

South Quantock Heritage Trail



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Introduction

Welcome to the South Quantock Heritage Trail. Whether you are walking, cycling, driving or maybe just browsing around one or more of these intriguing places, you will find something to interest you.

From the nationally important restoration of Gertrude Jeckyll's gardens at Hestercombe to searching for 'hunky-punks' on the church at Kingston St Mary; from the fascinating industrial heritage of the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal to the beauty of the Quantock Hills; from the stocks in West Monkton churchyard to the woods and streams at Fyne Court, Broomfield; and through it all the Warre family story stretching over five centuries, connecting all the parishes with Hestercombe, there is something for friends and families and heaps for all to do.

So let's start exploring!...

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Hestercombe

Much of the South Quantock Heritage Trail shelters beneath the Quantock Hills and has aspects towards the Somerset Levels, with some areas high up in the wooded Quantock village of Broomfield. In many respects Hestercombe House and Gardens are the key to this diverse landscape. Over the years the estate's farms have extended into all four parishes of what is now the South Quantock Benefice.

The first record of the Hestercombe estate is in 682 AD, the same year that West Monkton was given to Glastonbury Abbey by the Saxon King Centwine. Sir John Warre acquired Hestercombe in 1391 and it remained in the Warre family until 1872 when the 776 acre estate was purchased by Viscount Portman and occupied by his grandson 'Teddy' (EWB) Portman.

The house and immediate grounds were then in the parish of Kingston St Mary, with three tenanted farms, Volis Farm mainly in Kingston St Mary, Gotten Farm (now Gotton) in Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton, and Yards Farm in Broomfield. By 1910 the Portmans had accumulated an additional 1017 acres around the parishes.

Today Hestercombe offers some 50 acres of gardens and grounds showcasing three centuries of design. You can experience the early designs of Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, the Victorian terrace and shrubbery and the Arts and Crafts genius created by the partnership of Sir Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jeckyll. Look at the Hestercombe website to see 'What's On' in the Gardens and Gallery.



The villages of Kingston St Mary, Broomfield, West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine

Kingston St Mary offers the Grade I listed church of St Mary the Virgin with its nave dating from the C13th and tapering tower built around 1490. Kingston means 'King's settlement' and indicates the connection with the Saxon King Ina.

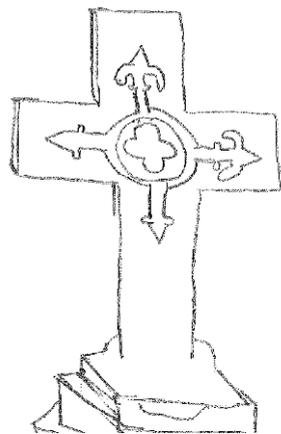
It passed to the Bishops of Winchester and remained part of the Taunton Deane manor for some 900 years until 1820 when the estate was divided and sold. It became Kingston St Mary in the last century to avoid confusion with other similarly named villages.

Broomfield was part of an inheritance by King Alfred, and the royal connections continued after the Norman Conquest. Earthworks at nearby Ruborough survive from the Iron Age (1st Millennium BC). In the C11th Broomfield was given to the Mohuns of Dunster, who granted it to Roger Arundel.

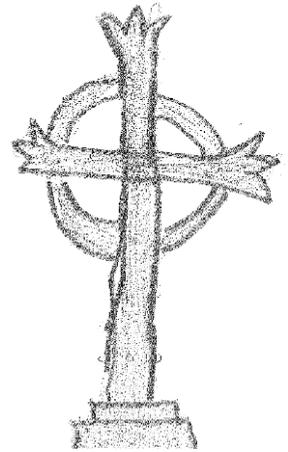
In 1653 the manor was sold to the Crosse family who retained their share for some 300 years, residing at Fyne Court. Visit this lovely estate to enjoy a true 'hidden gem'. The parish church of St Mary & All Saints is a Grade I listed building. Parts date to around 1320 but the church is mainly C15th and C16th.

West Monkton was granted to the Marquess of Winchester following the C16th Dissolution of the Monasteries. It became part of the Warre's Hestercombe estate in 1616 before passing to Viscount Portman in 1872.

The Portmans later acquired the largest part of West Monkton parish which at that time included Bathpool, Monkton Heathfield and also Lambrook and Hankridge (now both part of Taunton).



Most of this property was divided and sold with the break-up of the Hestercombe estate in 1953. The drive leading to the Grade I listed Church of St Augustine of Canterbury is opposite the end of The Street.



Whilst the church is largely C15th, the earliest parts of the fabric date back to the C13th. There are stocks which are Grade II listed and an ancient whipping post in the churchyard.



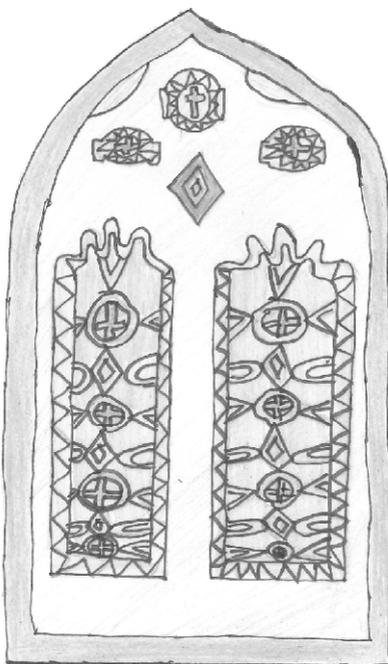
Cheddon Fitzpaine formed part of the Taunton Deane manor in Saxon times but after the Norman Conquest it was granted to Roger Arundel. Then in 1198 a half-share descended to Robert Fitzpayn whose family obtained the remainder in 1224 and held the estate until 1393.

The name of the village seems to result from the Saxon name 'Cedenon', meaning wooded valley, with 'Fitzpayn' the result of the C13th and C14th ownership.

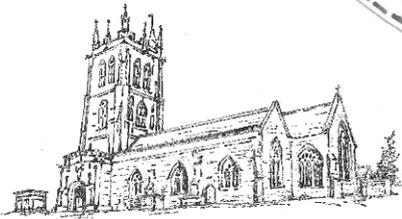
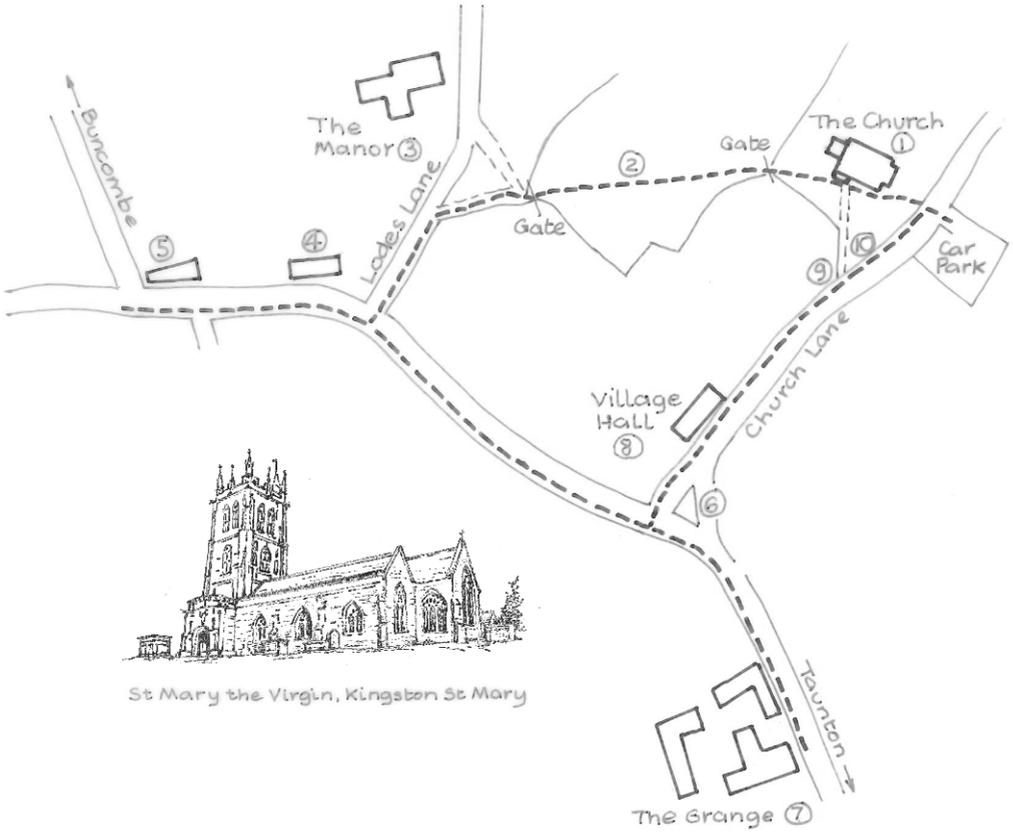
Thomas More of Taunton Priory bought the manor in the C16th, then it passed to the Methuens of Wiltshire and William Clifton of Barrington who in turn sold it to the Warres of Hestercombe, several of whom served as vicars.

The Grade II* listed Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary has a late C13th tower and a nave dating to the late C15th/early C16th, with further restoration to the building in 1861.

Note: The above notes are intended to give a 'taster' of the villages, parish churches, Hestercombe and Fyne Court. Please find more information in the churches and at the various locations.



Walk 1



St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary

Walk 1 - Kingston St Mary circular walk

(approx 1 mile)

This walk begins at the church car park and passes some of the most historic buildings and sites of interest in the village. It is a gentle walk with no steep descents but extra care must be taken in the centre of the village. The narrow road is extremely busy at times and there is only one short length of pavement.

From the church car park go straight across Church Lane and take the steps into the churchyard. Walk to the church porch.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin (1) dates back to the early C13th although it has been extended and altered over the centuries.

As you come out of the church turn right and head for the small iron gate in the south west corner of the churchyard. Go through the gate and into the field, stopping beneath the large tree. This gives an excellent view back to the church tower and the area known in the village as Copper Hill (2).

Continue down the slope, along an obvious path, towards an iron gate. Just after going through the gate look across the lane to a large house known as The Manor (3).

Walk down Lodes Lane (so named because of the nearby mining) and cross over the main road to the pavement. On the opposite side you will see a long pink house called Bobbetts (4). Look along the road beyond Bobbetts and you will see another of the older houses in the village, now The Swan at Kingston public house (5).

Today the main road swings round to the right, up towards Buncombe, but another road continues straight on, up the small incline. It is difficult to imagine that this lane, which beyond the village is extremely narrow, was once the main road from Taunton to Minehead. Walk back along the main road, in the direction of Taunton, until you reach the Village Green (6). This requires great care. There is no pavement, the road is narrow and very busy at times and there are two blind bends.

Several of the houses fronting the road here used to be flourishing shops and a Post Office. What is now the garage used to be the blacksmith's shop. This was for many years the centre of village life, serving the community, until the motor car made Taunton so accessible.

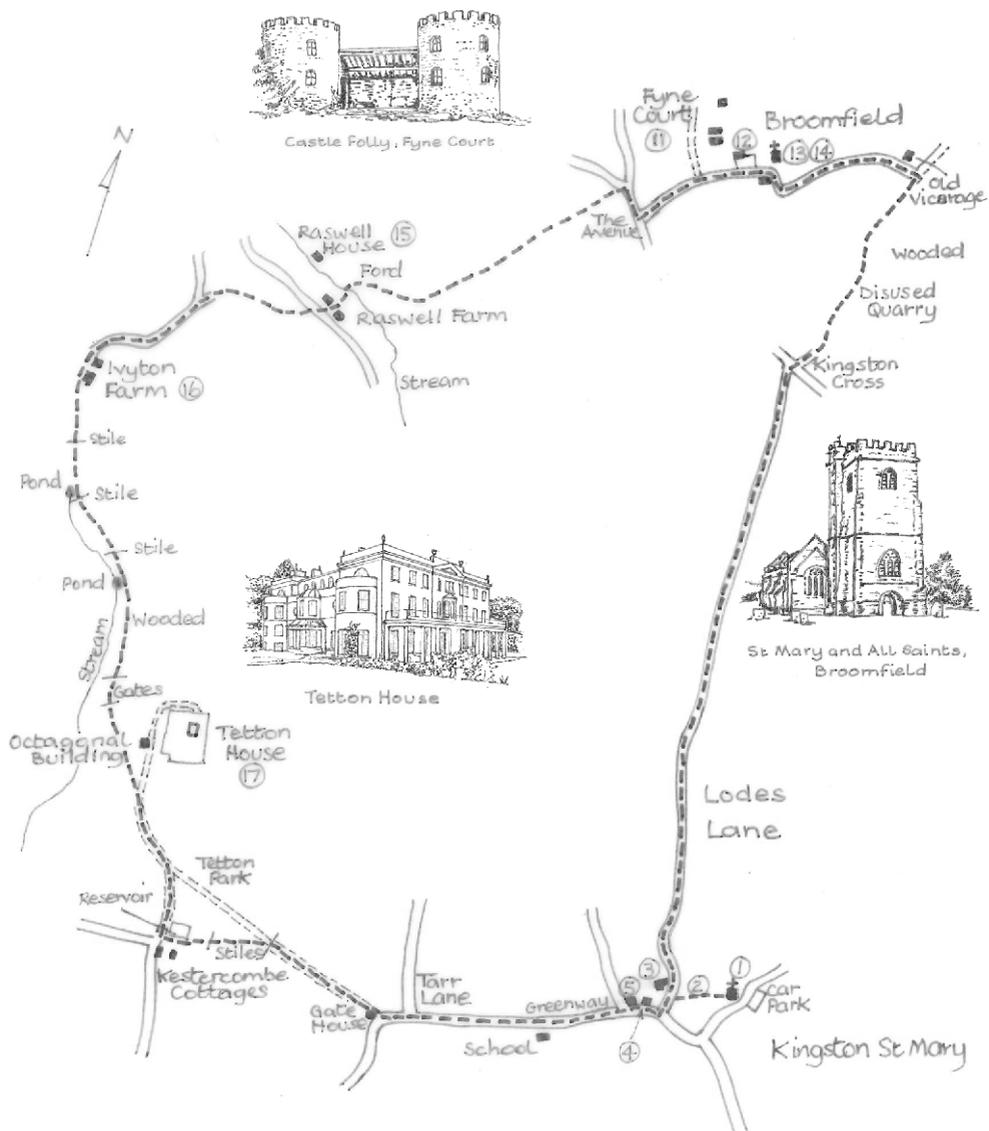
After 200 metres you will come to The Grange (7) on your right, now the Taunton International Middle School. Retrace your steps back to the Village Green and walk up Church Lane towards the church, passing the Village Hall (8). As you continue up Church Lane, back to the car park, pause a while by the church gate and note the Lantern (9) and, inside the gate, the Memorial Cross (10).

From the car park look across the road at the buildings just above the churchyard. These were the village school and schoolhouse until the new school was built in 1976. Before the school moved there in 1797 this was where the vicarage had been for many centuries.



Walk 2

(See overleaf)



Walk 2 - Kingston St Mary to Broomfield circular walk (approx 6 miles, steep in places)

The Church of St Mary the Virgin (1) at Kingston St Mary offers car parking and occasional public toilets. The church dates back to the early C13th.

Pass through the churchyard in front of the church to join a footpath across Copper Hill (2) field to the road near The Manor (3) built in 1560. Continue towards the village centre passing Bobbetts (4) and turning right towards The Swan at Kingston public house (5). Cross the road and walk up the lane known as Greenway, passing the school.

Just beyond Tarr Lane join the private drive at the gatehouse of Tetton House (17). Follow the drive through parkland to reach a stile on the left hand side signposted West Deane Way. Cross this stile and a further two stiles by the enclosed reservoir which brings you to Kestercombe Cottages.

Electric fences may be encountered during this walk. Please do ensure the fence break is reconnected if you have temporarily disconnected in order to pass through. Close to the road junction turn right to head north, passing the Private Drive Footpath Only sign, then left to follow the footpath along the drive giving further fine views of Tetton House.

Prior to reaching the Octagonal building the signposted footpath bears left across a field to a kissing gate. Continue along the track to a metal gate and head up through the valley, keeping the stream on your left. Cross a walkway over wet ground to head further up the valley and to cross over the stream.

Immediately on doing so use a minor fence stile close by to enter, and then another to exit, the pond area into the adjoining field. Then head directly towards the farm buildings on the skyline crossing another stile en-route. A metal gate allows access to the tarmac road through Ivyton Farm (16) the home of The Country Dog Hotel.

At the second left hand bend in the road join the restricted Byway down the green lane to cross the main road at Raswell House (15). Passing through Raswell Farm the route is signposted as the Quantock Greenway and the Macmillan Way. On crossing the ford there is a long climb up a green lane to reach a road.

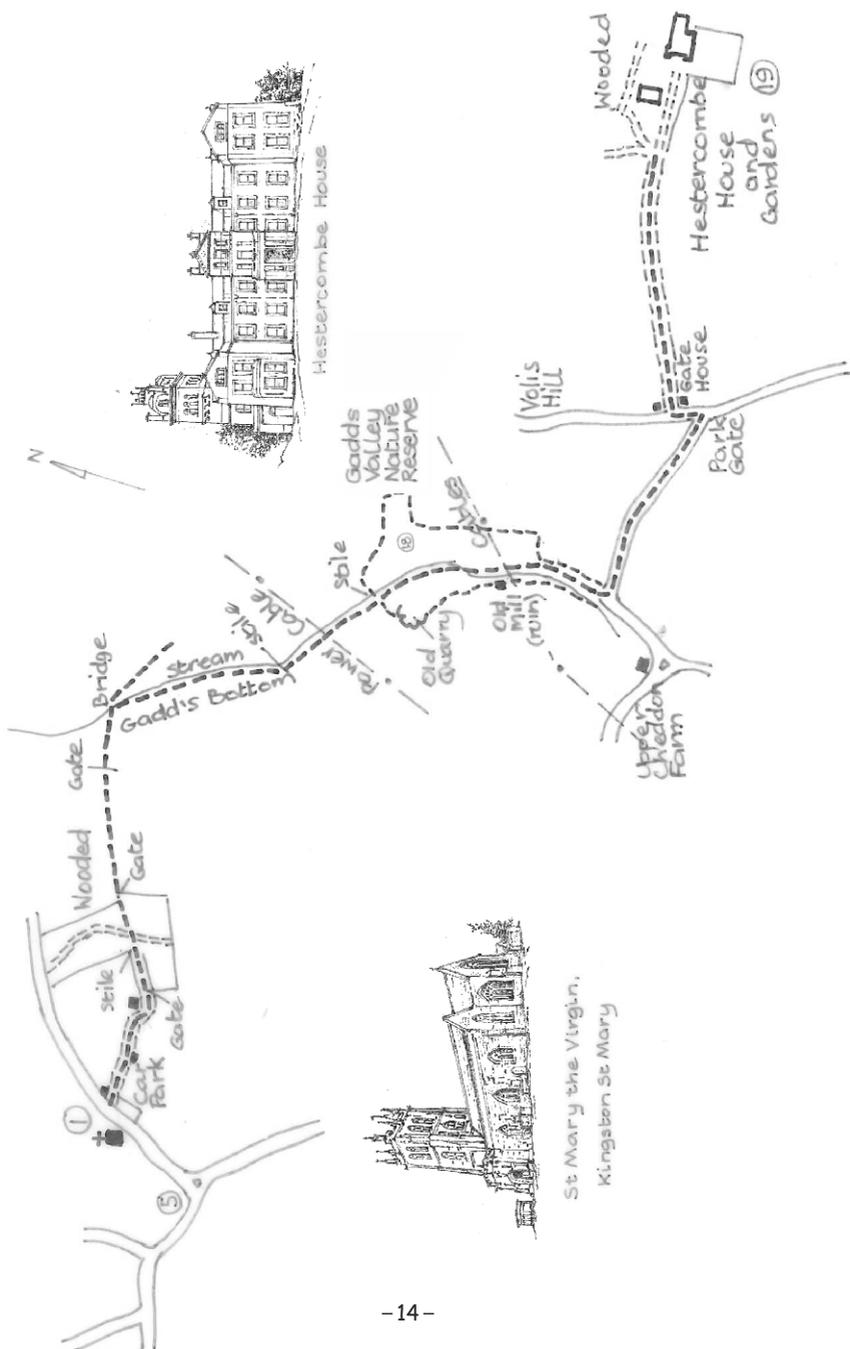
At the road turn right to reach the junction named The Avenue on a Somerset Road sign. Follow to Fyne Court (11) where car parking, refreshments and toilet facilities are available at certain times.

To continue the walk beyond the entrance of Fyne Court head through the settlement of Broomfield passing the cottages (12) on the village green and along the road to the Church of St Mary and All Saints (13) which is Grade I listed and was built in the 15th and 16th centuries. The village hall (14) is next to the church.

Walking on downhill, and near the Old Vicarage at the edge of Broomfield Common on the right, leave the road where there is a choice of footpaths by turning sharp right to use the Restricted Byway (may be muddy) down to a disused quarry and up again to join a road.

To your right a Somerset road sign, named 'Kingston Cross', points to the village of Kingston St Mary 1 mile. This lane, Lodes Lane, is narrow in places so care needs to be taken when encountering traffic. On descending into the village rejoin the footpath opposite The Manor to return across Copper Hill field via the church grounds to the car park.

Walk 3



Walk 3 - Kingston St Mary to Hestercombe via Gadds Valley Local Nature Reserve and return by the same route (approx 3.75 miles)

The Church of St Mary the Virgin (1) at Kingston St Mary offers car parking and occasional public toilets opposite. The church dates back to the C13th.

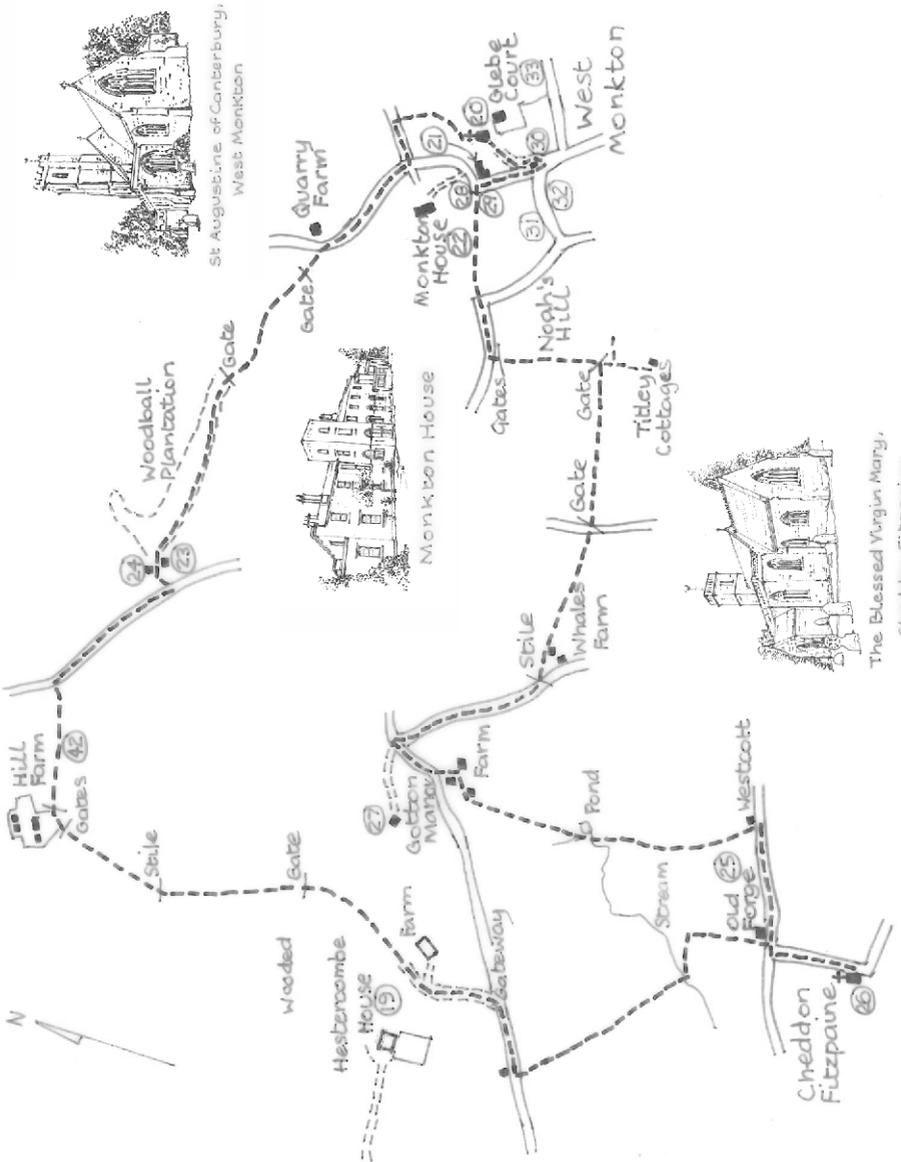
From the church car park turn right then follow the sign-posted path to Volis along a driveway. At a left bend continue straight ahead through a metal kissing gate, following this footpath steeply uphill to a wooden stile. Cross the stile into a copse and across a farm track. Leave the wooded area via another metal kissing gate into open farmland. Continue in an easterly direction to reach a wooden kissing gate.

The footpath then leads down to a bridge. At this point turn sharp right along a farm track, keeping the stream on your left. Cross a stile into an adjoining field, again keeping the stream on your left, and pass under power lines to cross a similar stile at the north end of Gadds Valley Local Nature Reserve (18).

This footpath uses a wooden walkway over an area of wet ground to reach a stile and gateway where the stream crosses to your right hand side and flows alongside a walled embankment. Informal paths extend up the valley sides, one leading to a quarry. At a break in the walling is the site of the ruins of an old mill, presently hidden by laurel bushes and a conifer plantation.

Upon reaching the road and leaving the Nature Reserve, turn left along the lane to reach a junction with a Somerset road sign named Park Gate. Turn left and then pass through the entrance gates of Hestercombe (19) continuing along the driveway to the Gardens. Retrace your steps back to Kingston St Mary.

Walk 4



Walk 4 - West Monkton to Cheddon Fitzpaine circular walk (approx 5 miles)

St Augustine's Church at West Monkton (20) is a C15th church with stocks and a whipping post in the churchyard. There is ample car parking and occasional public toilets. To the left of the church is The Old Rectory (21).

Take the path beside The Old Rectory heading north from the church, turning right onto the public footpath. Upon reaching the lane turn left towards the T-junction, passing a pedestrian gateway (now blocked) in the wall of the original grounds of Monkton House (22). The house can be seen directly in front, down a bridle path. On reaching the T-junction turn right, heading uphill.

At a right hand bend in the road, before reaching Quarry Farm, follow the signposted footpath left, heading north west. A disused quarry is visible on the right (pass with care), one of three originally located in the parish. Pass through a kissing gate to walk along a field edge. Continue along the field edge through the next kissing gate to enter the Woodballs Plantation.

Almost at the point of leaving the wood there is another footpath heading north where can be found a dwelling originally built as a windmill. On exiting the wooded area the footpath continues between the thatched Potters Cottage (23) on the left and Pigeon House cottage (24) on the right.

On reaching the road, walk north uphill to a triangular junction. Bear left here onto the 'No Through Road' and towards Hill Farm, passing the home of Somerset Yurts (42). At Hill Farm bear left to pass through a field gate, and then a second field gate on the left. As this is a working farm electric fences may be encountered.

Please do ensure the fence break is reconnected if you have to temporarily disconnect in order to pass through. The footpath follows a fence line across the field in a south westerly direction to meet the edge of the Hestercombe estate.

After crossing the stile remain outside of the formal gardens following the footpath down the field, offering a view of the Folly and dry stone walling. Pass through a metal gate into a wooded area turning right to walk along Hestercombe Farm drive, care being taken not to impede farm workings. Continue to the farm entrance gateway.

(If you wish to stop for a break the current access to Hestercombe is along the road to the T-junction and up the hill to the main Hestercombe entrance. It is planned that in time the original coach driveway will be restored and this will allow a shortened access to Hestercombe).

Turn right along the road and after approximately 200 yards take the footpath opposite Kirkland House heading south over open farmland and signposted East Deane Way. Continue along this path across a field and over a stream then turn right and follow the field edge, to the point where the footpath diverts to meet the road alongside the Old Forge (25) at Cheddon Fitzpaine. The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (26) is signposted through the village and is a beautifully kept C13th building.

Retrace your route to the Old Forge then turn right to leave the village along the occasionally busy road towards Goosenford. To the left of the property called Westcott, just over the brow of the hill, join the footpath heading north. After passing a pond on the right, continue in a northerly direction to reach the road and turn right towards Gotton Manor (27).

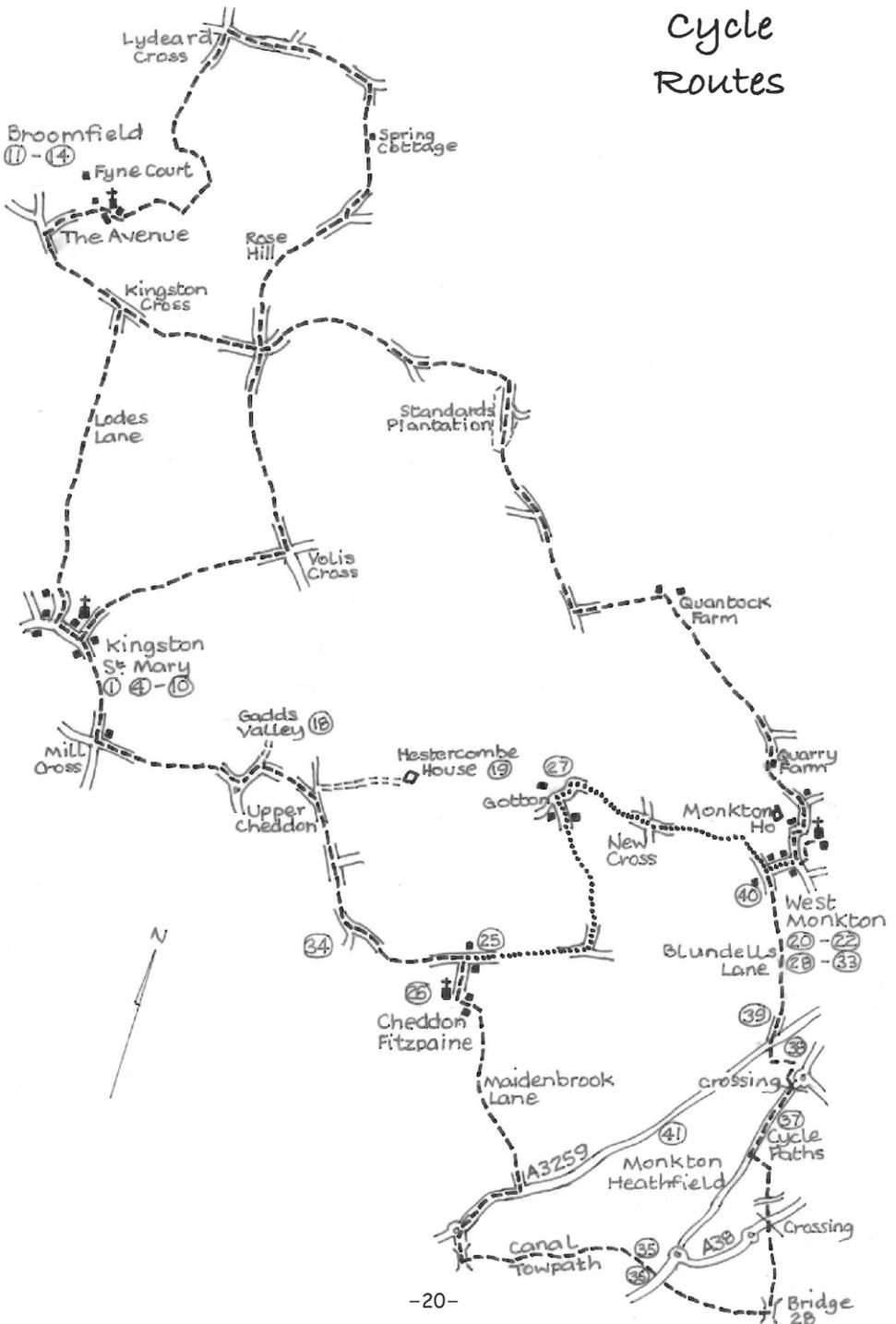
At the road T-junction turn immediately right to walk downhill. Just prior to Whales Farm the East Deane Way resumes via a stile in the hedge on the left. Continue on the footpath, crossing a minor road, and pass through a kissing gate to walk the field edge to a footpath junction near Titley Cottages.

Use the kissing gate in the corner of this field to head north climbing up towards Noah's Hill and passing through two gates. Upon reaching the road turn right to walk downhill to the sharp right hand bend. Here the footpath continues on the left, eastward across the field towards West Monkton church. Monkton House will become visible between the trees on your left.

At the road turn right past the Stables (28) on the left and The Lodge (29) and walk down Church Hill. Opposite The Street (31, 32) turn left into the church drive past Glebe Court Lodge (30) on the left. As you continue up the church drive Glebe Court (33) becomes visible on your right.



Cycle Routes



Cycle Routes (15 miles and 6 miles)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 15 MILE ROUTE DESCRIBED BELOW AND ENCOMPASSING THE FOUR PARISHES INVOLVES TRAVERSING NARROW COUNTRY LANES WITH SOME STEEP CLIMBS AND DESCENTS.

From St Augustine's Church (20) at West Monkton turn right up Church Hill. Several other places of interest exist in the village (21, 22, 28-33). Carry on straight ahead to Quarry Farm and on to Quantock Farm around a left turn past Quantock Cottages to the T-junction.

Turn right and then go straight on up the hill, with an excellent view back over the Vale of Taunton, past a left junction and then downhill and up through the Standards Plantation to the next T-junction (grass triangle). Turn left signposted Broomfield and follow the road in a westerly direction to reach a T-junction. Turn right signposted Broomfield and again follow the road in a westerly direction, passing farm entrances. The road sweeps left and then right on staggered crossroads.

At this junction either:

a) turn immediately right down Rose Hill, passing Owls Barton, and then climb to a Y-junction bearing left to the incline of Shelthorn Hill to climb past Spring Cottage. Turn left at the T-junction and left again towards Broomfield and Spaxton, offering good views towards the Bristol Channel. On reaching 'Lydeard Cross' turn left signposted Broomfield and cross Broomfield Common to the Village Hall, Church, the Village Green and Fyne Court (11-14).

or b) (which is less steep) carry straight on in a westerly direction and straight on at 'Kingston Cross' to turn right at 'The Avenue' road junction signposted Fyne Court and Broomfield Church.

From Broomfield return to 'The Avenue' road junction and turn left towards Kingston St Mary, passing Rosegate Kennels to reach 'Kingston Cross'.

Then either:

a) (experienced cyclists only) turn right here (Lodes Lane) then downhill to Kingston St Mary. This is a long, very steep downhill, narrow in places. Take care at the T-junction and turn left, continuing through the village (4-7) towards Taunton.

or b) (still steep but safer) carry straight on to the staggered crossroads to turn right signposted Taunton then downhill to Volis Cross halfway down the hill. Turn right and drop down to Kingston St Mary (1, 6-10). With the church on your right, turn left at the triangle towards Taunton.

As you come through the priority/give way section leaving the village, turn left at Mill Cross signposted Upper Cheddon. Bear left at the triangular junction to pass the entrance to Gadds Valley Nature Reserve (18) and on to reach 'Park Gate' junction close to the Hestercombe (19) entrance.

Turn right and continue downhill passing a left turning and wooded area. At the next junction, on the bend by Gate House and the village hall, turn left signed Cheddon Fitzpaine. Cheddon School lies to the right of this junction. Continue left towards Cheddon Fitzpaine village and turn right opposite the Old Forge (25) towards the church (26) and continue along Maidenbrook Lane to reach the A3259. *

In preference to crossing this busy road at this point use the cycle paths on the right hand side of the road towards Taunton to pass the housing estate and gain easy access to the roundabout whereby crossing the A3259 can be completed using the cycle path and traffic island to reach the Crown Industrial Estate Road. Along Venture Way access to the Canal can be gained from either pavement after crossing the modern bridge. Drop down to the towpath and head in an easterly direction, away from Taunton, towards Bathpool.

Pass the marina and continue on to Bathpool swing bridge where there is a Canal and River Trust (35) car park and picnic area. Continue along the towpath to pass Bathpool Chapel (36) and on under Bridge 29 then on to Bridge 28 at Hyde Farm.

Leave the towpath here, turn left up over this bridge, crossing the canal and heading along Hyde Lane to join the cycle path at the T-junction.

Cross the road and the estate road to reach Monkton Heathfield and the A38. Turn right to remain on the cycle path. Pass the school (37) to cross the road at the designated point.

Just prior to the roundabout turn left onto the lane skirting West Monkton Cricket Club's fenced grounds to reach the A3259. Close to this junction are the premises of the Elm Tree Restaurant at Monkton Elm Garden Centre (38) and Silvers Pantry at Prockters Farm (39). Further along this road heading towards Taunton is The Merry Monk public house (41).

Cross the A3259 road to Blundells Lane and go straight up past the Monkton Inn (40) bearing right through West Monkton village to return to the entrance of the church drive.

A SHORTER CYCLE ROUTE OF APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES VISITING WEST MONKTON, CHEDDON FITZPAINE AND THE BRIDGWATER/TAUNTON CANAL IS DESCRIBED BELOW. THE DOTTED LINE ON THE CYCLE MAP IS THE ROUTE OF THIS LINK.

From West Monkton Church drive (20) go straight across to join 'The Street' (30-32) signposted Cheddon Fitzpaine. At the triangular junction and red telephone box turn right to climb Noah's Hill and continue on up Red Hill with its views towards Taunton.

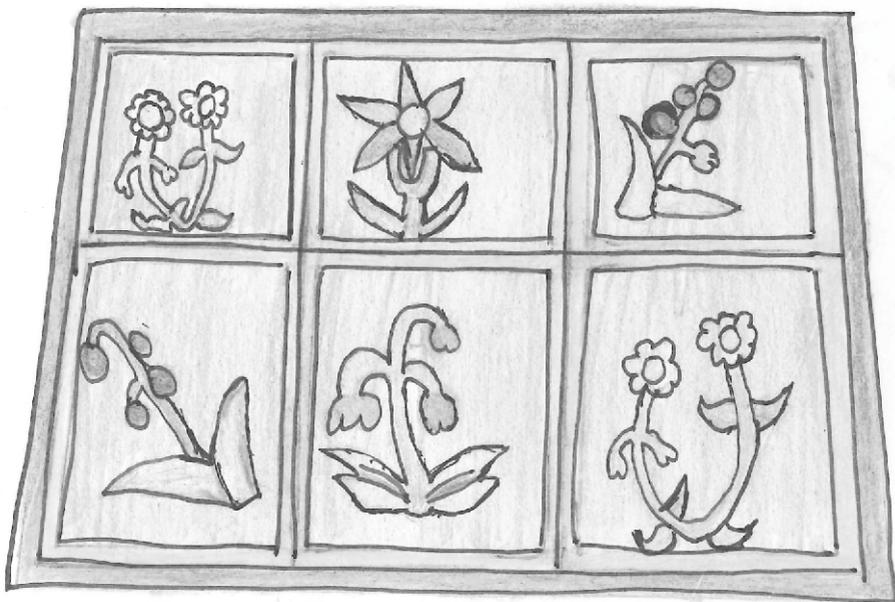
On reaching the junction called New Cross follow the signposted road to Upper Cheddon passing between the cottages on the opposite sides of the crossroads. Passing the entrance to the Coach House you reach a T-junction near Gotton Manor (27).

(If a visit to Hestercombe (19) is planned, continue along this road passing to the south of the Hestercombe estate and then follow signs to the entrance. Return to the T-junction near Gotton Manor to continue. Please note that visiting Hestercombe will add approximately 3 miles to the cycle route).

From the T-junction at Gotton Manor take the lane heading south downhill passing farms and open views to reach the triangular junction at Goosenford.

Turn right to pass through the village to reach the staggered junction at 'The Old Forge' (25). Turn left to reach Cheddon Fitzpaine and church (26), and then on to Maidenbrook Lane.

From this point please now follow the route to the canal and the return to West Monkton as marked * above in the main text.



Points and places of interest on the walks and cycle routes

(1). The Grade I listed Church of St Mary the Virgin at Kingston St Mary has a nave dating from the C13th, although the church has been extended and altered over the centuries. The tapering tower, built around 1490, is rated as one of the finest in the country. In the corners of the tower are gargoyles that carry rainwater from the roof.

Between them are grotesque figures called 'hunky punks', so named because they are squatting or hunkering down and are short and sturdy. They serve no purpose. Inside the church you can't miss the Purbeck marble tomb of John de la Warre (d. Battle of Poitiers, 1356) and in the churchyard are tombs of other members of the Warre family of Hestercombe.

(2). Copper Hill. This scenic stretch of grassland is so named because of successive attempts, from at least 1717, to mine a seam (or lode) of ore beneath this land. One family "dug thereat and sold great quantities of copper" for more than 30 years until the Bishop of Winchester, who owned the mineral rights in the parish, discovered what was going on and demanded his cut.

(3). The Manor, believed to have been built around 1560, was originally known as Lodes Farm or simply Lodes. It has only been known as The Manor since 1868 when it was purchased by William Surtees of Taintfield (just south of the village). It is now split into apartments but retains many of its historic architectural features.

(4). Bobbetts is the oldest house in the village, being of late medieval origin although the original farmhouse has been altered and extended over the centuries. Originally the interior would have been open to the roof. Ceilings were put in during the late 16th century. Further alterations were carried out in the C17th and C20th. It is named after the Bobbett family who were living there in the C17th and is Grade II listed for its historic and architectural importance.

(5). The Swan at Kingston. The building dates from the C17th. It was probably a

merchant's house and then a school, becoming The Swan Inn in 1860.

(6). The oak was planted in the centre of the Village Green to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1898. The seat around it was made locally and put in place to celebrate the Millennium. Its ironwork shows aspects of local life including farm scenes, local wildlife and the Kingston Black, a very popular cider apple that at one time was grown in most local orchards.

(7). The Grange, built on the site of an earlier building, was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a young architect who went on to national acclaim (and a knighthood) and designed many national landmarks including St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial in London. The Eden family lived in the house until 1931 and among the visitors was a young nephew named Anthony Eden who went on to become Prime Minister.

(8). Although not an official war memorial, the Village Hall came into existence as a result of the community spirit generated during the First World War. It was realised that a suitable venue was needed for village events and a public appeal was launched. The hall was eventually opened in 1923 and is still used for many village occasions including drama, flower and art shows, and talks and meetings.

(9). The lantern that hangs above the church gate is one of the more unusual, but extremely useful, war memorials. It was erected by the Kingston Scout Troop in memory of two of their former members who were killed in the First World War. The Scout emblem is incorporated in the ironwork. A wooden plaque commemorating the deaths of the two men is set into one of the pillars.

(10). Inside the church gate is the more usual form of war memorial. The 14-foot high Douling stone cross commemorates the 43 men of the parish who perished in the two World Wars. It was unveiled on Christmas Day in 1920 and is the focus of the village's annual Remembrance Day service.

(11). Today Broomfield is well known for Fyne Court. Its most famous resident was Andrew Crosse who took over the management of the family estates at the turn of the C19th. He became known locally as "the Thunder and Lightning man" and was one of the earliest amateur scientists to study electrical energy.

The main building of Fyne Court burnt down in 1894 and very little remains of the original house. Now owned by the National Trust there is still evidence of the music room and the library and, outside, the Folly and the Boat House.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fyne-court

(12). The cottages on the village green are also owned by the National Trust. Broomfield was once famous for its Annual Fair on All Saints Day, 1st November. It was held on the village green and in the Fair Field opposite for 600 years but some time during the 1890s it ceased - about the time that Fyne Court burnt down. After the fire the cottages provided a home for the Hamilton/Crosse family.

(13). The Church of St Mary and All Saints in Broomfield is a Grade I listed building which is mainly C15th and C16th. An obelisk to Andrew Crosse (1784-1855) of nearby Fyne Court lies in the north west corner of the churchyard. A historical leaflet is available inside the church.

(14). Beside the church is the village hall which was built in 1854 and was originally the village school with the teacher's house on the left. The school was closed in 1933 and during the 1950s the building was bought for the village and became the village hall. The hall is held in trust and run by members of the local community.

(15). Raswell House is thought to date back to the C16th and for a while in the C19th was a public house. It is now in private ownership.

(16). Ivyton Farmhouse, now The Country Dog Hotel, was built in the early 1700s. However, there was a dwelling on this important site long before this and Ivyton Manor records exist from the late C13th until 1662. The property became part of the Tetton estate in the late 1600s.

(17). The historic Tetton estate was owned by the Dyke family but it passed, through marriage, to the Aclands briefly and then to the Herbert family, relatives of the Earl of Carnarvon, one of whom financed the excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamen. The present Tetton House, a Grade II* listed building, dates from around 1790.

The house was enlarged and mainly rebuilt between 1924-26. During WWII it was used as a maternity home and has since been divided into apartments.

(18). Gadds Valley Local Nature Reserve

www.tauntondeane.gov.uk/biodiversity/gadds-valley-local-nature-reserve/

(19). Hestercombe - www.hestercombe.com

(20). The Church of St Augustine of Canterbury at West Monkton is a Grade 1 listed, largely C15th church although some parts of the fabric date back to the C13th. Repairs and extensions were carried out in the 1890s and further extensive repairs and conservation work were undertaken in 2016. There are stocks, which are Grade II listed, and an ancient whipping post in the churchyard. A historical leaflet and children's quiz are available inside the church.

(21). The Old Rectory is the sole remaining part of the old manor, Court House, which was demolished in 1810. The east wing was known as Court Cottage until 1933 when it became the Rectory. It was sold into private ownership in 2016.

(22). Monkton House was built around 1810 when the larger mansion, Court House, was mainly destroyed. In 1953 it was sold and divided into five properties and the Coach House behind it divided into two.

(23). Potters Cottage is thatched and a C17th Grade II listed dwelling. Its house name probably gives away its original use.

(24). Pigeon House cottage, originally built in 1820 as two cottages, is also Grade II listed.

(25). The Old Forge was probably the forge for Hestercombe and was, until recently, a working blacksmith's. It was sold into private ownership in 2016.

(26). The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Cheddon Fitzpaine, which is Grade II* listed, retains its late C13th tower with large gargoyles and late C15th/early C16th nave but the remainder of the building was restored in 1861.

The present church community is largely responsible for the extensive roof works undertaken in recent years. A historical leaflet is available inside the church.

(27). Gotton Manor is an early C19th house with some older parts from the C17th. It is Grade II listed and is currently a nursing home.

(28). The Stables is the original C17th site of the Court House stables.

(29). The Lodge halfway down Church Hill was the gate lodge for Monkton House.

(30). Glebe Court Lodge on the corner of the church drive was, as the name suggests, the gate lodge for Glebe Court.

(31). On The Street, opposite the church entrance, is The Well House where pigsties are still evident on the drive. A well is also evident on the other side of this private property. The area backing onto the pigsties contained the implement sheds and gave access to the kitchen gardens (for Monkton House).

(32). Further down The Street on the other side of the road is Marlows which is a late C18th Grade II listed property.

(33). Glebe Court is Grade II listed and was built in the mid C18th. For a long time it was the Rectory but in 1933, being considered too large, was sold into private ownership. The house and grounds have been much restored in recent years and it is now a fine period property.

(34). Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School - www.cheddonbwmat.org

(35). The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal was opened in 1827 and links the River Tone to the River Parrett. James Hollinsworth was the principal engineer. Work was completed in 1841 but the canal was closed in 1907. The Countryside Act 1968 provided a framework for Somerset County Council to start restoration of the canal as a leisure facility, work which was completed in 1994 when the canal was reopened throughout.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

(36). All Saints Church, Bathpool, known locally as Bathpool Chapel, was built in 1897- at first only the nave, but by 1901 the chancel was added. In 1981, as falling attendances made it unviable, it was sold into private ownership.

(37). West Monkton Church of England Primary School
www.westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk

(38). Elm Tree Restaurant at Monkton Elm Garden Centre
www.monktonelmgardencentre.co.uk

(39). Silvers Pantry at Prockters Farm
www.willowsofsomerset.co.uk/silvers-pantry

(40). The Monkton Inn - www.themonktoninn.co.uk

(41)The Merry Monk - www.themerrymonk.co.uk

(42). Somerset Yurts - www.somersetyurts.co.uk



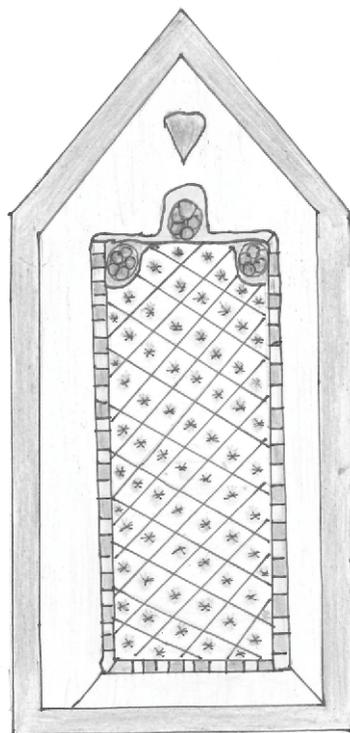
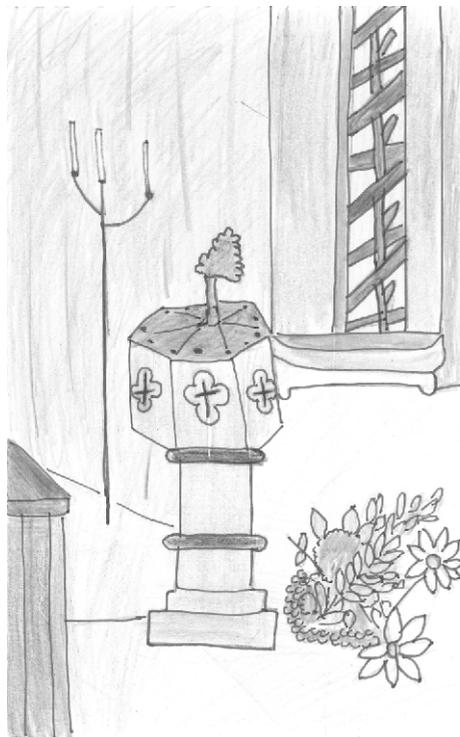
Monkton House

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The St. Augustine's Heritage Project Team.



Countryside Code

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people

Good Cycling Code

Please be courteous
Give way to pedestrians and horse riders, giving them plenty of room
Always cycle with respect for others, whether other cyclists, pedestrians,
wheelchair users, horse riders or drivers
Acknowledge those who give way to you

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is accurate, we cannot accept responsibility in respect of any error or omission which may have occurred. The information in this publication was considered to be correct at the time of production.

Inclusion in this publication does not imply recommendation and you are advised to check details with establishments before travelling.