

TOURIST'S GUIDE TO BEDFORDSHIRE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649495719

Tourist's Guide to Bedfordshire by A. J. Foster

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. J. FOSTER

TOURIST'S GUIDE TO BEDFORDSHIRE

PRINTED BY EDWARD STANFORD,
25 & 27 COCKSPUR STREET, CHANCING CROSS, LONDON, S.W.

©

TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BEDFORDSHIRE.

BY
Albert Foster
A. J. FOSTER, M.A.
VICAR OF WOOTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

WITH MAP.

LONDON: EDWARD STANFORD,
26 & 27 COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.
1889.

~~8443.01~~
Dr 3758.1



Hayes fund.

PREFACE.

THE county of Bedford, which is the smallest in England, with the exceptions of Huntingdonshire, Rutlandshire, and Middlesex, possesses many features of interest, especially in its natural formation, for within its small compass we find at least three distinct systems of geological formation and natural scenery. Moreover, its accessibility from London and its central position in the country make it at least partially known to many travellers by railway. To the antiquarian it is interesting from the number and locality of its ancient earthworks, both British and Roman, while of more recent remains there are those of many monastic houses, and its parish churches, from the diversity of styles, found often in a single example, are well worthy of study by the ecclesiologist. Those interested in manufactures will here find two important centres of straw-plaiting and hand-lace making. The sportsman will find three packs of fox-hounds: the Oakley, the Cambridgeshire, and the Hertfordshire, with fixtures in the county throughout the season, and there are also some packs of harriers. Good partridge and cover

shooting is to be had in many parts. The Ouse and Ivel are both good streams for the coarser kinds of freshwater fish, and there are trout in the upper part of the latter river, on the Hertfordshire border. There are several important gentlemen's seats, such as Woburn, Wrest, Southill, and Haynes, some of which contain good collections of pictures and antiquities. The central portion of the county is extremely picturesque, and in the south are healthy, wide-spreading chalk downs.

The scheme of this guide is to take the lines of railway in the county as routes, and to group the various objects of interest round the different stations as centres. The only exception is the route through the north-east of the county, where no railway exists at present.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
ROUTES.	
I. LUTON TO LEICESTER, THROUGH BEDFORD. <i>Midland Railway</i>	11
II. ARLSEY TO ST. NEOTS. <i>Great Northern</i>	49
III. WOBURN SANDS TO POTTON, THROUGH BEDFORD. <i>L. & N.W. R.</i>	58
IV. BEDFORD TO HITCHIN. <i>Midland Railway</i>	70
V. BEDFORD TO TURVEY. <i>Midland Railway</i>	79
VI. LUTON TO LEIGHTON, THROUGH DUNSTABLE. <i>Great Northern and L. & N.W. R.</i>	82
VII. BEDFORD TO KIMBOLTON. <i>Road.</i>	92

TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BEDFORDSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

TOPOGRAPHY.

BEDFORDSHIRE is 86½ m. long from N. to S. at its greatest length, and 22½ m. broad at its greatest breadth. The county town of Bedford is situated on the Ouse, nearly in the centre of the county. Its distance from London by rail is 47½ m. The population of the county in 1881 was 149,478. The area is 294,988 acres, and it was divided into the hundreds of Stodden, Willey, and Barford in the N.; Biggleswade and Clifton in the E.; Wixantree in the centre; Redbournestoke in the W.; and Manhead and Flitt in the S. Its present divisions are 7 police divisions, 2 county-court circuits, and 6 poor-law unions. The number of parishes is 186, all contained in the Archdeaconry of Bedford.

Geological Features, Climate, and Soil.

The geological formations represented in the county of Bedford are, in descending order, *Lower Chalk* and *Chalk Marl*, *Upper Greensand*, *Gault*, *Lower Greensand*, *Oxford Clay*, *Cornbrash*, and *Great Oolite*. These form more or less regular belts, stretching across the county in an E.N.E. and W.S.W. direction, with a gentle dip towards the S.E. The ridge of *Lower Chalk*, which occupies the S.E. part of the county, forms the northerly