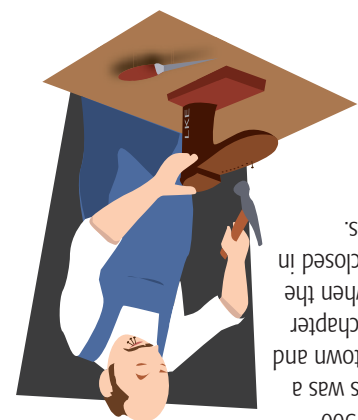
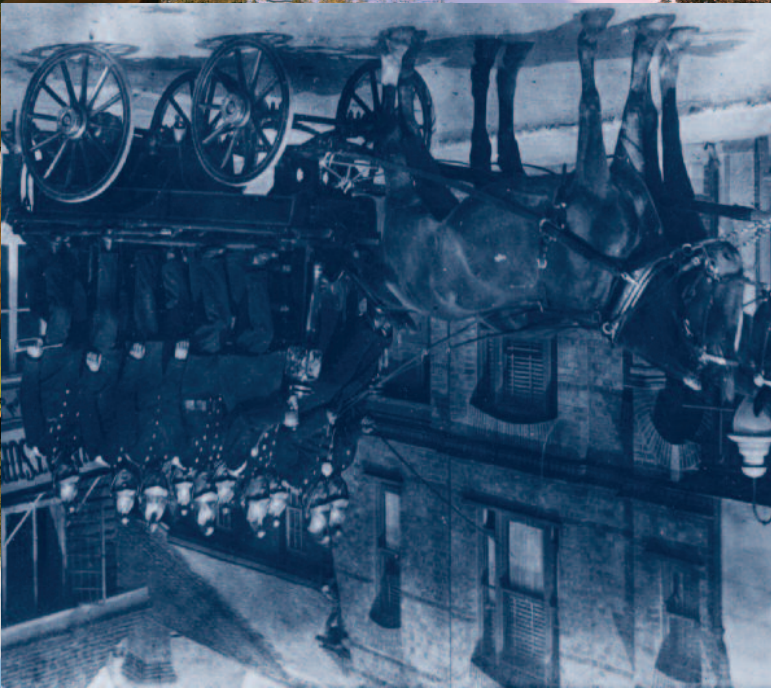




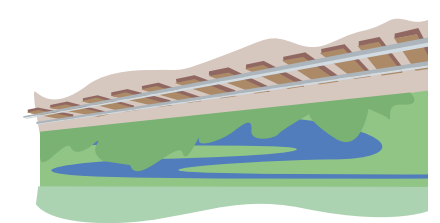
Across the courtyard behind the museum is a former timber-framed barn. Now Edenbridge Town Council offices, it houses the Visitor Information Point (Mon to Fri 10am - 2pm). Advice on local attractions, holiday accommodation, walking and cycling routes, and bus and train timetables for the local area is available. Contact the VIP on 01732 865368 – see [www.edenvalleykent.org](http://www.edenvalleykent.org) for further tourist information and extended text for the trail.



One of Edenbridge's architectural jewels houses the Eden Valley Museum. It was probably built after the ravages of the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt towards the end of the 14th century, and was once the farmhouse of Doggetts Farm. Major alterations were made to the hall house during the mid 16th century, and the late Georgian brick facade almost hides the medieval timber framed house. The Museum has interesting, regularly changing, exhibitions of local history and is well worth a visit. Free admission during normal opening hours – see [www.evmvnt.org.uk](http://www.evmvnt.org.uk)



Relocation of families from London led to the development of two estates in the 1950s and 60s. For 500 years this was a tannery town and a major chapter ended when the tannery closed in the 1970s.



Edenbridge was established at a crossing point of the River Eden. The town trail follows the straight line left by the Romans on their London to Lewes route. The town appears first in 12th century church records, and archives show Henry III granted a charter for a weekly market in 1279. The River Eden crossing encouraged settlement and by the 13th century Edenbridge had a population of 300; by 1800 this had only risen to 850; but by 1850 it had expanded to 2,000, partly due to the arrival of one of the first railway lines in England in 1841 – the second being completed in the 1880s.



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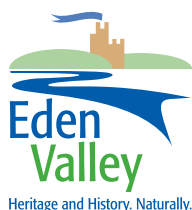


Lying between the Greensand Ridge to the north and the High Weald to the south, the River Eden meanders through Edenbridge and surrounding villages, towards its confluence with the River Medway at Penshurst. On either side of the river lies tranquil farmland, broken by quiet country lanes, whilst the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

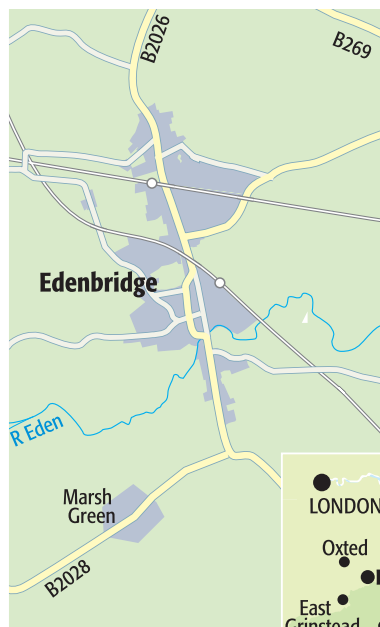
Throughout the valley there are many Kentish towns and villages waiting to be explored – such as Edenbridge, Chiddingstone, Hever and Penshurst – which are rich in heritage and have many stories to tell. Medieval buildings, coaching inns, courtyards, gardens and old churches all offer a step back into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

This is also superb walking country, with fine views, miles of footpaths and, for the more adventurous, several long distance routes which cross the area. Leaflets illustrating ten different walks can be obtained from the Visitor Information Point, in the Town Council offices, or downloaded from [www.edenvalleykent.org](http://www.edenvalleykent.org)

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](http://www.edenvalleykent.org) which includes details on attractions in the area, accommodation, where to eat and drink, and other information.



## 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 (TN8 5AR).

**By train:** Edenbridge Town station is on the London to Uckfield line; while Edenbridge station (about 1 mile from the town centre) is on the Redhill to Tonbridge line.

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 48 49 50

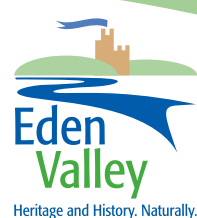
Visit [www.edenvalleykent.org](http://www.edenvalleykent.org)



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



The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is funded by Defra and the EU. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): Europe investing in rural areas.



## Edenbridge Historic Town Trail

[www.edenvalleykent.org](http://www.edenvalleykent.org)





Historic Town Trail

1 Stangrove Park

The pleasant parkland adjacent to the Leisure Centre once formed the grounds of Stangrove House.



2 FoxWood Maclean

This Victorian building was erected by Goodwins, a local family of builders. It has an interesting stained glass lantern at the apex of the roof, which may have come from a garden in Cowden.



3 St Lawrence’s Presbytery

A manorial site, the building beneath the patterned tile hanging is mainly 18th century (note the Georgian style porch). In 1920 it became the first Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital in memory of those killed in WWI. Together with the War Memorial, the hospital moved to its Mill Hill site (see 21) in 1931.

4 The Post Office



Built in King George V’s silver jubilee year – find the plaque with his date and arms.

Look for a jubilee clock further down the High Street.

5 Ebenezer Chapel / Bridges Centre

A Calvinist chapel built in 1808. By 1991 the congregation had dwindled and the building was threatened with demolition.



Community action resulted in setting up the Bridges Centre. Go inside to see the pulpit.



6 Costa Coffee

Formerly the White Horse Inn, the timber framed building was faced with

brick in the 18th century. The date 1574 and two pairs of hand shears are carved into the first floor bressumer, or beam. They celebrate the union of Rafe Shears and a member of the Holmden family, whose father gave them the land on which to build. The daily coach to Westerham departed from here in the early 19th century. Notice the doors for the coach and horses to enter the yard at the rear.

7 Market Yard



Edenbridge market was established by a Charter

granted by Henry III in 1279. The site of a regular cattle market from the mid 1840s until 1928, the rings for tethering the cattle can still be found on the east wall. Pre-Christmas Fatstock Shows were held from 1869 until the late 1950s; today it is a car park and a general market is held on Thursdays. On the far side, turn right down the alley to the churchyard.



8 Church Cottage

To your right in the corner of the churchyard is Church Cottage, a mid 15th century timber framed building. It was once a pub known as the Kings Head and forms part of the Market Yard boundary – the original front door opened on to it.



9 The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

Believed to be on the site of a Saxon church, evidence of a Norman church exists. The double roof was originally entirely covered with Horsham Slabs, some of which remain. What do you notice about



Picture © Sevenoaks DC

the church clock – it was intended to be like this! On your way to the porch, find a headstone for John and Ann Chandler who owned a grocers and drapers (see 31). Inside, the font and the Jacobean pulpit are notable, as are the Seyliard and Holmden family memorials. Look for the oak studded chest with its five locks, and medieval graffiti at the base of the ‘squint pillar’. Edenbridge has significant connections with the Arts and Crafts movement – the stunning Burne-Jones window is at the east end, and the grave of the architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott (1864-1945) and his wife Kate lies in the old cemetery, beside the Church Street boundary wall. His memorial is an obelisk, topped with a small metal cross.

10 Library

Originally the Chequer Inn, it became the Parish Poor House until 1834, and was later rebuilt as the Church School (National School) in the 1850s. The western half, the head teacher’s house, was demolished when the Library transferred from Doggetts Barn (see 33).



11 The Priest House

Built in the late 14th/early 15th century, originally an open hall house with a recessed centre (a Wealden hall house) and jettied to the right. Jettied – when an upper floor projects beyond the floor below, increasing space in the building without obstructing the street. There may have been a bay to the left, which would also have been jettied.



12 2 and 4 Church Street

Built in two halves by Goodwins, the design was possibly chosen from an early 19th century Victorian pattern book on town houses. The brick and tile features, which also appear elsewhere in Edenbridge, are unusual. Pick out the differences between the two houses, and find the entrance for the cart and the rack for storing ladders.



13 77 and 79 High Street Farringtons Jewellers / Edenbridge Bookshop

A mid 15th century building, originally with a recessed centre and jettied at both ends. In the 19th century it was the fire station



Picture © Sevenoaks DC

14 Honours Mill

Built in the late 18th century on the site of an early medieval water mill, it was two storeys until circa 1906 when an extra storage floor was added. The middle gable provided access for sacks of grain via a water-powered hoist. The mill was used until the 1968 flood when the great pit wheel fractured.



Picture © Eden Valley Museum

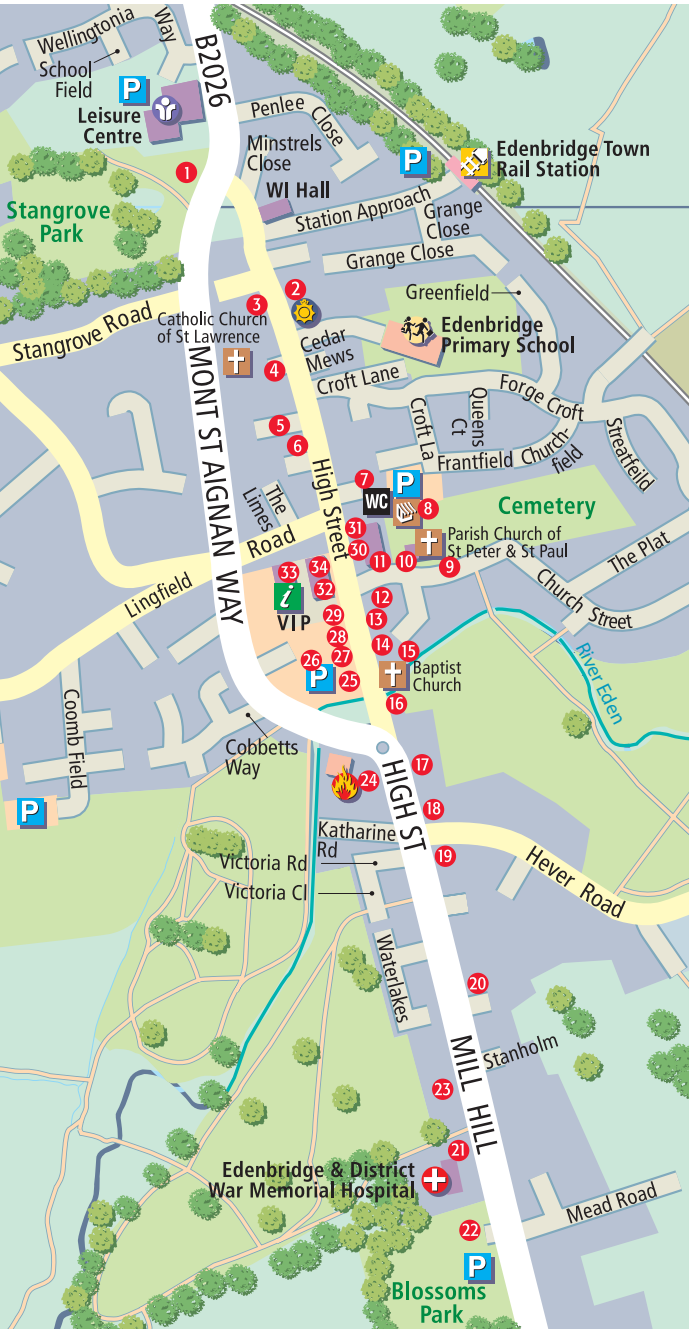
15 Baptist Church

Find the foundation stone plaques on the front wall of this distinctive building. See also the height marker for flood warnings against the south side of the building. The last severe flood was in 1968.



16 The Great Stone Bridge

In Roman times the river would probably have been crossed by a causeway, later by a wooden bridge, then a typical five arch pack horse bridge, eventually in 1834 by the present bridge. The Great Stone Bridge Trust, which looked after the bridge, was probably formed in 1511. It received gifts for the bridge’s maintenance from a deceased local’s estate.



Two bridge wardens, George Langridge and Augustus Corke, are commemorated by an 1836 stone plaque. A plaque on the opposite side indicates that the lamps were first provided by the Trust to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II – 2.6.1953. At the outbreak of WWII the parapet stones were numbered, removed and carefully stored so enemy tanks crossing the bridge could be better targets! Get a good view of the bridge from the Riverside Walk and look for markings in the blocks of stone made by waves moving sand, when the rocks were formed on an ancient beach.

17 Forge Cottage

Until 1962 this low building housed one of several forges in the town. Find the circular iron plate at the front of the cottage, which was the wheel plate used to place iron tyres on wooden wheels.



18 The Old Eden Inn

Constructed in the late 15th century as a small Wealden hall house, it became a series of cottages in the 16th century. In 1865 the northern cottage became a beer house but a full license wasn’t granted until 1949. Find the dais beam inside, below which would have been the high table, and upstairs see the Crown Post supporting the



19 Wicken Cottage and 2 & 4 Hever Road

Hever Road is thought to be an ancient street once known as Gladeregge, first recorded in 1200. ‘Glade’ was old English for way through woodland, whilst ‘regge’ was a ridge. The three 15th century houses were previously one.



Sometimes known as ‘Joane Robyns’ after a past owner, his profession is recorded in the name of 4 Hever Road – Minstrel Cottage.

Wicken Cottage gained its name in 1908 from Thomas Wicken Sale, a family which may have had an interest in the property as early as 1632. See the curved braces on 2 Hever Road – known as Ogee braces. Adjacent to the windows are the positions of the original mullion windows.



20 Eden House



The wrought iron arch carries the name Mill Hill College. The house was a private school

for boys and girls, some of whom would have been boarders, from the 1840s until the 1960s and was run by the Misses Eades for many years.

21 Edenbridge and District Memorial Hospital

Previously at the Presbytery (see 3), it opened in 1931. Find the foundation stone to the right of the doorway. The 106 names on the War Memorial represented a significant proportion of the town’s male population.



22 Blossoms Park



The hospital and Blossoms Park occupy four fields that were once part of Blossoms

Farm. Today the only evidence is the pond in the fields behind the hospital. The footpath, just to the north of the hospital and alongside the grounds of the windmill, appears to have provided access to the farm house and buildings.

23 Mill House and Windmill

The brick tower mill without sails and domed cap (latter feature shared by only two others in Kent) was recorded in 1825. From 1854 the windmill was owned by the Stanfords, who also owned the watermill. It closed in 1887 and the domed cap was removed in 1937.



24 Edenbridge House

Once a pub called either the King’s or Queen’s Arms (maybe it changed according to the sex of the sovereign) it was purchased in 1851 to house the vicar of Edenbridge. The Horsham slabs on the porch roof may have come from the Parish Church roof. Note the iron bell pull – it might have been made across the road in the forge.



25 94 & 96 High Street Halo / National Light Horse Breeding Society

Though connected, these are two separate medieval structures built some 50 years apart. No 94 was a two thirds Wealden hall house with an open hall, built about 1400. The filled-in jetty (to the right) would have been similar to that of The Priest House. Inside it has two Crown Posts and two King Posts. When ‘floored over’ before 1550, two floors were inserted. No 96 built about 1450 was probably a public building. Jettied to the front it had a shop on the ground floor which may have had a drop down shutter providing the shop counter. Access to the first floor ‘robing room’ was by a wide staircase at the rear.



Picture © Sevenoaks DC

26 Tannery Site

Tanning of hides in Edenbridge dates back to at least 1447 when a tanner, William Beal, left the tools of his trade to his son in his will. It is known that the Tanyard was in existence on the site in the reign of Charles II (1660-1685). It was greatly expanded from the mid 19th century and its product was much in demand, particularly during WWI when it was said that every British soldier went to war on an Edenbridge sole – a local industry that became global. Originally, hides were local and tannin was produced from the many oak trees. Allied to tanning was boot and shoe making and flax was grown locally for thread. The chimney and the distinctive smell vanished in the 60s and then the main part of the works in the 1970s, following a major fire. The cobbled entrance to the Leathermarket car park is a reminder of the entrance to the tannery. Find the curved imprint of the track for the iron gates. On the wall of No 94, inside the gateway, is the WWI memorial to the tannery workers who lost their lives.



27 Leather House (Tanyard House)

Built circa 1400, a timber framed open hall house with an octagonal Crown Post, similar to the one in No 94. Has the only known Dragon Post in Edenbridge. For many years it housed the Tannery Office where the workers trooped once a week to collect their pay.



Picture © Sevenoaks DC

28 Mill Leat

Excavated about 1400, it begins to the west at the confluence of the Eden and Kent Brook. Both the river and the Mill Leat levels were controlled by weirs, so that the required amount of water was available to drive the water wheel on the east side of the High Street. In 1908 Eden Banks in Lingfield Road had ‘Boating Rights’! A scheme was undertaken in 2007 to make it a more attractive water feature.



29 Southdown House

The original building was late medieval, circa 1450. At the south end it was formerly



a butcher’s and, up to the beginning of the 19th century, the building probably included the Bull Inn. Extensively rebuilt in the 17th century and refaced in the 20th century.

30 Taylour House

A town house built for Sir William Taylour, a member of the Grocers’ Company, who was Mayor of London in 1468. His coat of arms is on the right spandrel of the entrance door and that of the Grocers’ Company on the left. At one time called The Griffin Inn, it has a fine inserted Jacobean staircase and a number of Jacobean wall paintings on the first floor.



31 Magic Wok

Formerly a drapers and grocers, it was named Alma House because it was built in the 1860s just after the Crimean War. This town house, ornamented by using bricks known as blue headers, was occupied by the Chandler family, who established a dynasty of shop keepers and master drapers in the area. They sometimes called their shop ‘London House’ – indicating their



Picture © Eden Valley Museum

quality and style equalled that of London drapers.



32 Ye Old Crown Inn

Note the sign across the road which is unusual. The building was erected about 1375, originally at right angles to the High Street. It has a tall octagonal Crown Post (visible inside) and very elaborate moulded decorative timbers. The bay furthest from the High Street was rebuilt in brick in Victorian times. Look at the northern external wall and gable to see the timber frame. Find the double doors that gave coaches, carriages and horses access to the yard and stables.

33 Doggetts Barn

Lying behind Church House, formerly Doggetts Farm House, it was one of the farm barns. Probably built in the 16th century, it had a spell as the Library in the 1960s and is now the offices for Edenbridge Town Council.



34 Church House / Eden Valley Museum / Rickards Hall

Doggetts Farm House is one of the three oldest surviving buildings in Edenbridge and could well have been built in 1380. It was a two bay hall house with a cross wing. The brick facing dates from the 18th century and two bricked up windows can be seen, done during the time of the window tax. When the Museum is open see the timber structure inside. It was known as Church House from 1913, when the property was bought by a Miss Geraldine Rickards who also built the community room now known as Rickards Hall. On completion, this building was soon pressed into service as a hospital for Belgian soldiers during World War I.



It is now owned by the Town Council and has housed the Eden Valley Museum since 2000.