

Water Orton Village Trail

1 Railway Station

The railway came to Water Orton in 1842 and brought many visitors and new residents to the village. During the steam era many jobs were created with the building of a large railway sidings to the west of the village. Between 1851 and 1951 the population rose from 190 to 1,840.

2 Vesey Bridge

It is reputed that the bridge was built in the reign of Henry VIII from the stone of the Manor House, Sutton Coldfield. Set in the side of the bridge was a stone panel depicting St. Gabriel, which originally came from the Chapel of St. Blaise, Sutton Coldfield. This panel was removed to Curdworth Church for preservation.

3 Old Church Road

This part of the village is known as the "Tun" of Overton, the earliest known name of Water Orton. Old Church Road is the highest and driest point of the local terrain.

4 Wakefield House

This is one of the original farmhouses that were found scattered around the village. Not as old as The Chestnuts (6), but parts of the building date back to the 1500's.

5 Abandoned Grave Yard

The Old Rugged Cross, of which only the base and stump remain, is where the travelling preachers would spread the word of the Gospel to the local inhabitants. It was also the meeting place of the villagers, where they would hold their markets and exchange local gossip.

Early records show that in 1347, an old chapel or "Chapel of Ease" once stood in the old graveyard. It was known as Ss. Peter and Paul. On the 14th July 1887, the Bishop of Worcester signed a faculty for its demolition.

6 The Chestnuts

This is one of the original buildings that remains from the old village of "Overton" and dates back to the 15th Century.

7 The Dog

This public house was built in 1722. As well as the Digby Hotel (13), there were two other public houses, both of which have long since disappeared.

8 Marsh Lane

This lane was originally called Dog Lane.

9 Vicarage Lane

Vicarage Lane still runs from the Village Green (10) to join Coleshill Road, which would have then led to the hamlet of Gilson. Sadly, this route has now been closed with the advent of the M42 motorway.



The Old Rugged Cross [5]

Water Orton Church, New Road. [14]



10 Village Green

On the eastern corner of the Green, at the junction of Attleboro Lane and Vicarage Lane, once stood a half-timbered cottage known as a Malt House, sadly demolished in 1951. Records date the building back to the 13th Century. The upper floors were constructed of stone brick in order that grain (usually barley) could be spread out to dry after being washed and sieved. The cottage also housed a huge baking oven and a deep well in the grounds.

11 Water Orton Village School

The plans for the school were approved in April 1877 and the building was opened in February 1878, at a cost of £1,970. A bell tower housing a single bell, which was once part of the building, was removed several years ago for safety reasons. The school is still much used today, and its frontage on Attleboro Lane still keeps its original character.

12 Plank Lane

The lane connects the Village Green with Birmingham Road. The name "Plank" originates from the old plank of timber that once spanned a small brook which now flows beneath the road.

13 Digby Hotel

This hotel was built in 1860. Alongside the hotel, until quite recently, stood a row of shops beneath the houses. Sadly the shops have now gone having been converted into living accommodation.

14 Church of Ss. Peter and Paul, New Road

The ground on which the Church stands was given by Captain Digby and his wife, who laid the foundation stone in September 1878. The building was consecrated in October 1879, the cost of erection being £3,940. Unfortunately, due to the poor condition of the stonework, the spire and pinnacles had to be removed for safety reasons.

15 Methodist Chapel

The small Chapel is said to be one of the oldest of 17 in the Birmingham circuit of Wesleyan Methodist Churches. The foundation stone was laid on 25th June 1868.

16 Albion Terrace

The gardens of the terrace were featured in a BBC television programme in 2000, called "Gardening Neighbours", in which they were given a "garden makeover".



The Plank, Plank Lane [12]

