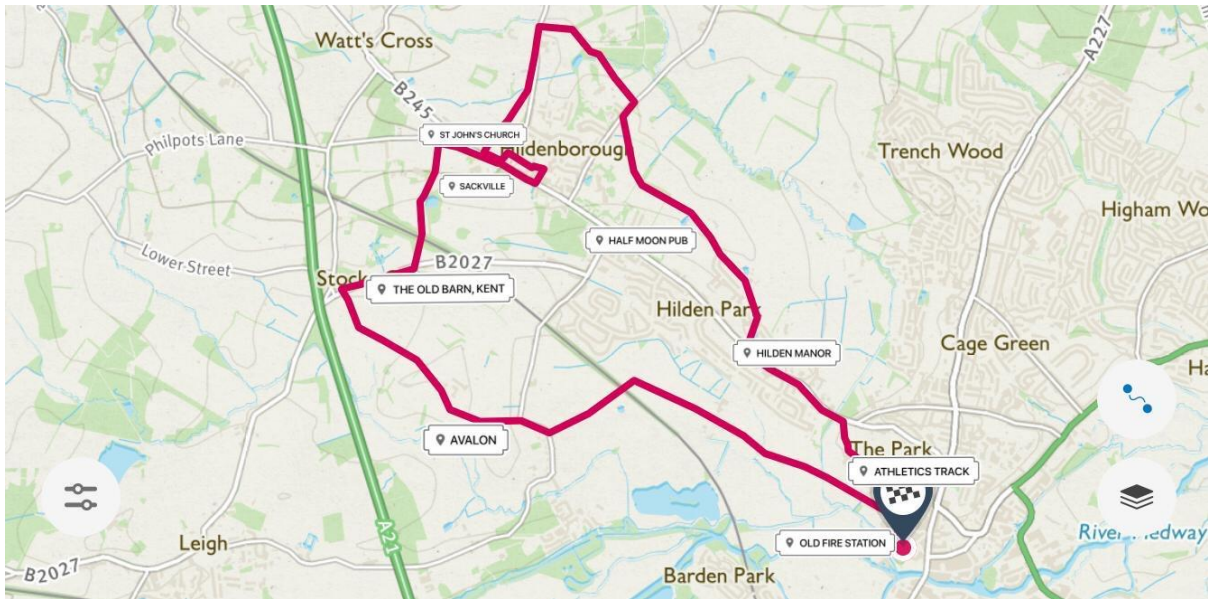


Walk 9 – Tales From The Shire

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Length: 6.9 miles / 11.12 km (approximately 3-4 hours, longer if stopping at the Half Moon or Hilden Manor)

Grade: Leisurely

Good for: Scenic countryside and local history.

Description: A nostalgic trip around Hildenborough exploring the people and places that have contributed to the history of the village.

1. Begin your walk at Lower Castle Field car park. Leave via the footpath and turn right, walking down Stafford Road with the school to your left. When you reach the cross roads, stay to the left, merging onto Hawden Road. At the end of the street take the footpath to the right.
2. Walk along the path, cross over the bridge and then continue along the road between the sports pitches. As the road bends round, turn off to the right and walk straight across the sports pitches in the direction of the far hedge, just to the left of the green shed.
3. Pass through the gap in the hedge, cross the wooden bridge and then climb the stile. Continue across two sheep fields, passing through the

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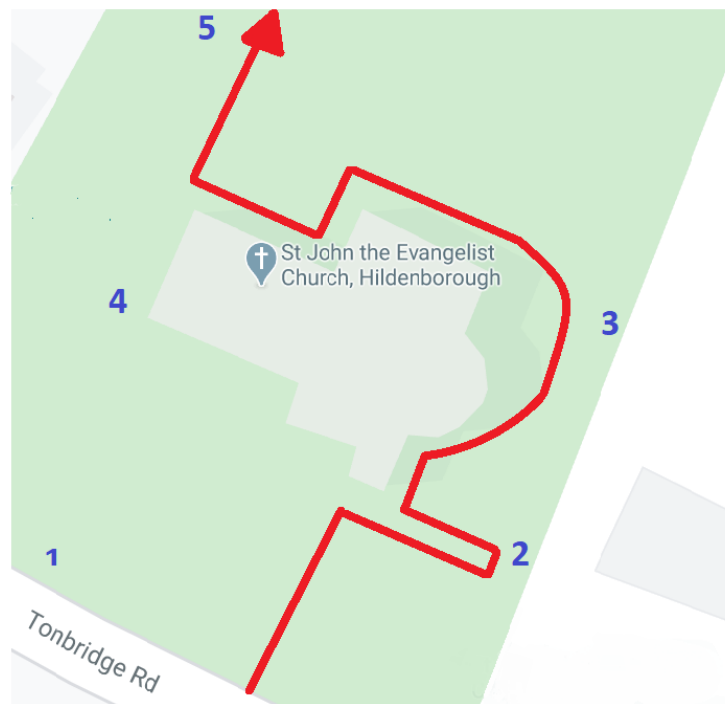
kissing gates. At the end of the second field you will see Hawden Farm on the left.

4. Cross the farm road and then walk past a third gate, continuing down the grass track. Walk through the next kissing gate and then continue through the field until you reach the T-junction. At this point turn left along the track, walk through the gate and go under the railway bridge.
5. Follow this track for 450 metres until you reach a large wooden gate besides Hawden Bungalow. Go through this and then leave via the kissing gate, turning right along Leigh Road. Follow the road for 200 metres until you see two footpaths leading off. Take the path on the right between the two fences, keeping the hedge on your right.
6. At the crest of the hill before you pass the oak tree, look back and you should be able to see Tonbridge and St Stephens church in the distance. Follow the black fence to your left and continue until you reach a stile.
7. Climb the stile and then cross over the track, then walk between the two large oak trees. Continue downhill and follow the track past the paddock and then round the edge of the field. Turn right through the gate, passing under the dead tree.
8. Stay on this path until you reach Stocks Green Road. Climb the stile and then turn right, walking very carefully down the road. There is no pavement here and cars travel very fast along this road.
9. After 400 metres cross the road and take path on your left. Follow this through the railway tunnel and then uphill past the little lake, until you reach Sackville School playing field. Stick to the path and then leave the field via the gap in the hedge.
10. Turn right down Noble Tree road passing Little Foxbush and the war memorial and then turn right onto Tonbridge Road. Cross over at the Zebra crossing with care and then continue until you reach the Half Moon.

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11. Turn left into Half Moon Lane, then follow the round past the village green until you meet Mount Pleasant. Turn left and then taken an immediate right into Church Street, the village hall is at the end of the road on your right.
12. Turn left up Riding Lane, walking past the library, before turning right at the end of the road back onto Tonbridge Road. Continue until you reach St Johns Church.
13. Turn right into the church yard and follow the path anti clockwise round the church. Walk down through the cemetery and then turn right through the gate, passing through the Glebe field and onto the rec.



Key to headstones

1. Charles Fitch Kemp
2. Rev. Edward Vinall
3. John Frederick Herring
4. John Henry Johnson
5. George Upton and James Goldsmith

14. Cross the rec heading for the far corner behind the tennis courts. Turn left onto Riding Lane and follow the road for 360 metres. Take the path to the right after Club cottages and follow it alongside the Hilden Brook into the woods. Watch your step for the many tree roots here.
15. Cross the track at Hollanden farm and then continue through the woods, over the bridge and then stay on the path until you reach a kissing gate.

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16. Turn right onto Coldharbour Lane and follow the road for 100 metres before taking the path on the left.
17. Walk through the meadow, climb the stile and then cross a second meadow. Fidelity will be on your right. Cross the next two meadows using either the stile or the gates.
18. Cross the top of the next meadow and then climb the stile before taking the path between the tall hedge and the field. This is allegedly where Ghandi once stayed. Go over the farm track and walk across the grass field, following the path behind the houses and along the back of the gardens.
19. Continue over the driveway and then go through the kissing gate following the path beneath the giant oak trees.
20. When the path forks, turn right and follow this between the fences. Continue down the track past the cottages until you reach London/Tonbridge road.
21. Cross the road with care and the Hilden Manor will be on your right. When ready to continue, walk along the main road for approximately 700 metres until you reach the Hilden Bridge.
22. Cross the bridge and then take the path to the right, walking uphill past Tonbridge School Sports Centre. Cross the road and then take the path between the railings and the hedge.
23. At the end of the path turn right onto Havelock Road and continue until the end of the street. Turn left onto Stafford Road and follow this until it meets the Slade, ending your walk at Lower Castle Fields car par

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