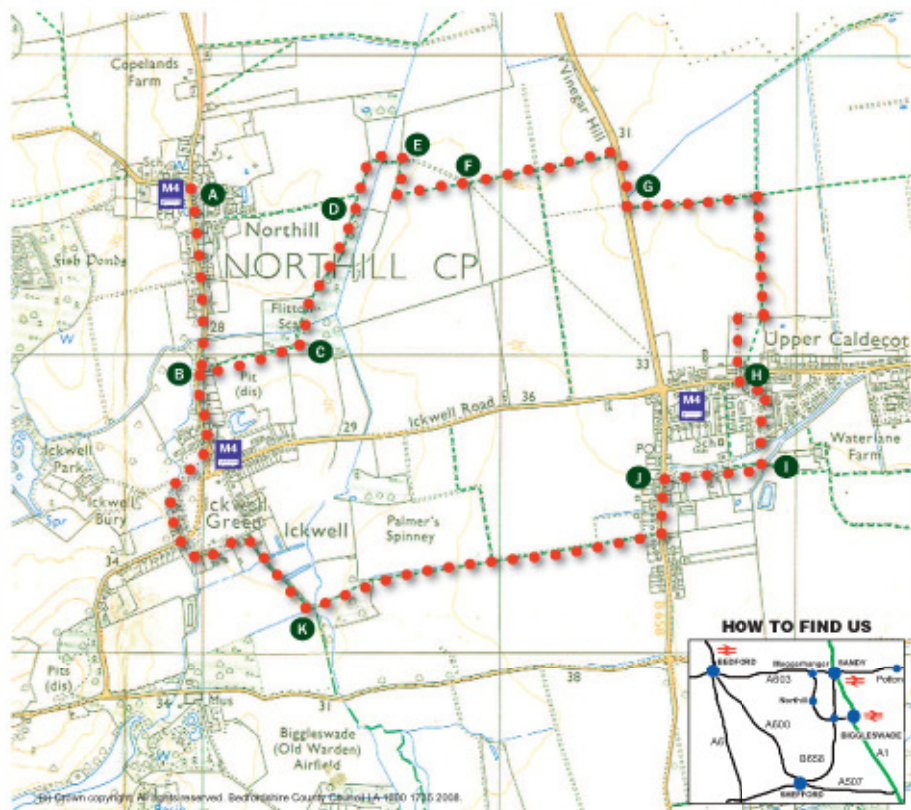


# THE THREE GREENS WALK



**A** Start at North Hill Green next to the Parish Church of St Mary Virgin, The Crown Inn and the Village Pond. Walk down Ickwell Road with the pond and Reed Cottage on your right and the clapper-board house on your left. Continue down the road until you come to a bridge over a brook.

**B** Just past the bridge there is a footpath sign on the left. Take that path which passes through Brookfield Stables, goes along the left hand side of the field, and through a kissing-gate at the end of the field.

*This is Brick Field because there used to be brick and tile kilns in the corner on your right where Ickwell Bricks were fired. If a brick was cut cleanly it was said to 'cut like an Ickwell Brick'.*

**C** You are now entering an ancient wood called Flitten Scar. Follow the path through the wood and over a small stream.

**D** Go through the kissing gate at the end of the wood into a narrow field, College Pond Meadow. Follow the path bearing left and swing right over a bridge over North Hill Brook.

*Kingfishers can often be seen flying along the brook. The wood on your left, College Pond Wood, had a series of ponds in it that were used as a fishery by North Hill College in the 15th century.*

**E** Go through the next kissing gate and turn right. Take the farm track to the left and climb the hill and stop at the top.

*The fields left and right are Two Bush Field and Flitten Scar Field. The hill you climbed is Wilmer Hill because at the end of the hedge on your right was once a 14th century windmill for grinding corn. At the top look back to see the tower of North Hill Parish Church peering over the top of the houses. Look east across flat countryside to Sandy Warren hill, site of a Roman fort and Sandy TV transmitter.*

*Looking to your right, towards Upper Caldecote, was once a track from Caldecote to where you are standing and the down the hill behind you to the kissing gate. This was the Funeral Track from Caldecote to North Hill Church, used before a church was built in Caldecote. You are also standing on the Lower Caldecote to North Hill Church Funeral Track.*

**F** Continue down to the main road and turn right. At the footpath sign on your left on the opposite side of the road, cross the road to a farm track. The house on the hill, Vinegar Hill, slightly to your left was the "Sugar Loaf Beerhouse" and opposite was once a tollhouse on what was the Hitchin Turnpike Road. Vinegar Hill is said to have got its name from the fact that a local man crossed the fields behind the tollhouse to avoid paying the toll and in so doing split the barrels of vinegar he was transporting.

**G** Continue down the farm track for 440 metres. The field on your left is called Devil's Hole Field and on your right are Pickle Field and then Matthews Field. When you meet a crossroad of footpaths take the track to the right and follow it until you meet the road.

*To the left of the track is a ditch, this is the Parish Brook which was dug for the Parish Council in the late 19th century to alleviate flooding in Upper Caldecote.*

**H** When at the road cross over with care. It is worthwhile making a slight detour by turning right to view All Saints Church, the Harvey Cottages, and the Old Rectory at the crossroads. Otherwise, you can turn left and continue on the route towards Atterton's Corner. Nearly opposite is the Wesleyan Chapel. Turn right into Ashby Drive. The turn is Atterton's Corner named after the original owner of the farm on the other side of the road. Follow the road down to Caldecote Green. Drainage ditches originally flowed along each side of The

*Green but the one on this side has been filled in. They flowed to the lower end of The Green and then along each side of Water Lane, hence the name. Slightly to your left is a large white house on a slight rise, this is Water Lane Farm farmhouse.*

**I** Turn right and continue along The Green towards Hitchin Road. The house facing The Green on the right, Dove Cottage, was Manor Farm gamekeeper's cottage. The land now occupied by the school and the playing field was Manor Farm house. Other than the new houses on the left hand side of The Green, this area has not changed since the late 1800s. The three storey building at the top of The Green on the left hand side is Caldecote House Farm which was built in the late 18th century. The farm once had grazing rights on The Green.

**J** At the top of The Green cross the road, turn left and walk to a footpath sign on your right. Turn right and follow the track for 1.2 km, firstly between open fields, then over a meadow and a brook until you meet a bridleway, The Sheep Walk. About halfway along the track, at the top of a rise, there is an excellent view, to your left, of Shuttlesworth College, an agricultural college, and the Shuttlesworth Collection buildings and airfield.

**K** At The Sheep Walk turn right towards Ickwell Green. At the Green follow the road ahead or turn left and follow the track around the Green which enables you to have a closer look at some traditional cottages. On the right hand side of the Green are The Old House and Tomplon's cottage. On the left is the Maypole and Ickwell Bury which is set in wooded parkland up a long drive. Follow the road ahead and continue along to North Hill Green and the start of the walk.

