

The Waterflash floods the ancient trackway which crosses east-west over Oldbury Hill. A prehistoric track from Pevensey to the North Downs once passed nearby.

Running dry in the summer the infant Bourne still bursts its banks in Busty Lane, Ightham in severe Autumn rains.



The fossilised remains of woolly rhino were found by Benjamin Harrison at a quarry near Ightham.



From prehistoric man with flint tools through tribal Celtic invaders with iron tools to Roman soldiers repressing the natives Oldbury Hill has made the perfect vantage point and stronghold.



Paper mill workers are recorded in the census returns of villages along the northern reaches of the Bourne. Paper mill pollution led to local cottage interiors being lime-washed with colourful "Roughway Blue".



At Old Soar Manor (National Trust) the mediaeval knight's house is open to the public. Its elevated position beneath Mereworth Woods commands the river valley.



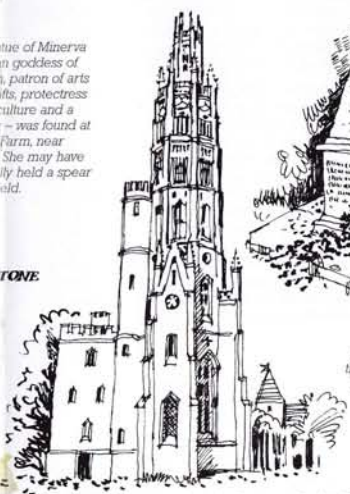
A 13th century knight, from a contemporary painting.



This statue of Minerva - Roman goddess of wisdom, patron of arts and crafts, protectress of agriculture and a warrior - was found at Allen's Farm, near Plaxtol. She may have originally held a spear and shield.



Bourne Mill is one of 11 known paper, corn or fulling mills on the river. It was driven by a 17 foot breast-shot iron wheel.



Hadlow Tower was used as a look-out post during the 2nd WW and saved for posterity by the artist Bernard Hailstone. Enthusiasts hope it will be restored to its former glory.



30 drowned hop-pickers are commemorated on this monument in St. Mary's churchyard, Hadlow. (See annotation in the church porch).

- KEY**
- River BOURNE
 - BOURNE VALLEY WALK
 - Other Public Rights of Way
 - Beware of fast traffic
 - Sites of old mills
 - Public Houses
 - Public Toilets
 - Railway station
 - National Trust



Barnes Place, listed Grade 1, is the oldest surviving house in Hadlow parish.

