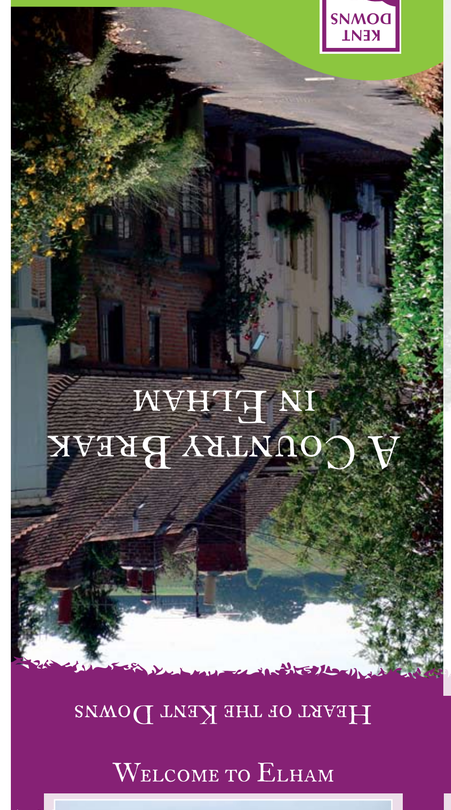
A Country Break in Elham



Elham Valley Vineyard

Breach, near Barham CT4 6LN
T: 01227 832022

Look round the vineyard and see how the vines grow in the sheltered, tranquil valley that gives the vineyard its name. The vineyard is open all year. There is a shop on site selling wine and crafts, a pottery and tea shop. Disabled access, parking on site, coaches by arrangement.

Etchinghill Golf Course

Etchinghill, near Folkestone CT18 8FA
T: 01303 863863
www.pentlandgolf.co.uk

27 holes of top quality golf in two distinctive settings: 18 holes are carved into the hillside overlooking the Elham Valley, and the par 3 course of nine holes extends over parkland.

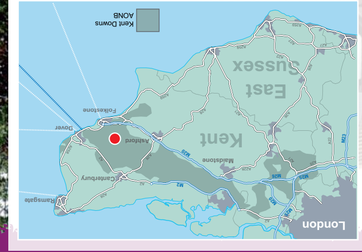
Elham Valley Railway Museum

Peene, near Folkestone CT18 8BA
T: 01303 273690
www.elhamvalleyline trust.org

The Elham Valley Railway ran from 1887 until it closed in 1947, but can still be visited today with recreation of that bygone age and something for the whole family. Open weekends and bank holidays April to August.

Further Information:
www.elham.co.uk
Folkestone Visitor Information Centre
T: 01303 258594
www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk
Canterbury Visitor Information Centre
T: 01227 378100
www.canterbury.co.uk
National Transport Information
www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

www.ruralways.org.uk (go to Country Breaks)
www.kentdowns.org.uk
www.visitkent.co.uk
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



By Road:

Elham is conveniently located midway between the M20 and A2. From Folkestone follow A260 north or from Canterbury take the A2/A260 south.

By Bus:

Elham is served by the No. 17 bus route from Folkestone to Canterbury, operated by Stagecoach.

By Train:

The nearest train station is Sandling (5.5 miles). Alternatively travel to Canterbury or Folkestone and pick up the bus. Visit **www.nationalrail.co.uk** for more info.

Free parking and public toilets are available within the village.

Elham is working together to become a low carbon community. Go to **www.elhamenvironment.co.uk** for more information.

This leaflet is available in large text format at www.kentdowns.org.uk

This leaflet is produced by the Kent Downs AONB Unit's Tranquillity Group and the Hidden Britain initiative. The Project is part financed through the European Regional Development Fund - Interreg IIIa.

TOURISM SOUTH EAST

Hidden Britain South East

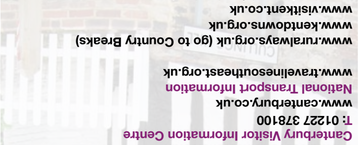
KENT DOWNS
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
kentdowns.org.uk

in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Photography: © Kent Downs AONB Unit, Derek Boughton, Anna Clayton and Dan Hobbs.

Places to Visit

Where to Buy



Elham Valley Arts
High Street, Elham CT4 6TD
T: 01303 840084
www.elhamvalleyarts.co.uk
Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 to 16.00

Elham Valley Stores
High Street, Elham CT4 6TE
Cash machine (£1.50 Charge)
Open Monday to Saturday 06.30 to 19.00
Sunday 06.30 to 17.00

Post Office
High Street, Elham CT4 6TD

Parsonage Farm Shop
North Elham
T: 01303 840215
Opening times are 10.00 – 18.00 Friday, 10.00 – 16.00 Saturday

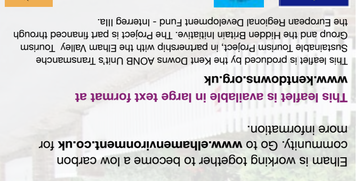
Jubilee Farm Shop
Rhodes Minnis CT4 6YA
T: 01303 862317
www.jubilee-farm.co.uk
Open Monday to Saturday 08.00 to 18.00, Sunday 09.00 to 17.00

Elham Farmers' Market
www.elhamfarmersmarket.co.uk

ELHAM FARMERS MARKET

Getting Here

Where to Eat & Drink



The Rose & Crown
High Street, Elham CT4 6TD
T: 01303 840226
www.roseandcrown.elham.co.uk

The Kings Arms
The Square, Elham CT4 6TJ
T: 01303 840242

The Abbots Fireside Hotel
High Street, Elham CT4 6TD
T: 01303 840265
www.abbotsfireside.com

Where to Stay

A number of local establishments offer accommodation. Details can be found on **www.elham.co.uk**

Heart of the Kent Downs

Welcome to Elham

Nestling in the heart of the inspiring Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the historic village of Elham is truly one of the most picturesque in East Kent.

Elham's 43 listed buildings illustrate a long history, from the late medieval Church of St. Mary and fine timber-framed houses from Tudor times, to the former coaching inn of the Rose & Crown. And whilst Charles II may not have hidden in the chimney at the Abbots Fireside Hotel, there is plenty more fascinating history to be uncovered on a short walk around the village.

Sited halfway along the meandering valley that bears its name, Elham has become rightfully known as a haven for walking. The rolling hills and open fields provide a fantastic selection of both circular and linear routes for all abilities. The well-marked paths wind through unspoilt villages, ancient woodland, pastures and chalk grassland, allowing stunning views across the valley.

With your walk done for the day, you can also sample fresh local produce from traditional pubs and restaurants, local farm shops, the twice-monthly farmers' market, or perhaps visit the nearby Elham Valley Vineyard for Kentish wines. But whatever you decide this is truly a fine place to relax and enjoy an unspoilt corner of Kent.

An Historic Walk in Elham

While visiting Elham, be sure to take the time to stroll around this pretty village and spot some of its numerous historic and listed houses.

1 The Square dates from 1251 when the future Edward 1 granted a market charter to the town.

2 The Church of St Mary the Virgin dates from about 1180. The interior is richly furbished with alabaster plaques, a 12th century font, Tudor wine glass pulpit, an eagle lectern and a chest hewn from the trunk of a yew tree dating to 1200.

3 The Old Bakery, built in 1620, served as a shop and bakehouse for many years.

4 The Old School House, still with the original oak roof, was built in about 1620 and originally used for the education of six poor boys.

5 The Kings Arms, originally known as the Signum Galli (Cock Inn), held cock fights for over 200 years until it was banned and the inn was renamed Kings Arms in 1830.

6 The Abbots Fireside Hotel was built in 1614 but a magnificent over mantle possibly dates to the 15th century and is said to have come from a priory.

The narrow street known as "The Row" runs parallel to the High Street and was the old main road through the village.

Elham Manor, dating back to 1387, includes an old hall with massive tie beams and crown post.

7 **8** The windmill, which once stood behind Mill House, burned down in 1830 and its replacement was demolished in 1924.

9 Ann's Cottage was built in 1744 and 100 years later, a foul murder was committed here!

10 Well and Updown Cottages were originally timber-framed and incorporated a medieval hall house. The well is hidden under the extension to the side of Well Cottage.

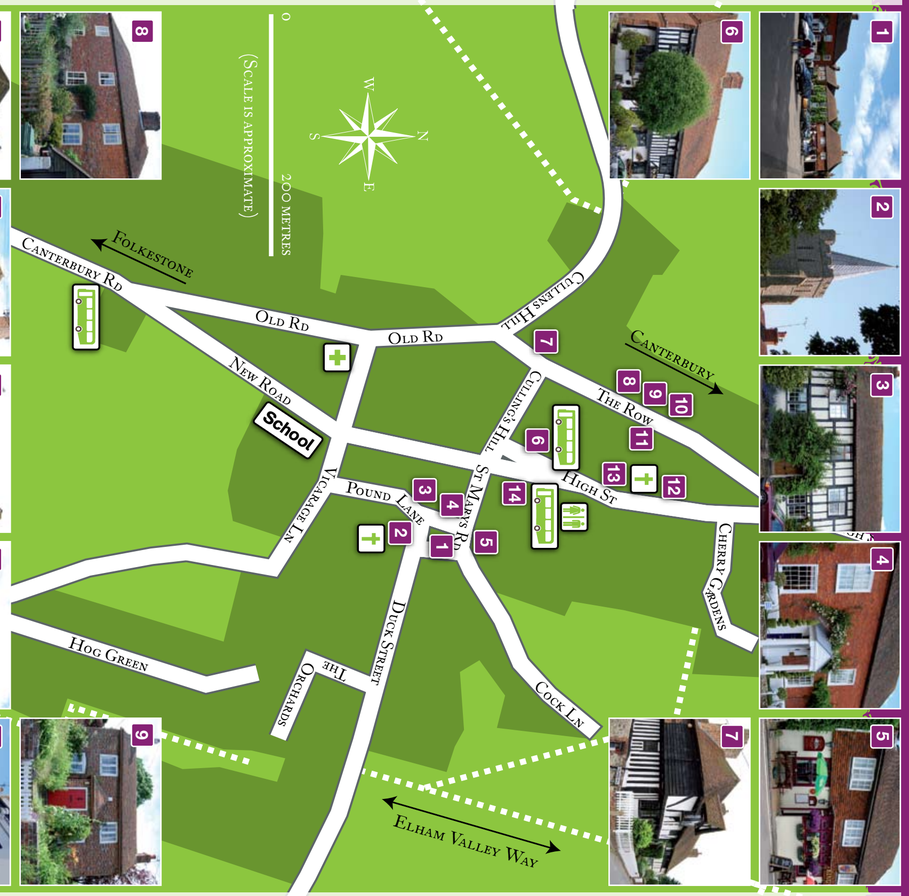
11 The Old Hospital was connected with the Masters/Poor House for the care of the poor and sick in the parish.

12 Coopers' early Georgian facade has a classical symmetry. The house was built in 1724 by Matthew Cooper, a carpenter and barrel maker, on the foundations of an earlier house.

13 The 18th century Masters/Poor House features a central carriage way and was once used to accommodate the poor of the parish.

14 The Rose and Crown was built in the 15th century and the attached stables are a reminder of the coaching inn days. For many years the Elham Petty Sessions were held here.

Exploring Elham



Where to Walk & Cycle

Elham Valley Way

The Elham Valley Way is a walking route that runs from Hythe to Canterbury, following the courses of the Seabrook Stream and River Nailbourne. The route is way marked.

The route passes through some of the finest landscapes in Kent, part of the nationally protected Kent Downs AONB. From the seaside bustle of Hythe, walkers will explore the beautiful Seabrook valley, see the dramatic escarpment of the downs, pass through unspoilt villages such as Elham, and the ornamental parklands and ancient woodlands near Barham, before heading towards the historic city of Canterbury and its cathedral. Go to **www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent** or call 08458 247600

Park Gate Down

Park Gate Down, just under a mile north west of Elham, is a small nature reserve and one of the top orchid sites in the country. This grassland site supports up to 12 different species of orchid during May and June, some of which are nationally scarce.

The Kent Wildlife Trust manages a grazing regime (Konik ponies and Highland cattle in winter) which encourages a huge diversity of plant species and prevents more strident flora from covering the site. In high summer large numbers of butterflies, including Marbled Whites and Chalkhill Blues, can be seen on the reserve. Go to **www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk**

The reserve has recently been renamed The Hector Wilks Reserve in recognition of the work of this local botanist who was involved with Park Gate Down since its inception.

Late Spider Orchid

Common Spotted Orchid

Lady Orchid

Elham Park Wood

Sparrowhawks hunt here, and you may hear and see woodpeckers, tawny owls, yellow hammers and tree creepers. You may also spot foxes and badgers, enjoy the wild flowers in spring and the chestnuts in the autumn.

Other Walks

Other well known routes in the area include: 8 walks in the Elham Parish (detailed leaflets available in Elham's shops and pubs), Saxon Shore Way and North Downs Way National Trail which link with the Elham Valley Way. Go to **www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent** for information.

Walk Awhile

For walking holidays in Kent including the Elham Valley **www.walkawhile.co.uk** or 01227 752762

Cycling

Elham is on National Cycle Route 17 which runs from Dover to Canterbury or cyclists can choose their own routes and destinations, using the many quiet country lanes radiating from the village. Go to **www.sustrans.org.uk** for information.

O.S. sheet 138 (Dover and Folkestone) in the 1:25000 Explorers series is a must for walkers. OS sheet 179 (Canterbury and E. Kent) in the 1:50,000 Landranger Series is more suitable for cyclists.

The information in this leaflet is published in good faith. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, the Kent Downs AONB Unit cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused by errors, omissions or subsequent changes.
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