# C Edenbridge Figure of 8 walk

A gentle stroll on the Kent/Surrey border, with the option of doing the first leg of the Eden Valley Walk.



Length	<b>Main Walk:</b> 14¼ km (8.8 miles). Three hours 5 minutes walking time. For the whole excursion including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 7 hours.
	<b>Extended Walk, finishing in Hever:</b> 18 km (11.2 miles). Four hours walking time.
	<b>Eden Valley Walk, as far as Hever<sup>†</sup>:</b> 12¼ km (7.6 miles). Two hours 40 minutes walking time.
	† You can use this option as the start of the full EVW. See Walk Options below.
OS Map	Explorer 147. Edenbridge Town, map reference TQ445466, is in Kent, 8 km <b>SE</b> of Oxted.
Toughnes s	1 out of 10 (2 for the Extended Walk).
Features	This easy walk in the Eden Valley consists of two loops around the small town of <b>Edenbridge</b> , near the Kent/Surrey border. A settlement developed here at a river crossing on the London-Lewes Roman road, still evident in the town's long straight High Street. In the 12 <sup>th</sup> C an abbot called Eadhelm ordered a bridge to be built over the river and the Anglo-Saxon "Eadhelmsbrigge" gave its name to the <b>River Eden</b> as well as evolving into the modern town name. There are still many medieval buildings on the town's High Street, one of which houses the <b>Eden Valley Museum</b> (free entry but limited opening hours).
	The first of the two loops is through farmland and meadows in the gentle

The first of the two loops is through farmland and meadows in the gentle slopes to the east of the town, the second through water meadows surrounding the River Eden and two of its tributaries, Kent Brook and Eden Brook. This western loop turns back towards Edenbridge at Cernes Farm, a remote spot which is the unlikely starting point of the **Eden Valley Walk** (EVW), and follows this waymarked trail back to the town to complete the **Main Walk**.

Edenbridge was severely affected by floods in 1958 and 1968, and markers showing the height of the flood waters can be found around the town. Better flood defences have since been built but parts of the water meadows might be waterlogged in winter or after prolonged rain.

Walk After completing both loops you could continue along the waymarked EVW
 Options for an extra hour and return from Hever station, although this Extended
 Walk does contain a couple of minor overlaps with the eastern loop. Note also that there are no more refreshment places along this final leg (see Tea below).

If you are planning to do the complete **Eden Valley Walk** (in one or more stages) you could skip the eastern loop altogether and go directly to the EVW's starting point at Cernes Farm, with a single refreshment break when passing through Edenbridge after the western loop. For a **Long Walk** you could pick up the onward directions from Hever station in this walk's companion: the Hever to Tonbridge walk (#345) covers the EVW's continuation through Hever village and Penshurst to Tonbridge.

**Transport** There are two stations in Edenbridge, but the one called Edenbridge is on the Redhill-Tonbridge branch line with no direct services from London. It is much more convenient to travel to **Edenbridge Town** on the Oxted-Uckfield line, with an hourly service (Mon-Sat) from London Bridge taking about 40 minutes (on Sundays you have to travel from Victoria and change at Oxted, with a longer journey time of around one hour). The cheapest ticket for the Main Walk is a *return to Edenbridge Stations via East Croydon*, which is valid at both Edenbridge stations. For the Extended Walk you would need a *return to Hever*, but this is only marginally more expensive.

*If you are doing the full Eden Valley Walk, the more expensive return ticket to Edenbridge Stations marked "Any Permitted" is valid for returning from (or via) Tonbridge.* 

There are a few bus services in the area but the compact nature of this walk means that it will nearly always be quicker to head for the nearest station if you want to abandon it.

If driving, there is a free car park in the centre of Edenbridge, near the church. Edenbridge Town's car park is along Station Approach and costs around £4 Mon-Fri, free at weekends; the one at Hever costs £3.50 at all times (2024).

SuggesteTake the train nearest to 10:00 from London Bridge to Edenbridged TrainTown (the next one would also be fine). You could do the Eden ValleyWalk at any convenient time, depending on whether you were planning to<br/>carry on past Hever.

Lunch There are two pubs in historic buildings on **Edenbridge**'s High Street. The suggested place was originally **The Old Eden** (01732-862398; closed Tue)

at #121, although this has not been tried since it reopened under new management in May 2024. The alternative is **Ye Olde Crown** (01732-926350) at #74-76, which has resumed serving food at lunchtime. There are benches nearby on both sides of the river which would make good picnic spots.

Edenbridge used to have a third pub but the **King & Queen** at #81 has permanently closed.

TeaAs well as the pubs listed above, there are two cafés on Edenbridge's<br/>High Street: Eden Bakes (07928-932699; open to 5pm Tue-Thu, 11pm Fri-<br/>Sat, 2pm Sun; closed Mon) at #86; and a Costa (0333-003 5883; open to<br/>5.30pm Mon-Sat, 4.30pm Sun) at #64.

There are no more places on the approach to **Hever** station, so for refreshment at the end of this ending you would have to make an out-and-back extension to the **King Henry VIII** inn (01732-862457) in Hever village,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  km away on the continuation of the EVW (in Walk #345).

Help Us! After the walk, please leave a comment, it really helps. Thanks!You can also upload photos to the SWC Group on Flickr (upload your photos) and videos to Youtube. This walk's tags are:

By Car Start TN8 5LP

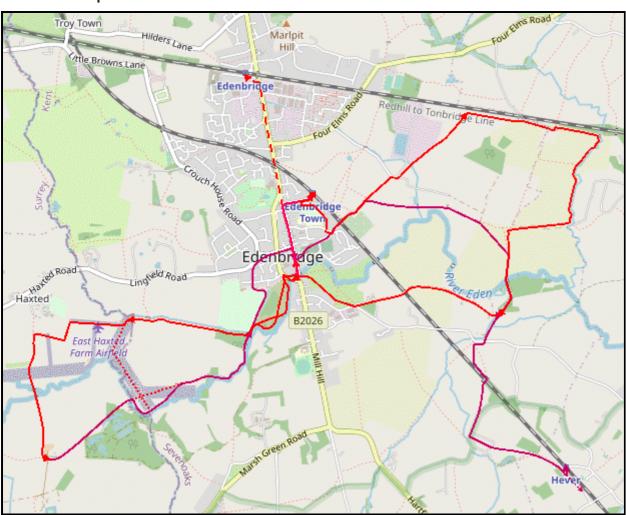
 
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Version Jul-24 Sean

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# Walk Directions

## Walk Map



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## Walk Options

- M. Main Walk (14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km)
- a. Extended Walk, finishing in Hever (18 km)
- b. Eden Valley Walk, as far as Hever (12¼ km)

## Walk Directions

If you are doing the Eden Valley Walk, start at §D.

#### A. Edenbridge Town Station to the Redhill-Tonbridge line (2 km)

- 1. Arriving from London, go through the subway near the London end of the platform to leave from the other side. Go a short way along Station Approach, then at the end of a row of garages *turn left* up a residential street (Grange Close). At the top turn left again and follow the road round to the right.
- 2. Keep ahead through vehicle barriers into another residential street (Greenfields). Follow it down to a T-junction with Forge Croft and turn left. In 75m *turn left* yet again onto an unsurfaced lane with a concrete footpath marker. The lane bends right as it climbs and crosses the railway line.

Looking off to the left, you might be slightly dismayed by your lack of progress from the station.

3. After crossing the railway ignore a footpath on the left and follow the lane down a slope. At the bottom go through a wooden kissing gate ahead and *veer right* through a belt of trees into the corner of a field. Bear left to go along the field edge.

- 4. In the left-hand field corner *keep ahead* through a gap into the next field. Bear slightly right to follow a faint grassy path across it, heading **NE** and passing just to the right of a pole carrying power lines near the far side. Go out through a wooden kissing gate and turn right briefly onto a lane.
- 5. In 50m *turn left* in front of the entrance to some small business units, going through a kissing gate and along the right-hand edge of a small field. On the far side go through another gate and across a ditch to continue on a long enclosed path, still heading NE. At the far end bear slightly right to go along the left-hand edge of a large field, with a line of trees on your left.
- 6. In the field corner go through a metal side gate into the bottom corner of a large meadow, with no clear path ahead. Carry on in much the same direction, passing to the right of a tree-lined pond. At the top of the meadow *turn right* to head **E**, with the Redhill-Tonbridge line<sup>1</sup> in a shallow cutting on your left.

#### **B.** The Redhill-Tonbridge line to Delaware Farm (3 km)

- 7. Go along the top of the meadow, parallel to the railway (which you will be closely tracking for the next 1 km). In the corner go over a plank footbridge and through a metal gate to continue along the edge of a farm field, with the railway now on a low embankment. In 75m *veer left* up the bank to a signposted footpath junction by a level crossing.
- 8. Do <u>not</u> cross the tracks but take the tree-lined farm track leading away from the crossing, which stays fairly close to the railway. In 250m *keep ahead* where the track swings round to the right. Go past a vehicle barrier and *turn left* as indicated onto another farm track taking you back towards the railway, although once again you will <u>not</u> be crossing the tracks.

The rights of way around Medhurst Row were diverted in 2020, so are shown differently on old OS maps.

- 9. Follow the track round to the right to go all the way along the field edge, parallel to the railway. In the far corner *turn right* in front of a concrete farm bridge, as indicated by a new footpath signpost. Follow the winding field edge as it heads roughly S for 800m, with a tree-lined stream on your left.
- 10. Shortly after passing another farm bridge off to the left (and with a "Private Land" notice ahead) *veer right* at a footpath waymarker post to go gently uphill across the field on a clear path. Near the top the path passes to the left of an isolated tree and you leave the field through a large gap in the top corner.
- 11. At this footpath junction *veer left* onto a broad path going down across another farm field, heading S. This leads past the left-hand end of a hedge running along the bottom of the field, where it merges with another footpath from the right. Keep ahead down a grassy track with a line of small trees on the right.
- 12. At the bottom go through a metal kissing gate to cross the **River Eden**<sup>2</sup> on a concrete farm bridge. Continue along a track (which soon becomes a surfaced driveway), with woodland on the left and some well-kept gardens on the right. At the end of the wood the drive bends right, then later swings right and left past a large pond. *This location is shown as Delaware Farm on old OS maps, but has long since been transformed into a cluster of private houses.*

#### C. Delaware Farm to the Stone Bridge (1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km)

13. Almost immediately after this zig-zag *turn right* to go across a gravel parking area, with an inconspicuous footpath waymarker post confirming that this is a right of way. On the far side take a path to the right of a metal fieldgate, between high hedges and then over a stile. Maintain direction on a faint grassy path across a meadow.

- 14. On the far side go over a stile in the tree boundary and turn left to go along the edge of a long meadow for 250m, with occasional glimpses of the river about 50m off to your right. In the corner go through a metal kissing gate and keep ahead along the left-hand edge of a large farm field, with a hedge on your left.
- 15. The footpath eventually bears left into a tree tunnel and climbs gently to a brick bridge across a long straight stretch of the Oxted–Uckfield railway line (with Edenbridge Town station 1 km to the right and Hever station 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km to the left). Carry on across a small field towards the buildings of Burnt Oak Farm.
- 16. Go over a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate to continue on a tree-lined track to the left of the farm buildings. Skirt around another fieldgate and keep ahead down the farm drive. At the bottom do <u>not</u> go out onto Hever Road but *turn right* through a wooden kissing gate in the hedge to the left of a metal fieldgate, into the top of some more meadows.
- Take the left-hand of two faint grassy paths sloping down across the meadow, heading WNW towards a wooden kissing gate in the far corner. Go through this to continue along the top of a low man-made embankment (part of the town's flood defences).
- 18. The grassy path eventually curves left and comes out by a roundabout at the southern end of Edenbridge High Street, with the town's **Stone Bridge**<sup>3</sup> across the river on the right. The walk continues from the patch of grass across the road with the town sign, a possible picnic spot. **The Old Eden** is on the left just past the roundabout with the town's bypass; **Ye Olde Crown** and a few other eateries can be found along the High Street to the right.

Continue the directions at §E.

#### D. Edenbridge Town Station to the Stone Bridge (¾ km)

- 19. Arriving from London, go through the subway near the London end of the platform to leave from the other side. Go all the way along Station Approach and turn left at the end onto the long straight High Street. In 300m you pass a **Costa** on the right, followed by the **Eden Valley Museum**<sup>4</sup> and **Ye Olde Crown**<sup>5</sup>.
- 20. At the junction with Church Street you pass Eden Bakes on the right, opposite the (closed) King & Queen pub. Continue past some fast-food shops and cross the River Eden<sup>2</sup> on the footbridge to the left of the Stone Bridge<sup>3</sup>. Cross the road and go onto a patch of grass with the town sign.

#### E. The Stone Bridge to East Haxted Airstrip (1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km)

- 21. From the patch of grass head W past an information panel about the Great Stone Bridge Trust<sup>6</sup>. Cross the river on the modern road bridge carrying the town's bypass (Mont St Aignan Way<sup>7</sup>), with a fine view back along the tree-lined river to the Stone Bridge.
- 22. Cross the main road carefully at the traffic island and turn left onto the tarmac path opposite, back towards the river. Bear left by an information panel about the water meadows<sup>8</sup> and go down a slope into this area.

If these meadows are inundated you could skirt around them on the recreation ground off to the right, but in that case there is likely to be more flooding in the low-lying area further up the valley, making the whole western loop problematic.

- 23. In the meadows take the broad grassy path alongside the river (the right-hand path is an alternative, but is the suggested return route). As it approaches a weir *fork right* away from the river to head **SW** through a lightly wooded area.
  - For a slightly longer route you could detour off to the left to explore the southern part of these water meadows.

- 24. The path eventually narrows and goes through an overgrown area into the southeastern corner of the town's large recreation ground. Bear left and go up to a wooden footbridge in the tree boundary 50m away, where **Kent Brook**<sup>9</sup> flows into the River Eden.
- 25. Cross the brook and *turn right* on the other side (the path ahead is the return route). Follow the path along the edge of a copse for 250m, heading **W** parallel to the brook (hidden in the trees on your right). After the path emerges into open countryside keep ahead on this side of the tree-lined brook.
- 26. In 500m keep left at a waymarked footpath junction, merging with the rerouted Vanguard Way<sup>10</sup> (VGW) from across the brook. In a further 150m the path goes through a narrow gap in a hedge with a rusty iron framework and a warning notice that "Footpath Crosses Taxiway/Airstrip".

You will need to stay alert for light aircraft coming in to land while in this large area.

#### F. East Haxted Airstrip to Cernes Farm (2 km)

- 27. Walk along the broad grass taxiway for 50m and then *turn right* onto another taxiway going gently uphill.
  - For a short cut you could keep ahead at this junction. This taxiway turns half-left after 200m and meets the return route in a further 500m or so. This is not a right of way but local dog-walkers seem to treat this area as Open Access land. If you take this short cut (saving 2 km), turn left to rejoin the main route and resume the directions at [37] in §G.
- 28. For the main route head W along the taxiway for 450m, up to a line of trees with a prominent yellow notice about aircraft movement next to a footpath signpost. *Turn left* as indicated to go gently downhill along the tree-lined field edge, heading S.
- 29. At the end of the trees *veer right* across a ditch to continue along the right-hand edge of another field, heading **W** again. In 250m you come to a footpath T-junction and turn left onto a grassy farm track, heading **S** underneath power lines (which you can use as a guide for the rest of this section).
- 30. Almost immediately *fork left* off the track to stay on the right of way, a potentially overgrown path between high hedges. In 250m *keep left* where the path splits and follow it through a tree boundary into the corner of a meadow.
- 31. Keep ahead on a faint grassy path near the right-hand edge of the meadow, heading for a footbridge with metal handrails 150m away. The footpath takes you across two such bridges in quick succession, the first over the **River Eden** again and the second over **Eden Brook**<sup>11</sup> (they merge just off to the left).
- 32. Carry on in the same direction across another meadow. On the far side go over a stile and across a plank footbridge into a field. Continue in much the same direction, gradually approaching the left-hand side of this long narrow field. On the far side go through a wide gap in the trees and continue near the left-hand edge of the next field.
- 33. Go through a gap in the next line of trees, passing the buildings of Cernes Farm off to the left. At the end of the hedge on your left *veer left* at a three-way footpath signpost, towards a metal kissing gate. Go through this and up to a new footpath signpost by a farm track.
- G. Cernes Farm to Kent Brook (2 km)
- 34. The signpost (installed in May 2021) confirms that this is the starting point of the **Eden Valley Walk**<sup>12</sup> (EVW) to Tonbridge, with the VGW turning off to the right. Go straight across the farm track and continue along the left-hand edge of a field. In the corner go over a stile in the hedge and bear left, following a faint grassy path heading **NE** across a large field.

- 35. On the far side go over a stile beside a wooden fieldgate into **Gabriel's Fishery**<sup>13</sup>. Follow a broad straight track through this mixed area of scrubland, wet woodland and fishing lakes, joining an unsurfaced roadway along the way. After going through a wooden gate *keep ahead* across a field used by campers, where the roadway veers right towards a parking area.
- 36. On the far side go back across the River Eden on a narrow concrete footbridge, emerging into another part of the airstrip. To stay on the right of way (and the published route of the EVW) *turn right* onto a grassy path following the course of the river round to the left in a wide arc.
  - A faint grassy path going straight ahead after the footbridge suggests that some walkers take a more direct route here, slanting across the main airstrip. If you are tempted by this short cut you need to be extra-vigilant to watch for light aircraft coming into land.
- 37. On both routes you pass the end of a long taxiway stretching off to the left, from which you would turn left if you had taken the short cut mentioned in §F. The riverside path eventually crosses the main airstrip near a WW II pillbox and rejoins the direct route at a narrow gap in a hedge with another yellow warning notice about aircraft movement.
- 38. Make your way past a rusty iron framework to leave the farm airstrip and follow a clear grassy path ahead, staying close to a tree-lined stream on your right. In 300m the path goes through a copse containing the remains of an overgrown moat, shown as **Devil's Den**<sup>14</sup> on the OS map.
- 39. The main river is now on your right and you simply follow the riverside path for a further 500m, curving round to the left. After going through a lightly wooded area you meet your outward route at the wooden footbridge over Kent Brook. Go back across this into the corner of the recreation ground.

If you are doing the Eden Valley Walk (as published), go to §J.

- H. Kent Brook to Church Street via the meadows (1 km)
- 40. Start by briefly retracing your outward route, along the right-hand side of the recreation ground for 50m and then the narrow path on the right leading into the water meadows. For a different route back *fork right* at the first path junction, soon going through a line of trees.
- 41. Unless you want to detour further into the southern part of the meadows, *fork left* and stay on the main grassy path as it gradually curves round to the left. In 200m keep ahead at a main crosspaths (crossing over the suggested outward route in §E) and continue through a lightly wooded area.
- 42. In a further 300m the path merges with the riverside path in front of the modern road bridge. Go up the grassy slope and *fork right* at the top, briefly retracing your outward route. Cross the town's bypass carefully at the traffic island and turn right, then immediately *veer left* onto a tarmac path which runs alongside the tree-lined river.
- 43. At a seating area in front of the Stone Bridge take the path on the left curving up to the High Street. Unless you want to (re)visit The Old Eden (off to the right) *turn left* onto the High Street, passing some fast-food shops. At the junction with Church Street Eden Bakes is opposite the (closed) King & Queen pub.
  - If you are finishing in Edenbridge the onward route along the High Street passes more refreshment places.

If you are doing the Extended Walk to Hever, go to §K.

#### I. Church Street to Edenbridge stations (<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> • 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> km)

	From the junction with Church Street head <b>N</b> along the High Street, passing <b>Ye Olde Crown</b> and later a <b>Costa</b> , both on the left. After going over a small rise, and just before the road swings left towards traffic lights, Edenbridge Town station is signposted to the right. <i>It will rarely be worth returning from the town's station on the Redhill-</i> <i>Tonbridge line, but directions to it have been included in [46] in case</i> <i>there is disruption on the Oxted-Uckfield line.</i> <b>Finishing at Edenbridge Town Station (+1/4 km)</b>	Edenbridge
-91	<b>Turn right</b> and go all the way along Station Approach to Edenbridge Town station. Platform 1 on the near side is for trains to London; if the ticket office is closed, the entrance is on the right.	
16	Finishing at Edephyidge Station (11 km)	

#### 46. Finishing at Edenbridge Station (+1 km)

- a. Carry on along the High Street to the traffic lights and bear right onto the B2026. Follow this long straight road for nearly 1 km, passing under a railway bridge carrying the Oxted-Uckfield line and later going past a small industrial estate.
- b. In front of the railway bridge carrying the Redhill-Tonbridge line *turn left* onto a tarmac path sloping up to Platform 1 of Edenbridge station, for trains to Redhill. If you want to travel back via Tonbridge, cross the footbridge to Platform 2.

#### J. Kent Brook to Church Street on the EVW (1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km)

The water meadows were not accessible when the EVW was devised in the 1980s and so its route is not as straightforward as it could be.

- 47. To stay on the published route of the EVW, go all the way along the right-hand side of the recreation ground. At the far end *turn left* in front of a curious **iron structure**<sup>15</sup> on a low embankment (briefly heading away from the town centre).
- 48. Head for a waymarker post by the recreation ground's car park, 100m away. *Turn right* as indicated and go all the way along a residential street (Coomb Field), then turn right onto Lingfield Road. In 200m go straight across the town's bypass at the traffic lights and along a short side street to the High Street.
- 49. Unless you want to visit the **Costa** (on the left) *turn right* onto the High Street, passing **Ye Olde Crown** as you repeat a short stretch of the outward route in §D. At the junction with Church Street **Eden Bakes** is opposite the (closed) **King & Queen** pub.
  - For the town's other pub you would have to continue along the High Street for a further 200m to find **The Old Eden** on the other side of the Stone Bridge, then return to this junction.

#### K. Church Street to Delaware Farm (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> km)

- 50. From the High Street head **E** along Church Street, towards the church. Go through its lychgate into the churchyard of **Ss Peter and Paul**<sup>16</sup> and bear left to go past the church tower (or detour to its entrance on the south side if you want to look inside). Follow a tarmac path along an avenue of lime trees and then the north side of the churchyard.
- 51. Near the far end leave the churchyard through an opening on the left and go along a short alleyway to the end of a cul-de-sac (Churchfield). Follow this out to a T-junction (with Forge Croft) and bear right to continue up an unsurfaced lane with a concrete footpath marker. The lane bends right as it climbs and crosses the Oxted–Uckfield railway line not far from Edenbridge Town station.

- 52. After crossing the railway ignore a footpath on the left and follow the lane down a slope. At the bottom go through a wooden kissing gate ahead and *veer right* through a belt of trees into the corner of a field. Bear left to go along the field edge.
- 53. In the field corner **turn right** as indicated by a waymarker post to head **E** along its edge. In the next corner go through a new metal gate by a large oak tree and continue along the left-hand edge of another field. Cross a ditch on a footbridge and keep ahead across the next field, with the buildings of Skinners Farm away to your left and a meander of the River Eden not far off to the right.
- 54. Keep to the right of a wire fence enclosing a portion of the field. On the far side cross another ditch and go through a gate in the hedge. Bear slightly right to follow a faint grassy path climbing gently up the next field, passing to the right of a clump of trees concealing a pond.
- 55. At the top go through a new metal gate and take the *right-hand of two footpaths* ahead, slanting downhill across a field (possibly with no clear path). You gradually approach a hedge along the bottom of the field, at the end of which you *turn half-right* onto a grassy farm track going downhill with a line of small trees on the right.
- 56. At the bottom go through a metal kissing gate to cross the **River Eden**<sup>2</sup> on a concrete farm bridge. Continue along a track (which soon becomes a surfaced driveway), with woodland on the left and some well-kept gardens on the right. At the end of the wood the drive bends right, then later swings right and left past a large pond. *This location is shown as Delaware Farm on old OS maps, but has long since been transformed into a cluster of private houses.*

#### L. Delaware Farm to Hever Station (2 km)

- 57. Follow the drive out to Hever Road. Cross the road carefully and turn right onto the signposted footpath, a fenced path established to avoid 75m of awkward road walking. At the end go through a metal gate (opposite the original way in from the road) into a large field.
- 58. There is a high embankment on the far side of the field, and a signpost by the road indicates two footpaths towards it. Do <u>not</u> head for the steps up the embankment but *turn half-left* to head **S** across the field. On reaching the far side (where you might find a dilapidated waymarker post confirming the right of way) turn left to go along the field edge.
- 59. About 100m before the field corner *turn right* through a metal gate in the fence and follow a path under a high brick bridge carrying the Oxted–Uckfield railway line. This leads into a field where you *turn half-left* to go across it, skirting a pond on your right along the way.
- 60. On the far side make your way past a vehicle barrier and turn right onto a minor road (Lydens Lane), taking care as there is no pavement. In 150m you pass the driveway to Oast Farm on the left. Just past this drive *turn left* through a small metal gate in the hedge onto a new public footpath.

In 2023 the right of way from Lydens Lane to Hever station was diverted away from the cluster of houses at Lydens Farm, where it used to take an intrusive route through the grounds of an oast house and barn conversion.

61. Head directly away from the lane, aiming for a pair of small metal gates at the top of the field, 200m away. Go through these gates (crossing a farm track in between) into a very large field and head towards the far end of the tree boundary on its left-hand side, where there is a waymarker post. Continue in much the same direction towards the far left-hand field corner, with the platforms of Hever station coming into view on the left.

62. In the field corner go through a metal kissing gate onto a narrow path through some undergrowth, which soon comes to a path junction alongside a new chainlink fence. Unless you are continuing on the EVW towards the King Henry VIII inn in Hever village (1½ km away) *turn sharp left* onto a path sloping down to Platform 1, for trains to London.



#### Walk Notes

- 1. The **Redhill-Tonbridge line** opened in 1842 as part of the main line between London and Dover, and retained that status until the direct line via Sevenoaks opened in 1868.
- 2. The source of the **River Eden** is in the Titsey Estate, on the slopes of the North Downs near Oxted. It is one of the main tributaries of the River Medway, joining it near Penshurst.
- 3. The single-arch **Stone Bridge** was built in 1836, replacing an earlier six-arch bridge.
- 4. The Eden Valley Museum is a local history museum in a Grade II\* listed medieval building on Edenbridge High Street, originally Doggett's Farmhouse but now called Church House. One of its exhibits (a needlework box made by a German POW in World War II) featured in the BBC's "A History of the World in 100 Objects".
- 5. **Ye Old Crown** dates from the 14<sup>th</sup>C and has an unusual bridging sign, spanning the High Street. This coaching inn was a haunt of the Ranslye Gang, a notorious band of smugglers in the early 19<sup>th</sup>C.
- 6. The **Great Stone Bridge Trust** was established in the 16<sup>th</sup>C to pay for twelve Bridge Wardens and provide funds for repairs. Its funds are now used for the benefit of Edenbridge generally.
- 7. Edenbridge is twinned with **Mont-Saint-Aignan** in France, hence the name of the town's bypass.
- 8. **Edenbridge Water Meadows** were taken under the control of the Great Stone Bridge Trust in 2015. The 16 acres are actively managed for the benefit of wildlife, with visitors being asked to stay on the mown paths.
- 9. **Kent Brook** is a minor tributary of the River Eden, with its source in the Greensand Hills near Limpsfield Chart. It forms the county boundary between Surrey and Kent for part of its length.
- 10. The **Vanguard Way** runs for 105 km "from the suburbs to the sea", from Croydon in south London to Newhaven in East Sussex. A new section between Troy Town and Cernes Farm replaced the original route via Haxted Mill, which included an awkward stretch along Dwelly Lane.
- 11. **Eden Brook** is one of the three main tributaries of the River Eden, with a strong enough flow to be mistaken for the main river (it powered watermills at Felbridge and Lingfield). Its source is in the High Weald near East Grinstead.
- 12. The **Eden Valley Walk** runs for 24 km, linking the Vanguard Way with the Wealdway and the Medway Valley Walk in Tonbridge. There are few rights of way alongside the River Eden itself and from Penshurst much of the route actually follows the River Medway.
- 13. **Gabriel's Fishery** was created in the early 20<sup>th</sup>C, transforming some arable farmland into an area of lakes and surrounding woodland.
- 14. **Devil's Den** was a medieval name for earthworks of unknown origin (as was Devil's Highway for Roman roads whose origins had been forgotten). There is no trace of a farmstead which might have existed on this site.
- 15. The **iron structure** was apparently made to help the town's tug-of-war team practise.
- 16. **Ss Peter and Paul, Edenbridge** was rebuilt and extended in the 13<sup>th</sup>C and there is little trace of an earlier Norman church. It contains a set of stained glass windows by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Burne-Jones in the east wall, some fine memorials and a poignant tombstone to Ann Jemett. The tower clock has an hour hand only.

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