

A Country Break in the Elham Valley

listings pages

What to see – key attractions in the Elham Valley *(full details on product audit)*

Churches

- Acrise – St. Martin's
- Barham – St. John the Baptist
- Bishopsbourne - St. Mary the Virgin
- Bridge – St. Peter's
- Elham Methodist Church
- Elham - St. Mary's
- Elmsted – St. James'
- Paddlesworth – St. Oswald's
- Kingston – St. Giles
- Lower Hardres – St. Mary's
- Lyminge – St. Mary & St. Ethelburga
- Lyminge Methodist Church
- Lympne – St. Stephen's
- Newington – St. Nicholas
- Patricbourne – St. Mary's
- Stelling Minnis – St. Mary's Stelling
- Upper Hardres – St. Peter and St. Paul

The [Churches Conservation Trust](#) is a national charity protecting historic churches at risk, having saved over 340 special buildings which attract more than 1.5 million visitors a year. With the support of the Trust and visitors, they are kept open and free to all. The Trust's website will help you to explore their churches, through descriptions, images, stories and details of opening times and directions.

[A Church Near You](#) lists every church in the Church of England with maps, contact information and service times.

For information on individual churches in Kent, take a look at [Kent Churches](#) by John Vigar. John provides key architectural and historical facts on many churches throughout the county.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- A Church Near You - <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
- Churches Conservation Trust - <http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/>
- Kent Churches - <http://www.kentchurches.info/>

Equestrian centres

- Bourne Park Riding School, Bishopsbourne – riding school
- Bursted Manor, Bridge – riding school
- Limes Farm Equestrian Centre, Hawkinge – riding school and horse riding holidays
- Coombe Wood Stables (BHS), Hawkinge – riding school
- Dairy Farm Riding Establishment, Lower Hardres – riding school
- Maberdan Riding School (BHS), Stelling Minnis – riding school

Golf

- Broome Park Golf Club
- Etchingill Golf Club
- Roundwood Hall Golf Club

Museums

- Kent Battle of Britain Museum, Hawkinge
- Elham Valley Railway Museum, Peene
- Stelling Minnis Windmill and Museum, Stelling Minnis

Natural sites

- Brockhill Country Park, Saltwood
- Park Gate Nature Reserve (including Madam's Wood), managed by Kent Wildlife Trust
- Jumping Downs Local Nature Reserve, managed by Kentish Stour Countryside Project
- Lyminge Forest (including West Wood, Park Wood, Beveridge Bottom Wood), managed by the Forestry Commission and White Cliffs Countryside Project
- Covert Wood, managed by the Forestry Commission and Kentish Stour Countryside Project
- Covet Wood
- Beachborough Park, Newington (access to be pre arranged)

Venues (weddings, parties, conferences)

- Broome Park, Barham
- Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne
- Elham Village Hall
- The Barn – Kingston Village Hall
- The Port Lympne Mansion at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park
- Lympne Castle

Vineyard

- Elham Valley Vineyard, Breach, Barham - Vineyard / visitor centre / craft shop / tea room - home grown garden produce and vegetables, groups catered for

Other

- Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Lympne – animal park

What to do – Key activities

Arts & crafts:

There are plenty of opportunities for getting creative in the Elham Valley and also for learning some traditional skills:

- [Annie Begley](#) in Wingmore, just outside Elham, runs creative and therapeutic sculpture workshops for groups as well as residential workshops, pottery tea parties (for children or adults!), and regular monthly pottery workshops. These involve a four week block of two-hour workshops allowing time to create a finished piece of work, fired and hand decorated, open to all ages and abilities. Workshops are usually limited to 6 people, but in the summer larger numbers can be catered for under the gazebo in the garden. Annie can suggest local accommodation where you can stay. On the 4th Sunday of every month, Annie runs creative 'hands-on' pottery workshops at the Elham Farmers Market, where you can design and make tiles, sculptures, pots and more. Your work will be fired and ready to collect at the next session.
- [Roseneath Ceramics](#) in Rhodes Minnis is a family run business providing you with the opportunity to paint pottery and ceramics. No artistic ability or previous experience is necessary and this suits all ages. Paints, brushes and readymade white unglazed pottery are provided for you to paint, then glaze and fire in the kiln.
- [Hode Pottery](#) in Petts Bottom is run by a husband and wife team who work closely together to produce garden pottery that is both decorative and functional.
- [Hilltop Spinning & Weaving Centre](#) in Lyminge runs one-to-one courses for beginners and improvers in a range of textile craft disciplines: hand spinning, weaving, dyeing with natural dyestuffs and felt making. Courses are tailored to suit the individual requirements of the student and both beginners and improvers are provided for. Hilltop's Felted Jewellery Workshops are suitable for both adults and children.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- [Annie Begley](http://www.anniebegley.co.uk/) - <http://www.anniebegley.co.uk/>
- [Roseneath Ceramics](http://www.roseneathceramics.com/) - <http://www.roseneathceramics.com/>
- [Hode Pottery](http://www.hodepottery.co.uk/contact.html) - <http://www.hodepottery.co.uk/contact.html>
- [Hilltop Spinning & Weaving Centre](http://www.handspin.co.uk/) - <http://www.handspin.co.uk/>

Alternative therapies / health:

The Elham Valley is a very peaceful and tranquil place so where better than to treat body and mind through a range of therapies and beauty treatments:

- [Yoga 4 Freedom](#) provides Thai yoga massage and runs yoga workshops and retreats in the Elham Valley. Regular classes are held at Rhodes Minnis, Elham and Etchinghill village halls whilst classes for the more experienced are held at St. Paul's Church Hall in Sandgate. Two yoga retreats a year, in April and June, are held at Minster Abbey, near Ramsgate. (Please note 2010 dates are fully booked but book ahead for 2011).
- [Yoga Nature](#) provides a range of health therapies at Broome Park and at Wootton, including aromatherapy, advanced Bowen therapy, reiki healing, Indian head massage, Hopi ear candles, Swedish massage and reflexology. In addition, workshops in shamanka, bead weaving, soap making and other natural products, Dances of Universal Peace and meditation. Meditation can also be booked privately.
- [Wholistic Works](#) in Lyminge is a complementary health centre providing a range of Podiatric services and Complementary Health Therapies including aromatherapy, Hopi Candles, Hypnotherapy, Reflexology, Reiki and Osteopathy
- Caroline Barnes provides individual treatments and workshops using sound and voice for improving and restoring balance and well being. Telephone 01303 840859 for details.
- Janine Moat is a beauty therapist based in the High Street in Elham, providing facials, manicures and pedicures, eyelash tinting, waxing and non surgical face lift facials. Janine also provides reflexology and aromatherapy. Telephone 01303 840 052 or email janenemoat@supanet.com for details.
- [Charlton Park](#) in Bishopsbourne offers classes ranging from pilates, body conditioning and yoga to belly dancing, burlesque, ballroom and Latin. The dance classes are open to visitors whilst the pilates, body conditioning and yoga are booked in advance in blocks of six sessions. Massage can also be booked, as well as piano, singing and tennis lessons. See the website for further information and contact details of the various practitioners.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- [Yoga4Freedom - http://www.yoga4freedom.co.uk/](http://www.yoga4freedom.co.uk/)
- [Yoga Nature - http://www.yoganature.co.uk/](http://www.yoganature.co.uk/)
- [Wholistic Works - http://www.wholistic-works.co.uk/](http://www.wholistic-works.co.uk/)
- [Charlton Park - http://hd-webs.co.uk/charlton-park.org/](http://hd-webs.co.uk/charlton-park.org/)

Cycling:

- The [Coast to Cathedral](#) route, using Regional Routes 16 & 17, passes through the Elham Valley. You can download a route guide at [Explore Kent](#), and a route description is also provided by [Downland Cycles](#).
- The [Kentish Stour Countryside Project](#) has published two 'Bike Trails by Rail in the Stour Valley' which take in parts of the Elham Valley. Contact the office on 01233 813307 to request copies. Entitled "Typically Kent along Country Lanes" you have a choice of two routes:
 - Canterbury East Station through Lower Hardres, Bridge and Patrixbourne (20 miles)
 - Bekesbourne Station through Bishopsbourne, around Lynsore, Covert Wood, Bossingham, Pett Bottom and Bridge (15 miles)
- The [White Cliffs Countryside Project](#) leads occasional guided easy afternoon cycling rides through Lyminge Forest. Children over 9 with an accompanying adult are welcome. Check the Project's website for details of dates and times.
- [Downland Cycles](#) has a large fleet of bikes for hire in sizes to suit all riders – male, female and children. They have also compiled a number of routes in the area, utilising national, regional and local routes and a lot of local knowledge!
 - **'The Country of the Magic River'** (12.5 miles/ 21 kilometres) –using an orchard route, out to Patrixbourne where you can take a short diversion and visit Howletts Wildlife Park at Bekesbourne. From there return to Patrixbourne and follow the River Nailbourne through the village of Bridge to Bishopsbourne
 - Quite an ambitious **'Three Day Ride'** from Canterbury to Sandwich through the Lower Stour Valley, on through Deal and Kingsdown, and on day 3, exploring the Elham Valley, passing through the villages of Elham, Kingston, Barham, Bishopsbourne, Bridge and Patrixbourne. (The total three day ride is 57 miles/94 km)
- [Explore Kent](#) provides information on published cycling routes in Kent on their website, and in the downloadable brochure entitled [Explore Kent by Bike](#). The national cycling charity [Sustrans](#) also provides information on all national and regional cycling routes.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- *Coast to Cathedral route on Explore Kent – brochure embedded (copy on CD) – or provide link to:* http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/cycling/cycle_routes/coast_to_cathedral.aspx
- *Explore Kent –* <http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent>
- *Downland Cycles -* <http://www.downlandcycles.co.uk/>
- *Kentish Stour Countryside Project -* <http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/>
- *White Cliffs Countryside Project -* <http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/>
- *Downland Cycles -* <http://www.downlandcycles.co.uk/>
- *Explore Kent by Bike brochure – leaflet embedded (copy on CD) or link to:* <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/leisure-and-culture/countryside-and-coast/cycling/explore-kent-by-bike.pdf>
- *Sustrans -* <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

Exploring nature and wildlife - sites:

- The [Kent Wildlife Trust](#) owns and manages a number of sites in the area, all rich in flora and fauna. The chalk grassland of the Kent Downs is noted for its abundance and variety of orchids. Go to the Kent Wildlife Trust website for directions, public transport, maps and details of guided walks and other events at which you can learn about these special areas.
 - [Park Gate Down \(Hector Wilkes Reserve\)](#) including Madam's Wood, consists of 20 acres of chalk grassland and woodland fringe on the east side of the Elham Valley and is close to the village of Elham. It is easily reached on the public footpaths and features in the Elham Walks which you can purchase at the Rose & Crown and Village Stores in the village.
 - [Denton Bank](#) is 2 miles (3.2km) south of the village of Denton, and is made up of almost 10 acres of ancient chalk grassland and woodland. Here you will find typical chalk grassland flora and fauna and the woodland at the top of the slope is rich in bird life. Access is via Tappington Hall Farm.
 - [Spong Wood](#) is made up of 18 hectares of ancient woodland, ½ mile (0.8 km) northeast of Elmsted Village. The woodland is regularly coppiced to maintain a rich diversity of flora and fauna, details of which you will find on the Kent Wildlife Trust's website. Limited car parking is available outside the village church, and waymarked paths provide an ideal route round the reserve.
 - [Yocketts Bank](#) is a large reserve of 57 acres of SSSI ancient woodland on a chalk escarpment near Yocketts Farm, 2 miles south of Petham. Regular coppicing maintains the biodiversity of woodland plants and animals as does maintaining areas of open chalk grassland, making this one of the best sites for the lady orchid. You will also see colonies of other orchids, spring flowers, a great variety of birdlife and reptiles. See the Kent Wildlife Trust website for details.
- [Jumping Downs Local Nature Reserve](#) belongs to the Jumping Downs Trust. It is managed jointly by the trustees, who purchased the site from a local farmer in 2000, and the [Kentish Stour Countryside Project](#). It lies adjacent to Covert Wood and comprises 14 acres of south facing chalk downland containing a rich diversity of chalk downland flowers, birds, small mammals and reptiles. You can access the Reserve along the Elham Valley Way. Details of events, surveys and children's activities taking place here can be obtained from the KSCP. Call the office on 01233 813307 for details.
- [Covert Wood](#) is under Forestry Commission and private ownership, and is also managed by the [Kentish Stour Countryside Project](#). The Elham Valley Way winds its way through Covert Wood and there are a number of public footpaths which can take you deeper into the wood (refer to OS Explorer map 138). See the KSCP website for details of the flora and fauna you can expect to see here. Parking and main access is 1.5 miles west out of Barham village.
- Covet Wood adjoins Covert Wood on its western side and is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. There are various public paths through the wood and access can be obtained via Covet Lane in Kingston.

- Lyminge Forest is a large area of mixed woodland on an ancient woodland site, owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. It includes West Wood, Park Wood and extends to Beveridge Bottom Wood. It is possible to explore West Wood and Park Wood on public footpaths (see OS Explorer map 138). The [White Cliffs Countryside Project](#) are developing a series of cycling trails and lead a number of cycle rides through the forest during the summer months. Check the WCCP website for details.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Kent Wildlife Trust - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/>
- Park Gate Down Reserve - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/east-kent-downland/park-gate-down-hector-wilks-reserve/>
- Denton Bank - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/east-kent-downland/denton-bank/>
- Spong Wood at Kent Wildlife Trust - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/east-kent-downland/spong-wood/>
- Yockletts Bank - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/east-kent-downland/yockletts-bank/>
- Jumping Downs at KSCP - http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/jumping_downs.htm
- Kentish Stour Countryside Project - <http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/>
- Covert Wood at KSCP - http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/covert_wood.htm
- White Cliffs Countryside Project - <http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/>

Exploring nature and wildlife - activities:

- [Natural Pathways](#) provides a broad range of Survival Bushcraft and Nature Awareness Courses for children and adults, including learning about fire and shelter. The courses are held in woodland around Barham and range from flint knapping and wildlife tracking to Wilderness Family Camps and a Women's Discovery Course.
- The grounds and woodland of [Charlton Park](#) lend themselves to archery tournaments, team building activities, nature talks or camp-fire suppers (weather permitting). See the website for details of activities and contact information.
- The [Kentish Stour Countryside Project](#) works closely with landowners and local communities to promote both landscape and nature conservation, and develop opportunities for appropriate countryside access and informal recreation. The Project also gets involved in a variety of arts-related projects. A number of events are organised on the sites that they manage, including guided walks, wildlife surveys and volunteering activities.
- The [White Cliffs Countryside Project](#) was set up to help conserve and enhance the special coast and countryside around Dover and Folkestone, and make it accessible to all. With the project you can see wildlife, go walking, enjoy cycling, take part in special activities for children (the Green Gang) or join with local people helping care for the local environment. The Project's website provides a wealth of information on what you can do and see in the area – remember to check their events programme entitled [Guided Walks Spring/Summer 2010](#) which you can download here, or call the WCCP office on 01304 241806 and request a copy by post.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- *Natural Pathways* - <http://www.natural-pathways.co.uk/>
- *Charlton Park* - <http://www.charlton-park.org/>
- *Kentish Stour Countryside Project* - <http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/communities.htm>
- *White Cliffs Countryside Project* - <http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/>
- *Guided Walks Spring Summer 2010* – *leaflet embedded (copy on CD)*

Riding:

Promoted riding routes:

- The [Lower Hardres Rides](#) follow permissive off-road riding routes linked to public bridleways through woodland and open parkland, making for stunning circular rides near the historical cathedral city of Canterbury. View the interactive map at [Explore Kent](#).
- The [Alkham Valley Ride](#) (8.5 miles / 13 km) explores the peaceful countryside around the village of Alkham in the neighbouring valley, with woodland, chalk streams, downland and grassland found along the way. View the interactive map at [Explore Kent](#).
- Riders should note that a new bridge crossing the A2 now links the North Downs Way with the Elham Valley. This bridge at Kingston is for horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians only.
- Further information on riding routes, facilities and services throughout the county is available at [Explore Kent](#) and in their downloadable brochure [Ride Kent](#).

Riding holidays:

Bring your own horse and [Have Horse Will Travel](#) will organise everything for you – stabling, accommodation in local b&b's, food and drink and a guide for the duration of the holiday. The three day ride incorporates the Elham Valley, Crundale Downs and Lyminge Forest (approx 52 miles), taking you through beautiful valleys, forest and across open downs. The majority of riding will be on tracks and bridleways but where this is not possible you will be travelling along quiet and minor roads. Where main roads have to be crossed support and assistance will be on hand. The pace will be dictated by the desires and abilities of the riders and usually includes a mix of all speeds to suit the group.

Have Horse Will Travel is strongly committed to responsible tourism, and making their rides in Kent environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. See their Responsible Tourism Policy for details.

Riding schools and centres:

If you don't have three days to spend in the Valley but would like to either learn to ride or hone your skills, there are a number of riding schools in the area including:

- Bourne Park Riding School, Bishopsbourne – riding school, hacking
- [Bursted Manor Riding Centre](#), Pett Bottom – riding school
- [Limes Farm Equestrian Centre](#), Hawkinge – riding school and horse riding holidays
- Dairy Farm Riding Establishment, Lower Hardres – riding school
- Coombe Wood Stables (BHS), Hawkinge – riding school, instruction on riding and jumping
- [Maberdan Riding Centre](#) (BHS), Stelling Minnis – riding school, livery and hacks

Accommodation for riders and horses:

Little Shuttlesfield Farm in Acrise will open in spring 2010 and will provide self-catering accommodation and b&b for horses.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Lower Hardres Rides - http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/horse_riding/lower_hardres_rides.aspx
- Alkham Valley Ride - http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/horse_riding/alkham_valley_ride.aspx
- Explore Kent - Explore Kent – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent>
- Ride Kent – *brochure embedded (copy on CD)*
- Have Horse will Travel - <http://hhwtravel.co.uk/>
- Bursted Manor Riding Centre - <http://www.burstedmanor.co.uk/>
- Limes Farm Equestrian Centre - <http://www.limesfarmequestriancentreltd.co.uk/>
- Maberdan Riding Centre - <http://marberdanridingcentre.com/>

Village sports:

- The [Elham Valley Petanque Club](#) holds melées on the Petanque Terrain, The Triangle in Elham on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month throughout summer and autumn. These club events start at 11am and are open to everyone, of all age groups and abilities, including beginners. You do need to bring your own equipment so remember to dust off your petanque boules and bring them with you. The Triangle is a public space so is open for play at any time.
- To watch a game of cricket, check the fixtures at:
 - [Sibton Cricket Club](#) in Lyminge
 - [Elham Valley Cricket Club](#) in Elham
 - [Selsted Cricket Club](#), Selsted near Swingfield
 - Bishopsbourne Cricket Club at Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne
 - [Street End Cricket Club](#) at Lower Hardres (between the Lower Hardres Farm Shop and The Granville)
 - [Canterbury Cricket Festival](#) from 3rd – 5th August 2010

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Elham Valley Petanque Club - <http://www.elham.co.uk/Elham/Community/Clubs/Elham%20Valley%20Petanque%20Club.htm>
- Elham Community Sports Centre at Village Hall - <http://www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk/sportscentre.php>
- Sibton Cricket Club - <http://www.sibton.com/>
- Elham Valley Cricket Club - <http://elhamvalley.play-cricket.com/>
- Selsted Cricket Club - <http://selsted.play-cricket.com/>
- Street End Cricket Club - <http://www.streetendcricket.co.uk/>
- Canterbury Cricket Festival - <http://www.kentccc.com/>

Walking:

- The [Elham Valley Way](#) is a long distance route passing through the Elham Valley where it follows a seasonal chalk stream called the Nailbourne, taking you through some of the most enchanting countryside in the Garden of England. From the glories of Canterbury to the seaside at Hythe, this walk meanders through ancient woodlands, secret byways and charming, unspoilt villages. The Elham Valley Way joins the [North Downs Way](#) into Canterbury at the northern end of the Valley, and the [Saxon Shore Way](#) towards at its southern end.
- [La Via Francigena](#), designated a European Culture Route, follows the ancient road between Canterbury and Rome which in the past was used by pilgrims. The English section of the route follows the North Downs Way between Dover to Canterbury, passing through Bridge. Walking holidays including the Kent stretch of the Via Francigena can be booked through [Walk Awhile](#).
- [Walk Awhile](#) is a Kent based family run tour operator organising pre-planned, self-led or guided walking holidays with luggage transfers available throughout the year for walker of all abilities. 'Discovering Rural Kent' is a seven day, six night circular walking holiday, with five full days of walking starting and finishing at the cathedral city of Canterbury. The trail passes through Bridge, Elham, Lyminge and Postling before continuing on to Wye. Walk Awhile has achieved a [Green Tourism Business Scheme](#) Silver award and is featured on www.responsibletravel.com.
- [Walks in East Kent – Elham](#) is a two hour walk starting at the medieval church in Elham, winding through pasture and chalk grassland, and climbing open fields offering views across the valley with church spires, villages and patchwork fields stretching into the distance. Information on the walk can be found at [Explore Kent](#).
- The leaflet entitled [Elham Country Break](#) features an historic walk around the village, highlighting the numerous historic and listed houses you will see in the Square and on the surrounding streets and lanes.
- **Elham Walks** – a set of eight circular walks in and around the village of Elham taking in large parts of the Valley have been compiled and published by local walker John Buss, who looks after the public rights of way in the Valley. You can purchase these walks, available in two packs, at the Rose & Crown and Elham Valley Stores in Elham.
- **Kingston Walks** – a set of five circular walks in and around the village of Kingston ranging from 2.5 to 6 miles can be downloaded from the [Kingston village website](#).
- '[A Guide to Footpaths in the Parish of Bridge](#)', featuring three routes, can be downloaded from the [Bridge](#) village website.
- The Shepway Footpaths Preservation Society holds guided walks in the area on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. Visitors are welcome. To find out where the next walk is taking place call Carol or Richard Wood on 01303 274267.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Elham Valley Way - http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/walking/elham_valley_way.aspx
- North Downs Way - <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/northdowns/>
- Saxon Shore Way - http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/walking/saxon_shore_way.aspx
- Via Francigena - <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=423>
- Walk Awhile – <http://www.walkawhile.co.uk/>
- Green Tourism Business Scheme - <http://green-business.co.uk/>
- Responsibletravel.com – <http://www.responsibletravel.com>
- Walks in East Kent – Elham – *leaflet embedded (copy on CD)* – or link to: <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/leisure-and-culture/countryside-and-coast/walks/walks-in-east-kent/walks-in-east-kent-elham.pdf>
- Elham Country break – *leaflet embedded (copy on CD)*
- Kingston Village - <http://www.kingstoncanterbury.co.uk/>
- Explore Kent – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent>
- Bridge Village website - <http://www.bridgevillage.org.uk/>

Events 2010

April	Egg rolling Elham Acrise Beating of the Bounds Elham/Denton/Wooton Parish Walk Elham Spring Show – Elham Gardening Society Maidstone Winds Band Invicta Wind Orchestra	Duck Street Elham Starts Acrise church Starts Elham church Elham Village Hall St Mary's Church Elham St Mary's Church Elham	Easter Sunday Rogation Sunday Rogation Sunday Sat 10 th April Sun 4 th April (7.30pm) Sat 24 th April (7.30pm)
May	Lyminge Day	Lyminge Village Hall	Sat 8 th May (1pm)
June	Animal Service Young Farmers Country Fair Elham Open Gardens Weekend	Triangle field Elham Blandred Farm Acrise Elham	Sun 6 th June Sun 20 th June Sat 19 th & Sun 20 th June
July	Barham Summer Flower Show Stelling Minnis Windmill Fete Teddy Bears Parachute Jump Elham Summer Show – Elham Gardening Society	Village Hall Barham Stelling Minnis St. Marys Church Elham Elham	Sat 3 rd July Sat 17 th July Sun 11 July (11am) 31 st July
August	Acrise Flower Festival Hunt Kennels Open Day Rhodes Minnis Summer Show	St Martin's Church Kennels Elham Rhodes Minnis Village Hall	1 st weekend Bank Hol Sunday Sat 7 th August (2.30pm)
September	Barham Autumn Flower Show The 32 nd Postling Sponsored Horse Ride 2010 National Charity Cycle Ride at churches	Village Hall Barham Page Farm Postling Various churches throughout Valley	Sat 4 th Sept 2 nd Sunday 2 nd Sunday
October	Conker Bash & Hog Roast Christmas Craft Fair Ploughing match	Triangle field Elham Elham Village Hall Various farms	Sun 10 th Oct (12pm) Last Thursday Late month
November	Bonfire Night fireworks St Nicholas Fair Illuminations of Elham Christmas Light with carol singing and mulled wine	Lyminge Lyminge Village Hall Elham Village Triangle	1 st Sat 3 rd /4 th Sat Sun 28 Nov (6.30pm)
December	Acrise Christmas Craft Fair Village carols Elham Village carols Acrise Boxing Day Meet	Elham Village Hall Elham church/square Acrise Place The Square Elham	1 st Sat 3 rd Sun 3 rd Thurs Boxing Day

Other regular events

- [Annie Begley](#) Creative and Therapeutic Sculpture & Shiatsu Workshops, Residential Workshops, Pottery Tea Parties and regular monthly workshops.
- [Canterbury Festival](#) – 16th – 30th October 2010 – alongside the many literary and musical events taking place over the two week period, a series of guided walks are held both in and around Canterbury, led by local historians, conservationists and wildlife experts.
- [Downland Cycles](#), based in Canterbury, runs twice yearly Sportive events – in spring and autumn – providing you with the opportunity to ride in the surrounding countryside, as well as a number of

mechanic courses which attract many people to the area on holiday. The courses are usually followed by a few days touring the surrounding countryside.

- Church services and events are listed at [Elham Area Churches](#) (covering Anglican, Catholic and Methodist denominations in Elham, Wootton, Denton), [Barham Downs Churches](#) (Barham, Bishopsbourne, Kingston, Womenswold), the [Bridge Benefice](#) (Bridge, Bekesbourne, Patribourne, Lower Hardres, Nackington), [Lyminge Online](#) for St. Mary & St. Ethelburga, [St. Mary Stelling](#) at Stelling Minnis, [St. Peter & Paul Upper Hardres](#).
- The [Elham Farmers Market](#) takes place in the Courtyard of the Rose & Crown in Elham on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. Look out for Annie Begley who is running pottery workshops at the Farmers Market on the 4th Sunday of every month.
- The **Etchinghill Craft and Farmers Market** takes place in Etchinghall village hall on the 1st Saturday of every month.
- [Elham Petanque Club](#) – holds melées on the Petanque Terrain, The Triangle in Elham on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month throughout summer & autumn. These club events start at 11am and are open to everyone, of all age groups and abilities, including beginners
- “Beer on the farm” is the unofficial motto of the [Kent Beer Festival](#), organised by the Canterbury branch of CAMRA. This is the 2nd oldest CAMRA beer festival in England, and is held in a large barn at Merton Farm, Merton Lane (off B2068 to Hythe), Canterbury CT4 7BA. This year it takes place on 22nd – 24th July 2010. You’ll find beers from all ten Kent breweries as well as other British beers, real cider and a wide range of mainly bottled foreign beers.
- The [Kent Wildlife Trust](#) owns and/or manages a number of reserves in and around the Elham Valley, such as Jumping Downs, Denton Bank, Spong Wood, Park Gate Down (Hector Wilkes Reserve) and Yockletts Bank. Regular events, talks and other activities are organised by the Trust throughout the year so do keep an eye on their events diary which is available for download on their website. Once you are on their website, click on ‘Our Work’
- [The Kentish Stour Countryside Project](#) looks after the River Stour from its source at Lenham through Canterbury and out to Pegwell Bay. The Project will lead group walks on request along both the Stour Valley Walk and Saxon Shore Way. Minimum group size – 12, £donation agreed in advance.
- Annual **Teddy Bear Parachute Jumps** take place at St. Mary’s Church in Elham and St. Mary & St. Ethelburga Church in Lyminge.
- Some of the flower shows in the Valley can be quite spectacular. For details of the wide range of horticultural events taking place visit the websites for the [Elham Gardening Society](#), the [Barham & District Horticultural Society](#) and the [Rhodes Minnis](#) village website.
- The **Lyminge Garden Safari in Lyminge and Etchinghill**, with around 15 participating gardens, is part of the Lyminge Festival. Gardens open between 10.00am and 4.00pm on both Saturday and Sunday (but not all gardens will be open on each day). A very interesting variety of gardens is guaranteed. You will find stalls, plants for sale, teas and so on in various gardens, for various charities.

“Passports” for the Safari, at a cost of £3.00 per adult (children under 16 free) will be available from each garden or Lyminge Hardware Store.

- Several gardens in the area take part in [Yellow Book Open Garden scheme](#). Details of the Elham Gardens can be found [here](#).
- The [White Cliffs Countryside Project](#) holds a great range of events and activities enabling you to see wildlife, go walking, enjoy cycling, take part in special activities for children (the Green Gang) or join with local people helping care for the local environment. Download a copy of their [Guided Walks Spring/Summer 2010](#) brochure or check their events listing on the website.
- To find out what is happening in the area, keep an eye on the following websites:
 - [Discover Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh](#)
 - [Elham Village Online](#)
 - [Lyminge Online](#) – check the latest newsletter which lists all forthcoming events

Web addresses for hyperlinks

- Annie Begley - <http://www.anniebegley.co.uk/>
- Canterbury Festival - <http://www.canterburyfestival.co.uk/home.asp>
- Downland Cycles - <http://www.downlandcycles.co.uk/>
- Elham Area Churches - <http://elhamchurches.com/>
- Barham Downs Churches - <http://www.barhamdownschurches.org.uk/>
- The Bridge Benefice - <http://www.bridgechurch.co.uk/>
- Lyminge Online - <http://www.lyminge.org.uk/>
- St Mary Stelling - <http://www.stelling-minnis.co.uk/church-stmarystelling.htm>
- Upper Hardres - <http://www.upperhardreschurch.co.uk/>
- Elham Farmers Market - <http://www.elhamfarmersmarket.co.uk/>
- Elham Petanque Club - <http://www.elham.co.uk/Elham/Community/Clubs/Elham%20Valley%20Petanque%20Club.htm>
- Kent Beer Festival – <http://www.kentbeerfestival.com/>
- Lounge on the Farm - <http://www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk/>
- Kent Wildlife Trust - <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/east-kent-downland/>
- Kentish Stour Countryside Project - <http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/>
- Elham Gardening Society – http://www.gardeningsociety.elham.co.uk/Events_Schedule.html
- Barham and District Horticultural Society - <http://www.barhamhortsoc.co.uk/>
- Rhodes Minnis village - <http://rhodesminnis.org.uk/>
- The Yellow Book Open Garden Scheme - <http://www.ngs.org.uk/>
- NGS Elham Gardens - <http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/gardenfinder/garden.aspx?id=15611>
- White Cliffs Countryside Project – <http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/>
- Guided Walks Spring & Summer 2010 by WCCP – *leaflet embedded (copy on CD)* or link to http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/index2.php?id_sec=119&id_sub=119&id_art=175&id_img
- [Discover Folkestone](#) - www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk
- Elham Village Online - <http://sites.google.com/site/elhamvillagediary/>

Where to Stay – Key Accommodation – graded only *(full details on product audit)*

There is a wide range of accommodation throughout the Elham Valley – delightful bed and breakfasts, guest houses and country inns, self-catering cottages and excellent quality camp sites.

Acrise

- Little Shuttlesfield Farm – self-catering, b&b for horses – awaiting grading/opening date tba
- Silver Birches – Hawkinge Camping & Caravanning Site

Barham

- Duke of Cumberland – Inn, pub and restaurant – VB 4 star
- Aylets – self-catering – VB 4 star

Bridge

- Primrose Cottage – self-catering – 4 star
- Renville Oast – b&b – VB 4 star

Densole

- Garden Lodge Guest House – b&b – VB 4 star
- Black Horse Farm Caravan Club Site – campsite – VB 5 star

Elham

- Rose & Crown – inn, pub and restaurant – awaiting grading

Elham – Bladbean

- Molehills – b&b – VB 4 star

Elham – Ottinge

- Bridge Cottage – B&B – VB 2 star
- Boyke Manor Cottages – self-catering – awaiting grading/opening date tba

Elham – Wingmore

- Grove House Farm – Camping & Caravanning Site

Elmsted

- Elmsted Court Farmhouse – b&b and self-catering – VB 4 star (Farm Stay UK)
- Oak Cottage – b&b and self-catering – VB 4 star
- The Old Dairy – self-catering – VB 3 star
- The Granary – self-catering – VB 4 star

Hawkinge

- Northdowns Granary – self-catering – NORC 4 star (Freedom Holiday Homes / Farm Stay UK)

Kingston

- Hornbeams – b&b – VB 4 star

Lyminge

- Lyminge – Little Valley Camping & Caravanning Site
- Roundwood Hall B&B – b&b – VB 4 star Silver Award

Pett Bottom

- Sunnyside Farm Camping & Caravanning Site

Rhodes Minnis

- Fir Tree Farm Camping & Caravanning Site

Stelling Minnis

- Bower Farm House – B&B – VB 4 star (Farm Stay UK)
- Elmfield Farm Cottages, Six Mile – self-catering – VB 4 star
- Great Field Farm Bed & Breakfast (& Sunset Lodge) - b&b & self-catering – VB 4 star (Farm Stay)
- Flint Cottage – self-catering – VB 4 star
- Grove House – self-catering – HCG 4 star
- Little North Leigh Farm – Camping & Caravanning Site
- Stelling Minnis – Knowler Farm Camping & Caravanning Site

Swingfield

- The Old Kent Barn – b&b – VB 5 star Gold Award

Wootton

- Little House at Wootton Park – self-catering – 3 star (Freedom Holiday Homes)

Barham

- Duke of Cumberland
- The Teashop by the Vines at the Elham Valley Vineyard

Bekesbourne

- The Unicorn

Bishopsbourne

- The Mermaid

Bossingham

- The Hop Pocket

Bridge

- Bridge Place Country Club
- The Plough & Harrow
- The Red Lion
- The White Horse Inn

Elham

- Cosy Tea Rooms
- The Abbots Fireside
- The Kings Arms
- The Rose & Crown

Etchinghill

- The New Inn

Paddlesworth

- The Cat & Custard Pot

Pett Bottom

- The Duck Inn

Kingston

- The Black Robin

Lower Hardres

- The Granville

Lyminge

- China China Chinese Restaurant
- The Coach & Horses
- Wishbone Cafe

Pett Bottom

- The Duck Inn

Rhodes Minnis

- The Lord Whisky Tea Rooms

Stelling Minnis

- The Rose & Crown

Stowting

- The Tiger

What to buy – local, special interest or farm shops *(full details on product audit)*

Barham

- Nailbourne & Community Store (Post Office and Village Shop)
- Elham Valley Vineyard at Breach

Bridge

- Bridge Post Office
- Equestrian Elite Ltd
- Laurie Wakeham Family Butcher
- Londis Grocery Store

Elham

- Post Office in the Kings Arms
- Elham Valley Stores
- Cosy Emporium
- Elham Farmers Market

Etchinghill

- Etchinghill Farmers / Craft Market

Kingston

- First Thought Equine

Lower Hardres

- Lower Hardres Farm Shop

Lyminge

- Lyminge Food & Wine
- Lyminge Post Office
- Lyminge Hardware

Pett Bottom

- Hode Pottery

Rhodes Minnis

- Jubilee Farm Shop

Stelling Minnis

- Stelling Minnis Stores and Post Office

How to get there

By train:

The best way to plan your journey by train is to use the [National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner](#). The Elham Valley is reached by train on the [Southeastern Railway](#) – both on the High Speed rail service to/from St. Pancras International and mainline services to/from London Charing Cross and London Victoria.

The nearest stations to the southern end of the Elham Valley are:

- Sandling – on the mainline service from London Charing Cross to Sandwich/Ramsgate via Ashford International, Folkestone and Dover Priory.
- Folkestone Central – on the High Speed rail service from London St. Pancras International via Ashford International enroute to Dover Priory. Alternatively take the mainline services from London Charing Cross. From here you can take a bus or taxi to the Elham Valley.

The nearest stations to the northern end of the Elham Valley (i.e. Bishopsbourne, Bridge, Kingston, Barham) are:

- Canterbury East – on the mainline service from London Victoria to Dover Priory. Alternatively take the High Speed train from St. Pancras International and change at Sittingbourne. Canterbury East is a five minute walk from the bus station where you can take Bus 17 The Link to the Elham Valley, or pick up a taxi.

By bus:

For up to date information on bus routes and timetables go to [Stagecoach](#). The best way to find your route is to use the second option under 'Find a Timetable'. Enter your starting point and your destination, so if, for example, you enter Canterbury and Elham, Bus 17, The Link, will come up, along with a route description and timetable.

- **Bus 17 The Link (Scenic)** – run by Stagecoach, operating between Canterbury and Folkestone through the Elham Valley and Bridge, every hour in both directions Monday to Saturday. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the bus runs every two hours between 8am and 6.20pm.
- **Bus 558** - run by Poynters Coaches, operating between Canterbury City Centre and Hythe, via Lyminge, Rhodes Minnis, Wheelbarrow Town, Stelling Minnis, Bossingham, Lower Hardres, Nackington, St. Lawrence, Mondays – Saturdays but not on Sundays. The 558 timetable is available at [Traveline South East](#).
- **Bus 16 and 16A The Link (Direct)** – run by Stagecoach, operating between Canterbury City Centre and Folkestone, along the A2 and then through Bridge, Denton, Selsted, Swingfield Minnis, Densole and Hawkinge every 20 minutes from Monday to Saturday. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the bus runs hourly.

The Stagecoach Group provides a [carbon calculator](#) so that you can work out the carbon cost of your journey and make comparisons between travelling by bus, train and car. You need to know your mileage though!

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Southeastern Railway – <http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/index.php/cms/pages/home>
- National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner – <http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/en/s/planjourney/query>
- Stagecoach – <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/> (ensure you use the Stagecoach**bus** website to go straight to the East Kent section)
- Traveline South East - <http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/>
- Traveline South East timetable for 558 - http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/se/XSLT_TTB_REQUEST?language=en&command=direct&net=set&line=06558&sup=A&project=y08&contentFilter=TIMINGPOINTS&outputFormat=0&itdLPxx_displayHeader=false&itdLPxx_sessionID=SEWEB14_52016875
- Stagecoach carbon calculator – <http://www.stagecoach.com/carbon%20calculator.aspx>

For further information

Main websites:

- Canterbury www.canterbury.co.uk
- Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh <http://www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk/>
- Explore Kent www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
- Kent Wildlife Trust <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/>
- Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk
- Sustrans <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>
- White Cliffs Countryside Project <http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/>

Local / village websites:

- The Elham Valley <http://www.elham.co.uk/>
- Barham <http://www.barham-kent.org.uk/>
- Bridge <http://www.bridgevillage.org.uk/>
- Etchinghill <http://www.etchinghill.org/>
- Kingston <http://www.kingstoncanterbury.co.uk/>
- Lyminge <http://www.lyminge.org.uk/>
- Rhodes Minnis <http://rhodesminnis.org./>
- Stelling Minnis <http://www.stelling-minnis.co.uk/>

Local visitor information centres:

- Shepway visitor information centre, STOP24, Junction 11 of the M20 Tel: 01303 264733
- Canterbury Information Centre, 12/13 Sun Street, Canterbury CT1 2HX Tel: 01227 378100
- See the Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh contacts page for details of all outlets providing visitor information in Folkestone, Sandgate, Hythe, Lyminge, Lydd and Romney Marsh

Ordnance Survey maps covering the Elham Valley:

The Elham Valley is covered by the following OS maps:

- OS Explorer Map 150, Canterbury & the Isle of Thanet
(includes the northern end of the Valley – Lower Hardres, Bridge, Bekesbourne, Bishopsbourne)
- OS Explorer Map 138, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe
(from Kingston and Barham at the northern end of the Valley to Etchinghill at the southern end of the Valley and beyond to Lymington, Saltwood, Hythe & Folkestone)
- OS Landranger Map 179, Canterbury & East Kent

See the [Ordnance Survey website](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk) for details of maps and how to purchase.

Finding tourist guides:

The [Kent Greeter Programme](http://www.kentgreeters.com) enables visitors to meet with local people who will provide a two to four hour visit to your chosen area for up to six people. Canterbury and Folkestone has a number of Greeters who will help orientate you with the area explaining how to use the public transport system, advising you on attractions, restaurants and places of interest. Kent Greeters are volunteer "friends" and not professional tour guides.

To get the most out of your stay in Natural East Kent, it is worth booking an informative and professional Blue Badge Guide. There are a number of guides based in East Kent and you can search for details at the [Blue Badge Guide](#) website.

To discover the World Heritage City of Canterbury, you can join a 90 minute walking tour (daily from April to October) departing from the Canterbury Information Centre in the Buttermarket with [Canterbury Walking Tours](#). They also run special themed tours and it is possible to book private group tours.

Web addresses for hyperlinks:

- Ordnance Survey map shop - www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop
- Kent Greeters - <http://www.visitkent.co.uk/explore/kent-greeters.asp>
- Blue Badge Guides - <http://www.blue-badge-guides.com/index.html>
- Canterbury Walking Tours - <http://www.canterbury-walks.co.uk/>