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Introduction

Ivel Valley Walkers were founded 30 years ago (1984), and for most of that time have been a group of The Ramblers, Britain's principal walking charity. With over 300 members we are the largest group of this nature in Bedfordshire. We offer a varied programme of more than 200 walks each year. Our walks are open to all, although membership of the Ramblers is encouraged for regular walkers.

Ivel Valley Walkers members have always been active in supporting and promoting walking in Bedfordshire and perhaps none more so than the late Gordon Edwards, who was instrumental in mapping out both the Bunyan Trail, and the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail. I am delighted that our current members have seen fit to continue this work and I extend my thanks to them for the time and effort that they have expended in updating this guide.

Walking is the closest thing to perfect physical activity, a free, easy and effective way of achieving the recommended level of moderate activity. I hope you will use this leaflet and go out to explore and enjoy the Bedfordshire countryside, and the many picturesque villages to be found in the north of the county.

Enjoy your walking, and encourage others to follow suit!

Andy Nunn

Chairman

Ivel Valley Walkers

www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk

About the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail

The Trail was devised by the late Gordon Edwards of the Ivel Valley Group of the Ramblers around the year 2000 and published in the form of an A3 double sided leaflet. This publication updates his work for the many changes that have occurred since then. His aim was to design a trail that attracted walkers from near and far to discover the underrated area of North Bedfordshire and its wonderful heritage.

It is described in a clockwise direction, starting from St Paul's Square in Bedford and is a circular route of approximately 70 miles. Following existing rights of way throughout, the Trail includes no fewer than twenty three villages, two country parks and a reasonable number of public houses, so plenty of refreshment stops can be taken on the way.

Many of the towns and villages on the Trail have a long history of settlement in some cases going back to pre-historic times. We have not attempted to give an exhaustive coverage of sites of historical interest and would refer you to the following websites as well as websites for the relevant town or village of particular interest.

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/CommunityArchivesPages.aspx>.

www.british-history.ac.uk/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

The North of Bedfordshire is relatively flat agricultural country, so the few climbs are easy to negotiate. However, all sections of the Trail cross fields, some of which may at times be cropped or ploughed, include stiles and kissing gates, and in wet weather can involve a lot of mud. As a result, the Trail is not recommended for disabled walkers, or those with wheel chairs and buggies. However, the book "Walking with Wheels" written by Lynda Kynnersley, also of the Ivel Valley Group, contains a number of walks in the same area of North Bedfordshire, which are suitable for wheel chairs and buggies.

The sections of the Trail make reference to the Ordnance Survey maps covering the walk. It is envisaged that walkers will use the Explorer Series at 2 ½ inches to the mile and it is strongly recommended that the relevant map, as per page 6, be taken on each section of the Trail.

For those using their own transport, each section gives the grid reference and post code of the start point. Page 7 gives the contact details of the local bus operators and it is recommended that walkers check the details with them before embarking on a section of the Trail.

Details of refreshments and other facilities are also given in each section, but again are correct as at the time of publication only.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to all the Ivel Valley members, who have contributed to this update of Gordon Edwards' Trail leaflet. The following formed a subcommittee to co-ordinate this work:

Mike Tenwick. Ivel Valley Footpaths Officer

Roy Carter

Laurie Lowe

Nick Markham

Tony Sheward

Although the initial re-walking and re-writing of the Trail sections was carried out by the above, the following members proof-walked the various sections:

Tina German

Val Bailey

David Broughton

Mandy Wisson

Thanks are also due to Lynda Kynnersley who read and edited the complete Trail document to help achieve a more consistent style.

Thanks also to Phillip Fox, Team Leader Rights of Way Bedford Borough Council and Yvonne Gregory, Orders/GIS Officer Rights of Way Bedford Borough Council for production of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail maps.

Map Information

The Ordnance Survey Explorer Series maps at 2 ½ inches to the mile are particularly recommended for walkers on the Trail, as it is considered that they give the detailed information required about the terrain covered. The following maps cover the total length of the Trail:

Explorer Map No and Title

208 Bedford & St Neots

224 Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough

225 Huntingdon & St Ives

The Ordnance Survey revises and reprints its maps from time to time, so the above maybe subject to change.

Transport Links

The following bus companies operate in the area covered by the Trail and can be contacted as below:

Centrebus www.centrebus.co.uk 0844 357 6520

Grant Palmer www.grantpalmer.com 01525 719719

Stagecoach www.stagecoachbus.com 01234 220030

For more general information about rail services in the area contact the following:

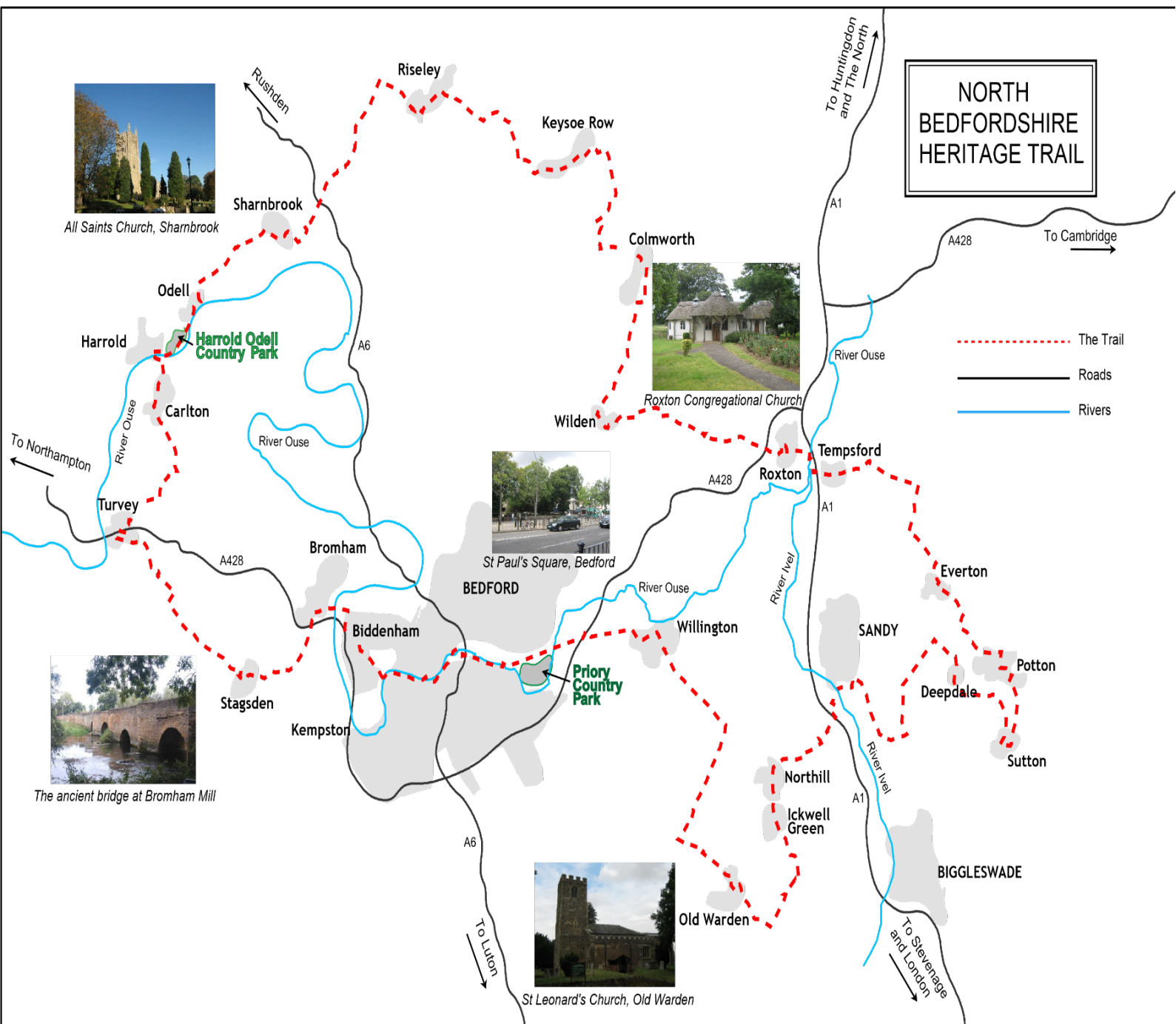
Train Information www.nationalrail.co.uk 08457 48 49 50

List of Trail Sections

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8	Potton to Sandy	7.5 miles	37
9	Sandy to Old Warden	7 miles	41
10	Old Warden to Willington	5.5 miles	46
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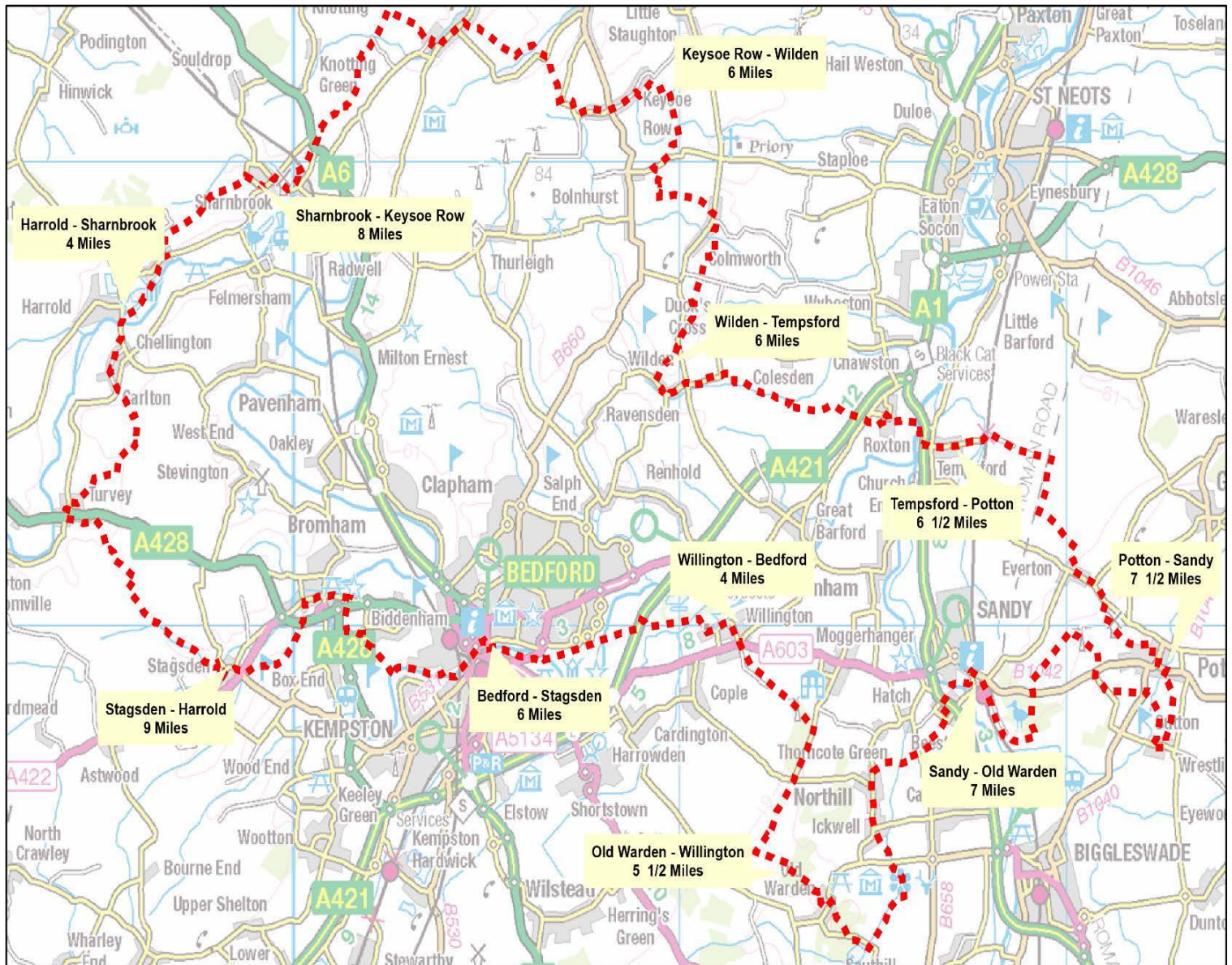


Follow the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail logo.



Outline of the Trail

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North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail

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BEDFORD TO STAGSDEN - 6 miles

Start Point: St Paul's Square Bedford. Grid Reference TL050 497. Post Code MK40 1SQ.

Parking

Bedford - numerous town centre car parks, see http://www.bedford.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/parking.asp for latest details on charges.

Stagsden. Park on road in vicinity of church.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Train Information. The Starting point in St Paul's Square is within walking distance of Bedford Bus Station, Bedford Midland Railway Station and St John's Railway Station.

Refreshments & Facilities

Bedford. Bedford town centre has a variety of banks, shops, public houses and restaurants. There are public toilets in St Paul's Square, in the Harpur Centre and at the Bus Station.

Stagsden. The Royal George public house.

Points of Interest

Bedford

It is thought that Bedford takes its name from Beda, a Saxon King who died thirteen centuries ago. It is also recorded that Offa, King of Mercia was buried at Bedford in 796.

St. Paul's Square (A) and the Church of St Paul's are at the centre of Bedford and were most probably first laid out in Saxon times at the bridging point of the River Great Ouse.

St Paul's Church is possibly of 13th century origin and is in the Perpendicular style. The tower and spire were rebuilt in 1868. Two extra bells were added in 1977 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

A market has been held in St Paul's Square since the 1500s and King Henry II granted a Charter for the market in 1166.

Bedford Castle to the north east of St Paul's Square was probably built following the Norman Conquest of 1066. Further information regarding Bedford's history can be found at http://www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/local_history_and_heritage/brief_history_of_bedford.aspx.

John Bunyan and John Wesley both preached at St Paul's. During World War II the BBC regularly broadcast services from the church. The BBC also broadcast concerts by the



St Paul's Square

American band leader Glenn Miller during World War II from the Corn Exchange in St Paul's Square.

For those interested in the life of John Bunyan visit the John Bunyan Museum in Mill Street Bedford www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/museum.

Further information regarding John Wesley can be found at www.visionofbritain.org.uk/travellers/J_Wesley.

Information regarding Glenn Miller can be found at www.glenmillertrust.co.uk.

Biddenham

It is believed that there has been occupation in the area of Biddenham since the Iron Age and possibly before. Vikings, Saxons and Normans all settled in the area.

The church of St James the Great (B), which is passed on the route, is believed to be of Saxon origin. The Church is built in the Norman and Perpendicular style with an embattled tower and a small spire. Further information regarding Biddenham can be found at <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Biddenham/TheParishOfBidenhamInGeneral.aspx>.



St James Biddenham

Bromham



Bromham Bridge

Bromham Bridge (C) has 26 arches. It is believed to have medieval origins but today's bridge is the result of rebuilding in 1813.

Bromham Mill (D). Bedfordshire County Council began restoration of the mill in 1977 and in 2009 Bedford Borough Council took over ownership. The mill is open to the public and continues to grind corn. Further information can be found at

www.friendsofbromhammill.org.uk.



Bromham Mill

Bromham has a number of Grade II listed buildings some of which are passed on the route through the village.

Thistley Green/Thistley Lane (E) is thought to be an agger, the name given to a minor Roman road. Aggers were raised in the centre, falling away slightly at the sides, just like a modern road. Further information about Bromham can be found at <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bromham/Introduction.aspx>.

THE WALK – 6 miles

The trail is described in a clockwise direction, starting from Saint Paul's Square, Bedford.

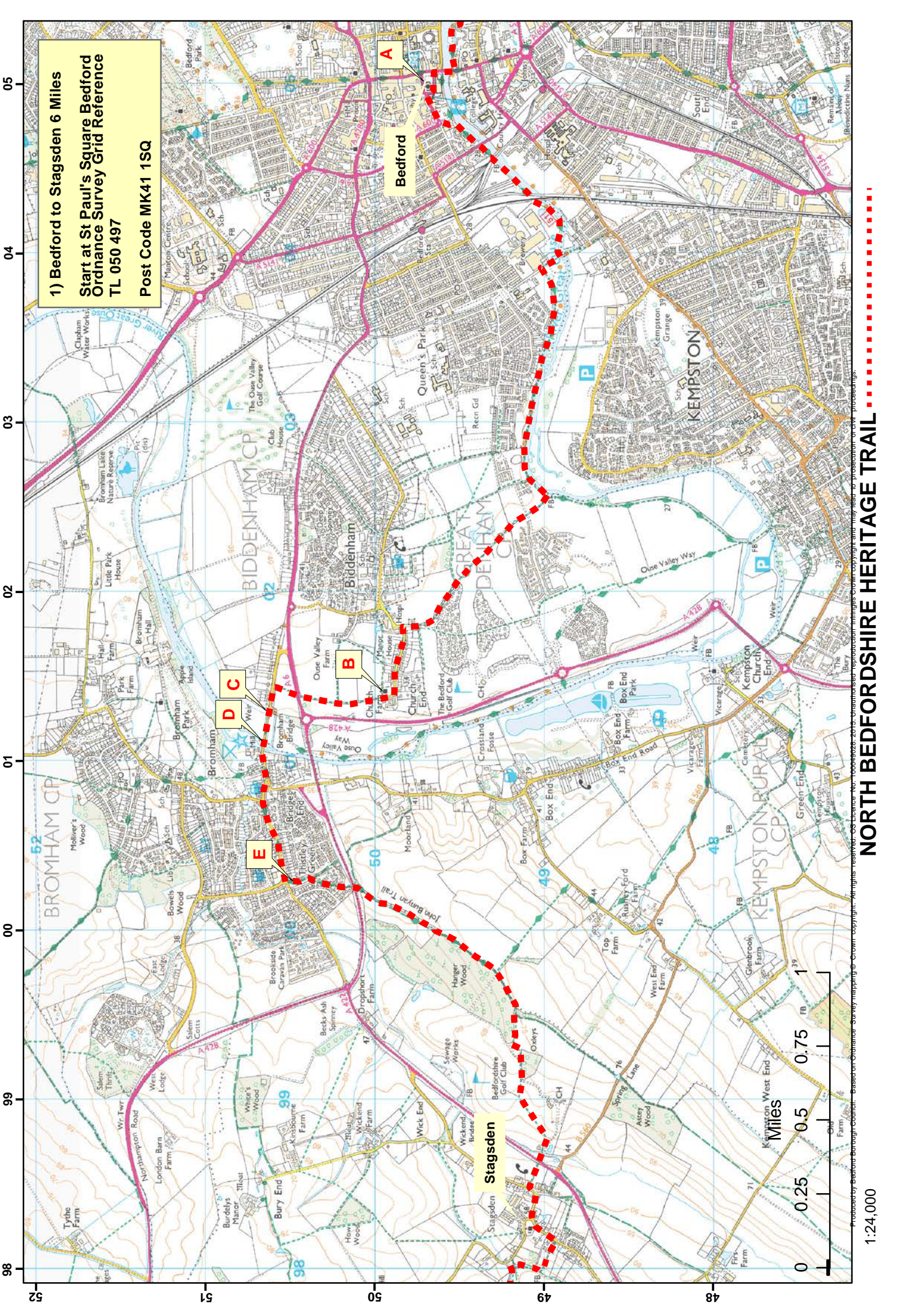
(A) From the front of the church cross the road and walk along Horne Lane for a short distance, then cross the car park on the left to the riverside path. Follow this path to go under Prebend Street Bridge, and later proceed with care to pass under a low railway bridge. Keep to the surfaced path which goes under Queen's Park footbridge, and continues along the river bank for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Keep ahead where the tarmac surface changes to a narrow gravel path. At the second way mark post turn right onto a tarmac path with a play area on the left. Cross the estate road and continue ahead to reach the golf course at a way mark post. Continue across the golf course heading towards a pylon, emerging into Manor Road by Walnut Cottage.

This is Biddenham. At the junction go right if you wish to see the village or visit the Three Tuns public house. However, to continue on the trail, go left to reach St James Church, (B). Take the path to the left of the church, and walk straight ahead towards Bromham and the bypass, and cross with care. At the Bromham Road turn left to cross the medieval bridge (C) and pass Bromham Mill (D) (well worth a visit, so check opening times).

To continue on the trail proceed along the main street, ignoring the right hand road for Oakley, and keep straight ahead passing a petrol station and arriving at a road junction by Budgens. Take the left hand road and immediately turn left into Thistley Lane, (E) now following John Bunyan Trail way marks. At a path junction, fork right to reach the main road. Cross with care and bear right uphill and through a field gate onto the bridleway. Keep ahead on the enclosed track, later with Hangar Wood on the right. At the far end of Hangar Wood and at the golf course, continue ahead along the right hand edge of the golf course to reach a gravel track.

Turn left towards a shed and way mark post. Turn right along the edge of wood to join a gravel track downhill and where the track bears left, keep ahead with a small ditch on the left to reach a way mark post. Bear left, skirting a small pond on the left, and then head towards the distant power line pole. At the pole, follow the track down and then bear right onto a path adjacent to the fenced area. Cross the bridge and go up the steps to cross the road to the path opposite. Proceed over the stile and go along the left hand edge of the field to pass between the houses and up the steps to the road. Turn left and follow the road round to St Leonard's Church.

1) Bedford to Stagsden 6 Miles
 Start at St Paul's Square Bedford
 Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
 TL 050 497
 Post Code MK41 1SQ



NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

1:24,000

STAGSDEN TO HARROLD - 9 miles

Start point: Stagsden St Leonard's Church. Grid Reference SP982 491. Post Code MK43 8SQ

Parking

Stagsden. Park in vicinity of church.

Harrold. Park in Country Park.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Refreshments & Facilities

Stagsden. The Royal George public house.

Turvey. Two public houses and several shops for provisions.

Harrold. The Fox public house and the Country Park.

Points of interest

Stagsden



Joel Cottage

St Leonard's Church, Stagsden (A). It is possible there was a church on the site prior to the current building, which is Norman in origin although only the Norman tower remains, with the rest of the church being rebuilt in the 19th century.

Joel Cottage Stagsden (B). The thatched cottage dates from the 17th century. An interesting feature is what is called an eye-brow dormer window in the roof. For further information regarding Stagsden visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Stagsden/TheParishOfStagsdenInGeneral.aspx>.

Turvey

There are many Grade II listed buildings of interest on the Trail through Turvey. Visit www.turveybeds.com/listedbuildings.html for further information.

Along with many other villages in Bedfordshire, Turvey had its own lace making industry. The building in Newton Lane Turvey, opposite Nell's Well, is the site of the old lace school. For further information regarding Turvey lace making visit

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/museums_and_galleries/aragon_lacemakers.aspx.



St Leonard's Church

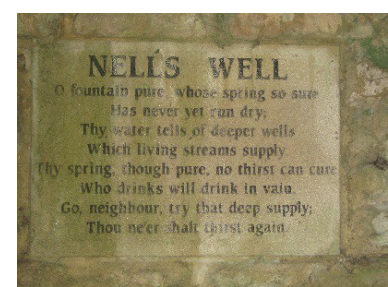


The Old Lace School



Turvey Abbey

Nell's Well Newton Lane



Turvey Abbey (C). Originally a country house, it now belongs to "The Priory of Our Lady of Peace," a Benedictine order of nuns.

Nell's Well (D) Turvey. The well supplied water to the village of Turvey from the 1600s. It was closed in 1960 and re-opened in 2004.

All Saints Church (E) Turvey is believed to be of Saxon origin. The present building is Norman in construction. The church is often referred to as the cathedral of Bedfordshire.

For further information regarding Turvey visit <http://www.visitoruk.com/Bedford/turvey-C592-V24976.html>.



All Saints Church

Carlton

The Carlton Baptist Meeting House (F). John Bunyan's daughter, Sarah, married William Brown and the first Baptist meetings in Carlton were held on his farm. The first chapel was built in 1760. For more information

visit www.carltonwithchellington.co.uk/village_history.htm.



Baptist Meeting House



Harrold Bridge

Harrold

Harrold Bridge (G) over the River Ouse has existed since before the 12th century. The causeway's 20 arches span the flood plain of the river.

Saint Peter's Church (H) is possibly of Anglo-Saxon origin. The present building is of mainly Norman construction with a tower and spire from the 14th century.



Buttermarket

The Lock Up and Buttermarket (I). The Buttermarket (or Market House) was built in the 18th century. The Lock Up nearby was built in 1824.

Harrold-Odell Country Park was purchased in 1982 by Bedfordshire County Council and now provides an area of recreation and nature conservation. There is a visitor centre,

café, toilets and car park at the entrance to the country park.



St Peter's Church

For further information regarding Harrold visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Harrold/TheParishOfHarroldInGeneral.aspx>.



Lockup

THE WALK – 9 miles

Starting with the church (A) on your right, follow the road to the Royal George publichouse on your left and Joel Cottage (B) on your right. Walk down the track opposite the public house to a bridge over a drainage ditch, go right along the field edge, around a left hand bend and, following the stream, continue ahead until you reach a stile. Cross the stile and continue following the field edge until you reach another stile leading onto the road running parallel to the stream. Turn to the right for 100 yards to reach the finger post on the left.

Follow the path diagonally across the field to reach a kissing gate. Keep ahead ignoring any crossing paths and cross a stile to go across the field taking notice of a wooden power pole with a farm to the left. Continue to the far corner of the field to cross a stile and a footbridge. Turn left and after crossing a culvert immediately turn right to follow the field edge path for 400 yards with a hedge on right. Bear slightly right over a shallow ditch and continue uphill to Davis's Spinney.

At the T-junction turn right on to a bridleway. Turn left at the next junction to follow a wide grassy bridleway for ½ mile bending right and then left, and in 100 yards turn right by a way mark post into trees to cross an old railway bridge. This was the track of the Bedford to Northampton Railway, closed in the Beeching era. Bear left and at the next junction take the left hand path into the trees to reach a kissing gate leading into Turvey Park. Cross the park diagonally keeping well to the right of a low farm building, then pass between fences to a metal gate. After going through the gate veer a little left towards a finger post so as to walk with Turvey Abbey (B) on the right, and following the ditch.

Keep ahead to cross Jacks Lane and go over the bridge through a kissing gate. Keep straight ahead through some allotments and through several more gates to reach Newton Lane in Turvey.

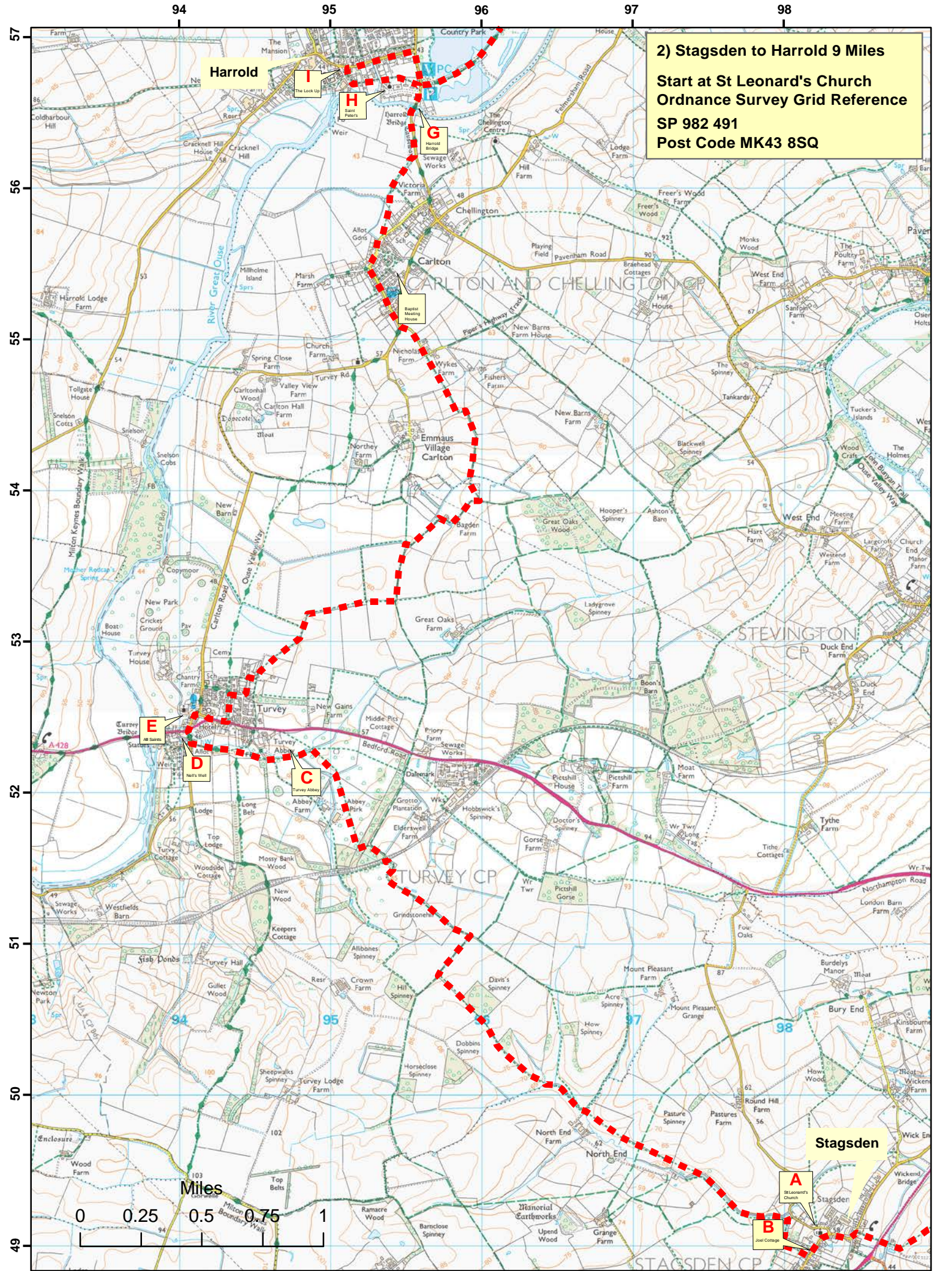
At the road turn right, noting the recess in the opposite wall, the site of Nell's Well (D). Cross the A428 with care and pass The Three Cranes public house. Cross Carlton Road by the Corner Stores, and keep ahead on the A428 and turn left into an alleyway marked Bancroft just past a postbox set in the wall. At the end of Bancroft turn right and then left into Norfolk Road. At a finger post turn right and then left along the footpath to reach open fields.

Follow the broad track to pick up and follow a hedge on the right at the edge of the field. The path takes a right bend after 600 yards. At a finger post at the next left bend continue straight ahead with a hedge on the left and a view of Great Oaks Farm, until you reach a stile. Cross the stile and immediately turn left through a gate. Follow the path ahead with a ditch on your right and at the next junction turn right and almost immediately bear left with a hedge on your right. Follow a meandering broad grassy track and on reaching the site of Bagden Farm, now reduced to several piles of rubble, turn right and then left, ensuring that the pylon and hedge are on your right.

Pass under an overhead cable, bear right and within 70 yards turn sharp left at a waymark post. **DO NOT TAKE THE OBVIOUS TRACK AHEAD BETWEEN HEDGES.** Cross a field and keep ahead on a grassy track over the hill. At the top of the hill keep straight on towards some farm buildings. Pass through a gate on the left and follow the track round to the right to reach the farm buildings. Go ahead on a farm track to reach the road at Carlton.

Cross the road and turn right to keep ahead down a smaller street which is the High Street. Pass The Fox public house on your right. At the end of High Street, bear right along The Moor. Some 20 yards before the school sign, go left on the path through the allotments. Go through a kissing gate, across a field to a second gate and turn right along the field edge to reach the causeway, a raised footway across the flood plain.

Cross the medieval Harrold bridge (E) over the River Ouse. Directly opposite the entrance to the Harrold Odell Country Park, turn left on the path passing the church on your left. Keep ahead on the enclosed path to reach the Green at Harrold, a marvellous heritage area with Buttermarket and ancient lock-up (F). Turn right along High Street to eventually reach a T-junction, where you turn right into Carlton Road and, in a couple of hundred yards, turn into the Country Park entrance to the car park, toilets and refreshments.



2) Stagsden to Harrold 9 Miles
Start at St Leonard's Church
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
SP 982 491
Post Code MK43 8SQ



1:30,000 **NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL** ⋯⋯⋯

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HARROLD TO SHARNBROOK - 4 miles

Start point: Harrold - Odell Country Park. Grid Reference SP956 566.
Post Code MK43 7DS.

Parking

Harrold. Car park at Harrold Odell Country Park.

Sharnbrook. Small car park adjacent to St Peter's Church.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Refreshments & Facilities

Harrold. Refreshments and toilets at Harrold Odell Country Park.

Odell. The Bell public house.

Sharnbrook. Swan With Two Nicks public house.

Points of Interest

Odell



Odell Mill

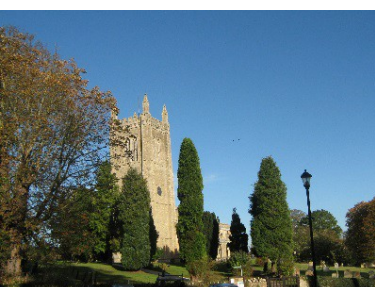
There are many Grade II listed buildings in Odell some of which are passed on the Trail.

The Domesday Book of 1086 records a mill in Odell (A). The area of the mill was drained in 1945 and soon after the mill was converted into a private dwelling.

Odell Castle (B) was originally an 11th Century Motte & Bailey castle with a stone keep. The castle fell into disrepair and by the 16th century was rebuilt as a manor house. The manor house was destroyed by fire in 1931 and the present manor house was built in the 1960s.



Odell Castle



All Saints Church

Church of All Saints (Odell) (C). There is evidence that there was a church in Odell from the early 13th century. The present building dates to the 15th century, with extensive improvements having been made in the late 17th century. A clock was added to the tower in 1820. For further information regarding Odell visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Odell/TheParishOfOdellInGeneral.aspx>.



Harrold & Odell
Country Park

Sharnbrook

There has been a settlement in Sharnbrook since at least Saxon times. The earthworks in Castle Close (D) are probably a moated site built in the 12th to 14th century.

St. Peter's Church (E) is the oldest surviving building in the village, dating back to the Norman period. The church was remodelled in the 13th century, with further additions being added in the 14th, 15th and 17th centuries. For further information regarding Sharnbrook visit <http://sharnbrookonline.co.uk/about-us/sharnbrook-history/>.



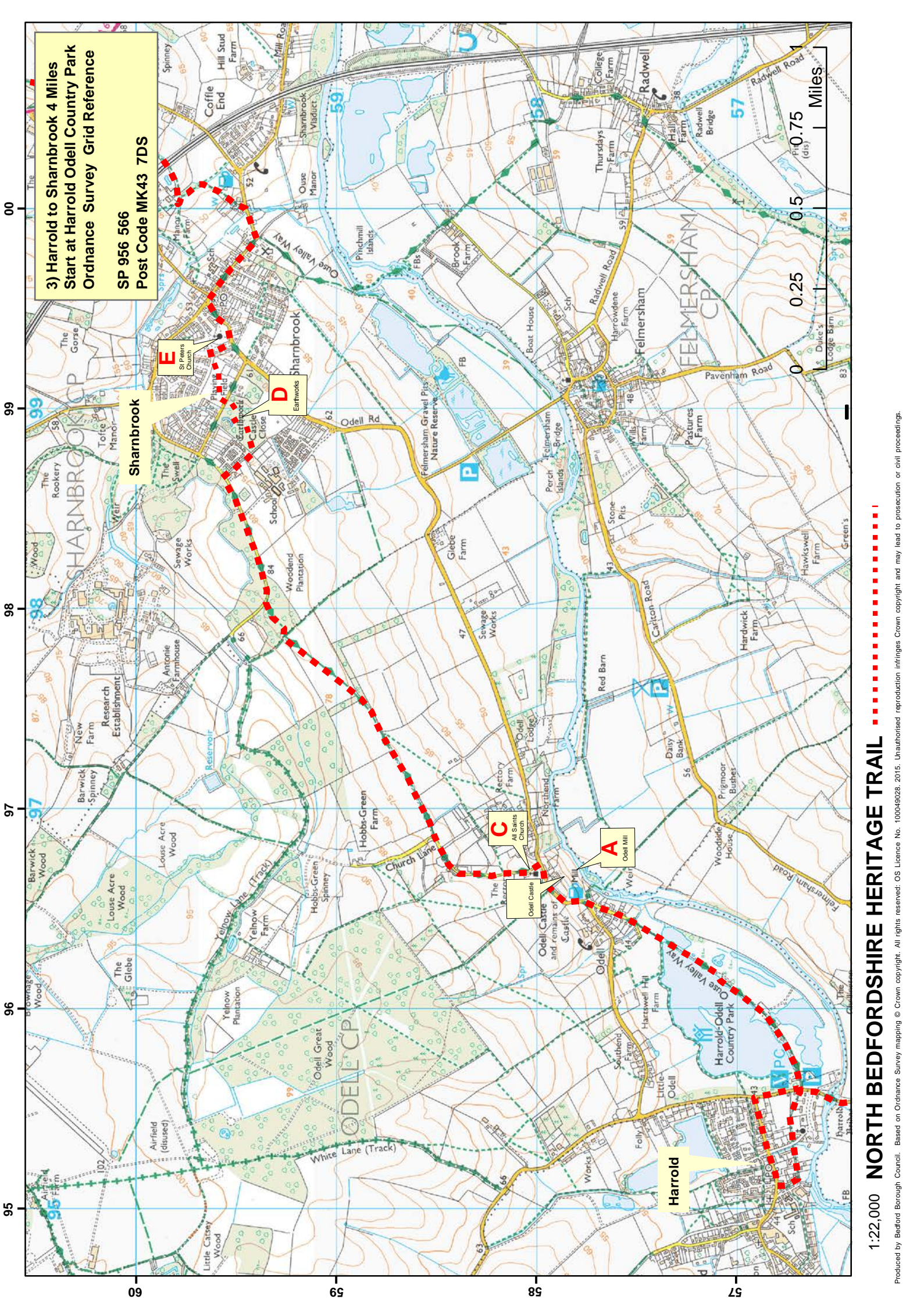
St Peters Church

THE WALK – 4 miles

From the Harrold Odell Country Park car park keep straight forward on the right hand side of the lake and continue through to Odell. Continue up the main street to pass The Bell public house. A short diversion can be taken down Mill Lane to visit Odell Mill (A). Pass Odell Castle (B) on your right and then the church on your left (C). Go through the church entrance gate and pass through the churchyard with the church on your right to emerge into Church Lane. Ignore the footpath on the right and continue until the lane bears left where you take the bridleway ahead. Keep on the bridleway for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to reach the edge of the wood. Follow the path into the trees to emerge on Yelnow Lane. Go right on this very ancient lane towards the village of Sharnbrook.

20 yards before Gibbard's Close on the right, turn right past an information board to enter the Castle Close Wildlife & Heritage site and follow the path into the trees. Follow the path initially between houses, then through a gate with the sports field on the right. Bear left keeping to the main path past the wetland area on your left. To visit the nearby medieval moated earthworks (D) turn left at the signpost and after visiting return to the main track to continue in the previous direction.

Exit the heritage site, turn right and almost immediately bear left across the sports field aiming for the church spire. Keep left of the children's play area to reach the road. Turn right into The Drive then left at Church Lane to reach the entrance to the churchyard(E).



**3) Harrold to Sharnbrook 4 Miles
Start at Harrold Odell Country Park
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference**

**SP 956 566
Post Code MK43 7DS**

Sharnbrook

Harrold

E
St Peter's Church

D
Earworks

C
All Saints Church

A
Odell Mill

B
Odell Castle and remains of Castic



1:22,000 NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

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SHARNBROOK TO KEYSOE ROW - 8 miles

Start Point: Sharnbrook, car park near St Peter's Church. Grid Reference SP995 596. Post Code MK44 1HU.

Parking

Sharnbrook. Small car park near St Peter's Church.

Keysoe Row. Park at the Village Hall.

To check for parking contact 01234 376577 or email keysoe.villagehall@virgin.net. Website: www.keysoe.net



St Peter's Church

Public Transport. See Page 7.

Refreshments & Facilities

Sharnbrook. The Swan with Two Nicks public house and several shops for provisions.

Riseley. The Fox and Hounds public house.

Points of Interest

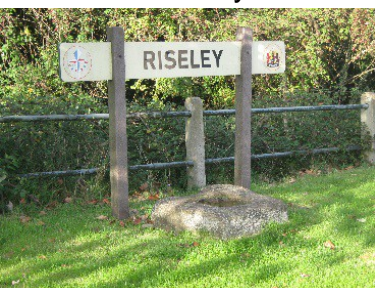
Sharnbrook

The village dates back to Saxon times, with recorded evidence of its existence in the Domesday Book of 1086.

For further information regarding Sharnbrook visit <http://sharnbrookonline.co.uk/about-us/sharnbrook-history/>.

Riseley

Riseley has a long tradition of brick and tile making, dating back to at least 1558 due to its clay rich soil. Along with many other Bedfordshire villages Riseley also had a history of lace making with 80 of the 118 houses in the village being involved in the activity in 1851.



It is thought that Catherine of Aragon visited the village. There is a stone placed underneath the main sign of Riseley (A) which rumour says she sat on in order to rest when the horses of her carriage stopped

to drink.

The one mile stretch of the High Street was designated as a turnpike in 1802. A blue plaque on the end wall of no.76 commemorates 200 years since the introduction of the turnpike (B). For further information visit



76 High Street

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riseley,_Bedfordshire.

THE WALK - 8 miles

From the church turn left and then turn right into High Street. Pass the Swan with Two Nicks public house, and several interesting houses, and then the Baptist Chapel on your left and the imposing old police station on your right. Continue around the left bend and cross Sharn Brook in the dip before turning left up Godfrey Lane. Pass through a gate at the end of the lane, walk across a paddock and through another gate, and walk straight on and then bear left into a small copse. Go through the gate and turn right. Pass over a stile and continue ahead to cross the bridge over the railway. Go ahead on the enclosed path between a hedge and a fence. Pass properties on the right and go through a kissing gate, then along the right hand edge of the field. Go through the gate in the corner and continue on the enclosed path in the same direction to reach a dual carriageway (A6). Bear right to cross carefully at the gap in the barriers and at the far side turn left on the grass verge for 50 yards to a finger post. Climb the steps and continue ahead, now on a bridleway.

Follow the bridleway and keep ahead to reach Temple Wood. At the far corner of the wood, bear right and follow the path to the left and towards a farm ahead. At a way mark post keep ahead with the hedge on the right to pass a pond and farm buildings on your left. Ignore the side paths and after about ½ a mile, near masts that can be seen ahead and to the right, follow the path into trees with a ditch on the left. Cross an earth bridge and turn right along the bridleway, now with a ditch on the right, passing Sporting Targets and between metal posts to reach a farm road. Turn left and ahead on the road to where it turns left in front of a house. Turn right on the bridleway with a hedge on the left. Follow the direction of the overhead power lines to reach Lodge Farm.

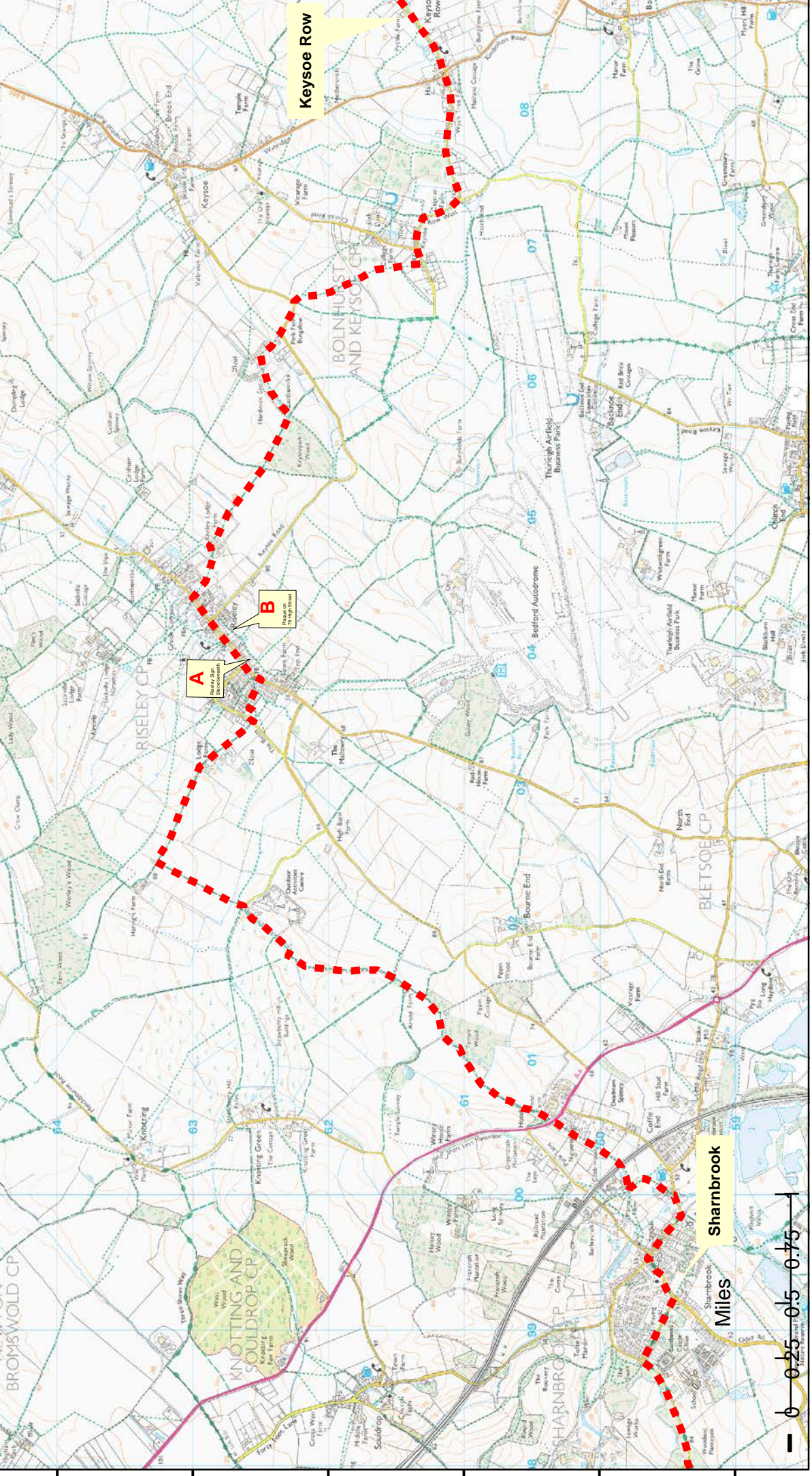
Cross a gravel track and go ahead still on the bridleway to reach a road. Turn right for several yards and then left at a finger post. Follow the path around the edge of the field to reach a housing estate. At the road turn right and follow it to Riseley High Street. Turn left to pass the Fox and Hounds public house with the Riseley village sign opposite (A) and later an old timbered building on the left and then a row of thatched cottages and 76 High Street (B). Turn right at the footpath post some 200 yards past Keysoe Road, opposite a converted chapel and before Maple Gardens on the left, to follow a narrow, enclosed footpath. Continue ahead over three stiles and bear left towards some farm buildings.

Go through a metal field gate into the farmyard area. Keeping the farm buildings to the right, go through a gate and across the field. At end of the buildings turn right keeping a wire fence on the left to reach a gate into a large field. Head across the field to a wide gap in the hedge line, cross over a track and keep ahead to Keysoe Park Wood. Go through a gap in the hedge and keep ahead with the wood on the right. At end of the wood turn left now with a hedge on the left. Continue through a kissing gate and bear diagonally right between two oak trees to reach a way mark post in front of a barn. Go through a gate and follow the gravelled farm track down to a road.

Keep forward on the road to a sharp left hand bend. Find the path over a bridge and through a gap in the hedge and go uphill with the hedge on your right. At end of the hedge continue in the same direction aiming for a power line pole on the horizon. Cross a fence and then go through a large gate to cross the paddock to a metal kissing gate. Keep on to a second gate and onto a path with chicken cages to the right, to reach a road. Turn left and

follow the road passing what are reputed to be some of the oldest cottages in the county. At the junction with Church Road keep ahead, and ignoring Hatch Lane on the right, continue to reach Keysoe Row Village Hall car park on the left just before the crossroads.

4) Sharnbrook to Keysoe Row 8 Miles
Start at Sharnbrook car park near
St Peter's Church
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
SP 995 596
Post Code MK44 1HU



NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

1:38,000

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KEYSOE ROW TO WILDEN - 6.5 miles

Start Point: Keysoe Row Village Hall. Map Reference TL083 612.
Post Code MK44 2JE.



Keysoe Village Hall

Parking

Keysoe Row Village Hall.

To check for parking, contact 01234376577 or email keysoe.villagehall@virgin.net.

Website; www.keysoe.net.

Wilden. Limited parking opposite Wilden School and the Victoria Arms publichouse.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Refreshments & Facilities

Wilden. The Victoria Arms public house.

Points of Interest

Keysoe Row

Keysoe Row contains a small thatched Baptist Chapel (A) now a private dwelling.



Baptist Chapel

Keysoe Row West & East has many Grade II listed buildings worth looking at on your way through the village. For further information visit

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/bedford/bolnhurst+and+keysoe#.VglkuhGFP>

Colmworth



The church of St.Denys (B) was built between 1426 and 1430 by Sir Gerard Braybrook. It is dedicated to the patron saint of France in honour of his French wife, Eleanor.

There is a country park situated near the church overlooking the scenic Ouse Valley.



Manor Farmhouse

Manor Farmhouse (C) was built on the site of the former manor house, and may incorporate some of its features. It is possible that it has been the location of a house since the early Middle Ages. For further information regarding Colmworth visit <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Colmworth/ColmworthChurchAlterationsAndAdditions.aspx>.

THE WALK – 6.5 miles

To continue the trail, turn left out of the car park and cross over the Kimbolton Road (B660) into Keysoe Row East in the direction of Little Staughton, noting the small chapel on the left (A). After about 700 yards, where the road starts to bend left, take the enclosed path on the right, then go left to pass by the ends of the gardens. Keep ahead through a gap in the hedge and at the next hedgerow go right on the byway. This soon bears left and then later to the right to travel south. Ignore all side tracks and a left turning which is also marked as a byway.

Follow the byway for approximately a mile, turn right and then sharp left to reach Elm Farm at Wood End. Go right along the road and after approximately 500 yards, take the left hand bridleway, signed to Westwood Farm. Continue along this surfaced track to pass the farm and ahead on a grassed track and then almost immediately bear slightly left to a gap in the hedge. Follow the right hand field boundary to reach a way mark post. Turn left along the field edge with a hedgerow on the left. Keep ahead over a plank bridge. Follow the field edge, now with a hedge line on the right. Keep ahead for about a mile to reach a farm track. Follow the track into Church End and turn right into Queens Road. On reaching the junction with Church Road, cross with care and go straight ahead for about 100 yards to take the right hand footpath along the back of the houses to reach St Denys Church (B).

After passing behind the church, and at the Colmworth Country Park notice board, bear right and notice the Manor Farmhouse (C) facing you, then go left downhill to cross a bridge over the stream. Continue ahead gently uphill to pass a solitary tree and keep in the same direction to reach two trees of a different size in the middle of a large field. Turn right here to reach a distant way mark post in the hedge. Go through the hedge, over a plank bridge and turn left. Follow the field boundary, cross a bridge and continue ahead to a road. Cross over the road to the footpath opposite. Cross the field, proceed over a bridge and keep ahead. At bottom of the field cross an earth bridge and bear slightly right across the next field. Go uphill to two trees at the top of a rise and continue in the same direction through several fields to reach a road.

Turn right and almost immediately left on a footpath. At a way mark post, keep ahead over the field to go through a narrow gap in the hedge and over a plank bridge. Go along the field boundary with a hedge on the right. At the end of the hedge, by a way mark post, bear left onto a broad track and then bear right to follow the path down to a kissing gate at rear of houses. Follow the enclosed path to a road. Cross into Rectory Lane, over a bridge and go left into St Nicholas Church churchyard. If so desired follow the path left over a footbridge and to the road at the Victoria Arms public house.

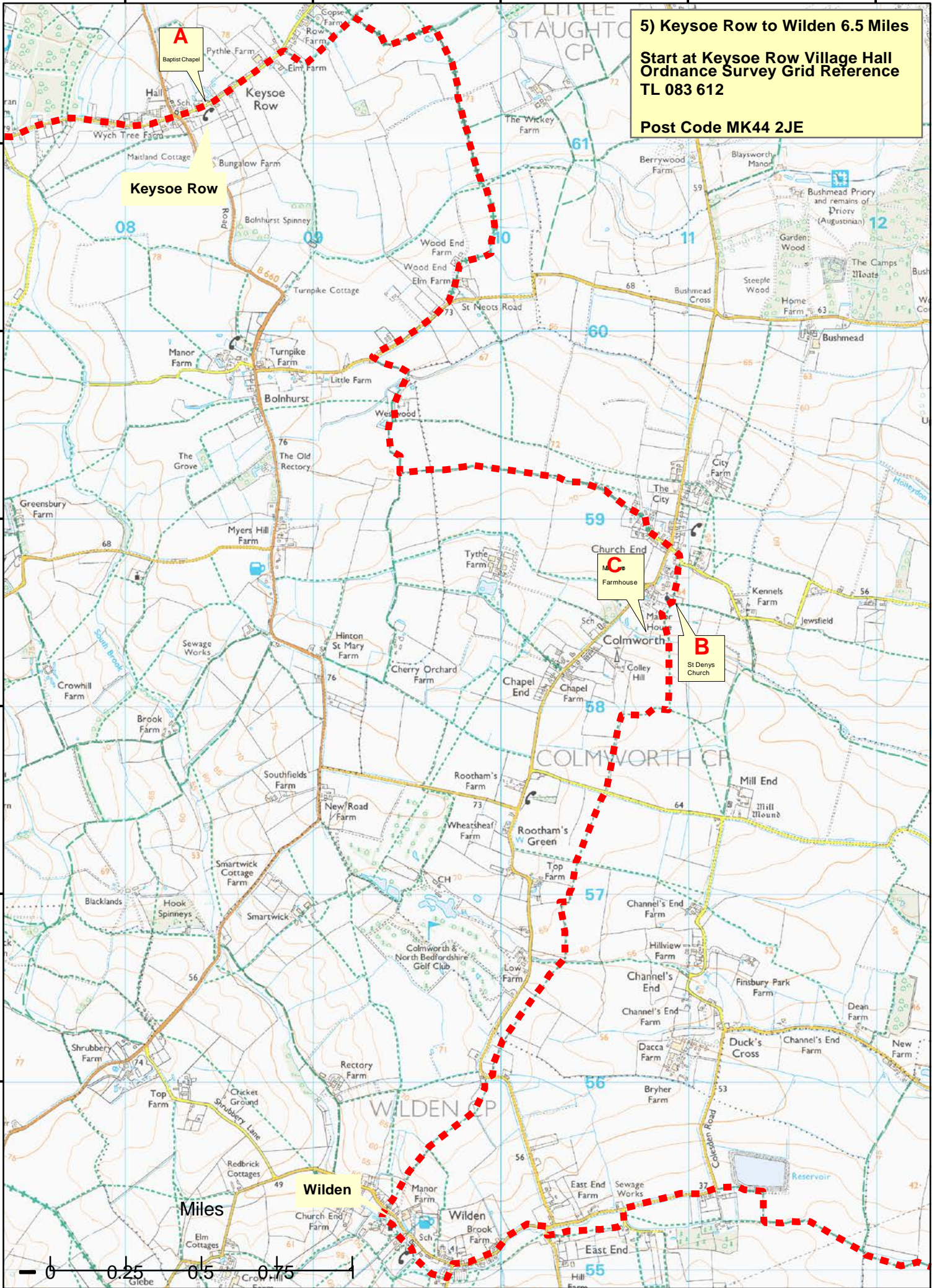
5) Keysoe Row to Wilden 6.5 Miles
Start at Keysoe Row Village Hall
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
TL 083 612
Post Code MK44 2JE

A
Baptist Chapel

Keysoe Row

C
Farmhouse

B
St Denys Church



1:25,000

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

WILDEN TO TEMPSFORD - 6 miles

Start Point: Wilden near Victoria Arms public house. Grid Reference TL095 552. Post Code MK44 2PB.

Parking

Limited parking is available near the village school and the Victoria Arms public house in the village.

Parking is also available in the village of Roxton.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.



Victoria Arms

Refreshments and Facilities

Wilden. The Victoria Arms public house, High Street.

Roxton. The Royal Oak public house, High Street.

Roxton Garden Centre, Bedford Road.

Toilets available at the garden centre.

Tempsford. The Wheatsheaf public house, High Street.

Points of Interest

Wilden

The church of St. Nicholas (A) first mentioned in 1231 is a grade I listed building of outstanding interest. For further information visit

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/bedford/wilden#.VgAfNxGFPIU>.



St Nicholas Church

It is believed that victims of the black plague were buried in a pit between St Nicholas Church and South Brook, which runs almost parallel with the road and is crossed by footbridges. For further information regarding Wilden visit <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp223-226>.

Roxton

Roxton Park (B) is a Grade II listed building of special interest and dates from the late 18th century with 19th century additions. **Roxton Congregational Chapel (C)**. On 31st May 1808, a barn belonging to C. J. Metcalfe was opened for occasional preaching on the Lord's Day and other evenings. In 1822 the barn was enlarged and altered developing into the meeting house of today.



Congregational Chapel



St Mary Magdalene Church

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church (D) the oldest part of which is believed to

be early 14th century and possibly earlier. The tower is 15th century.

For further information regarding Roxton Park, Roxton Congregational Chapel and St Mary Magdalen Church visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Roxton/RoxtonChurchAlterationsAnd%20Additions.aspx>.

Tempsford

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the Saxons and Danes fought a battle here in 921 AD, commemorated by a tablet in the parish church.

Giles Payne built a new mansion (Tempsford Hall) in 1796 and the old 15th century mansion was demolished leaving one wing which is now believed to be Ouse Farm (E). For further information visit <http://www.visitoruk.com/Bedford/tempsford-C592-V24970.html>.



St Peter's Church



Millennium Garden

St. Peter's Parish Church (F) dates from the 14th century and was later remodelled in the 17th and 19th centuries. A memorial is also to be found in St Peter's Church to the men and women from the Special Operations Executive.

For further information visit

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-516000-252000/picture/2>.

Millennium Garden Sanctuary (G). Local residents created the existing garden which is open all year. The gardens were originally the entrance to Tempsford Hall which was cut off by the construction of the current A1 to bypass the village.

A memorial (H) unveiled by Prince Charles to honour 75 World War II women agents who helped resistance movements in occupied Europe stands in Tempsford High Street next to the Memorial Garden. Most of the agents flew from RAF Tempsford.



Special Operations Executive Memorial.

For further information visit <http://www.tempsfordmemorial.co.uk/>.

THE WALK- 6 miles

Starting from St Nicholas Parish Church (A) follow the path south-east passing behind the Victoria Arms public house and parallel to the High Street towards South Brook. At the fingerpost by the bridge across South Brook continue straight ahead ignoring the path to the right. At the next way mark post continue straight ahead ignoring the field track path on the right. Continue straight ahead until reaching Hollis Lane.

On reaching Hollis Lane turn left and go forward until you reach the main road where you turn right in the direction of Great Barford and Colesden. (The actual footpath is straight ahead on reaching Hollis Lane but the footpath is blocked and currently in dispute with the landowner). Follow the High Street for 600 yards. There is no footpath on the later section of this road so great care is needed, and then take the right turn to Great Barford (Barford Rd).

After 50 yards and just past Glenbrook House take the footpath on the left. The path is initially fenced on both sides, but soon emerges into a field. Follow the footpath across the field heading for the field corner on the right hand side and a gap in the hedge will bring you onto a minor road.

Turn left on the minor road and take the footpath on the right just prior to the road junction. The footpath crosses the field towards the right hand corner of the hedgerow where a way mark post is just visible from the minor road. At the corner of the field cross the wooden bridge and go through the kissing gate keeping the hedgerow on your right. Continue through the next kissing gate and cross the wooden bridge keeping the stream to your right.

On reaching a small track turn right, go across the stream and then turn left and follow the concrete track straight ahead ignoring the paths off to the left and right. After nearly one mile, at the way mark post, leave the concrete track and keep straight ahead towards the trees keeping the stream to your left.

Veer away from the stream and go through the stand of poplar trees towards the far corner of the hedgerow on the right hand side. Go through the hedgerow and then follow it around to the left. Keep the hedgerow on your left until the path passes back through the hedgerow keeping the pond on the left until you reach a bridleway with hedgerows on both sides. Keep straight ahead on the bridleway with the woods on the left. Continue straight ahead ignoring the track off to the left and with the woods and then a hedgerow now on the right. Later ignore the track on the right towards the farm.

After just over one mile on the bridleway, on reaching the fence line of the A421 turn right and follow the bridleway towards the bridge and cross the A421. On reaching the next main road, Bedford Road, turn left and follow the road towards Roxton. After approximately 250 yards take the footpath on the right crossing the road with care.

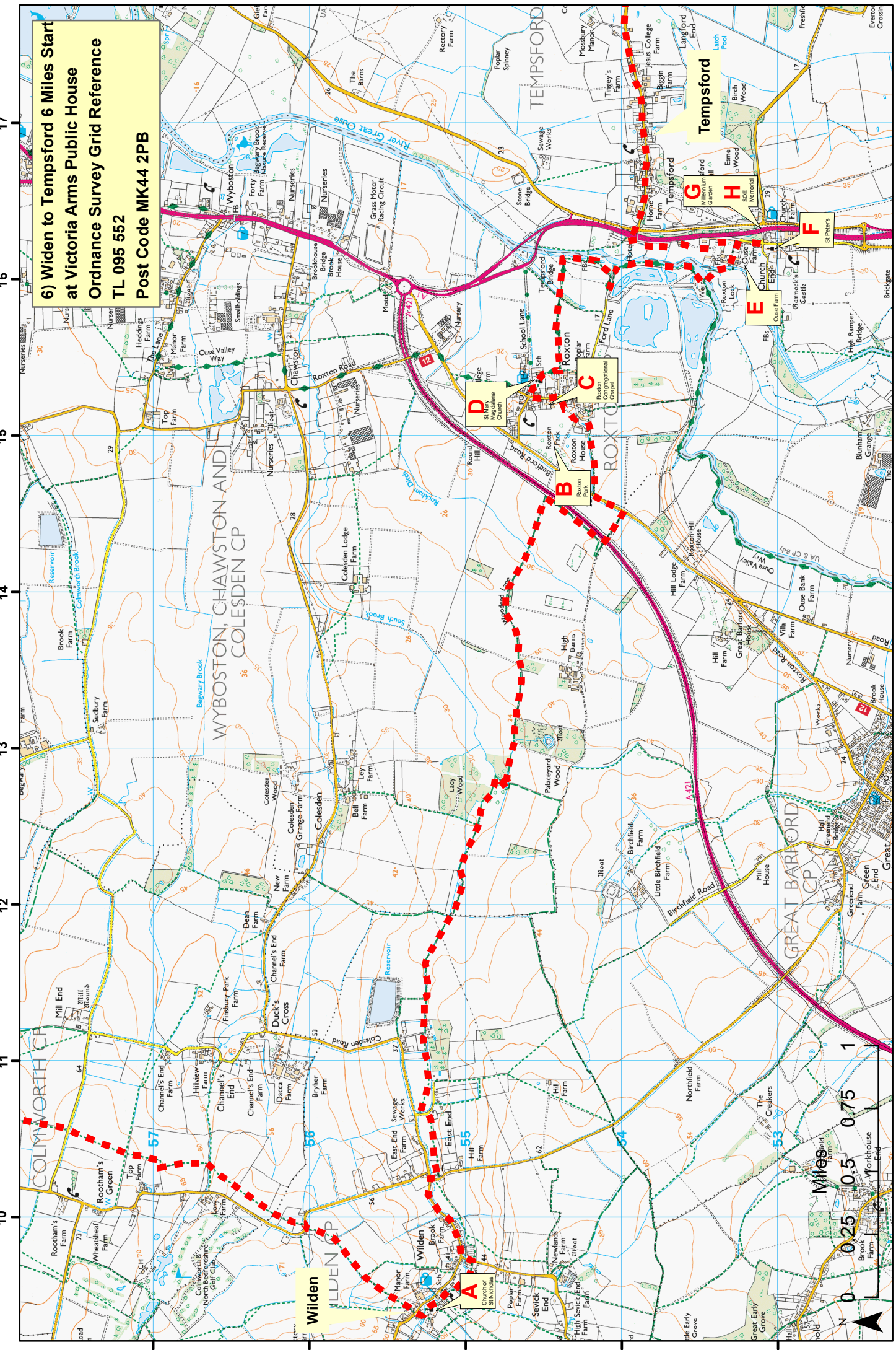
Follow the track keeping Roxton Park (B) on the left until you reach the village of Roxton. Follow the minor road around to the left ignoring the signs to Roxton Lock. On reaching High Street follow the road around to the left passing the Roxton Congregational Church (C) on the left and the village hall on the right. At the crossroads and opposite the Royal Oak public house turn right into School Lane. After a short distance you will reach the

churchyard of St Mary Magdalene Parish Church (D) on the right. Take the footpath signposted Roxton Lock which will take you through the churchyard.

On leaving the churchyard from the bottom gate take the footpath and go straight ahead passing the Deep Water signs on your right. At the way mark post take the footpath to the left towards the River Ouse. Keep straight ahead ignoring the footpath to the right. (**This area is prone to flooding in wet weather**)

Follow the footpath around to the right keeping the River Ouse to your left. Keep straight on ignoring the footpath on the left which crosses an iron bridge over the River Ouse. At the path junction go left following the sign to Roxton Lock. Keep straight ahead until reaching Roxton Lock and its bridge over the River Ouse. Cross over the bridge heading for Tempsford village.

After crossing the River Ouse follow the path around to the right through a gateway into a field with the River Ivel on the left. In a short distance at a bridge, follow the footpath to the left over the River Ivel and go through Ouse Farm (E). On reaching the road, Church Street, turn right to finish the walk at St Peter's Church (F) opposite the Memorial Sanctuary Garden (G) and the SOE Memorial (H).



6) Widen to Tempsford 6 Miles Start
at Victoria Arms Public House
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
TL 095 552
Post Code MK44 2PB

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

1:30,000

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TEMPSFORD TO POTTON - 6.5 miles

Start Point: Tempsford St Peter's Church. Grid Reference TL162 531. Post Code SG19 2AN.

Parking

Tempsford. Church End beyond the Wheatsheaf public house and St Peter's Church.

Everton. There is limited parking in Church End, the road next to the Thornton Arms public house.

Potton. There is a free car park off Brook End close to the Market Square.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Refreshments and Facilities

Tempsford, Church End. Meals and refreshments are available at the Wheatsheaf public house.

Everton. Meals and refreshments are available at the Thornton Arms publichouse.

Potton. A variety of shops and public houses, plus a bank, are available in the town. There are toilets in Brook End.

Points of Interest

Tempsford

Hassells Hedge (A) is a remnant of the Roman road, which ran from Baldock to Godmanchester via Sandy.

Gibraltar Farm (B) houses a memorial to personnel of the Special Operations Executive, who flew from the adjacent airfield. In front of the barn, trees have been planted in memory of the operatives. Gibraltar Farm is on part of the Erroll Estate and permission should be sought from them to visit. (Email admin@erroll.com) Further information regarding RAF Tempsford can be found at <http://www.tempsford.20m.com/home.html>.

Everton

St Mary's Church (C) has a late Norman tower made of local ironstone, with the rest of the church built of brown cobbles.

For further information regarding Everton visit <http://bernardoconnor.org.uk/everton.html>.



St Peter's Church



St Mary's Church



Gibraltar Farm

Potton

Potton Windmill (D) in Mill Lane was first mentioned in 1331. All that remains of its original five storeys and four sails is the base which can still be seen from Mill Lane.



Potton Market Square (E) is the site of a market dating back to the 13th century. During Tudor and Stuart times Potton market was one of the largest in the county. Some of the buildings surrounding the Square date back to the rebuilding of the town in 1783, following the "Great Fire of Potton". For further information visit <http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/history.aspx>.



Potton Windmill

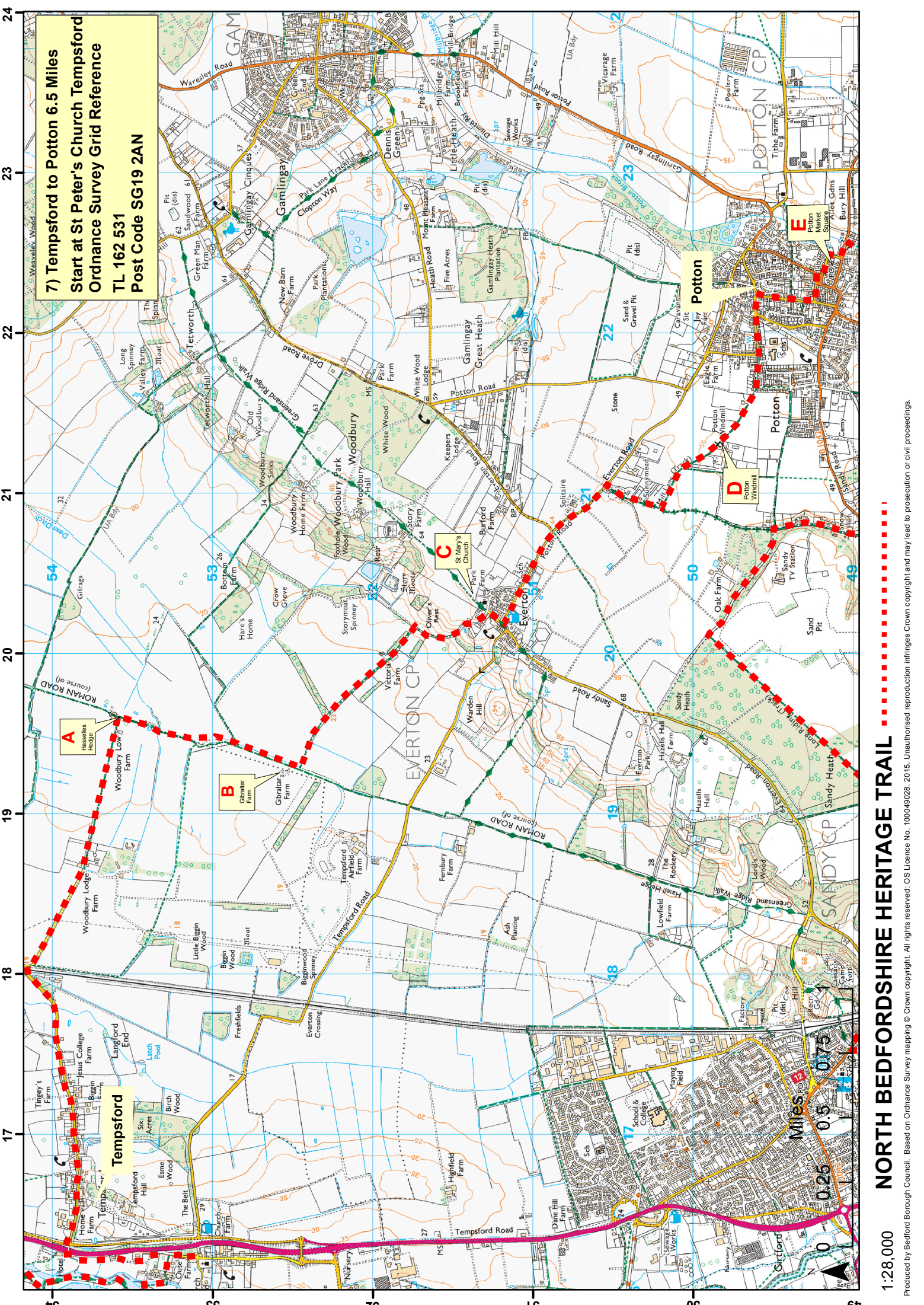
Potton Market Square

THE WALK - 6.5 miles

On leaving St Peter's Church continue northwards with the A1 on your right for ½ mile to a steel bridge spanning the A1. Cross the bridge and the road beyond to enter the turning opposite, Station Road. Walk the full length of the road, approximately 1 mile, to the level crossing over the East Coast Main Line, where Tempsford Station once stood. After crossing the railway, the road divides into two. Take the road to the right, ignoring the footpath on the right which goes alongside the railway, and follow it for a further mile past Woodbury Lodge Farm, at which point the road becomes a bridleway, to emerge at a bridleway junction after Woodbury Low Farm. The crossing bridleway is called Hassells Hedge (A).

Turn right along the bridleway (Hassells Hedge) for just under ¾ mile ignoring a footpath to the left and a bridleway to the right, to reach Gibraltar Farm (B) on the right. A short distance after the Farm, turn left on a footpath, which continues on the level for ¾ mile, before turning right and rising steeply to meet Church End, Everton, near St Mary's Church (C). At the church, turn right to emerge on Potton Road next to the Thornton Arms public house. Turn left in front of the pub and continue for ¾ mile along Potton Road to a byway on the right, ignoring a footpath on the right opposite the left hand road turning to Gamlingay. Care is needed as the byway currently has no way mark post or finger post but is just before the gate to a house called Heath Lodge.

After 350 yards along the byway, take the bridleway on the left and after 700 yards, see the remains of Potton Windmill (D) on the right. Continue along the bridleway now with a hard surface, for a further 450 yards and go past the recreation ground on the left to emerge amongst the houses of Mill Lane. Walk ahead along Mill Lane, which shortly becomes Everton Road. After a further 350 yards, turn right into Horslow Street just after the Rising Sun public house. Continue down Horslow Street for 350 yards to turn left into Bull Street. Bull Street shortly emerges in Potton Market Square (E) and Brook End, which is in the far right hand corner of the Square, leads to the car park.



7) Tempsford to Potton 6.5 Miles
Start at St Peter's Church Tempersford
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
TL 162 531
Post Code SG19 2AN

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL

1:28,000

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POTTON TO SANDY - 7.5 miles.

Start Point: Potton, Brook End car park. Grid Reference TL225 491.
Post Code SG19 2QS.

Parking

Potton. Parking is available in Brook End car park near the Market Square.

Sutton. Limited parking is available in the High Street near the John O'Gaunt public house.

Sandy. Parking is available in the town centre car park.

Public Transport. Refer to page 7.

Refreshment and Facilities

Potton. Toilets in Brook End. Shops, public houses, banks and refreshments available in the Market Square.

Sutton. Meals and refreshments are available in the John of Gaunt publichouse.

Sandy. Banks, shops, public houses, toilets and refreshments available in and around Sandy Market Square.

Points of interest

Sutton



The Packhorse Bridge (A) is a small, double arch bridge which crosses the village ford, Potton Brook, a tributary of the River Ivel. The bridge was made sometime in the 13th or 14th century and is probably the only surviving bridge of its type in Bedfordshire.

The parish church, dedicated to All Saints (B), is of 13th century origins with some 16th and 17th century reworkings. The Church has a barrel organ and is well worth a visit.

The vicarage is an interesting building, with a timber and plaster original section, probably dating back to 16th century, and a later wing on its north (C).

For further information regarding Sutton visit <http://www.visitoruk.com/Bedford/sutton-C592-V24969.html>.

Sandy

Sandy was originally a Roman settlement and was probably an important trading centre and staging post in the Roman era. An ancient hill fort still overlooks the town.



Brook End Car Park
Potton

Archaeological digs in the area have revealed that the town's ancestors may date back further than 2,500 BC.

Around 1851, the 'Swiss Cottage' (which now serves as the RSPB reserve's visitor centre and shop and is a Grade II listed building) was built for Captain Sir William Peel VC. A later descendent of the Captain built The Lodge elsewhere on the estate, which is now the headquarters of the RSPB.



The Swiss Cottage

The Sandy and Potton Railway opened on 9th November 1857. It was more commonly known as Captain Peel's Railway after its creator Captain Sir William Peel VC.

For further information regarding Captain Sir William Peel VC and his railway visit www.ukga.org/england/Bedfordshire/towns/Sandy.html
www.rogersstudy.co.uk/peel/peel4.html

There are many listed Grade II buildings in Sandy itself. For further information visit www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/central+bedfordshire/sandy.

THE WALK - 7.5 miles.

After leaving the car park turn left and follow Brook End turning left at the junction into Royston Street, and continue until you reach the Community Fire Station on the right. Immediately after the Fire Station, cross the bridge and take the path on the right. Follow the way mark posts keeping the housing estate on the left and the brook on the right. The path continues straight on the left of the bridge into the housing estate and then turns sharp left behind the houses to travel in an easterly direction. Keep the housing estate on the left until you reach a kissing gate.

Go forward to pass through Pegnut Wood, a plantation of poplar trees. At the edge of the wood do not take the path straight ahead but follow the way mark post to the left, continue over a slight rise and immediately turn right at the next way mark post. Continue towards Sutton ignoring the path to the right until you pass through a garden to emerge at Sutton High Street by a telephone box.

Go right along the High Street past the John O'Gaunt public house to reach the medieval bridge and ford (A). 200 yards further on is the Parish Church of All Saints (B) and the vicarage (C) which you may wish to visit.

If you have visited the church and vicarage retrace the route back for a short distance to take the left hand path just past Sutton Village Hall. Pass by a garden and continue ahead over the footpath junction to reach the lower end of Pegnut Wood. The trail goes left around the golf course and then over a small bridge followed shortly by another bridge and out onto the road.

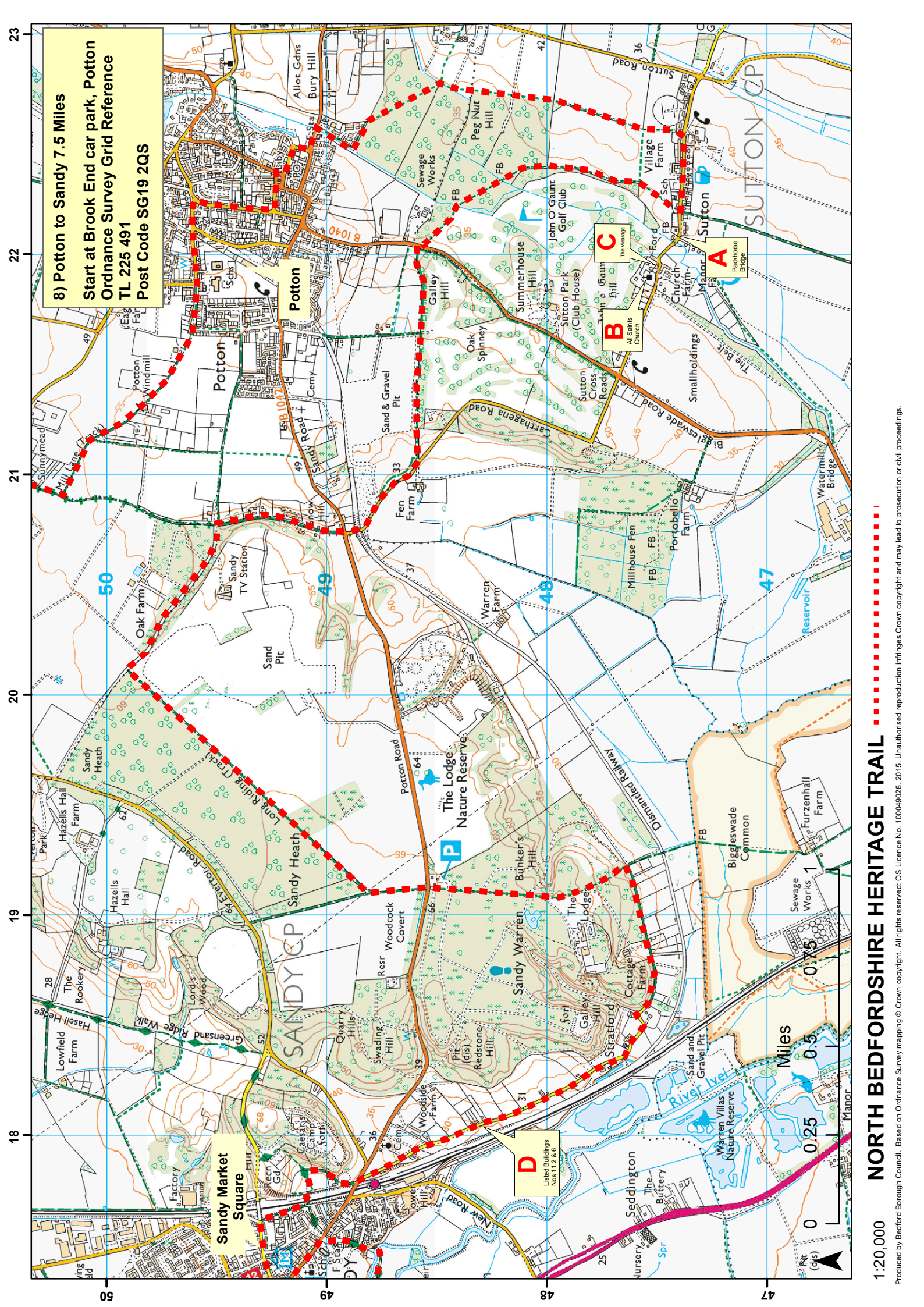
Cross with care and follow the bridleway opposite keeping straight on up the hill and ignoring the bridleway to the left. The John O'Gaunt golf course will be on your left as you proceed up the hill. At the top of the hill ignore the footpath to the right, and keep straight on with the golf course on the left until you pass a disused sand quarry on the right with the

Sandy transmission mast in view also on the right. Follow the trail down the hill and just before reaching the road follow the way mark post to the right. The path will join the road a short distance further on. Turn right on reaching the road, shortly passing the remains of a railway bridge on the former Sandy to Potton railway, and continue on until reaching the main road. Cross with great care. To continue walk up the road immediately opposite into Deepdale then go left at the crossing of paths.

Follow the trail up the hill passing the Sandy transmission mast on the left until the road turns to the right into Oak Barn. Ignore this right turn and keep straight ahead following the footpath. At the path junction turn left. After 1 mile turn left at the crossing path and continue until you reach the main road.

Cross with care and enter the grounds of the RSPB (C). Go down the path on the right-hand side of the drive, then cross the drive to pick up the signposted path which passes the Tree of Life Memorial Garden with its magnificent carved owl on the left and the Lodge gardens (well worth a visit) on the right. Continue to follow the way mark posts down the public bridleway through the reserve to exit at a gate on to Biggleswade Common. Turn right here and follow the track along the edge of the reserve which soon becomes a tarmacked road, called Stratford Road. Look out for the Grade II listed buildings (D) along this road. You eventually come to the cemetery on your right, with the platforms of Sandy railway station now in view on your left. Continue until you come to the main road.

Cross with care using the pedestrian crossing and turn left towards the railway bridge. Take the footpath to the right just before the railway bridge and go ahead with the railway on your left until it is crossed by a footbridge. Cross the footbridge (straight on will take you to The Sand Hills and Caesar's Camp if you wish to visit), then turn immediately right and follow the footpath with the houses on your left and the railway now on your right. When you arrive at Cambridge Road, turn left and continue along the road to reach Sandy Market Square.



8) Potton to Sandy 7.5 Miles
 Start at Brook End car park, Potton
 Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
 TL 225 491
 Post Code SG19 2QS

Sandy Market Square

D
 Listed Buildings
 Nos 12 & 16

B
 All Saints Church

C
 The Village

A
 Packhorse Bridge

Miles
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75

1:20,000

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SANDY TO OLD WARDEN - 7 miles

Start Point: Sandy, Town Centre car park. Grid Reference TL174 492.
Post Code SG19 1JE.

Parking

Sandy. Town centre car park.

Northill. There is limited street parking in the village.

Ickwell Green. There is limited parking in the vicinity of the Green.

Old Warden. There is a car park at St Leonard's Church, Old Warden.

Public Transport. Refer to Page 7.

Refreshments and Facilities

Sandy. There is a variety of cafes, shops, pubs and a bank in the town centre. There are toilets at the town centre car park.

Northill. The Crown public house serves meals and refreshments.

Ickwell Green. There are no facilities at Ickwell Green.

Old Warden. The Hare and Hounds public house serves meals and refreshments.

Points of Interest

Sandy

The Greensand Ridge Walk long distance path runs through Sandy on its way from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay.



St Swithun's (A), the parish church of Sandy, reflects extensive 19th century restoration of the original 15th century structure. It contains a statue of Captain Sir William Peel VC son of the Victorian politician, Sir Robert Peel.

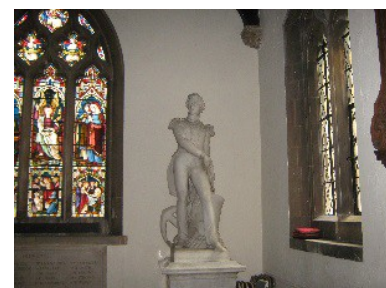
St. Swithun's Church is also the burial place of Sir Frederick Liddell, a former owner of Sandy Lodge, whose sister Alice provided the inspiration for Lewis

Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. For further information regarding Sandy visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Sandy/SandyMill.aspx>.



Sandy Town Centre Car Park



Captain Sir William Peel VC



St Mary's Church

Northill

The village cottages (B) along the road through Northill and Ickwell Green are a very attractive mixture of styles. For further information visit

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/central+bedfordshire/northill.

St Mary's (C) is the parish church of Northill. It is of ironstone construction and mainly dates back to the 14th century. It contains some fine examples of 17th century painted glass.

Ickwell



Ickwell Green (D) is one of the finest village greens in Bedfordshire and has a permanent maypole erected in 1872 by a local squire. Cricket has been played on the Green for over 120 years, making the local cricket club one of the oldest in the county.

Thomas Tompion's cottage (E) is just off Ickwell Green at 2 Caldecote Road. Tompion, who lived from 1639-1713, was a master clock and watch maker and his

cottage bears a plaque erected by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. For further information visit

<http://www.visitshefford.co.uk/afield/ickwellgreen.shtm>.



Thomas Tompion's Cottage

Old Warden

The Shuttleworth Collection of aeroplanes and vintage cars (F) is housed in hangars at Old Warden Airfield and is run by the Shuttleworth Trust. For further information visit

www.shuttleworth.org/.

The Shuttleworth College building (G), now part of Bedford College, was built in Jacobean style by Joseph Shuttleworth when the original house was demolished in the 1870s. The college cafeteria is open to the public. For further information visit www.shuttleworth.ac.uk.



Keeper's Cottage and Queen Anne's Summerhouse (H) are two attractive buildings on the Old Warden Park Estate at Warden Warren. They have been refurbished as superior tourist accommodation. For further information visit

www.visitshefford.co.uk/afield/queenannesummerhouse.shtm.

The village cottages (I) in Old Warden are an attractive mixture, and for further information visit www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/central.../old+warden.

The cottage with the clock tower that was formerly the post office, now a guest house (J), is of particular interest.

THE WALK - 7 miles

The first part of the route from Sandy to Northill follows the Greensand Ridge Walk long distance path and most of the way marks have the muntjac deer logo of the Walk.

Turn left out of the town centre car park, noting the information board about Sir William Peel, and cross over the High Street to pass St Swithun's Church (A) on the right. After 250 yards, turn right into Ivel Road and, after a further 250 yards, where the road bears left, continue ahead on a metal bridleway bridge over an arm of the River Ivel and bear right with the bridleway, with the river on the right. At a T-junction of paths after 500 yards, turn left on a bridge over another arm of the river and continue ahead on a track called The Baulk to Beeston. After 350 yards, on meeting the A1 dual carriageway, turn left and cross over using the nearby footbridge to reach the main part of the village on the other side of the A1.

Turn away from the A1 down the public footpath to The Crescent and, after 200 yards, emerge at Beeston Green. Cross the Green, turn left along the far side and shortly reach a finger post on the right. Turn right along the footpath and follow it for just under 3/4 mile to reach a minor road at Vinegar Hill.

After crossing Vinegar Hill, continue for 200 yards with a hedge on your left. At a junction of paths, turn left and then shortly right. Continue ahead for 250 yards and cross a ditch on a small bridge. Follow the path for a further 650 yards, now with a hedge on the left, to meet another minor road, Thorncote Road, on the outskirts of Northill. Turn left and follow the road for 3/4 mile to Ickwell Green, ignoring the Cople turn on the right. Enjoy the village cottages in Northill and Ickwell (B), as you pass. Note St Mary's Church (C) on the right, with the Crown public house and duck pond alongside.

On reaching Ickwell Green (D), take a look at Thomas Tompion's Cottage (E) at 2 Caldecote Road on the left. Continue ahead to the far corner of the Green with the houses facing the Green on your left. Take the bridleway immediately ahead for 650 yards, with bushes on the left and field fences on the right, to reach Hill Lane near Old Warden Airfield (F). (To visit turn right along the road to the entrance.) Take the bridleway opposite, which follows the boundary of the airfield, crossing a stream on the way.

Where the airfield ends, continue ahead for 350 yards, passing a pond on the right, to reach the driveway to Shuttleworth House (G). Turn right in the direction of the College and, after 100 yards, take the bridleway on the left. (To visit the House and use the cafeteria, continue along the drive for a further 750 yards.) Follow the bridleway for 3/4 mile mainly straight ahead apart from a left turn, where it leaves the bank of a ditch, followed shortly by a right turn, with Lowsiebush Covert now on the right until you reach a minor road. Turn right at the road and continue for 600 yards, with the boundary of the Southill Estate on the left. On reaching the attractive Squirrel Cottage on the right, take the footpath on the right beyond the cottage through a white gate and follow it on a fenced path through Warden Warren Wood to the main street of Old Warden.

Note the access paths to both Keeper's Cottage and Queen Anne's Summerhouse (H) on the right as you go through the wood, each with an information board. (A permissive path forms a loop enabling the two buildings to be viewed from 1 April to 31 October.)

Turn left along the main street, admiring the village cottages (I) and passing the Hare and Hounds public house on the left. After 250 yards, pass the Old Warden Guest House (J) with its tower on your left and turn immediately right along a field edge footpath with a hedge on the right. Pass through the hedge at the end, bear right, and, ignoring the footpath to the left, pass through a paddock on a fenced path to reach the car park at St Leonard's Church. There are views of Shuttleworth House to the right, as you approach the car park.

9) Sandy to Old Warden 7 Miles
 Start at Sandy Town Centre car park
 Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
 TL 174 492
 Post Code SG19 1JE

Sandy Market Square

A

B

C

E

D

F

H

I & J

G

1:25,000 **NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL** 

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OLD WARDEN TO WILLINGTON - 5.5 miles

Start Point: Old Warden, St Leonard's Church. Grid Reference TL136 443. Post Code SG18 9HE.

Parking

Park at the car park for St Leonard's Parish Church Old Warden (donation appreciated).

Willington Dovecote. Park on the grass verge opposite the Dovecote. Although the Dovecote has a car park this is reserved for visitors.



St Leonard's Church

Public Transport. Refer to page 7.

Refreshments & Facilities

Old Warden. The Hare & Hounds public house.

Willington. Frost's Garden Centre.

Willington. Willington Home & Garden Centre.

Willington. The Danish Camp.

Willington. The Crown public house.

Points of Interest

Old Warden

St Leonard's Church (A). The lowest stage of the tower of Saint Leonard's church is 12th century but it was rebuilt in the 15th century and the upper three stages of the tower are all of that date. In 1952 a south porch was erected in memory of Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth, a pilot officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve who died on 2nd August 1940, aged 31. For further information regarding the Shuttleworth family visit

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/archivesandrecordoffice/communityarchives/oldwarden/shuttleworthfamily.aspx>.

Cardington Hangars (B).

It was from Cardington that the ill-fated airship R101 took off for its inaugural flight in 1930. The ship crashed over Beauvais, France, killing 48 people. For further information visit

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/local_history_and_heritage/airship_r100_and_r101.aspx.



Cardington Hangars

THE WALK- 5.5 miles.

Exit St Leonard's Church (A) car park at the far end through a kissing gate and follow the signpost for Greensand Ridge Walk (GRW) viewpoint 1 mile.

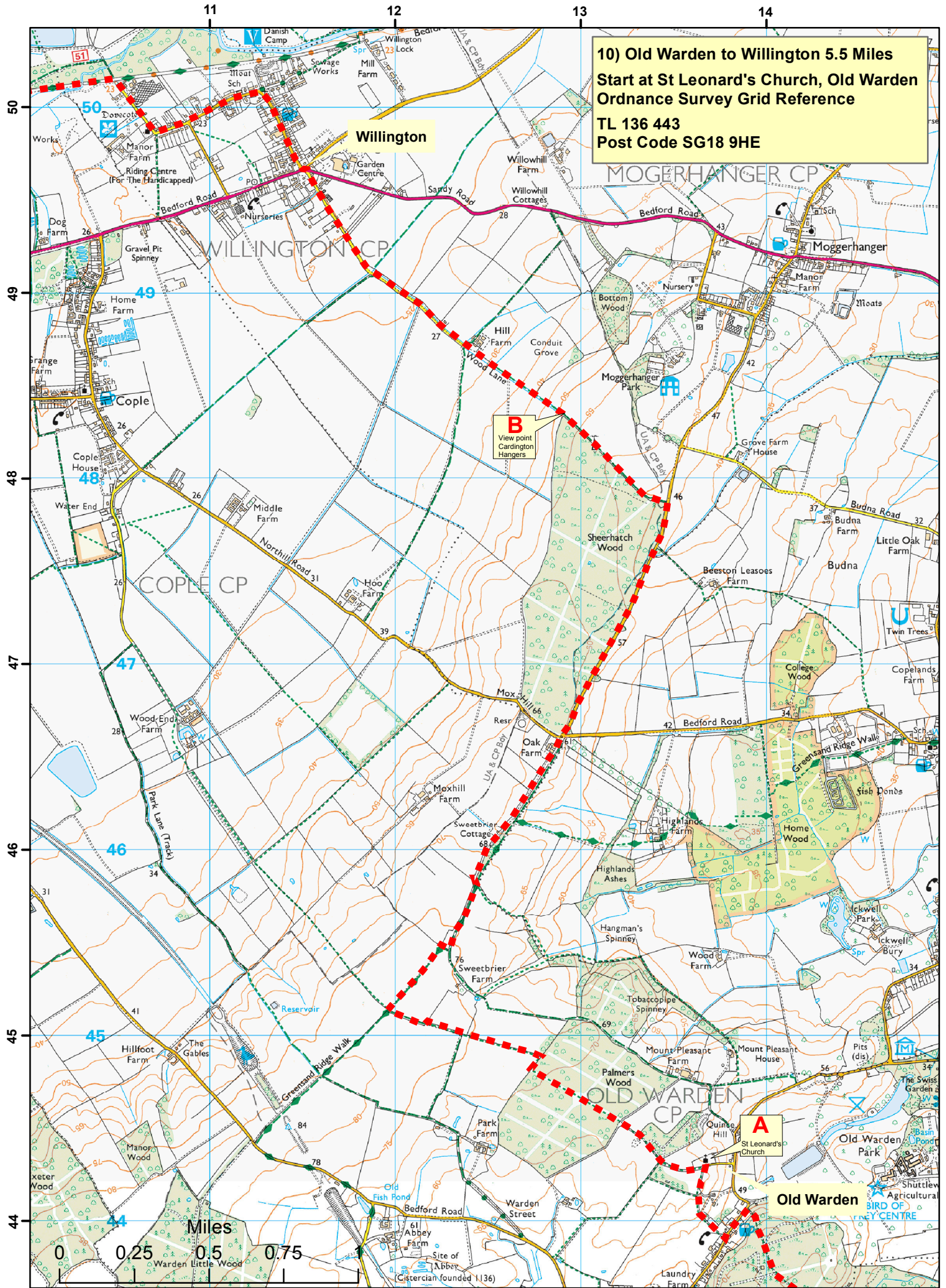
Keep straight on through a gate ignoring a path to the left and keeping the woods on your right. At the end of the wood pass by the mobile phone masts on your right disguised as trees. Keeping straight on cross a farm track and enter Palmers Wood.

Follow the path directly ahead through Palmers Wood until you reach a field. Turn right and follow the field edge, turning left at the hedgerow directly ahead and continuing to follow the field edge. Cross the footbridge through the hedge and go forward to meet a crossing path (the GRW). Turn right and go ahead and reach a hedgerow. Turn right at the hedgerow, cross a footbridge and join a crossing path directly in front.

Turn left (the GRW) and go directly ahead ignoring the path to your right. After ½ mile the GRW turns right. Ignore the GRW and go directly forward until you come to a road at Oak Farm. Cross the road and follow the road sign to Moggerhanger keeping Sheerhatch Wood on your left.

After one mile take the bridleway to the left again keeping Sheerhatch Wood on your left. Go ahead towards the telecommunications mast and meeting a hardcore track. At this point there is a good view of Cardington Hangars (B). Continue on the track which shortly becomes tarmac reaching the main road at Willington. (Frost's Garden Centre is to the right).

Cross with care and go forward along Station Road passing the Crown public house. At the end of the road turn left into Church Road. (Straight ahead is the entrance to the Danish Camp). Carry on straight ahead and follow the road around to the right, Church End, until you reach the Dovecote, Stables and Church.



10) Old Warden to Willington 5.5 Miles
Start at St Leonard's Church, Old Warden
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
TL 136 443
Post Code SG18 9HE

B
 View point
 Cardington
 Hangers

A
 St Leonard's
 Church



1:25,000 NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TRAIL - - - - -

WILLINGTON TO BEDFORD - 4 Miles.

Start Point: Willington, near the National Trust Dovecote. Grid Reference TL106 499. Post Code MK44 3PX.

Parking

Willington. Park on the grass verge opposite the Dovecote. Although the Dovecote has a car park this is reserved for visitors.



Willington Dovecote

Bedford. There are numerous town centre car parks see http://www.bedford.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/parking.aspx for latest details on charges.

Public Transport. Refer to page 7.

The finishing point in St Paul's Square is within walking distance of Bedford Bus Station, Bedford Midland Railway Station and St John's Railway Station.

Refreshments and Facilities

Willington. There are no facilities at the start point, although refreshments and toilets can be found at the nearby Danish Camp Restaurant, Crown public house, Willington Garden Centre and Willington Home & Garden Centre.

Bedford. Bedford town centre has a variety of banks, shops, public houses and restaurants. There are public toilets in St Paul's Square, in the Harpur Centre and at the Bus Station.



Points of Interest

Willington

The Dovecote (A) and the adjoining Stables were built by John Gostwick, Lord of the Manor in Henry VIII's time. A notice board in the car park gives details about access arrangements.

For further information visit

The Stables <http://www.britainexpress.com/counties/bedfordshire/willington.htm>.

St Lawrence Church (B) has been on its current site since at least 1166. It was rebuilt and extended by John Gostwick. It took its current form following a major restoration in 1876-7.

The Bedford & Cambridge Railway (C) was opened in 1862 and became part of the London & North Western Railway in 1865. It was closed in 1968. Some remains of the goods yard at the former Willington station site can be seen near the Danish Camp Restaurant. For further information visit

http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/b/bedford_railway/.

Bedford

Newnham Priory (D), Bedford's first religious house, was established outside the borough at Newnham (site of Priory Marina), as an Augustinian order house in 1166 by Simon Beauchamp and his mother the Countess Rohesia. For further information visit

http://www.bedfordrivervalley.org/heritage/newnham_priory/.



Site of John Bunyan's baptism

John Bunyan's baptism (E) is reputed to have taken place in the River Great Ouse near Duckmill Weir, a short distance downstream from the Town Bridge. A

small plaque on the wall of a backwater marks the spot.

The Castle Mound (F) is all that is left of a motte and bailey castle built in 1100 by Henry I, part of the castle building process following the Norman Conquest in 1066. Visit

<http://thehigginsbedford.blogspot.co.uk/2011/06/on-this-day-siege-of-bedford-castle.html> for further information.



Castle Mound

THE WALK - 4 miles

On leaving the parking place near the Dovecote and St Lawrence Church (A) and (B), continue along Church End away from the church. After 250 yards, pass the Bedford to Sandy Cycleway No 51, towards the Danish Camp and Sandy, on the right. It is on the track bed of the former Bedford to Cambridge Railway (C). Continue onwards for 100 yards through a gate and barrier and over Elstow Brook to where the cycleway turns left through a copse in the Bedford direction and follow it.

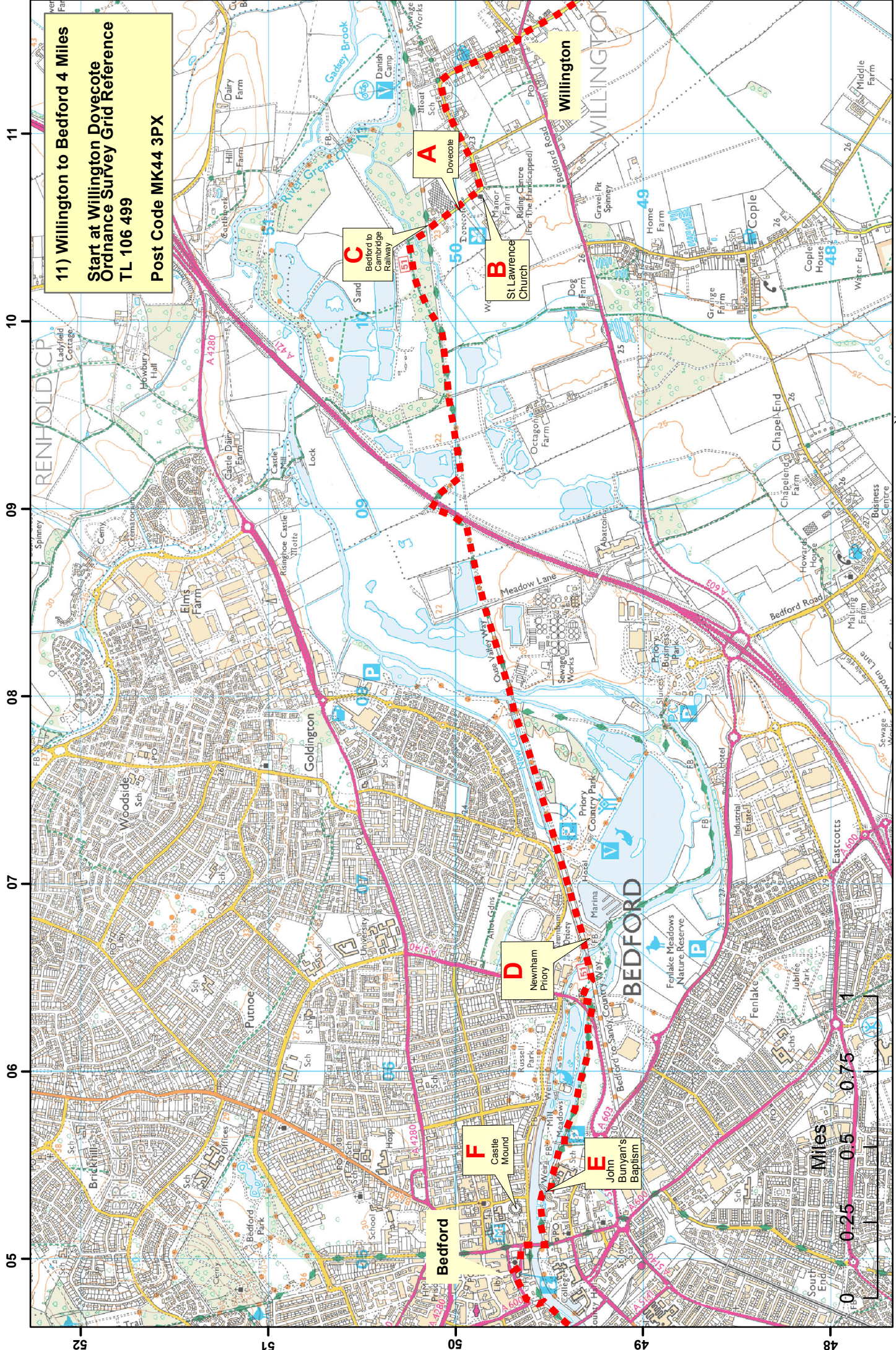
After just over ½ mile, the cycleway crosses a minor road leading to a gravel working site. Ignore the right turn immediately afterwards, which leads back to the Danish Camp along the river, and continue following the line of the track bed, with the A421 Bedford Southern Bypass visible ahead. After about ¼ mile, the cycleway makes a horseshoe bend to the right to cross the A421 on a bridge and regain the line of the track bed. An overbridge crosses the track bed after a further 500 yards.

Continue onwards for a further ¼ mile past the sewage works on the left to go through a gate and barrier and cross the River Great Ouse on a metal bridge to enter Priory Country Park. After ¾ mile, the track bed crosses the approach road to the main Priory Country Park car park, Priory Marina and the Premier Inn. Some remains of Newnham Priory (D) can be seen near Priory Marina and from the Cycleway shortly after the approach road.

About ¼ mile further on along the cycleway, there are two metal bridges in quick succession over two arms of the River Great Ouse. A short distance after the second bridge, turn right at a junction of paths and then immediately left under the road at Longholme Bridge. This is the route followed by Cycleway No 51 towards Bedford. Continue ahead with the river on your right for ¾ mile to the Town Bridge. After just over ½

mile where there is a bridge over Duck Mill Weir, turn right as if to go over the bridge and see the plaque marking John Bunyan's place of baptism (E) in the backwater on the right.

Do not go over the Duckmill Weir Bridge, but take the path to the left of the two sluice gates and bear right over a small bridge to continue on towards the Town Bridge. On the opposite bank of the river at this point can be seen Castle Mound (F). On reaching the Town Bridge, leave the river and cross over to reach St Paul's Square, where the walk ends.



11) Willington to Bedford 4 Miles
 Start at Willington Dovecote
 Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
 TL 106 499
 Post Code MK44 3PX

A
 Dovecote

B
 St Lawrence
 Church

D
 Newnham
 Priory

F
 Castle
 Mound

E
 John
 Bunyan's
 Baptism

C
 Bedford to
 Cambridge
 Railway

Countryside Code

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs

Even when going out locally, it is best to get the latest information about where and when you can go; for example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out, for safety reasons, or during the breeding season. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

Leave gates and property as you find them

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure that you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

Keep dogs under close control

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it is every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife and other people.

Consider other people

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone - at home, at work and at leisure.