

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**
- **Three short walks around the village**
- **Kensworth**
- **Bridens Camp**

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



OLD WATLING STREET

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

**CHILTERNNS CONSERVATION BOARD
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND**



SHORT WALK VIA OLD WATLING STREET AND WINDMILL LANE

A walk along London Road (formerly Watling Street) and across to Old Watling Street up Chad Lane to Windmill Lane and back to the village.

Walk: Just under 4 miles

Time: 1¼ to 2 Hours

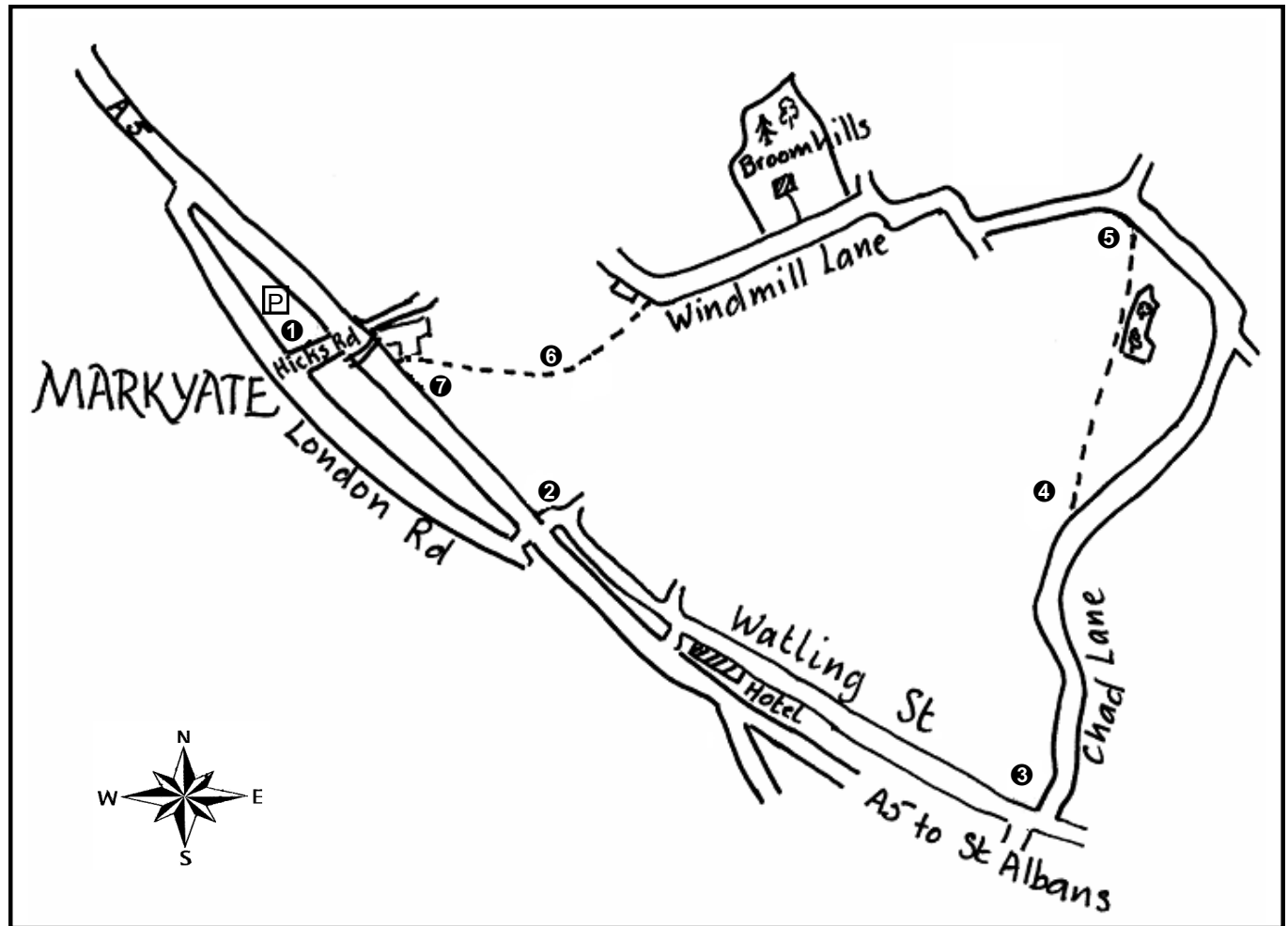
- Gradient: Undulating
- Not suitable for pushchairs or bikes etc.
- Refreshments: None
- Number of stiles: 2
- Number of kissing gates: Nil
- Parking: Hicks Road near the Doctors Surgery

Making a start:

1 Turn right from the car park then left at High Street which becomes London Road. As you come to near 51 London Road look on the opposite side of the road and in the hedge on the grass verge you will see an old milestone. Walk to the end and turn right and then cross the A5 at the crossing, then left to Old Watling Street. (The A5 is very busy so please be careful).

2 Continue along the road behind the hotel and past the houses on your right. When you come to the open speed limit sign after the row of houses look to your right and you will have a lovely view of the Ver valley with Flamstead as a backcloth. As you continue you will also see another milestone on your left.

3 When you reach Chad Lane go left and walk up the hill continuing around several bends until a bend left on a steep incline. Look for the footpath sign on your left in the hedge.



4 Take this path across a field with crops, diagonally up the valley bottom towards the left-hand edge of a copse (Cockrams). With the copse on your right walk until almost the end of the trees and look to your left diagonally and walk towards the left far side of the shrubbed area. It may be muddy when you reach the road.

5 Go left up Windmill Lane and continue along, passing farms and Broomhills Shooting range. Keep on the road and when you have reached the bend at Hazels Corner Kennels go round the bend with the

road and look for the footpath sign and path to your left. This will take you between fences on either side.

6 After some time you will come to a gap in the hedge which takes you into a field. Walk diagonally across towards the corner where the hedge round the field meets the far end of a row of conifers. Go over the stile and then another stile and you will reach the pavement on the A5.

7 Go right then left over the footbridge. This will bring you back to the Car Park.