the 15th Century and is a Grade I* listed building, constructed on the site of a previous Saxon settlement. This forgotten Tudor palace was a residence of Henry VIII during 1538-1547. Elizabeth I is also known to have stayed here on five separate occasions. In 1650 owner Carew Raleigh (son of Sir Walter) commissioned a beautiful red brick

façade built on its own foundation, making it look newer than it really is. The timber-framed building retains its original medieval hall house layout of private or 'solar' wing, great hall and separate kitchen building.

In 2014 the house and estate were inherited by Bamber Gascoigne, who created The West Horsley Place Trust, which seeks to preserve the crumbling building and its surrounding 400-acre estate for the benefit of the local community. He also agreed to the building of an opera house in the grounds, Grange Park Opera. In recent years the house and its surroundings have featured in a number of films and TV productions, including the BBC series 'Ghosts'.

From the main car park our route now continues through the West Horsley Place estate along the public bridleway. After passing between two large black-timbered barns the bridleway then heads northwards through light woods, before reaching open agricultural fields. After a pleasant 1.2 km country walk the bridleway meets the railway line. Turn right along the tarmac path beside the railway and after 0.6 km reach the car park at Kingston Meadows and the East Horsley Village Hall. Station Parade is a short distance away down Kingston Avenue.

Further information

Further information about the buildings mentioned here may be found on our website www.horsleyheritage.info and from the various historical books referenced there. Some books are still available to buy from the Post Office in Bishopsmead Parade, East Horsley.