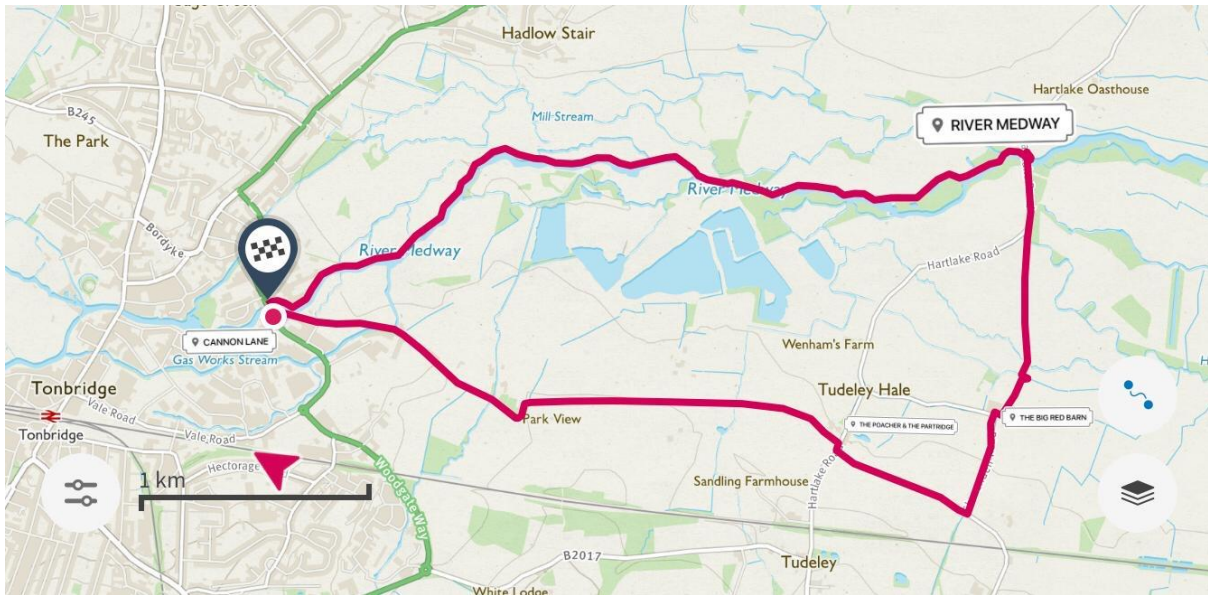


Walk 4 – Orchards and river song

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Pic: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020

Length: 5.5 miles / 8.8km (2.5 - 3 hours)

Grade: Leisurely

Good for: Beautiful countryside

Description: A long circular walk that takes you from the edge of Tonbridge, deep into the garden of England before returning you back to town via the river. There's an optional stop for a pub lunch en-route.

1. Begin your walk at Cannon Bridge on Cannon Lane industrial estate. There is free parking nearby at Swanmead Sports ground if required.
2. Turn left into Postern lane and continue for approximately 1200 metres (3/4 mile) until you see a footpath sign pointing left. Stroll down the track, turn right through the small gate and continue down the grassy path. At the end of the path pass through the wonky gate, through the gap in the hedge and turn right into the orchard.
3. Walk straight on, keeping the hedge to your right and the apple trees to your left. At the end of the orchard continue through the gap and down

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the path, past the large oast house and into the next orchard. Keep walking until you reach the two bridges.

4. Cross over the stream and follow the overhead cables into the corner of the field. There's a well-hidden gap in the hedge, cut through here, across the next field and climb over the stile. Follow the edge of the field until you reach another stile; climb over and then keep going until you reach Hartlake Road and the large Tudor fronted house.
5. If stopping at the Poacher, turn left and the pub will be 50m down to the right. When you are ready to continue your walk turn left out of the pub and walk back up the road until you see the foot path on your left. Follow this path along the edge of the field, continue straight past the orchards until you reach Sherenden Road.
6. Turn left and follow the lane until you come to a big red barn. At this point turn right and pass through the white gate into Scripps farm. Continue down the track for 20 metres and then cross over the little wooden bridge to your left. Walk straight on through the orchard and over the next two footbridges before cutting diagonally across the field.
7. Carry on through the little wood until you emerge back onto Hartlake Road. Turn right and walk along the road for 300 metres until you reach Hartlake Bridge. Walk over the bridge and then switch back along the path on your right, past the memorial plaque, down to the riverbank. Turn right, walking under the bridge and follow the river.
8. Walk past Porters Lock, the river will then be hidden by some big bramble bushes. Keep following the path and the river will come back into view as you walk into the next field. Keep going until you reach a wooden footbridge, pass through the metal gate and then continue along the riverbank until you reach Eldridges Lock.
9. Keep going along the river, crossing over the weir. Pass through the large gate and under the metal girder bridge and keep going along the river.
10. Follow the path along the bank, in the distance you will be able to make out the gasworks as the river begins its journey into Tonbridge.

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Eventually the path will fork, take the path to the left through the trees and you will emerge back onto Cannon Bridge where you began your walk. Alternatively, if you have parked at Swanmead then follow the path to until you reach the car park.

If you've enjoyed this walk, then please tag your photos #walktonbridge on Instagram or share with a friend. Visit my website for more beautiful walks in and around Tonbridge.

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When enjoying this walk, please remember to follow the countryside code:

Respect other people

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear

Leave gates and property as you find them

Stay on footpaths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

Leave no trace of your visit - take all your litter home

Don't have BBQs or fires

Keep dogs under effective control

Bag and bin your dog poo.

Enjoy the outdoors

Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared

Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures