

Welcome to Buckden

This leaflet pinpoints some of the historic buildings and features of our beautiful and fascinating village.



Overleaf are photographs and brief descriptions of selected buildings. The numbers on the pictures correspond to numbers on the map and by following them in numerical order a circular walk is achieved.

Letters on the map refer to the following additional locations of interest:
A The Beehive, a beer house;
B Navigation Cottages;
C site of the Workhouse;
D 22/23 Mill Road, former alehouse;
E the old corn mills;
F Laundry Cottage;
G The Old Tap Inn;
H site of the Windmill Public House.

The area shown is roughly the extent of the village up until the middle of last century and includes most of the roads then in existence.

Further information can be obtained from the following publications: Buckden: A Huntingdonshire Village ISBN 978 0946965618 Buckden Towers, by Mary M. Sweeney BA

For other walks around the village pick up ‘The Buckden & Diddington Public Rights of Way Map’ and a ‘Round-About-Buckden: A Village Walk’ from public places around the village.



Buckden—A Brief History

Buckden has been a settlement since at least Roman times but it is only in the mediaeval period that the present road pattern of the High Street, Church Street. and Mill Road emerged. The earliest extant buildings are of Tudor and Stuart origin but it was in Georgian and Victorian times that the village became recognisable as it is today.



Historically there have been different spellings of the village’s name ie ‘Bugden’. The name derived from the Old English female name ‘Bucge’, presumably a tribal leader, and ‘Dene’ a valley.

Buckden is mentioned in the Domesday Book. In 1086 the Lord of the Manor was the Bishop of Lincoln whose palace was ‘The Towers’.

In Tudor times the village played a part in the turbulent life of Henry VIII who sent his divorced wife Katherine of Aragon to stay in The Towers.



The Georgian age brought considerable trade and prosperity to Buckden. This is evidenced by the number of inns along the High Street, which was the Great North Road until the dual carriageway that divides the village was built in 1962.

Historic Buckden

An introductory walk



The Towers



The Domesday book refers to the manor of Buckden being held in demesne, suggesting it was the residence of a bishop. Buckden Palace came under the diocese of Lincoln with its most notable bishop being St Hugh, who held the office from 1186 until his death in 1200. What remains of the old moated Palace are buildings mainly commissioned by Bishops Rotherham and Russell in the 15thC. The location was convenient as many of the Bishops were involved in affairs of state and Buckden is midway between Lincoln and London. The remains of the old Palace include the Great Tower, Inner Gatehouse, part of the battlement wall and the Outer Gate and wall. From 1533 to 1534 the Palace was home to Katherine of Aragon on the annulment of her marriage to Henry VIII; the parts she stayed in were demolished in 1838. When the palace was sold to the Marshall family in 1870 it was the 2nd time it had passed in to lay hands. The family commissioned the building of the villa in 1872 by the architect Colonel Sir Robert Edis. They changed the name from Buckden Palace to Buckden Towers. The site returned to the Catholic Church as a gift from Alice Edleston in 1952. Since 1956 it has been the home of The Claretian Missionaries who built the Church of St Hughs in 1959. Further improvements include the Lime Walk and Queen Katherine’s Knot Garden



A more detailed guide is available in The Towers and tours can be booked, <http://www.fobt.org.uk/>

Captain Green VC was born in Buckden. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a doctor in the first World War, and was attached to the Sherwood Foresters. He was killed on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and was awarded the VC for his valiant actions on that day. On 1st July 2016, a memorial paving stone was unveiled in St Mary’s churchyard in front of the Buckden War Memorial.



This period are the south doorway (the main entrance to the Church) and the chancel walls. Bishop Gray instigated a significant rebuild between 1432 and 1440. The north aisle was added about 20 years later and the south porch in 1480, thus completing the building as seen today. The axis of the building is off-centre probably owing to the builder’s concern about the north aisle collapsing in to the moat present at the time. Repairs to the roof took place in 1649 and 1665 with large buttresses added on the north side in 18thC. The Church was restored in 1940, 1860 and 1884 when the present vestry and organ chamber were built. In 1909 the seating was renewed and the font moved to the south aisle.



St Mary’s Church

The Church was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but nothing remains from that period. Bishop de Wells rebuilt the Saxon church circa 1230. The remaining features from



A more detailed guide is available in the Church.

1 Lion Hotel
Dating from 1492 as a guest house for Bishop of Lincoln's Palace. Originally called Lion and Lamb; a ceiling boss has a carved lamb and Latin inscription. Note the closed arch-way for horses. Include a brew house in 19thC.



2 Lion Hotel Kitchen
Once a butcher's shop. Then a Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built on in the 19thC. Note the half-height window labelled 'Gospel Hall'.



3 5, 7 & 9 Church Street
17thC timber framed farmhouse converted into 3 dwell-ings in 19thC. The extension with bays was a shop front, selling sweets up until the 1950's.



4 Old Vicarage
Originally made of timber, this double-bayed Georgian building was built in 1795 for Rev George Maltby. Ceased to be a vicarage in 1980 after 300 years.



5 Manor House
Late 15thC and possibly a guild hall. In early 17thC it was converted into the kitchen wing of the Manor House and the timber framed and brick barn was added to the East.



6 Bridge House
A mediaeval (1458) timber framed hall. Cross wing to west was added in 17thC. The infill panels are wattle and daub. It takes its name from the bridge over the waterway from Buckden Towers.



7 57 Church Street
Opened as village reading and recreation room in 1891. Became a shop in 1920 and was run by the Pipe family from 1945 to 1993.



8 Hunts End Green
Once the site of a pond, village stocks and a cage acting as a temporary jail. The largest tree was planted to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII.



9 15 Hunts End
Once a public house called The Black Horse and at some time a butcher's shop.



12 Low Farm
Early 19thC farmhouse. The brickwork is yellow gault with some early red brickwork. It originally included a 18thC dovecote.



13 18-20 Mill Road
The steeply sloping roof indicates that it would at one time have been thatched. This 18thC house was one of the many ale houses in the village.



16 Headmaster's House
Bequeathed by Lord Bishop of Lincoln in 1778 for education of 30 boys. The present School opened in 1871, before compulsory schooling began in 1880.



17 Hinsby's Corner
Formerly a tobacconist's shop. Part of brick built terrace after thatched cottages burnt down in 1909. It was 1 Silver St. but is now 42 Church St. when the front door moved round the corner.



20 Methodist Chapel
Chapel and hall were completed in 1876. They replaced the gospel hall described under item 2.



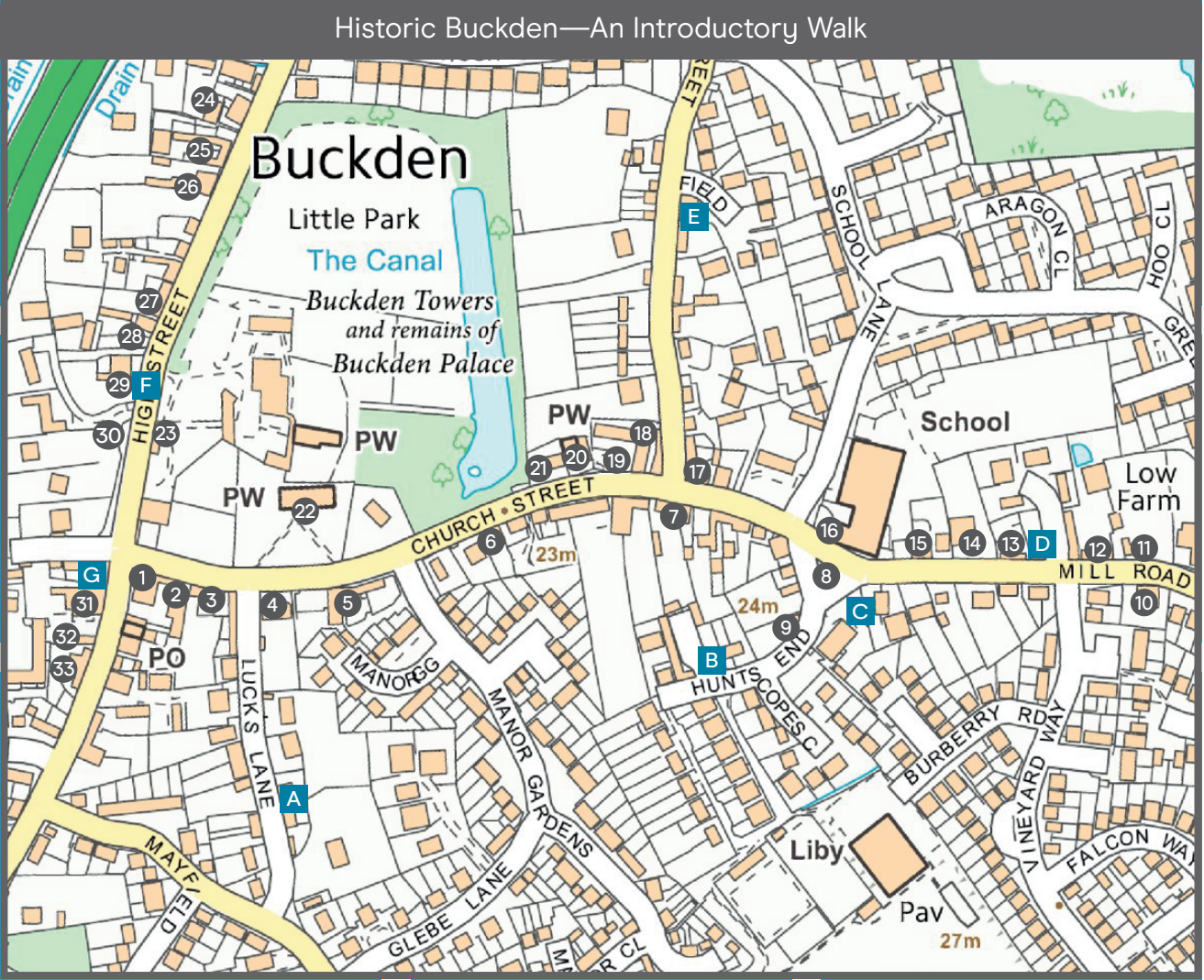
21 South's Almshouses
Provided under the will of Capt James South in 1814 as almshouses 'for 4 of the oldest poor women and 4 of the oldest men born in the Parish of Buckden'.



27 63 High Street
Early 18thC cottages. Various uses: private school, shops, café for truckers on the Great North Road. Has hipped dormer windows and a six panelled door.



28 York House
Built in 1785, it once was home for the Mayor of Hackney in the early 20thC.



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22 St Mary's Church
Village's parish church dating from 13thC. See overleaf for greater detail.



23 The Towers
Former Palace of the Bishop of Lincoln and now the home of the Claretian Missionaries. See overleaf for greater detail.



24 Baptist Chapel
The joint Baptist/Congregational chapel ceased to be a place of worship in the late 20thC.



25 Spread Eagle
Present building represents what survived a fire in 1803. It was a coaching inn on the original Great North Road. The archway links to a 17thC timber framed and plastered cross wing. Ceased to be a pub in 2003.



26 Jessamine House
Originally 2 early 1700 cottages. As owners became prosperous as farmers, millers, maltsters the building was expanded. The Bowyers family moved to Taylor's Lane and replicated the name.



29 Conegarth
17thC timber framed and plastered house with later additions. Occupied by the Green family from late 18thC; see the Green memorial under item 30.



30 Green Memorial
Erected in 1923 by John Green in memory of villagers and his two sons killed in WW1. Captain John Green RAMC was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on the first day of the Somme in 1916.



31 George Hotel
Recorded as inn in 1662, current building dates from 1722. It transitioned from coaching inn to serve the early motorists; by 1925 three garages were added with accommodation for chauffeurs. The North facing gallery has a wooden shutter reputedly used by Dick Turpin.



32 Goosing Shed
Floor would have been covered with sand and tar to coat feet of geese to protect them on their walk to London's goose fairs. The building was part of the smithy.



33 Vine Public House
Dates from 18thC when its southern end was a stable with hay loft. The divide is still visible, the inn being of rendered brick and the stable painted. On the site in 1613 an inn called 'Le Hyné' was recorded as 'very old and ruinous'.

