

TURVEY ITS FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS



WATER MEADOWS

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ITS FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

The Parish of Turvey occupies approximately 1642 hectares in the North West of the County of Bedfordshire, being bounded to the North by the parishes of Carlton and Chellington, to the East by Stevington and Stagsden, to the South by Astwood, Clifton Reynes and Hardmead, whilst the boundary to the West is formed by the River Gt. Ouse.

In a generally flat and uninteresting county, this parish presents a gently undulating and attractive landscape especially to the South. Here the rises in the land together with small woods, spinnies, ponds and parkland make it a delightful area with pleasing views over the surrounding countryside for those who enjoy walking or horseriding. The surrounding flora and fauna are also of general interest.

This attractive North West corner of the county is, like the rest of the area, intensively farmed - mainly arable but with some grazing pasture. At the same time, with more and more people seeking their leisure close at hand, there is a strong and genuine desire by local people to have the opportunity of walking or riding this very pleasant countryside.

Understandably many of the footpaths and rights of way which historically emerged as a means of getting people from one place to another, are nowadays inconvenient to farmers and in consequence tracking down existing rights of way and using them, is in many cases difficult for the walker and discouraged by the farmer, for whom it seems senseless that when he is trying to cultivate crops the recreational user should expect to keep open routes which historically may cut diagonally across his working area.

In the last 12 months a careful study has been undertaken of existing footpaths, bridleways and rights of way in the parish, to identify those which lend themselves to the developing of circular and linear routes which could be ideal for recreation and cause minimal trouble to farmers.

Informal discussions with landowners have been started to agree such routes and to work towards their way marking, at the same time discouraging use of those which are not necessary for recreation and which are inconvenient to the needs of farming.

