



Pic 1: The footbridge leading into the field of shrubs



Pic 2: The concrete road bridge over the River Medway



Pic 3: One of the bridges at East Lock



Pic 4: The footpath between lakes



Pic 5: The fork crossroad in the middle of the field – GO RIGHT



Pic 6: One of the footbridges between the fields

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The Three Bridges Tour

Walk overview:

Distance: 4.5 miles (7 km)

Time: 2 – 2.5 hours

Description: Heading north, walk along the river Medway, over three bridges at East Lock and between ponds and lakes surrounding the river.



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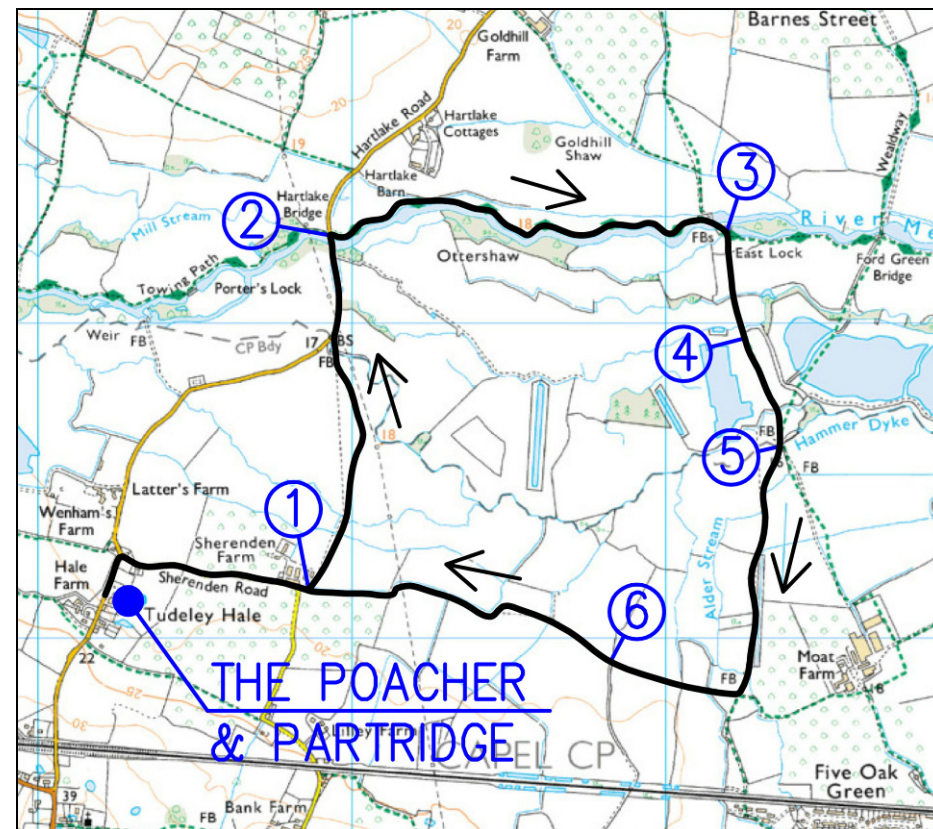


Leave The Poacher & Partridge, turn right and walk along the road for about 0.1 miles (150m) until a crossroad with a small road. Turn right onto the road and keep walking along it for about 0.3 miles (600m) until the road bears to the right. Continue straight through a metal gate and onto a track until a 'Public footpath' signpost on the left **(1)**. Turn left, go over the footbridge and keep walking along the footpath through the field of shrubs until another footbridge. Walk over it and continue along the footpath into another field. At the end of the field walk over the last footbridge into the very big field and carry on straight along the footpath in the direction of the two tall posts in the middle of the field with the forest in the background. At the end of the field follow the footpath through the woodland onto the road.

Turn right onto the road and continue across the bridge over the River Medway (for more information see walk no. 10) for about 0.25 miles (400m) until a 'Public footpath' signpost on the left. Follow the signpost and turn left (almost 180°) onto a path. Keep walking until a T-junction of footpaths and turn left onto the Medway Valley Walk **(2)**. Follow the trail and enjoy some nice views of the River Medway for about 1 mile (1.6km) until you reach East Lock.

Follow the footpath to the right, over the river and continue over all three bridges **(3)**. At the end of lock premises walk through a metal gate and turn right onto a footpath. Keep walking along the footpath for about 0.3 miles (500m) until the second footbridge. Go over it and continue straight along the dam in between two lakes **(4)**. When you reach the end, walk over another footbridge and at the fork crossroad behind the footbridge take the path to the right **(5)**. Continue along the trail through the field for about 0.5 miles (800m) until the second concrete panel crossing between the fields (you will walk over the first panel crossing and also over a footbridge between the fields). Cross over the panel and carry on along the footpath for about 50 yards (50m) more until an X-crossroad in the middle of the field.

Turn right onto another path and keep walking straight through two fields until a footbridge **(6)**. Walk over it and continue straight along the trail through the fields until another footbridge. Go over it and carry on straight through the field of shrubs until a post with a yellow arrow in the middle of the trail. Turn left (follow the arrow) and keep walking along the track for about 0.5 miles (800m) until a metal gate at Sherenden Farm. Go through it, join the road and follow it for about 0.3 miles (600m) until a bigger road. Turn left onto the road and go back to The Poacher & Partridge.



The River Medway Footpaths & Hartlake tragedy

The Medway Valley Walk follows the river from Rochester to Tonbridge along the bank most of the way above Allington. It starts on the Saxon Shore Way at Rochester. The North Downs Way crosses the river using the Medway Viaduct or motorway bridge. The Greensand Way crosses the river at Yalding. At West Peckham, it is joined by the Wealdway which continues through Tonbridge, thus linking with the Eden Valley Walk. Maidstone Millennium River Park is a 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) walk from Teston Country Park to the Museum of Kent Life at Sandling.

The Hartlake disaster of 1853 saw the deaths of 30 hop-pickers when a wagon carrying them crashed through the side of a rotten wooden bridge in Golden Green near Hadlow, throwing its passengers into the flood swollen river. You will see a memorial plaque under the bridge after leaving the road in memory of those who died.

Source: www.wikipedia.org