



# 27 KENT PENSHURST, CHIDDINGSTONE & HEVER

► Distance: 11 miles/17.5km ► Time: 5 hours ► Grade: Moderate



A glorious day at Hever Castle.

PHOTO: RICHARDIK/ISTOCK

## CRENELATED COMFORT...



**CHOSEN BY...**  
**FIONA BARLTROP**

Situated in the picturesque rolling countryside of the High Weald AONB just a few miles from one another are the castles of Hever (childhood home of Ann Boleyn) and Chiddingstone, as well as Penshurst Place, one of England's great privately-owned stately homes. The waymarked Eden Valley Walk links Penshurst and Hever, a distance of about 3½ miles,

with Chiddingstone just a short detour en route. There are good views of Penshurst Place and Chiddingstone Castle on this walk, but Hever Castle can only be viewed by paying to enter. A couple of hours is recommended for Hever, so if you want to allow time and shorten the walk, your best bet is to retrace your steps along the Eden Valley Walk, including the detour to Chiddingstone on the way out or return. ➔

Penshurst Place: the ancestral home of the Sidney family.

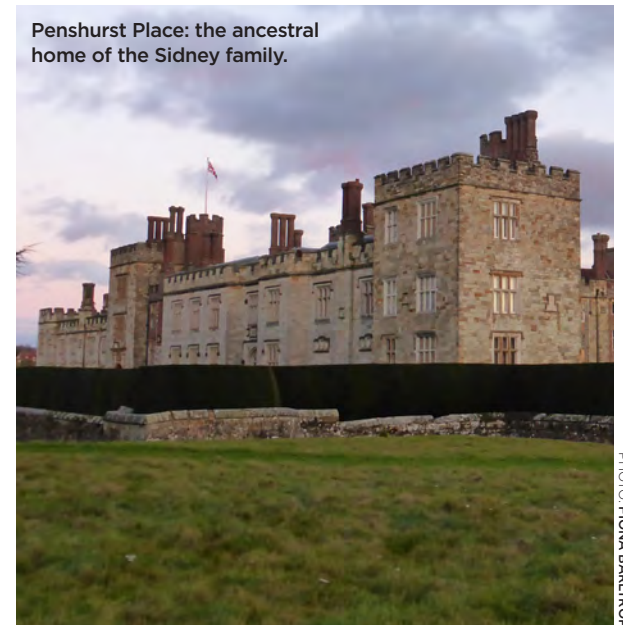


PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP





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► OS Explorer map 147 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)



**1 Start**  
Just north of lay-by turn L along access road/bridleway, route of the Eden Valley Walk (EVW). After crossing river Eden fork R along track. Having passed Wat Stock, look out for a bridle gate (alongside a large gate) on your R, go through this and follow path across field to gate at far side (NB EVW route on map differs). Turn R along road and almost immediately L onto a footpath. Note a footpath forking R after c.500m; this leads to Chiddingstone, if you want to visit the village and castle on this leg.


**2 1½ miles/3km**  
At next junction bear L to continue along EVW via Hill Hoath, where you bear R then L. Continuing westwards an enclosed section of the bridleway takes you between tall moss-clad sandstone rocks. At next fork bear R to continue along EVW (now a footpath). You'll reach an estate road where the path continues parallel to it alongside Park Wood. EVW leads via St Peter's churchyard (church contains tomb of Sir Thomas Bullen, Ann Boleyn's father) to the road, close to entrance to Hever Castle and gardens.

**3 3½ miles/5.6km**  
Go L along road and when it bends (opposite pub) turn L along footpath (also signed for school). Turn L when you reach lane and at road junction bear L, then L along a footpath which leads back to the EVW (NB path diversion as signed on ground c.150m before EVW). Turn R to retrace steps to pt 2. Leave EVW here and keep ahead, then bear L to Chiddingstone.

**4 6 miles/9.5km**  
Turn L along road and L again along path signed to the Chiding Stone, a couple of minutes walk. This large sandstone boulder is rumoured to have served various purposes over the centuries (see info panel). Return to road and continue into village. Where road bends R a permissive path leads through attractive grounds to castle (a country house dating from the 16th century, remodelled in the castle-style in the 19th century.) Retrace steps, then go L down a drive past some houses and continue along a footpath heading north to cross river Eden again. Just beyond, bear R along footpath that climbs gently up through fields. At top turn R along R hand edge of

field, then along L hand edge of next field. Cross road, pass some houses, then cut L across corner of field, go through a gap and follow hedge on R gently downhill and bear slightly L to cross footbridge. Continue along footpath heading east (maintain direction after crossing stile), then south-east, down to a stream. Cross and take path on its R hand side to road and houses at Moorden.

**5 8½ miles/13km**  
Turn R then L down a drive and continue on footpath, which leads to a lane by a bridge over railway. Turn R and at next road junction L, then immediately R at a footpath turn-off.

**6 9 miles/14.5km**  
Now in grounds of Penshurst Place Estate, take R of two footpaths and follow this southwards back to Penshurst, passing to R of lake and impressive house, owned by the Sidney family since 1552. Path leads to churchyard and through Leicester Square courtyard in front of church entrance. Turn R along road back to start or L through gatehouse archway for Penshurst Place. 



Getting up close to Chiddingstone Castle.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTOP



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## PLAN YOUR WALK



### ROUTE

**Start/parking** Penshurst, layby on B2176, near junction with B2188, TN11 8DB, grid ref TQ526438  
**Is it for me?** Outward leg follows waymarked Eden Valley Walk on woodland and field paths. Return leg includes field paths (waymarks may be missing) and parkland and a couple of quiet country roads. Paths can be muddy  
**Stiles** 5

### PLANNING

**Nearest towns** Tunbridge Wells  
**Refreshments** On route  
**Public toilets** None  
**Public transport** Bus 231 & 233 from Tunbridge Wells, Mon-Sat, Penshurst railway station near point 5  
**Maps** OS Explorer 147; Landranger 188

## VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS

Ordnance Survey

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

