

WALKING AND CYCLING MAP  
**EXPLORE**  
**ASHFORD**



EXPLOREKENT.ORG



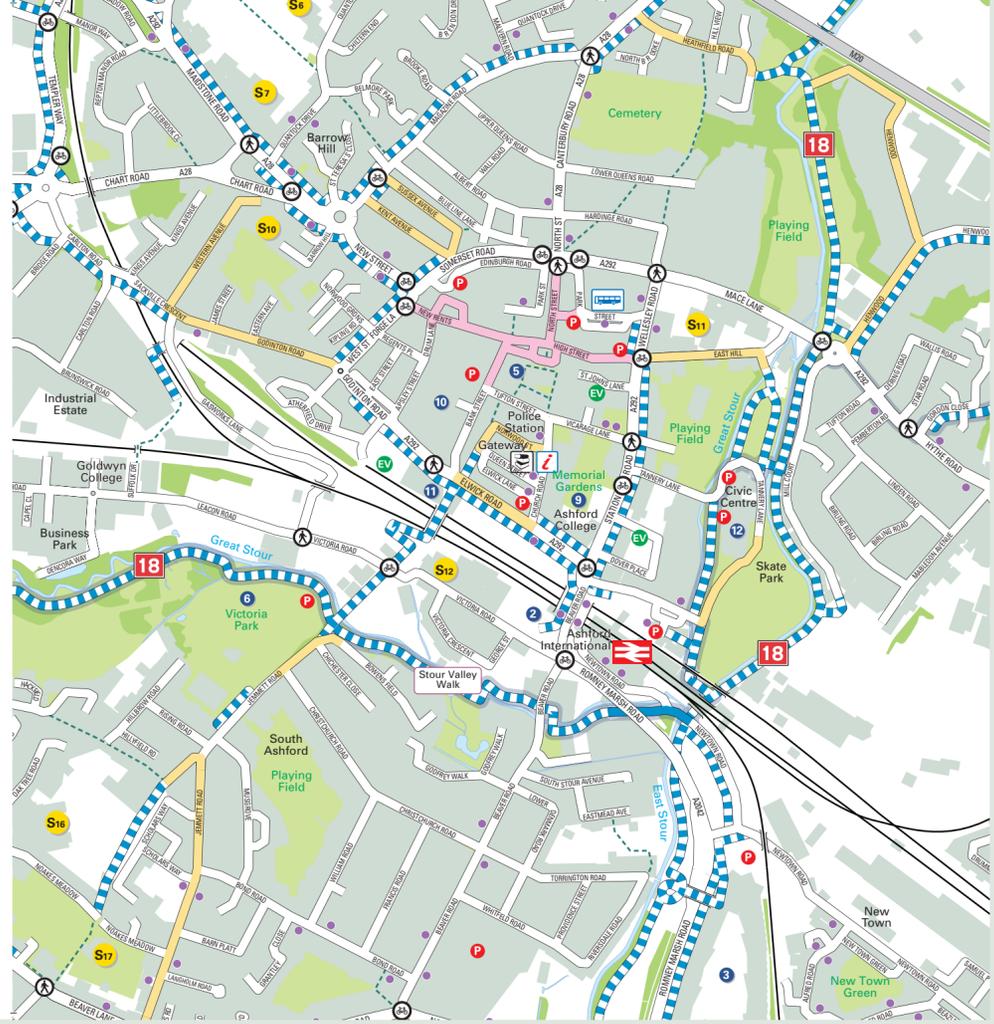
# ASHFORD

Ashford lies in the heart of the Garden of England, surrounded by miles of idyllic countryside, world-class vineyards and picturesque villages. It is the largest and most rural borough in Kent with a fast-growing population which has more than trebled in the last 40 years.

Shopaholics can enjoy a trip to Ashford Designer Outlet, where you can pick up designer labels at massive discounts and enjoy a bite to eat at one of 14 restaurants. Enjoy some luxury at Eastwell Manor, take a tour of the Curious Brewery or catch a film at Ashford Picturehouse, an art cinema with bars and restaurants.

Ashford International Railway Station offers excellent connections to London as well as many of the best spots on Kent's rural and coastal cycle network. The historic village of Wye is less than 5 miles away, overlooked by the Wye Downs in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is a splendid farmers market here on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

Ashford's 'green corridor' is made up of parks, recreation grounds and green areas alongside its rivers; the Great Stour floodplain runs through urban Ashford and provides valuable green spaces that support local wildlife, perfect for exploring by bike or on foot.



	Signed on-road cycle route
	Surfaced - Traffic-free, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic
	Unsigned routes - useful to link up your cycle journey
	Pedestrianised roads
	Footpath
	Promoted walking route *

\* For more information visit [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org)

	School Named and numbered
	Place of interest Named and numbered
	Bus stop
	Visitor Information
	Bus station
	Railway with station
	Toucan crossing
	Pelican / Puffin crossing
	Library
	Electric vehicle charging point
	National Cycle Network route number
	Cycle parking



National Route 18 of the National Cycle Network is the spine of Ashford's walking and cycling network through the town linking Singleton in the west and Little Burton in the east. Well over 50km of safe traffic-free cycle paths means the majority of households around the town are within very easy reach of the train station and the town centre.

## GETTING AROUND

Ashford International is just 38 minutes from London by high-speed train, where you can connect to Eurostar services to Paris and Brussels. It is also within 30 minutes of popular Kent destinations such as Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover and Maidstone.

Cycle parking facilities are located outside the northentrance to the station and marked on the map. In addition, a secure cycle compound with a swipe card entry system is also available with capacity for 300 bikes. Key fobs are available for hire from the station ticket office.

Walking and cycling aren't just rewarding and fun ways to get around; leaving the car at home for some trips will save you money and reduce emissions. It also allows you to be active as part of your daily routine, helping you to stay fit and healthy. Take a close look at the map and see how easy it is to walk or cycle from your home to the station, school, or town centre.

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.



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## WALKING ROUTES

### STOUR VALLEY WALK

The Stour Valley Walk is a 58-mile route along the valley of the River Stour through a varied landscape of grassland, orchards and woods. Look out for wildlife along the banks of the river, explore historic buildings in the centre of Ashford and discover the delightfully picturesque villages of Wye, Godmersham, and Chilham.

### WYE DOWNS WALK

This 4-mile walk around Wye offers spectacular views of the Devil's Kneading Trough, the largest of the steep-sided dry valleys that characterise the Downs. Look out for the Wye Crown carved into the chalk of the hills above the village and enjoy a delicious pub lunch by the river after exploring the National Nature Reserve.



## CYCLE ROUTES

### GREAT STOUR WAY

National Cycle Route 18 runs out of Ashford westward to Tenterden and is well signed via quiet country roads and lanes. Heading eastward the route runs into the Kent Downs AONB to Wye and then on to Canterbury along the Great Stour Way. The route follows quieter lanes and many surfaced off-road sections forming part of the longer distance Pilgrims Cycle Trail.

### WEALDEN CYCLE TRAIL

Explore out west and discover the Weald, passing through Tenterden, Bedgebury Forest, picturesque Goudhurst and ending in Royal Tunbridge Wells. This beautiful 42 miler explores the countryside to the west of Ashford and the stunning High Weald AONB following Cycle Route 18.

### PILGRIMS CYCLE TRAIL

Connecting Rochester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, the Pilgrims Cycle Trail can be picked up from various locations in Ashford. Heading west through Ashford the route runs through the villages throughout the Kent Downs AONB. Lining the route are interpretation boards explaining the landscape and history, spectacular views and lovely local pubs where you can relax.

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



## THINGS TO DO

### Conningbrook Lakes Country Park

Stroll around the three beautiful lakes, surrounded by woodland, ponds and reedbeds. Perfect for a gentle stroll, wildlife watching or a picnic with a view.

### Ashford Designer Outlet

Just a short walk from Ashford International Station, this is the best place to find all your favourite designer brands at great discounts.

### Godinton House and Gardens

A beautiful Jacobean house full of history, set in 12 acres of beautiful gardens ready to be explored. Enjoy homemade food in the café.

### Eastwell Manor

Luxury hotel and spa set in stunning gardens. The perfect place to enjoy afternoon tea and a spa treatment, or even a falconry experience.

## Places of interest

- 1 Godinton House and Gardens
- 2 The Curious Brewery
- 3 Ashford Designer Outlet
- 4 Ashford Warren and Hoads Wood
- 5 Ashford Borough Museum
- 6 Victoria Park
- 7 Conningbrook Lakes Country Park
- 8 Eastwell Manor
- 9 Ashford Memorial Gardens
- 10 County Square Shopping Centre
- 11 Ashford Picturehouse
- 12 The Stour Centre
- 13 Julie Rose Stadium
- 14 Singleton Lake
- 15 Singleton Environment Centre
- 16 Willesborough Windmill

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Explore Kent walking and cycling routes now available to download and follow on the Kent Connected app.



Visit [kentconnected.org/our-app](http://kentconnected.org/our-app) to download the app for free. Available on Apple and Android.

Plan your journey. Be inspired.



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This guide is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages. To obtain copies please email [explorekent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:explorekent@kent.gov.uk).

Cartography:  
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Photos: Ashford Borough Council, David Young, Explore Kent.

# CYCLE TO SCHOOL

- S1 Goat Lees Primary School
- S2 The Towers School and Sixth Form Centre
- S3 Downs View Infant School
- S4 Kennington C of E Junior School
- S5 Phoenix Community Primary School
- S6 St Teresa's R C Primary School
- S7 Highworth Grammar School for Girls
- S8 Repton Manor Primary School
- S9 Godinton Primary School
- S10 St Mary's C of E Primary School
- S11 Ashford School
- S12 Victoria Road Primary School
- S13 The Wyvern School
- S14 Great Chart Primary School
- S15 The John Wesley C of E Methodist Primary School
- S16 Ashford Oaks Primary School
- S17 St Simon of England R C Primary School
- S18 Beaver Green Community Primary School
- S19 The John Wallis C of E Academy
- S20 Kingsnorth C of E Primary School
- S21 Furley Park Primary School
- S22 Finberry Primary School
- S23 East Stour Primary School
- S24 The North School
- S25 The Norton Knatchbull School
- S26 Willesborough Junior School
- S27 Spring Grove School
- S28 Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School
- S29 Wye School
- S30 Brook Community Primary School
- S31 Mersham Primary School

15 minutes cycling will take you this far

10 minutes walking will take you this far

## KEY

- Signed on-road cycle route
  - Surfaced - Traffic-free, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic
  - Unsurfaced - Traffic-free, 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 \*
  - Pedestrianised roads
  - Footpath
  - Promoted walking route / National Trail \*
  - District boundary
- \* For more information visit [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org)
- School Named and numbered
  - Place of interest Named and numbered
  - Bus stop
  - Hospital
  - Visitor Information
  - Bus station
  - Railway with station
  - Toucan crossing
  - Pelican / Puffin crossing
  - Bike shop
  - Library
  - Electric vehicle charging point
  - National Cycle Network route number
  - Cycle parking
- In the town centre area cycle parking is only shown on inset map overlay

