

The Tudor Trail

Overview

Type of cycling: Mainly off-road, family friendly

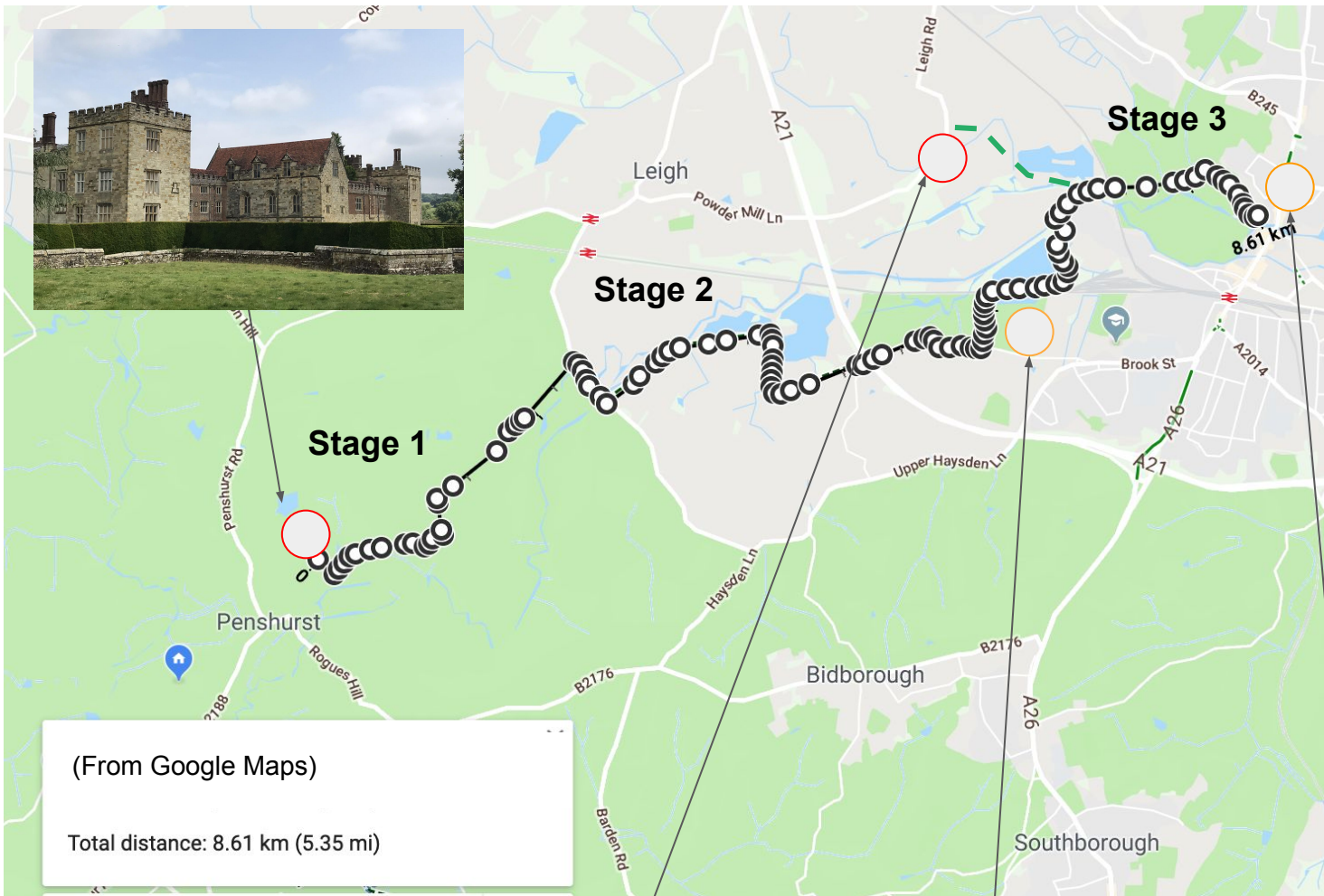
Difficulty: Easy (one hill only)

Suitability: All ages / family friendly

Highlights: The wonderful Penshurst Place, stunning countryside, scenic lakes at Haysden Country park and Tonbridge Motte & Bailey castle. This cycle route has been described as one of the most beautiful in the country.

There are cafes at Penshurst Place and at Haysden or a great pub just along an offshoot cycle route in Powder Mills (The Plough where we also have bikes to hire).

This is one of our favorites to do with our kids.



The Tudor Trail

Stage 1

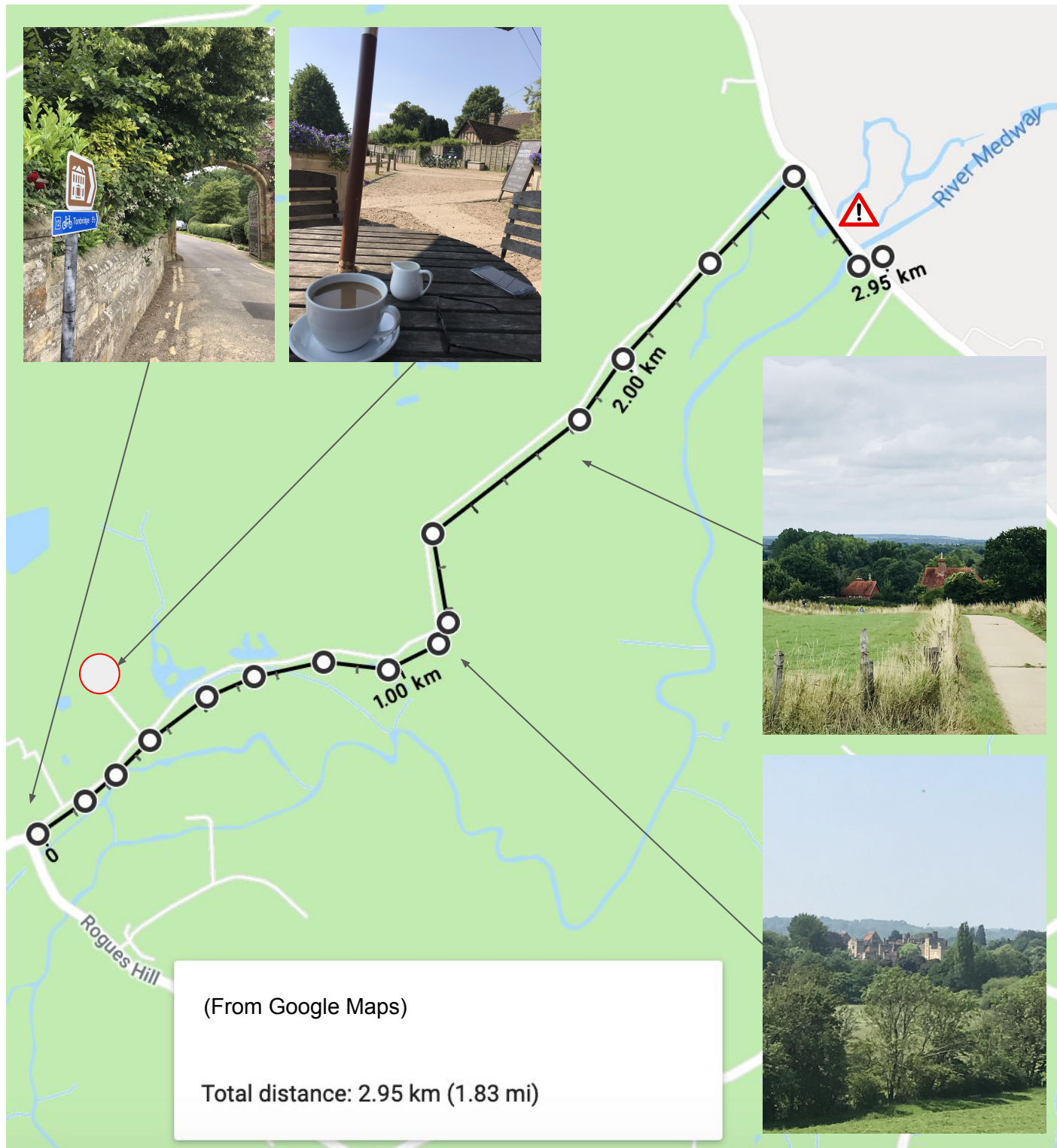
If you are hiring bikes from Penshurst Place then you start just outside the gift shop, garden centre and fabulous Porcupine Cafe.

From here turn left at the private lane that leads to the car park and continue along the lane (lots of walkers and other cyclists) through the estate. Do note some cars do travel along this stretch to a nursery at the end of the lane although there are speed bumps and people expect walkers and cyclists.

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)



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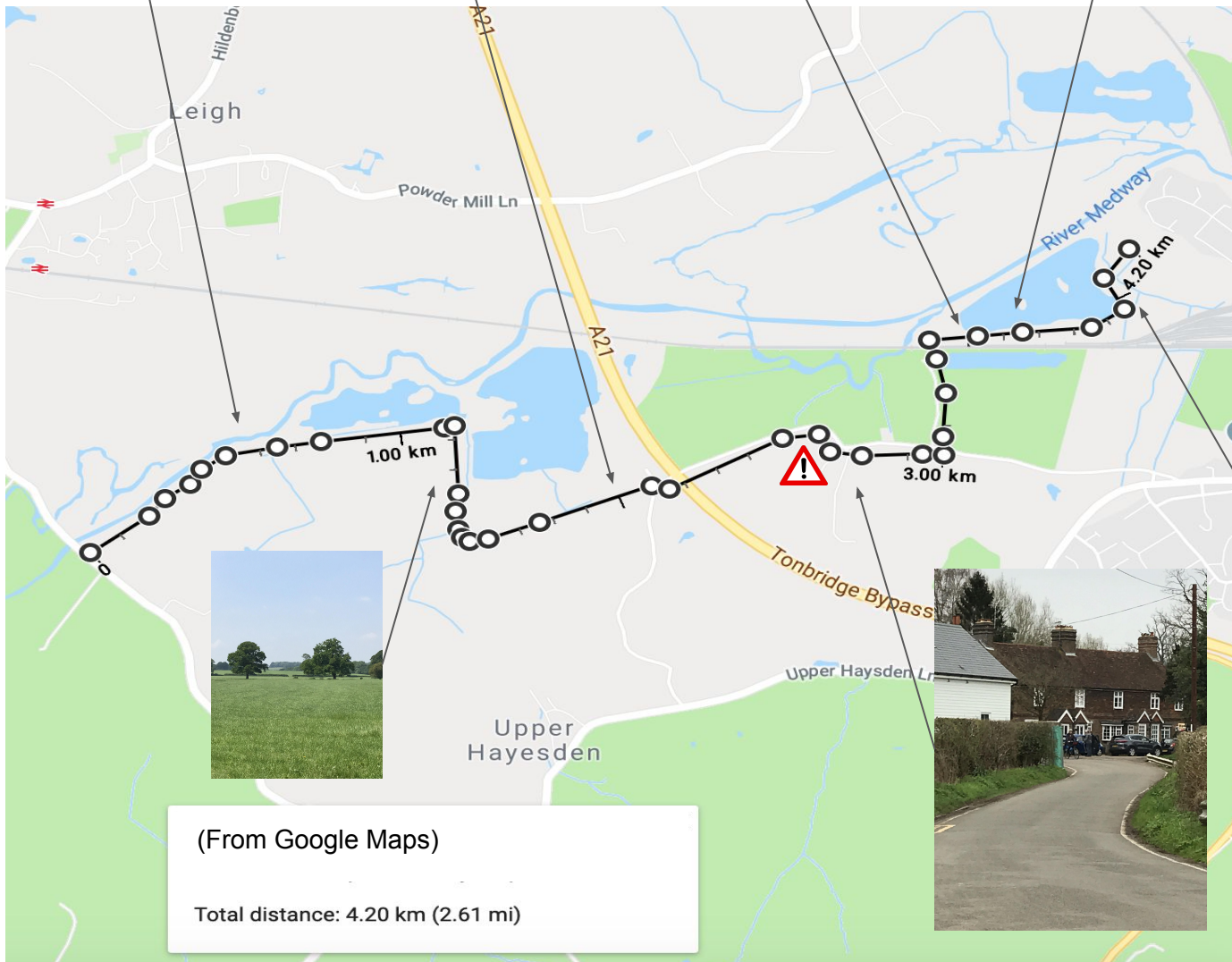
Stage 2

The trail tracks the Medway river 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 (the best way to get through is to lift the bikes onto their back wheels to get them through the style...make sure to take little ones out of a baby seat if you have one fitted!).

The trail then 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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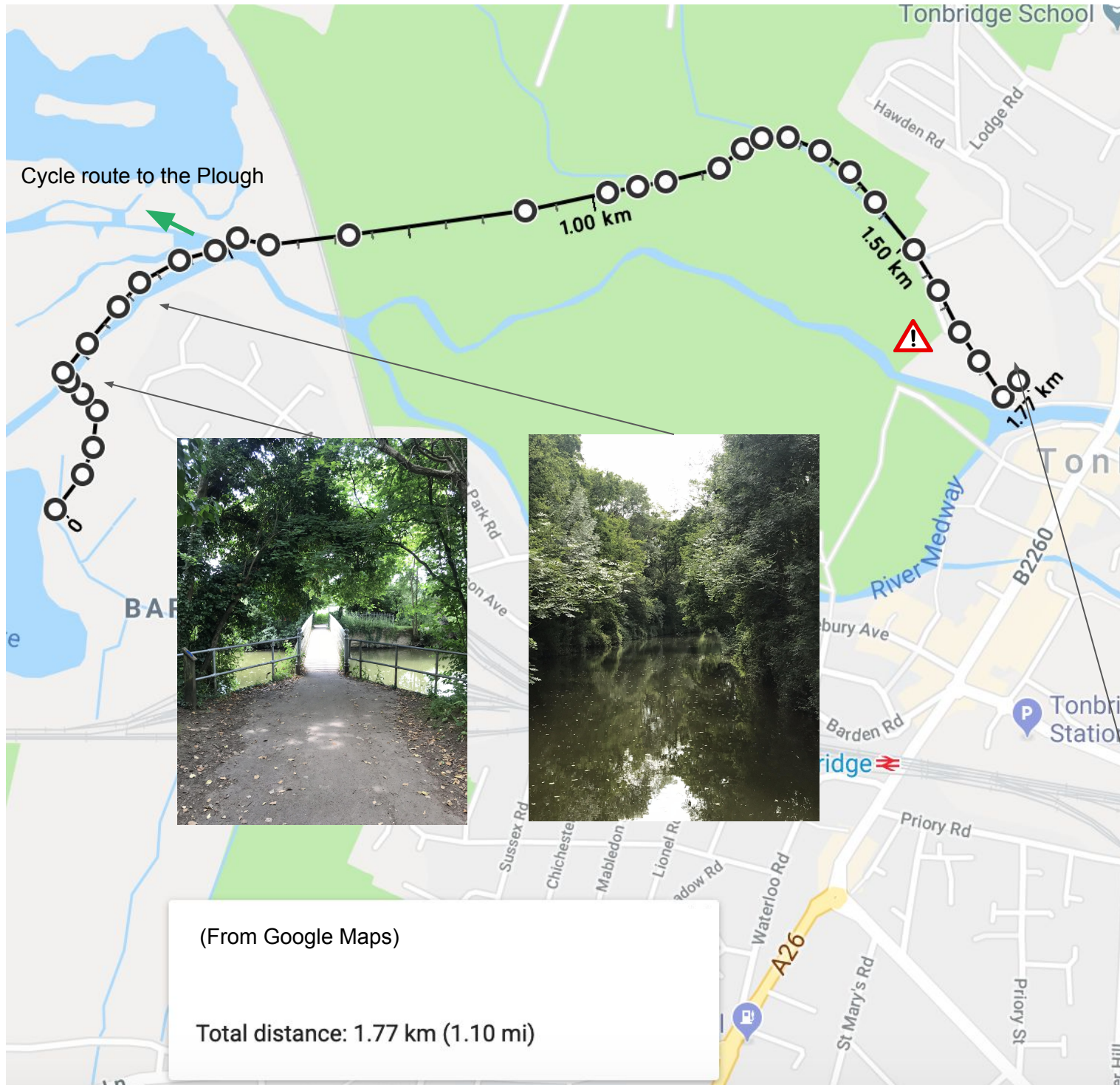
Stage 3

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

Keep heading right. A left over a footbridge joins an offshoot cycle lane up to Powder Mills and the Plough pub if you fancy a great lunch...check open though on the day as it also does wedding. 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)

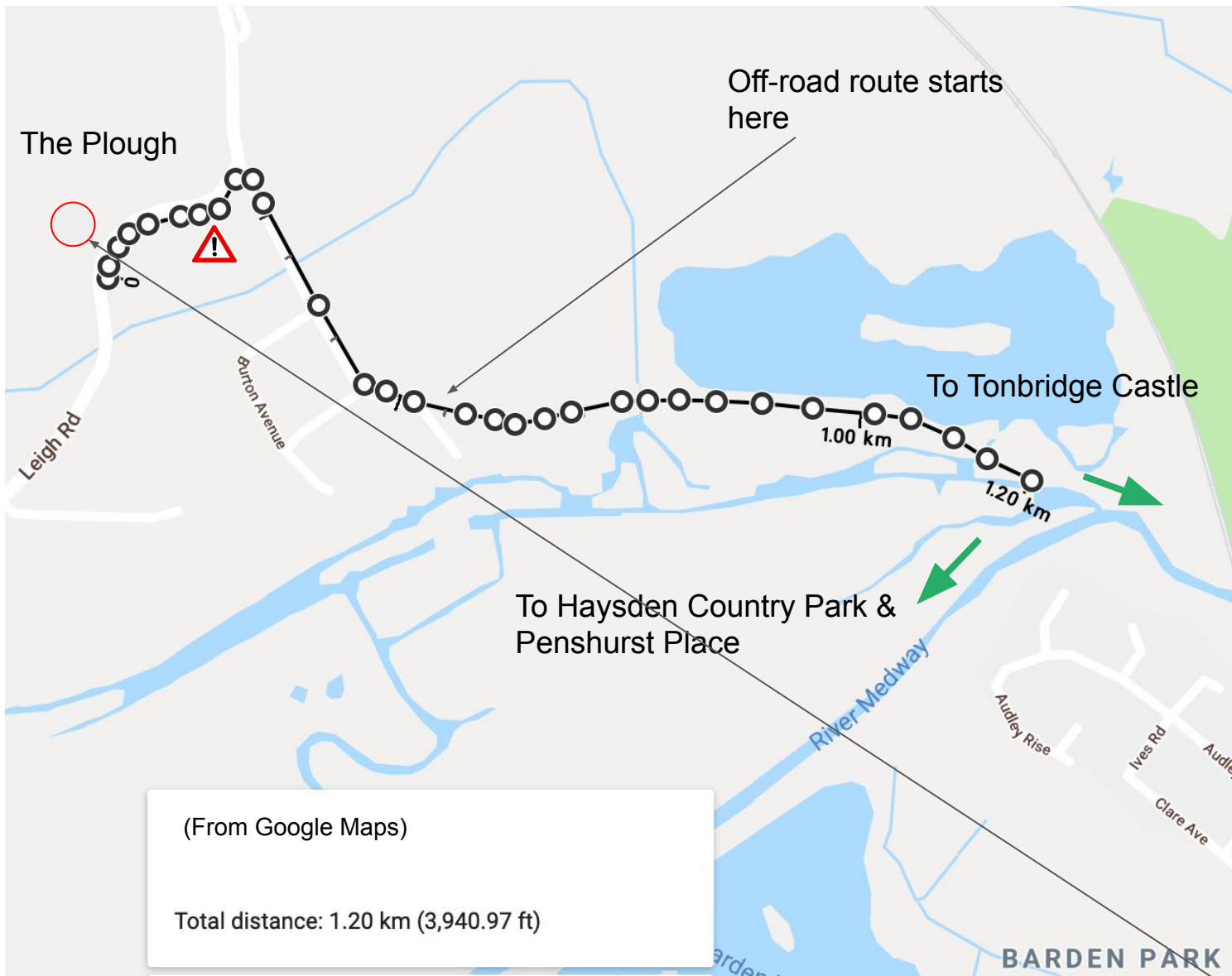
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Connecting route from the Plough pub

If you are hiring bikes from the Plough, turn left out of the pub car park and follow the lane around to the right. Be careful of traffic on this short stretch. After about 200m turn right and follow the lane (Powder Mills) past the houses that are on the RHS.

Keep left into Hunter Seal and after about 50m take the path off to the LHS. This quickly turns into a newly laid dual path (please note you may need to dismount for this section though as it is not as yet a designated cycle path)

Crossing a small bridge you meet the trail. Turn right to head towards Haysden Country Park (flat) & on to Penshurst Place (one hill) or left towards the Tonbridge playing fields and Tonbridge Castle (flat).



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How to reach the Trail from Tonbridge station

We also deliver bikes to the station if you want to visit the area and cycle directly from the train station. Here is the best way to get to the trail if so.

Turn left out of the station and head towards the town centre over the roundabout. Be careful of traffic on this short stretch of road.

Take the first left after the roundabout and then take the first right off this down River Lawn Road.

After about 100m there is a cycle path that directs you towards the swimming pool. Take this cycle route until you reach New Wharf Road and turn left.

Follow New Wharf road into the park to a small footbridge over the Medway on your right.

Over the bridge, turn right past the front of the swimming pool and left past the model railway. The entrance to the trail is by Tonbridge Juddians Rugby club and skirts the edge of the playing fields off road towards Haysden Country Park and beyond.

For more information on our delivery service to here and other places / stations in Kent & East Sussex, please look at the delivery and collection service page (including a request form) on our website.

