

## 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.

### Hertfordshire puddingstone

Turning into the field at Gooseacre (2 on the map) look out for lumps of this hard conglomerate rock made up of flint pebbles bound by silica and iron oxides. These were often put in place to mark Parish boundaries. Here, in earlier times, was the border between Flamstead and Houghton Regis.

### Buckwood Stubs

Today there are a few old farm buildings, but the farmhouse is no longer. Buckwood was a detached part of Houghton Regis parish until 1897 when it was transferred to the parish of Markyate.

### Studham

The home near the wood' as its Anglo-Saxon founders called it, grew up as an agricultural community. Later in the 19th century it also supported a straw plaiting industry supplying the Luton hat trade. In around 1870, the common which remains a feature of the village, was 'enclosed' reducing it by half. Shortly afterwards the village which had been partly in Hertfordshire and partly in Bedfordshire was taken completely into Bedfordshire.

### Roe End Farm

Dating from the late 16th century, with additions up to recent times, including the fine 18th century granary suspended on brick pillars over a pond.

## 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

**W**ear sensible clothing and footwear.

**A**lways respect the property you travel through.

**L**et someone know your whereabouts and have their Tel No handy.

**K**eep dogs under control.

**I**nclude a mobile phone and drink in your back pack.

**N**ever leave litter—take it home with you.

**G**ates 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**      • **Kensworth**
- **Studham**      • **Bridens Camp**
- **Three short walks around the village**

Maps also available on the Parish Council Website: [www.markyateparishcouncil.com](http://www.markyateparishcouncil.com)

CAONB website: [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)

**Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 182** features Markyate and surrounding area.

# MARKYATE CIRCULAR Country walks byway of



## STUDHAM

*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**



# STUDHAM WALKS

A delightful walk over panoramic country side, passing bluebell woods with wild cherry blossom, to reach Studham Common. Return through shady woods and open rural fields past farms to reach Markyate in the valley bottom.

**Short walk:** 4 miles

**Medium walk:** 5 miles

**Longer walk:** 6¼ miles

- Not suitable for pushchairs, bikes etc.
- Dogs should be kept on lead because of breeding game birds.
- Refreshments: ( at time of printing) Red Lion pub at Studham.
- Number of stiles: 1.
- Number of kissing gates: 3.
- Can be muddy in places after rain, and overgrown in the woods.

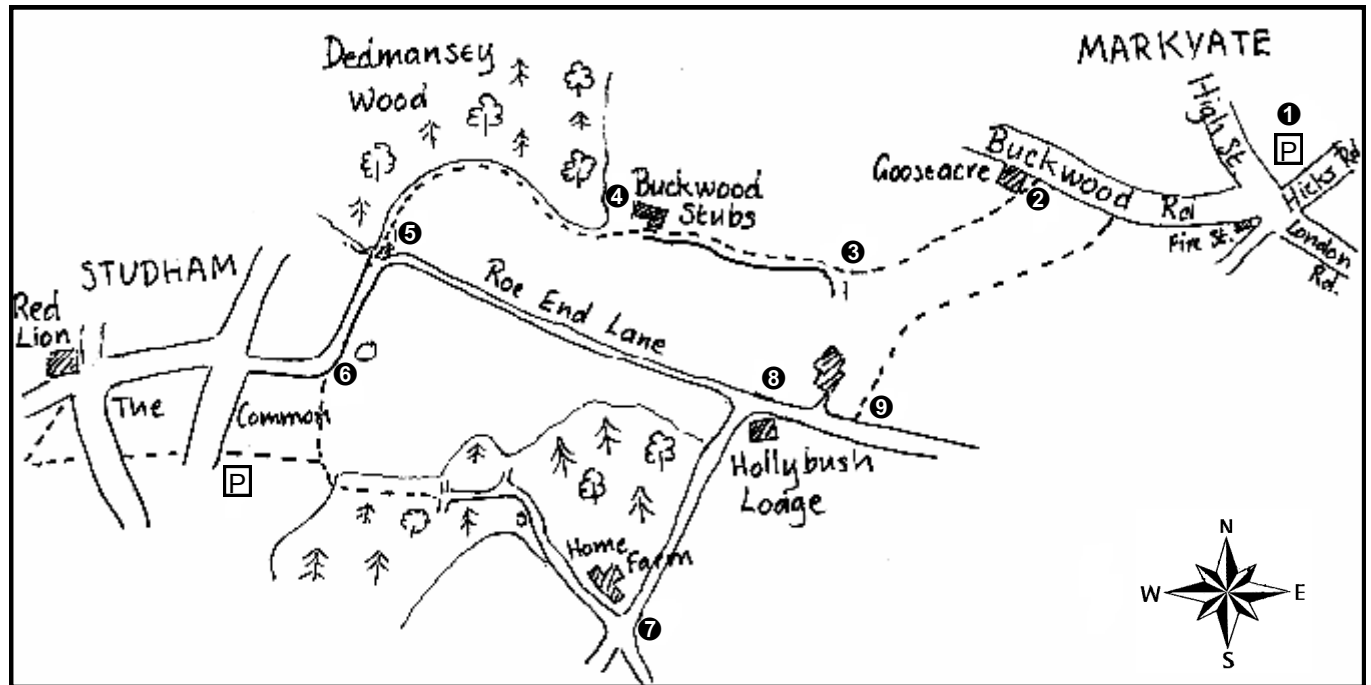
## Making a start:

**1** Turn right from car park in Hicks Road to High Street. Turn right for 25 yards until opposite the Fire and Rescue Station. Turn left into Buckwood Road and continue straight along the road ignoring all side roads and turnings until the end of the houses. Continue straight along the lane, **TAKING GREAT CARE OF TRAFFIC**, for approx 200 yards to reach a public footpath sign on the left in front of a house called 'Gooseacre'.

**2** Take this path No 16 signposted to Roe End Lane, passing between hedges to a metal kissing gate. Go straight ahead keeping the hedge on your left to the top corner of the field with a wooden kissing gate. Go straight ahead along field path between fields to reach farm track

**3** On meeting track follow waymark arrow straight ahead. Pass farm buildings called Buckwood Stubs on right—a barn for rearing game birds and poultry—to the edge of Dedmansey Wood.

**4** Keep edge of wood on your right to pass round the field.



**5** At corner of field ignore footpath on the right, continue straight ahead through copse to meet Roe End Lane in just a minute.

(Here the short walk can turn left back along Roe End Lane (can be muddy after rain) to reach 'Hollybush Lodge' and rejoin main walk at point 8.

Turn right into Roe End Lane (a 'green lane' not for motor traffic) and pass false telephone mast in disguise as tall pine tree and on past the sewage works to emerge on edge of Studham Common. Turn right onto concrete road.

(For refreshments or a longer walk continue straight ahead—crossing Studham Road and walk across the Common to reach the Red Lion pub. On leaving the pub go up the hill on the Common, turn left at the top continue ahead and cross the Studham Road. Go ahead to reach top corner of Common and rejoin walk at \*\*)

**6** At the first pole on the left turn left keeping hedge on your left up over the Common to a gap in the top left-hand corner.\*\* Follow waymark through hedge straight ahead.

In approx 65 yards turn left into wood passing a 'Reserved Rights keep to right of Way' sign. Follow path through woods. Go straight ahead onto gravel track, ignoring cross track and one on your left. Pass a pond on your right to reach Beechwood Home Farm and pass in front of all buildings to reach cross tracks.

**7** Turn left past Farm Sign (North East) down a 'dip' and turn right into Roe End Lane.

**8** Now on a tarmaced road pass Hollybush Lodge and continue along the Lane passing Roe End Farm (notice very large pudding stone).

**9** At footpath sign turn left through kissing gate keeping hedge on right follow path on field edge to wooden stile. Go ahead between fields to hedge end. Continue towards village in the valley bottom with hedge on your right to join path running down beside housing estate. Turn left through a wooden fence and down to reach a wooden gate and Buckwood Road. Turn right and retrace your way back to the High Street and the Car Park.