Start/Finish:
This is a circular route and can be started at any stage of the trail.

Distance: 3.5 miles  Duration: 2 hours

Alternative route
Follow the Basingstoke Canal towpath.

WOTW = War of the Worlds
The Wells in Woking Heritage Trail

1. Woking Railway Station to Wells’ house
   Exit the station via Platform 1 (the town side). Turn right onto Broadway, walk past the bus station, and continue straight ahead. As the road starts to curve left (on to Stanley Road), continue straight ahead on to Maybury Road. The railway line will be on your right. Continue to the end of the road, which will take you past Wells’ former home, 141 Maybury Road.

2. Wells’ House
   Called ‘Lynton’, this is the house Wells, aged 28, rented with his partner Jane, which he would make his second wife during his stay.

3. Monument Bridge
   At the end of Maybury Road, turn left onto Monument Road. Walk over the Basingstoke Canal via Monument Bridge (Ottershaw Bridge in WOTW). Cross over the road, walk a short distance through the woods to Woking’s Muslim Burial Ground Peace Garden, which was restored in 2015.

4. Peace Garden
   Wells wrote extensively about war. The burial ground was established by the War Office to ensure Muslim soldiers defending Britain in the First and Second World Wars could be buried according to their religious rights.

5. All Saints Church
   Leaving the Peace Garden, stick to the main footpath and continue through the common in the direction of the Six Crossroads roundabout. You will emerge on Woodham Lane (A245) (by a large road sign). Take care crossing the road and continue on the woodland path that leads round the back of All Saints Church.

6. Sands at Bleak House
   You will arrive in the car park of Sands at Bleak House. In The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, a widely praised graphic novel by Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill, Dr Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde stayed overnight at Bleak House Inn when investigating the Martian invasion.

7. Sandy Track
   Take care crossing Chertsey Road (A320) and join the path next to the telephone pole. Continue ahead until you arrive at a wide sandy track. Turn left and make your way to the Sandpits, located on your left side.

8. Sandpits
   The large sandpit, referred to locally as ‘The Beach’, is often depicted as the Martians’ landing site because it is easy to imagine that the pond occupies the crater-like dent made by the first cylinder from Mars. Further along the track, partially hidden by trees, is an older sandpit, closer to the site where Ogilvy discovered the Martian cylinder.

9. To Six Crossroads car park
   With the large sandy beach in front of you, either walk round the left of it if following the wide footpath, or cut diagonally across the sandpit, to make your way to the Six Crossroads car park.

10. Woodham Road
    Exiting the car park take care crossing Shores Road (A245) and pick up the footpath, which cuts across to Woodham Road. In 1895 this area would have been nurseries, farmland and orchards. Cross the road and follow the footpath to Carlton Road. Turn left along Carlton Road and continue straight until you reach Chertsey Road (A320).

11. Pinewood Close
    Turn right onto Chertsey Road and walk along the A320 until you reach Pinewood Close. At the entrance of Pinewood Close, next to the telephone pole, pick up the footpath that leads you onto Woodham Rise.

12. Wheatshaf Common
    Cross the road and continue along the footpath through Wheatshaf Common, keeping to the right, until you reach Wheatshaf Recreational Ground. At the far end of the recreation ground, across the road, you will see The Wheatshaf public house.

13. The Martian
    Follow the road ahead and an imposing Martian tripod should come into view. Walk towards “the walking engine of glittering metal”, located centrally in Crown Square, less than a mile from where Wells lived.

14. The Wellsian heritage
    Run away from the Martian tripod in the direction of O’Neills and continue straight, which will bring you to Chertsey Road, where you will find a concentration of bars and restaurants. Woking’s Wellsian heritage has inspired a number of local businesses to use references to his work in building their brands.

15. Celebrating Woking’s Wellsian heritage
    A couple of doors along, the Ogilvy celebrates the astronomer who discovered the Martian cylinder.

16. H.G. Wells
    On 21 September 2016, H.G.Wells’ 150th birthday, a bronze sculpture of the author was unveiled. Called the Novelist and Thinker, the sculpture was designed by local artist Wesley Harland.

17. Town Gate
    Located between Christchurch and Barclays Bank, the Town Gate, designed by Alan Dawson, outlines key elements in Woking’s history: the Basingstoke Canal, the railway, Scots pine trees and brickmaking. The Wellsian link is represented through a silhouette of a Martian fighting machine.

18. Cross Victoria Way
    Cross the Victoria Way dual carriageway, either by subway or using the road crossing, to make your way into the Town Centre. Upon reaching Christchurch Way you arrive at the site of the commemorative sculpture of H.G. Wells.

19. Subway
    The mural in the subway depicts the Martians landing on Horssel Common and the destruction of Woking by the tripods. The mural also features local landmarks including the Shah Jahan Mosque and Maybury Arch.

20. Subway entrance
    The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen also features local landmarks in the Station mural.

21. The Wheatsheaf
    Formerly called The Wheatsheaf Inn this is the public house near Horssel Bridge where Ogilvy encountered a postman when rushing to Woking with news of the Martians.

22. The Martian
    The tripod is seven metres tall. Nearby a cylindrical pod, resembling those in which the Martians arrived, can be seen ploughing into the ground. Patterns in the paving represent the shock waves resulting from the pod’s landing. Also set in the pavement is the bacteria responsible for eventually destroying the invaders. One stone, under the tripod’s leg shows the bacteria creeping upwards to destroy the seemingly invincible invader.

From here you can make your way back to Woking Railway Station.