

Chiddingstone – Penshurst – Leigh

Linear walk • about 2 hours • approx 5 miles (8 km)
Can be very muddy in places



This leaflet describes and illustrates one of ten walks produced by Edenbridge Town Council, with the support of the Hidden Britain Project. The project is an initiative to encourage tourism, and to highlight lesser known areas of the countryside.

Walk 10 starts in the extremely pretty village of Chiddingstone with its castle, a traditional squire's house with the charm of a fantasy castle; the lovely St Mary's Church; and the Castle Inn pub and a tea room (when open). It travels east towards Penshurst and Leigh, following the path of the Eden Valley Walk. If you wish to undertake the Walk in sections, there are limited public transport options. Possible solutions might be using two cars, one at the starting point and the other at the proposed finishing point, or using the rail network.

It is about 5 miles (8 km), takes about 2 hours and can be very muddy in places. There are 7 stiles.



- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
 - Leave gates and property as you find them.
 - Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
 - Keep dogs under control.
 - Consider other people.
- For more details, see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



Explore Edenbridge

By car: Edenbridge is situated on the B2026, south of the M25 (at junction 6). From the A25 at Oxted, follow the B269 then the B2026 to Edenbridge. There is free parking in the town.



By train: Edenbridge Town and Hever stations are on the London to Uckfield line; while Edenbridge (about 1 mile north of the town centre), Penshurst (about 2 miles north of the village) and Leigh stations are on the Redhill to Tonbridge line. National Rail Enquiries: 08457 48 49 50

Visit www.edenvalleykent.org



Edenbridge Town Council,
Doggetts Barn, 72A High Street,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR
Telephone: 01732 865368 Fax: 01732 866749
email: townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk



Lying between the Greensand Ridge to the north and the High Weald to the south, Kent's River Eden meanders through Edenbridge and surrounding villages, towards its confluence with the River Medway at Penshurst. On either side of the river lies tranquil farmland, broken by quiet country lanes, whilst the rolling hills and woodland conceal a wealth of historic properties and beautiful gardens.

Throughout the valley there are many Kentish towns and villages waiting to be explored – such as Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Hever and Penshurst – which are rich in heritage and have many stories to tell. Medieval buildings, coaching inns, courtyards, gardens and historic churches all offer a step back in time.

Exploring beyond the Kentish villages you will discover this is superb walking country, with fine views, miles of footpaths and, for the more adventurous, several long distance routes which cross the area.

The routes used are believed to be public rights of way, unless otherwise stated. However, Edenbridge Town Council accepts no responsibility for any error or subsequent change.

Picture of Edenbridge (above right) © Sevenoaks District Council

Walking can

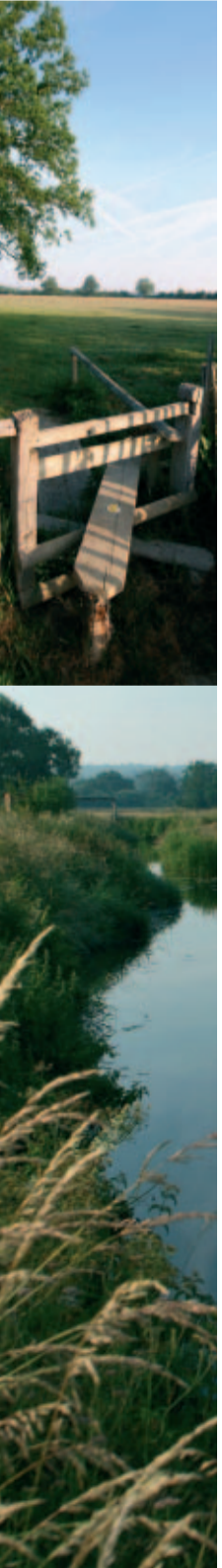
- Make you feel good.
 - Give you more energy.
 - Help you sleep better.
 - Help you reduce stress.
 - Keep your heart 'strong'.
 - Reduce blood pressure.
 - Help to manage your weight.
- If you are free of serious health problems you can start walking more, with confidence. The health benefits of walking and other forms of physical activity will be enhanced by a balanced diet and not smoking.

General guidance

Start gently and build up at your own pace. Wear comfortable shoes or boots, according to the description of the walk and time of year. Wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions. Loose fitting clothing allows you to move more freely – thin layers are better than thick chunky clothing. Let someone know where you are walking, and what time you are likely to return. Do not walk if you are unwell or in pain. It's a good idea to take a bottle of water with you.



If you are looking for a taste of history, local culture, fine eating and drinking, or simply to enjoy the countryside, you'll find yourself at home in Kent's Eden Valley. Discover more about the Eden Valley on www.edenvalleykent.org which includes details on attractions in the area, accommodation, where to eat and drink, and other information.



WALK 10

Chiddingstone – Penshurst – Leigh

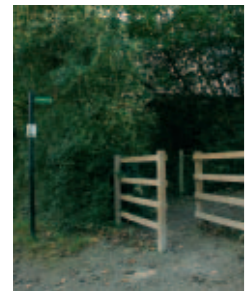
This walk is approx 5 miles, takes about 2 hours

Can be very muddy in places.

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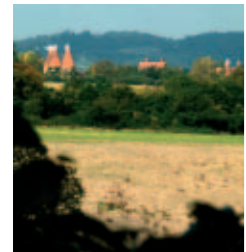
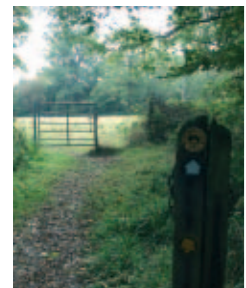
Chiddingstone – Penshurst

1 With Church on left, go up road a short way – past footpath signed to Chiding Stone, one of alleged origin's of the village name; amongst myths surrounding stone, it is said a wayward village wife was taken there for a public scolding.



Leave Chiddingstone by next footpath on right, continue past New Rectory, to open field and down well-marked path to stile. At this point, cross stile and bear left, continuing from where Walk 9 finished. You are back on the Eden Valley Walk

Through kissing gate. Path follows the old coach road (which used to link Chiddingstone with Penshurst) through woodland and where track divides, keep to left one. It soon joins road. Cross stile, turn right and continue for 20 yards before turning left, through gate. Go diagonally across field, then again pick up old coach road.



Turn left to Wat Stock Farm where, avoiding road to right, continue through farm buildings. Hiding behind buildings on right, is a fine half-timbered 15th century house. Continue on track straight through to Penshurst, with lovely views on left over the Eden Valley. Turn left, cross bridge over River Eden and then join main road straight ahead, outside Penshurst Place. Turn left and go 20 yards up road, before turning right through kissing gate into grounds of Penshurst Place. Please keep dogs on leads. Go diagonally right across field to church, through another kissing gate, along path and under building into

Leicester Square. The attractive village of Penshurst is to right.

Penshurst Place is one of England's oldest family homes, a medieval manor set in historic gardens. The very pretty 15th century Leicester Square is at the entrance to Church of St John the Baptist. It is named after Robert Sidney of Penshurst Place, Earl of Leicester, who also owned London's famous Leicester Square. In addition, there are tea rooms and Leicester Arms pub in the village.



Penshurst – Leigh

2 From Leicester Square turn left towards archway public entrance to Penshurst Place and Gardens. Along private road with Gardens high wall on left and on right the combined rivers Eden and upper Medway flow through the valley. Glimpse roofs of Penshurst Place through ornamental gate between pillars. Pass visitors' grass parking area on left, continue ahead on road/cycle route 12 to Tonbridge. Pass woods and ponds on left, where heron and geese can be seen.



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As concrete road starts uphill, step through V-shape stile into field on left, and continue on footpath parallel to road. (Do not continue up concrete road to Well Place Farm.) At next V-stile bear left up hill. Look back for excellent view of Penshurst Place.



3 Just before gate and V-stile at top of hill, turn left onto Link Path (although Eden Valley Walk route is signed straight ahead to Tonbridge – this can be followed using waymark signs to reach Tonbridge), keeping hedge on right head towards gated track and V-stile into an avenue of trees. Pass



through tree belt and cross open field with fence to right. On entering a grassy ride in long tree avenue turn right along ride, pass V-stile along wide avenue of plane trees to end of wood Leave wood and cross open field, plantation of dense conifers to right. Leave Penshurst Estate through V-stile, by metal gate, onto dirt track down to road. Turn left down into Leigh village, watching out for traffic, and under railway line at Leigh station.

At the heart of the village is the green, fringed by chestnuts and oaks, and serving as home ground for village cricket.



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