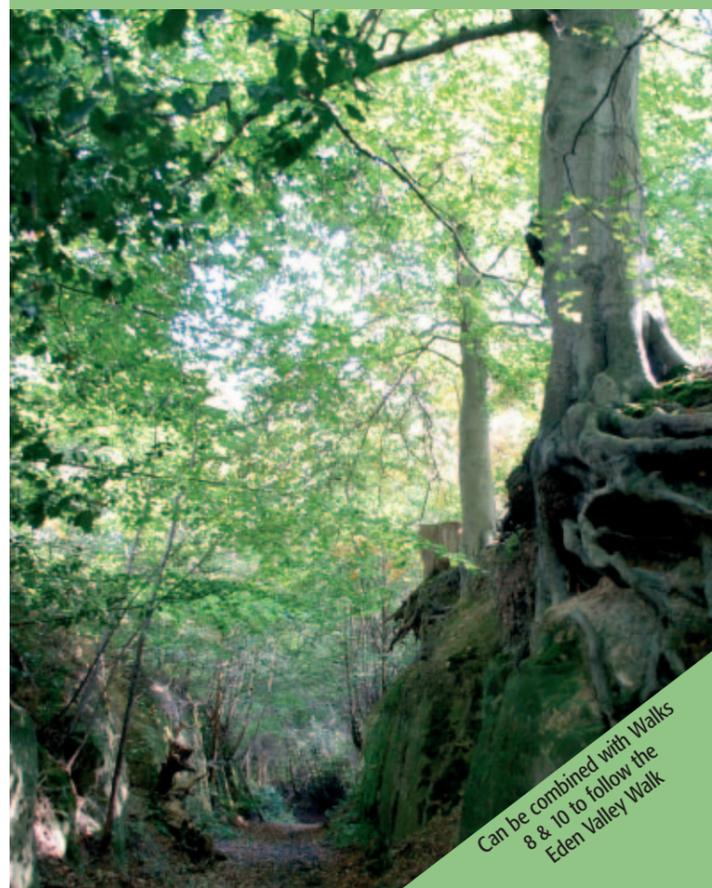


Edenbridge – Hever – Chiddingstone

Linear walk • about 3 hours • approx 6 1/2 miles (10.5km)
Can be very muddy in places



Can be combined with Walks 8 & 10 to follow the Eden Valley Walk

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.

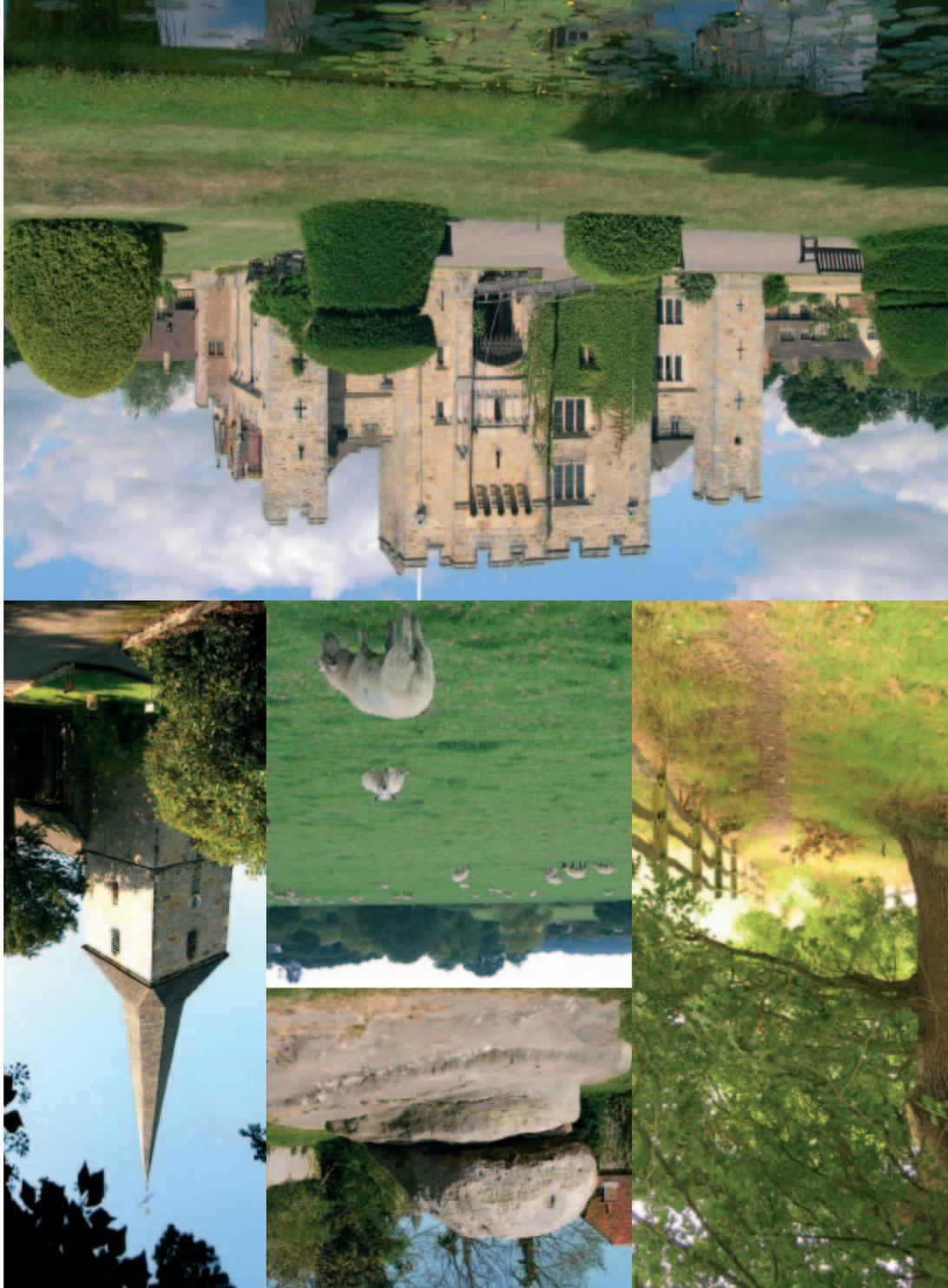
Walk 9 starts in the centre of Edenbridge, with its pubs and variety of places in which to eat, and travels east towards the pretty villages of Hever and Chiddingstone, following the path of the Eden Valley Walk. If you wish to undertake the walk in sections, there are limited public transport options. 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 6 1/2 miles (10.5 km), takes about 3 hours and can be very muddy in places.

There are 9 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



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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.



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 which includes details on attractions in the area, accommodation, where to eat and drink, and other information.



Edenbridge – Hever

1 From High Street, turn into Church Street and start at church lych gate. Follow outside of church wall, turn left at first set of iron gates and through Cemetery One. On opposite side turn right down path, through kissing gate and out of cul de sac (Churchfield). Turn right and take track immediately on left over railway (SR604). Pass through kissing gate and bear right into field, with small pond on left and allotments on right. Keep to left hand hedge to first corner. Turn right (SR608), continue, keeping hedge on left. Make for stile straight ahead. Continue through field along left hand edge, over wide footbridge, to kissing gate.



Go up hill straight across field, passing to right of group of trees (with a pond), to another stile. There are lovely views over surrounding countryside. Continue for a short distance, keeping hedge on left, and turn right (SR559) at corner of field, before stile. Cross field to right of derelict barn. Over stile and cross River Eden with Delaware Farm to right. Continue along track to concrete road, which bears left alongside pond within boundaries of dwellings, and straight ahead to Hever Road.

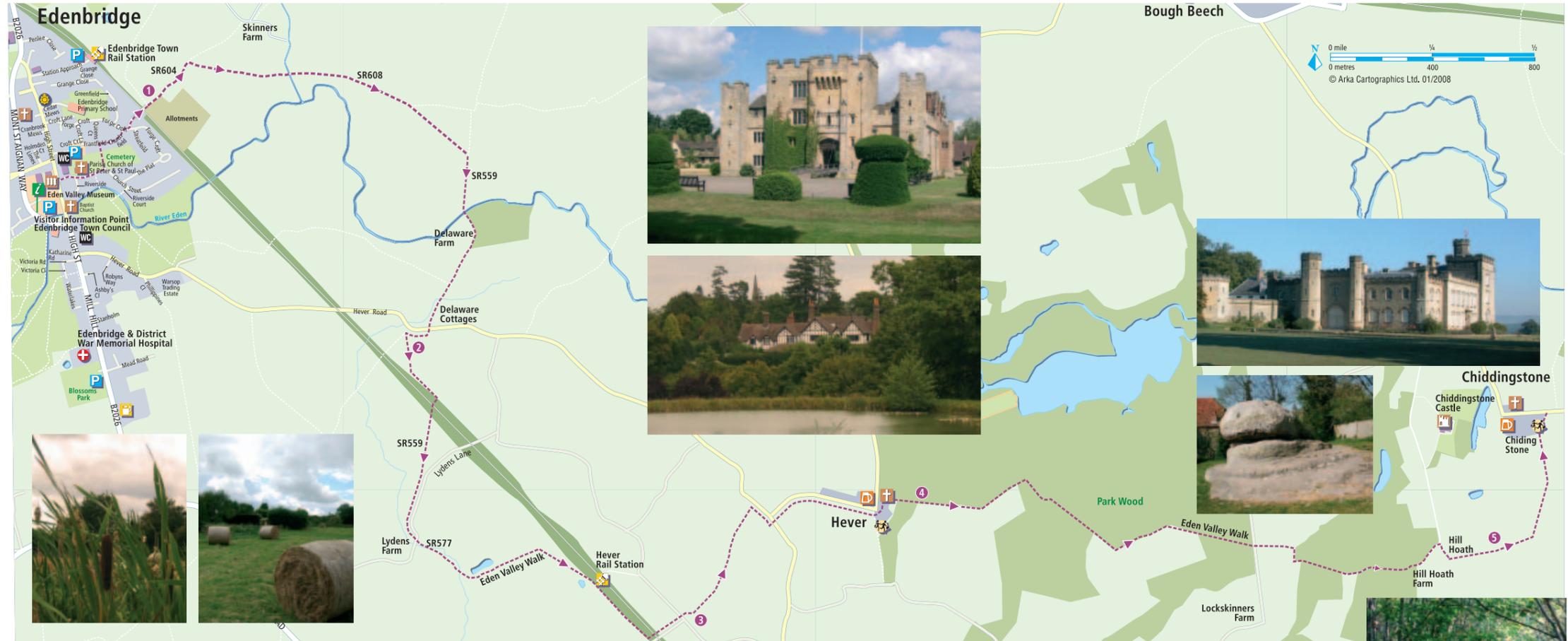


2 Watch out for traffic. Cross road, through gate, turn right along side of hedge, then turn left towards embankment and ladder steps over railway line. Turn left along bottom of embankment, ignoring steps, then right under railway arch. Bear left across field to gate into Lydens Lane.

Turn right along lane to entrance to Lydens Barn. Turn left into farm, with ruined oast house on left, and follow waymarkers through gap between buildings ahead and into rear garden.



At gate turn sharp left over lawn and through small gate which leads up to a drive. Follow path to right of barn and across farmyard beyond. Once at fence ahead, do not follow track to right, but take stile over fence and follow hedge on left with pond behind it.



Cross stile. When hedge bends away to left, continue straight across field towards trees ahead. On reaching woodland turn sharp right and continue up field into what looks like a dead end. The way forward is concealed in furthest left corner and opens into a wooded path, alongside railway embankment. Continue straight along path, past houses on right, until reaching tarmac road.

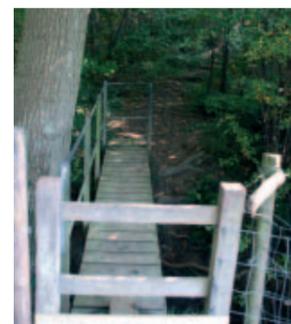


3 Turn left along road up to junction ahead. Cross and continue along sign-posted footpath, past ponds on right (can be very muddy) until it opens out onto Hever Road. Watching out for traffic, turn right and continue down hill until reaching bus shelter. Take road on left and follow as it bends round to right and up incline. Walk round corner to left, past Henry VIII pub, and turn right through lych gate into St Peter's churchyard. Inside charming church, with its slender spire, is tomb of Sir Thomas Bullen, father of Anne Boleyn. Beside church is entrance to beautiful Hever Castle (childhood home of Anne Boleyn), with its rose gardens.



Hever – Chiddingstone

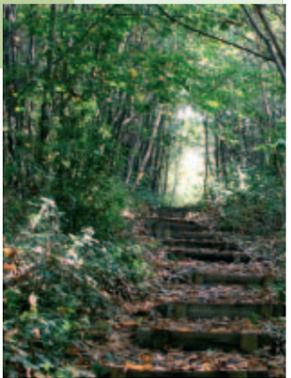
4 Follow path to rear of churchyard and down to small bridge. Continue straight ahead following path between the fences, with Hever Castle's grounds on left. Castle not visible from path. After a while, path turns right and then left across wooden bridge. Follow path round to right, joining tarmac road.



Continue on path at side of road, with woodland on left, until reaching a gate and some buildings. Go through gate and turn right. Take path that runs alongside a fence and property to the right. At bottom of hill, cross road and on to another path opposite. Continue along path. Cross stile and continue to another stile and footbridge. Up steep path of "steps" and cross grassy ride through woodland. Continue and then when path joins track from the right, turn left. Track passes through rocks, before leading to Hill Hoath.

5 At Hill Hoath pass in front of a low-lying half-timbered house on left, called Withers, and turn right up lane. Before lane narrows, turn left and walk through farmyard towards gate and stile. Continue straight through clump of bushes until reaching stile, with a path running both left and right.

At this point, either turn right to continue on the Eden Valley Walk to Penshurst (with Walk 10) or proceed to the very pretty village of Chiddingstone, using the following.



Cross stile, turn left, and walk up hill through field, reaching a path bordered by hedgerows with playing fields to right. Castle and Chiding Stone are visible on left. Follow path until road, then turn left to walk 50 yards into Chiddingstone. Footpath to Chiding Stone on left. In village is Chiddingstone Castle, a traditional squire's house with charm of a fantasy castle and eclectic Japanese and Egyptian collections; lovely St Mary's Church, with series of strange stone faces high on west tower; Castle Inn pub and a tea room (when open).

WALK 9

Edenbridge – Hever – Chiddingstone

This walk is approx 6½ miles, takes about 3 hours and passes two castles.
Can be very muddy in places. 9 stiles.