

## “DEN” OR “ENDEN” NAMES IN KENT, ENGLAND

Compiled from Wikipedia by Thomas H. Wickenden II

There are 22 names ending in “den” that are currently listed or mentioned in the *List of Places in Kent* on the Wikipedia website. These are all villages, towns or places that currently are populated, however small, and are found on today’s maps of Kent. There are three others that are listed on the “Gazetteer of Kent Ancient Parishes” in about 1830 as published in David Wright’s *Tracing Your Kent Ancestors*. Names of smaller locations such as manors, settlements or other sites that are included within these sites or that were used historically but have now been “lost,” are generally not included here.

Drawing on information from sources such as Frank Stenton’s *Anglo-Saxon England* (Oxford University Press, 3rd ed, 1971), it is noted that “den” is often found as part of a larger ending such as “enden,” but the root meaning is from the word “denn” or “dene,” which is variously interpreted as a Kentish word describing a “woodland pasture,” a “wooded pasture,” a “forest pasture,” a “den or pasture,” the “Jutish word for swine pastures coming to connote the same but with associated hamlets or isolated farmsteads as well as in many instances cultivated land.”

It is noted that the suffix “*enden*” is found in many place names in the Kentish Weald, meaning “the pasture or clearing in the forest belonging to the people of a named person.” Occasionally, an attempt has been made to interpret the meaning of the name of the person or persons. Often these sites were associated with Roman remains and an old Jutish track or drove which ran through the area, along which pigs were driven into the forest of Andreadsweald. The Weald was once heavily wooded and was known to the Celtic Britons as *Coit Andred*, to the Romans as *Silva Anderida*, and to the Saxons first as *Andredesleage* and later *Andredesweald*.

Benenden	Village and civil parish in Tunbridge Wells District
Bethersden	Village and civil parish west of Ashford
Biddenden	Village and civil parish in Ashford District
Borden	Village and electoral ward
Chattenden	Village in civil parish of Hoo
Chillenden	Village and ancient parish between Canterbury and Deal
Cowden	Village and civil parish in Sevenoaks District
Crippenden Manor	Within Cowden Village
Culverden Park	Woodland near Tunbridge Wells
Frittenden	Village and civil parish in Tunbridge Wells District
Hersden	Village and parish east of Canterbury
High Halden	Ancient parish in Tenterden

Hoaden (& Hoaden Court)	Hamlet to the east of Elmstone
Horden	Village in Maidstone District
Horsmonden	Village in the Tunbridge Wells District
Lydden	Village and civil parish in Dover District
Newenden	Village and civil parish in Ashford District
Otterden	Ancient parish in Hollingbourne
Rolvenden	Village and civil parish in Ashford District
Rushenden	Village on the Isle of Sheppey
Sholden	Village adjacent to Deal
Smarden	Ancient parish in West Ashford
Swattenden	Settlement in parish of Cranbrook and Sissinghurst
Tenterden	Town in Ashford District
Warden	Village on the Isle of Sheppey