

Leave the village past the school. At the junction with an oast house between two roads, take the left fork, then cross the River Eden. At the T junction turn right towards Tonbridge, on B2027.



### Chiddingstone Causeway – Cricket & Craft

Village was once home to Duke & Co's cricket ball factory (1841-1990s), known for their test match balls. **The Little Brown Jug [TN11 8JJ]** is on the left, and almost opposite is **St Luke's Church**, designed by John Bentley – look for the stained glass by leading Impressionist Wilfred de Glehn. Both have car parks.

Continue out of the village and turn right onto the B2176. At the T junction turn right again.



### Penshurst – A Noble Legacy

Heading down the hill, glimpse the grandeur of **Penshurst Place**, a 14th century estate tied to the Sidney family [www.penshurstplace.com](http://www.penshurstplace.com). Look out for porcupines, bears and the name 'Leicester' – all are associated with the Sidney family. Before the house, pause at the very pretty Leicester Square, then step inside **St John the Baptist Church**, recorded in 1115 and with ties to Thomas à Becket.

Retracing your route, pass **The Leicester Arms [TN11 8BT]** and continue straight on the B2188. On the left, the garage and shop with the distinctive horseshoe shape was once the forge. After crossing the River Eden, turn right into Grove Road and continue for some distance. At the T junction, turn right, and again continue, passing through **Chiddingstone Hoath**.



### Markbeech – Jubilee Stone & Gothic Revival

On the corner is **The Kentish Horse [TN8 5NT]**. See opposite the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee stone on the Old School. Visit 19th century **Holy Trinity Church**, with its ornate sanctuary.

Leave the village, passing the church, and continue to the crossroads. Turn left onto the B2026, and at the next crossroads turn right, signposted to Cowden.



### Cowden – Ghosts & Green Men

Entering the village there is a large white house on the right, formerly **The Crown (1475)**, a public house where Vera Lynn, John Mills and Henry Cooper were customers. It was renowned for its ghost which played the piano and once threw a brandy glass at the landlady. Park in the village and visit **St Mary Magdalene Church (13th century)**, home to five mysterious 'green men' carvings on the font and above the altar. Look for the upside-down one! Continue past a weather boarded building with a porch, which was once the butcher's – see the mounting block to enable you to mount your horse – and finish at **The Fountain [TN8 7JG]**.

Then retrace your route along the B2026 back to Edenbridge where your journey began.

Enjoy your trip through the Eden Valley's rich history, charming villages, and unexpected stories!

Find more fantastic walks, places to eat and drink and other ideas for great days out at: [www.visitedenbridge.com](http://www.visitedenbridge.com)



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Trail 3



Edenbridge offers free parking, and has a variety of places in which to eat, and historic buildings (including the **Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul** and the **Eden Valley Museum**). There is also the convenient **Edenbridge Town Station**.

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Trail 3

## The Eden Valley Villages Trail

A scenic drive through West Kent's hidden gems, including historic churches, castles, country pubs, and stunning views.

Distance 30 miles Time Full Day Starting at... TN8 5AR



The Chiding Stone



King Henry VIII Hever



Leicester Square Penshurst

[www.visitedenbridge.com](http://www.visitedenbridge.com)

Starting and finishing in Edenbridge, this circular drive of approx 30 miles, includes historic churches, castles, country pubs, and stunning views. Allow a full day if visiting attractions and do check opening times in advance to avoid disappointment.

**Start and Finish: Edenbridge at TN8 5AR**  
[///boil.afford.rival](http://boil.afford.rival)



### Edenbridge – Begin Your Journey

Free parking and a choice of eateries make **Edenbridge** a practical and pleasant starting point. What do you notice about the 18th century clock on the **Church of St Peter & St Paul**, the oldest building in Edenbridge? The clock only has one hand – the hour hand! This was the more important hand to tell when church services were about to begin. Plus visit the **Eden Valley Museum** in Church House, the third oldest building in town. It hosts exhibitions on local history – free entry [www.evmt.org.uk](http://www.evmt.org.uk). A Historic Town Trail leaflet is also available.

*Head north on the B206.*



### Crockham Hill – Octavia Hill’s Resting Place

Pass **The Royal Oak [TN8 6RD]** then turn right into Church Road and go to the end for **Holy Trinity Church** (1842) to park. Inside, a window commemorates Octavia Hill, a co-founder of the National Trust. Her tomb is in the chancel, and her headstone rests beneath a grand yew tree outside.

*Return to the B206, turn left, and left again onto the B269.*



### Four Elms – Ponds Charm

Go straight over the crossroads, passing the duck pond and then **The Four Elms Inn [TN8 6NE]**. Park opposite **St Paul’s Church**. Look for the foundation stone laid by village children (1880) and admire the rose window and Arts & Crafts stone carvings inside.

*Continue driving east on B2027, over the bridge and turn right at The Wheatsheaf [TN8 7NU] towards Hever.*



### Hever – Anne Boleyn’s Childhood Home

Park and explore 13th century **Hever Castle**, childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, which was later gifted to Anne of Cleves, his fourth wife. [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk) Don't miss **St Peter’s Church** (1292), with its Tudor fireplace and Thomas Bullen’s tomb. Across the road is the **King Henry VIII pub [TN8 7NH]**.

*Return to The Wheatsheaf, continue on the B2027 to Tonbridge, then take first right to Chiddingstone.*



### Chiddingstone – A Tudor Time Capsule

At the T junction, either turn left into the village and park, or cross over and carry on a few yards for **Chiddingstone Castle** [www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk](http://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk). Explore this ‘gothic castle’



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with its extraordinary collections, before strolling into one of the most unspoilt villages in Kent. Only two new buildings have been erected in the village since the beginning of the 20th century. Highlights include the 15th century **Castle Inn [TN8 7AH]** and **St Mary’s Church** (13th century).

Go past the primary school, to a path leading to a curious sight – the **Chiding Stone!** One myth about this large sandstone rock is that wayward village wives were taken there for a public scolding!

**Continue Overleaf**