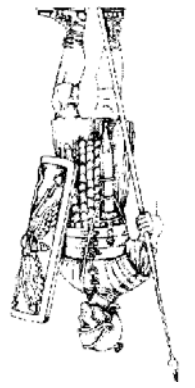


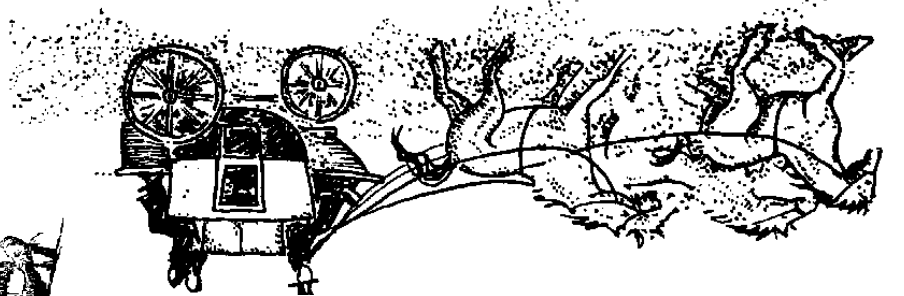
It is known that the Romans had a large settlement on Grimstock Hill, because of the number of artefacts found in the area. Chattle Hill is also of significance as the remains of a Temple have been found.



Grimstock Hill and Chattle Hill

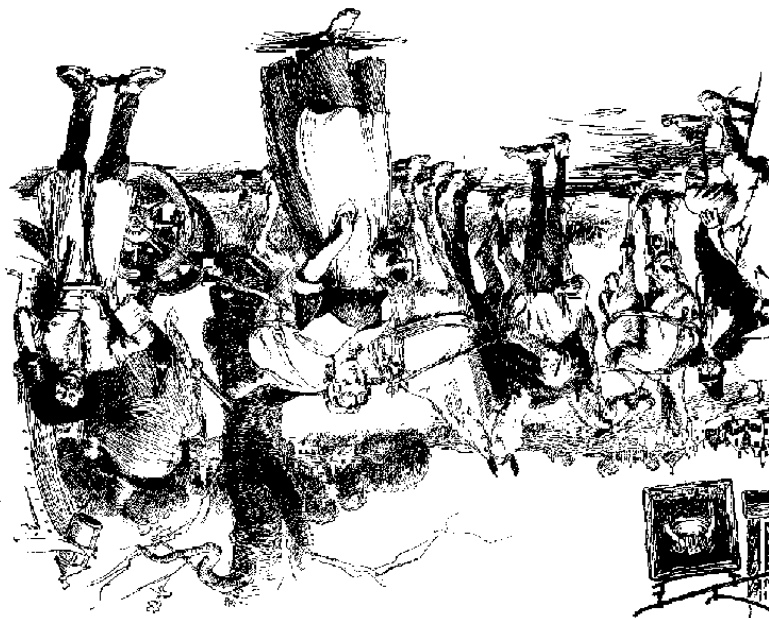
This road was an important stagecoach route from the South to Lichfield, with tolls being paid to the gate-keeper at Jack o' Watton. The tolls collected were used for helping to maintain the highway roads between the toll-gates, or turnpikes, as they were known.

Lichfield Road (A446)



Settlement on the "Tun" is the early name for "Overton" from which Water Orton gets its name. "Overton" can be dated back in history as far as the first Plantagenet King, Henry II (1133 - 1199). The high bank above the river, on either side of Old Church Road, South of the River Tame, is where the early settlers would have set up home, and is now what is left of the original part of the village. The word "Water" first appears in documents dating back to the 16th Century. Until 1842 Water Orton was just a scattering of little cottages and farms.

Water Orton



As well as the turnpike being on the site, there was also the old Royal Oak Inn, where the occupants of the coaches would have stopped for liquid refreshment. For goods and passengers going to Water Orton, a local coach would have then taken them from the Royal Oak.

Jack o' Watton

The Village Trail is one of a series of self-guided walks. You'll be using existing footpaths, but please take extra care when walking along un-pathed lanes.

Public Transport Serving Water Orton

Bus Services

Sutton Coldfield - Shustoke - Sutton Coldfield 70A and 70
Operator: Zaks Coaches Tel: 0121 360 2862

Birmingham - Coleshill - Birmingham 590
Operator: Travel West Midlands Tel: 0121 2000 2700

Atherstone - Birmingham International 777
Operator: A - Line Travel Tel: 01827 712287

Train Services

Birmingham - Tamworth
Operator: Central Trains Tel: 0121 654 1200

For further up-to-date information, please contact
Warwickshire Travel Line Tel: 01926 414140

Countryside Events in North Warwickshire

If you require information on countryside activities within North Warwickshire, and wish to receive a program of events, please contact North Warwickshire Borough Council Leisure Services. Tel: 01827 719270.

Walking and Cycling

If you are interested in walking and cycling in North Warwickshire, then there are walks and cycle routes leaflets available by contacting Leisure Services on 01827 719207.

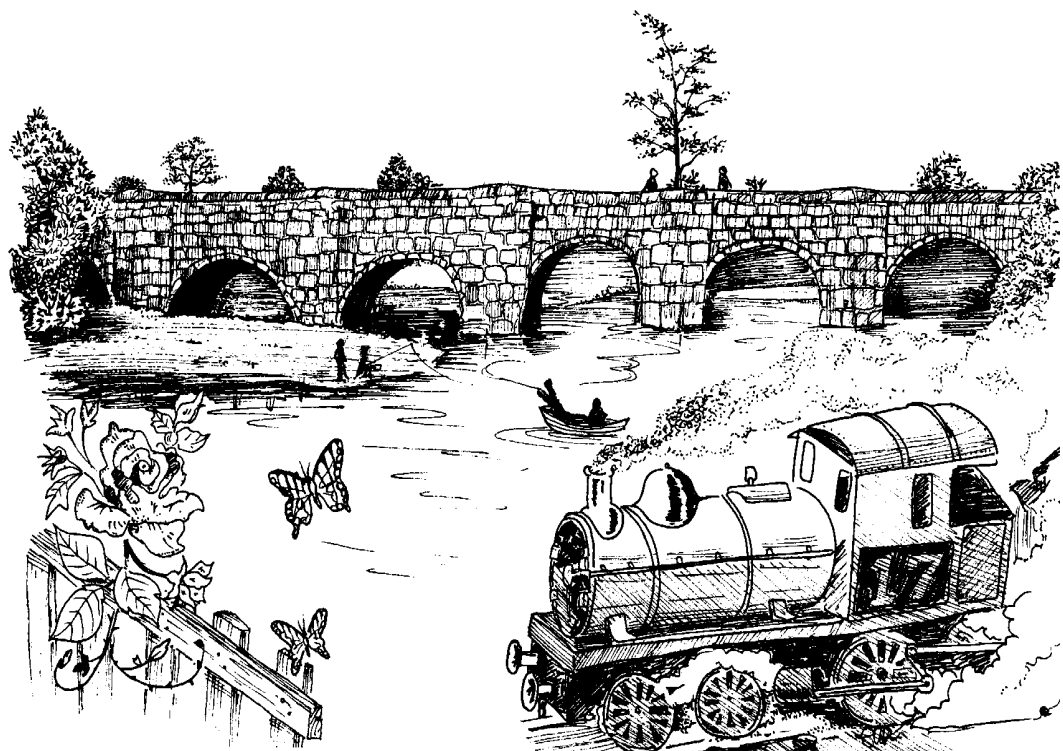
Walk information provided by Brian French

Illustrations: The Old Rugged Cross: the late Don Hawkins.
Front Cover, Coach & Horses, The Plank, Water Orton Church: Gordon Davies



Water Orton Parish Council

Water Orton Village Trail



Number 1 in a series of self guided Village Trails around North Warwickshire's Countryside



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEISURE



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEISURE

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

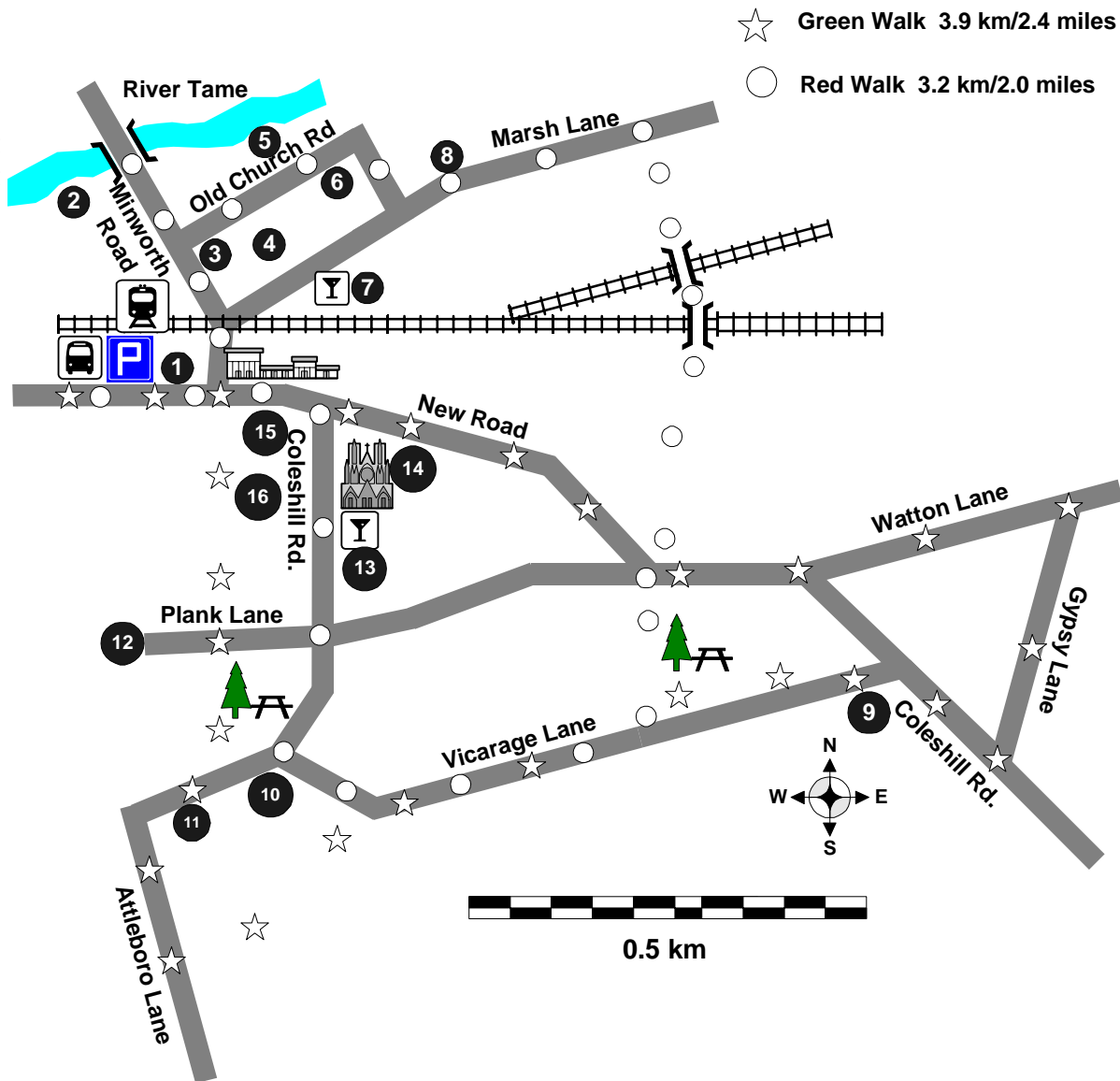
The small Chapel is said to be one of the oldest of 17 in the Birmingham circuit of Wesleyan Methodist Churches. The foundation stone was laid on 25th June 1868.

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]



☆ Green Walk 3.9 km/2.4 miles

○ Red Walk 3.2 km/2.0 miles