

ASPECTS OF CHILHAM

*Some descriptions inspired by the special beauty of the place
– scarcely changed through four centuries*

It is impossible to visit Chilham without being struck by its beauty

Charles Hardy 1916

A most pleasing view over the valley beneath, in which the various beautiful objects of both art and nature combine to make it the most delightful prospect that can be imagined

Edward Hasted 1778

The thrilling moment is when the left-hand hedge suddenly breaks and you see Chilham Castle for the first time. There is a lake in the near foreground where armies of irises lift green spears. Away up the hill are old terraces, banked with old walls; based solidly on these is the gables seventeenth-century mansion. The Norman keep stands a little away to the west among velvet lawns.

Dorothy Gardiner 1934

Chilham Castle and the ancient donjon, embowered among the trees, form a charming group crowning the rising parkland above the water-meadows, as lovely a bit of Kentish scenery as one could wish to see

Robert Goodsall 1953

The situation is very fine, and commands a wide and beautiful view of the peaceful valley of the Stour, with fields, orchards, and hop gardens stretching as far as the eye can reach, the river flowing onward towards Canterbury

Country Life 1899

The enchanting spot whereon stands the castle, and from which a beautiful panoramic view extends itself in the green vale below, interwoven by the waters of the Stour, woodland and pastures running back to the Downs beyond - this glorious scene, so typical of Kent at her best - views that have made Kent famous for landscape beauty. One side is undulating country; on the other are more level pastures, dotted with woods and spinneys, interlaced by the ribbon-like winding waters of the Stour and sheltered by a background of hills, known as the Backbone of Kent.

Charles Igglesden 1925

As a stately home with a long history, Chilham has few rivals

Arthur Oswald 1933

Commodious for use and beautiful for pleasure

John Leland 1540

From the downs across the valley, you may see an English village in all its stages of historical growth, spread before you in a pleasing panorama: the Norman Keep, standing on its Roman-Saxon foundations, the Jacobean House, the Elizabethan Church and Square, the early Georgian vicarage (1741), and, clustered around them, the russet roofs of the old houses which have grown up around them in the course of centuries. You will travel the length and breadth of England before you stumble, on a summer's day, upon a more representative example of an English village

Somerset de Chair 1946

Our generation has seen old beauties restored, the original design at least completed and much added loveliness

Dorothy Gardiner 1934

Old England at her very best

Arthur Mee 1936