

A circular tour through Hadlow Village and immediate environs - with historical notes of interest

The Hadlow Village Amble

Duration: Hour+

Distance: Variable 1-2 miles

Suitable for those with moderate mobility difficulties



www.hadlowpc-kent.org.uk

Introduction

This leaflet offers a brief amble around Hadlow Square (the village centre) and its immediate environs using only paved paths and taking about an hour (or a little more if the northern extension is taken.) It is level and un gated, so suitable for those with mild mobility difficulties, and wearing ordinary casual clothing. For those with mobility difficulties wanting a more rural amble, see the separate leaflet for the **Hadlow Access Trail** (an access key is obtainable from the Parish Council Office).

The tour, illustrated on the reverse of the leaflet, with numerals correlating to the navigational directions and historical narrative (which continue overleaf) assumes a start and finish at St Mary's Church, but it is a circular route enabling you to join and leave at any point. Links to other walks (such as the longer 'Hadlow Parish Ramble', and 'The Hadlow Hop Tour' (which includes information about the hop-pickers tragedy of 1853) are also mentioned in the text.

As alternatives to arriving in Hadlow by car, the village can be reached easily by bus from Maidstone, Kings Hill or Tonbridge using the 7, 77 and 147 services along the main A26 road. Cycle stands (combined with planters) are also located in and around the Square, and provided by Hadlow Low Carbon Community.

To reach the starting point (St Mary's Church, Point 1 on the map), walk to the far end of Church Lane (off the south east corner of The Square between La Portuguesa Restaurant and the Bakery).

If starting from **Hadlow Manor Hotel**, walk to the left along the far side of the main road (where there is a continuous pavement) towards Hadlow. The northern extension of the walk can then be started from the building formerly known as **The Harrow**, now closed (point 17 on the illustrated plan). If starting from **The Carpenters Arms Hotel**, turn right to the junction with Tonbridge Road (by the petrol filling station), cross over to the bus stop diagonally left on the opposite side of Tonbridge Road and take bus 7 or 77 to Hadlow Square.



THE TOUR

Point 1: St Mary's Church

A church has stood here since Saxon times, the present church originating from rebuilding after the Norman Conquest, with periodic alterations and extensions in the 19th Century. The present oak door to the west porch (the right hand end of the church when viewed from the Church Lane approach) was originally installed in 1637. Note the Crusaders' crosses inscribed into the surrounding stonework on both sides. The oldest surviving memorial inside the church dates from 1583 and commemorates Sir John Rivers, the then lay rector. The organ was installed in 1880 and has over 2000 pipes, the longest of which measures 32 feet (9.75 m). A leaflet is available inside the church describing its interior in greater detail.

Points 2, 3, 4 and 5: The Churchyard

Do not miss the hop-pickers memorial (*in the south east corner, point 2*) remembering those who perished in a drowning tragedy in 1853. Further details of this are included in the separate 'Hadlow Hop' leaflet. The oldest memorial in the churchyard is the gravestone to Thomas Beke dated 1695. This is set against the south wall of the church, near its west end (*point 3*). Also note the large mausoleum in the south west corner of the churchyard (*point 4*), in which are interred the remains (with other relatives) of Walter Barton May (died 1823), responsible for the building of Hadlow Castle (demolished in 1951) and his son (also William Barton May, died 1855) responsible for the building of Hadlow Tower. The Rodger family also lived at the Castle c.1860-1900 and their tomb is the sizeable one outside the main west door to the church (*point 5*).

Points 6, 7 and 8: Church Lane

Leave the church and return to Church Lane, keeping to the right hand side. The first house on this side (*point 6*) is called Church Place. Its earliest parts date from C16 when it was known as Lord's Place and inhabited by Henry Hextall, steward to the Duchess of Buckingham. More recently it became a pub called The Kings Head, which closed in about 1966.

The next house "Cobblestones" (*point 7*) is much smaller, and dates from late C16/early C17. Its double bow windows to the front, originally with an entry door between, are reminders of its former use as a bakers and, later, a sweet shop run by the Misses Keen.

The last house on this side (*point 8*) dates from the late C15/early C16 and is thought to be the oldest house in Hadlow Village (Barnes Place at Golden Green is the oldest in the Parish).



Points 9, 10, 11, and 12: East side of The Square

The older buildings around the east side of The Square include Corneys (*point 9*) and Little Corneys (*point 10*), which are Grade II Listed Buildings. Carry on up to Court Lane, where there are public conveniences on the corner (*point 11*). A few short steps along Court Lane will take you to Chapel House, standing on an embankment on the opposite side of the road (*point 12*). This was built in 1823 and was formerly a Baptist Chapel, but converted to a house in 1976.

Return to the main road by the public conveniences, where you have a choice of taking the "northern extension" (*points 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 and 18*), or crossing over to the school entrance (*point 19*) and continuing the tour southwards. In addition to providing an extended amble, the northern extension might also be advantageous to those wishing to combine the 'Village Amble' with the 'Parish Ramble' or the 'Hadlow Hop'. Further alternative links to these routes are via either Court Lane or Hadlow College (see the respective leaflets). To continue only with the southern part of the 'Village Amble', go straight to point 19 in this narrative.

Points 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18: The northern extension

If taking the northern extension, continue northwards along the east side of the A26 Maidstone Road where you will pass the Two Brewers Public House, where ale brewed by Harveys of Lewes using Hadlow hops can be sampled (*point 13*).

A little further on is St Peter's Chapel (*point 14*), originally built c1870 as a non-conformist chapel, and later used by various denominations. It was bought by St Mary's Church in 1907 for use as a church hall. After World War II it became the "Memorial Hall" (for public use) until opening as a Roman Catholic Chapel in 1978.

Next is the modern housing at Spa Close (*point 15*), which derives its name from a mineral water factory that once operated here. More recently it was the site of a petrol filling station.

Then you will come to a roadside pond (*point 16*), where you may see ducks and fish as well as the occasional visiting heron. The pond drains from Palmers Brook, by culvert, to the River Bourne. There are some photos of flooding in Hadlow in the 1950s on display in the Parish Office, but flooding has not been so problematic in recent years. The footpath to the north of the Pond is where you may join 'The Hadlow Hop' (*point 4 in that leaflet*).

Lastly on this side of the road is what was formerly the Harrow Public House (*point 17*). Much extended over the years, it is facing a new chapter in its existence. There is no record of it having been anything other than a pub. The 'Harrow' suggests a place of refreshment for workers on surrounding farmland, but it may also have served cricketers, there being a nearby footpath to the village cricket ground.

The cricket ground and the Cemetery (also nearby) are included in the wider 'Hadlow Parish Ramble', which can be joined at Cemetery Lane just to the north of 'The Harrow'.

Cross over the Maidstone Road. A modern group of houses a little further north (*point 18*) includes one called "Coppers", these having replaced former police houses. Return towards the village, keeping to this side of the road.

Point 19: School entrance

At the school entrance is a commemorative stone for the Millennium, (*point 19*). It records the growth of the village over 1,000 years.

Points 20, 21, 22 and 23: West side of The Square

The house with the catslide roof behind the millennium stone is Walnut Tree Cottage. (*point 20*) It dates from mid-late C17 and is thought to have once been a blacksmith's premises. A small tea room now operates here on Thursdays during the summer season.

Next to Walnut Tree Cottage is a small enclave of private housing, prominent among which is Caxton House (*point 21*). The name reflects Hadlow's claim to connections with William Caxton (see narrative for Style Place in the 'Hadlow Parish Ramble' leaflet).

Beyond this enclave is Lime Tree House (*point 22*). Before being converted to dwellings, it was used as shops. One was a drapery run by Fred Barton in about 1900. His wife, later known as Freda, was an accomplished photographer. A few of her Hadlow photographs have survived. She moved to West Malling and would seem to have had a thriving business there. The Malling Society often has exhibitions of her work.

Next is the Post Office (*point 23*), which occupies Commercial House, another Grade II Listed Building.



Point 24: School Lane

Enter School Lane between Lime Tree House and the Post Office and walk up to the Library (*point 24*). This, together with the conjoined medical centre, Parish Office and hall were originally the village school built in 1840 (note the Punch Cartoon by the Parish Office entrance - *see point 25 below*). The new school (behind) was built in 1970. There is a commemorative mosaic in the rear wall of the Medical Centre. Continue along School Lane to Hailstone Close.

Points 25, 26 and 27: The Maltings

Turn left into Hailstone Close (*point 25*). This is named after an artistic local family, which included William (a dentist and chemist who also produced postcards), his son Harold (who produced cartoons for Punch, there being an example by the door to the Parish Office) and Bernard (noted for his World War II paintings and for producing the last commissioned portrait of Winston Churchill). Bernard was also instrumental in saving the tower of Hadlow Castle from demolition. He died in 1987.

Continue down to Carpenter's Lane. To the left is a cul-de-sac named Kenward Court. A little way along this are the former stables, the oldest surviving part of the original brewery (*point 26*). On the far corner of the cul-de sac stands Close House (*also point 26*), originally occupied by the brewer or manager. Opposite this, on the far side of Carpenters Lane is the Master's House (*also point 26*), which was used primarily as offices and as an off-licence. The brewery (*point 27*) was once the largest employer in Hadlow, run originally by the Barton family, later Kenward and Court from 1871 until taken over by Charles Hammerton and Co in 1945, who sold to Charringtons in 1952. From then until the 1970s the buildings were used only for storage and offices. They were converted to houses in 1984. More information on Hadlow's relationship with the brewing industry is included in 'The Hadlow Hop' tour leaflet). Circle the brewery buildings anti-clockwise (i.e. to the right) to emerge on the Tonbridge Road (A26).

Point 28: Bridge over the River Bourne

Continue along the Tonbridge Road to the right, past Spring House and Cottage (both Grade II listed buildings) and the allotments, and go onto the bridge over the River Bourne. There is an ancient stepping stone set into the bridge parapet at mid-span (*point 28*). This serves as a reminder of the crossing point before the bridge was built. The River Bourne (formerly variously known as The Shode, The Sheet or The Busty) once provided power for mills along its length. The nearest of these is Bourne Mill (more detail is included in the 'Hadlow Parish Ramble' leaflet)

Point 29: Hadlow College

Crossing the bridge will take you to Hadlow College, where there are gardens to visit, a shop and a popular tea room. The college itself was formed by the merger of Sittingbourne Farm Institute and the Swanley Horticultural College. It was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1968. Its original focus was on agriculture and horticulture, hops and fruit but it now runs a wide range of courses including equine, small animal care, fishing and floristry. There is also a recently opened Free School for children of secondary school age. A public footpath through the campus is contiguous with the main access drive. Continue along this if you want to combine all or parts of the

'Hadlow Parish Ramble' with the 'Village Amble' (see section A - B in the 'Parish Ramble' leaflet).

Points 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36: East side of the High St.

Return towards the village, crossing the road where convenient in the vicinity of the former Prince of Wales Public House (*point 30*). This timber-framed building probably dates from the early C19, originally with 2 rooms and a central cross passage, but the interior partitioning was removed to create a larger bar. It has now been further altered for use as a shop. Further on, Grays House (*point 31*) was the Hadlow Workhouse until the Pembury Union. It later housed the village bakery and still has an old oven in the Pine workshop/showroom to the rear.

North Lodge and South Lodge (*points 32 and 33*) mark the entrance to Hadlow Castle, of which the Tower is the main surviving part. This is the subject of a separate booklet available from the Hadlow Tower visitor centre (when open). The Tower (*point 34*) is now owned by the Vivat Trust and used as a holiday home. It is open to the public on a restricted basis on Thursdays during the summer season.

The next group of cottages on this side of the main road is Castle Terrace (*point 35*), with Castle View to the rear (*point 36*). All were built to house workers employed at the Castle.

Points 37, 38 and 39: South side of The Square

The grocers, butchers and news agency in The Square occupy The Broadway (*point 37*), the buildings having been constructed by the Mc Geagh family in about 1904. Continue past the Pharmacy (*point 38*) and La Portuguesa Restaurant (*point 39*), both of which are Grade II listed buildings, to re-enter Church Lane on the west side.

Point 40: The Church and Chancel House

Between the back of the restaurant and St Mary's Church is a single building, now two houses called The Church and Chancel House. It was built in the early C18 and is notable for being clad with mathematical tiles (not bricks) to the first floor front.

This circular tour finishes back at the Church (*point 1*).



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Explore Hadlow with the help of these leaflets



Welcome to Hadlow

An illustrated guide to local attractions, businesses and services in and around Hadlow.



The Hadlow Parish Ramble

A minimum half day tour around Hadlow and the surrounding countryside, using predominantly rural footpaths.
Distance: ±8 miles



The Hadlow Hop Tour

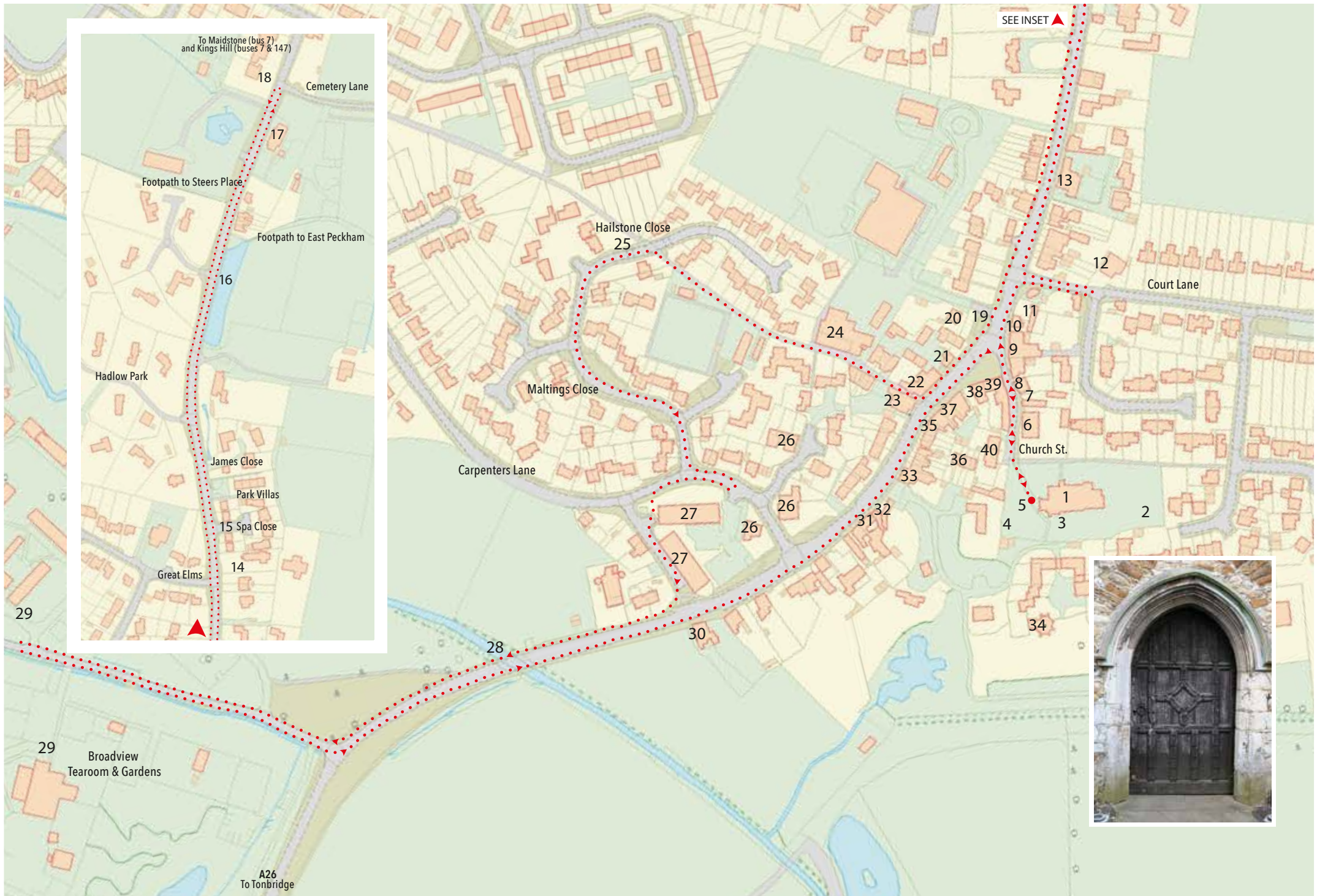
A guided walk through the hop farming and brewing industry in and around Hadlow, past and present.
Distance: ±8 miles



For all enquiries please contact:
The Hadlow Parish Office
T: 01732 851878
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W: www.hadlowpc-kent.org.uk

Hadlow Parish Council • Parish Office Hadlow Old School Hall Hadlow Kent TN11 0EH

More information about the history of our village is contained in the other walking leaflets in this series, as well as from the village library.



SEE INSET ▲

To Maidstone (bus 7)
and Kings Hill (buses 7 & 147)

18

Cemetery Lane

17

Footpath to Steers Place

Footpath to East Peckham

16

Hadlow Park

James Close

Park Villas

15 Spa Close

Great Elms

14

29

29

Broadview
Tearoom & Gardens

A26
To Tonbridge

Hailstone Close

25

Maltings Close

Carpenters Lane

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