



**6 Mote House** Designed by Daniel Asher Alexander (architect of Maidstone Prison) and built in the 1790s for the 1st Earl of Romney. Family residence until 1929, army hospital during WWII and an orphanage run by the Cheshire Foundation until the 1960s. With its outbuildings and the walled garden, Mote House will form a private 'retirement village'. **Continue on the path and then on the grass down towards the water. Bear to the right along the waterside vegetation until you see the wooden bridge and a causeway across the Lake. If the crossing is flooded, take a detour as shown on the map.**

**7 The Alder Carr** The swampy and overgrown part of the river valley upstream from the crossing is a rich natural habitat. The banks of the Lake are home to many creatures, including the protected water vole. **Walk up the bank, among the mature oak trees, and bear to the right. Follow the path through the meadow (can be muddy when wet) towards the...**

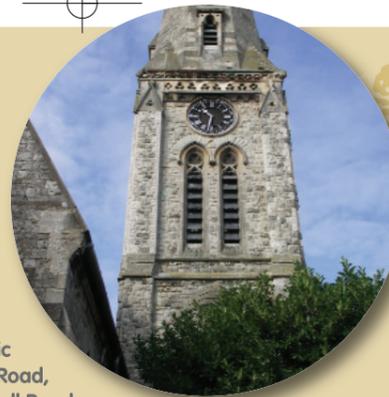
**8 Volunteers' Pavilion** Built in 1800 close to where the Old Mote House once stood and where in 1799 'Mad' King George watched the parade of local volunteers ready to fight Napoleon. **From the Pavilion, take a look at the North Downs in the distance, then walk up the open bank and across the playing fields towards the Leisure Centre. Leave the park by the Indoor Bowls Club, cross West Park Road and follow Upper Road right up to the...**

**9 Maidstone Grammar School** Founded in 1549 to teach Latin grammar to the boys of Maidstone, the school was first located in the Corpus Christi building in Earl Street. It moved to the current location in 1930. **Turn into St. Philips Avenue and a pathway between houses will lead you to the...**

**10 Collis Millennium Green** A 'secret' green oasis created in 2000 and looked after by local volunteers and members of the Collis Millennium Trust. **Leave the Green through the main entrance and walk towards...**

**11 St. Philip's Church and Community Centre**

Built of ragstone in 1860, its tall spire is visible for miles around. **From the end of Waterloo Street, walk carefully up Upper Stone Street and cross it at the traffic lights. Follow Old Tovil Road, Muir Road and Campbell Road. Cross Hayle Road at the traffic lights and walk towards the town centre. On your right you will see the...**



**12 Almshouses in College Walk** Three pretty ragstone cottages owned by Cutbush and Corral Charity. **Cross College Road and turn left into College Avenue, past the medieval gatehouse of Maidstone College (look through the gate). Turn right down a footpath to the...**



**13 Amphitheatre** Built in 1999 as part of the Millennium River Park, it has a stage for open-air performances in the summer. **Walk through the Amphitheatre and on your right you see the...**

**14 Rose Garden**

The start of the Rose Trail that runs through and beyond the...

**15 All Saints Conservation Area**

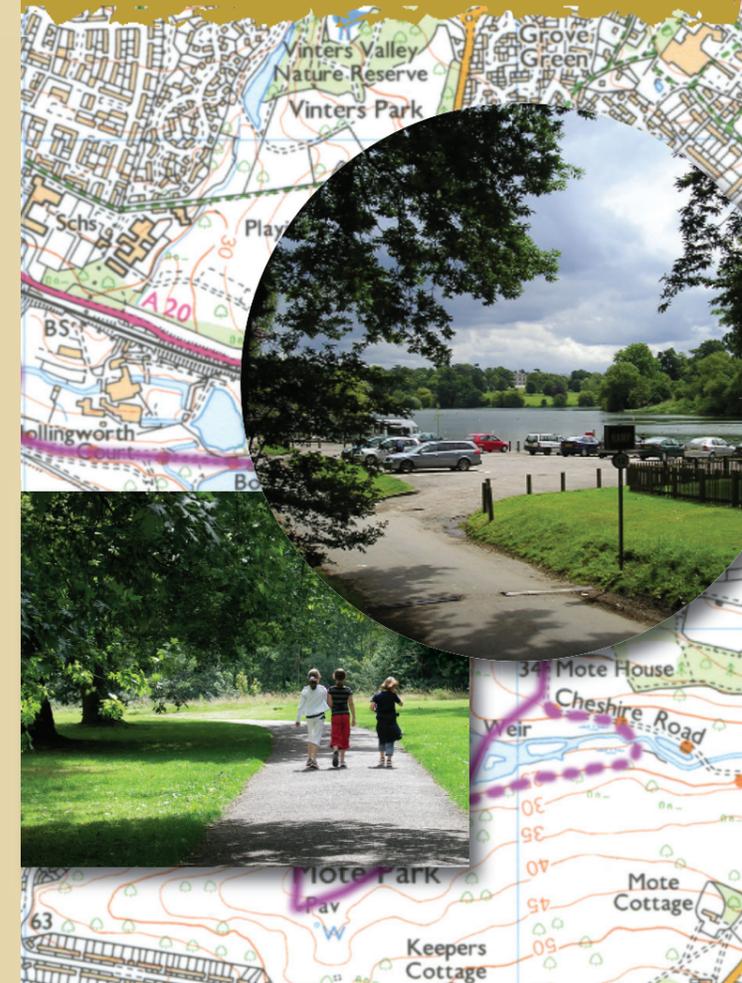
Take time to visit the c.14 All Saints Church and the Carriage Museum set up in the old Stables. In the church you will find the tomb of Lawrence Washington (ancestor of George) with stars and stripes on the family crest. In the graveyard lies buried William Shipley who founded the Royal Society of Arts in 1754. The College, next to the church, trained priests, and since the c.14 the Archbishops' Palace (now Registry Office) was used by the Archbishops of Canterbury as a country residence and a stopping place whilst on their travels.

**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 8 : Mote Park



improving our parks and open spaces



## Walk 8 : Mote Park

**Distance:** 3.75 miles (6.5 km)

**Time:** about 1.5 hours

**Suggested start/finish point:** All Saints Historic Area

**Suggested route-break points:** Ashford Road, Park and Ride

**Terrain:** varied, some unmade paths and gentle slopes, seats available along the route

**Refreshments:** available along the route

**Public toilets:** Mote Park (two)

**Public car parks:** Mote Park, Mote Park (School Lane), town centre car parks



Learn about Maidstone's heritage on this delightful walk that takes you from the medieval All Saints Historic Area and through the Grade II listed historic landscape of Mote Park. Take advantage of the many facilities for all the family on offer in the Park. Enjoy the beautiful panoramic view of the North Downs. Discover gems of historic architecture and a hidden oasis of green tranquillity not far from the town centre.



The walk starts in the All Saints Conservation Area, the historic heart of Maidstone. Cross Mill Street and follow Palace Avenue along the...

**1 Mill Pond** Made by damming the River Len. Beyond the Pond you see the white building in modernist style; built in 1938, now a car showroom. **On your right take a look at the...**

**2 Police Station and Magistrates' Court** Built in the 1930's in pseudo-Elizabethan style. **In front of you there is the imposing building of the...**

**3 Bingo Hall** Built in 1933 as a cinema. **Turn right into Lower Stone Street and left into Romney Place. Past the entrance to Sainsbury's car park, take the footpath down to the...**

**4 River Len** With its shady, overgrown banks, the river is a valuable riverside habitat in a valley between two busy roads.

It disappears for a quarter of a mile under the Chequers Mall Shopping Centre before it becomes the Mill Pond (1). You are now following a section of the Len Valley Walk that runs for 12 miles from Maidstone to Lenham. **Cross Square Hill and continue along the river past Sunningdale Court on your left. Cross the wooden bridge and follow a gentle slope up to a side gate into...**

**5 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



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public park in 1929. Picturesque scenery, natural habitats, notable trees and activities for visitors to enjoy. Follow the path to the Lake made by damming the River Len. Water flows out of the Lake through a sluice in the small square building (The Boathouse), and through the holes under the path leading up to the Cafeteria. Built to look modern on one side and like a ruin of a castle on the other; open every day. Return to the Boathouse and continue along the path up on the bank. **On your left, the Miniature Railway offers rides on Sundays in summer. On your right you may see anglers or members of the Sailing Club launching their boats. Cross the stone bridge with an overgrown pond on one side and a waterfall on the other, and follow the footpath towards...**