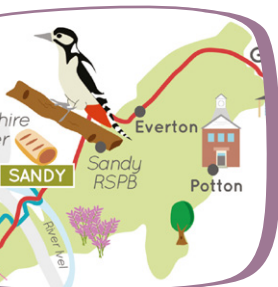


# Greensand Villages

Greensand Country is home to numerous picturesque and historic villages.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 shows that many existed by the late 11th Century.

Most of the villages would have had a stone church and Manor House. Many of these buildings exist in some form today as local landmarks. With many of the villages sitting along the Greensand Ridge Walk or Cycleway, they are ideal destinations for exploring Greensand Country.



## Everton

Everton is a small rural village, with attractive thatched cottages from the 18th century, surrounded by sandy farmlands. The Greensand Ridge Walk passes through the village, which includes a pub and the local St Mary's Church. The Grade I listed church mostly dates back to the 12th century with some 14th and 15th century additions.



## Great Brickhill

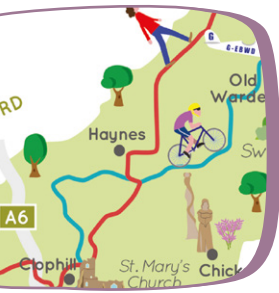
The Great Brickhill Parish contains a large number of sandstone structures, which contribute strongly to the character of the area. The village of Great Brickhill has a long history, first documented in the Domesday Book as Brichelle. During the English Civil War it was home to the Parliamentarian, the Earl of Essex, and his army. Evidence of their stay is visible in the village today with 'Cromwell Cottages' on Ivy Road.



Cromwells Cottage Great Brickhill



# Greensand Villages



## Haynes

Haynes sits in an elevated landscape of estate farmland character. It is an ideal stopping point along the Greensand Ridge Walk due its pub, shop and post office. The village hall is also a hive of activity with events and regular groups keeping the community entertained.



## Heath and Reach

Heath and Reach has a great offering for visitors. Rushmere Country Park is a major visitor attraction based locally. The village is also home to several listed buildings including the Grade II\* Heath Manor. King's Wood, a National Nature Reserve and the largest remaining ancient woodland in Bedfordshire, is also well worth a visit. Explore the area on foot using convenient footpaths and bridleways around the sand quarries. With three pubs offering food and accommodation it is the ideal location for discovering Greensand Country.



## Ickwell

The quaint village of Ickwell, with a number of thatched cottages, is centred around the village green. The green itself is home to the village's famous permanent Maypole, installed by John Harvey to celebrate his son's birthday in 1872. The Ickwell May Day Festival on the 1st May remains a popular event. Ickwell Bury, a 140 acre estate including walled gardens, landscaped park and lake, is the former Manor of Ickwell.



Ickwell



## Little Brickhill



The distinctive village of Little Brickwell is located along the Roman Road, Watling Street (now the A5). It was a convenient stop for those travelling to and from London. It became a popular staging post for mail and passenger stagecoaches, with more than 30 coaches passing through daily. Look out for the Clockhouse, which once housed a stable, coach shed, hotel and office. You will also be able to see the grooves that were worn into the courtyard's cobbles by the wheels of the many coaches.



## Maulden

Maulden Village, although small, has an active congregation at the local Church, St. Mary the Virgin, with weekly church services and a variety of events. The village also boasts a number of local pubs, offering good food and drink, events and live music. Maulden's location along the Greensand Ridge Walk and its social activities make it well worth a visit.



## Ridgmont

The name Ridgmont is derived from the Norman French word 'Rouge-mont', meaning red hill. In fact the soil here is a very deep reddish brown colour. The underlying geology attracted an important industry to the village during the 20th century, with a brick works first appearing in Ridgmont in 1935. By the late 1970s the brickworks was said to be the second largest in the world. The railways have also had an impact on the industry in the village, with the Ridgmont Railway Station located next to the brickworks, now the site of an Amazon warehouse served by the station. The former Grade II listed station house, which was built in 1846, has been converted into a tourist destination, with a tearoom, gift shop and the booking office now a heritage centre. For those wishing to be more active, there are various linear and circular walks starting at the heritage centre.



Ridgmont by Rob Farrow

# Greensand Villages

## People Say:

"I enjoy time with my family at the Red Lion in Great Brickhill."

"I like walking around the area between Potton and Everton and Sandy quarry."

"I enjoy running and walking from Ickwell green using the bridleway and footpaths around Shuttleworth to Southill Old Warden."

"Today we are visiting the Ickwell fete in a lovely green. On a sunny day we sit and have lunch until they do Maypole dancing."

"We enjoy the view at Haynes, looking over the Haynes Park."

"Our favourite walks are followed by lunch in Maulden."

"Looking back from Boughton End towards Ridgmont is my favourite view."

"I regularly walk in King's Wood near Maulden."

## Action Points:



Visit the villages locally and discover walking routes, places to eat and places to shop.



Find out the details of services at the local churches.



Obtain menus for local pubs or restaurants.



Provide information for parking locally in villages.