

# Tenterden Blue Plaques



As you stroll along Tenterden High Street, **look out for the blue plaques** adorning shopfronts - each one marking a fascinating moment in the town's history. From renowned local figures to remarkable events, these plaques reveal hidden stories of Tenterden's past.

But history isn't only found on the plaques! Many buildings without them have equally rich tales to tell - such as those on the featured in the **Tenterden Heritage Tour** leaflet. These leaflets are available at the **Tenterden Gateway: Tourist Information & Library** or from the **Tenterden & District Museum**.

Take a walk, spot the plaques, and uncover Tenterden's incredible past one building at a time!

This project has been developed in partnership with the **Tenterden & District Local History Society**.

## Things to do

### Walking Routes

Discover Tenterden's beautiful countryside with scenic walking trails through the Weald of Kent. Visit [www.exploretenterden.co.uk](http://www.exploretenterden.co.uk) for our recommended routes and highlights.



### Shopping

Tenterden's High Street blends charming independent boutiques with well-loved brands, alongside cosy cafés and delis offering local treats.

### Local Events

From seasonal fairs to community festivals, Tenterden hosts a variety of events throughout the year, celebrating local food, crafts and culture.

### Vineyards

Discover award-winning English wines with vineyard tours and tastings at Chapel Down, Gusbourne, Biddenden and other renowned wineries in the area.



### Nearby Attractions

There's lots to do close to Tenterden as well. Explore nearby gems like Bodiam Castle, Leeds Castle, the Rare Breeds Centre & the stunning gardens at Sissinghurst Castle, Great Dixter and Hole Park.

# Tenterden Town Guide





# Key locations in Tenterden

## 1. Kent & East Sussex Railway

The Kent & East Sussex Railway offers visitors an authentic steam and diesel-powered railway experience through 10½ miles of Wealden countryside in the beautiful Rother Valley.

## 2. Col. Stephens Railway Museum

The museum celebrates Colonel Holman Stephens, the pioneering engineer behind rural light railways like the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

## 3. Tenterden & District Museum

Opened in 1976 and run entirely by volunteers, the museum is housed in an historic weather-boarded building and offers interactive exhibits, an audio guide and a digital archive - a fascinating insight into Tenterden's past.

## 4. St Mildred's Church

St Mildred's Church, a striking medieval landmark in Tenterden, has stood since c.1180, its towering presence evolving to welcome the community today.

## 5. Millennium Garden

A hidden gem in Tenterden, the Millennium Garden offers a peaceful retreat just off the High Street. Accessed through an historic passageway.

## 6. Tenterden Leisure Centre

A hub for fitness and fun, the leisure centre offers a gym, lane pool, wave pool and flume ride, making it perfect for families and fitness enthusiasts alike.

## 7. Kiln Field Nature Reserve

Kiln Field Nature Reserve is a tranquil 1.8-hectare haven with woodland, wildflowers, a pond dipping platform, and wildlife-friendly features such as bat and owl boxes.

## 8. Tenterden Recreation Ground

Tenterden Recreation Ground offers green space, play areas, sports facilities and a venue for events.

## 9. Tenterden Town Hall

A stunning Grade II listed building dating back to the 1790s. The Town Hall hosts events, weddings and community services in its elegant Georgian spaces.



## 10. Sinden Theatre

The Sinden, a 290-seat theatre in Tenterden, offers diverse performances, a lively bar and a charming, intimate atmosphere.

## 11. St Michaels Recreation Ground

A well-maintained community space featuring a play park, public toilets and a half-pipe ramp. Managed by Tenterden Town Council, it's a great spot for outdoor fun.

## 12. Smallhythe Place

Once a thriving shipbuilder's home, Smallhythe Place later became the beloved residence of actress Ellen Terry. It now displays a fascinating collection reflecting her extraordinary career and private life.

## 13. Chapel Down Vineyard

Chapel Down, England's leading wine producer, crafts award-winning wines that showcase the best of English winemaking. Tours and experiences make it a popular destination for visitors.

# Tenterden: The Jewel of the Weald

## A Brief History

Tenterden, known as the "Jewel of the Weald," has a rich history dating back to the 10th century. Once a centre for the wool trade and later shipbuilding on the River Rother, its prosperity shaped the town's character, with landmarks like St Mildred's Church reflecting its past. Today, Tenterden blends heritage with modern charm, offering Georgian architecture, independent shops, vibrant events and beautiful surrounding countryside.

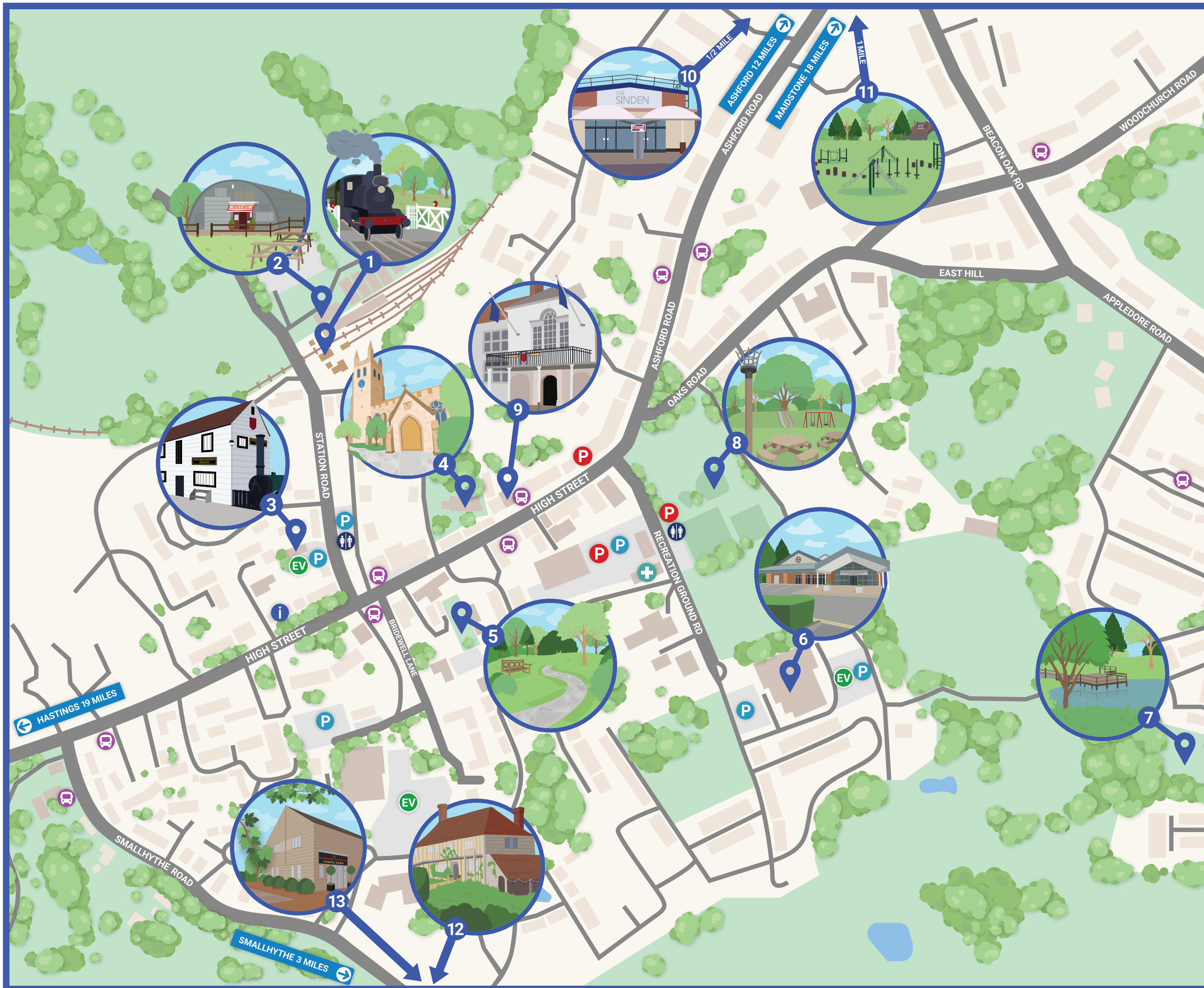


## Travel to Tenterden

Getting to Tenterden is easy! Buses are run regularly by Stagecoach, Arriva and Hams Travel. The nearest mainline train stations are Ashford International and Headcorn. Tenterden is also easily reached by road, with good connections from the A21, A28, A262, and nearby M20.

Scan the QR code for more detailed travel info, walking routes, things to do, and further history about the town.












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- 12 Smallhythe Place
- 13 Chapel Down Vineyard

## Facilities

-  Bus Stops
-  Parking
-  Charging Points
-  Cycle Parking
-  Toilets
-  Tenterden Gateway: Tourist Information and Library
-  Doctors Surgery