

Historical notes:

Markyate

Markyate grew up along the Old Roman Watling Street, in the valley of the River Ver, during medieval times. The Priory was established around 1145 but following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII during the 1530s, it was converted into the mansion known as the Cell. The Chapel of Ease, built in 1734 in a corner of the Cell Park became the Parish Church in 1877. Interestingly until 1897, when the civil Parish of Markyate was formed, the village itself straddled several parishes in both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Markyate served the needs of travellers for many centuries. Until the late 1830s many stage coaches, en route from London to the Midlands and the north of England, stopped at the village inns. Later, and up to the early years of the 20th century, there were many hat and bonnet factories in the village.

Traffic through the narrow streets of the village increased greatly during the 20th century. In 1954 the villagers joined in protests seeking a by-pass and in 1957 one was built.

Today the High Street is still busy and frequently congested with parked cars, despite the by-pass taking the passing traffic. The hat factories are long gone, replaced with light industrial units and other businesses, however most residents now commute to the larger towns surrounding Markyate.

The Roman legions and tradesmen used the route extensively to service their outposts throughout England and Wales. Queen Boudicca is thought to have passed along Watling Street with her tribes of women warriors to engage the Romans north of Dunstable.

Being situated just a day's ride by horse out of London, the village quickly grew to service the needs of the travellers. Many coaching inns were established in the High Street, a wheelwright and carrier service also thrived. Horses were changed and kept locally. In 1780 Thomas Pickford came to live in Markyate and founded the Pickford carrier service, which still survives to this day as a large international removal and storage company. Pickford Road is named after him.

The milestone in London Road is an old turnpike mile post for the stage coaches. The fee payable being calculated from these posts.

How to get to the start:

By Car: Leave the M1 at Junction 9 and go north towards Dunstable on the A5. Markyate is situated approximately 2 miles from the junction and the A5 is its by pass. Leave the A5 at the second Markyate junction on your left just after the footbridge (Hicks Road) you will find the car park a few yards down on your right.

Public Transport: Trains run frequently to St Albans and the No 343 bus route serves St Albans and Dunstable. Nearby Luton and Hemel Hempstead also have frequent trains and the No 46 bus serves both these towns and Markyate.

Enjoy your walking

Wear sensible clothing and footwear.

Always respect the property you travel through.

Let someone know your whereabouts and have their Tel No handy.

Keep dogs under control.

Include a mobile phone and drink in your back pack.

Never leave litter—take it home with you.

Gates must be left as you found them.

Markyate Health Walks

Every Friday (All weathers) 10.30 am at the Fire Station. You are welcome to join them.

There are now eight maps in this series as follows:

- **Aley Green and Woodside**
- **Flamstead**
- **Studham**
- **Kensworth**
- **Bridens Camp**
- **Three short walks around the village**

Maps also available on the Parish Council Website: www.markyateparishcouncil.com

CAONB website: www.chilternsaonb.org

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 182 features Markyate and surrounding area.

A short walk around about Markyate



LONDON ROAD & ALLOTMENTS

The aim of these walks is to promote healthy living by providing residents and visitors with gentle walking exercise whilst enjoying the countryside around our village and visiting places of special interest in the Chilterns area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Leaflets sponsored by:

MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL

with the aid of funding from

**CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND**



SHORT WALK ALONG LONDON ROAD AND BACK VIA THE FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS

A short walk around a Hertfordshire village with places of interest and open views over the surrounding countryside.

Walk: 1¼ miles

Time: 45 minutes to 1 Hour

- Gradient: steep for a short time after London Road.
- Not suitable for pushchairs or bikes etc.
- Number of stiles: 1.
- Number of kissing gates: Nil.
- Parking: Hicks Road near the Doctors Surgery.

Making a start:

- ① Turn right from the car park then left at High Street onto London Road and cross the road. Just after Manse Court look in the hedge on the grass verge and you will see an old milestone. Keep walking until the end of the houses just behind the hedge (Dammersey Close)
- ② Take the footpath on your right. Walk up and over the stile.
- ③ Keep walking ahead through the fields until you reach the hedge with a track
- ④ Turn right and continue walking until you reach the recreation ground taking the path out to your left.
- ⑤ At the road (Pickford Road) go right towards the High Street. At the High Street go right and cross the road into Hicks Road and the car park.

