



**5 Church of The Holy Cross** Built of ragstone in the Middle Ages, although one fragment reveals earlier Saxon origins. Stop to look at the old tombs in the graveyard at the back of the church. **The path on the right-hand side of the church will take you past the c.19 Mote Hall and into the recently created public open space known as...**

**6 The Church Landway** The charity, Bearsted Woodland Trust, owns this and relies on donations of time and money to run this park for the benefit of all visitors. **Follow the yellow path through the site, then turn left towards Ashford Road. Cross the road at the traffic lights and walk downhill along Cavendish Way. At the end turn left into Button Lane and on your left you will see a wide wooden farm gate. Walk through it and the path will take you down a slope towards the...**



**7 River Len** With its shady, overgrown banks, the river forms a rich natural habitat. Through the riverside vegetation you can see the open countryside. **Follow the path until you come to a small park known as...**



**8 Mallards Way Open Space** Lying on the flood plain of the River Len. Stop by the lake and watch the waterfowl. The vegetation on the islands is cut down every few years to produce dense growth that will protect the nests of the ducks, swans and moorhens. Kingfishers have been spotted here. **Continue along the river and on the other side of the road walk into the...**

**9 Spot Lane Nature Reserve** A strip of shady wilderness on either side of the river valley. A haven for birds, small mammals and numerous invertebrates. **Cross busy Willington Street and follow the River Len back into Mote Park. From here onwards the vegetation along the river forms a typical...**



**10 Alder Carr** Swampy and overgrown, it is a rich natural habitat and is home to many creatures, including the protected water vole. **Follow the tarmac path and you soon find yourself in front of...**

**11 Mote House** Designed by Daniel Asher Alexander (architect of Maidstone Prison) and built in the 1790s for Lord Romney. Family residence until 1929, army hospital during WWII and an orphanage run by the Cheshire Foundation until the 1960s. With its outbuildings and walled garden, Mote House will form a private 'retirement village'.

For more information please contact:  
**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL** on **01622 602747**  
or visit **www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk**

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# Walk Maidsto

## Walk 5 : Bearsted



improving our parks  
and open spaces



# Walk 5 : Bearsted

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.5 km)

**Time:** about 2 hours

**Suggested start/finish point:** Mote Park

**Suggested route-break points:** Bearsted Railway Station, Bearsted Green, Ashford Road

**Terrain:** hard footpath along most of the way, one slope. Seats along the route.

**Refreshments:** available along the route

**Public toilets:** Mote Park

**Public car parks:** Mote Park



Explore the delightful historic Bearsted, with its timber framed cottages, the village green where cricket is played to this day and the Saxon/Medieval Church of the Holy Cross. Follow the River Len through the atmospheric Spot Lane Nature Reserve into glorious Mote Park - landscape alive with history and the riches of nature.

**1 Mote Park** 180 hectares of parkland with a lake on the River Len. Dating back to the Middle Ages, owned by the Earls of Romney and later by Viscounts Bearsted, became a public park in 1929. Picturesque scenery, natural habitats, notable trees and activities for visitors to enjoy. **Leave Mote park by the Park and Ride, carefully cross Willington Street and Ashford Road, and turn right into Fauchons Lane that runs along the top of...**



**2 Banky Meadow** An old river valley, now a 'green corridor' of meadows, paddocks, scrub and trees. The London to Dover railway line runs unseen in a cutting along the other side of the valley. **Past the medieval timber-framed Manor House, turn right and continue north along Birling Avenue through a quiet and pleasant residential area, with many well-kept front gardens. Follow on along The Landway and down Hogg Hill, then across Ware Street where you will see the...**

**3 Bearsted Methodist Church** Built in 1877 as one of many 'Wesleyan Chapels', created in England during the c.19. **Turn right past Bearsted Railway Station to...**

**4 Bearsted Green** The old 'heart' of the village where cricket is still played and ducks can be seen under the weeping willow by the pond. Around the Green there is a variety of old buildings. Many timber-framed houses date back to the 16th century (e.g. The White Horse pub) and the 18th century Eylesden Court stands at the far end of the Green; all Grade II listed buildings. **Having crossed the Green, walk up the gentle slope of Church Lane until you arrive at the...**

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