ten walks around Farnborough and Cove

by David Cleeve
Ten Walks around Farnborough and Cove

I am delighted to introduce this brochure of Ten Walks Around Farnborough and Cove, which has been compiled by renowned local historian David Cleeve. I am sure that it will help you explore and uncover the fascinating history of the area as well as providing you with some healthy exercise!

From the ancient parish church built by the Normans to our twenty first century business parks Farnborough and Cove have a fascinating history that is not always immediately visible. David's walks will take you behind the scenes and add fascinating new perspectives. Whether you are a long standing resident, new to the area, or just passing through I am sure you will discover something you didn't know before.

Originally published as two separate booklets of five walks for the 1995 and 1997 Rushmoor Arts and Local History Festivals, this new publication has been completely revised and updated. I would like to thank David Cleeve for the original idea and text, and local historian Jo Gosney and the Aldershot Military Museum for their assistance with the revised edition.

If you have additional information which you think would be useful for future editions we would be delighted to hear from you. Please telephone Rushmoor's Arts and Cultural Officer on (01252) 398743. The Aldershot Military Museum in Queen's Avenue, telephone (01252) 314598, also has extensive displays, information and temporary exhibitions about the history of Farnborough and Cove. Their website is www.hants.gov.uk/museum/aldershot

Happy walking!

Councillor Nigel Baines
Cabinet Member for Borough Services
WALK No. 1

Approximately 2 miles and takes about one and three quarter hours. The going is good.

Park in public car parks in Farnborough town centre

Starting Point: RUSHMOOR COUNCIL OFFICES

Turn right out of the Council Offices along the Farnborough Road to Pinehurst Park on the brow of the hill.

1. Pinehurst Park was once a convent known as Hillside Convent. It was built in the 19th Century. Later it became part of Farnborough Technical College. It has now been restored to its former glory and is used as offices. The convent has three storeys, red brick walls, a slate roof, central clock tower and an apsidal chapel.

Turn right just after the pelican crossing along the footpath between Pinehurst Park and the Farnborough Business Park. This footpath was once known as Tin Pan Alley because of the original tin fence. On the left you will see:

2. The wind tunnels built by the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE). The building with the grey corrugated clock tower houses the 24 foot wind tunnel built in 1935 and the concrete building contains the transonic wind tunnel which was begun in 1939. Both buildings are Grade 1 listed, the transonic being one of only a few Grade 1 listed buildings nationally to have been built during or after the second world war.

Further along the footpath you will see the back of the Council Offices.

3. Tin Pan Alley. Carry on down the footpath until you come to:

4. Pinehurst Cottages. These consist of two storeys, brick rendered, with composite tile roofs. These are unique industrial housing in eight terraces, spaced by footpaths and miniature gardens. They were built in 1915 for the Royal Aircraft Factory, later known as the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and latterly as the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency.
Walk past Pinehurst Cottages and turn right along Pinehurst Avenue and cross the main road through the subway, the car park in the middle of the roundabout and the further subway. At the exit of the subway turn left and follow the path/cycle path until you come to Invincible Road. This path was once known as "The Cinder Track".

5. Invincible Road is on the same line as the railway track on which the steam train "Invincible" used to run. The railway line ran from Farnborough Sidings into the Ordnance Depot and on into the RAE.

Cross over Invincible Road and rejoin the footpath which will lead you into Marrowbrook Lane. Turn right and follow the road up the hill to Tower Hill.

6. The properties on Tower Hill have a large number of sandstones either within the boundary or in the house walls. These stones could originally have been used to make a lookout tower, beacon or stockade. Another possibility is that they could have been left there after the Ice Age. There are also a number of old houses.

Take the left hand fork in the road along Tower Hill Road and into Cove Road. St Christopher's Church is on your left.

7. St Christopher's Church was built in 1934 on the site of the once Home Farm which is dated 1741. At the back of the church is the vicarage. Also on this site were three hop kilns used for drying the locally grown hops. Turn left into:

8. Cove Road towards Cove Village. On your left is the Tradesman's Arms public house and on the right the Old Courthouse which has been previously called the Anchor and also the Jolly Farmer. Courts were once held in the Anchor. Permission would be given to the people of Cove to dig peat and gather fuel off Cove Common.

Retrace your steps back to the church and continue along Cove Road away from the two public houses.

9. Jewson's the builders' merchants is on your right. This was once Yeoman's, also a builders' merchants. On this site two pottery kilns were found. On your left is:

10. Cove Green. Public toilets are available here. Cove village fairs were held here and there was a pond. The pond was where the pavilion now stands. Across Cove Green on the left of Cove Road is Green School Lane.
A Mr Greene taught children in three schools: Green Croft, the Beeches and the Oaks. Cove Green was also the boundary between Cove and Farnborough. Cove Road leads into Victoria Road.

Carry on along Victoria Road. On the right outside No. 134 you will see a wall built out of the same stones as you saw at Tower Hill. Carry along Victoria Road and you will come to:

11. Victoria Road Cemetery. Laid to rest in the cemetery are the Matthews family. They were a showman's family who took their fairground to towns and villages. The most famous was Red Shirt Matthews - he would set up his fairground rides for the troops in Aldershot and he entertained Edward VII on his galloping horses. The grave plot used to be looked over by a large white angel.

Carry on up Victoria Road and you will come to:

12. Elm Grove Road on your left. Here the train "Invincible" would come from Farnborough Sidings along Elm Grove Road, and across Victoria Road on its way to the RAE. A man with a red flag would stop the traffic in Victoria Road to let the train pass. A small section of the track is still visible at the far end of Elm Grove road.

Carry on along Victoria Road and up the slight hill to Farnborough Road. On the left is:

13. The Clock House. The Clock House was built in 1895 and consists of two storeys, red brick walls with wooden decorative features, a three storey tower with a clock, a metal cupola and a weather vane. The top of the tower once stood on four round posts and used to be six feet higher than it is now.

Turn right along the Farnborough Road and on the right you will come to:

14. The Tumble Down Dick public house. This was possibly built in the reign of Henry VIII. It has two storeys, red brick walls, a slate roof and is partly tile hung. A story goes that it could have been named after the downfall of Richard III or the downfall of Cromwell's Commonwealth which he had left in the hands of his son Richard Cromwell. There was also a turnpike toll gate across the road, although there is no longer any record of it here.

From here carry on along the Farnborough Road to the car parks and Council Offices.
Starting and finishing point

X

FARNBOROUGH
WALK No.2

Approximately two and a quarter miles and takes about one and three quarter hours. The going is good to firm but can be muddy in places.

Park in public car parks or side roads.

**Starting Point:**  
**ST PETER’S PARISH CHURCH, CHURCH AVENUE, FARNBOROUGH**

1. St Peter's Church. Built from the 12th Century it is a stone and timber structure with decorated trumpet scallop capitals and a hood-mould with dog tooth. The timber porch is 15th Century. The weather boarded west tower is reputed to be 17th Century and built of ships' timbers. Inside it has a Jacobean Screen and 13th Century wall paintings on the north wall of the nave. Sarsen stones are used in the foundations.

As you come out of the lynch gate turn right into a lane. When you come to the end of this short lane turn right into Rectory Road. Cross over Rectory Road and almost opposite on your right you can see:

2. St Michael's Mews, a long house on the edge of the road with stone foundations. It is two storey, red bricked with a stone plinth and a band slate roof. The building was originally a stable in about the 18th or 19th Century.

Continue walking down Rectory Road. Turn left in the gap in the wall and you will find a footpath. Follow this for about 80 yards and you will come to a turning left. Take this path and you will come to:

3. A tree covered hill top with views along Church Avenue, the Abbey, St Peter's Church and across the Blackwater.

Turn back to the main path and continue across Douai Close and pick up the footpath again. This footpath is known as the Mounts. You will now see on your left:

4. St Michael's Abbey and Monastic Buildings. The Abbey is a large domed stone structure built in the French Gothic style. The altar floor is of Corsican marble and there are traceries windows. It was built by the Empress Eugenie as a mausoleum for her husband, her son and,
eventually, herself. It is said to be modelled on Les Invalides in Paris. The monastic buildings consist of a central red brick structure flanked by stone faced blocks built in the Romanesque style, and house an interesting Napoleonic Museum whose treasures include the funeral pall of Napoleon III.

On the right of the path are views across the Blackwater, Frimley Green, fields and playing fields.

Carry on until you come to the footbridge across the main Farnborough railway line. The railway station and track was opened in 1838. Carry on over the footbridge and you will come to Highgate Lane. Take the footpath on your left. 100 yards on your left is a footpath. Take this and you will see the back of:

5. **Farnborough Hill Convent.** This is a brick and stone structure with a bargeboard decoration entrance tower. It was built in the early 19th Century and has 20th Century additions including an apsed chapel. The interior is panelled with a doorway originally from the Tuileries in Parish. It was once the home of the Empress Eugenie but is now a convent school. In the fields in the Convent grounds 15th, 16th, and 17th Century kilns and pottery have been found.

Carry on along the footpath until you come to Ship Lane. Turn right into Ship Lane and on your right you will see:

6. **Oriel Cottage** which dates back to the 15th and 16th Centuries. The original timber framed portion is to the right behind the porch. The principal character was given to the building in the 19th Century by additions and a porch. It is a two storey, timber framed building with red brick infilling, a tiled roof, and casement windows. There is a projecting porch with four centred archway, and roof over the gable. Post medieval pottery was discovered under the floors during renovations. On the left is:

7. **Home Farm** which was once owned by the Empress Eugenie. We now come to Farnborough Street. Turn left towards North Farnborough Station. On the left is:

8. **Yew Tree Cottage.** This is two storeys with brick walls. The front is of alternate red and blue bricks with a tiled roof. It was built in the 18th Century. The core of the cottage may be 16th or 17th Century. Carry on down to the Railway Station and on your left is:
9. The Imperial Arms Public House. The brick and timber framed front is late 19th Century. The older structure to the rear is 16th Century. It has a tiled roof. Carry on over the level crossing at the side of North Farnborough Station. Take the footpath and cross over the new road bridge to the River Blackwater at:

10. The Hatches. On the road bridge in front of you you will see Frimley Green, the lake which you can walk round, and behind you St Michael's Abbey, the Monastic Buildings and Farnborough Hill Convent.

Retrace your steps back over the level crossing. On your left you will see:

11. An old building that Simmonds of Reading, the Brewers, used as a warehouse. Carry on until you come to the junction of Farnborough Street, Rectory Road, Ship Lane and Highgate Lane. 30 yards along Rectory Road is:

12. The Prince of Wales Public House and National School. Turn into Highgate Lane and on the left is:

13. Empress Cottage, Eugenie Cottage, Emperor House and Ye Olde Farm. 17th Century and formerly the Old Farm House, it is timber framed with lime washed brick infilling. It is two storey with a ridged tiled roof, continued at lower level to the left. There is a chimney with four coupled stacks and casement windows. Notice the Fire Insurance plaque on the east wall of Emperor House.

Carry on along Highgate Lane until you come to Farnborough Road. Take the slip road to the left and go over the railway footbridge. On the right hand side is:

14. The Ham and Blackbird Public House, once known as the New Inn and the Railway Arms. Continue along the Farnborough Road and on the left is the entrance to the Abbey. Carry on and on the right is:

15. The Clock House. The Clock House was built in 1895 and consists of two storeys, red brick walls with wooden decorative features, a three storey tower with a clock, a metal cupola and weather vane. The top of the tower once stood on four round posts and used to be six feet higher that it is now.

Turn left into Rectory Road and then right into Church Avenue back to where we started from.
X Starting and finishing point
WALK No.3

Approximately 2 miles and takes about one and a half hours. The going is good, but Queen Elizabeth Park can be muddy.

Park in public car parks.

Starting Point: THE TUMBLEDOWN DICK PUBLIC HOUSE, FARNBOROUGH ROAD

1. The Tumbledown Dick Public House. This was possibly built in the reign of Henry VIII. It is two storeys, with red brick walls, a slate roof and is partly tile hung. A story goes that it could have been named after the downfall of Richard III or the downfall of Cromwell's Commonwealth which he had left in the hands of his son Richard Cromwell. There was also a toll gate across the road here.

From here proceed along the Farnborough Road towards the:

2. Clock House. This was built in 1895 and consists of two storeys, red brick walls with wooden decorative features, a three storey tower with a clock, a metal cupola and a weather vane. The top of the tower once stood on four round posts and used to be six feet higher than it is now.

Carry on along the Farnborough Road. On the right up a small hill is the entrance to the Abbey and ahead of you is the:

3. Ham and Blackbird Public House which was formerly known as The New Inn or the Railway Arms. Carry on along the Farnborough Road and over the railway bridge. The railway station and track was opened in 1838 and was not electrified until 1967. On your left, inside Victoria Court, is an early 19th Century lodge. A Mr Greene lived here and founded three schools in the area.

Carry on and on your right is the entrance to Farnborough Hill Convent. At the entrance is:

4. Farnborough Hill Lodge. This is a two storey, brick, rendered and white washed 19th Century building. Carry on along Farnborough Road and on your left you will see some iron piers. This is the entrance to:
5. Queen Elizabeth Park which was once part of the pleasure grounds of Farnborough Hill. The rhododendrons once formed tunnels and there were seats along the tunnels. In the park are many species of trees. There were also ornamental ponds and an ice house.

Please note that the Park can be muddy. Follow the footpath that runs towards the left through the woodland and you will come to a pond, a play area and a car park. Take the road out of the car park into Cabrol Road. Carry on along Cabrol Road and turn right into Prospect Road. 80 yards on the left is the:

6. Thatched Cottage Public House. This is a two storey, restored timber framed 18th Century structure with white plaster infilling and a thatched roof with later extensions. The gable at the side is tile hung on the first floor.

Retrace your steps back and continue along Prospect Road and go under the railway bridge. Carry straight on along Prospect Road and on your left you will see a brick and concrete "Pill Box" from the Second World War. Carry on to Cove Green. Cut across Cove Green by walking alongside the allotments and to the exit at the top left into:

7. Green School Lane which is where Mr Greene set up his three schools "The Beeches", "Green Croft", and "The Oaks".

Turn left along Green School Lane and halfway along turn right into Highview Road. Look for the ornamental wall. Follow Highview Road until you come to a "T" Junction then turn right into Station Road. About 20 yards on the left in the cemetery are the graves of:

8. The Matthews family who were showmen who took their fairground to towns and villages. The most famous was Red Shirt Matthews. He would set up his fairground rides for the troops in Aldershot, and he entertained Edward VII on his galloping horses. The graves used to be looked over by a large white angel.

Retrace your steps back and follow the iron railings of the cemetery into Union Street. Turn right into Union Street. 50 yards along on your right is a section of:
9. Railway line which used to run from Farnborough station sidings and into the Ordnance Army Stores and onto the RAE. One of the trains to run on this track was "The Invincible". The track was laid by German prisoners of war in 1917. This line took many tons of goods into the Ordnance Depot and coal for the Power Station in the RAE. The first captured V2 Rocket came into the RAE on this line. The line was finally closed in 1968.

Carry on along Union Street leaving the former Railway Goods and Coal Yard on your left until you join the Farnborough Road. Turn right into the Farnborough Road past the Clock House and on to the Tumbledown Dick public house where we started from.
WALK No.3 MAP

Starting and finishing point
WALK No. 4

Approximately 2 miles and takes about one and a half hours. The going is good.

Starting Point: THE HOLIDAY INN (QUEEN'S HOTEL), LYNCHFORD ROAD, FARNBOROUGH

1. The Holiday Inn. This was built in 1855. It is three storeys, red brick with stone details, and a slate roof. This was a prominent site overlooking Queen's Parade. Opposite the Hotel to the right on the roundabout is a bowl barrow known as:

2. Cockadobby Hill. Cockadobby is the old English name for a Goblin. Dob or Dobby = Goblin. On the same site is a:

3. War Memorial which was built to the Unknown Soldier of the Boer War. It is substantially built of Portland stone, with the remains of a horse trough and drinking fountain, and a curved raised stone seat. Across from the Hotel and along the Farnborough Road was once a:

4. Horse Race Course. Flat races were held around Queen's Parade over two days near the end of July each year. Officers and soldiers of the Garrison and local people attended. The sport was considered sufficiently good to tempt many bookmakers. The distance round the course was nearly 2 miles with a straight half mile run in alongside and parallel with the Farnborough Road, where stands and stalls were erected each year for the public. The Ordnance Survey Map of Aldershot of 1873 marks a Race Course around Queen's Parade with Mile Posts and a Starting Post. The course crossed Queen's Avenue (then shown as Cranbrook Road) just north of the iron canal bridge and ran in a circle for just over a mile around the area below Smallshot Hill and where the Aldershot Military Stadium stands today. To the right is Government House which was the residence of the General Officer Commanding Aldershot from 1883 up to 1940. Sited within the original boundaries of Government House, but now part of the Golf Course, is a:

5. Military Horse Cemetery. This is on the left just off Shoe Lane. It contains five memorial stones dated 1880 - 1899 to famous old horses.
To start the walk turn left from the Holiday Inn along Lynchford Road. On your left you will come to Alexandra Road. On the left hand corner is the National Westminster Bank dated 1899, and on the right hand corner is the 19th Century:

6. North Camp Methodist (Garrison) Church. This was built in 1878. It is red brick with a tiled roof, a small porch and simple stained glass windows. It is a pleasant building with a surrounding garden. Carry along Lynchford Road across Camp Road and further on to your left you will see:

7. The North Camp Hotel which is a two storey brick building, plastered on the upper front with green glazed bricks below, and with a slate roof. The single storey extension was the North Camp Music Hall. This is a good example of a Victorian Pub.

Carry on along Lynchford Road and on your left is the:

8. The Elephant and Castle. This is a 2 storey building with a mainly timber structure, rendered side walls and sash windows. The location of what was the carriage entrance to the rear yard is visible, but it no longer exists. The clock on the front of the building is marked "Hazeltine of Farnborough" and there is a bracket with a hanging pub sign.

Carry on along Lynchford Road and turn left into Peabody Road. Just beyond the entrance to the public car park is the winter quarters and home of:

9. The Matthews family who are a fairground family. The most famous of the showman family was Red Shirt Matthews who would set up his fairground rides for the troops in Aldershot and once entertained Edward VII on his galloping horses. The family also do a lot of charity work.

Turn left into the High Street and on your right is the back of St Mark's School. Carry on until you meet Camp Road. On the corner of the High Street and Camp Road are public toilets. Turn left into Camp Road and continue down the road. On your left just beyond the pedestrian alleyway to the public car park is the Fenwick Harrison YMCA building, although its frontage is hidden behind more modern shops. Further along on the left is a disused:
10. Printing Works which was once a Cinema, the Avenue Electric Theatre (known locally as the "Penny Rush"). Signs of architectural decoration in the form of columns are still visible on this building. Retrace your steps along Camp Road. On the opposite side of the road above a doorway is the sign for the Co-op No 1 Branch. Next to this was:

11. The Scala Cinema which is now a church. Continue back along Camp Road and turn left into Queen's Road. On your left, behind Alldays, was the Yeomans Mineral Water Works. Slightly further on on your right is an alley way called Church Path which runs from Lynchford Road to Reading Road. On the left is a red brick building which housed Pickfords and before that the Junior Army and Navy Mineral Water Works.

Turn right into Alexandra Road. About 100 yards down on the right hand side was the site of the National Children’s Home. Carry on until you reach a small roundabout. On the right on the corner of Alexandra Road and Reading Road is:

12. St Mark's Church. This is a red brick structure with tiled roof, aisled nave, stained glass windows, transepts and two porches. There is a memorial chapel containing the names of many well known aviators. The church was consecrated in 1881.

Cross over Alexandra Road into Guildford Road West. In front of you is:

13. The Old Farnborough Town Hall. Built in 1896 it consists of two storeys, red bricked with a slate roof. There is a small bell tower with a clock. There are also stone pillars, and a portico with decoration. At the side of the Town Hall was Farnborough's first Fire Station.

Carry along Guildford Road West and turn left into Osborne Road. Walk along Osborne Road across the roundabout and on your left is a:

14. Park and Play area. In years gone by there was a paddling pool but this, sadly, has been filled in and replaced by a Netball Court. Carry on along Osborne Road over the 2nd roundabout and turn right into Lynchford Road and back to the Holiday Inn from where you started.
Starting and finishing point
WALK No. 5

Approximately two and a quarter miles and takes about one and three quarter hours. The going is good but can be muddy.

Parking: At Cove Green Pavilion or in Prospect Road. Toilet facilities are available at the Pavilion.

Starting Point: COVE GREEN PAVILION, PROSPECT ROAD

1. Cove Green is on the corner of Cove Road and Prospect Road. It was the home of cattle and horse fairs many years ago. Over the years both Cove Football Club and Cricket Club have used the Green. The annual Fun Fair used the Green up until a few years ago. Near to where the Pavilion now stands was once Cove Pond. In the days of horse and carts it was used to water the horses and young boys would catch newts and gather frog spawn.

Turn right out of Cove Green into Prospect Road. After about 20 yards turn left into Holly Road. Carry on along Holly Road and take the second turning on the right. Go under the railway bridge. Turn left under the railway bridge and take the footpath* alongside the railway embankment. This was the route the people of Cove took to go to church and Sunday school at St John's Church. Carry on along this footpath and across the footbridge of West Stream (also known as Dudda's Brook). The Bridge is known as the five arches. You will come out to West Heath Bridge and Roundabout.

*(If this footpath is too muddy turn left at the railway bridge along the footpath that comes out to West Heath Road. Turn left in West Heath Road. Carry on past West Stream. You will see the five arched bridge about 40 yards away. Carry on until you come to West Heath Roundabout and rejoin the route).

2. Cross the road and you will see the original brick built bridge which was used until 1972. Continue along this road into Fleet Road and walk along Fleet Road until you come to:

3. The Plough and Horses Public House. This was built in 1870. It is a brick structure with tiled roof, sash windows and with a stable at the rear. It is a good example of a late Victorian Inn.
Turn right into St John's Road and on your left you will see the old Church School, now the Church Hall. Just past the Hall is:

4. St John the Baptist Church. This is a stone structure, built in neo-Norman style. There is a low crossing tower. It is a pleasant church built by public subscription in 1843/44.

Carry on along St John's Road across Minley Road and on your left is Cove Comprehensive School which was opened in 1937. Walk on until you come to a "T" junction with Fernhill Road. Turn right into Fernhill Road and on your left is:

5. Cove County Junior School. This was built in 1880 and was two schools, Juniors and Seniors, until 1938. The Infants part was added in 1911. Then the hall was built and the two schools joined up. The headmaster's house was on the end of the school. In 1946 a plan crashed onto the headmaster's house and as a result the house had to be demolished and is now a playground.

Carry on along Fernhill Road towards West Heath Railway Bridge and roundabout. Just before the roundabout on your left is a private road and a row of cottages.

6. These cottages Nos. 27 to 33 were built end on to Fernhill Road, originally as the Jolly Sailor Inn, but were converted into four cottages for workers at West Heath Farm. The cottages date from the 18th Century and are of brick with small casement windows with later extensions.

7. West Heath Farm, which was also known as Blunden's Farm, had a Pottery. The shards from the Pottery were put into the bed of West Stream by the five arched bridge, which you walked over, as a hard crossing for the carts to reach other fields.

Carry on over the roundabout, under the railway bridge and left into Cove Road. On your left is the:

8. Potter's Arms Public House. This was built in the 18th/19th Century. It is a late Georgian/Regency red bricked building with hipped tiled roof, sash and casement windows and with a stable and outbuildings at the rear. The pair of adjacent cottages are of a similar style and were once accommodation for pottery workers.
Carry on along Cove Road and on the right in Bridge Road/Cove Road is:

9. Alldays (formerly The Country Stores, Supply Stores and Rowlands Wine). This is a 19th Century double fronted two storey brick building with a slate roof and small casement windows at high level. This is probably the oldest continuously used shop in Cove. It was built in 1876.

Carry on along Bridge Road and follow the road until it meets the Cove Road. Bear left into Cove Road and on the left hand side is:

10. The Old Courthouse Public House which was once known as the Anchor Inn. It is an 18th Century brick and rendered structure with a hipped tiled roof. Prior to 1823 it was called the Jolly Farmer and was once used as a Court House. In the early 19th Century next door stood the Alma Public House which was demolished and is now the car park. Opposite is the Tradesman’s Arms Public House. Further along Cove Road on the right hand side is:

11. St Christopher’s Church and Vicarage. The Church was built in 1934 and the vicarage is 18th Century. There is a date stone of 1741 and an iron plaque dated 1736. It is red bricked and of two storeys with a stone porch, tiled roof and bay windows at the rear. It was previously known as Home Farm. Also on this site were three hop kilns used for drying the locally grown hops.

Carry on along Cove Road and take the next turning left into Prospect Road. On the right is Cove Green Pavilion where we started from.
WALK No. 6

Approximately 2 miles and takes about one and a quarter hours. The going is good.

Park in public car park on the corner of Victoria Road and Farnborough Road

Starting Point: THE CLOCK HOUSE, FARNBOROUGH ROAD

1. The Clock House. This was built in 1895. It is two storeys and has red brick walls with wooden decorative features. There is also a three storey tower with a clock, a metal cupola and a weather vane. The top of the tower once stood on four round posts and used to be six feet higher than it is now.

   Turn left along the Farnborough Road towards Farnborough Station and on the way you will pass the Ham and Blackbird Public House, which was formerly known as the New Inn or The Railway Arms. Carry on past:

2. Farnborough Station. This was opened in 1838 and was not electrified until 1967. Carry on over the railway bridge until you come to a new development on the left hand side called Queen Victoria Court. On this site is a building called:

3. The Lodge which is where Mr Greene lived who founded three local schools. Carry on along the Farnborough Road. If you look to your right, through the trees is the Farnborough Hill Convent and Girls School. You will also pass:

4. Farnborough Hill Lodge. This is a two storey, brick, rendered and white washed 19th Century building. Carry on along Farnborough Road and on your left you will see some iron piers. This is the entrance to:

5. Queen Elizabeth Park which was once part of the pleasure grounds of Farnborough Hill. The rhododendrons once formed tunnels and seats were placed along these. In the park are many species of trees. There were also ornamental ponds and an ice house. As you carry on along the Farnborough Road you will pass Empress Avenue and Napoleon Avenue, all once part of the Empress Eugenie Estate.
When you come to Prospect Avenue and the traffic lights cross the road on the pelican crossing to the right hand footpath. Carry on along the Farnborough Road and you will see on the right:

6. The Lodge which was the entrance to The Grange, once the home of Major Halt and later a hostel for workers in the RAE. Turn right into Ship Lane. To the left is the:

7. Ship Inn which is a two storey brick and timber building, with modern extensions with sharp ridge traverse and dormers and modern tiles, windows and metal casements. Timbers on the inside are believed to be old ships timbers. It has previously been called The Royal Anne and possibly The Royal George and is believed to be either 16th or 17th Century. Behind the Ship Inn in a field on 17th April 1860 a prize fight took place between Tom Sayer who was English and John Heenan an Irish American. This was for the championship of the world. 12,000 people attended the illegal bare knuckle fist fight. It was reported the fight lasted 44 rounds and was then declared a draw.

Carry on along Ship Lane and on the right hand side you can see the high walled garden and nursery that was part of the Farnborough Hill Estate and is now a development called The Walled Garden. Further along Ship Lane on the right hand side is:

8. Oriel Cottage which dates back to the 15th and 16th Centuries. The original timber framed portion is to the right behind the porch. Principal character was given to the building in the 19th Century by additions and a porch. It is a two storey, timber framed building with red brick infilling, a tiled roof, and casement windows. There is a projecting porch with four centred archway, and a roof over with gable. Post medieval pottery was discovered under the floors during renovations. Also 15th, 16th and 17th Century pottery sites at the back of the cottage have been discovered. On the left is:

9. Home Farm which was owned by the Empress Eugenie but is now a private house. We now come to Farnborough Street, which was the hub of Farnborough in the 16th and 17th Centuries. In front of you is:

10. Empress Cottage, Eugenie Cottage and Emperor House (once known as Ye Olde Farm). The house is timber framed with lime washed brick infilling. It is 17th Century and formerly the old farmhouse. It is two storeys with a ridged tiled roof, continued at lower level to the left. There is a chimney with four coupled stacks and casement windows. Notice the Fire Insurance plaque on the east wall of Emperor House.
Carry straight on into Rectory Road past the Prince of Wales Public House on your left and on the right hand side is the:

11. Infant and Junior School. The Infant School was a former "National" School built in 1868 with red brick and blue diamond pattern decoration, tiled roof, stone (and later wooden) windows. It has been much altered over the years. Just past the school on the left hand side was once Ellis's bakery, last owned by "Sheldons" of North Camp.

Carry on and go under the railway bridge. After about 100 yards on the left look for the double iron gate. This was "Bartlets" the village forge. Carry on and again on the left there is a large garage with a pitched roof on the side of a house which is known as:

12. The Old School House. It is a white washed structure with a slate roof. It was used as the school before 1868. Follow the road to the right and halfway up the hill on the right was once a steam laundry. Every piece of machinery was belt driven and was working until the late 60s. Carry on and follow the road to the right for some distance. On the left is:

13. St Michael's Mews, an 18th to 19th Century two storey red brick structure with stone plinth and band with a slate roof. This was formerly stables but is now a private residence. Also on the left along a small lane, is:

14. St Peter's Junior School. This was built in the 17th Century and was formerly Farnborough Place. It is of two storeys, modern white cement facades with brick plinth. There are seven bays with a steeply pitched hipped slate roof with four dormers and a projecting porch with half engaged pilasters, cornice, double doors and fanlights. There are brick-vault foundations.

Continue along Rectory Road and you are back at the Clock House and car park.
Starting and finishing point
Approximately 2 miles and takes about one and a quarter hours. The going is good.

Parking at the Cove Green Pavilion or in Prospect Road. Toilet facilities are available in the Pavilion.

**Starting Point:** COVE GREEN PAVILION, PROSPECT ROAD, FARNBOROUGH

1. Cove Green Pavilion stands on the corner of Cove Green, flanked by Cove Road and Prospect Road, and was built on the site of Cove Pond. From the car park turn left into Prospect Road. At the junction of Prospect Road and Cove Road turn right into Cove Road. In front of you is:

2. Jewson's the Builders' Merchants which was once the site of Yeoman's the potter and Builders' Merchants. On the excavation of this pottery site two kilns were found and pots dating back to the 17th Century. Pottery was transported to London and also used locally. Carry along Cove Road until you come to:

3. St Christopher's Church which was built in 1934 on the site of the former Home Farm. Go through the Church Yard and at the back to the right is the former:

4. Home Farm. This dates from 1741 and inside has an oak roof and beams. The farm would have grown hops and corn. Two hop kilns have been unearthed in the grounds.

5. Turn left in front of the church. On the right of Cove Road there is a car park which was the site of the Alma public house. Next to the car park is the Old Courthouse public house (formerly called the Anchor).

6. Carry on to the Tradesman's Arms public house. Turn left onto a footpath by the side of the public house, and follow this footpath (Montgomery Path) round to the left until you come to a road. Turn right into what is Montgomery Road. Follow this road all the way round and then turn right into Dene Road. At the end of this road turn left into Hazel Avenue, and continue along this road through the gateway.
7. On the left was the site of Hazeldene Farm, then allotments and it was also a pottery site. At the back pre-fab houses were built after the war and later demolished. On the right is Southwood Golf Course which is owned by Rushmoor Borough Council. This is also the beginning of West Stream or Cove Brook. The Marrow Brook runs into the stream. Part of the Golf Course is the flood plain for the Cove Brook.

8. Carry on along Hazel Avenue to the roundabout. To the right of the roundabout was Eelmoor Farm built on the site of a Saxon settlement. Turn right into Arrow Road, cross the Marrow Brook and on the right hand side was once the site of a brick works. At the junction of Arrow Road and Elles Road turn left. On the right hand side is the airfield and the former site of a steam catapult that was used as an experiment to launch aircraft off the deck of ships.

9. Carry on along Elles Road for about 300 yards and look for a small alley way on your left hand side. This footpath comes out into Invincible Road. This road is the route the train "Invincible", which ran from Farnborough Station to the then RAE, took. Turn right onto Invincible Road and look for a footpath on your left - it is opposite a factory unit called "Impression House". At the end of the footpath you will come to Marrowbrook Lane.

10. On the left hand side of Weir Avenue in front of you is an estate which was built for the people who worked in the RAE - it was known as RAFBOROUGH. Some of the roads are named after famous people connected with the RAE, e.g. Cody Road, Busk Crescent etc.

11. Turn right into Marrowbrook Lane and follow the road up the hill to Tower Hill. Bear right in front of the Queen’s Head public house and follow the road to the junction with Cove Road. Turn left into Cove Road, past Cove Green. On the left was a sweet shop called "Charlies" which was famous for miles around. Cross over Cove Road back to the Pavilion and car park.
X Starting and finishing point
Approximately 3 miles and takes about one and three quarter hours.  
The going is good.

Parking in the road.

**Starting Point: ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S ROAD, COVE**

1. St John's Church. This was built in 1844, being paid for by public 
subscription. It is a stone structure built in neo-Norman style with a low 
crossing tower. Turn left out of the church grounds and cross the Minley 
Road into St John's Road. On the left is:

2. Cove Secondary Modern School which was built in 1937. At the end of St 
John's Road you come onto Fernhill Road. Look across the road to the 
right and you will see:

3. Cove Junior School. The building dates from around 1880 and was two 
schools until 1938. In 1938 the older children were transferred to senior 
school in St John's Road. The infant school was built in 1911 and in 
January 1938 a hall was built for the two schools and they were joined up. 
On 18th January 1946 a plane crashed into the Headmaster's house on the 
side of the school.

Turn left into Fernhill Road and carry on until you come to Medway Drive 
on your left hand side. On the left was the site of the old Manor House 
one owned by the Northcotes. Alongside Fernhill Road were fields owned 
by the Northcotes. In the 1950s a newspaper reported that a man was 
cycling along Fernhill Road in the dark and had to leap into a ditch at the 
side of the road to avoid a stagecoach driven by a headless man. Many 
people have heard the sound of horses hoofs and cartwheels on this 
stretch of road outside the Manor House.

Carry on along Fernhill Road on to the motorway bridge. Look back and 
you will see a fine view of Farnborough Hill and St Michael's Abbey. Over 
the motorway bridge take the third turning on your left into Sandy Lane. 
Go up Sandy Lane and take the first turning left into Mendip Road. At the 
end of this road turn right into Pennine Way and after about 50 yards on 
your right is an old house called:
4. Broomhill which has now been converted into separate houses. This is timber framed with herringbone brick infilling and a long ridge tiled roof, hipped at each end. The interior has a beamed ceiling and an interesting back to back inglenook fire place. Parts of the present structure date back to the 13th Century. The house stands on a prominent hill and is one of the boundary marks of the ancient "Crondal Hundred". Go past Broomhill and take the footpath on your right into Fintry Walk. This will take you along the side of Broomhill and back onto Sandy Lane. Turn left into Sandy Lane and on your right is a stable block and:

5. Jobs Farm. Behind the modern Farm House is the original 400 year old Jobs Farm. This is a long low structure of three rooms in line. It is timber framed with brick infilling and brick chimney. The internal walls are hazel wattle with plaster covering. It is now an outhouse. The roof is now corrugated iron but possibly was once thatched. Carry on down Sandy Lane past the caravan sites until you come to a road on the left called The Potteries. On this site once stood a farm called Outsheets Farm. When the M3 Motorway was being developed a large 17th Century pottery site was found. Many whole pieces of pottery were found and can be seen in Guildford Museum. On the right hand side was an Army Camp.

Go to the end of Sandy Lane and bear left over the motorway bridge and take the second turning on the right into Trunk Road. About 1/4 mile along Trunk Road look for an old high brick wall on your right hand side. Behind this wall is:

6. Trunk House. This is a beautiful old house which was once a farm house but has been built onto to form the house we have today. The kitchens are the oldest part of the house. The interior is quaint with a good deal of oak panelling and uneven floors. The house has been split up into smaller dwellings.

Carry on along Trunk Road till you see on your left a road called Lady Wood Avenue. Turn left into the avenue and you will see a small estate which was built in the 1960s for the employees of the National Gas Turbine Establishment (NGTE), which was where the development of the jet engine took place. Carry on to the end of Lady Wood Avenue and turn left into Fleet Road. Look over to your right and you will see:
7. Chilton Farm Park next to which was Chilton Farm. This was another old house and was originally called Chilton Cottage and the front part was a Malt House. This part was later converted into four rooms, two upstairs and two down, outbuildings were added and it became a farm. Carry on along the Fleet Road until on your left you come to the:

8. The Plough and Horses public house. This was formerly The Plough. It is a brick structure with tiled roof. Built in 1870 with sash windows, at one time there were stables to the rear. This is a very good example of a late Victorian inn.

Turn left at the side of the public house into St John's Road. On the left you will see a brick building which was once a school and is now the Church Hall. Next to the Church Hall is St John's Church and you are back to where you started from.
Starting and finishing point
WALK No. 9

Approximately two and three quarter miles and takes about one and three quarter hours. The going is good but the canal towpath can be muddy.

Parking in side roads.

Starting Point: HOLIDAY INN (QUEEN'S HOTEL), LYNCHFORD ROAD, FARNBOROUGH

1. Holiday Inn. This was built in 1855. It is three storeys high, red brick with stone details and a slate roof. This was a prominent site overlooking the Queen's Parade. It has had many alterations over the years and once burnt down and was rebuilt. Opposite the hotel to the right is a bowl barrow which is known as:

2. Cockadobby Hill which is the Old English name for a goblin (dob or dobb = goblin). The Anglo-Saxon burial mound has been excavated many times. About 150 years ago a local teacher called Mr Greene excavated the site, but there is no record of what he found. He did bury a time capsule with a copy of the Times newspaper and coins etc. In recent times the North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society opened up the mound, took details and reburied modern artefacts. On the edge of the mound is a war memorial which was built to the Unknown Soldier of the Boer War. It is substantially built of Portland Stone, with the remains of a horse trough and drinking fountain and a curved raised stone seat. Turn left into Lynchford Road, go past the Fire Station, carry on to the next roundabout and turn right into the:

3. Queen's Avenue. On the left hand side is an Army School with a clock tower. A little further down Queen's Avenue at the traffic lights on the left you will see two brick built barrack blocks, a 1930s wooden guardhouse and the Montgomery barn. This is the Aldershot Military Museum which also houses a section for local history. Outside is a collection of military vehicles. The museum is well worth a visit. The first barrack blocks were built of wood in 1854 to hold 8,000 men and were known as Stanhope Lines and Marlborough Lines. These were replaced by brick built barrack blocks in 1881 of which the museum's are good examples. Carry on down Queen's Avenue and on the left are:
4. The Military Stadium and Fox Gymnasium. The Military Stadium was built in the 1890s. In 1866 Queen Victoria made the first of many visits to Aldershot to inspect her troops. Queen's Parade took its name from the fact that many of the Queen's inspections took place here. The Fox Gymnasium was built in 1861. The Queen's Parade on your right has seen many sporting events. In the past there was a horse racing course on it where flat racing was held each year at the end of July. The sport was considered sufficiently good to attract many bookmakers, members of the Garrison and locals. The race course was nearly two miles with a straight half mile run alongside, and parallel with, the Farnborough Road where stands and stalls were erected each year for the spectators. The Ordnance Survey map of Aldershot for 1873 marks the race course with mile posts and a starting post. The race course crossed over Queen's Avenue (then known as Cranbrook Road) just north of the iron canal bridge and ran in a circle for just over a mile around the area below Smallshot Hill and where the Aldershot Military Stadium stands today. In 1948 some of the Olympic Games were held in this area. Next you will see an iron bridge which takes the Queen's Avenue over the canal. This bridge replaced a pontoon bridge. The Iron Bridge, as it is called, was built in 1870.

Turn right down the steps on the side of the bridge, this will lead you to the:

5. Canal. Turn right along the towpath. The canal was constructed between 1788 and 1796 and ran from the River Thames to Basingstoke. It is only in the last few years that the canal has been restored to its former glory.

Walk along the towpath until you come to Wharf Bridge which takes the A325 Farnborough Road over the canal. Go under the bridge and you will see the site of the old:

6. Farnham Wharf (Aldershot Wharf). This wharf was where most of the building materials were unloaded to build Aldershot Garrison. Pleasure boats were hired out to troops and the public. The Wharf was constructed and opened at the same time as the canal. All the buildings and wooden warehouses have been pulled down. The Row Barge Inn was also on this site.

Turn right off the towpath over the grass and on to Laffans Road. Turn left and follow Laffans Road until you come to a road on the right. Take this road which is Forge Lane where all the military horses were shod. Take the next turning left into Shoe Lane. Go past the Edmund R Speak "Plantation" which was planted in 1965. Through the trees you can see:
7. Blandford House which until 1950 was the residence of the General Officer Commanding Aldershot District. This area was also known as "Bagman Castle" and was thought to be a highwayman's hideout, although this was when the Farnborough Road ran through heath land. On each side of Shoe Lane is the Army Golf Course. On the right hand side just in the Golf Course, with a small fence around it, is the Military Horse Cemetery. It contains five memorial stones dated from 1880 to 1899 dedicated to five famous horses. At the end of Shoe Lane on the left is the Farnborough Aerospace Centre.

Turn right into Government House Road and from here you can see the entrance and front of Government House. Carry on along the road until you come to the roundabout and Farnborough Road. In front of you is the Holiday Inn where you started from.
Starting and finishing point
Approximately one and three quarter miles and takes about one hour. The going is good.

Parking in public car parks.

Starting Point: OUTSIDE RUSHMOOR COUNCIL OFFICES

1. Turn right out of the Council Offices to Farnborough Road and continue up the slight hill to the pelican crossing. On your right is the IBM building Pinehurst Park which was once:

2. Hillside Convent and was also part of Farnborough Technical College. It is three storeys with red brick walls, a slate roof with a central clock tower and apsidal chapel. It was opened as a Boarding School in 1889 for the daughters of local Army officers. During the 1st World War it was taken over by the War Office and was called Star Hill Barracks. It was sold to the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) in 1945. Continue along Farnborough Road and on your left you will see the Farnborough College of Technology which was built on the site of Castleden Hall, an imposing three storey building with beautifully designed formal gardens. On the right at the traffic lights is the entrance to the Farnborough Business Park on the site of the former Royal Aircraft Establishment. The grey building with the clock is a 24 foot:

3. Wind Tunnel. The actual wind tunnel is constructed of reinforced concrete while the building, including the aeroplane shed used for rigging, is a steel frame enclosed in concrete. The fan blade is constructed of laminated mahogany. The tunnel was opened in 1935 and is a Grade 1 listed building. Further along the Farnborough Road on the right hand side is The Swan Public House and at the side is the RAE Road and a good view across the airfield, which is the home of the Farnborough Airshow and the TAG Business Aviation Airport. On the left hand side is a parade of shops which was known as the "Royal Flying Corps Parade". Further along on the right is a building which was the Headquarters of the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. It was also occupied when the RAF was formed in 1918. In later years it was the Meteorological Office, before it moved to Bracknell, and is now the headquarters of the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust.
Take the next turning left into Reading Road (it is blocked to traffic). Further along Reading Road is:

4. The Old Farnborough Town Hall. This was built in 1896 and consists of two storeys, red bricked with slate roof. There is also a small bell tower with a clock. There are also stone pillars and a portico with decoration and it is dressed in Bath stone. It was built for a cost of £5,000.

Go across the road to the gardens in front of the Town Hall and turn right into Alexandra Road, cross the road by the pelican crossing and then turn left. On the corner of Reading Road is:

5. St Mark's Church which was built in 1880. It is a red brick structure, with tiled roof, aisled nave, transepts and two porches. Inside is a memorial chapel commemorating many well known aviators. There are stained glass windows and it was consecrated in 1881. Three weeks after the consecration a gale severely damaged the south wall which was a temporary structure to allow for later enlargements. The wall was 65' long and 23' tall. An appeal was launched for £100 to repair it. Cross over Reading Road and Guildford Road East and carry on along Alexandra Road and take the 3rd turning on the right into Albert Road. Along Albert Road and opposite Firs Close is a:

6. Bronze Age Bowl Barrow Burial Mound. It is of average diameter 30m and 2.2m high with no visible ditch. It is thickly overgrown with trees and is in the grounds of the former Belvedere House. Carry on along Albert Road and on your right is:

7. Devereux House. This was once the Farnborough and Cove War Memorial Hospital, having been built after the Great War when it was decided that a local memorial to the men who had given their lives for their country should take the form of a Cottage Hospital. An immediate response was made to the appeal for funds in 1920. The house was converted into a 12 bed hospital and opened in 1921. At the back of the old cottage hospital was Farley House, the Maternity Hospital. The services of the Memorial Hospital were later transferred to Frimley Park Hospital and Devereux House is now short stay accommodation and a day centre.

At the end of Albert Road turn left into Canterbury Road. Take the next turning on the left and you will be in Boundary Road. Where the Farnborough College of Technology now stands there was also a swimming pool called "The Puddle". This was the only public swimming pool in Farnborough in the 1950s. Opposite the college in Boundary Road is:
8. Croxted House which was once Farnborough Library. It is two storeys, brick rendered, sash windows slatted on the lower floor. It is an elegant mid 19th Century house. Take the footpath to the right in front of the college and onto Farnborough Road. Turn right and cross Farnborough Road at the pelican crossing and back to Rushmoor Council Offices where you started from.
Starting and finishing point