

## KINGSCOURT - KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE | 3 MILES

## WALK 3

**1.** From the Town Meadow, turn right into The High Street, crossing the Town Bridge over Shreen Water. Continue up the hill and on to the roundabout at the far end and then over the railway bridge and the bridge over the River Lodden .

*The Gillingham Agricultural Shows used to be held at Lodden Farm in the early 1900s.*

**2.** Cross the road here to walk on pavement and recross in 100m into KingsCourt Road.

*Kingscourt was King John's hunting lodge and this area was part of the medieval Gillingham Forest. At the end of the road there is an information board giving a brief history of the site of Kings Court Palace in the field ahead, and more information is available in the Town Museum.*

Cross over the Fernbrook Bridge and through the gate. The Fernbrook joins the Lodden just to the left. Follow the track across the remains of KingsCourt

**3.** Continue to far corner of this field. Go through the kissing gate and cross the railway with care and go through a second kissing gate. Follow the track and turn left in front of Woodwater Farm.

**4.** Cross the Lodden and immediately turn right off the track and then left through a gate in the hedge. Follow the path beside the hedge on the right reaching a seat at the top of the slope.

**5.** Go through the gate to the right. The right of way goes diagonally across the field towards new housing. Walkers more often turn immediately left and follow the hedge down to the far corner where the hedge meets a row of conifers.

**6.** Go through the gate, along a short path, and through a kissing gate.

*This area is called Bay, which has an old meaning, 'an embankment to form a dam'*

Follow the tarmac path straight ahead and between two bungalows to the top of Barnaby Mead/Bay Fields. Bear left and follow the road to the High Street, turning right to get back to the Town Meadow.

