

## Points of Interest (POI)

A. Obelisk. George Montagu-Dunk, 2nd Earl of Halifax, (1716-1771) was a British statesman of the Georgian era. He helped to found Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, which was named after him, and he helped foster trade, especially with North America. The obelisk was erected late C18 or early C19 by George Osborn, 4th Baronet of Chicksands. The connection is that Montagu-Dunk was the brother-in-law of Danvers Osborn, 3rd Baronet of Chicksands.

B. The boundary between the parishes of Clophill and Chicksands crosses your path through the wood just before a cross road. It is marked by an ancient bank and ditch.

C. Old St Mary's is a 14<sup>th</sup> century church built in the perpendicular Gothic style. (See photo taken early in 20<sup>th</sup> century.) An unusual feature is the two large windows in the north and south walls of the nave. It was in very good condition until the lead from the roof was stolen in 1956. Since then its decline has been rapid.



## General Information

You will walk across surface types ranging from hard surfaces to field footpaths through undulating countryside which is mostly level. The public footpath from the parish boundary to point 7 (see map) can be muddy in wet weather.

### Facilities in Clophill

**Post Office, Stores and Café.** The Green.  
01525 860 988

**The Green Man.** The Green. Italian restaurant.  
01525 860352

**The Flying Horse.** The Green. Country pub and dining. 01525 860 293

**The Stone Jug.** Back Street. Traditional village pub with food. 01525 860352

There are no public toilets in the village.

### How to get to Clophill

The village is situated near the intersection of the A6 between Bedford and Luton and the A507 between Ampthill and Shefford. There are half-hourly buses from Bedford and Luton and a less frequent service from Biggleswade and Ampthill.

Postcode for Sat Nav – MK45 4AD

## CLOPHILL DISCOVERY WALKS

### Walk 1

**Clophill to Appley Corner and back through Chicksands Wood.**

**6.5 miles  
(Shortened version 3.3 miles)**

***One of a series of circular walks starting at The Green, Clophill.***

This walk takes you NE from the village of Clophill onto the Greensand Ridge then returns through Chicksands Wood and past the Old Church. The shortened version misses out Chicksands wood.

All the walks in the series:-

1. Clophill to Appley Corner and back through Chicksands Wood.
2. Clophill to Wardhedges (with optional pub stop) then Silsoe and back.
3. Clophill to Maulden and back through Maulden Wood.
4. Clophill to Haynes (with optional pub stop) and back.
5. Clophill to Historic Cainhoe Castle and back.
6. Public Footpaths around the Village of Clophill.

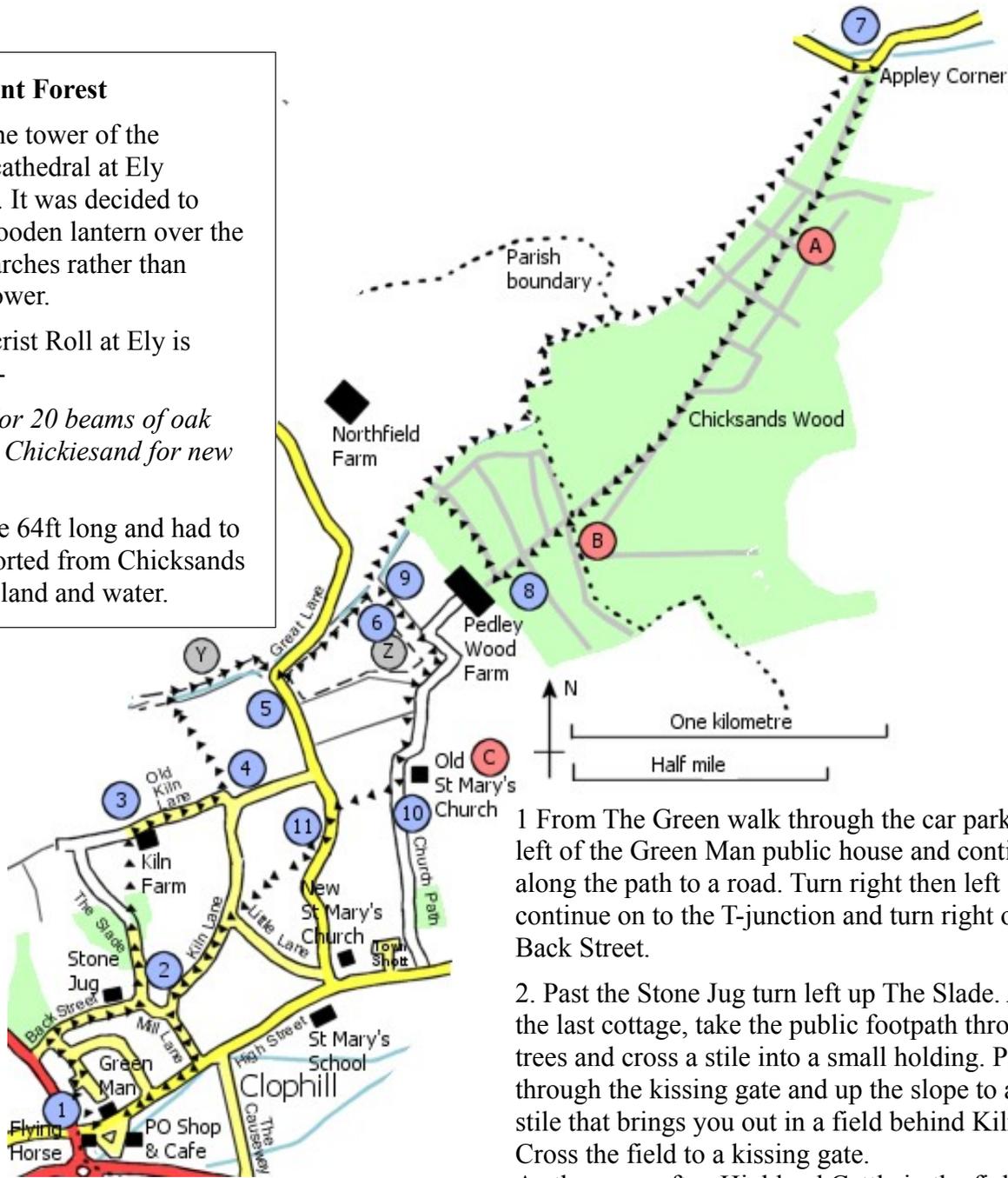
## An Ancient Forest

In 1322 the tower of the Norman cathedral at Ely collapsed. It was decided to build a wooden lantern over the repaired arches rather than another tower.

In the Sacrist Roll at Ely is recorded:-

*Timber. For 20 beams of oak bought at Chickiesand for new work £9.*

They were 64ft long and had to be transported from Chicksands to Ely by land and water.



1 From The Green walk through the car park to the left of the Green Man public house and continue along the path to a road. Turn right then left and continue on to the T-junction and turn right onto Back Street.

2. Past the Stone Jug turn left up The Slade. After the last cottage, take the public footpath through the trees and cross a stile into a small holding. Pass through the kissing gate and up the slope to another stile that brings you out in a field behind Kiln Farm. Cross the field to a kissing gate. As there are often Highland Cattle in the field, dog owners may prefer to follow the the rough track at the end of the Slade to Kiln Farm.

3. Turn right along the farm track and continue along Old Kiln Lane for 360 yards then take the public bridleway on the left after the last house.

4. Cross the arable field and pass through a gap in the hedge. Turn right and follow the farm track (Permissive Access) until you come to Great Lane.

5. Cross the road into the field and walk along the left hand side of the field with the hedge on your left (Permissive Access) until you come to a bridge in the corner of the field. (If you are taking the shorter walk, turn right before the bridge and continue from instruction 9.)

6. Cross the bridge and turn right. Follow the Greensand Ridge Walk to Appley Corner keeping Chicksands Wood on your right.

7. At Appley Corner turn right and enter Chicksands Wood. (POI A) Follow the gravel road (permissive path) through the wood for 1¼ miles, taking the right fork at a yellow Permissive Footpath post near some WW2 structures. ( POI B.)

8. At the yellow Permissive Footpath post before Pedley Wood Farm turn right and go down the hill and out of the wood. Turn left, follow the track for ¼ mile and take a left turn back over the footbridge.

9. Continue up the hill following the boundary of the field until you reach a kissing gate. Go through this gate and two more and and you will emerge on the farm road behind the Old Church.

10. After visiting the ruins of the church (POI C) take the public footpath opposite the church entrance to Great Lane. At the end of the path turn left and walk along the lane for 180 yards until you see a public footpath sign on the right by an orchard.

11. Follow this path until you come to the junction of Kiln lane and Little lane. You can return to The Green via Kiln Lane, Mill Lane and the High Street.