

■ **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 stay on right-hand side of Park Barn Drive. When you reach the roundabout carefully cross Southway. Stay on the right-hand side of Egerton Road with the Royal Surrey County Hospital on your right. Use the pedestrian crossings to get to the other side of the wide part of Egerton Road and look for the blue University of Surrey sign to Manor Park. Crossing again, this time Richard Meyjes Road, to get to the right hand side of it. Walk along this road for a short distance and turn right into Daphne Jackson Road. Continue past the Leggett Building and then look for a pair of metal gates. Walk through the gap beside them on to an asphalt footpath that curves round to the left with sports pitches on your left.**

Daphne Jackson was a nuclear physicist and the UK's first female physics professor. Sir Richard Meyjes was marketing co-ordinator of Shell International Petroleum and a former High Sheriff of Surrey.

On your left you will pass the University of Surrey's new £45 million School of Veterinary Medicine, opened by the Queen in October 2015. Further away to your left is the Surrey Sports Park that opened in April 2010.

■ **Continue along the footpath and cross over a road and make your way past a sunken pond on your right. The path then becomes unmade and eventually forks. In front of you is a small copse.**

Here is the site of a manor house that stood within Guildford's medieval royal deer park. The park keeper, a highly favoured courtier of the king, would have occupied it. The surname Parker derives from this title.

The house is believed to have had a number of gabled buildings around a courtyard with one side having a gatehouse tower. Records show that Edward III spent Easter at the park in 1336 and Christmases there in 1337, 1340 and 1347. Edward IV stayed there in 1479 and 1482, and Henry VIII in 1546. It is also believed Elizabeth I visited on several occasions.

The derelict building that is on the site today is the farmhouse of Manor Farm, part of which dates back to the 18th century. The



only trace of the medieval building are two sides of its original moat. You may be able to glimpse the moat through the trees.

Please note: there is no public access into the copse and the moat.

Today's Westborough, Park Barn, Woodbridge Hill and Onslow Village were all once part of an enclosed area of about 1,620 acres in which deer were raised for the benefit of the king and his courtiers. This royal deer park (from which today's Guildford Park and Stag Hill take their names) was created by Henry II in 1154 and remained an enclosed area until the early 17th century.

Its old boundaries can still be traced by a number of features today – to the north and east it follows Broadstreet, Aldershot Road and Woodbridge Road. The trackway over The Mount towards the Hog's Back is the southern boundary. To the west it

follows a hedgerow passing through woodland following a path to the side of the Surrey Research Park and Park Barn. A ditch would have surrounded the deer park with an oak fence on top of an earthen bank. Traces of the bank can still be seen along the path on its western edge (next to the Surrey Satellite Technology building on the Surrey Research Park) and even more clearly on The Mount. There would have been gates at certain points and a feature known as a deer leap, in which deer from outside could jump in, but would not be able to get out again. There were also a number of lodges within the royal park, some of these later becoming the site of local farms. It is from these farms that some local roads and places are now named – Deerbarn Farm, Wilderness Farm, Park Barn Farm, Bannisters Farm.

The main manor house near where you are standing gradually fell into disrepair and in 1609 building material from the derelict house was sold to George More of Loseley. There were a number of archaeological excavations at the site during the 1970s. These have helped historians build a picture of what it was like and how people lived there. The site is a scheduled ancient monument.

■ **Retrace your steps past the pond and back to the road you had recently crossed. Turn left, go past a mini roundabout and walk between the new university accommodation buildings with signs Francis Crick Road and Ronald Ross Road. Then turn right onto Alexander Fleming Road. You will soon see the Heart & Soul café on your right, open to all. Walk towards the roundabout at the junction of Gill Avenue, Occam Road and Priestly Road.**

■ **Go left and follow Priestly Road that loops through the Surrey Research Park. Once you have completed the loop at the top of Occam Road turn left, walk down Gill Avenue with the hospital to your left, turn left into Egerton Road and return to the Park Barn Social Centre.**

The Surrey Research Park is owned and developed by the University of Surrey. This science park covers about 70 acres and is home to around 114 businesses at the cutting edge of research development and design in the fields of science, health and engineering. Companies include Surrey Satellite Technology, the world's leading small satellite business; computer games creators Lionhead Studios; and Fitzpatrick Referrals, which opened in September 2015, a hospital specialising in the treatment of cancer in animals, by TV 'supervet' Noel Fitzpatrick.