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European Regional
Development Fund

The Elham Valley Way



www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



About the Elham Valley Way

A walk filled with history, nature and stunning scenery.

The Elham valley is the setting for most of this walk which will take you through some of the most enchanting countryside Kent has to offer.

From the seaside bustle of the south coast, through to the historic city of Canterbury, the Elham Valley Way meanders through ancient woodlands, secret byways and charming, unspoilt villages.

Much of the walk passes through the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with many breathtaking panoramas, a wide variety of pastures, orchards, woods and parklands to enjoy. Chalk downlands, streams, ancient hedgerows and trees are a haven for wildlife. A rich history offers you a myriad of archaeology, quaint churches and imposing country houses and castles.

Starting in the coastal town of Hythe, you can experience the timeless enjoyment of a seaside town, take a ride on a steam train, visit ancient churches before moving on to relax in beautiful country parks, enjoy wildlife reserves, and discover remains of a once well used railway line. Stop off at museums, country pubs and end the walk in the Cathedral City of Canterbury, a haven for lovers of history, culture and shopping!



www.kentselhamvalley.co.uk brings together all the businesses that serve visitors to the Valley, you can find information on what to do and where to stay, as well as events.

Both Elham and Deal are part of the 'Walkers are Welcome' scheme, a community led scheme to help promote towns with well maintained facilities for walkers.

www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk



Fields with poppies, Patrixbourne



Mock-Tudor house, Patrixbourne



Red Lion Inn, Bridge

Geography of the Elham Valley Way

Lovers of nature will enjoy the varied landscape of the Elham Valley.

The chalk outcrop of the Kent Downs forms part of the horseshoe of chalk which crosses south-east England, originally laid down in a shallow sea 60-120 million years ago. The great uplift which produced the Alps in Europe 25 million years ago also created the geological dome of south-east England.

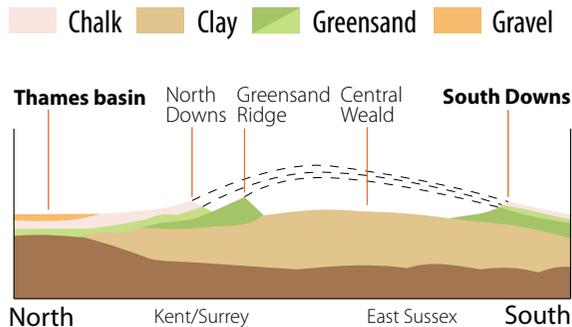
Layers of sedimentary deposits built up across Kent over time covering the sandstone, before extensive earth movements exposed the sandstone once again. Weathering and erosion removed younger and softer rocks, leaving the horseshoe-shaped ridge we have today.

The soils, ideal for various agriculture meant that for many centuries, sheep rearing provided a staple industry, with small villages and towns flourishing in medieval and Tudor times.

Various crops including cereals, maize and hops along with orchards are a traditional part of the landscape.

There are many areas of ancient downland you can see which have never been managed other than natural grazing. This has allowed hundreds of varieties of wild flowers to flourish.

Plants which are still common on the downs include the cowslip in spring, along with milkwort, scented wild thyme, majorma and salad burnet. The summer ends with hare bells, scabacious and autum genrain. Orchids are more plentiful on the downs than anywhere else in Britain. The best known downland wildlife are insects and butterflies, including the beautiful Adonis Blue. About half of the 60 species of butterfly found in the whole of Britain have been recorded on the Folkestone Downs.



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Patricbourne



Patricbourne



Barham

Guide Information

Maps

The route maps are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer Series and are of a scale no smaller than 1:20,000.

All sections of the walk follow legally defined rights of way unless otherwise indicated on route maps. Before using the route guide, walkers are advised to study the key to the route maps and map symbols. It is also recommended that you take an OS Explorer Map with you.

Distances and times

The distances in the guidebook are given in metres and kilometres. The exact conversion of miles to kilometres is 1 mile to 1.6093km. For convenience the approximate conversion is 1 mile to 1.6 km.

Waymarking

The route is waymarked by circular waymark discs with a depiction of the valley and spire in the centre of the directional arrow. These are yellow for a public footpath, blue for a public bridleway and red for a public byway.

You will see the waymarkers fixed to posts, or gates or stiles. The walk has been waymarked in such a way that it is possible to walk the route in either direction.

Link Routes that connect the path with towns and train stations are also waymarked with the Elham Valley logo, which features an artistic interpretation of the Elham valley and church spires which are prominent along the way.



Bourne Park, Bridge



Patricbourne



Barham

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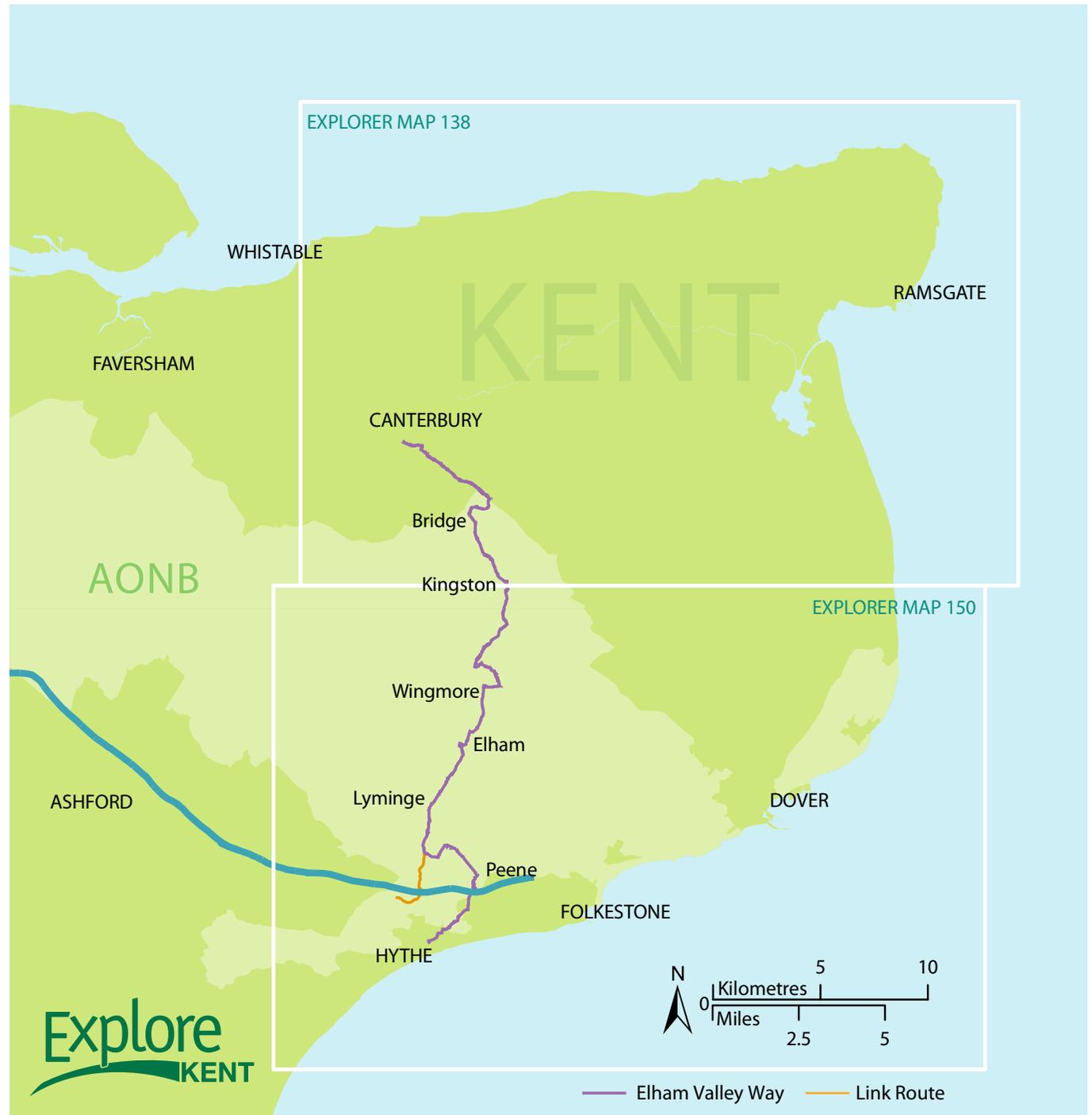
Covert Wood to Kingston

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Symbols Key

	Parking		Picnic site		Fishing		Bus stop
	Information Centre		Walks/Trails		Theme/ pleasure park		Train station
	Visitor Centre		Cycle trail		Catherdral/ Abbey		Stile
	Public Convenience		Horse riding		Museum		Viewpoint
	Forestry Comission		Public house		Castle/ Fort		Gate
	Public Telephone		Viewpoint		Building of historic interest		Hazards/ Take care
	Camp site		Country Park		English Heritage		
	Caravan site		Garden		National Trust		
	Camp/caravan site		Nature reseve		Other tourist feature		
	Leisure centre		Water activities				
	Golf course		Slipway				

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Order maps by calling Kent County Council:
08458 247 600 (Mon - Fri: 8am - 8pm)

 Ordnance Survey



Top : Bridge,
 centre and bottom: Patrixbourne.

Useful information

*Plan ahead for your walk. Take all the information you require with you.
Find tips for planning your walk on www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent*

If you experience a problem on a public right of way, please contact Kent County Council:

www.kent.gov.uk/countryside access

email: prow@kent.gov.uk

call: 08453 450 210

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Leave gates as you find them. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home. Keep dogs under close control.



For further information visit:
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

For other useful information visit the Long Distance Walkers Association website: www.ldwa.org.uk



To plan your journey using public transport you can find travel information and advice, by calling Traveline on:

0871 200 22 33

Available from 8am until 8pm
Calls charged at the national rate.

Signage on public rights of way



Footpath



Bridleway



Byway



Restricted Byway

Church of St. John the Baptist, Barham

1. Hythe to Peene

3 miles (4.8 km) around 6000 steps,
allow 2 hours



1

Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. Miniature steam engines pull the carriages on this tiny railway. You may ride the 14 miles from Hythe to Dungeness on the 15 inch gauge track.

2

The Royal Military Canal was built between 1804 and 1809 as a defence against French invasion during the Napoleonic Wars. The regular changes in alignment allowed gun emplacements to cover each length.

3

Town Hall. This 18th-century building is easy to identify, with its imposing white portico and large clock. The ground floor provided shelter for an open market.

4

St Leonards' Church. The cathedral-like parish church was built in Norman times. The tower is 18th century, rebuilt after collapsing during an earthquake. An outside entrance leads you to a vault containing thousands of skulls and thigh bones.

5

Scene Wood. Walk quietly through this ancient coppiced woodland and you may well be rewarded by sight - or sound - of birds and small animals. There are many different flowers and ferns to enjoy as well.

6

Dibgate Camp. This area has been used for military purposes since the 18th century. Take care when walking across the camp, especially if you have children with you. The area is still in regular use by the military. Please stay on the rights of way.

7

Seabrook valley. The Seabrook Stream once powered several corn mills. Newington Mill had to make way for the Channel Tunnel terminal. The stream forms part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

8

Church of St Nicholas, Newington. This little church has stood here since Norman times. Call in and see the 15th-century pulpit and the window showing why St Nicholas is the patron saint of youth!

9

Pound Farm. The farm is named after the Kentish ragstone pound where straying livestock were kept until the owner paid the fine. The footpath to the west leads to Frogholt Hollow and the Seabrook Stream.

10

Barley Mow. Can you find the cottage once known as Barley Mow? It was a beer-house, licensed to sell the local brew from Mackcsons of Hythe.

11

Railway Museum. The Elham Valley Line trust has a good collection of local railway memorabilia, equipment and working models.

12

Sandling station. The South Eastern Railway's station, opened in 1888, was the junction with the Hythe and Sandgate branch, which was expected to run through to Folkestone harbour. But this was not to be.

13

Brockhill Country Park. The 54-acre country park was once part of Brockhill Park, an estate dating back to Norman times.

14

Dismantled railway. The overgrown trackbed of the disused branch line between Sandling and Hythe.

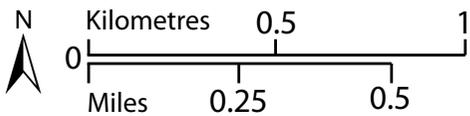
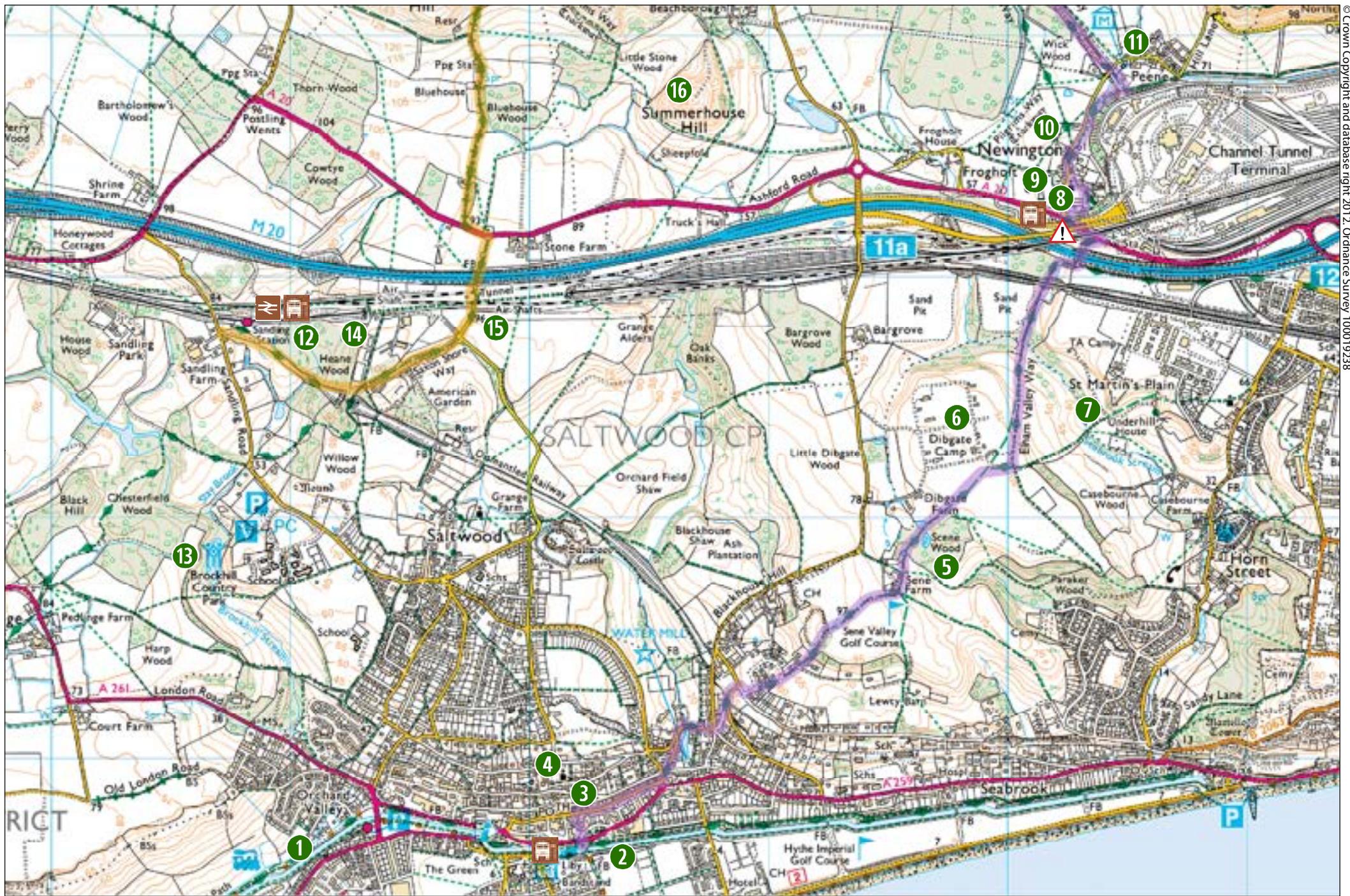
15

Saltwood tunnel. Compare the method of constructing this 19th-century tunnel with its newer neighbour. The mounds of earth still discernible along its length were laboriously hoisted by hand through the verticle ventilation shafts.

16

Summerhouse Hill. This conical hill was even more of a landmark until the grand gazebo atop it succumbed to fire on Guy Fawkes night, 1935. Views from the hill include Temple Pond.





- Elham Valley Way
- Link route
- 1 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 138
 Section 1, Hythe to Peene
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



2. Peene to North Lyminge

3.7 miles (5.95 km)
around 7,400 steps, allow 2 hours



17

Pilgrims' Way. Like many other tracks leading eventually to Canterbury, this ancient path is now named for those who journeyed in hope to the shrine of Thomas Becket.

18

Beachborough Park. The 18th-century mansion, seat of the Brockman family, was completely burnt down soon after the Great War. The attractive dower house across the road survives.

19

Folkestone Downs and Peene quarry. The chalk grassland on Folkestone Downs provides a wealth of wild flowers, insects and bird life, best in spring and summer. Look especially for cowslips, orchids and butterflies. The disused Peene quarry is a good access point. You will get excellent views from there.

20

Ashley Wood. Parts of this ancient woodland are still managed by coppicing, to the benefit of wildflowers growing under the trees. You can find evidence of the regularly cut stumps regrowing after the wood is harvested in the traditional way.

21

Disused railway track. The path follows the disused Elham Valley Railway line which once linked Canterbury and Folkestone. The bridges allowed farm stock to pass safely underneath.

22

Seabrook Stream. A small stream which rises at Etchinghill, flows through Ashley Wood and meets the sea between Hythe and Sandgate.

23

Spoil bank. The railway embankment you see from here was built up with spoil from the Erchinghill tunnel to the north-west. The excess soil was dumped, forming a spoil bank.

24

Etchinghill railway tunnel and cutting. Eighty feet below Etchinghill and hidden in a tunnel and deep cuttings runs the trackbed of the former Elham valley line.

25

The New Inn, an 18th-century amalgamation of two 15th century cottages, replaced an old alehouse further down the road, hence the name. Can you distinguish the 18th-

century addition from the original part of the building?

26

Tolsford Hill. At 181 metres, you are standing on one of the highest points of the area. Modern man uses the height for a telecommunication mast to relay signals across the English Channel. Ancient Britons valued such places too; see the burial mounds around you.

27

East Brook. This stream, a major tributary of the Nailbourne, apparently shrank with the construction of the Elham valley line. The deep cuttings are said to have drained off the underground water feeding the spring which is its source.

28

Church of St Mary and St Ethelburga. St Dunstan of Canterbury rebuilt this ancient church in 965. You can still make out part of the even earlier building in the stone wall. The early church was part of the nunnery and monastery founded in the 7th century by Ethelburga, daughter of King Ethelbert of Kent.

29

St Ethelburga's Well. This crystal clear spring may well be the main source of the Nailbourne. The canopy and chain pump date from 1898.

The Elham Valley Railway

Along the Elham Valley Way, you will see many features of the disused railway line which connected Folkestone to Canterbury.

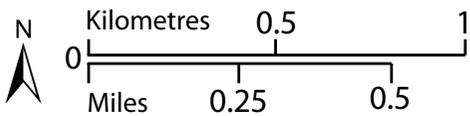
Construction began in 1884 and was challenging to objections from landowners, one example of which led to the construction of Bourne Park Tunnel instead of two bridges.

The line was operational between 1887 and 1947, and during the World Wars was taken over by the army. During WW2 it was home to a huge railway gun which could fire 1.4 ton shells 12 miles.

After the war, the road network overtook the railway and passenger numbers fell and the railway was closed forever.



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-  Elham Valley Way
-  Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 138
 Section 2, Peene to North Lyminge
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



3. North Lyminge to North Elham

2.9 miles (4.7 km)
around 5,800 steps, allow 1 hour 45 mins



30

Signs of the railway. The Way here follows both the Nailbourne and the ploughed-over railway line. You may spot old rail posts in the fences, and the culverts where the line once criss-crossed the stream.

31

Railway bridge. Once trains stopped for farm produce in a siding immediately north of this bridge. There are two former railway cottages to the east.

32

Hillock. Ancient burial mound or 19th-century spoil heap? Decide for yourself which of the suggested explanations for the odd hillock beside the line you prefer.

33

Abbots Fireside. The Duke of Wellington may have briefly set up headquarters here when invasion threatened. The carved fireplace from which the house gains its name is hidden inside but you can see the fine carving on the exterior.

34

Rose and Crown. This inn still has the large yard and stables it needed

during its heyday as a coach staging post. A magistrates' court was once held regularly upstairs.

35

The Square. In 1251 Elham was granted a royal charter to hold a market.

36

King Post. The buildings round The Square vary in age and architecture. Inside, King Post is a medieval hall house with fine oak beams; outside, you see the facelift it was given in Georgian times.

37

St Mary's Church. The 13th-century church has also been altered and extended in succeeding ages. Lean back against the plant-studded flint walls of the churchyard and admire the 14th-century spire.

38

Old level crossing. Many of the houses and bridges hereabouts were built with bricks fired in the Elham Valley Company kilns on the eastern side of the old railway crossing. The hump in the road is all that remains of the crossing, you may spot a brick or two stamped EVC.



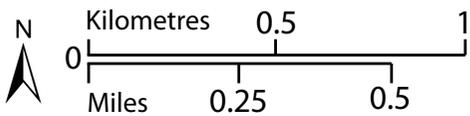
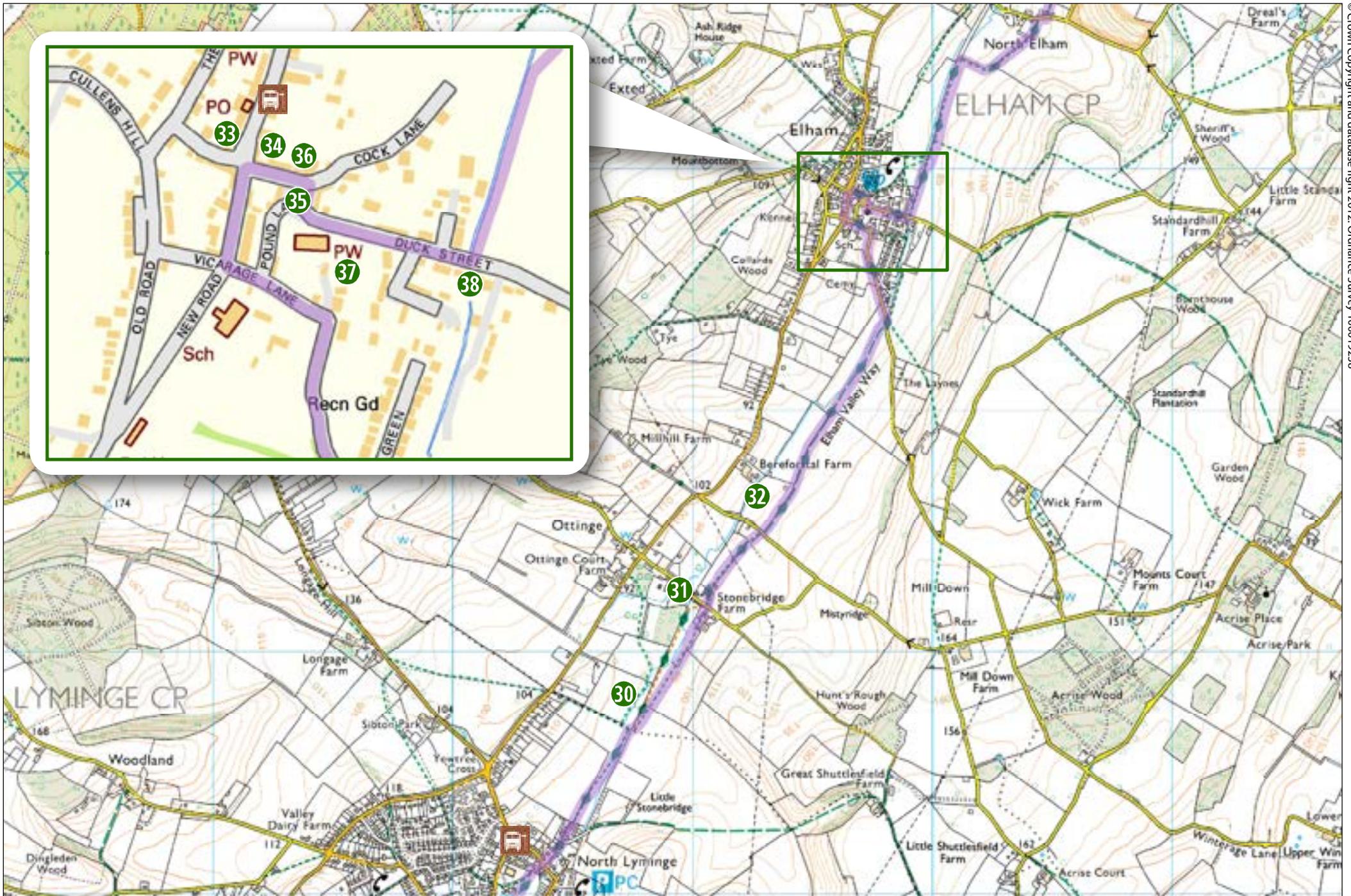
Elham

The origin of the name of the village is subject to much debate. Some claim it relates to the number of eels once found in the Nailbourne river centuries ago.

Others say it is connected with Ula, a former Saxon inhabitant. The suffix 'ham' is derived from the German word for 'heim', meaning 'home' - leading to the assumption 'Ulaham' is the homestead of Ula.

The discovery of Neolithic axes is evidence of the earliest human activity. Many Roman artifacts have also been found, including a silver coin of Hadrian found in the vicarage garden. A beautiful brooch with the inscription 'Amor Vincit Fortitudinem' - love overcomes force - was also found in Elham.

In the 19th century, the village was home to a brickworks, due to a plentiful supply of clay in the area.



— Elham Valley Way
 ① Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 138
 Section 3, North Lyminge to North Elham
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



4. North Elham to Covert Wood

3.3 miles (5.31 km)
around 6,600 steps, allow 2 hours



39

Rural Heritage Centre. The centre at Parsonage Farm has displays on all facets of rural history. The hedgelaying and coppicing you see along the Way are just two of the rural crafts featured.

40

Hall Downs. The down land here is an excellent example of how appropriately grazed chalk grassland can produce wildflowers in spring and summer.

41

Wingmore bridge. Looking north, can you make out the bridge over the old railway below you? Yesterday's walkers must have sat here watching the steam trains puffing their way through the landscape, a slight hint of smoke drifting up to join the perfume of the chalk flowers.

42

Thomas Acre Wood. Sights and sounds again in this ancient woodland. Insects, birds, plants.

43

Old hollow lane. Wheels, feet and water have hollowed out this lane

over many centuries. The gnarled trunks of some of the hedgerow trees document their age too.

44

Elham Valley Vineyards. Established in 1979, the vineyard has produced award winning wines. You can sample their wares, by the glass, bottle or cask.

45

Baldock Downs. Contrast this downland with Hall Downs. Lack of grazing lets scrub plants like dogwood and hawthorn take over from flowers. This area, though undergrazed, is by far the better piece of downland and has never been improved. Different plants appear with the soil change from dry and alkaline chalk to moisture-holding acid clay as the path heads west.



Elham Vineyards

Since 1979 the Elham Valley Vineyard has been growing grapes and making wine.

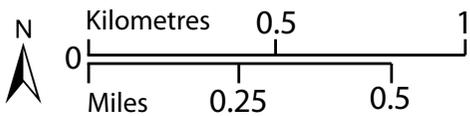
Since the vines were planted, 4000 bottles of wine were produced annually, including light white and sparkling varieties.

In 2010 the health of the vines declines, and 1600 new vines were planted, including a red variety Pinot Noir. Seyval Blanc was also chosen because of its resistance to the main problem for English vineyards, mildew.

The first wines from this new crop will be made from the Summer of 2013.

The vineyards are open 7 days a week and are also home to a garden centre and Tea shop.

There is also a popular day centre for adults with learning difficulties, some of whom make tend the vines and craft items for the gift shop.



 Elham Valley Way
 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 138
 Section 4, North Elham to Covert Wood
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



5. Covert Wood to Kingston

2.6 miles (4.18 km)
around 5,200 steps, allow 1 hour 30 mins



46

Covert Wood. Conifer and sweet chestnut have replaced many of the native trees in this 184-hectare (455-acres) wood. The difference between the number of flowering plants under the shady conifers with the wealth under the native trees is noticeable. You may hear the drumming call of a woodpecker; each of the three species resident here ratatats on hollow trees at a different rate.

47

Jumping Down. Excellent views towards Barham from here. Skylarks frequent these fields in spring and summer.

48

Redgate Shaw. Shaw is a very early word for a small wood like this, indicating a very long existence. The number of different trees is another indicator of age - how many can you distinguish?

49

Heart's Delight. Heart's Grief once stood near to Heart's Delight! The farmhouse is Tudor, the redundant oasthouse now a private house.

50

Barham. Two highlights of the Second World War for Barham were the crash of a German aircraft on the railway line near this bridge (the crew were captured by the Home Guard) and the visit to the Women's Institute by the wives of Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt. The village school has an unusual Gothic bell tower.

51

Church of St. John the Baptist. The St George window in the 13th-century church is a memorial to soldiers who camped nearby during the Great War. Nearby is Barham Court. Local disputes used to be settled in the annual manorial courts there. One wing of the house is original 17th century; the rest was rebuilt in 1735 and enlarged by Lutyens in 1911.

52

Derringstone. Infilling with houses has merged Barham with the once-separate hamlet of Derringstone. Don't look for heathland near Heathfield Way - Station Road was renamed after the last and much-loved station porter, Jack Heathfield.

53

Old hedge. Have you ever tried to tell the age of a hedge? Count the different types of tree or shrub in a 30-metre stretch of this very old one; each species adds a 100 years.

54

Railway arch. The stretch of trackbed from above this beautifully constructed arch to Bishopsbourne is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. Plants include carline thistle, cowslip and hairy violet. On an evening visit, you may see glowworms and bats.

55

Black Robin. 'Rigden Dellman ales are sold where once did live Black Robin bold'. An earlier sign on the Black Robin Inn referred to a notorious 18th-century highwayman.

56

Kingston church. St Giles Church dates from Saxon times. The wall paintings, font and pulpit are of particular interest.



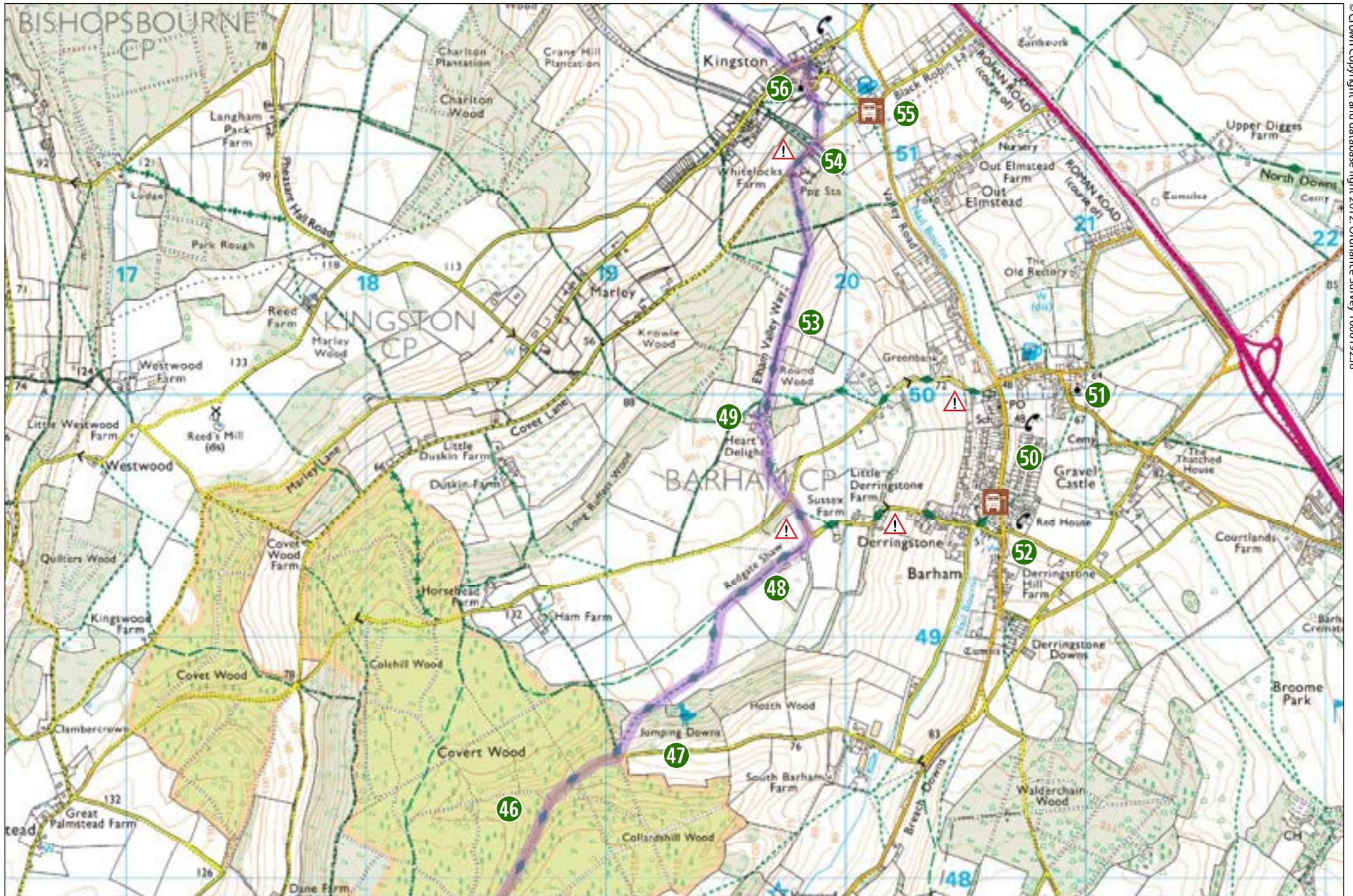
Church of St. John

There are many churches along the Elham Valley Way, even its waymarker logo features a stylised spire.

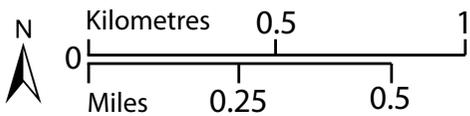
The Church of St. John the Baptist is just one of the many churches you could visit. Its charming green copper spire is visible on the hillside above the village of Barham, and has 5 bells in the tower which ring out across the valley.

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the church has a rich history. The current building is dated from the 14th century, with the south isle added in the 15th century, with other modifications completed by the Victorians.

Two painted glass windows by Martin Tavers dating from 1925 are worth admiring. One depicts the Virgin Mary holding Christ and the other in the north west corner of the church commemorates the World War 1 losses in the Signals Regiment.



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— Elham Valley Way
 ① Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 138/150
 Section 5, Covert Wood to Kingston
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



6. Kingston to Bifrons Park

3 miles (4.82 km)
around 6,000 steps, allow 1 hour 45 mins



57

Charlton Mansion. The Prince Regent (later George IV) dallied in (his Tudor mansion with his mistress, Lady Elizabeth Conyngham of Bifrons. He initiated the 19th-century extensions.

58

Charlton Park. New lime trees have been planted to replace the many parkland trees blown down in the great storm of 1987.

59

Oswalds. The author Joseph Conrad spent his last years at Oswalds, the house next to the church. It later became the rectory.

60

St Mary's Church. Thirteenth-century St Mary's church and its surrounding graveyard is a peaceful place. Medieval furnishings and a Burne-Jones/William Morris window are worth seeing and there are interesting inscriptions on many of the headstones.

61

Bourne House lake. Excavations for the lake in front of Bourne House unearthed Roman pottery and coins.

Archaeologists think there was probably an important settlement here. The white-flowered water crowfoot and suitably named amphibious bistort are two of the plants you may see in the lake in summer.

62

Bourne Park. The house is considered the finest Queen Anne building in Kent.

63

Railway tunnel. A tunnel was built to avoid trains interrupting the view from the rear windows of Bourne House. The owners also insisted on a station being provided at Bishopsbourne.

64

Watling Street. A Roman burial ground was unearthed near Bridge. The straight road is part of Watling Street, the Roman road from Canterbury to Dover.

65

Bridge Place. The surviving wing of this 17th century mansion is now a country club. House building is ever an expensive hobby - as Dover merchant Sir Arnold Braems discovered to his cost here.

66

St Peter's Church. The Norman church was extensively restored by Gilbert Scott in 1859-61.

67

Saxon graveyard. Excavations of Saxon graves on the downland slopes discovered skeletons of men over six feet tall and of women who died in childbirth, their little ones buried with them.

68

Bifrons Park. You can work out where the Bifrons mansion once stood by tracing the original lines of the avenues of trees.



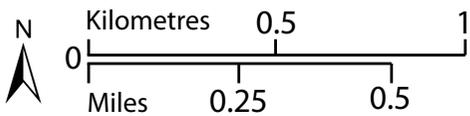
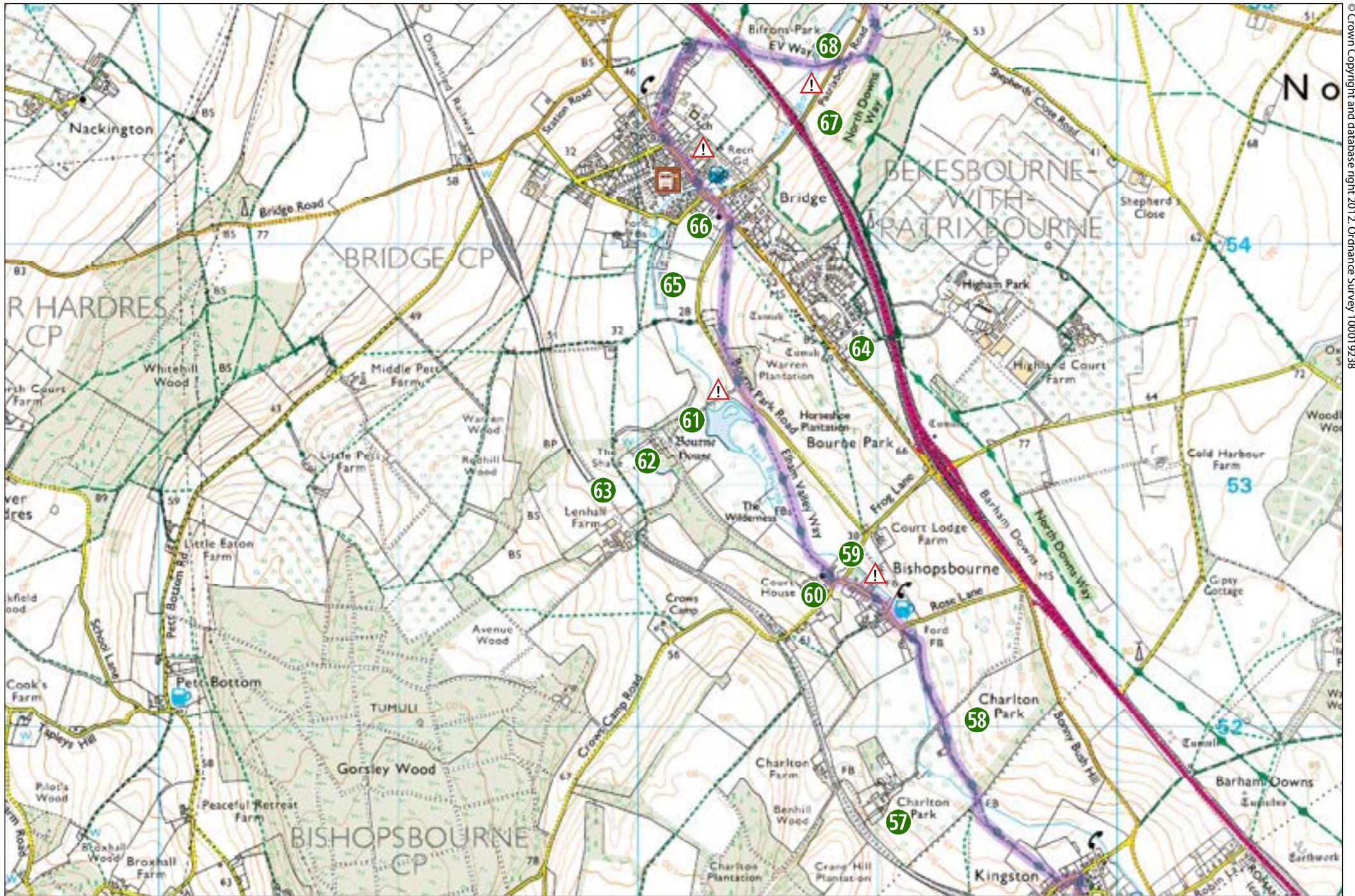
Charlton Park

Charlton Mansion is seen through the trees to the southwest as you enjoy this easy to follow section of the Elham Valley Way.

The building dates from the Tudor period, replacing an earlier house and was greatly extended in 1810. The interior is furnished with fine panelling and decorations.

The parklands were decimated in the great storm of 1987 but are now well on their way to being re-established. The remaining old pollarded trees are havens for wildlife. Look out for hole-nesting birds and there are ample quantities of decaying woods for beetles, fungi and lichens. Damp patches encourage many ferns.

The Nailbourne River is also easy to spot, the park originally featured ornamental lakes for swans, waterfalls and winding brooks, although few remain.



— Elham Valley Way
① Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 150
 Section 6, Kingston to Bifrons Park
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



7. Bifrons Park to Canterbury

3.6 miles (5.8 km)
around 7,200 steps, allow 2 hours



69

This Norman church, built of flint and Caen stone, is renowned for its fine stone carving and exquisite windows. Do see at least the south doorway and the rose window at the east end of the chancel.

70

From the alternative route through Bifrons Park, you can gaze down upon the mossy foundations that are all that remain of the magnificent mansion once home to 'Prinny's' mistress, the Mardlioness of Conyngham.

71

Apple Orchards. It is hard to imagine as you walk through the orchards between here and Canterbury that apples were regarded as a luxury right up to Victorian times. Only the windfalls and the rejects were affordable to the common folk.

72

Pilgrims Way. East of Canterbury, the path joins the route of the old Pilgrims' Way from the Kent coast to Canterbury.

73

St Martin's Church. This church may date from Roman times; certainly some parts are built of Roman brick. It is said that St Augustine worshipped here in 597 soon after his arrival from Rome to convert the English.

74

Almshouses. You will find the date of these almshouses incised in the gable end. Twelve poor folk of the parish found a free haven here, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Ann Smith.

75

Canterbury Prison was used as such from 1808 to 1920. It briefly housed the archives of the Foreign Office, then became a Naval detention Barracks, and a civil prison again in 1946.

76

Barton Court, now a girls' school, was built in 1740. Sir John Cecil Russell, who led troops to the relief of Rorkes Drift in the Zulu War, was the last private occupant.

77

The burial place of St Augustine

and other early archbishops has been used for a series of abbey buildings, each in turn torn down to make way for greater splendours. Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries finished that. The ruins of the various stages are in the care of English Heritage.

78

The late 14th century timber-framed Old Hall is a typical Wealden hall house.

79

Abbott Fyndon's Gate, built about 1300, was the main gateway to the Abbey. It's decorated stonework was restored after Second World War bomb damage.

80

The Roman city walls of brick were rebuilt in flint by the Normans. The Broad Street section is the best surviving stretch. You can see a blocked up Roman arch to the left of the square bastion in the Queningate car park.

81

Burgate. The street takes its name from the Burgate, or Borough Gate. Rebuilt in 1475, most of the gate was

demolished in 1781, the remaining tower in 1822.

82

St George's Gate. The Gate was a fortified entry point, similar to West Gate; it too was demolished, in 1801.

83

St George's Church. Only the tower of St George's Church survived the heavy bombing raids on this part of the city. The playwright Christopher Marlowe, a contemporary of Shakespeare and a native of Canterbury, was buried in the church.

84

Tower of St Mary Magdalene. The elegant 16th-century tower, survivor of the 19th-century demolition of the rest of the church and the bombing, is Perpendicular in style.

85

Roman Museum. Perversely, the blitz was responsible for revealing the buried remains of a Roman town house in Butchery Lane, with its hypocaust and mosaic floor. It is now the centrepiece of a small Roman Museum.

7.2 Canterbury

86

Chequers of Hope. The overhanging beams and some stone arches are all that remain of a medieval pilgrims inn, the Chequers of Hope.

87

Christ Church Gate. The 16th-century Christ Church Gate is, to quote a 17th-century observer, a “very goodly, strong and beautiful structure” and a fitting approach to the cathedral.

88

Canterbury Cathedral. The cathedral is the main church of English Christianity, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England. William the Conqueror’s powerful Archbishop Lanfranc built the first stone cathedral, but many alterations have been made over the centuries.

89

The King’s School, one of the oldest in the country, has a fine exterior Norman staircase.

90

Canterbury Urban Studies Centre. The Church of St Alphege (an archbishop of Canterbury who

suffered the unusual fate of being pelted to death with beef bones) is now used as an education and environmental centre.

91

The 17th-century Conquest House stands over a 12th-century crypt where the four knights are said to have plotted the death of Thomas a Becket.



Canterbury

Canterbury is a historic cathedral city, with the River Stour running through its centre.

The city has been inhabited since prehistoric times, and has a rich history. Famous most for the pilgrims visiting the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral.

There are many visitor attractions including the ‘Canterbury Tales’ which give an exciting narration to the tales of Chaucer. You could also visit the Marlowe theatre to see one of the many plays on show throughout the year.

There are many independent shops and restaurants as well as well known brands to enjoy.

Canterbury has many parks and open spaces which make it a great place to wile away time on a sunny afternoon with the backdrop of the River Stour.

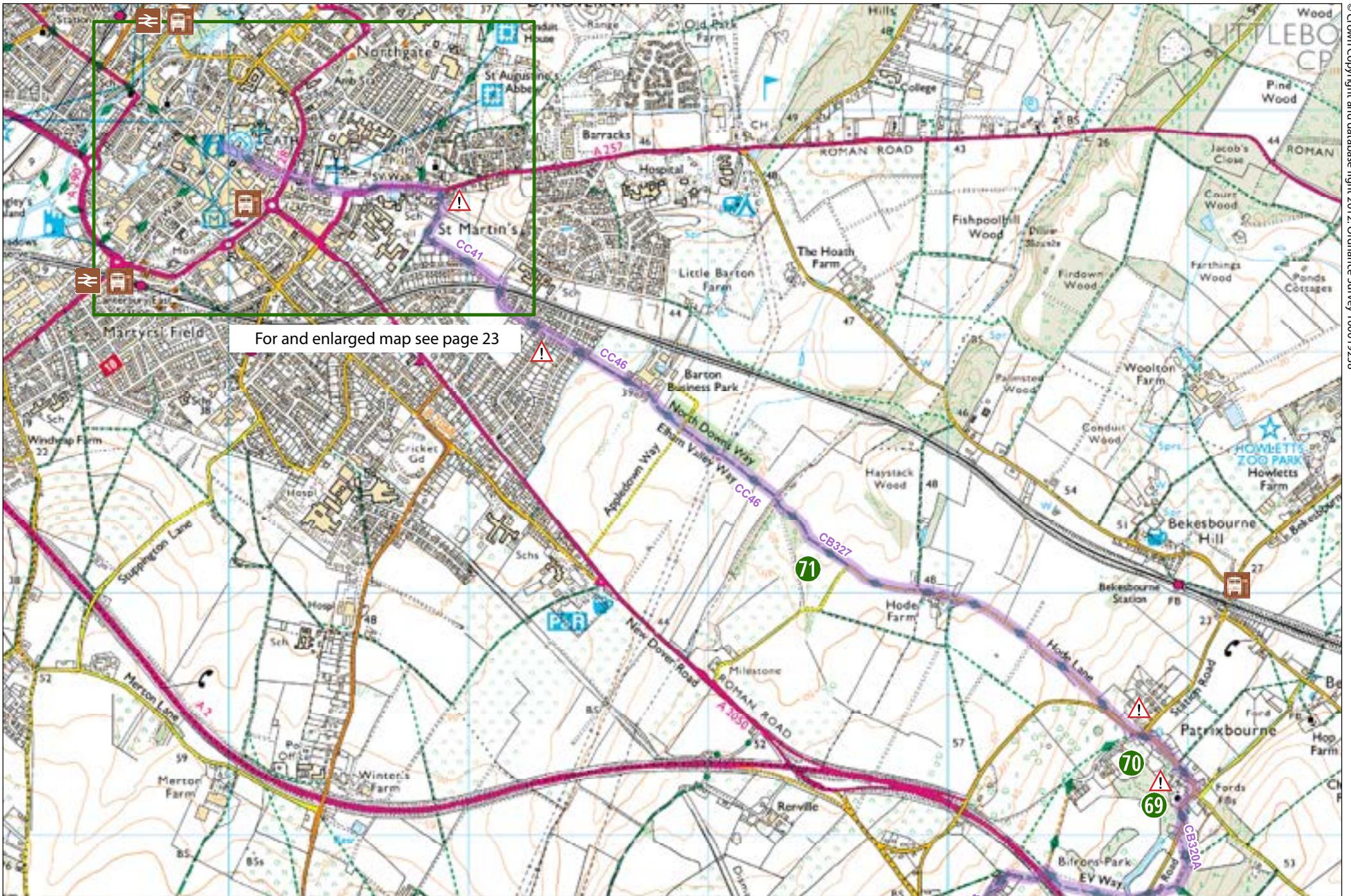
Marlowe Circular Walk

Christopher Marlowe was born in Canterbury in 1564. His groundbreaking work arguably paved the way for William Shakespeare.

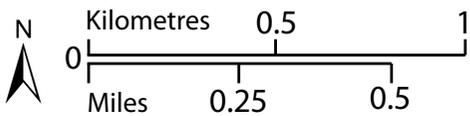
This walk takes you to many places of interest which have a connection to this great playwright. Including the church he was baptised in, the school he studied in and the markets he visited.

Find out about the culture and beliefs of the sixteenth century, such as where the city gaol was located - see where thieves and murderers were once held. Marlowe himself was once arrested for heresy - holding religious beliefs that were not sanctioned by the state. Government informers claimed that he made jokes about the Bible.

The ‘Christopher Marlowe and Canterbury walk’ can be downloaded for free from the Explore Kent website.



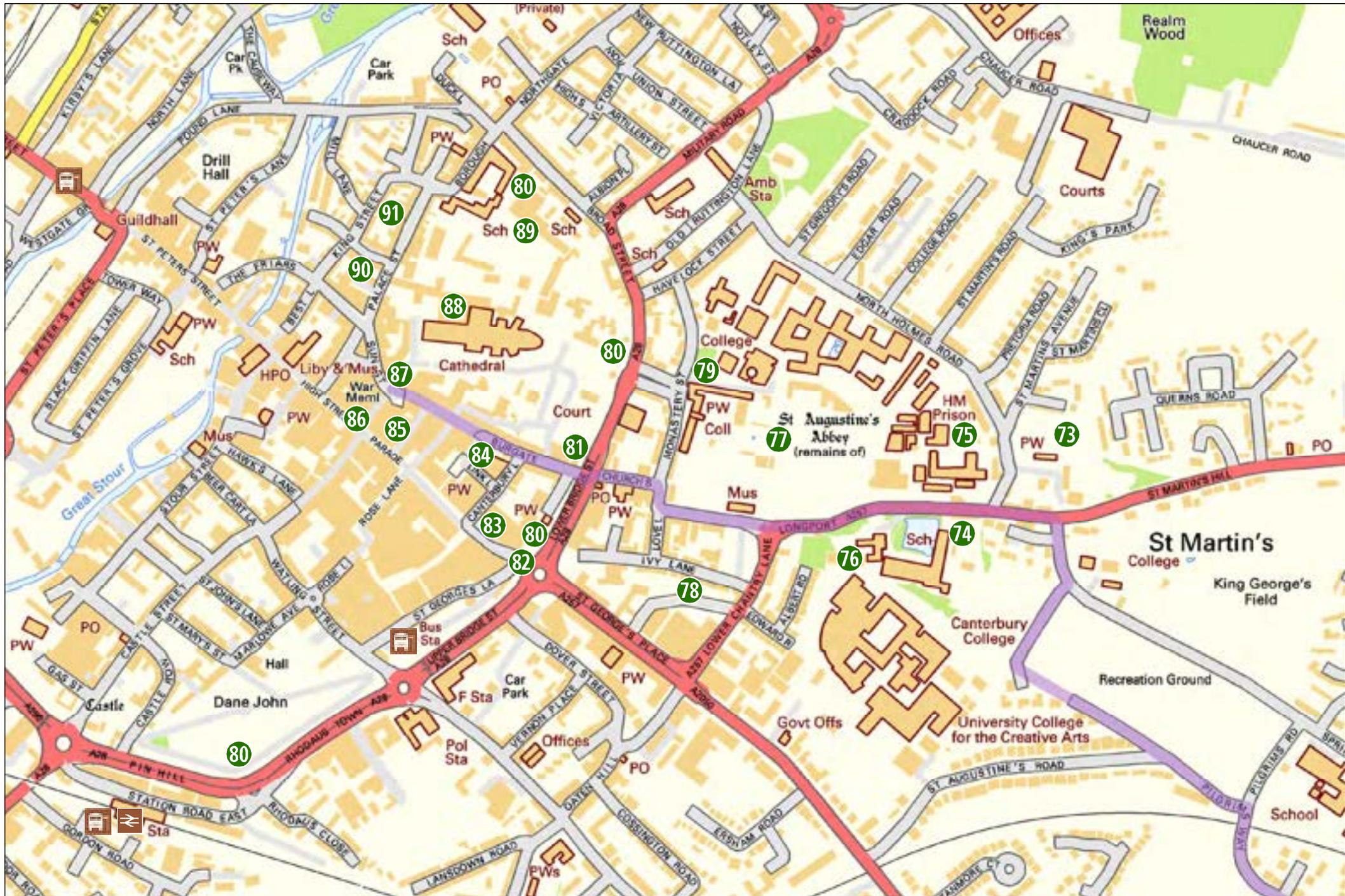
For and enlarged map see page 23



-  Elham Valley Way
-  Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 150
 Section 7, Bifrons Park to Canterbury
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent





Make the most of your journey

Share your experience with others on our Facebook page or in the comments box on the Elham Valley Way walk page:

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