

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.

Caddington Common

This road was originally called Brick Kiln Lane due to the many brick fields that existed in the area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Aley Green and Woodside

Originally made up of a number of loosely grouped medieval hamlets which grew up as secondary colonisations within the parish of Caddington: Aley Green in the valley bottom, with Woodside, as the name suggests, on higher ground in a clearing in Caddington Wood.

The Harrow public house started its life around 1786 in a cottage on the edge of Caddington Common however the current building is of a later date but on the same site.

Slip End

The village was founded in the 1840s along the Markyate to Luton road and in its early days it housed mostly agricultural labourers and their families. With the expansion of the local brick making industry towards the end of the century many new houses were built for the workers.

Half Moon Lane

This old bridle way was also once one of the main routes from Markyate to Luton. Markyate's windmill was still active during the 19th century on the east side of the road where the walk joins Hick's Road.

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



ALEY GREEN and WOODSIDE

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'S CONSERVATION BOARD
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND**



ALEY GREEN and WOODSIDE

A walk through the fields to Aley Green and Woodside.

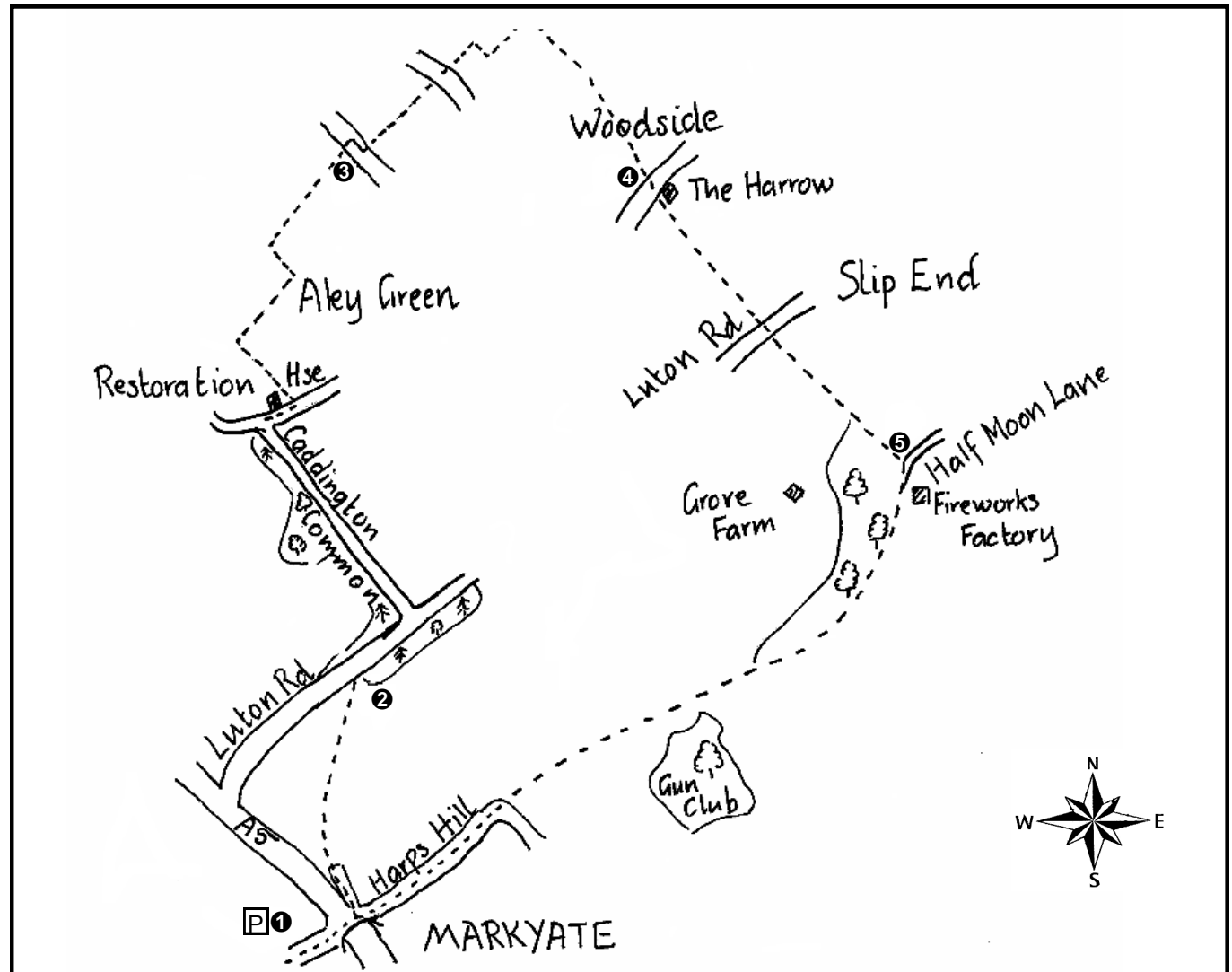
Walk: 5 miles

Time: 2 to 2½ Hours

- Gradient: Steep for a short time at the start with a gentle rise to Aley Green and then steep at the end as you return down Tile Kiln Lane.
- Not suitable for pushchairs or bikes etc.
- Refreshments: (at time of printing) The Harrow,
- Number of stiles: 1.
- Number of kissing gates: 3.
- Parking: Hicks Road near the Doctors Surgery.

Making a start:

- 1 Turn left from the car park and use the footbridge to go over the A5. You will see The Ridings straight ahead. Continue to the end and the footpath is marked. Go through the kissing gate and walk diagonally through the field to a stile by a metal gate, go over this and the footpath becomes a track which will take you to Luton Road.
- 2 Take care on this busy road. Cross over, turn right and continue to the next turning on your left (Caddington Common) turn into this. Walk to the end then turn right and take the path which is to the right of 'Restoration House'. With the hedge on your left walk to the waymark post and turn right with the hedge on your right. At the corner of the field turn left and then right at the waymark post. A newly-planted hedge will be on your left. Continue to the road and turn right towards the Aley Green sign.
- 3 Cross over the road (taking care) and then turn left at the marked path. Follow this path until you come to the road. Cross over and take the marked path by the recreation ground with the fence on your left. Go right at the corner still with a fence on your



left and continue until you reach the kissing gate. Turn right at the corner and continue straight at the junction and you will reach a track into the farmyard which leads to the main road. The Harrow is opposite.

4 Take the path by the side of The Harrow and continue until you reach Luton Road. Cross over, take

the footpath and go straight ahead until you come to the kissing gate.

5 Go right at Half Moon Lane and then continue straight ahead to the A5. Cross the footbridge. This will bring you back to the start of the walk. There are pubs in Markyate, a bakers, fish bar and an Indian Restaurant.