

■ **The Park Barn Social Centre, off Park Barn Drive GU2 8EN, is a good place to start this walk. You can meet with others here and during weekdays the café is open to all for refreshments.**

■ **Leave the centre and walk along Park Barn Drive towards the roundabout on Southway. Turn right and pass Kings College and Guildford Grove School. When you reach the small green and St Clare's Church, carefully cross over the road and enter Applegarth Avenue.**

The original part of St Clare's Church (now used as its hall) was built by members of the local community in the 1960s. A local vicar struck a bargain with residents of Park Barn saying if they would help build a church he would find the money to pay for the materials. Work on St Clare's Church-cum-hall started in the early 1960s. The church was dedicated in 1965. A new worship area was added in 1987.

■ **Continue along Applegarth Avenue. The road then bears to the right – continue on but be sure to look out for the blue footpath sign on the right, just before Hunts Close. Take the path on your left between numbers 129 and 131 Applegarth Avenue and walk on to Broadstreet Common turning immediately right following the footpath.**

You are now walking near to where the Romans had a villa and farm nearly 2,000 years ago! The site of a Roman villa was discovered on Broadstreet Common in 1829. There followed an archaeological dig in the late 1940s. Much more recently, when the former Barnwood School was demolished for housing, further Roman remains were found here. There were archaeological digs on that site in 1994, 1997 and 1998, which showed that these features appear to have formed a group of farm buildings – probably associated with the villa. No doubt the stream that still flows here and forms the boundary between Park Barn and Broadstreet Common was a useful water supply for those early settlers.



■ **Continue along the footpath (past Hartshill exit) until you come to another metal 'kissing gate' on your right leading to a footbridge. Cross the footbridge over the stream into Roman Farm Road and walk towards Cabell Road. On your left, on the garden wall of 12 Roman Farm Road, is an information board titled 'Frontier Settlers' giving details of the Roman building complex.**

Stay on the left-hand side of the road, turn left at the junction with Hartshill, left at the junction with Cabell Road and go towards the Park Barn Community Centre, 50m on your left-hand side. Then turn left into Barnwood Road and walk up the hill and then down to the mini roundabout, and turn right into Park Barn Drive. A short way past Rye Close bear left between garages to enter a grassy area. Take the right-hand path up to the playground. Walk past the playground with it on your left-hand side. Then pick up the path which continues beyond the playground and walk between the houses into Broadacres.

Then turn right, follow the road around a bend and turn right into Beavers Close. Just before the first house on the left there is a footpath leading to woodland and the highest point in Westborough. Take one of the paths to the open space at the top. Did you know that there is an underground reservoir beneath your feet?

From here there are some great views. Looking north it's said that on a clear day you can see the tall buildings at Canary Wharf in London.

Perhaps our Roman ancestors who lived on Broadstreet Common made their way up here to survey the scenery around them. It is likely that the whole area was heavily wooded in their time.

■ **Now walk down the hill to Woodside Road. Turn right and look for the entrance to Westborough Woods, part of the Westborough Trim Trail. Follow the trail's blue signs that will lead you through some more**

of Westborough's open spaces. Leave the trail when you reach the exit towards Foxburrows Avenue. Then, as noted above, make your way back to the Park Barn Social Centre.

Towards the end of the Second World War, Hitler unleashed a new aerial terror on Britain – V1 flying bombs, soon to be known as doodlebugs or buzz bombs. The first to fall on Guildford was during the daytime of June 28, 1944.

It fell in a cornfield to the west of Foxburrows Avenue. (Park Barn had not been built at that time). Luckily no-one was injured, but the blast caused a good deal of damage to nearby houses.

There are unconfirmed reports that the V1 was shot at and hit by soldiers manning an anti-aircraft gun that was positioned at the foot of Stag Hill, by the road to the cathedral. Some say it was they who brought it crashing to the ground.