



5 The Weald The area of rolling hills and valleys, woods, fields, orchards and scattered farmsteads and villages. The High Weald is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Follow the path until you come to Gatland Lane. Continue uphill through the recreation ground. At the top end turn right, then left and cross Tonbridge Road at the traffic lights. In St. Andrew's Road note a giant...

6 Purple Beech tree This is one of the largest and oldest beech trees in Maidstone, estimated to be at least 200 years old. Further along St. Andrew's Road, pay a visit to the...

7 Blackthorn Trust nursery and plant shop The Trust is a charity helping people with serious and/or long term illnesses. They use horticulture as therapy. The plants for sale are of excellent quality. Their cafeteria sells vegetarian lunches and drinks on weekdays. From St. Andrew's Road turn right, through an imposing gate and walk into the grounds of the former...

8 Kent County 'Lunatic Asylum' at Barming Heath. Designed by John Whichcord Snr, built of local ragstone, it opened in 1833 and later became Oakwood Hospital. This closed in 1994 and has been converted for residential use. Turn left and follow the path



around the building aiming for the hospital church, now also converted into apartments. Follow the path from the church to a fork; turn left and follow the path which curves right and into the grounds of...

9 Maidstone Hospital Turn right at the roundabout, walk past Priority House and turn right onto a tarmac footpath. Turn left where the path forks and follow the path around pleasant parkland on the edge of an estate. At a break in the bushes turn right; cross over Farrington Close and walk into...



10 Westminster Square A picturesque collection of full size 'dolls houses' around a rectangular lawn. A shortcut between the houses takes you to an old pedestrian route known as Giddyhorn Lane. Turn right and walk down the path until you reach a signpost for Oakwood Park. Turn right into Kingsgate Close. Follow the path right through Shaftesbury Drive and onto Queens Road. Turn left and walk along the ragstone wall of...

11 Oakwood Park Owned by KCC since 1948, it contains Oakwood House, a Victorian mansion which is now a conference centre and several schools. Follow Queens Road until you turn into the quiet and leafy Greenwich Close. Follow the path into Somerfield Road and walk along the old garden wall. Cross London Road and walk down Buckland Hill. On your left, an archway under the railway bridge would take you to Whatman Park (see Sandling Walk). As you start walking along St. Peter's Street, on your left you pass the large building of...



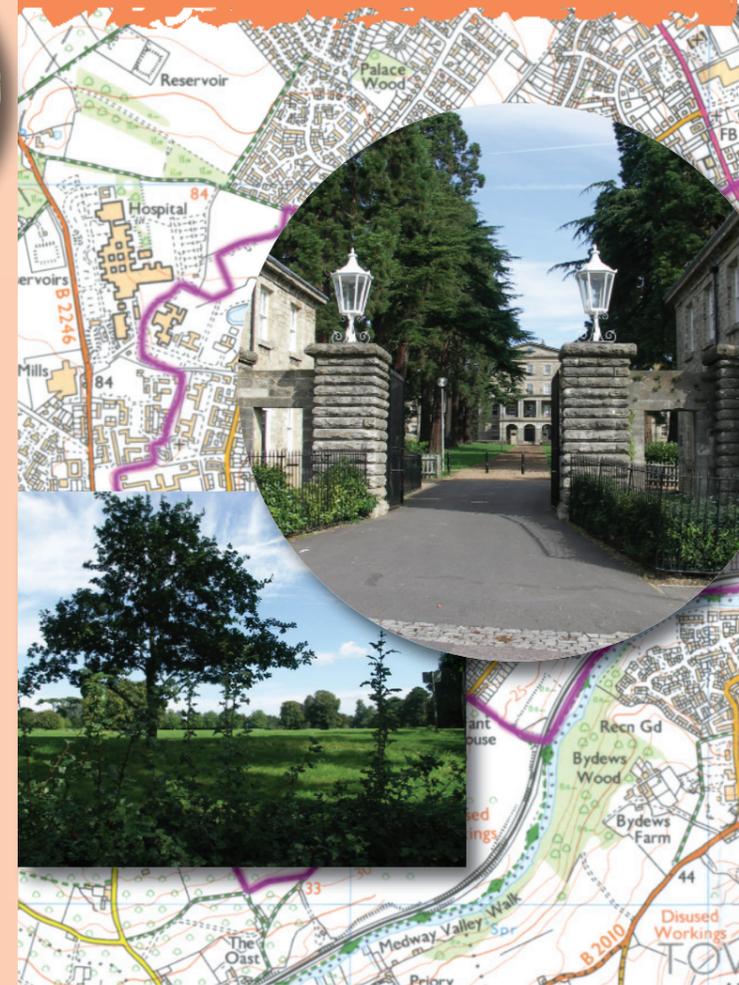
12 Business Centre Maidstone Built in the 1920's in Art Deco style by well known architects, Wallis, Gilbert & Partners. By the furniture warehouse turn left and follow the path to the River Medway. Walk along the riverbank back to Lockmeadow.

For more information please contact:
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Edition 2007

Walk Maidsto

Walk 2 : Oakwood



improving our parks
and open spaces

MAIDSTONE
Borough Council

Walk 2 : Oakwood

Distance: 5.25 miles (8.5 km)

Time: about 2 hours

Suggested start/finish point: All Saints Historic Area

Suggested route-break points: Tonbridge Road, London Road

Terrain: varied, some unmade paths, slopes.

Seats available along route.

Refreshments: available along route

Public toilets: Lockmeadow Market,

Whatman Park (detour), by Maidstone Bridge

Public car parks: town centre car parks,

Gatland Lane Recreation Ground



Explore both the rural and the urban Maidstone on the walk that has it all: the green banks of the River Medway, the breath-taking views of the Weald, the ragstone architecture of the former 'Lunatic Asylum', now a peaceful and green residential area. Take this walk in spring and discover the beauty of orchards in blossom.

Start by the statue of the Stag at Lockmeadow, walk south along the river following the ...

1 Millennium River Walk that runs along the River Medway for 10 kilometres from Allington Lock to Teston. Walk under the pedestrian bridge leading to Tovil and continue on unmade path (may be muddy when wet). There are allotments to your right and lush riverside vegetation on both sides of the path. Bydews Wood across the river is a designated 'ancient woodland'. **Turn right under the railway bridge into Unicomes Lane. On your right you pass the...**

2 Fant Wildlife Site Run by volunteers, the site has an interesting nature trail and pond (with a dipping platform) and several other natural habitats within a small area. It is open to all visitors. **Walk uphill past the allotments and at the end of the lane turn left towards the farm buildings. Continue straight ahead between...**

3 The meadow and the orchard In the past, orchards and hop gardens made Kent the Garden of England. Orchards look their best when in blossom in April and May. **Following the yellow public footpath arrows, turn right and walk through the 'tunnel' created by a double...**

4 Hedgerow Traditional hedges run along field boundaries and consist of a mixture of hawthorn, field maple, hazel and other trees. **At a break in the tunnel turn right. As you walk, turn around to examine the exquisite panoramic view of...**

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