

About the route

The Yew Tree Way is a cycle route of 15 miles following quiet country lanes in the rural part of Tandridge District in south east Surrey. Accessed via railway stations at Hurst Green and Lingfield the route can be followed in its entirety or shortened by using the rail link between the two stations. The Yew Tree Way is named after the ancient Yew Tree to be found in St. George's Church Yard, Crowhurst. Further information on this and details of other places of interest located on the route can be found in this leaflet. The route is suitable for the whole family but as it is on-road throughout some road experience is necessary. Wooden way marker posts are provided for cyclists following the route in an anti-clockwise direction only. For a refreshment stop why not make use of the cafes or pubs to be found in Lingfield.

The Crowhurst Yew Tree

There is no certainty about the age of this huge Yew Tree located in St. George's churchyard, with claims ranging between 1,000 and 4,000 years being recorded. You certainly get a feel of history when you touch this amazing living link with our past. Since the church was built next to it, no doubt the site has attracted worshippers from pre-Saxon times. Just close your eyes and let your imagination carry you back in time - see if you can join hands around the tree with your friends, find out how many it takes. Perhaps, as you take other rides and walks in the countryside you will see other wonderful old trees, there are several in Tandridge District - try to find out more about them, why were they planted and why were these ancient trees so important to our ancestors? Why are they important to us?

The Haxted Watermill

The first record of this mill appears in the will of Sir Reginald de Cobham dated 1361. Always a corn mill, it ground flour up to 1919 and then, like most other wind & watermills, was reduced to grinding meal for local farmers.

St. George's Church, Crowhurst

The small church is an attractive building of 12th and 15th Century work with alterations and additions made during the 13th and 14th Centuries. The open trussed roofs are early but the wooden spire clad with shingles was rebuilt after a fire destroyed the original in 1946. The interior is simple with mosaic frescoes on the east wall with tombs of the Gainsford family flanking the chancel, one of which is in cast iron probably unique in this country. The font is of Saxon origin.

The churchyard contains graves, many being well-kept, stretching back several centuries, as well as a old hollow Yew Tree, estimated to be up to 4,000 years old, whose immense branches are carefully supported. There is a handsome lychgate dating from the 1930's.

See if you can find out who reigned in England in the 12th Century. How old were they, did they have children, did they perhaps visit Crowhurst? We know that Henry VIII visited Penshurst and that is not far away. The church at Crowhurst is usually locked, but look at the different building material and the shape and colour of the stones. Do you think the stones were found nearby or a long way away? Why do you think the church is up a steep path, like so many of the older nearby churches?

Greenwich Meridian

The Greenwich Meridian runs right down through Tandridge District and you will be crossing this line, 0° Longitude, as you cycle west along Popes Lane just after Hurst Green Station and again as you go east past the Notre Dame School on Racecourse Road, just outside Lingfield. This Meridian is marked with special plaques at several places in the District, see if you can spot some of them as you cycle along.

Useful Contacts

Surrey County Council

www.surreycc.gov.uk

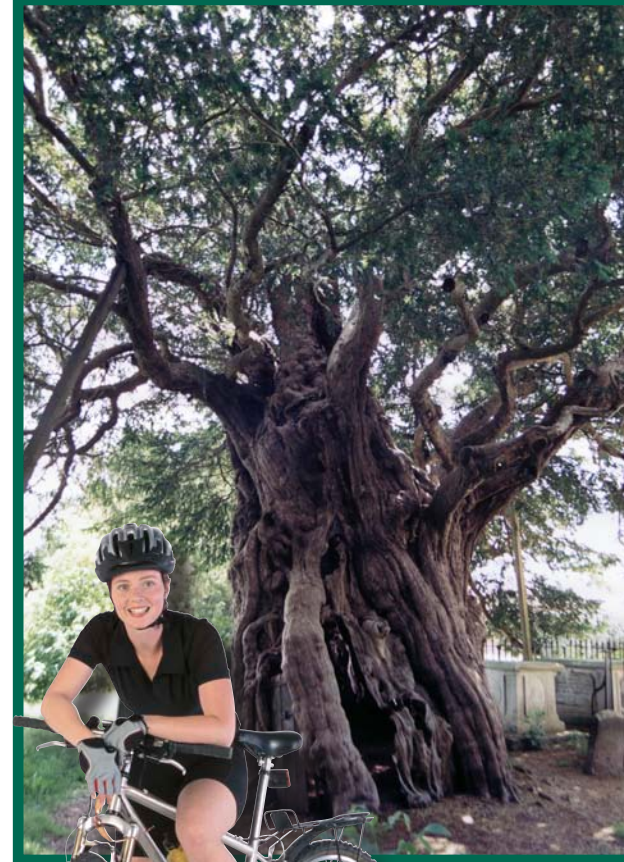
Tel: 03456 009 009

Tandridge District Council

www.tandridge.gov.uk

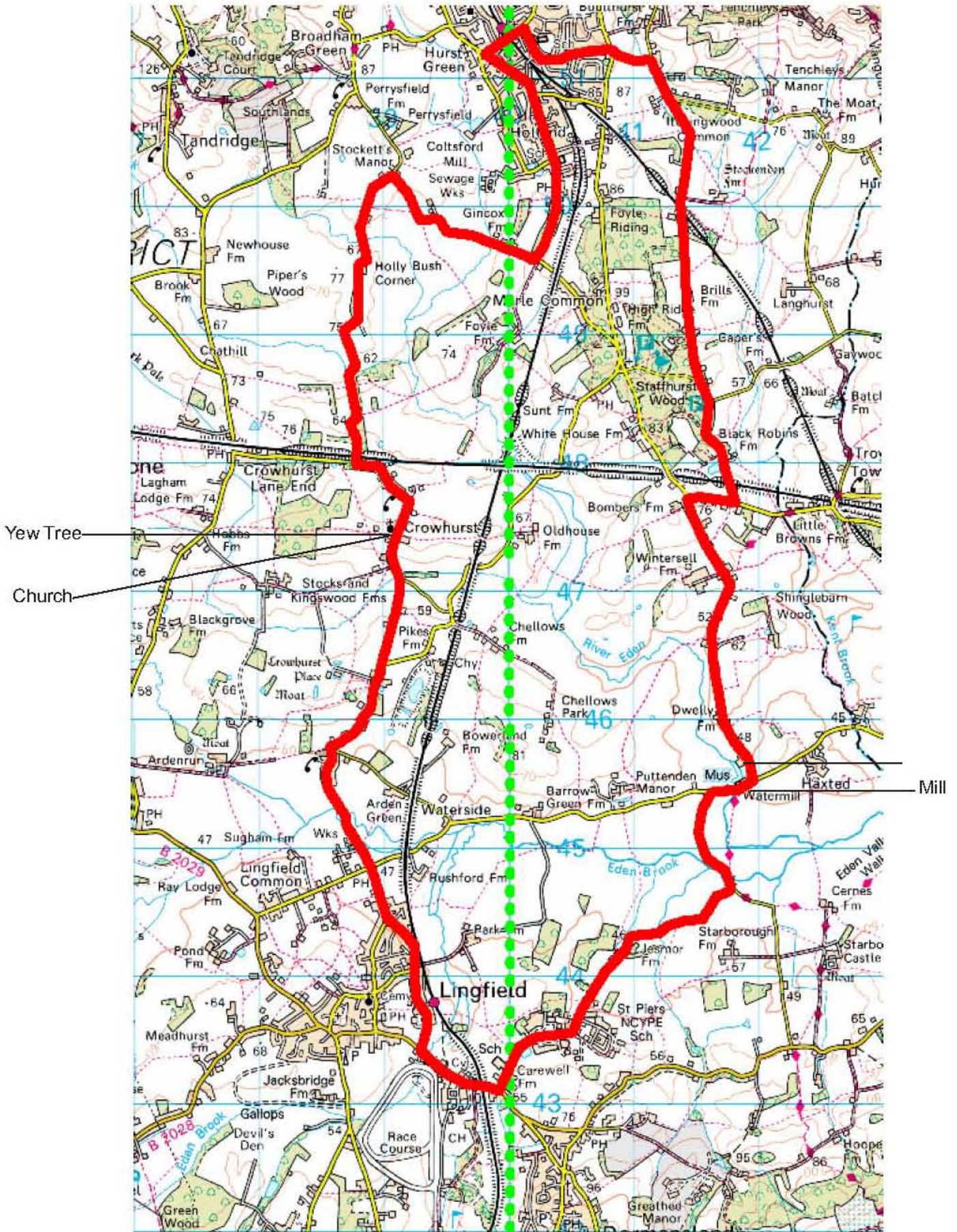
Tel: 01883 722000

Yew Tree Way Leisure Cycle Route



Tandridge
District Council


SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL



 Yew Tree Way

 Greenwich Meridian