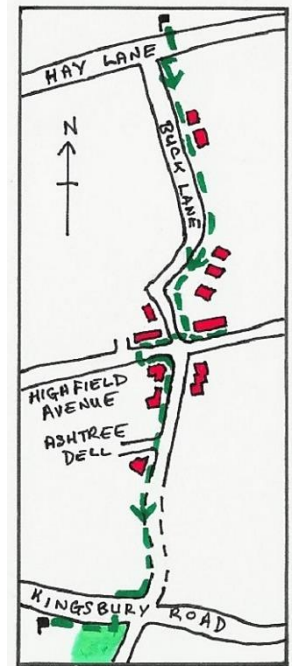


Trobridge Walk No. 2 - Cottages to Castles:

This walk includes some steep hills, and starts with a short bus journey. Turn left out of Kingsbury Library, and along the footpath to the Valley Drive bus stop. Take the 204 or 324 bus (towards Colindale) to the Buck Lane stop, at the summit of Hay Lane.

Carefully cross Hay Lane, turn right, and then left into Buck Lane, where the road starts to climb. The Summit Estate was developed by H.J. Aldous in the 1920's, on fields to the left, and Ernest Trobridge started designing homes for private clients here around 1925.

After a short walk, No. 1 is a cottage he designed, in brick with a tiled roof, which has one of his distinctive chimneys. Nos. 3 & 5, though, are a remarkable pair of cottages, developing his timber and thatch ideas, but with tile-hung walls. Stop to enjoy the leaded-light windows, with thatch curving over them! It is no wonder these semi-detached examples of Trobridge's work are Grade II listed buildings, in sharp contrast with the typical inter-war "semis" opposite.

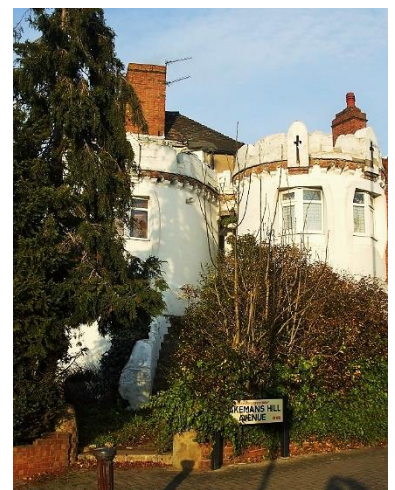


< 3 & 5 Buck Lane.

Continuing up the hill, Nos. 15 to 23 are modern homes with Trobridge-style timber and tile details (a nod to Buck Lane's Conservation Area status), before you come to "Windy Ridge" (No. 37). Though built with brick and tile, it has the semi-bungalow design of Trobridge's first thatched cottages, and his typical windows and chimneys. Next come Nos. 43 & 45, two of his late 1920's, and largest, thatched timber homes (both with more recent extensions). The dark timber and white render details are also regular features of his designs.

Turn round, and look across the road. The white painted Upminster House was one of Trobridge's first blocks of flats for the Kingsbury Cross Co-Partnership, built around 1930, but look at its brick details. The turret up the front of the building, and the smaller ones (dustbin stores!) either side of the front gate, look like little castles.

As you continue left, round the corner into Wakeman's Hill Avenue, Trobridge's appropriately named Whitecastle Mansions (c.1935) has two large castle towers, with battlements and inset crosses, guarding the entrance to the flats at this end of a block of 9 homes. As you walk along to the end of the block, note the small black hatch in a wall, with steps going up to it. This is where the coalman would have emptied his sacks, into a coal cupboard next to your living room fireplace, another of Trobridge's clever practical ideas.



Whitecastle Mansions >

Turn round, and look across the road before walking back to the Buck Lane crossroads. The 15 flats of Rochester Court (c.1936-37), in two blocks linked by bridges and stairways, have walls faced with stone, similar to the castle they are named after. Cross over Buck Lane, and ahead of you is a remarkable chimney with spiral brickwork (and another coal hatch!). It is no surprise that this Trobridge block of 8 maisonettes is called Tudor Gates (c.1934-35).

Walk past the front of this block, looking at other features of Trobridge's design, then carefully cross Highfield Avenue, turning left towards Buck Lane again. The brick walls of the building



on your right soon change to the white render of the iconic Trobridge castle, Highfort Court (c.1935-36). Here battlements, with the crosses reflecting his New Church beliefs, hide dustbin stores and chimneys. Through the archway to the upper two flats, further steps lead to roof gardens, complete with cupboards for your deck chairs!

< Highfort Court.

Turn right at the corner, to begin your descent of Buck Lane. Soon you come to another block of flats, Stonegate Court (c.1935-36). Residents here also have the protection of a Trobridge castle gateway. His original plans for the building describe the two small flats at the top as "maid's bed-sitting rooms".

Carry on down the hill to Ashtree Dell, around 60 Trobridge-designed maisonettes built by the Kingsbury Cross Co-Partnership from 1931 onwards. Ahead of you, on the corner, is "The Triangle" (c.1933), a block of 7 flats. As you look up, you will see that a plain wall is suddenly topped by an intricate brick design, including a turret, crosses and battlements. This is the last of the Trobridge "castles" on this walk.

Continue down Buck Lane, passing Oak Tree Dell, begun in 1930 as the first development of maisonettes aimed at the lower end of the market, but still with some interesting Trobridge details.

When you reach Kingsbury Road you have a choice. Either cross at the lights to Kingsbury Green, then go right to the Pipers Green bus stop for the 183 bus back to Kingsbury. Or you can stay on the same side, turning right for a 15 minute walk back to the Library, alongside Roe Green Park.

"Hayland" and "Midcot", from corner of the park >

After crossing the Roe Green junction at the lights, stop at the corner of the park. On the opposite corner you will see "Hayland", where Ernest Trobridge lived from 1921 until his death in 1942. Together with its 1928 extension, comprising "Midcot" and "The Den", this provides another beautiful example of his thatched timber cottages, to round off your walk.

