

West Farleigh Walk Summary

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.8 km) - allow 1hr 30mins

 **Start/finish:** Teston Bridge Country Park

 **Ground conditions:** There is one steep hill, the rest is downhill or flat. The walk takes you by the river, along quiet roads, through fields and a small section of large beech trees

 **Views:** There are some good views heading down towards the river from Farleigh Green

 **Refreshments:** The Good Intent Pub at Farleigh Green
01622 812426

 **Toilets:** Teston Bridge Country Park

Grid Ref: Teston Bridge Country Park TQ 208, 352,
East Farleigh train station TQ 736, 537

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 148

Travel Info

By train

East Farleigh train station is right next to the river and 10 minutes walk from Barming Bridge, where you can pick up the walk. Simply head out of the station and follow the path with the river on your left until you reach Barming Bridge, then follow the directions from here.

By car

To Teston Bridge Country Park: From the A26, turn on to the B2163 at Teston and follow the signs for Teston Bridge Country Park.

To East Farleigh Train station: From the A26, take Farleigh Lane to the station

Parking

There is plenty of car parking at Teston Bridge Country Park. There is a charge of £1 a day. Visit www.explorekent.co.uk to find out more about the country parks. Limited free parking is also available at East Farleigh train station

By bus

Buses run regularly from Maidstone and Tonbridge to Teston (the Street) 6mins walk from Teston Bridge Country Park.

FOR MORE INFO ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT GO TO
www.traveline.info OR CALL 0871 200 22 33



Kettle bridge

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) is a not for profit organisation that works to enhance and protect the local countryside in the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge. MVCP encourage people to explore and enjoy this unique part of Kent.

These leaflets have been produced by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership as part of their Riverside Communities Project.

To find out more about the Partnership and the Riverside Communities Project visit www.medwayvalley.org or call **01622 683695**

This leaflet is available in alternative formats.

The information on this leaflet is for guidance only and condition may vary. For any problems concerning the paths, please tell us on Kent Report Line **0845 345 0210**



With kind support from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and the Ernest Cook Trust

West Farleigh River Walk

This walk starts by the river, then heads up a fairly steep hill to give excellent views of the Medway Valley. It can easily be linked to the Teston walk to create a longer route.



View under Teston bridge



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The National Lottery[®]
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West Farleigh Walk



Barham Court



This walk can be linked to the Teston to Wateringbury route if you fancy walking a bit further. As with many paths near the river during wet weather they are liable to flooding. There is one reasonably steep hill as you head up to Farleigh Green, but the views of the Medway Valley are lovely as you come down.

Look out for:

All Saints Church - near Court Lodge Farm.

Originally built around 1100, the Chancel arch, original west door and narrow round-headed windows from this period are deemed to be 'typically early Norman'. There are many parts which have been added or changed since. A cross made of bronze, brass and wood was saved by the priest (during the Reformation) by burying it here- it was hidden so well that it was not discovered for another 300 years. The cross now resides in the British Museum.



www.westfarleigh.org.uk

All Saints Church

Kettle Bridge - otherwise known as Barming Bridge.

There has been a crossing at St Helens Lane since before the Roman times. There was a ford here which the Romans put down cobbles on. It is said if you dive down to the bottom of the river you can still see the cobbles. The fords were replaced with bridges to preserve the crossing points when the level of the water was raised by the introduction of sluices and weirs.

The name Kettle Lane derives from Cattle Lane. Cattle herds were driven down to the ford, to then be taken to Chatham for slaughter.

It is also said the houses at the top of the hill played a part in smuggling. One of them would signal the all-clear to boats moored so they could unload their booty.

Photo guide



Directions

1 From Teston Bridge Country Park, walk underneath Teston bridge and follow the path with the bridge behind you and river to your right. This will take you through grazed grassland, kissing gates and over small footbridges until you reach Barming Bridge.

2 At Barming Bridge go over the stile and turn right over the bridge to cross the river.

3 Head up the fairly steep hill past some houses. At the top of the hill cross the road to follow Kettle Lane. Take care when crossing the road.

Follow Kettle Lane until you reach West Farleigh Green. This is an amenity grassland with benches and playground equipment where you can enjoy a picnic or visit the Good Intent pub.

4 Turn sharp right to follow Charlton Lane, past the Good Intent pub.

A pavement further down takes you back to lower road. On the way enjoy the views of the Medway Valley and Barham Court.

5 At T-junction cross the road (take care), turning left onto pavement.

6 At Church lane, climb the stile at the corner. (Alternatively you can walk down Church Lane and through the church grounds to get a closer look at the church). Take the footpath heading through the trees.

7 Head diagonally over the field to hit edge of adjoining field. Continue diagonally across field to stile. Go over the stile, bear left and follow path around fields and back to the road.

8 Head over the bridge to Teston Bridge Country Park.

Teston Bridge is often busy, take care when crossing the bridge.



