

# Points of interest

## (A) Abbey Green Park

The Park was created after the land was open cast coal mined in the 1950's and early 1960's. Further information about the Park can be found on a board on the bowling green side of the pavilion.

## (B) River Anker Footbridge

The footbridge was constructed in the 1950's, and replaced an old wooden bridge which originally lead to a corn mill run by the nuns of St Editha's Priory. The road bridge to the left was originally built in 1776

## (C) Abbey Church of St Editha's

The church is all that remains of the Norman St Editha's Abbey. The original abbey was dismantled and the stone used to build Polesworth Hall. This was also demolished in the 19th Century, with some stone used to build the current vicarage.

## (D) Abbey Gateway

This late 14th Century gatehouse has a stone ground floor, a timber framed first floor and late 14th Century roof. The timber framed cottage adjacent to the arch is early 16th Century, and the row of black and white cottages has 17th Century framing.

## (E) Nethersole Centre

This imposing building was erected in 1818 and was a school until 1973. The original school on this site was founded in 1638 by Sir Francis Nethersole and was run by nuns. A charitable trust set up by Sir Francis to fund the education of boys and girls still exists today.

## (F) Bramcote Hall

This early 19th Century building was constructed around an original house built for Sir William Burdett, secretary to Elizabeth I.



The Banded Demoiselle (right) is frequently found flying along the River Anker during the summer months. It is metallic ultramarine in colour with a dark patch on the wing ends and is a good indicator of clean water.

## (G) Shuttington

The village was first mentioned in the Domesday Survey. The churchyard contains the grave of an 18th Century record breaker, Thomas Spooner who was once the heaviest man in England, weighing 40 stone 9lbs (approximately 260 kg).

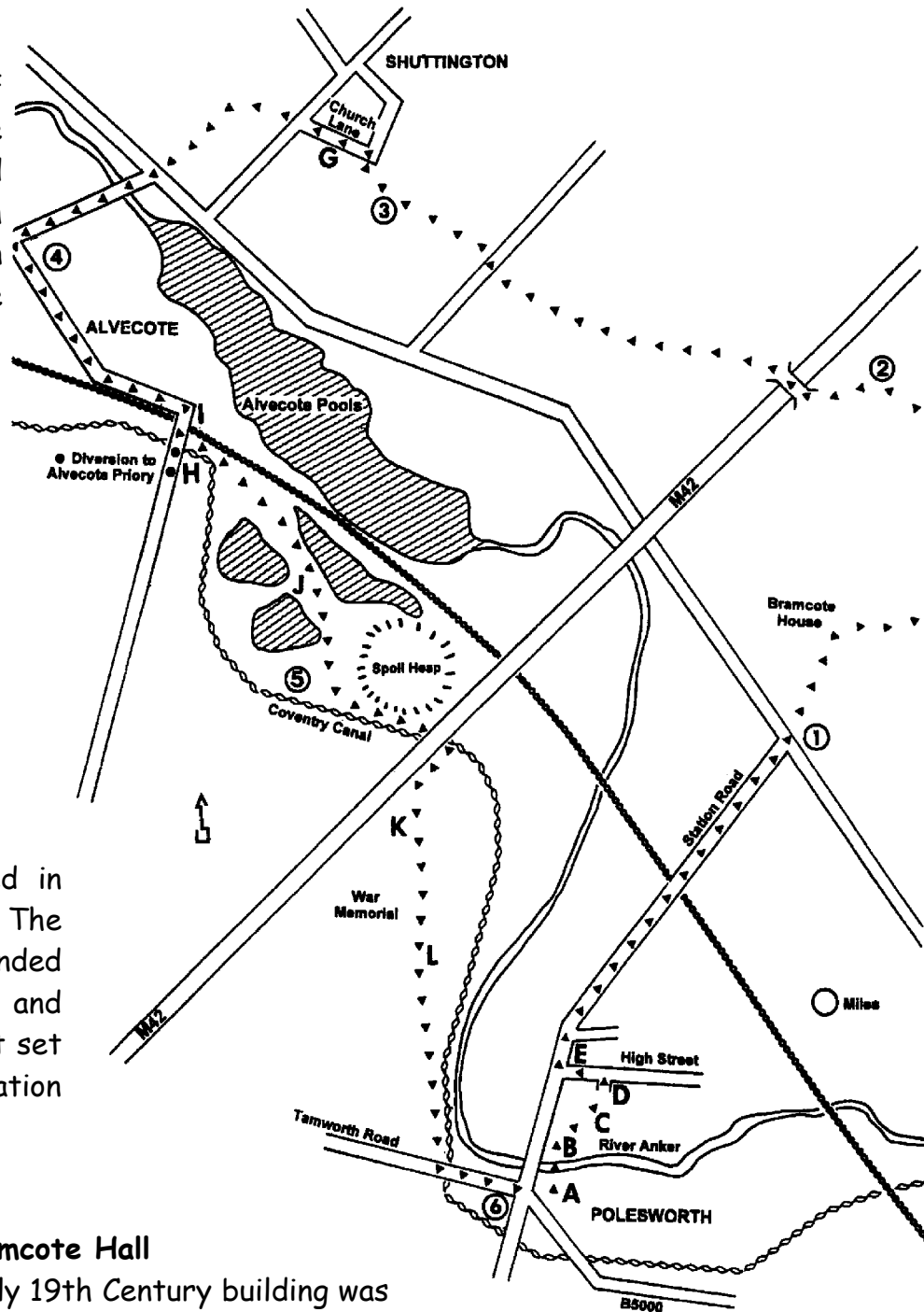
## (H) Alvecote Priory and Dovecote

The original Priory was built in 1159. What remains today dates from the 14th Century, including a fine moulded doorway. The Dovecote is of a similar age, and would have been a source of meat for the monks.

## (I) Coventry Canal and Railway

The canal was opened in 1790, 22 years after work commenced. It was constructed to carry horse-drawn narrow-boats of up to 72ft in length which were mainly used for taking coal to London. The railway was opened in 1847, only 2 years after Sir Robert Peel cut the first turf.

Steam was used until 1966. The line was electrified in 1970, and is the main line from London to the north-west and Glasgow.



The Fly Agaric can be found under the Silver Birch trees around the spoil heaps from Pooley Hall Colliery. It has a red/orange cap with white spots and is highly poisonous

## (J) Alvecote Pools

Extensive coal mining in the area during World War Two has caused subsidence resulting in the large lakes visible on this walk.

The whole area is a nature reserve. Many of the lakes are said to hold 'monster' fish. They are also important for birdlife.

Look out for Herons along the banks of the River Anker and at Alvecote Pools



## (K) Pooley Hall Colliery:

These buildings, now used as factory units, formed the main part of Pooley Hall Colliery. The first pit was sunk in 1848. It was the first colliery to be provided with miner's baths! The colliery closed in 1965.

## (L) Pooley Hall:

The present building dates back to 1506, and was built by Sir Thomas Cockayne the Magnificent on the site of a Saxon hall. It is the only pre-1550 brick building in North Warwickshire.