

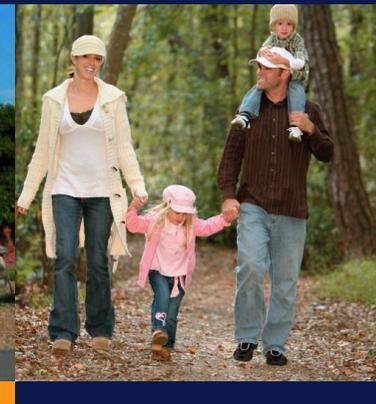
Turn into Sandye Lane that soon becomes a stony track between hedges, it then passes through trees along the edge of Swineshead Wood.

C. At the far end of the wood ignore the cross track and keep straight ahead on a broad, rough grassy track. Stay on the main track as it curves left between Spanoak Wood and Tilbrook Bushes. *Alternatively enter Spanoak Wood, go right in front of the notice board and follow a path inside the boundary of the wood that rejoins Sandye Lane where the wood ends.*

D. At the top of a gentle rise a way-marked footpath crosses Sandye Lane. Turn left here on the footpath with a hedge on your right side. Stay on this path past two spinneys ignoring a farm track off to the right and a footpath on the left. At the end of the second spinney cross over a stile on the right and walk diagonally left through a rough pasture to another stile. Ignore the kissing gate immediately on the right and continue ahead with the hedge on the right hand side as it slowly curves to the right. The footpath now passes through a gap in a fence then to the left of the old school building to emerge opposite the church in Upper Dean via Aylott Close. Take a few minutes to visit the church where you will find fine carved angels in the nave roof. Note also the chancel arch with a little nail head in the responds, which tells us that the church was built before 1300.

Horse riders can make almost the same circuit by continuing along the Sandye Lane track to the highway and then turning south through Upper Dean.

OS MAP ref to start: TL 058658




Hidden Britain

For full details of walks and rides throughout Bedfordshire, visit www.lets-go.org.uk

The Countryside Code

Leave farm gates closed unless they are secured open.

Control dogs at all times and make sure they are on the lead if near sheep, horses or cattle.

Always keep to the Rights of Way.

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.

Respect wildlife, plants and hedges.

Leave no litter.

Public Transport

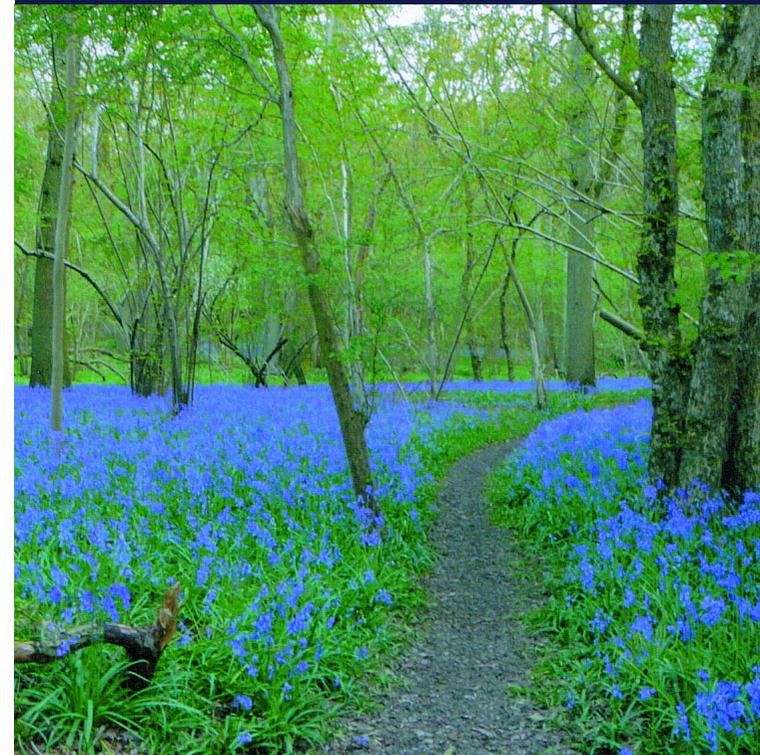
There are regular bus services from **Bedford and St. Neots on Bus No. 152.**

Bedford Bus enquiries: Tel: 01234 228337
Traveline Timetable Info: Tel: 08712 002233

Accommodation

There are a number of bed & breakfasts in the area. Please contact: Bedford Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 01234 215226.

Visit the wood to see the bluebells - between mid April and the first week of May. Each year the time varies according to the weather.



ANCIENT WALKS

UPPER DEAN to SWINESHEAD

in the North Bedfordshire Wolds

Ancient Ways

This is a 5 mile walk on ancient tracks and footpaths linking quiet villages. The walk has fine views and passes Swineshead Wood and Spanoak Wood both in the care of The Woodland Trust and open for the public to enjoy. You will find a fine show of bluebells in the season.

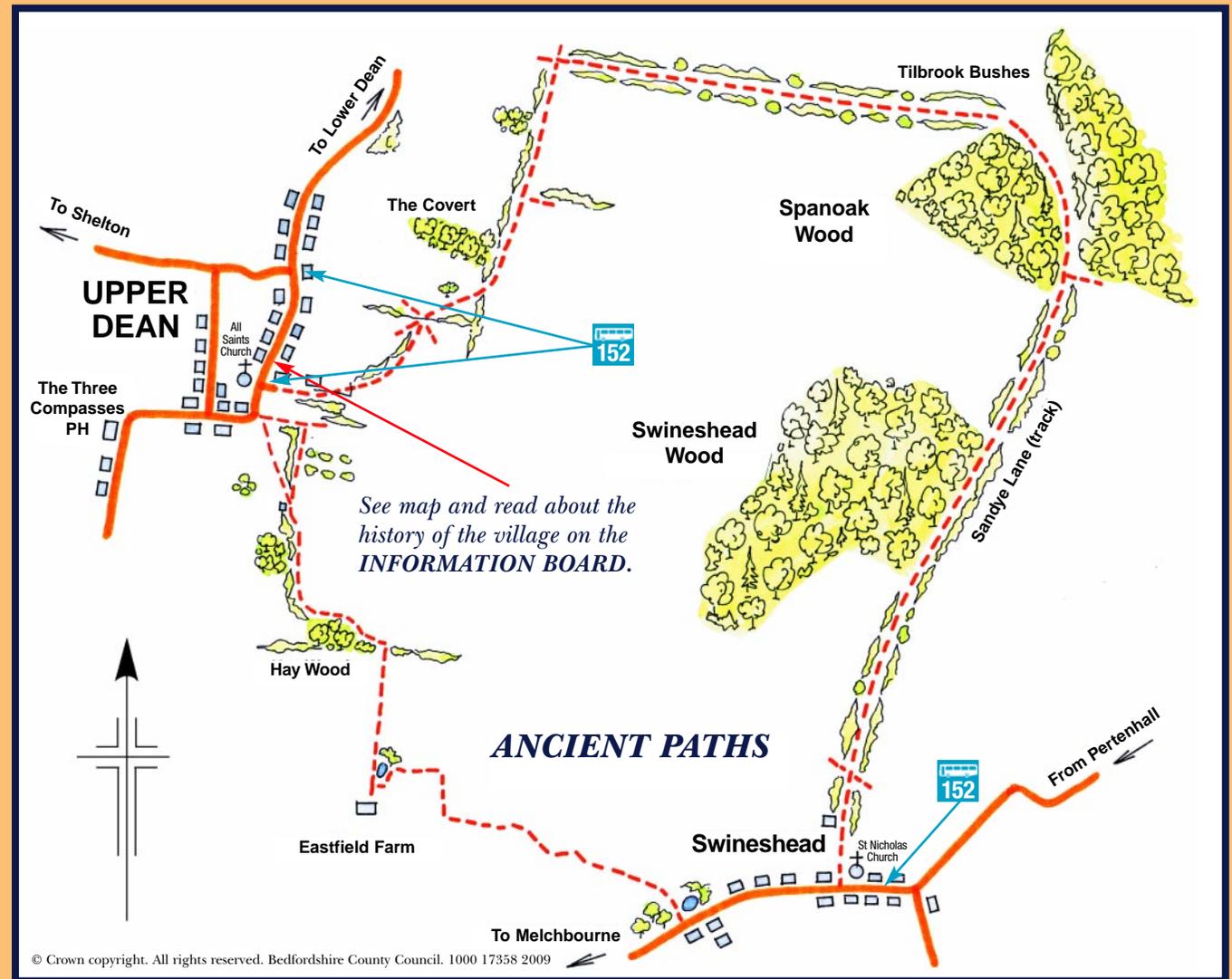
In the summer and autumn butterflies abound and you are likely to hear buzzards calling as they circle high overhead.

A visit to the 15th century church in Upper Dean set amid trees with two ancient tombs, an interesting brass, wooden angels in the roof and an old funeral bier. The nearest public house is the Three Compasses situated near a bend in the Melchbourne road at the south western edge of the village.

Park carefully near Upper Dean Church

A. With the church on the right walk south a short distance to a sharp right hand bend in the road. Cross the road carefully to a bridleway on the left side. A few metres along the bridleway turn right through a metal kissing gate and walk into a large pasture with a fence on the left hand side. At the end of the fence walk diagonally left passing a ring of trees on the right and before the corner of the field. Go through a kissing gate beside an old brick barn. *Alternatively continue on the bridleway that turns sharply right in about 150m and follow it through an avenue of trees down to the old brick barn.* Stay on the broad grassy field edge path as it curves first right then left passing a small spinney and Hay Wood the path now goes between bushes and trees.

B. The path emerges to a large open arable field with Easterfield Farm and a group of trees directly ahead. Head across the field towards the right side of the trees that enclose an old pond. Do not go through the gate ahead but circle left around the pond to a bridleway that reveals panoramic views and turns right and left as it winds down to join the Swineshead to Yelden Road, beside an attractive pond. Turn left along the road and walk carefully through Swineshead Village to reach Sandye Lane on the left beside the parish church. Make sure to visit the splendid example of an unspoilt Early English church, which if you are lucky, you may find open.



Whilst every endeavour has been made to ensure that the information on this leaflet is correct, no responsibility can be accepted for its accuracy.



Funded by the National Lottery through Awards for All

Public Transport Info: 0871 200 2233

Taxi Service St Neots: 01480 472990

Taxi Service Rushden: 01933 355055

Tourist Information:

01234 215226

We are indebted to the following organisations for their support.

