

opposite boundary, walk on to the right of a barn and turn left on a concrete track for a short distance then turn right at a way-mark post walking downhill to the corner of a wood. With the wood on the left side the bridleway gradually turns south along the edge of the woodland. Ignore other bridleways branching off to the left as the bridleway swings westwards towards another area of woodland. At this woodland edge turn right for about 100m then enter the trees and bear diagonally left following the bridleway through the wood ignoring any sidetracks.

**D.** Emerging from the wood a footpath on the right offers a short route back to Melchbourne. (See route details below). Otherwise go straight ahead for about 100metres towards Harings Farm and turn right on a bridleway to reach the Oakley Hunt Kennels and Knotting Road.

**E.** Turn left along Knotting road for about 250m then take the bridleway on the right. Ignore two branches off to the left and pass through a thin belt of woodland. Emerging from the tree belt take the farm track bridleway forking left downhill to Rifle Range Farm and Yelden Village. Do not miss the beautiful medieval church of St Mary.

#### **Alternative shorter walk at Melchbourne**

At Melchbourne Village go to point **C** on the main walk and follow the directions to point **D**. Emerging from the wood take the footpath on the right that follows the edge of the trees and then at a corner enters the wood. Maintain the same direction through the trees. Exit the wood and bear diagonally right to cross a small stream and join a bridleway. Turn right on the bridleway and left at a path junction by a pond. Enter Woodleys farmyard and bear diagonally right to a small gate and footpath leading into Hillands Plantation. Avoid sidetracks and keep ahead on a bridleway through the trees to return to the start of the walk.



For full details of walks and rides throughout Bedfordshire, visit [www.letsgo.org.uk](http://www.letsgo.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.

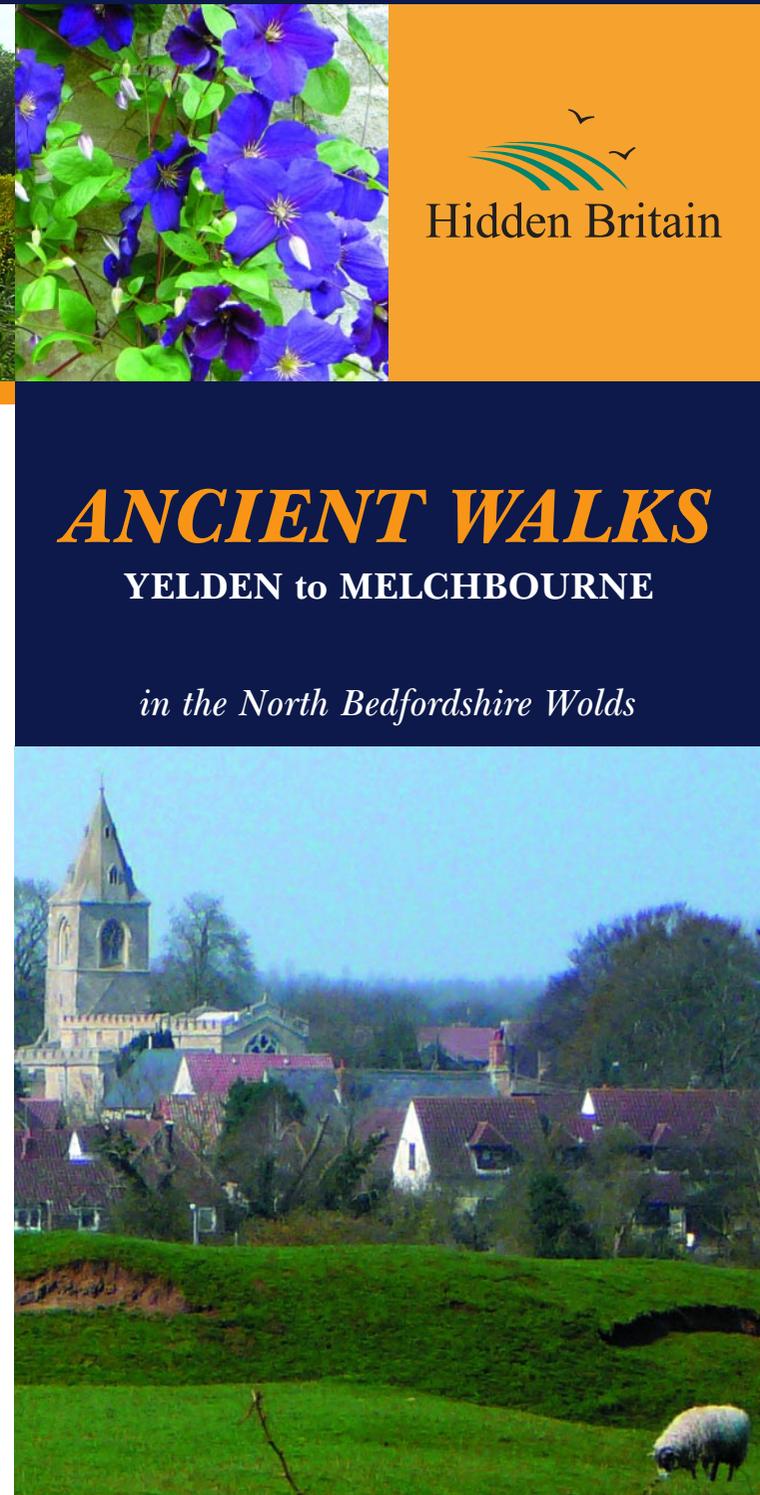
### **Public Transport**

There are regular bus services from **Bedford on Bus No. 125/126**.

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.



# **ANCIENT WALKS**

**YELDEN to MELCHBOURNE**

*in the North Bedfordshire Wolds*

## Tranquil Villages and Some History

This 6 ¾ mile walk is in the northwest corner of Bedfordshire taking in the quiet unspoiled villages of Yelden (Yielden, Yeldon) and Melchbourne. A shorter 4-mile option is a circuit of Melchbourne Park, woods and fields. Yelden (Giveldene in the Domesday Book) with its spectacular remains of a Norman motte and bailey castle is the ancestral seat of one of Bedfordshire's oldest families the Trailly's, originally from Trely in La Manche. In the first century AD Yelden is reputed to be the site of a battle between the Romans and the Iceni. In the second world war Glen Miller and his band entertained American servicemen at Melchbourne House and The Chequers Inn at Yelden was the off duty venue for USAF Bomb Group 305 from Chelveston Airfield.

### Pubs

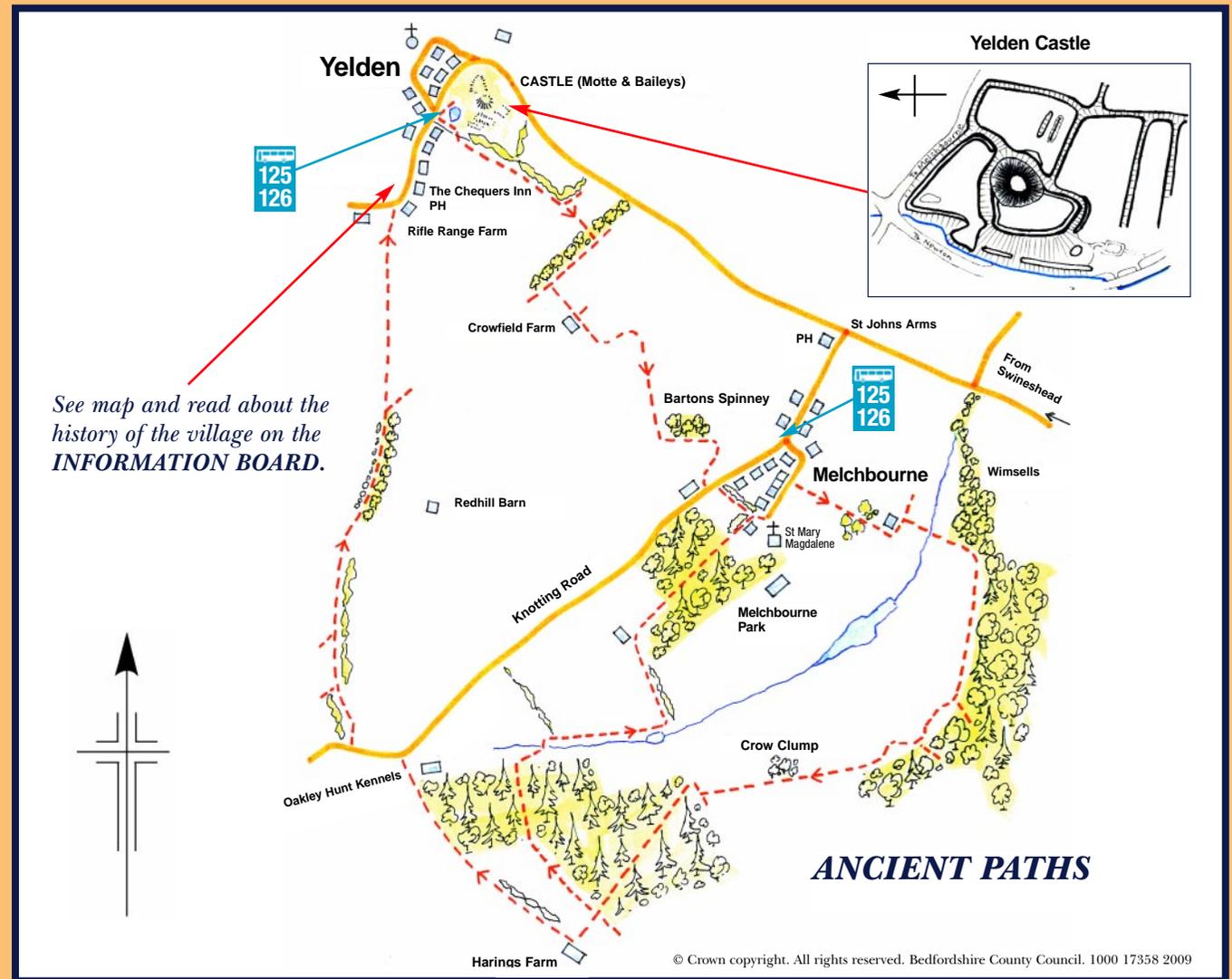
The Chequers in Yelden village and the St Johns Arms at the north end of Melchbourne are both walker friendly pubs.

### Start

**A.** From The Chequers PH (Map ref TL012668) Walk in a northern direction through the village to reach a footpath on the right beside a red post box. Go over the stile, turn left if you wish to visit the castle site but to continue the walk go forward through a gap between a pond and the corner of a garden then follow the way-marked footpath diagonally right to a stile in the field boundary. Turn left after the stile and follow the field edge path until the boundary hedge bends sharply left. At this point go forward, continuing in the same direction across the open field to reach Yelden Spinney and a bridleway on the far side of the belt of trees.

**B.** Turn right on the bridleway and in about 400 metres reach a footpath on the left that crosses the field to the buildings of Crowfield Farm. Here join a farm track that wends its way past Bartons Spinney to Knotting Road at redeveloped Inn Farm buildings. Cross the road to a footpath that brings you to Melchbourne Village near the church of St Mary Magdalene, an interesting mix of Medieval and Georgian architecture.

**C.** Turn left through the village and go through a bridleway gate on the right near a telephone box. Walk forward across the pasture to a hand gate in the



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.

