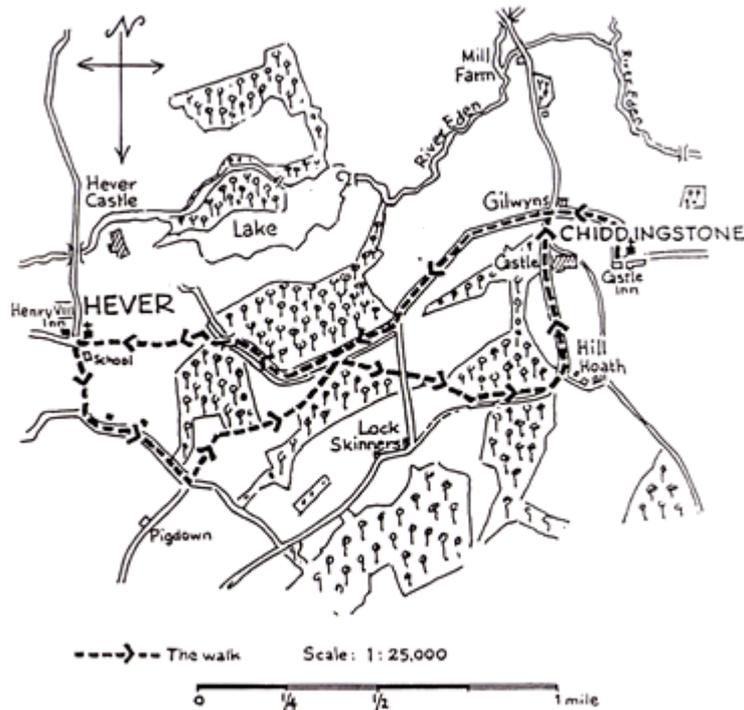


Chiddingstone to Hever Walk

By little roads and paths, through fields and woods, to [Hever Castle](#) and back.

Total distance about 4.5 miles. 1_ hours.



From Chiddingstone village, with the Castle Inn behind you and St. Mary's Church on your right, take the road that skirts the lake, with Chiddingstone Castle away on your left, to Gilwyns crossroads; then straight ahead, first down then up, for half a mile. Continue on the road and down the hill turning right where the Eden Valley Walk crosses the road and follow the path through Hever Castle grounds coming out through Hever churchyard leading to a lychgate.

Inside the charming little church of St. Peter's, with its slender spire, is the tomb of Sir Thomas Bullen, father to Anne Boleyn. To your right is [Hever Castle](#).

To continue your walk, which we left at the lychgate; turn left past the King Henry VIII Inn and, where the road turns sharply to the right round the inn, carry straight on by a path, passing the village school on your left. The path leads to a quiet little road where you turn left, and after a third of a mile, you join another road. Here you go over a stile on the left and carry on by the hedge ahead. After turning to the right and skirting a wood, the path continues by a hedge and over a stile, past woodland on the right to the private road that runs through Hever Castle grounds. This is the road that we saw when first we entered the grounds.

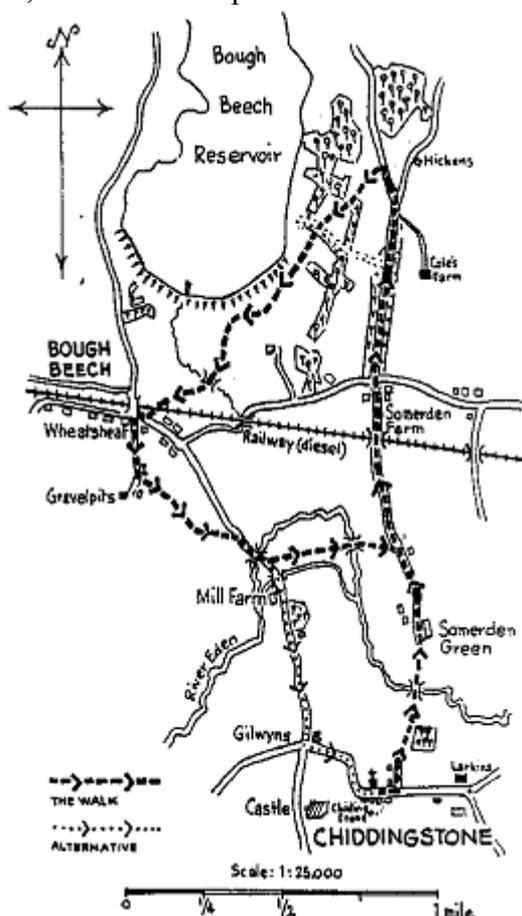
Here you turn right, not along the private road, but by a path that runs alongside a fence to the right, and on to another road that dives down a hill to your right, which you cross to a gate opposite. From the gate, go straight ahead, between fences along the edge of the field, then turn right when you come to a wood. Turn sharp left, over a little footbridge and up a steep path. When the path joins a track, turn left. The track, which for part of the way passes through rock, is generally muddy and very ridged, so it is advisable to take a track to the left, that runs alongside, and above, the rocks and rejoins the track again just short of Hill Hoath. At Hill Hoath pass in front of a low-lying half-timbered house, to your left, called Withers and turn left down the road. Carry straight on down this road for about half a mile, to arrive once more at Gilwyns crossroads, where you turn right and retrace your steps to Chiddingstone Village.

Chiddingstone to Bough Beech Reservoir

An hour and three quarters walk from Chiddingstone to Bough Beech Reservoir and back by a different route.

Total distance about 5 miles.

From Chiddingstone Village, going east and leaving the village school on your right, turn left down a wide path just before the new churchyard, past two houses, and continue downhill alongside a fence. There is a fine view across to the hills from here. The path then takes you across a meadow to the river Eden, which you cross by a footbridge, and so on to Somerden Green. Here you will see a row of cottages on your right, built in 1601 as a workhouse for the poor of the parish. The path continues as a private lane that bridges the railway and brings you to Somerden Farm. Cross the road with great care, the cars travel very fast along this stretch, and continue up the road ahead for about half a



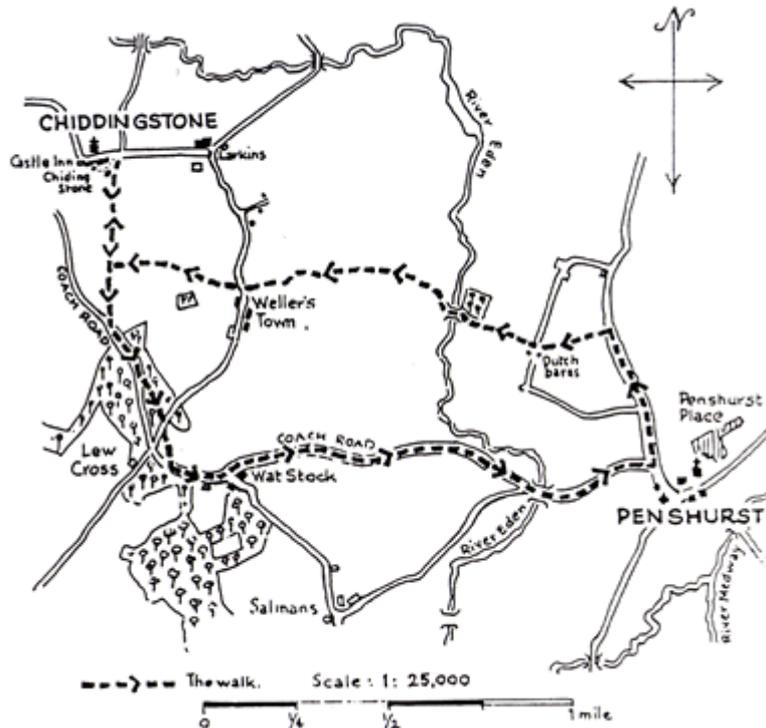
mile.

Where the road divides, take the left hand fork for two hundred yards, 'til you come to a marked path on your left. Take this path through the trees to a stile by a field, which you cross to another stile opposite and so to a road used by the Sailing Club at Bough Beech Reservoir. Cross this road, through a strip of woodland and cross a field to a fence, which you surmount and then continue with the high bank of the reservoir on your right. The path then bears left through trees, over a stile and continues between fences to another stile. Here you go half right across the field ahead, to a footbridge over a brook, and again continue half right to a stile by a railway embankment. The path crosses the railway and turns right up a steep path to the road at Bough Beech, where you turn right to the "Wheatsheaf".

Take the narrow unmade road to the east, or left, of the "Wheatsheaf" and when you pass two cottages on your left, take a path by a farmyard gate and continue round the right hand edge of the field ahead. There are lovely views of the countryside around. Go through a gate, carry on by the hedge in the next field, 'til you come to an opening on the left; through here and turn right to a gate by a road. Here you turn right along the road and you could, if you wanted to save a quarter of a mile, continue along this road past Mill Farm to Gilwyns crossroads, and so left back to Chiddingstone. If you prefer to continue off-road take the path on the left, a few yards past the little bridge over the Eden. The path crosses the meadow to a footbridge over the river and straight up the field ahead to a stile by an oak tree. Looking over to the right from here, you have a very fine view of Chiddingstone Castle and St. Mary's church. Crossing over the stile brings you back to the path from which you started your walk, so turn right and retrace your steps back to Chiddingstone.

Chiddingstone to Penshurst Walk

An hour and a half walk from Chiddingstone to [Penshurst Place](#), and back by a different route.
Total distance about 4.5 miles. 1½ hours



Leaving Chiddingstone by a path to the east of the village, sign-posted "Footpath to Chiddingstone Hoath", continue south, past the New Rectory, over a stile and down a well-marked path to another stile and so on to an iron kissing-gate. Here the path joins the old coach road, which used to link Chiddingstone with Penshurst. Turn left along the old road through woodland, and where the track divides, keep to the left one, which soon joins a road. Here you turn right and continue for a while and cross a stile to the left. Go diagonally across the field until once again you join the coach road. Here, you turn left to Watstock Farm, where, avoiding the road to the right, you continue through farm buildings. Hiding behind the buildings on the right, there is a fine half-timbered fifteenth century house. The track takes you straight through to Penshurst, with lovely views on the left over the Eden Valley. You will then cross a brick bridge over the river Eden not long before it joins the Medway at Penshurst, and soon you meet the main road, straight ahead, outside [Penshurst Place](#).

At Penshurst village, just to your right, you can get refreshments, and in case you don't already know the village, you should take a look at the beautiful Church, approached through the charming little Leicester Square.

To return to Chiddingstone go back to the place where you joined the main road opposite [Penshurst Place](#) and then continue past for about a third of a mile uphill, then just after a house on the left, go up some steps to a stile. Continue beside a hedge on the your left, cross a farm track, leaving the Dutch barns on your left, and follow the path down to the river, where you turn right, to cross the Eden by a humpbacked footbridge. From the bridge you continue half right, cross a ditch and on to a gate with a stile alongside. Cross over the stile and continue right along the side of the field, over another stile and then along the right hand side of the field. You will arrive at a gate just by Weller's Town, which far from being a town is just a collection of cottages on either side of the road. Here you should turn right along the road for a few yards to a gate on the left. Pass through the gate and continue half right across the field ahead to a stile. To the left, in a wooded hollow, once stood the Manor House of Chiddingstone Burghersh, which by 1591 had "clean fallen down"; one can still see faint traces of the two great moats that surrounded the stately building. But to continue, go over a stile, diagonally across the next field to a stile in the hedge; and on beside a wire fence to regain your original path, where, of course, you turn right and so back to Chiddingstone