



# Hadlow River Walk Summary

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.3 km) - allow 2 hours

 **Start/finish:** Hadlow, The Forstal

 **Ground conditions:** Reasonably flat, some parts can be waterlogged after rain

 **Views:** There are some good views of the Medway Valley, complete with Oast Houses

 **Refreshments:** The Bell Inn is on route (01732 851748), or there are various shops selling refreshments in Hadlow

 **Toilets:** There are public toilets in Hadlow

**Grid Ref:** Walk start at Hadlow - TQ 636, 497

**Ordinance Survey map:** Explorer 136

## Travel Info

### Parking

There is parking around Hadlow. Some of these are pay and display

### By bus

Trains leave regularly from Maidstone and Tonbridge directions and arrive at Hadlow village.

### By train

The nearest train stations Tonbridge, Paddock Wood and Yalding stations are all 5-7 miles away.

### By car

Hadlow is on the A26 between Tonbridge and Maidstone

FOR MORE INFO ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT GO TO [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) OR CALL **0871 200 22 33**



# Hadlow River Walk

This walk takes you from Hadlow down to a quiet stretch of river.



**Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP)** is a not for profit organisation that works to enhance and protect the local countryside in the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge. MVCP encourage people to explore and enjoy this unique part of Kent.

These leaflets have been produced by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership as part of their Riverside Communities Project.

To find out more about the Partnership and the Riverside Communities Project visit [www.medwayvalley.org](http://www.medwayvalley.org) or call **01622 683695**

This leaflet is available in alternative formats.

The information on this leaflet is for guidance only and condition may vary. For any problems concerning the paths, please tell us on Kent Report Line **0845 345 0210**



With kind support from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and the Ernest Cook Trust



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





# Hadlow River Walk



This walk takes you from Hadlow, following part of the access trail through fields and down to the River Medway. The walk is fairly flat, with only very small sections of road. During the winter, some of the fields can become very waterlogged.

Please keep dogs on leads.



## Look out for

**Pill boxes** - Pill boxes are the only riverside buildings between Tonbridge and East Peckham. Some see them as eyesores, some view them as part of Britain's military heritage - what is your view?

Along the walk you will pass over and along a number of **dykes**. In the summer months these can be particularly good places to see dragonflies and damselflies, such as the Southern Hawker, Common Darter and the Banded Damoiselle.

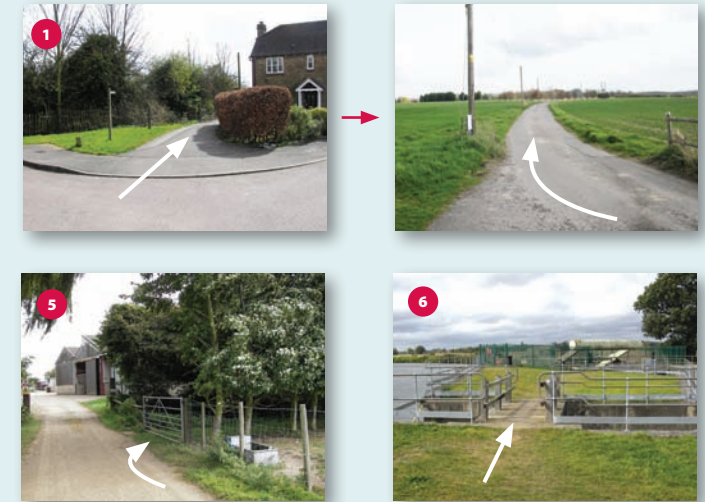
## Facts

In October 1853 a tragedy occurred at Hartlake Bridge, (1 mile from Golden Green). Thirty hop pickers lost their lives when, in bad weather and high waters, a horse and cart that was carrying them back to their homes toppled into the river. Their screams were heard in the The Bell Inn at Golden Green, and people rushed out to help. A plaque can be found at Hartlake Bridge.

The **access trail** is a 2 km circular route from Hadlow that is accessible to all. This was created in partnership between Hadlow Society and Hadlow College with support from Hadlow Parish Council, Medway Valley Countryside Partnership and Kent County Council. For more information contact The Parish Council on 01732 851878.



# Photo guide



## Directions

From Hadlow, turn into The Forstal, off Court Lane. The footpath starts here.

**1** Follow the tarmac path

The path forks. Take the left-hand path and continue to follow the path until reaching the road

Turn right onto the road. Take the footpath on the left, just after the house.

**2** Path continues straight on past Malt Cottage

**3** At the field edge (where the overhead cables meet the edge of the field) turn right to follow the edge of the field

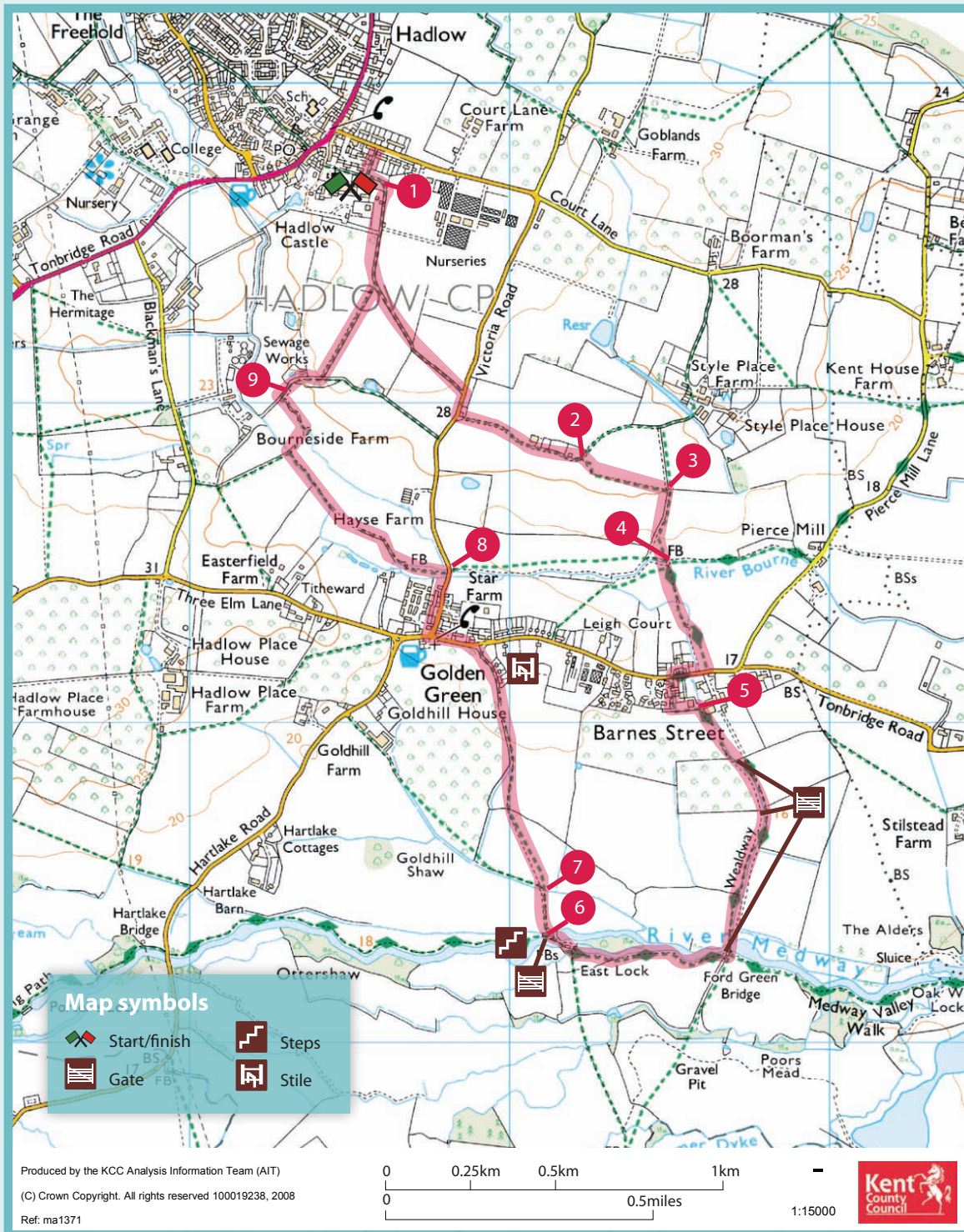
**4** At the bottom of the field the path bears left. Cross a footbridge over the River Bourne, opposite some Oast houses

Footpath crosses field and meets small paddock. Follow the path down to the road

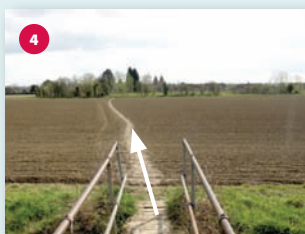
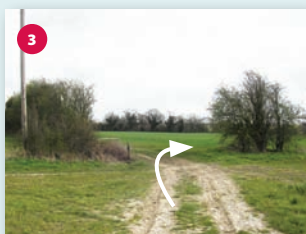
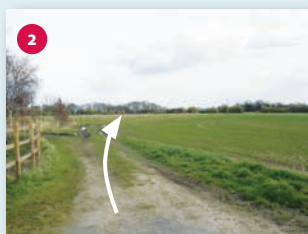
Turn right onto road and then almost immediately left onto single farm-track to follow signposted footpath

Go over the stile into a farmyard, with a hay barn on the left-hand side. Follow the path around the barn to the left

**5** Turn right through a metal gate into an enclosed path lined with alder trees on your right







At the end of the enclosed path, go over a wooden stile or through the gate into the field. Follow the left-hand edge of the field, keeping the ditch and hedge on your left.

Go through two more fields with the ditch and hedge on your left.

Pass through another gate and keep going straight on to cross a metal and wooden bridge over the River Medway

Meet two metal gates and two kissing gates. Pass through the metal kissing gate on your right, following footpath with the river on your right

Follow the river until you reach the locks and footbridge

**6** Cross over the lock using the footbridge and turn left. Walk straight across and over the weir.

Turn left and then right to join a track passing between two brick pill boxes.

Follow the track until you reach a left-hand bend

**7** Leave the track and head to the left of the large gap in the hedge opposite by going straight on across the field, passing the lone oak on your right

On reaching the hedge, go straight through

Cut off the corner of the field and meet the corner of another hedge, keeping to the left of the two oak trees

Follow the field, keeping the hedge on the left, to pass over a stile by the metal gate. Go straight on down the lane, with houses on the right.

On reaching the road, turn left and follow it until you reach The Bell. Turn right up Victoria Road. Follow the road until you reach the River Bourne.

**8** Turn left along the footpath with the River Bourne on your right  
Cross the Bourne and follow the field-edge to the left

**9** Path bears to the right around the paddock, then heads towards the gap in the hedge near the piece of white fence  
Follow this path until seeing a metal kissing gate on your left.  
Follow the path through the kissing gate to join the original path

