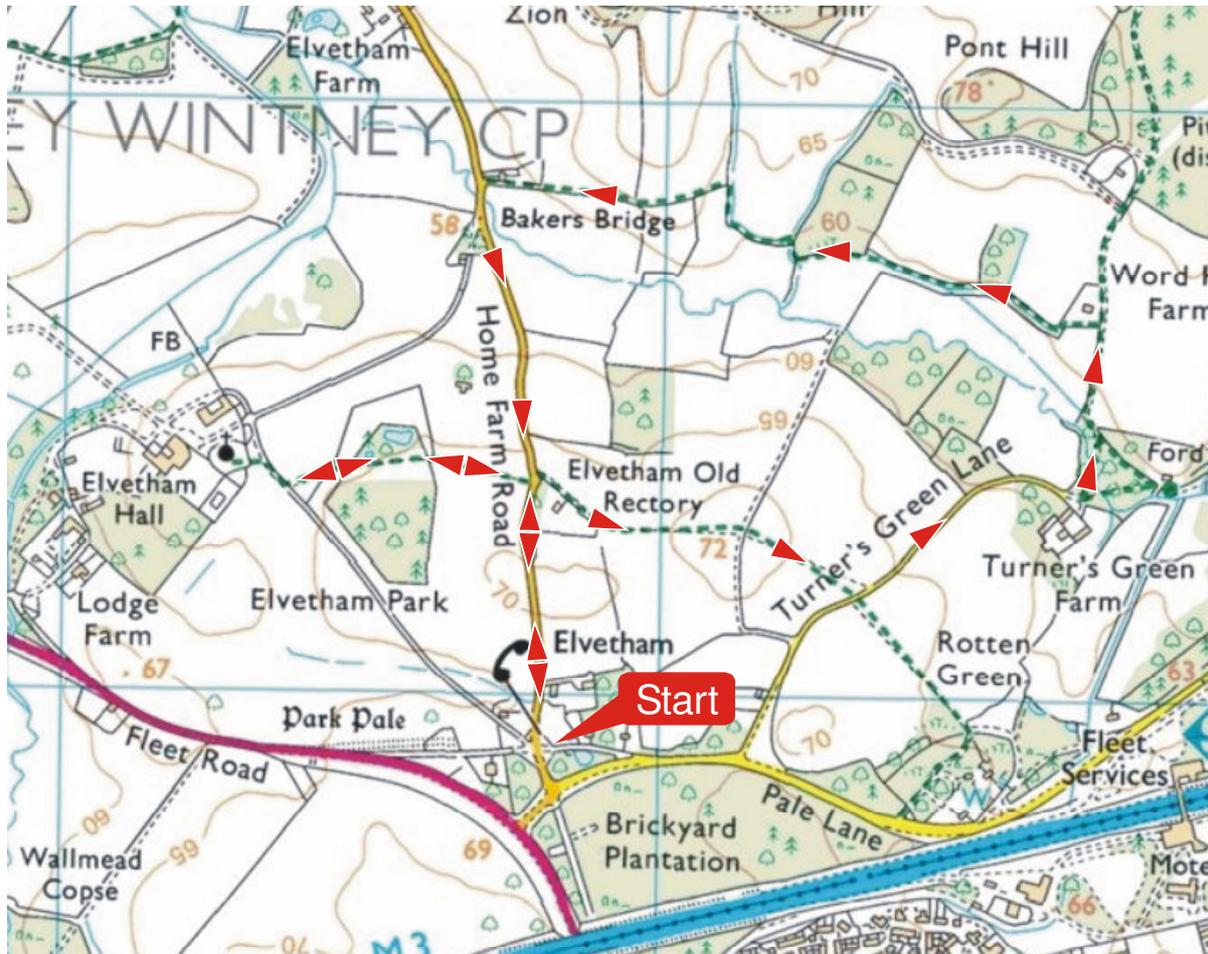


EXPLORE ELVETHAM BY FOOTPATH

There is no public right of way through Elvetham Hall, so the easiest way to explore Elvetham is by driving the car from Hartley Wintney along the Fleet Road and turn left beyond the Hall and just before the M3 crosses the Fleet Road. There are places where you can safely leave a car a few dozen yards along the minor road to your left. "Streetend" and the road opposite are now both quiet cul-de-sacs since the road pattern was changed to accommodate the M3.



Walk first along Home Farm Road (C112). You should have the Fleet Road and the road off it behind you and a Lodge of Elvetham Hall on your left with the old Girls School, built in the 1840s, a few yards up on your right. Once correctly oriented, walk on until you can see a stile on your left just opposite the former Rectory. Over this stile the footpath goes straight across the field which may be ploughed, over another stile into a copse and eventually leaves the copse into a field. Continue ahead to a stile and thence to the churchyard. The Church is now closed. From here you have a good view of Elvetham Hall which was rebuilt in 1861 in the style of a French chateau. Returning by the same route (which is the public footpath left to the villagers of Elvetham to get to their church when their homes were thrust outside the park by their Lord's enclosure in 1403), pause at the stile near the churchyard and look towards the M3. In the foreground you can see a large depression shaped like a half moon, which is the remains of the lake dug specially for Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1591.

When you get back to Home Farm Road, carefully cross onto Footpath 11, which goes to the left of the drive into the old Rectory. It goes fairly straight across two fields and exits on to a tarmac road, Turner's Green Lane (U242). Turn left and continue until you see a footpath sign on the left after passing through gates. Turner's Green Farm with its picturesque gateposts is to your right. There were Turners here in Charles' II reign. Turn left on a pleasant walk along one of the feeder streams of the River Hart (which gave its name to the District Council). After a while you see a footpath sign on the right just before Word Hill Barn. Turn left and follow the yellow markers with the hedge to your right. Keep dogs well under control here as there are pheasants breeding in the copse to your right. Turn right and over a bridge, then turn left, so the hedge is on your left. The field boundary winds round to the right where there is another opening. Go through this, turn left and follow the path up the hill with the hedge on your left. Keep forward over the brow of the hill and you come out onto Home Farm Road. Turn left over Baker's Bridge back down Home Farm Road for approximately ½ mile to the start of your walk.

Extracted from Hartley Row Journal 1988 Autumn edition.