



# Walk Maidstone

## Walk 3 : Sandling

**4 The view** One of the best panoramic views of Maidstone, looking south, west and north. **Take the ramp down and turn right into...**

**5 Sandling Park** Once a country estate, as signified by the Manor House on your left, its grounds are now divided between the army barracks and a modern housing development.

**6 Acid grassland** This rare natural habitat has been found on the slopes near the development. **Cross Sandling Lane, through the metal kissing gate and walk into...**

**7 Cuckoo Wood** Recognised as 'ancient woodland' this 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. **At the T-junction of paths turn right and follow this path to the other end of the Wood. On the way you may catch a glimpse of the brook in the valley to your left. Out of the woods, turn left and follow Woodbank Close and once past the play area, turn left into the tunnel under the motorway. You will emerge in the...**

**8 Open countryside** Follow the path along the sides of the pastures (do not disturb the animals) and admire the views of Maidstone to one side and to the other the picturesque views of the farmland and the...

**9 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. **Cross Boxley Road carefully and continue along the public footpath through Dovehill Wood and down a bank. Turn right into the underpass and walk on to...**



**10 Penenden Heath** The site of important medieval gatherings, a cattle market and of public executions by hanging until 1830. **Walk across the sports field and continue into...**

**11 Boxley Road** As you walk, notice the ragstone walls and the variety of architectural styles of the houses. Stop to look at the rows of pretty terraced houses in Pine Grove, Grecian Street and Waterlow Road. **At the end of Boxley Road turn right and then left following the high ragstone wall of...**



**12 Maidstone Prison** Designed by Daniel Asher Alexander (the architect of Mote House in Mote Park) and built of local Kentish ragstone, it was opened in 1818 with the capacity to house 552 inmates. 58 executions took place here, the last one in April 1930. **Pass the White Rabbit Hotel and Restaurant on your right and cross the Royal Engineers Road. Take the footpath downhill through the pretty mini-park and follow the signs back to Whatman Park / Millennium River Park.**

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

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improving our parks  
and open spaces

MAIDSTONE  
Borough Council

# Walk 3 : Sandling

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.3 km)

**Time:** about 2 hours

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

**Suggested route-break points:** Royal Engineers Road (flyover), Penenden Heath

**Terrain:** varied with some unmade paths, one steep slope, long flight of steps and one step-over stile. Seats available along the route.

**Refreshments:** available at several places along the route  
Public toilets: Whatman Park, Penenden Heath

**Public car parks:** James Whatman Way, Penenden Heath, town centre car parks



Explore nature on your doorstep on this delightful walk which takes you through the beautifully designed modern Whatman Park, along the banks of the River Medway and through an area of ancient woodland. Enjoy the panoramic views of Maidstone and the North Downs. Discover Maidstone's gruesome past at Penenden Heath.

**1 Whatman Park** Created in 1999, a new park with a modern feel. It has an open-air stage, two playgrounds and a skate park. A green and pleasant place, conducive to quiet contemplation. **Walk north across the park and cross the River Medway using the Downstream Bridge. It will lead you to the historic...**

**2 Towpath** In the past, barges carried goods between Rochester and Maidstone (docking at Lockmeadow). They had no engines and horses walking along the towpath pulled them using rope. The Towpath is part of the Millennium River Park stretching for 10 kilometre between Teston and Allington Lock. **As you follow the Towpath, on your right you see the...**

**3 Medway floodplains** An excellent natural habitat of trees such as alder and ash, and a wilderness of bramble and



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great willowherb, giving shelter and food to small mammals, birds and invertebrates. **Once you have walked past the white and blue house by the river and the Maidstone Marina on the other side; by a wooden bench you will notice timber steps that take you straight up the steep bank. At the top, go through the gate in the timber noise screen and turn right towards the pedestrian bridge over the Royal Engineers Road. On the bridge stop and look at...**

