

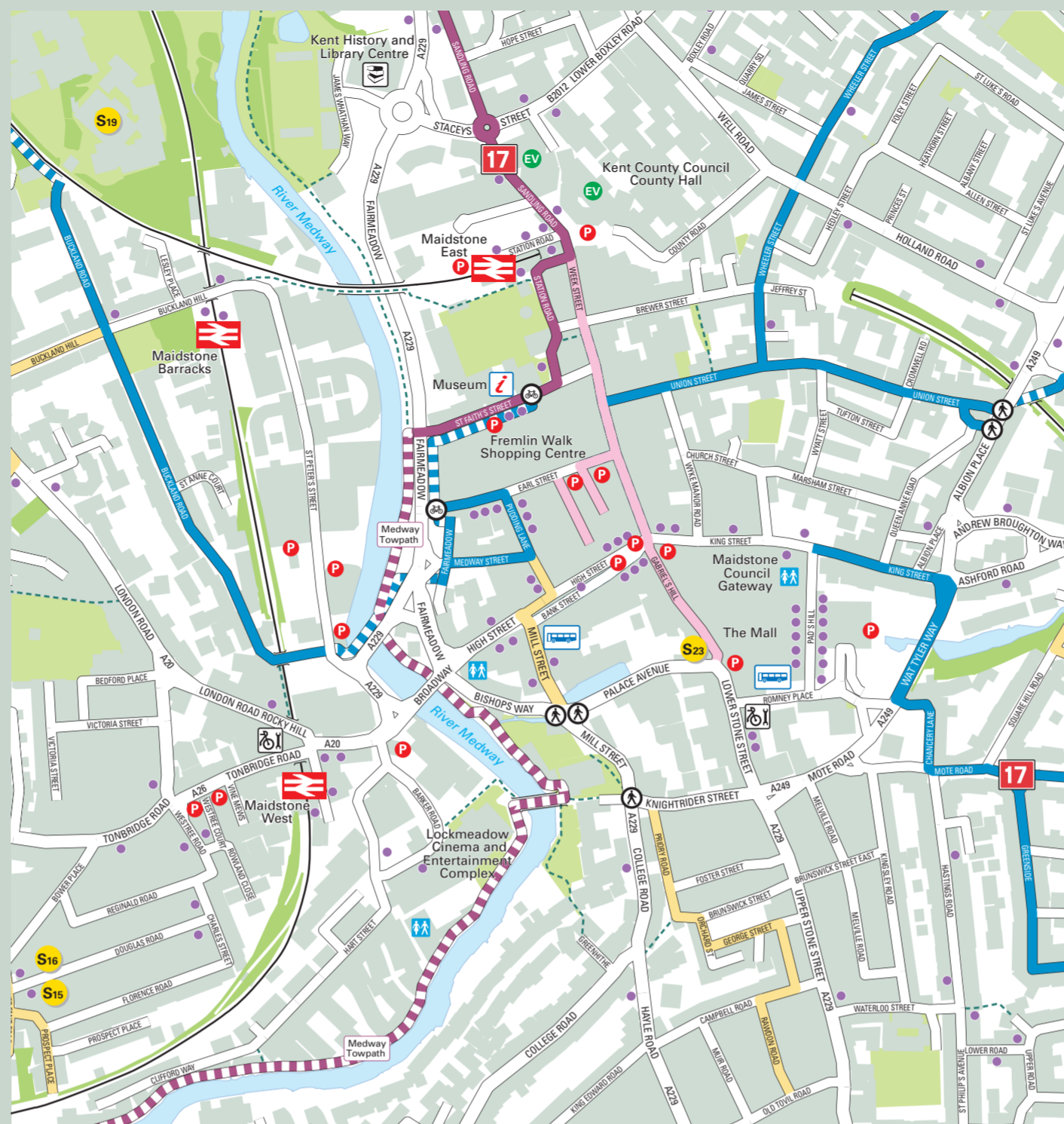
Maidstone is the County Town of Kent and offers its residents and workforce an enviable quality of life, with beautiful downland countryside, two rivers, award-winning parks, a bustling nightlife, thriving retail environment and a growing business economy. Not to mention nearby Leeds Castle – “the most beautiful castle in the world”.



Maidstone has a strong, thriving economy which is ready to welcome visitors but is also great fun for the people who live here. It has become the Event Capital of Kent with its wide and varied programme, which runs through all the seasons and offers a great selection of venues. The River Medway, which runs through the town centre, takes you straight out to the countryside along a traffic free, green corridor.

Maidstone has a long and colourful history with famous battles, courageous people and trade being key. Fresh produce, from the Garden of England, travelled from here to London to feed a city of people. Maidstone is particularly famous for paper, print, sweets and gin production.

Mote Park is the largest park in Maidstone with a glorious lake, stunning wildlife and green corridors linking it to the Kent Downs AONB. Beyond this there are many other good parks and wildlife areas worth exploring.



**Signed on-road cycle route**  
**Traffic-free - Surfaced**  
 Includes Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic  
**Unsigned routes – useful to link up your cycle journey**  
**Promoted route – on-road \***  
**Promoted route off-road – surfaced \***  
 \* Guides available for download from [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org)

**Pedestrianised roads**  
**Footpath**  
**School**  
**Named and numbered**  
**Bus stop**  
**Visitor Information**  
**Library**  
**Bus Station**  
**Railway with station**  
**Toucan crossing**  
**Pelican crossing**  
**Bike shop**  
**Electric Vehicle Charging Point**  
**National Cycle Network route number**  
**Cycle parking**  
**Toilets**

**ACTIVE TRAVEL**  
 Getting around on just two wheels or legs gives you the chance to view your journey in a fresh, new way and it might be a lot easier than you think. Why not give it a go for your next commute? It doesn't have to be the whole journey - get off the bus a stop early or park out of town and walk or cycle the last bit.

- Five reasons to walk or cycle:
- Active travel keeps you fit and improves mental health
  - Cycling can be quicker and can avoid traffic jams
  - It reduces pollution and congestion on the roads
  - You save money on parking, fuel and gym fees
  - Your journey time is more reliable

Think it will take too long? Most people can cycle about 3 miles in 15 minutes.

**ROUTE 17**  
 National cycle route 17 extends through the town centre, linking Maidstone with the Medway Towns to the North and Ashford to the South. This route takes you right past the Kent Wildlife Trust visitor centre at Tyland Barn off the A229. You don't have to be a cyclist to use a National Cycle Route – Route 17 is regularly enjoyed by pedestrians as well.

Public rights of way are shown on the map and cyclists are permitted to use bridleways, restricted byways and byways. To report a problem on a right of way go online to [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk) and use the fault reporting tool.



**EXPLORE MAIDSTONE**



**GET OUTDOORS AND ACTIVE**



**PILGRIMS CYCLE TRAIL**

The Pilgrims Cycle Trail runs from Rochester to Canterbury passing the outskirts of Maidstone at Sandling, Bearsted, Hollingbourne, Harrietsham and Lenham. This runs through the AONB of the North Downs, and lining the route you will find interpretation boards explaining the landscape and history, spectacular views and lovely local pubs where you can relax.

**RIVER MEDWAY TOW PATH**

The brand new River Medway Tow Path runs from Aylesford to East Farleigh, mainly following the watercourse. You are spoilt for choice for cafés along the route, some are immediately adjacent to the river with lovely views and provide interesting places to sit and watch the wildlife or simply enjoy the shade under the weeping willow trees. Beyond the end of this route are some lovely country lanes and places to explore, including the villages of Yalding, Laddingford and Wateringbury.

To find detailed guides for these routes visit [ExploreKent.org](http://ExploreKent.org)

**RAIL TRAILS**

Explore Kent have put together a group of trails that follow the paths of railway lines in and around Maidstone. These walks will take you through the town, along the river and past many local pubs and attractions you can take in along your way. You can find the full selection of walks at [explorekent.org/rail-trails](http://explorekent.org/rail-trails).



**GETTING AROUND**

**Maidstone has an excellent public transport network with three train stations, Maidstone East and Maidstone West in the Town Centre and Maidstone Barracks just outside.**

Maidstone West Station joins to the Paddock Wood line and there are a number of stations along the route allowing for exploration along the river and return by train for tired legs. From Paddock Wood you can reach Marden, Staplehurst and Headcorn all with great opportunities to explore the countryside of Kent and with downloadable cycle routes.

You can take your bike on any Southeastern train, unless the train arrives or departs London during peak hours - but you can take a fold up bike anytime.

Download the Kent Connected mobile app or go to [kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org) to help plan your journey. View local cycling and walking routes, bus and train times and all other information on travelling in Kent.



**THINGS TO DO**

**Visit Maidstone**  
 For more information on attractions, places to eat, and things to do in the area check out Visit Maidstone.  
[Visitmaidstone.com](http://Visitmaidstone.com)  
[@Maidstoneinfo](https://twitter.com/Maidstoneinfo)  
[Facebook.com/VisitMaidstone](https://facebook.com/VisitMaidstone)

**The Hucking Estate** - is run by the Woodland Trust and can be found on the top of the North Downs near Maidstone. It has excellent trails, information about this special environment, has wood crafted sculptures and is fun to explore.

**Maidstone Museum** - has a wealth of information on local history but also collections of international importance.

**Kent Life Farm Attraction** - has a collection of historical buildings, owlery, vintage tea room, shop, farm animals and children's play areas.

**Kentish Lady River Boat** - Departs from outside the Archbishops' Palace throughout the summer season.

**Leeds Castle** - a little way out of town but great day out by bicycle.

**The Kent Archives** - at the Kent History and Library Centre [kentarchives.org.uk](http://kentarchives.org.uk)

**WHY NOT**

*Advertise*  
**YOUR BUSINESS**

**IN THE NEXT VERSION?**

**CONTACT EXPLORE KENT TO FIND OUT HOW?**  
 Email: [explorekent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:explorekent@kent.gov.uk)



Explore Kent  
 Invicta House,  
 Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX  
 Email: [explorekent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:explorekent@kent.gov.uk)

If you require this guide in another format or language please email [explorekent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:explorekent@kent.gov.uk)

Cartography:  
 © FourPoint Mapping



# CYCLE TO SCHOOL

- S1 Aylesford School
- S2 Aylesford Primary School
- S3 Ditton CEJ School
- S4 Ditton Infant School
- S5 Allington Primary School
- S6 Palace Wood Primary School
- S7 Barming Primary School
- S8 Bower Grove School
- S9 Jubilee Primary School
- S10 West Borough Primary School
- S11 St Francis Catholic School, Maidstone
- S12 St Simon Stock Catholic School, Maidstone
- S13 St Augustine Academy
- S14 Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone
- S15 St Michaels CEJ School, Maidstone
- S16 St Michaels CEJ School, Maidstone
- S17 Brunswick House Primary School
- S18 The Maplesden Noakes School
- S19 Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
- S20 North Borough Junior School
- S21 St Pauls Infant School
- S22 Sandling Primary School
- S23 Maidstone & Malling Alternative Provision Centre
- S24 Maidstone Grammar School
- S25 South Borough Primary School
- S26 Archbishop Courtenay Primary School
- S27 Park Way Primary School
- S28 Loose Primary School
- S29 Tiger Primary School
- S30 Five Acre Wood School
- S31 Oaks Primary Academy
- S32 Molehill Copse Primary School
- S33 Tree Tops Academy
- S34 Senacre Wood Primary School
- S35 Greenfields Community Primary School
- S36 Madginford Primary School
- S37 Thurnham CEJ School
- S38 Roseacre Junior School
- S39 St Johns CEP School, Maidstone
- S40 Valley Park School
- S41 Invicta Grammar School
- S42 East Borough Primary School
- S43 East Farleigh Primary School

## KEY

- Signed on-road cycle route
- Traffic-free - Surfaced  
Includes Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic
- Unsigned routes - useful to link up your cycle journey
- Promoted route - on-road \*
- Promoted route off-road - surfaced \*
- Guides available for download from [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org)
- Pedestrianised roads
- Footpath
- School Named and numbered
- Bus stop
- Hospital
- Visitor Information
- Library
- Bus Station
- Railway with station
- Level crossing
- Toucan crossing
- Pelican crossing
- Bike shop
- Electric Vehicle Charging Point
- National / Regional Cycle Network route number
- Toilets
- Cycle parking

