


East Peckam Walk Summary

Distance: 3 miles (4.7 km) - allow 1hr 30mins

 **Start/finish:** East Peckham village centre

 **Ground conditions:** The walk is fairly flat, and the majority is on footpaths by the river. Some parts become muddy during the winter. There are a few steps up and down to bridges. The walk takes you through a variety of fields, scrub and woodland.

Refreshments: There are a few shops and pubs around East Peckham or the Man of Kent pub on route at Little Mill.
Tel 01622 871345

 **Toilets:** There are public toilets at East Peckham.

Grid ref: East Peckham Village TQ 667, 486

Ordinance Survey map: Explorer 136

Travel Info

By train

The nearest train station is at Beltring, 2 miles away.

By Car

From the A228 follow the signs to East Peckham

Parking

There is a free car park in the village centre- see the route map for details.

Bus

Buses leave regularly from Maidstone and Tonbridge directions and stop outside the Merry Boys Pub in the village centre.

FOR MORE INFO ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT GO TO
www.traveline.info OR CALL **0871 200 22 33**



Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) is a not for profit organisation that works to enhance and protect the local countryside in the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge. MVCP encourage people to explore and enjoy this unique part of Kent.

These leaflets have been produced by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership as part of their Riverside Communities Project.

To find out more about the Partnership and the Riverside Communities Project visit **www.medwayvalley.org** or call **01622 683695**

This leaflet is available in alternative formats.

The information on this leaflet is for guidance only and condition may vary. For any problems concerning the paths, please tell us on Kent Report Line **0845 345 0210**



With kind support from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and the Ernest Cook Trust

East Peckham River Walk

An excellent walk starting and finishing in the village, taking you along a quiet stretch of the River Medway.



The River Medway near East Peckham



Supported by
The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



East Peckham Walk



Calm along the River Medway

The walk at East Peckham is about 3 miles long. It is a pleasant walk from the village centre, mainly on footpaths by the river and a small amount on pavements or quiet roads. The walk is flat with a few steps up and down to the bridges that cross the River.

Parking is available for free in the East Peckham Village Centre, opposite the library and post office.



Look out for:

Man of Kent pub – A coaching inn which dates to 1588, with low-beamed ceilings, oak doors and an inglenook fireplace.

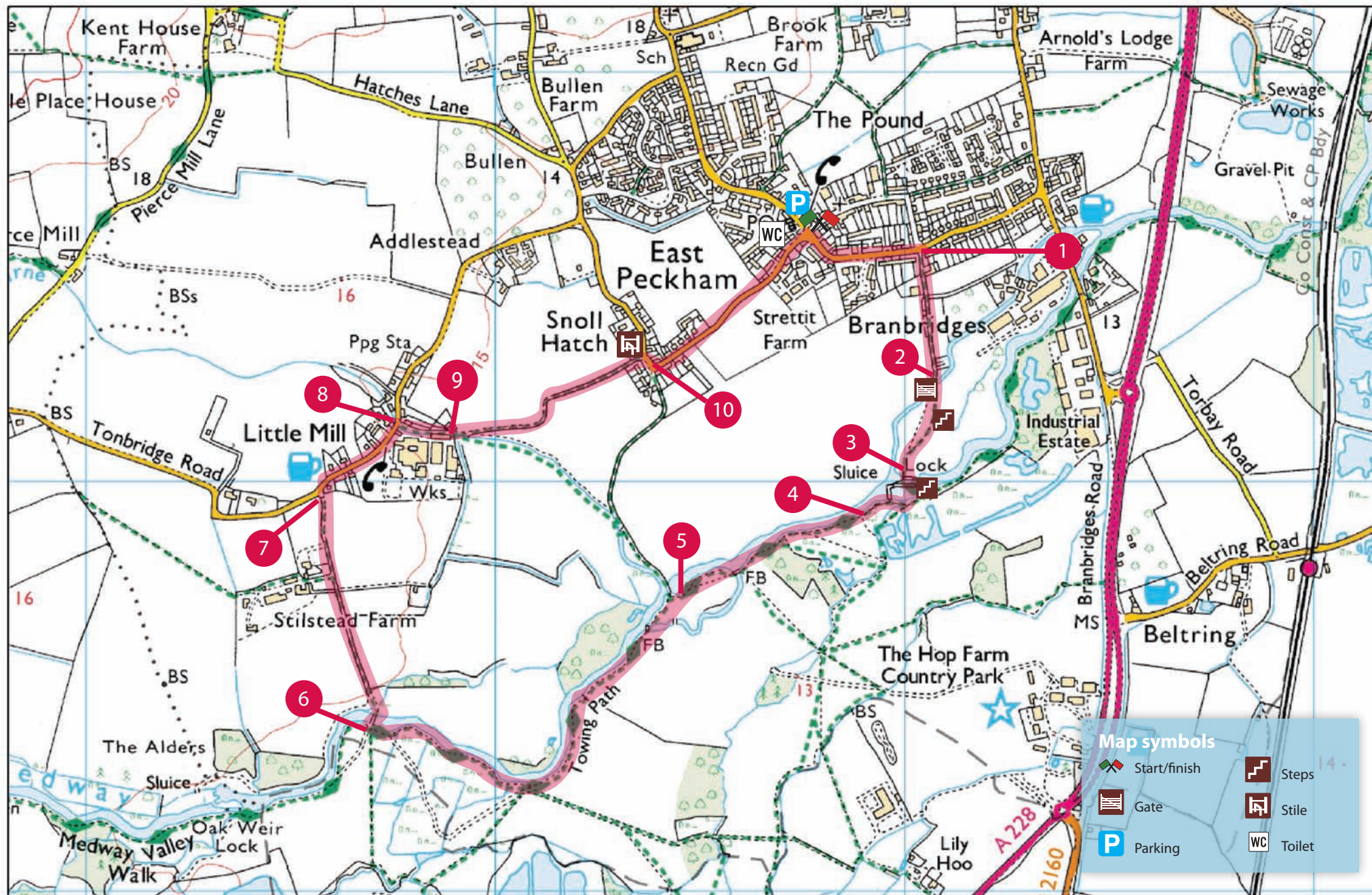
One of the tributaries to the River Medway, the **River Bourne**, joins the River Medway along this walk. The Bourne was once a productive river and used to power many mills. It is unsurprising -given the name - that a Mill used to exist at Little Mill on the Bourne. Now part of the building is demolished and part is converted.

Kent was the most successful area in the UK for hop farming. The walk takes you by the back of the **Hop Farm Country Park** which hosts the largest group of Victorian Oast Houses in the world.

Facts

Walter Arnold, from East Peckham, received notoriety as the first person in Britain to be successfully prosecuted for speeding - travelling at four times the speed limit (actually just 8 mph, as the speed limit at the time was just 2mph). He was fined 1 shilling, plus costs. He was caught by a policeman who gave chase on his bicycle.

Traditionally, the Medway is seen as dividing the old Kentish kingdoms – reflected in the 'Man (or Maid) of Kent' and 'Kentish Man' – depending upon which side of the Medway you are born. Those born to the East are 'Men of Kent', while those born to the West are 'Kentish Men'. Thus those born in Yalding (to the East) would be 'Men of Kent', while those born in Watlington and East Peckham (both to the West of the Medway) would be 'Kentish Men'.



Produced by the KCC Analysis Information Team (AIT)

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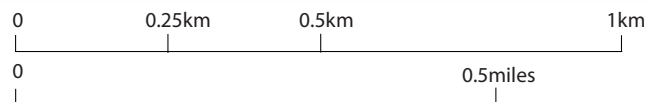
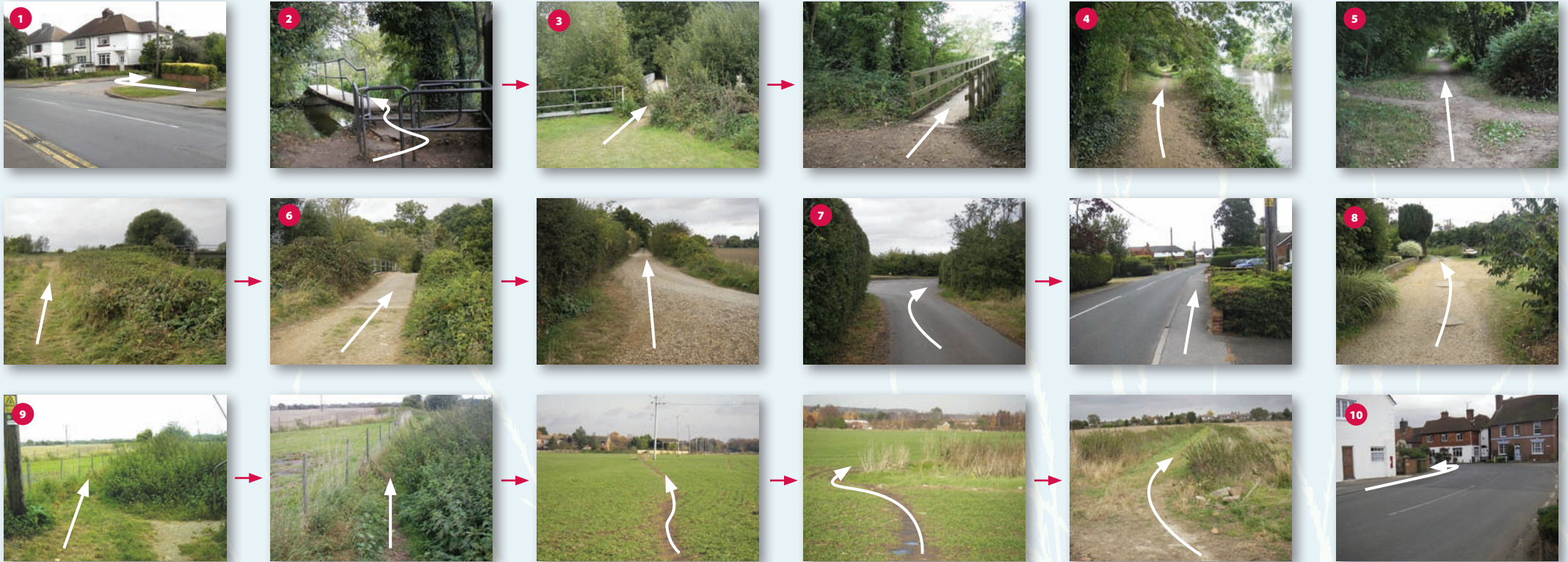


Photo guide



Directions

1 From the car park turn left on to Old Road, walk along Old Road for approximately 200 metres until you reach Pinkham Gardens, opposite Orchard Road. Turn right into Pinkham Gardens and follow the road which becomes an unmade lane.

2 Go through the kissing gates and over small bridge.

Once over the bridge follow the path straight ahead until you reach the lock.

3 Walk over the Sluice Weir Lock and footbridge (footbridge is to the left of the lock).

Once over footbridge turn right.

Follow the path for a short distance and then take the next footbridge on your right.

4 Once over the footbridge, bare left to follow the path by the riverside. The path takes you around the back of The Hop Farm, over a footbridge and through some trees.

5 At the footpath crossroads (there will be a large footbridge to your right) carry straight on, keeping the river on your right.

Follow the path with the river on your right. It will take you through a variety of wooded areas, open fields, over footbridges and along narrow paths.

6 At the next crossroads turn right on to the track and over the bridge. Follow the track past Stilstead Farm, along a quiet road.

7 You will reach a T-junction with a larger road. Turn right on to the road. Take care on this corner, the pavement starts a few metres along on the right.

8 Follow the road to Little Mill, opposite the Man of Kent pub walk over a stream (in fact the River Bourne) and take the footpath to the right past some houses.

9 At the end of the houses, the path divides. Keep straight on following the path by a small section of fence, then follow the line into the field under the power cables. The path will swing to the left to take you along a strip of long grass and between houses.

10 Turn right on to the road at Snoll Hatch and walk on the pavement back to East Peckham. You will enter East Peckham Village opposite the Merry Boys pub with the car park to your left.