



**5 Otham** It has many old houses, some timber-framed, dating back to before the time of Henry VIII. Note the interesting village sign, the War Memorial and an exquisite panoramic view of the ...

**6 North Downs** Chalky hills that formed at the bottom of a tropical sea about 100 million years ago in the mesozoic era. Now designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. **From here follow the brown sign to ...**

**7 Stoneacre** A c.15 half-timbered yeoman's (farmer's) house with a cottage garden and ragstone stables. A National Trust property (and a private residence) it opens to visitors on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. **Follow the road to the wooden stile on your right. Cross the paddock, without disturbing the horses, to another stile. Follow the footpath downhill through trees and uphill across a meadow. Note the open view to your right. Turn left and follow the road until, on your right, you see the wooden stile in the hedgerow. Climb over it and follow the public footpath across the field to...**



**8 East Wood** Recognised as 'ancient woodland' this hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice was in the past cut down every 10-15 years to provide material for fencing and charcoal making. Every spring it delights visitors with its carpet of bluebells. **Continue on the public footpath across the wood, turn left onto a tarmac path and by the big oak tree, start walking along the edge of the wood. By the road turn right. Cross Church Road carefully watching out for passing cars! Follow the tree-lined Plumpton Walk through the estate. Turn left into Woolley Road, then right into...**



**9 Senacre Woods** Soon on your left you will see a meadow rich in plant and animal wildlife and then you walk into an old sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice, full of bluebells in spring. The woods line up the steep sides of a former river valley. There is not a stream anymore but rainwater from occasional heavy rain in this part of town is directed along the drainage channel in the old river bed. **Walk straight on to the end of the woods. Cross Woolley Road and by the "No-bicycles" sign take the footpath and the flight of steps down to Chapman Avenue. Cross the busy Willington Street carefully, where you can see well in both directions. Turn left into School Lane and walk past a row of...**



**10 Ragstone Houses** Built in c.19; the largest one is a former village school that gave the name to School Lane. **Through the gate go back into Mote Park, walk past the small car park and on your right you will see...**

**11 Cobtree Hall** Formerly St. John's Church, built from local ragstone in 1861 by the Earl of Romney of The Mote. The church closed in 1969 and the building is now home to the Maidstone branch of MENCAP.

For more information please contact:  
**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL** on **01622 602747**  
or visit [www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk)

Edition 2007

# Walk Maidstone

## Walk 6 : Otham



improving our parks  
and open spaces

**MAIDSTONE**  
Borough Council

## Walk 6 : Otham

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7 km)

**Time:** about 2 hours

**Suggested start/finish:** Mote Park

**Terrain:** varied with some unmade paths, slopes, steps and climb-over stiles. Seats available along the route.

**Refreshments:** Mote Park, Otham

**Public toilets:** Mote Park

**Public car parks:** Mote Park (two)

**Route-break points:** Otham village (no buses), Woolley Road (south)



Discover the picturesque old village of Otham with its timber-framed cottages and the medieval manor of Stoneacre (National Trust). Explore the open countryside, fields and meadows, and areas of ancient woodland. Enjoy the spectacular views of the North Downs.

**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, it became a public park in 1929. Picturesque scenery, natural habitats, notable trees and activities for visitors to enjoy. **Leave Mote Park by Otham Lodge, cross Willington Street and at the start of Deringwood Drive, follow the public footpath into...**

**2 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. **You are now following a section of the Len Valley Walk that runs alongside the river for 12 miles from Lenham to Maidstone. Across Mallards Way, the route goes on to the ...**

**3 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. **Turn right past the lake and leave the recreation ground near the play area. On the other side of the roundabout climb a flight of steps and follow the footpath. Next to the house on your left, you will see a...**

**4 Ragstone outcrop** It marks the edge of a former quarry and is a designated site of special scientific interest. **At the T-junction of paths go left, along an old hawthorn hedge marking a field boundary, until you reach the small hamlet of Green Hill. Turn right.** There are no verges for about 300 metres so ensure car drivers can see you from a safe distance. **Passing the village green on your left, you arrive at the picturesque old village of...**



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