



**4 Loose Valley** Designated an historic Conservation Area and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, it is a 'post industrial' landscape of mill ponds and quarries reclaimed by nature. The stream supports beautiful and rich wetland habitats. **By the stream turn right and follow Woodbridge Drive, cross the busy Tovil Hill and turn right, then left into Church Street. On your right is...**



**5 St. Stephen's Graveyard** The church that stood in the centre has been demolished. **Follow Wharf Road, cross the River Medway and follow the winding Bower Lane until you come to...**

**6 Upper Fant Road** You are now in one of the old residential parts of Maidstone, dating back to Victorian times. Many of the houses still retain their original architectural features. **Between the numbers 141 and 143 turn right into...**

**7 Clare Park** An urban park with many facilities for all ages. Founded in 1923 by Sir Edward Sharp of Sharp's Toffees and named after his wife. **Walk across the park to Tonbridge Road and turn right. Cross the road safely using the traffic island. On the corner of St. Michael's Road you see...**

**8 St. Michael and All Angels' Church** Built of local ragstone in 1876. **On the other side of Tonbridge Road you pass the...**

**9 Methodist Church** Note the different pattern of ragstone walls and the small bell tower. **Follow Tonbridge Road to the entrance into...**

**10 Cornwallis Park** A small oasis of greenery with a play area, funded in 1895 by Herbert Monkton, Town Clerk, and by public subscription. **Stop at the upper end to look over the rooftops at the Weald and turn left into Cornwallis Road, then turn right into Bower Mount Road with its villas and mature trees. Cross London Road and walk down Buckland Hill. At the bottom you could take a detour under the railway bridge and into...**

**11 Whatman Park** Created in 1999 as part of the Millennium River Walk, 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. **Return to the railway line and follow it across the River Medway to...**

**12 Brenchley Gardens** A Victorian park with a wealth of historic features, colourful planting, peace and tranquillity. **Take one of the paths across the Gardens, walk towards Week Street and into Brewer Street. Here you enter the Holy Trinity Conservation Area set up to protect this c.19 residential part of Maidstone. Turn right and walk through the...**



**13 Burial Ground** With gravestones dating back to the mid c.19 and many mature trees, it is a pleasant shortcut between streets. **Turn right into Union Street and notice the unusual pale green building of the...**

**14 Methodist Church** Built in 1823, Grade II listed building of classical design. Note the boundary wall with wrought iron railings and gate. **Turn left into Church Street and walk towards...**

**15 Former Ophthalmic Hospital** Built of ragstone in 1846 in neo-Elizabethan style, a Grade II listed building, due to be converted into apartments. **Further along you see the...**

**16 Holy Trinity Church** Another early c.19 listed building now 'The Trinity Foyer' that offers supported accommodation and training to vulnerable young people. **Next to the church you will find the gate into...**

**17 Trinity Park** Former graveyard, now a small urban green space with a woodland feel and bluebells in spring. Relax there for a while before you continue down Church Street. **Cross King Street and walk through the Bus Station out into Romney Place. By the Sainsbury's car park take the footpath down towards the...**

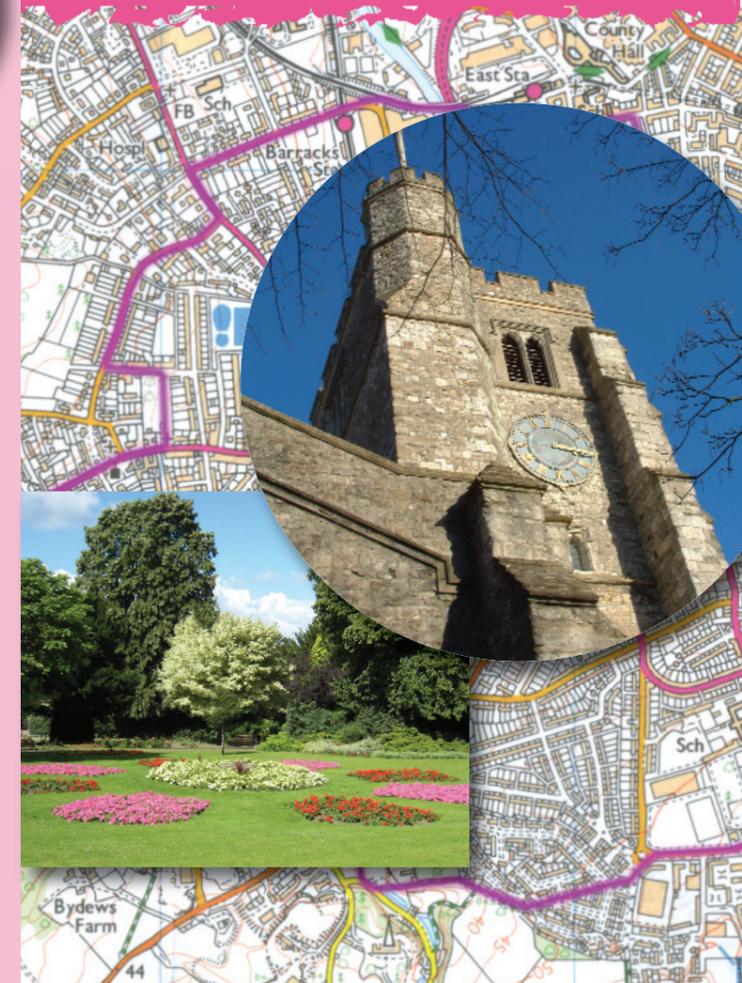
**18 River Len** With its shady, overgrown banks, the river is a valuable riverside habitat in a valley between two busy roads. You are now following a section of the Len Valley Walk that runs for 12 miles from Maidstone to Lenham. **Cross Square Hill Road, through the gate and continue on the path along the river until you return to Mote 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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# Walk Maidstone

## Walk 1 : Town Centre



improving our parks  
and open spaces

MAIDSTONE  
Borough Council

# Walk 1: Town Centre

**Distance:** 6.0 miles (9.5 km)

**Time:** about 2.5 hours

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

**Suggested route-break points:** Loose Road, Tovil Hill, Tonbridge Road, London Road, Brenchley Gardens, King Street

**Terrain:** mostly hard paths, some slopes. Seats available along route.

**Refreshments:** available along route

**Public toilets:** Mote Park, South Park, Clare Park, Whatman Park, Brenchley Gardens

**Public car parks:** town centre car parks, Mote Park, South Park



This walk takes you along leafy lanes and quiet streets of Maidstone and lets you discover the ring of large and small urban parks that surround the busy town centre. Explore them and enjoy their atmosphere. Stroll along historic streets of pretty terraced houses and ragstone churches. You may decide to take this walk in stages and take a bus back to your starting point.

**1 Mote Park** 180 hectares of parkland with a lake created on the River Len. Dating back to the Middle Ages, owned by the Earls of Romney and later by Viscounts Bearsted, this became a public park in 1929. Picturesque scenery, natural habitats, notable trees and activities for visitors to enjoy. **From the car park, follow the path past the Cafeteria and Miniature Golf Course towards...**

**2 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. **Take a look at the North Downs in the distance and follow Long Valley out of the park walking towards the town**

centre. The leafy Park Way takes you to Loose Road. On the other side, stop and take a break in...

**3 South Park** A public park since 1929, with a range of facilities including tennis courts, a skate park, and some original features (e.g. metal railing in Armstrong Road and fountain basin). **Follow Armstrong Road, turn left at the roundabout, then right into Forest Hill. From the corner of Newchurch Road, follow the tarmac path to the end. Continue on the unmade path, straight ahead and down into the northern end of...**

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