

Parks were common features of the medieval landscape and were a mixture of woods and pasture. Their purpose was to provide hunting grounds for Kings and Lords and were stocked with deer. Park pales were constructed to keep deer in and consisted of a bank (usually 3 -4 meters high) and a ditch with a wooden palisade or fence on the top. They were designed to let the deer in through gaps in the pale called deer leaps but once inside the deer could not get out again.



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Starting point: Under Old Woking Cross at the mini-roundabout, junction B382 and A247 (Broadmead Road) head east along Old Woking High Street to the junction of Church Street.

To Visit St Peters Church: turn right into Church Street and see the many old houses. Return to the High Street and turn right to continue to the Palace.

If dry: As the High Street takes a sharp left take the footpath (FP) down the left hand side of The Life Works building, continue past the cemetery gates on the right and follow narrow footpath into the field. The footpath

stays on the North East edge of the field and is marked by several FP signs. At the houses the FP turns left and runs between the gardens and comes out onto Carters Lane, turn right and walk down the lane until it turns right.

Alternatively if wet underfoot stay on the footpath past the high Tudor brick wall, you are now on Old Woking Road. At the end of the wall turn right into Carters Lane; note the first building on the right is also made out of Tudor brick recovered from Woking Palace. Proceed up Carters Lane for about a mile until the lane turns right at the FP sign.

To visit Woking Palace turn right and continue straight on until you reach a metal gate, pass the gate and walk down the earth track eventually coming to an information board on your right describing the site. Beyond the information board you cross the original drawbridge of the Palace and enter the site. The small stone building with the modern roof probably dates from the time of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII. The building is locked except on the 3 Open Weekends. The building to the right may have been a real tennis court and was later used as a farm building. The foundations of the Great Hall can be seen; other foundations have been located but are buried to preserve them. Walk through the copse where you will see three fishponds.

Retrace your steps back through the entrance gate and go up to Carters Lane. Proceed along the footpath straight ahead between the fences of the Sewage Works. After crossing the Hoe Stream turn right and then left by Roundbridge Farm to follow the footpath through the avenue of trees to the Hoebridge Golf Course. At the end of the avenue go straight ahead up the slope to the right and proceed down the path with the golf course on your left. Go through the swing gate and when you reach the wooden gate and the houses take the footpath to the right alongside the fence.