

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 Golden Parsonage

The house was built in the late 16th century and extended in the 17th/18th century. The house has mature parkland and medieval fishponds. It is believed to be named after the wild daffodils, some of which still remain.

Beechwood Park House

This was built on the site of a former nunnery, which on the dissolution of the monasteries, became a Tudor mansion where Edward VI stayed. The ancestral home of the Sebright family, many elegant gentry folk enjoyed the house and gardens. The grounds were designed by Capability Brown, and the interior features fine carvings by Grinling Gibbons. A thriving Preparatory School now occupies the premises and grounds.

Just past Beechwood House is a modern house called Flight Cottage. This stands on the site of the prefabricated Flight Office that was at one end of a war time runway. Spare parts were stored locally and the planes were maintained here ready for duty sorties.

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.

MARKYATE CIRCULAR Country walks byway of



BRIDEN'S CAMP

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**



BRIDEN'S CAMP

A walk through the fields via Flamstead. Refreshment possibilities: The Old Chequers at Gaddesden Row and The Crown and Sceptre at Briden's Camp.

Walk: 11½ miles

Time: 5 to 6 Hours

- Gradient: Undulating with a couple of hills. Not suitable for pushchairs or bikes—can be muddy in parts—some fields may contain animals.
- Refreshments: (At the time of printing) The Old Chequers, Gaddesden Row – The Crown and Sceptre, Briden's Camp.
- Number of stiles: Several
- Number of kissing gates: Several
- Parking: Hicks Road near the Doctors' Surgery

Making a start:

1 Turn right from car park then right at High Street and sharp left into Pickford Road. After a few yards take rough path on left to recreation ground. At playground take right path with hedge on right by allotments. Follow hedge to where track goes right (ignore track).

2 Walk ahead with pylons on your right through large planted field towards hedge. At hedge go through gap into planted field towards another hedge.

3 Through kissing gate and paddock to kissing gate and then a stile. Then with hedge to left over stile. Right to gate with stile then left (Friendless Lane).

4 Continue to junction (Mill Lane)—go across car park to footpath which goes around Flamstead.

5 At end go left on road. Just before telephone box go right into Linnins Pond then take footpath through young trees. Go through kissing gate to small wood and another kissing gate to path between paddocks up the hill. At the top after the copse ignore the gap in the hedge on your right and with the hedge on your right go straight ahead until you see a signpost in the hedge and a large tree on your left. Go left by the tree across the field towards the marker in the hedge opposite. When you reach the bridlepath go right until you reach the road.

6 At road bear left ahead then carry on round a bend to track on right (signposted Puddephats). Take track until just past house. Look for a gap in hedge on your

left with markers. Go across the field heading for markers in the hedge opposite. With the hedge on your right carry on until you reach the far end of Greenlane Wood.

7 Walk to the right and after about 200 yards look for sign on your right in the hedge which will take you left across a field. At top you will reach a bridleway. Go ahead over stile to Gaddesden Row. Go right on road until footpath on left. (If you would like to visit 'The Old Chequers' carry on a bit further than the left footpath and then retrace your steps to continue).

8 With hedge on left take the footpath and at opening on left drop into wood.

9 Continue to Briden's Camp and 'The Crown and Sceptre'.

10 On leaving the inn take road to right round two bends. Go left at sign for Home Farm. Go right at next footpath sign.

11 At large gap in hedge cross over to 300 year old Lime Walk to the gate to Golden Parsonage. Left to kissing gate on right then diagonal to next gate. The field may contain cattle—Pedigree British Shorthorns (oldest British beef breed). Through kissing gate by ancient sweet chestnut trees.

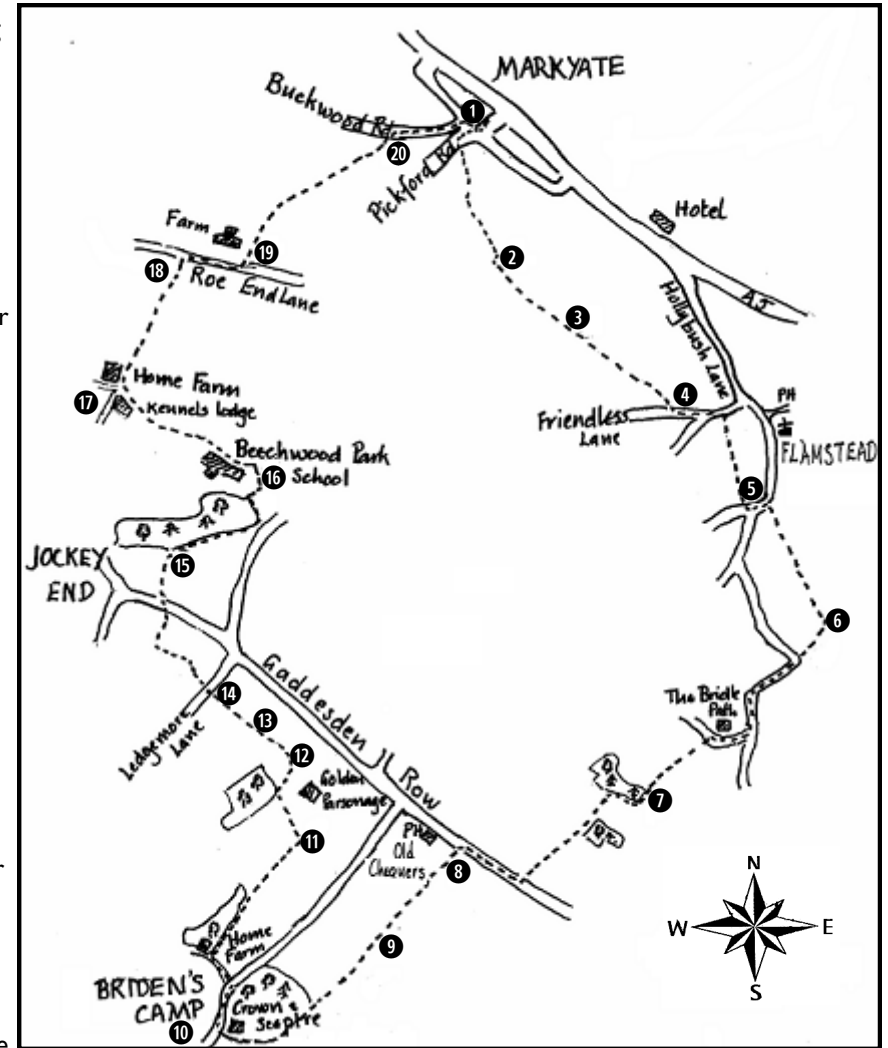
12 Left at kissing gate to Lane House.

13 At lane go left then right after pond. Over stile diagonally via pasture to stile. Head for large tree to two stiles in a hedge. Cross field by large trees. (Water Tower in distance on right).

14 Through kissing gate to lane and then right on lane and immediate left at gate. There is a series of gates with paddocks either side. After these take a path on your right over a stile which goes up a wide path by the allotments on left. Walk to road (Gaddesden Row). Go left then right at entrance to recreation ground. Keep ahead to (Deans Lane).

15 At Deans Lane go right for about half a mile to junction with road then left at footpath. Through kissing gate to top of hill and right curving round playing field edge to road.

16 Go left on the road which takes you in front of Beechwood Park School.



17 Keep ahead until you reach the crossroads at Kennels Lodge—go right.

18 Go down dip then curve right into Roe End Lane passing Hollybush Lodge and Roe End Farm.

19 At footpath sign turn left through kissing gate and with hedge on right follow field edge to stile. Go ahead between fields to hedge end and continue down in the valley bottom beside housing estate to Buckwood Road.

20 Turn right and continue to High Street turning right at Fire Station and left into Hicks Road.