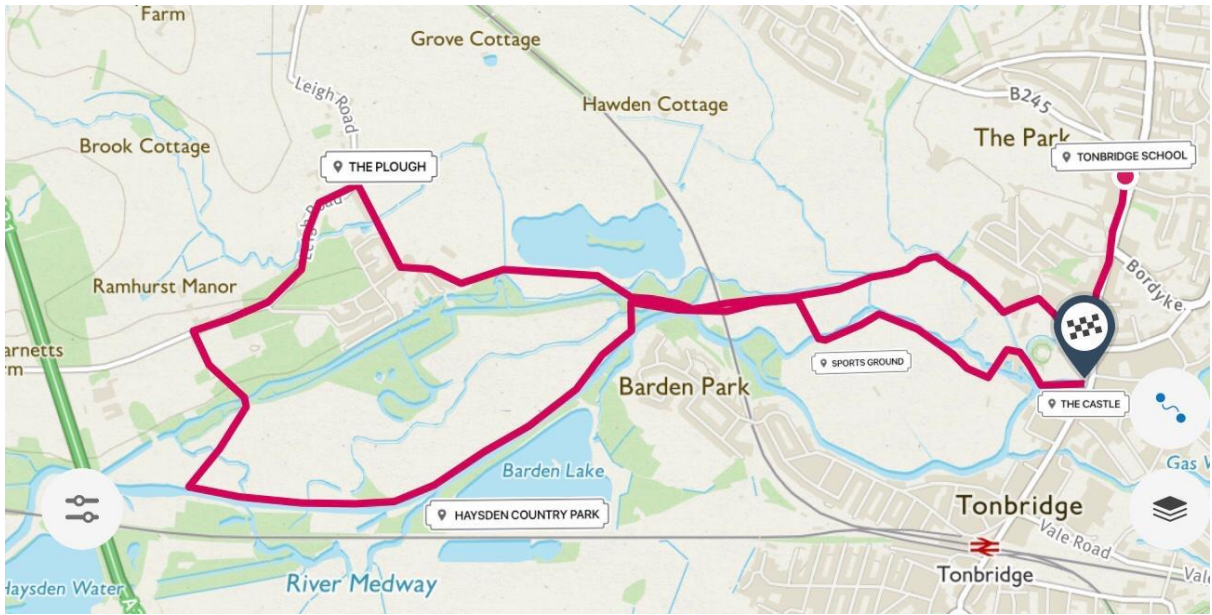


# Walk 5 – The Pillbox Safari

[www.walktonbridge.co.uk](http://www.walktonbridge.co.uk)



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**Length:** 4.6 miles / 7.4km (2 - 2.5 hours)

**Grade:** Lesiurely

**Good for:** Wartime history

**Description:** Travel back in time on a long flat walk that takes you from the High Street to wartime Tonbridge via a cracking country pub and a glorious stretch of the River Medway.

1. Begin your walk at the North of the High Street, where the road forks off towards Hildenborough. The first pillbox is tucked away in the grounds of Tonbridge school, to your right.
2. Continue down the High Street, with Tonbridge school on your right. Cross over Lansdowne Road and then turn right into Bank Street, following the road round as it becomes The Slade. Walk downhill and then turn left past Slade school.
3. Take the path to your right at the entrance to the Swimming pool car park. Follow the stream as it snakes between the sports fields. Keep going until you reach the railway line.

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4. Walk under the very low railway bridge and then take the path to the right before crossing the concrete foot bridge. Hidden in the trees to your right will be the second pill box on this trail.
5. Keep going straight until you meet a junction in the path. Turn right and cross over the little bridge. Stay on this path until you reach Hunter Seal and The Powder Mills. Turn right down Powdermills walking downhill towards the oast house. Turn left at the bottom of the road and follow the lane round to the Plough.
6. Once fed you are fed and watered turn right out of the pub, walk up the road, past Burton Avenue and then continue until you see a signpost for a footpath on your left. Walk through the metal gate and down the muddy track. At the end you will reach a large field. Turn to your right and follow the perimeter until you see a small foot bridge cutting through the hedge. The third pill box on this trail can be seen where the hedge juts out into the field
7. Make your way back to the little bridge and walk diagonally across the field. Ahead of you will be the flood barrier. Once you reach the corner of the field you can go through the gate to view the barrier before doubling back and taking the grass path back along the edge of the field keeping the river to your right.
8. Walk past the bridge and then carry on through the trees along the bumpy path running beside the river. Pill box number 4 is buried deep in the hedge beside you. Located adjacent to the fork in the river around 20 metres before the sloping bench.
9. Keep walking until you spot a fifth pill box hiding in the undergrowth to your left. Continue along the river and the 6th pill box will be to your left, just after the water level gauge.
10. Walk past Lucifer's Bridge and you will see the 7th and final Pill Box of this walk to your left. This one is tucked in between the footpath and the cycle path that runs on the opposite side of the hedge. Cross over the two bridges and then turn right, where you will then re-join the path you took earlier. Walk past the pillbox you saw earlier on this trail and go back under the railway line.

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11. Continue straight and then take the path to the right, past the dead tree. Cross the bridge, turn left and walk along the river until you reach the park gates. Then turn left again and then cross the bridge, walking past the past the swimming pool.
12. Cross the bridge near the entrance of the pool and then turn right, walking round Castle Walk. Continue through the gates and onto the High Street where this walk ends.

*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*