



Off-road sections of the trail

3 castles route

Overview

Type of cycling: Cycling on country lanes to start with before heading off-road

Difficulty: Medium (some cycling on lanes, and some hills).

Suitability: Older children or adults comfortable with cycling on lanes

Highlights: Stunning countryside and villages...and 3 very different castles (Chiddingstone, Penshurst & Tonbridge). The Tudor Trail section from Penshurst to Tonbridge has also been described as one of the most beautiful cycle trails in the country.

This is a truly memorable day out and cycle route!

(We can also arrange for you to start your ride at Chiddingstone castle and end at Penshurst Place also if pre-arranged)



Chiddingstone castle



Penshurst Place



Tonbridge castle

3 castles route

Stage 1

Head out of the Castle driveway and turn right towards the village.

Skirt the lane rounds and over the bridge before reaching the church and amazing village shop and pub.

Head out of the village along the road (be careful for traffic) and take the first right.

The road drops and rises again. Pass the houses on your right hand side and continue on for several hundred meters before then taking the bridal path on the LHS and heading off-road..



(From Google Maps)

Total distance: 2.28 km (1.42 mi)

3 castles route

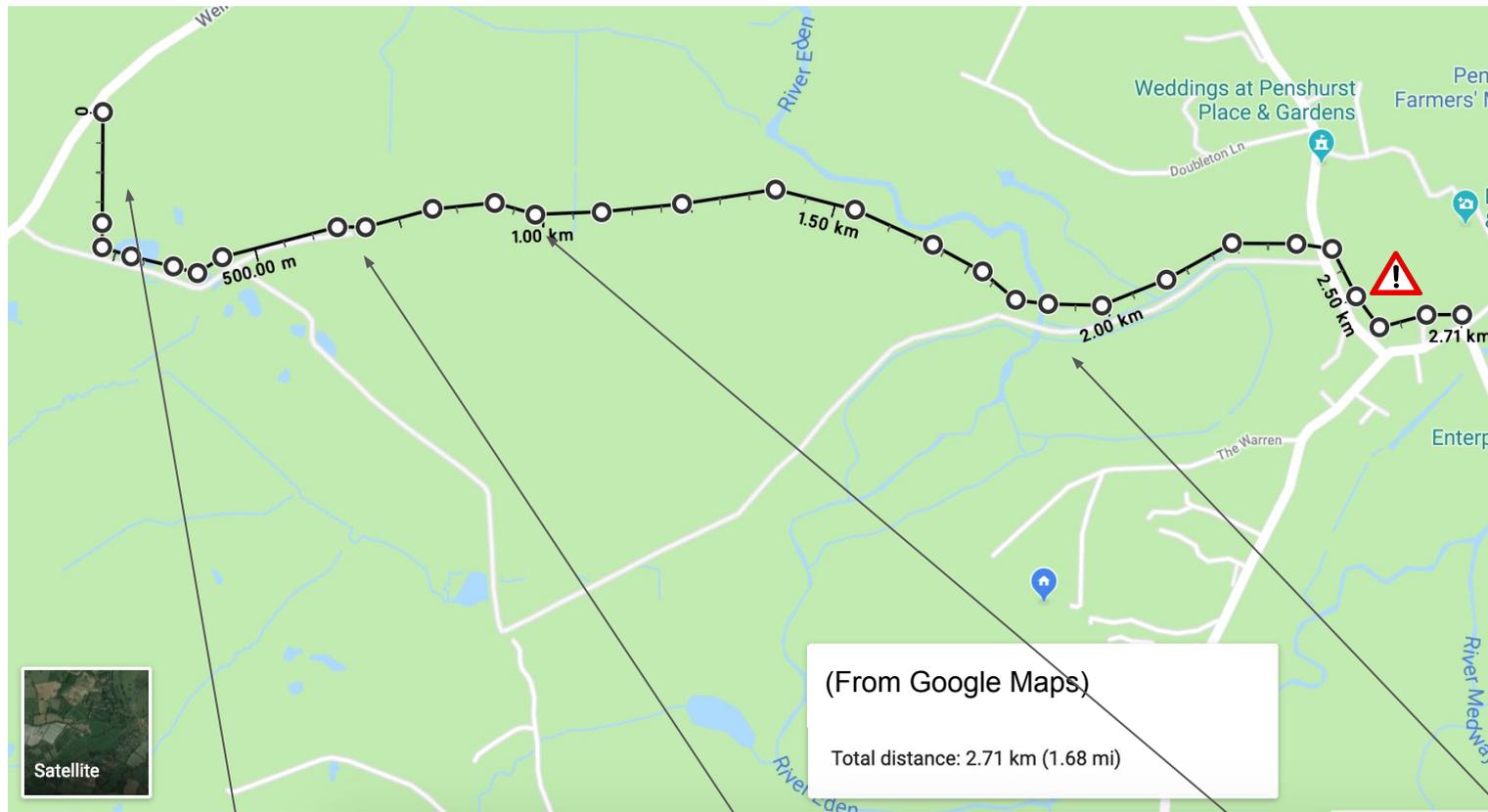
Stage 2

Follow the bridal path past the farm buildings and downhill passing stunning scenery along the way.

At the base of the hill, turn left onto the lane into Penshurst Village.

At the T junction turn right and then turn left at the main T junction in the village by the Village Hall. Watch out for traffic on this section through the village.

The entrance to Penshurst Place is a few hundred meters up on the LHS on the corner.



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Stage 3

Turn into the driveway to Penshurst Place. The main entrance to the House & Gardens is on your left after a few hundred meters.

There is also a gift shop, garden centre and fabulous Cafe if you fancy a break.

From here continue along the lane (lots of walkers and other cyclists) through the estate.

After about 1km there is a short but steep hill. It is worth the effort though and you are afforded amazing views from the top. Continue along the track first left and then right and downhill to the Medway.

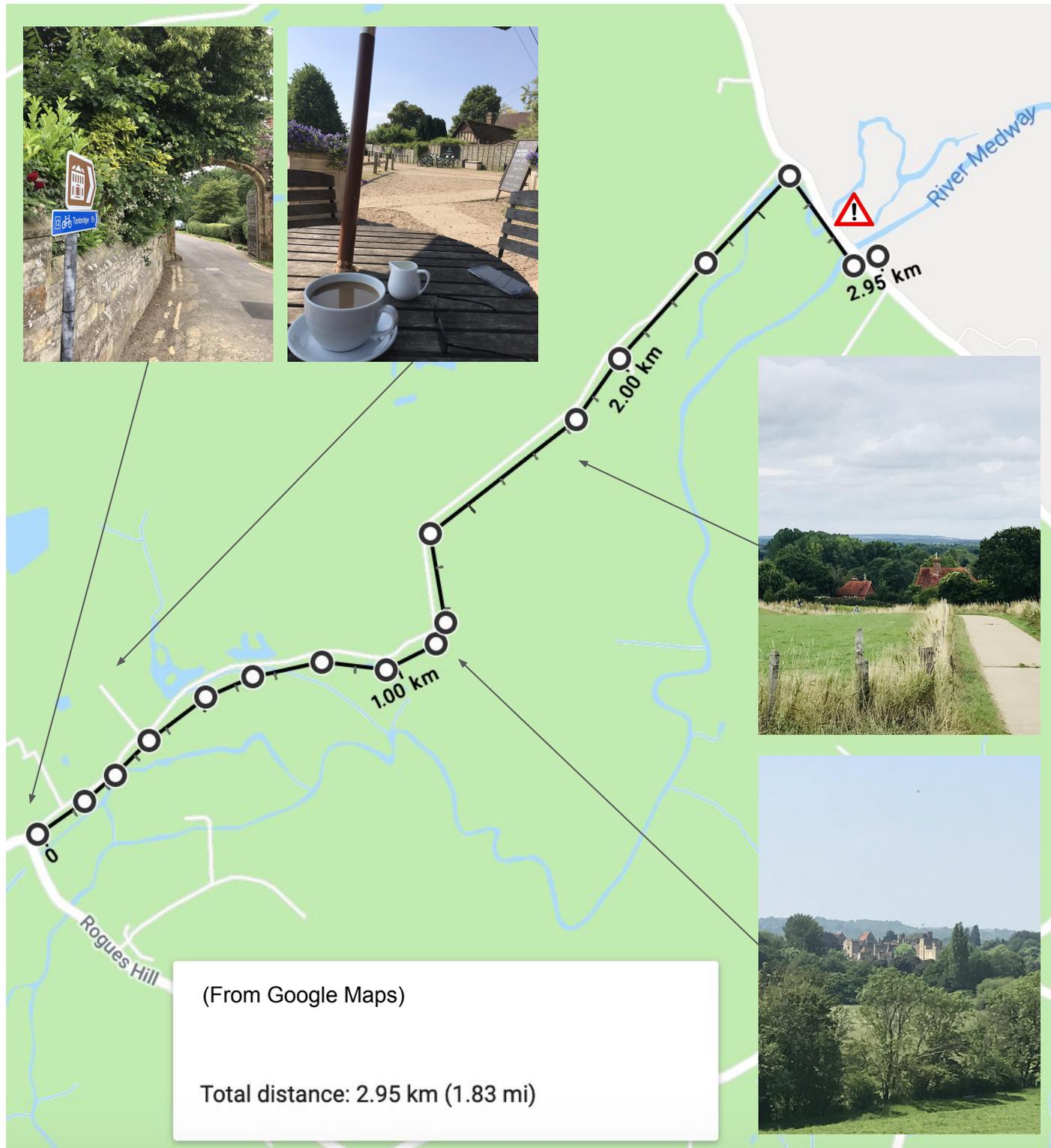
At the end of the private lane you reach a road that heads towards Leigh. Turn right along the path before crossing over just past the bridge. Be careful as traffic can go fast down this road. However you only need to go on the road for about 100m to cross over. We normally walk the bikes this bit over the bridge.

Just past the bridge, the trail continues off-road along the Medway.



(From Google Maps)

Total distance: 2.95 km (1.83 mi)





3 castles route

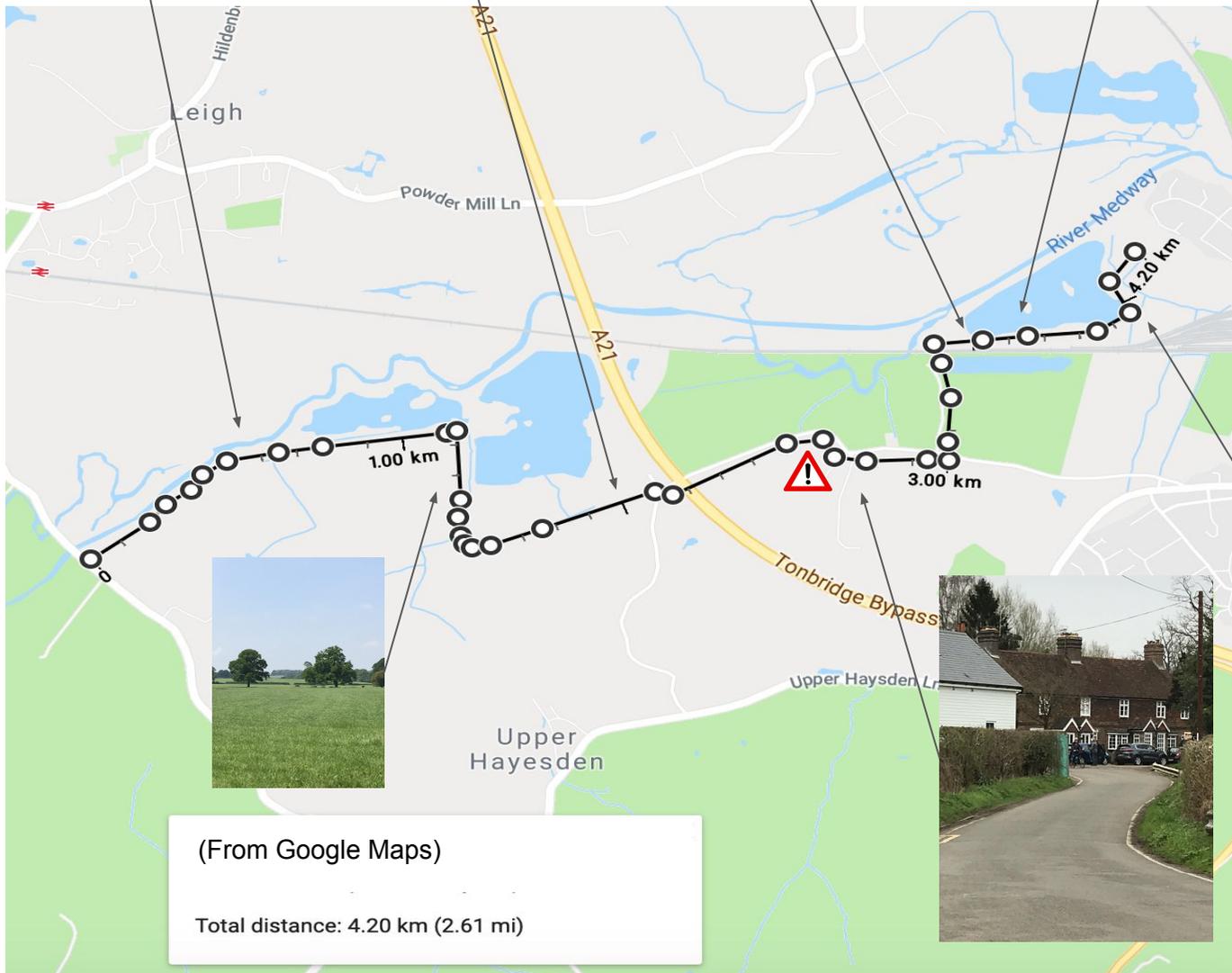
Stage 4

The trail tracks the medway shaded by trees on both sides. After about 1km at the end of a long straight run, turn right sign posted towards Haysden Country Park and through a style (lift bikes onto back wheels to get them through the style).

The trail emerges alongside glorious fields before reaching another style and on to mount a dam next to the sailing club.

From here you join a lane (passing under the A21) for about 1km before turning in to Haysden Country park. Be careful of traffic although it is a pretty quiet lane with good visibility. At the Country Park there is a great cafe for a break and stunning lakes to explore.

From the cafe head under the railway bridge and around the RHS of the lake to the other side.



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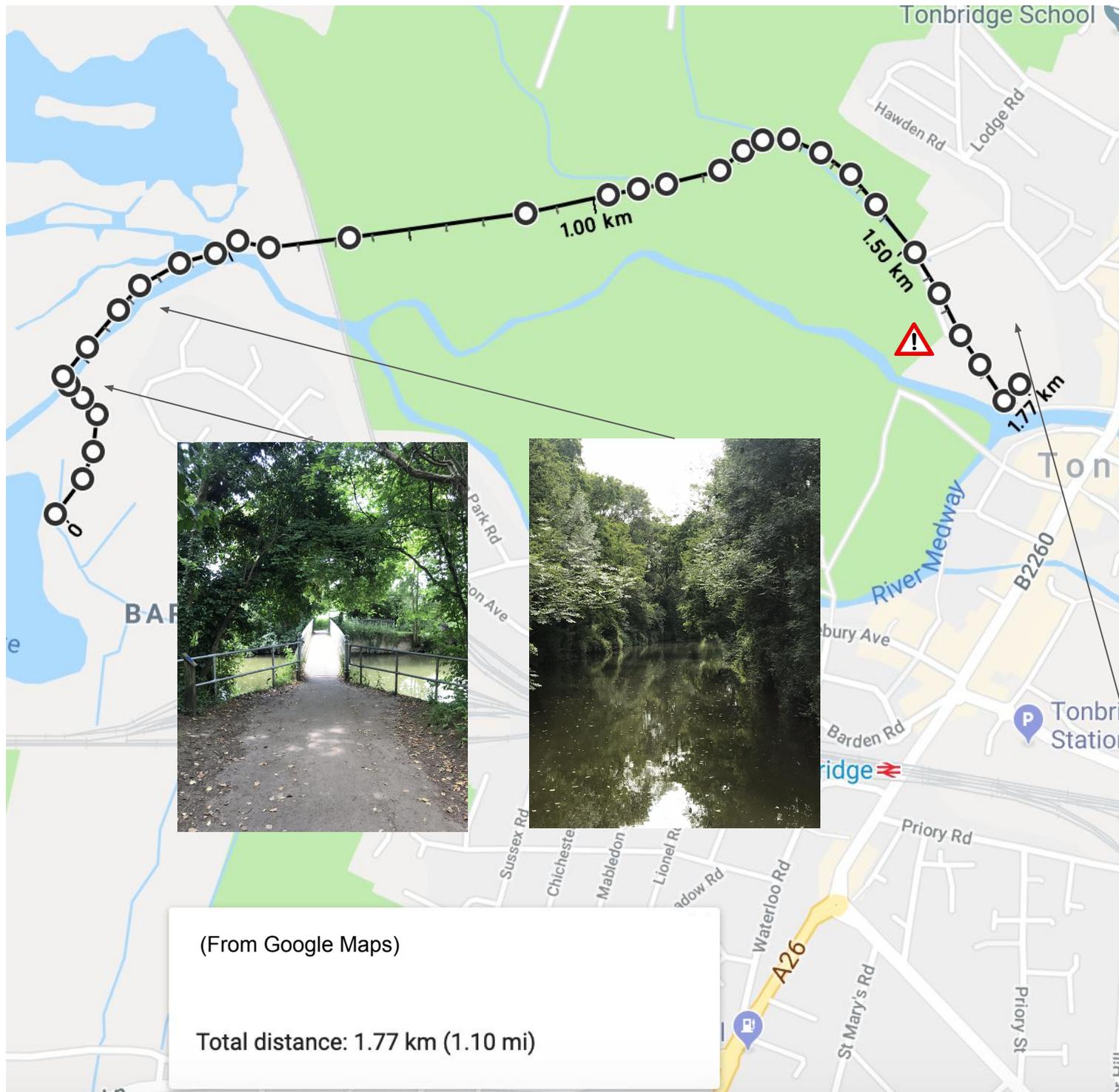
Stage 5

Follow the trail through the woods and off to the left across bridges that cross the Medway river. Turn right.

Keep heading right and after about 500m, the trail emerges onto Tonbridge playing fields. Skirt the fields to the far end and turn right down to the swimming pool.

Dismount and walk your way through to the entrance of the castle.

Congratulations, you have completed the Tudor Trail! The return journey is just as fun!



(From Google Maps)

Total distance: 1.77 km (1.10 mi)

