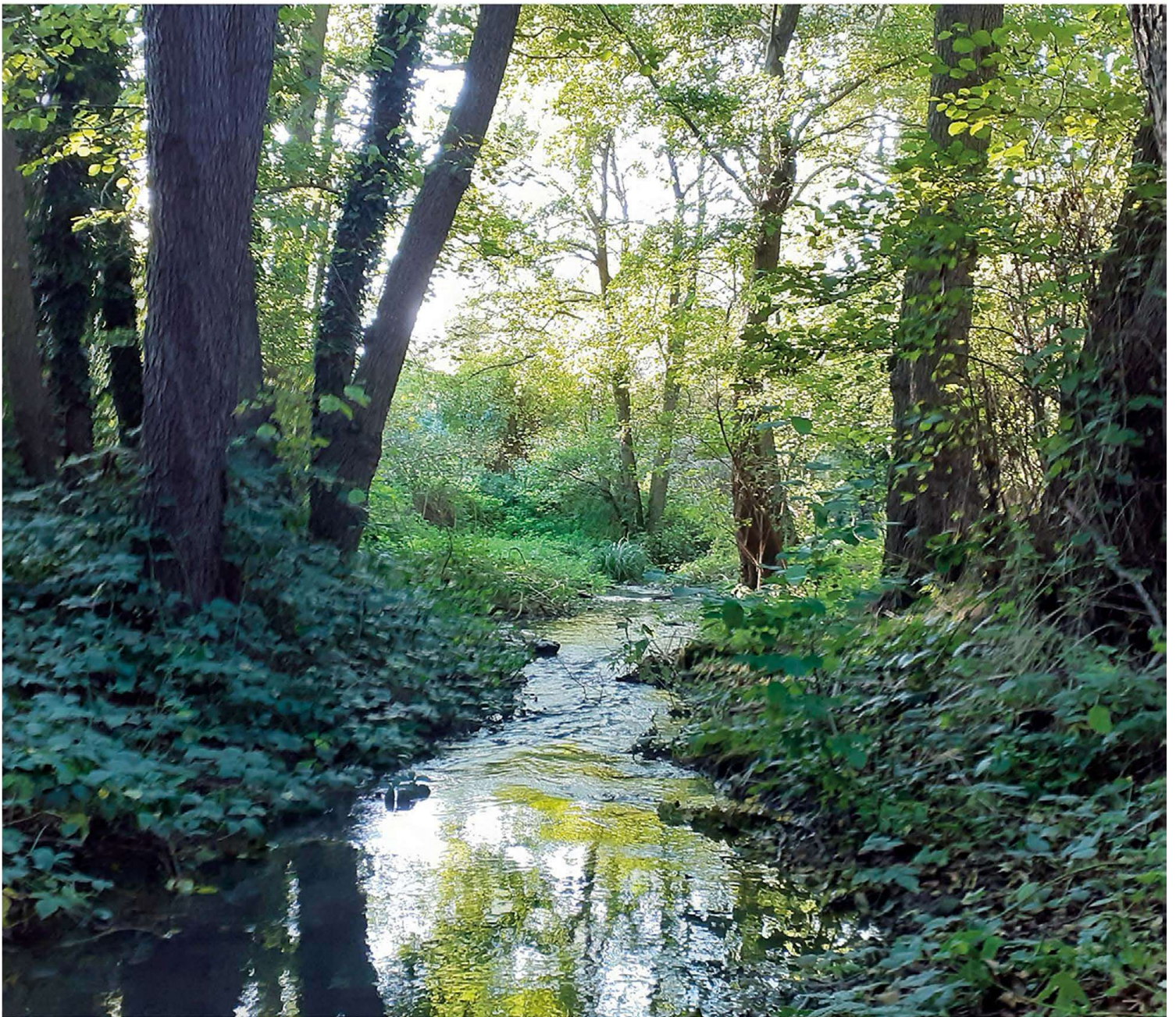




SCENIC GREEN TRAIL



Hello!

Welcome to your exclusive guide to walking the Scenic Green Trail, my new long distance path around the Borough of Maidstone.

My trail uses the existing public footpath network and short sections of road to link important nature reserves, green spaces and historic villages together.

As the trail weaves through the landscape, you can enjoy incredible views and a wide variety of habitats from ancient woodland, open farmland, grassland meadows, orchards, to streams, rivers and lakes. It also passes through some areas of housing and through villages packed full of historic architecture and interest.

The route covers a long distance and cannot be walked in a single day, so I have broken it down into seven sections of similar length. I have carefully created this guide with your needs in mind, so you will find contact details of accommodation, pubs and shops on the route, suggestions of good places to stop and rest and useful historical information.

I have also included details of bus services and railway stations, part of the extensive public transport network that Maidstone offers.

It is very important to remember that public footpaths cross over private land; without supportive landowners, this trail couldn't work. Always show respect and don't deviate from the path. No littering, dog waste, barbecues, fires or wild camps anywhere please.

Some short sections of pathway will get muddy during the winter months of course, so I would recommend that mid-March until the end of October is the best time to walk the route.

Please enjoy the trail, discover new places and support local businesses along the way. On the back cover you will find out how my project came about and the people who have given their time and advice to make it happen.

Have a great walk and make lasting memories!

Phil Riches

Where to find public transport timetables...

Southeastern Railway
www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/
travel-information/plan-your-journey/timetables
Arriva www.arrivabus.co.uk/kent-and-surrey/bus-travel-in-maidstone
Nu-Venture www.nu-venture.online/bus-times
Stagecoach www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables

Section 1

West Malling - Watlington

St Leonard's Street



You can catch a train or bus back to Maidstone town centre from Watlington.

 West Malling From Maidstone Arrive 6 (serves West Malling)	 West Malling Five Pointed Star 01732 842192 The Bull Inn 01732 842753 The Malling Jug 01732 667832 The Farmhouse 01732 843257	 West Malling The Railway 01622 812911 Where Memories Meet 01622 299017 Ramblers Rest 07736 990485	 West Malling Tesco Costa Watlington The Handy Shop	 Manor Park Country Park Warren Woods Nature Reserve
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Scenic Green Trail starts in West Malling at the main entrance gate of Manor Park Country Park, on the left side of St Leonard's Street.

To get here by train, leave the station car park area and walk all the way to the top of Swan Lane and turn left into High Street (this is where bus services also stop too). Walk up to the end of High Street and then left into St Leonard's Street.

From the main entrance, walk to the bottom of the valley, down some wooden steps and over a small bridge. Turn right, then follow the path beside the Ewell stream, with the historic Douces Manor up on your right hand side, until you reach the road bridge.

(Continue straight ahead here to visit the historic St Leonard's Tower, built by the Normans).

Turn left and follow the road up through the car park and continue straight on.

(The country park café and toilets are to your left).

Pass through a metal kissing gate and continue straight on. After a few minutes of walking, pass through another metal kissing gate to leave the country park, continue straight ahead and cross over A228 West Malling Bypass bridge.

At the end of the bridge turn left and follow the path down the slope and join Public Footpath MR143A on the right. Follow this path through open fields until Broadwater Road, where you turn left and continue straight ahead past some oast houses and cottages.

Turn right at the entrance of Broadwater Farm and join Public Footpath MR113A. Walk straight ahead, being respectful of the farm property until you reach Well Street with several old cottages in view.

Turn right and continue straight ahead along Well Street. Turn left at the junction with The Heath. Continue straight ahead and just past the last house on the right hand side, turn right and join Public Footpath MR115.

Continue straight ahead. The Warren Woods Nature Reserve is directly to your right, with picnic benches and its own path network. Pass Kings Hill Football Club and shortly after, you will reach Teston Road. Turn left here and then turn right almost immediately afterwards to join Public Footpath MR498.

Continue straight ahead, through coppice woodland. Keep to the path and where it forks, keep left.

Descend down the hill, crossing a farm track. The path then runs beside orchards and a few old houses until you reach A26 Tonbridge Road.

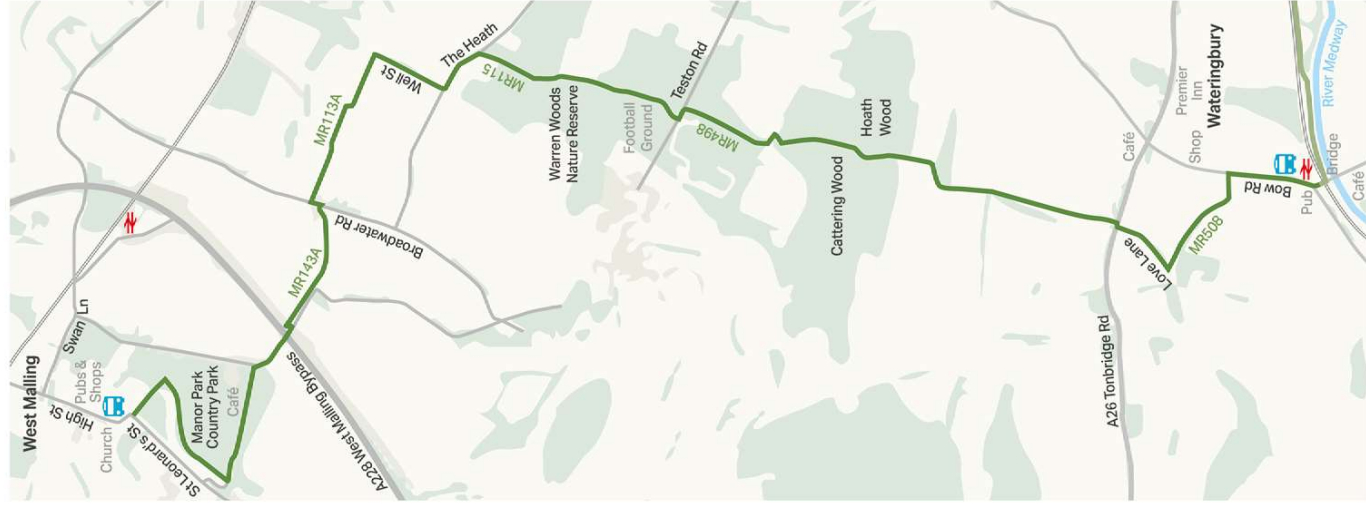
Cross over into Love Lane and continue straight ahead. Turn left to join Public Footpath MR508 opposite Mill Oast House. Continue ahead and around a sharp left bend until you reach B2015 Bow Road in Watlington.

(To access local shops and café, turn left here. The Handy Shop is close by along this the road to the left and further up at the crossroads is a lovely café called Where Memories Meet and also a Premier Inn).

Turn right and follow Bow Road until you reach the Grade II listed Watlington railway station on your left, built by South Eastern Railway in 1844.

This is the end of Section 1.

(The Railway Pub is located directly opposite the station and just over the level crossing and bridge on your right hand side is the Ramblers Rest Café).



Section 2

Wateringbury - Tovil

Tovil Hill

 Wateringbury From Maidstone Arriva 6 (serves Wateringbury)	 Wateringbury Premier Inn The Wateringbury 0333 321 1289 West Farleigh	 Wateringbury The Railway 01622 812911 East Farleigh The Victory 01622 298234 Tovil The Royal Paper Mill 01622 752095	 Wateringbury The Handy Store Tovil / Tesco Londis	 Teston Bridge Country Park East Farleigh village
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From Wateringbury railway station, walk across the level crossing and take the next left behind the signal box. Join Public Footpath MR511 (this path is also signposted Medway Valley Walk).

Continue straight ahead through the Bow Bridge Marina. Pass through a wooden gate and follow the path along the riverside, passing many boats moored up and a Second World War pill box over on the left side.

Continue to follow the path beside the River Medway, in a while you will pass through a metal kissing gate and onto a section owned by East Farleigh Cruising Club. Please show respect, keep to the path and continue straight ahead.

Pass through a wooden gate into Teston Bridge Country Park and bear right to keep to the path near the riverbank. Pass through another wooden gate and soon you will reach Teston Lock. The remains of Tutsham Mill and a Second World War pill box can be seen on the other side of the river here and to your left there is a well.

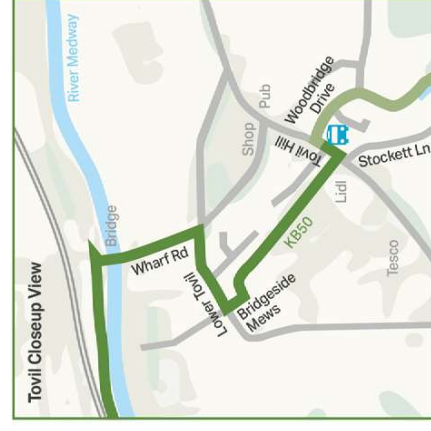
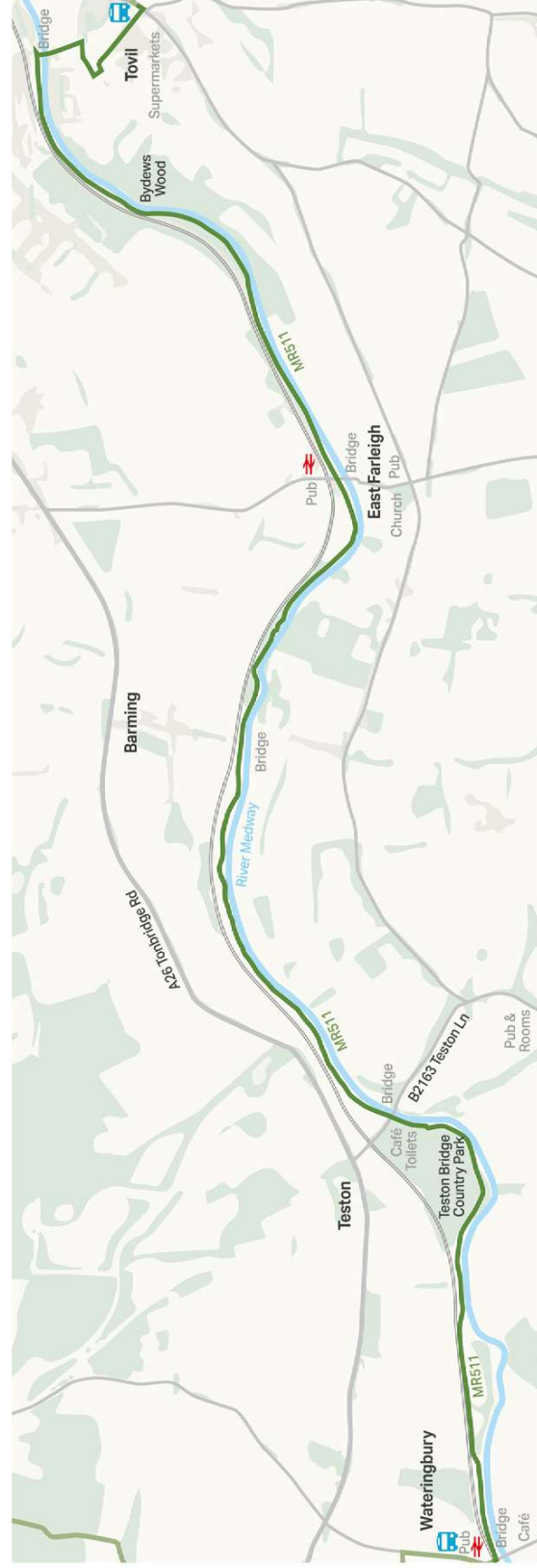
(To access the Lodge Café and toilets, turn left just before the bridge and take the path to the car park. There are also picnic benches here).

(To access The Ticked Trout pub/restaurant and accommodation, cross over the bridge and carefully walk up B2163 Teston Lane and turn right).

Continue straight ahead, under the beautiful 15th Century Teston Bridge and through a metal kissing gate. The path now continues between the railway line and the River Medway. You will cross several bridges over some small streams. You will also pass through several more metal kissing gates and a wooden gate before you reach Barming Bridge. The path now changes to a hard surface and is named 'Medway Towpath' all the way to Tovil. Pass Barming Bridge and continue straight ahead.

After a while, you can see the 12th Century Church of Saint Mary in East Farleigh, which has a prominent position on top of the hill, then the marina and iconic 14th Century bridge ahead, famed for being the setting for a battle during the English Civil War.

To your left is the Grade II listed East Farleigh station which was built by South Eastern Railway in 1844.



 You can catch a train back to Wateringbury from East Farleigh, or to Maidstone West in the other direction.



Just over half way on Section 2 is the historic village of East Farleigh, with its beautiful medieval bridge.

This is a sensible place to take a break and a great suggestion would be to visit **The Victory pub**, which is located opposite East Farleigh railway station. This welcoming and dog-friendly pub, offers drinks and light lunches and also boasts a sizeable outdoor seating area and hall. So rest your feet, use the facilities and support a local business!

Section 3

Tovil - Boughton Monchelsea

Tovil Hill Robson Chase

From Maidstone	Tovil	Boughton Monchelsea	Tovil	Hayle Park Nature Reserve
Nu-Venture 22/23/23a/25/26 (serve Tovil)	The Royal Paper Mill 01622 752095 Loose	The Cock Inn 01622 743166 The Albion Inn 01622 299359 The Bocton Café (10 min walk)	Lidl / Tesco / Londis Loose Loose Post Office Boughton Monchelsea	Loose village Linton village St Peters Church Lyewood
Arriva 5/59 Nu-Venture 27 (serve Loose and Linton)	The Loose Chequers 01622 743125 Linton	Riseden B&B 01622 743811	The Store at Boughton	
	The Bull 01622 743612			

From the bus stop on Tovil Hill, turn right into Woodbridge Drive. This housing estate was built on the site of the Alabaster Passmores Paper Mill; paper was one of the important products made in Tovil.

Continue ahead, following the curve of the road and take the path beside the children's play area ahead. Continue beside the stream, then cross it and then left onto Cave Hill. Continue along the pavement and turn left by the brown gate into Hayle Park Nature Reserve.

Continue straight ahead, beside the pond and then join the uphill path edged with a stone wall. You'll climb steps up to the top, then continue to follow the path. The path soon runs parallel to a large field. Continue straight ahead and into the woodland. Continue to follow the path and down some steps, turning left to the entrance opposite Bockingford Lane.

Cross Hayle Mill Road and climb up Bockingford Lane past a few houses before turning left into a narrow road to join Public Footpath KB42. Continue straight ahead and bear left, where the path runs parallel to the stream, past some cottages and then alongside a stone wall.

Pass through a metal kissing gate, bear right and follow the path continues beside the fence and through the valley. You'll pass through several more metal and wooden gates separating several fields. At the last wooden kissing gate, bear left and follow the gravel road all the way round and past some cottages. Turn left at the end of this road (called Kirkwell) and follow the tarmac path along the stream. *(The 17th Century pub, The Loose Chequers, is to your right here and has a large outdoor seating area. Turn left to access Loose Post Office and shop at the top of Old Loose Hill).*

Turn right onto Old Loose Hill and continue straight ahead. On the right hand side you'll see many of the beautiful old buildings in the village including All Saints Church with its ancient Yew tree that is 1,500 years old, so well worth a visit.



Tovil, Loose, Coxheath, Linton and Boughton Monchelsea are all served by bus services back to Maidstone town centre.

Scenic Green Trail passes through or past Lyewood, Furfield Park and Langley Park Country Park, green spaces managed by our supporters at Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust. Find out more at bmatkent.org.uk

Continue straight ahead through more orchards and the path ends at Church Hill, opposite St Peters.

(Cross the road to access this historic 15th Century church with its beautiful grounds and views of the deer park).

Turn left and walk along Church Hill for about 5 minutes, before bearing right to join Public Footpath KM117 which passes coppiced woodland and around the perimeter of Boughton Place.

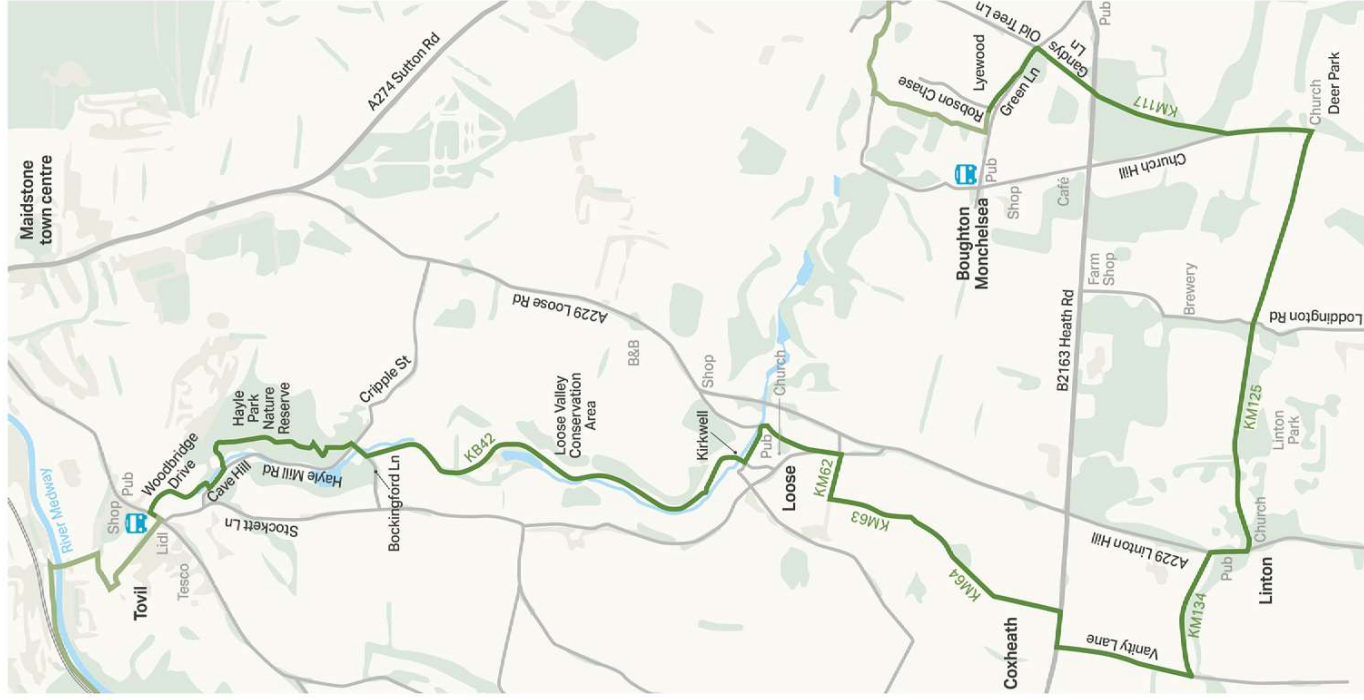
At the end of the path, pass through a small metal kissing gate, cross straight over B2163 Heath Road, into Gandys Lane. Continue straight ahead until you reach the junction with Old Tree Lane and Green Lane.

(To access the historic pub The Cock Inn which dates from 1568, turn right here and walk along until you reach the end of Green Lane and it is directly opposite).

Turn left here and after a short distance, pass through the wooden gate on the right hand side of the road into Lyewood and follow the path that runs behind the hedge parallel to Green Lane. There is a bench on the left here.

Cross over Robson Chase and this is the end of Section 3.

(Continue straight ahead to reach the bus stop, next to the historic pub, The Albion Inn. Turn left into Church Street to access The Store at Boughton local shop and further up, the Bocton Café in the Village Hall).



Section 4

Boughton Monchelsea - Mote Park

Robson Chase Ashford Road

 From Maidstone Arriva 59 (serves Boughton Monchelsea)	 Langley The Potting Shed 01622 862112	 Boughton Monchelsea The Albion Inn 01622 299359 The Cock Inn 01622 743166 Langley The Potting Shed 01622 862112 The Coffee Garden	 Boughton Monchelsea The Store at Boughton Langley Park Aldi / Costa Downswood Spire's Mini Market	 Lyewood Langley Park Country Park Otham Green Mallards Way Lake Mote Park
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Start at The Albion Inn and continue to walk along Green Lane. Turn left to join Public Footpath KM104A. Continue straight ahead, you will pass over a private driveway, so please keep to the route. Climb carefully down the stone steps and between the old houses to The Quarries.

Turn right here and continue straight ahead past houses and bungalows. At the junction with Old Tree Lane, join Public Footpath KM109 which is directly ahead. Cross over Brishing Lane, through a metal kissing gate and continue straight ahead, with Stream Shaw on your right. Climb down the hill and turn left to join Public Footpath KM115, around the perimeter of Furfield Park.

Climb up and turn right into Brishing Road, a narrow country road. Be aware of occasional traffic. Continue straight ahead. Follow the road as it takes a sharp bend to the right. Continue down Brishing Road and join Public Footpath KH365 with an entrance on the left side, carefully climbing up the stone steps.

Continue on this path which runs along the bottom of Langley Park Country Park. The path now briefly runs parallel to Steam Shaw, then crosses it on a wooden bridge. Once over the bridge, pass through the gate and head towards your left over the field and pass through a metal kissing gate. Follow the path around Langley Loch fishing lake, but stay to the path as this is private property. Once past the lakes, you'll see Langley Church ahead, turn left and join Public Footpath KH369. Climb up the hill to A274 Sutton Road.

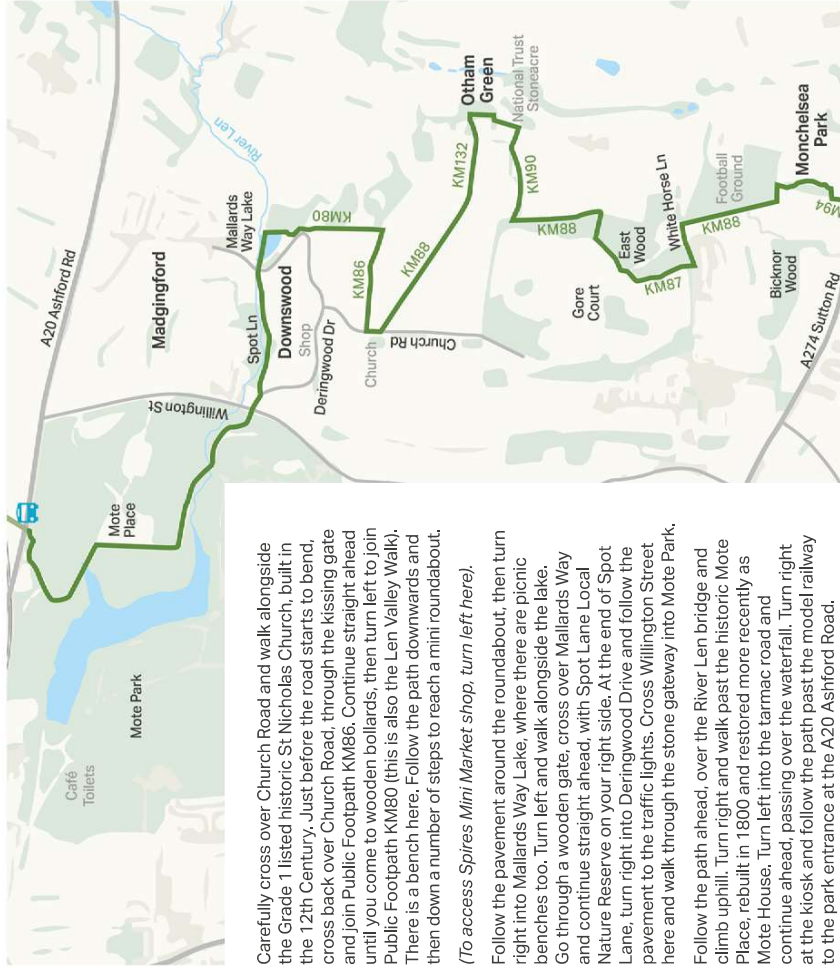
(The Coffee Garden café is straight ahead on New Road within Rumwood Nurseries. Walk for 5 minutes to your right here to access The Potting Shed pub, which has a large outdoor seating area and offers accommodation).

Turn left and keep on the grass verge until you join the pavement. Continue straight ahead, passing the new Rosewood development roundabout and just before the next roundabout at Langley Park, cross Sutton Road into John Mills Way, joining Public Footpath KM94.

(Aldi and Costa are located just to the left here).



Part of Section 4, from Mallards Way Lake to Mote Park (Ashford Road entrance) is fully accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs.



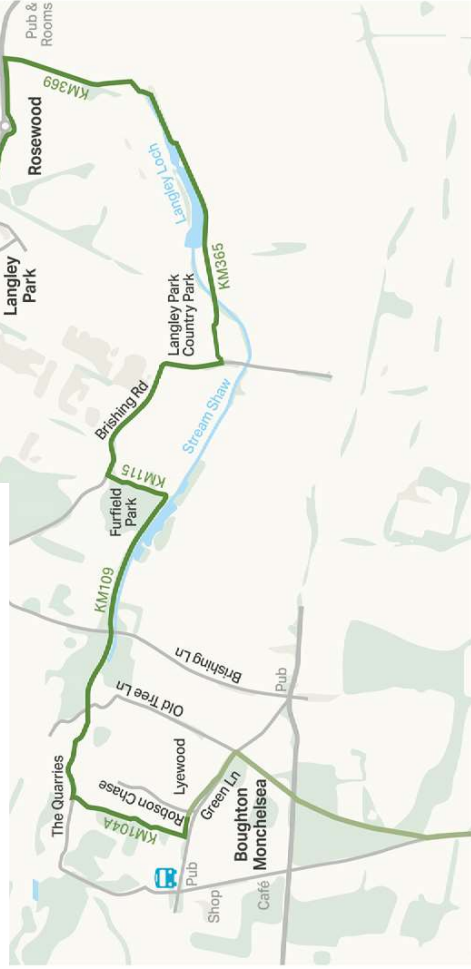
Carefully cross over Church Road and walk alongside the Grade 1 listed historic St Nicholas Church, built in the 12th Century. Just before the road starts to bend, cross back over Church Road, through the Kissing gate and join Public Footpath KM86. Continue straight ahead until you come to wooden bollards, then turn left to join Public Footpath KM80 (this is also the Len Valley Walk). There is a bench here. Follow the path downwards and then down a number of steps to reach a mini roundabout.

(To access Spire's Mini Market shop, turn left here).

Follow the pavement around the roundabout, then turn right into Mallards Way Lake, where there are picnic benches too. Turn left and walk alongside the lake. Go through a wooden gate, cross over Mallards Way and continue straight ahead, with Spot Lane Local Nature Reserve on your right side. At the end of Spot Lane, turn right into Deringwood Drive and follow the pavement to the traffic lights. Cross Willington Street here and walk through the stone gateway into Mote Park.

Follow the path ahead, over the River Len bridge and climb uphill. Turn right and walk past the historic Mote Place, rebuilt in 1800 and restored more recently as Mote House. Turn left into the tarmac road and continue ahead, passing over the waterfall. Turn right at the kiosk and follow the path past the model railway to the park entrance at the A20 Ashford Road.

This is the end of Section 4.



Section 5

Mote Park - Detling

Ashford Road The Street



The bus service to Detling, operated by Compaid Trust, is not frequent, but you can reach Detling easily by taxi too.

Bearsted (10 mins walk)	Thurnham Black Horse Inn 01622 737185	Fox & Goose 01622 737675 Weaving Grove Green The Early Bird 01622 735017 Ware Street The Bell 01622 299368	Grove Green Tesco Detling Detling Community Store	Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Weaving Heath Nature Reserve St Mary's Church Detling village
Arriva 4/9, Stagecoach 510 (serve Ashford Rd) Compaid bus (serves Detling)		Black Horse Inn 01622 737185 The Cock Horse 01622 730144		

Cross over A20 Ashford Road at the pedestrian crossing and walk directly ahead up Weaving Street. Cross over and turn left into Grovewood Drive South. Walk straight ahead and turn right at the roundabout into New Cut Road. Walk straight ahead until you reach a pedestrian crossing, then cross over New Cut Road. Continue straight ahead on Public Footpath KH2, with the green perimeter school fence to your left side. You will pass Grove Lodge. Walk downhill and on your right hand side, take the wooden kissing gate to enter Vinters Valley Nature Reserve.

Continue on this path through the bottom of the Reserve. You will pass a lake where there are some benches too. Cross the little stream on the wooden bridge and climb up the steep wooden steps to the top of the hill. Turn left and follow the path all the way. It bends to the right and then to the entrance onto New Cut Road. Cross over New Cut Road, turn right and walk straight ahead until the roundabout and then turn left into Grovewood Drive North.

(Continue straight ahead to access The Early Bird pub and Tesco supermarket).

Take the next first road on the left, Shepherds Gate Drive and continue ahead. The road bends to the right until you reach Weaving Heath, there is a bench here. Walk directly straight ahead over the heath on Public Footpath KH46.

Cross and turn right into Bearsted Road, then cross back over again when the pavement stops. The road name soon changes and becomes Ware Street.

(You'll pass The Butchers Block at The Bell pub, which also has outdoor seating).

Walk under the railway bridge, then shortly after, cross over into Chapel Lane on the left. Join Public Footpath KH116. Walk under the railway arch, straight ahead and turn right at the very end of Chapel Lane into Bearsted Golf Club. Climb up the bank and keep left. At the top of the bank, walk straight ahead over the fairway, passing a small pond. Then turn left and down, cross the stream and follow the path through the woodland (Honeyhills Wood) with the stream on your right.

The path crosses the stream and back again, following the path until it gets close to the M20 motorway. Climb up and the path becomes the access road to the Boys Brigade property.

Turn right, parallel to the M20 Motorway and continue straight ahead. Cross over and turn left into Thurnham Lane, passing under the motorway and railway bridges. Continue straight ahead.

(The Black Horse Inn is straight ahead up the hill and just on the left. It also offers accommodation).

Turn left and join Public Footpath KH70, follow the path through to St Mary's Church. Pass through a gate into a large orchard. Walk straight ahead, keeping to the footpath and respecting the farm property. At the end of the field, pass through a metal kissing gate and straight ahead.

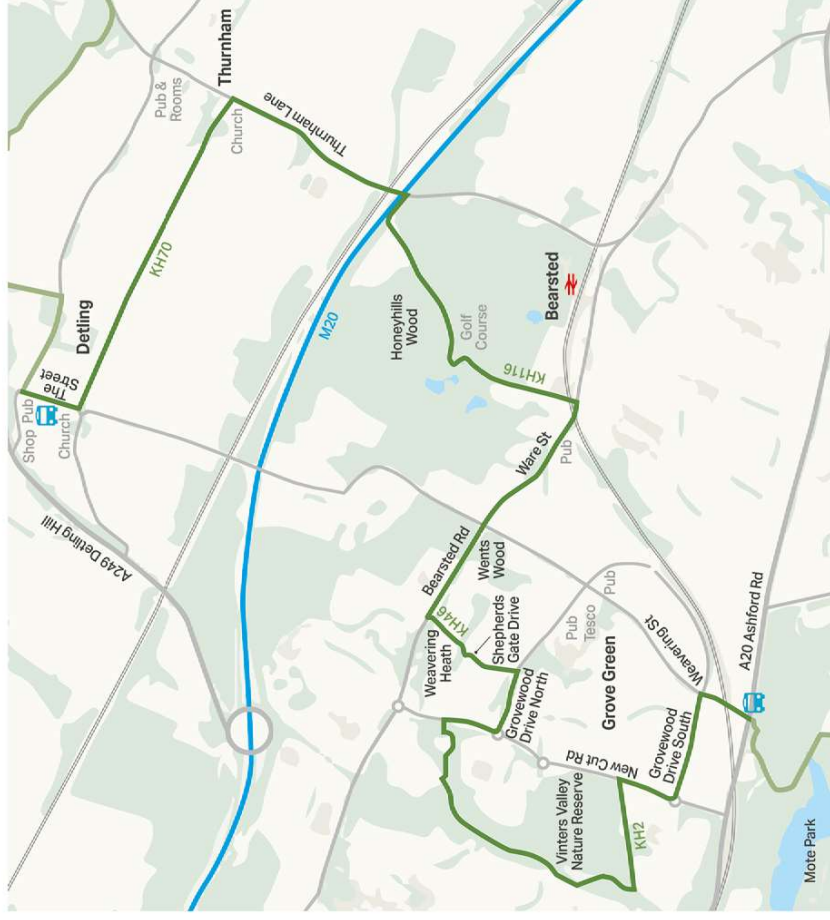
Turn right into The Street and walk up through Detling village, there are some benches here too beside the old red telephone box.

(At the top of The Street, is The Cock Horse pub).

This is the end of Section 5.

Choosing the right footwear matters

Located at 25-33 Gabriel's Hill in Maidstone town centre, The Golden Boot is the oldest independent shoe shop in the country, with a history spanning back to 1790. They offer a range of high quality walking boots. Visit their shop, give them a call on 01622 752349 or order online at thegoldenboot.co.uk



How to follow the route on your smartphone

- On your phone, go to the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android) and search 'Kent Connected'
- Click 'Download' or 'Install' and the App will then be saved onto your phone
- Open the Kent Connected App and click Be Inspired with Explore Kent >
- A map will appear on the screen based on your current location (use your finger to move to a different area on the map if you wish)
- Click the walkers icon (it turns to blue)
- The App will then search that area for nearby walks
- The walks will appear in alphabetical order underneath the map
- Swipe left on these suggested walks until you find Scenic Green Trail
- Click Scenic Green Trail and zoom in to see the route in more detail
- Tap the layers button to change to a classic map view



Section 6

Detling - Hollingbourne

The Street Eythorne Street

				
Hollingbourne	Detling	Detling	Detling	Hucking Estate
From Maidstone Compaid (serves Detling) Nu-Venture 13/14 (serve Hollingbourne)	Detling Coach House 01622 737590 Hollingbourne The Windmill 01622 899000	The Cock Horse 01622 730144 Hollingbourne The Signal Box Café The Windmill 01622 899000 Sugar Loaves 01622 890220	Detling Detling Community Store	All Saints Church



You can catch a train back to Maidstone East or West Malling from Hollingbourne, or Lenham in the other direction.

Starting on The Street, join Pilgrims Way which is opposite the Cock Horse pub. Walk ahead for about 5 minutes, passing Detling Cricket Club. Turn left and join Public Footpath KH68 (also signposted North Downs Way).

Climb upwards then bear right and through a wooden kissing gate. Continue the steep climb upwards and at the crest of the hill, the path runs parallel to the boundary edge of White Horse Wood Country Park. Enjoy the great views here, before climbing down steep wooden steps and through a metal kissing gate.

Follow the path ahead over the grassland and up more steep wooden steps then continue ahead, following the ridgeline.

Pass through another metal kissing gate and turn right to follow Castle Hill downhill for a short distance. The road bends left. Just beside the yellow salt bin on the left side of the road, join Public Footpath KH112 (also signposted North Downs Way).

Pass through several metal kissing gates and continue straight ahead. There are great views to your right here.

Pass through another metal kissing gate and follow the path ahead for a while, it follows the ridgeline and is marked with wooden fencing.

Pass through another metal kissing gate and follow the path as it meanders and then up steep wooden steps into a woodland section.

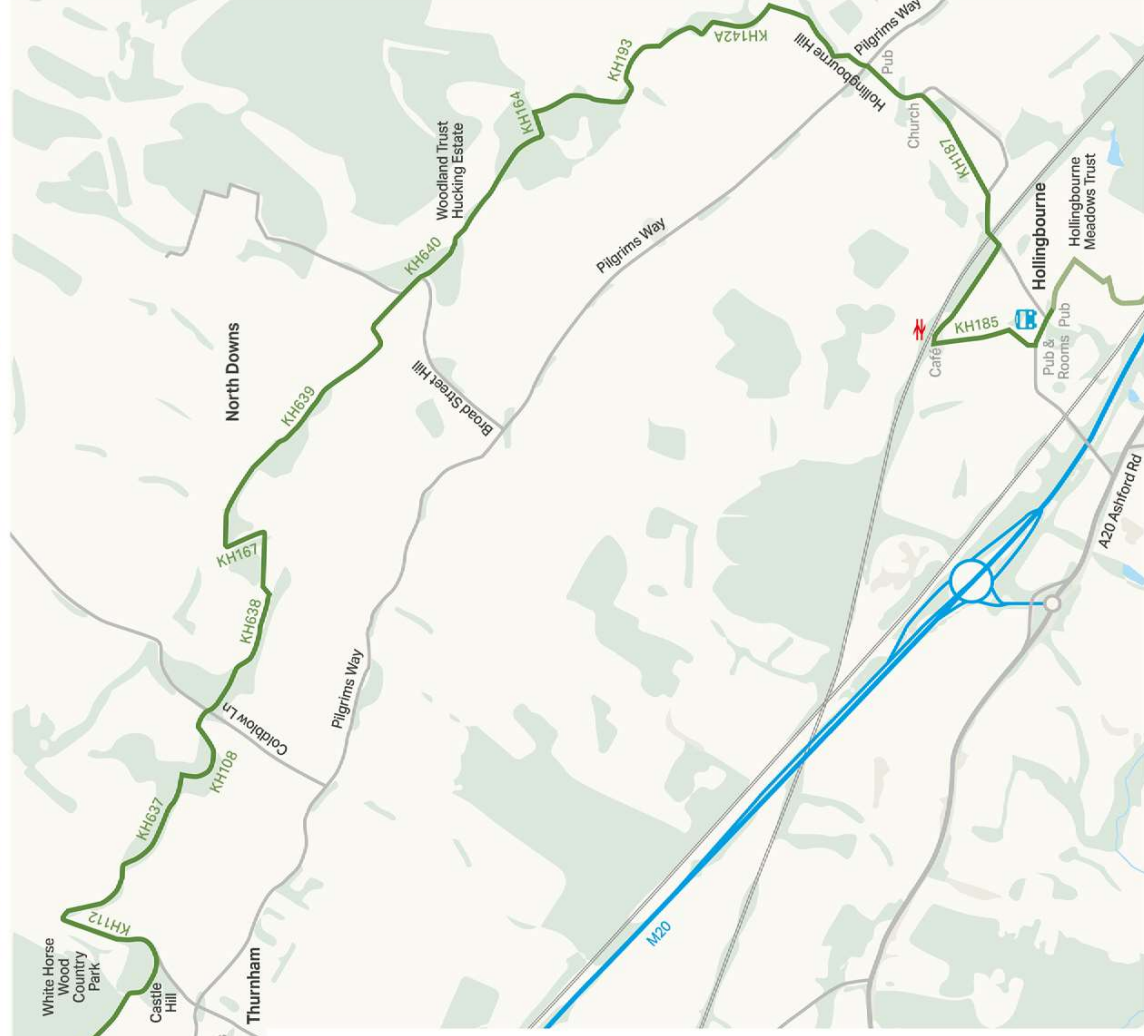
Continue on the path. Where marked, turn right and continue through woodland and later the path runs along the edge of a field. Continue ahead and cross over Coldblow Lane.

Climb up again through more woodland and then back down wooden steps to reach a metal kissing gate, onto grassland to a wooden gate where you take a sharp turn left.

Continue ahead and follow the path as it bends right. You will pass another metal kissing gate and then follow the path over a field bearing left to reach a wooden stile. There are great views here and you can see Leeds Castle in the distance.

Go down a few wooden steps to your right and cross over Broad Street Hill.

(To access *The Woodland Trust's Hucking Estate*, turn left here and through a wooden gate).



Continue upward and straight ahead. You can access the Hucking Estate Viewpoint to the left here. The path gets narrow and follows the ridgeline. Take a sharp turn left where signposted, walk uphill and take the path on your right by the farm gate, Public Footpath KH193 (signposted North Downs Way).

Continue to follow the path through a series of fields and through a number of wooden gates. There are great views down to Hollingbourne here.

Where signposted, take a sharp right and walk downhill. Pass through another wooden kissing gate and along the edge of the field before bearing left, and above and parallel to the road.

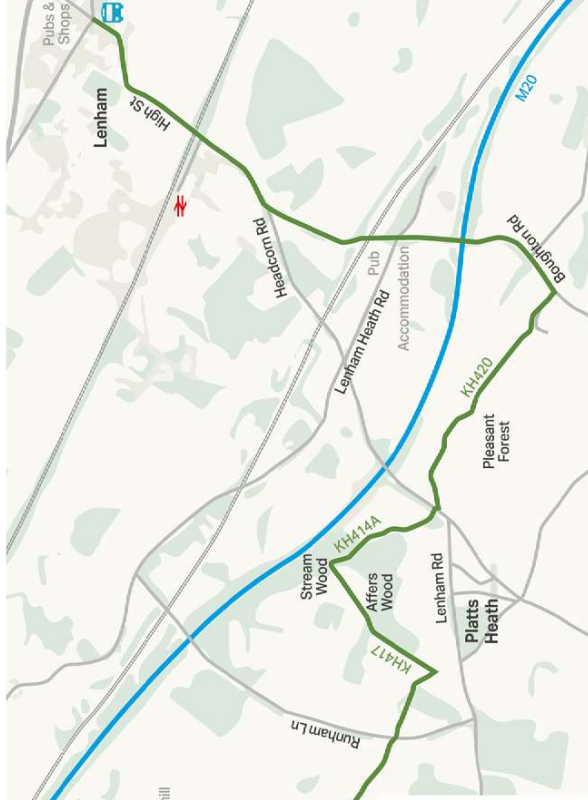
The path exits onto Hollingbourne Hill, be really careful of any traffic as you walk down to the road junction with Pilgrims Way. Cross and walk along the narrow pavement. Continue straight ahead, down the hill past the junction will Pilgrims Way and join the pavement. Pass 'The Dirty Habit' pub (currently being restored) on your left and then Hollingbourne Manor on your right. The pavement is narrow here.

After the bend, cross the road and join Public Footpath KH187, at All Saints Church. At the end of the path, bear right into Eythorne Street. Go under the railway arch and take the next right. Continue straight ahead until Hollingbourne Station.

(The *Signal Box Café* is located here).

Join Public Footpath KH185 just beside the station entrance and follow it across a field, over a stile and beside houses until you reach Eythorne Street where you turn left. This is the end of Section 6.

(The *Windmill* and *Sugar Loaves* pubs are located here, both with lovely outdoor seating areas. The *Windmill* also offers accommodation).



Walk downhill through some woodland, past the weir, round the edge of the pond and through a metal kissing gate. Climb up and continue to walk on the grass around the perimeter of Leeds Castle property. Soon you will see a wooden gate to your right, but continue straight ahead on the grass for about 10 minutes until you reach the narrow tarmac road. Turn left and follow the road all the way to the car park (Public Footpath KH236A), you will get great views of the 12th century castle to your left. Pass through a wooden gate and straight ahead (a yellow marker post shows the path route here) and downhill over a grass area to a wooden kissing gate. Climb up again on this grass section and follow the bending path over the crest of the bank, with the castle and its mote to your left. Continue straight ahead, then downhill to pass through a wooden kissing gate into a woodland section. Follow the path through the woodland, crossing a wooden bridge halfway through, until you reach Broomfield Road. Turn right and climb up this road for a few minutes to reach Broomfield village. Turn left at St Margaret Church, joining Public Footpath KH299 (also signposted Len Valley Walk). There is a bench here too. Carefully proceed through the wooden church gate and follow the path through the graveyard, then pass through a metal kissing gate. Continue straight ahead over the field and then through another metal kissing gate. A path diverged to the right here, but continue straight ahead (Public Footpath KH299).

(Here you can access Lenham's hotels, pubs, cafés and shops and bus stop. Lenham is served by Stagecoach bus 510 from Maidstone and Ashford).

At the end of the woodland, cross over a stile. It is hard to see the route of the path in the next field which has a deep dip in it. Directly ahead of you is Affers Wood.

	Hollingbourne / Lenham		From Maidstone		Hollingbourne		The Windmill	01622 889000			Lenham	The Red Lion	01622 856531	Lenham		Lenham	Hollingbourne
			Nu-Venture 13 / 14				The Wishful Thinker	01622 232272				The Wishful Thinker	01622 232272			Co-op	Meadows Trust
			Stagescoach 510 (serves Lenham)				The Wishful Thinker	01622 232272				The Bow Window Café	01622 850802			Village Store	Broomfield village
							Chilton Home Farm	07801 639489				Cornerhouse Café	01622 851360			Lenham Farm Shop	Pleasant Forest
							Dog & Bear Hotel	01622 858219				The Square Fish Café	01622 858268			Kent Loves	Lenham village

The Story Behind SCENIC GREEN TRAIL

// Hello, I'm Phil Riches, a Maidstone resident with a keen eye for improving the environment in my home town.

I got really inspired when another local resident devised an amazing plan to turn a neglected ancient woodland close by into a thriving community woodland. After much hard work, it now represents a significant and long-lasting achievement for the area. This gave me the belief that it was actually possible for anyone to change the course of things for the better, to benefit both people and the environment.

I met a number of like-minded people through that project and realised that being outside in nature was having a real benefit to my health. Soon afterwards, I began exploring the local countryside using the public footpath network.

I remember thinking to myself; wouldn't it be better to access other green spaces around the town without walking on busy roads? I studied maps in detail and realised that many of my other favourite country parks and villages around the Maidstone area could be connected by an innovative new route that used somewhat forgotten public footpaths. I set to work, thought up the name and used my graphic design experience to create the logo and branding. It was soon afterwards that I met some visionary people on the Parish Council Environment Network, who loved my idea. Caroline Jessel, Mike Summersgill and Eileen Lewis provided the help needed to get the project taken seriously by local authorities, with Derek Eagle stepping up to become Project Leader.

Scenic Green Trail represents my personal legacy, something new and positive that I have contributed to Maidstone which provides so many benefits to the environment, communities and businesses both for now and in the future. //



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