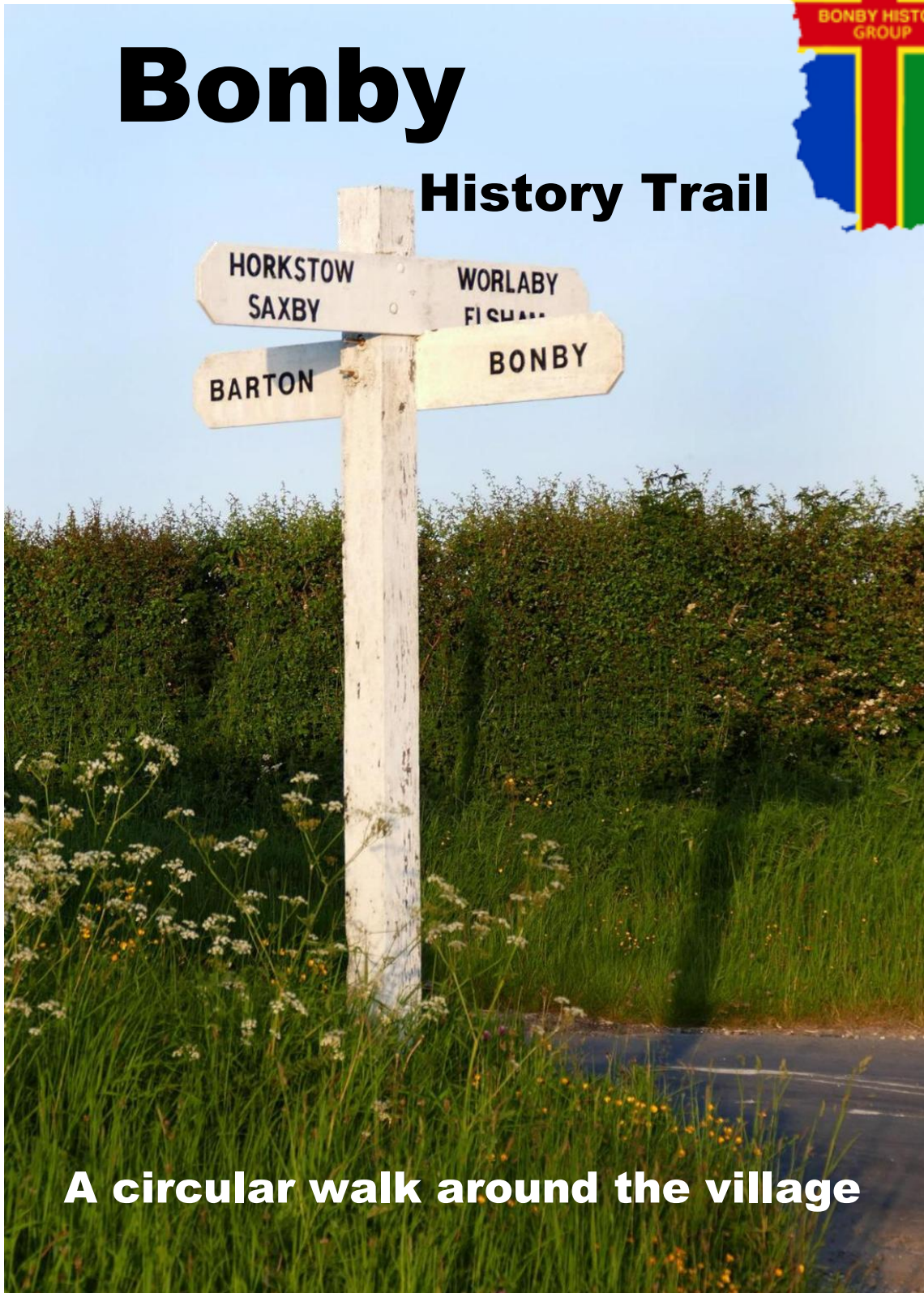


Bonby

History Trail



A circular walk around the village

Distance: less than 1 mile

Time: about three quarters of an hour

Terrain: footpaths, narrow lanes, uphill from Main Street to the church

If you are starting at the church (see No 9) or elsewhere in the village, refer to the map on the back and create your own route.

1. The Village Hall



The village hall occupies the former Methodist Chapel. It was built in 1857 and was paid for by the Earl of Yarborough who had declined permission for the Methodist Chapel (see 2 below) in the village to be extended but instead offered a parcel of land for a new chapel and Sunday school. It was closed as a chapel in 1946 and converted for use as a village hall in the early 1950s and has since been extended.

Turn left towards Saxby and walk along Main Street past...

2. The Old Methodist Chapel



This, the first of the two similar Methodist Chapels was built in 1813.

The last service was held in 2003. It was sold in 2006 and is now privately owned.

Continue along the main road...

3. Main Street and Middlegate Lane

Through the village, the main road, the B1204, is known as Main Street, or by its old name, Low Road. It links the 5 villages of Worlabby, Bonby, Saxby All Saints, Horkstow and South Ferriby, collectively known as the Low Villages.

Running parallel to Low Road along the top of the Wolds above the village is Middlegate Lane. This was probably originally a **prehistoric** trackway. The term 'gate' is a **Viking** word meaning lane.

Also running parallel and further east is Brigg Road, the B1206/B1218, also known as High Street, (thus Low, Middle and High roads) and was used in **Roman** times to transport goods to the Humber and beyond.



Continue along the main road to the junction of School Lane and Sheepdyke Lane, cross the road and walk up Sheepdyke Lane.....

4. Sheepdyke Lane

Halfway along this lane on the corner as you turn to face the church, you will see a small spring gushing down the hillside. This fed a sheep dip where you are standing. It was used annually to rid sheep of sheep scab, ticks and other parasites. At one time dipping sheep was compulsory for farmers. That use has given the lane its unusual name.



Continue to the end of the lane. On the corner where it meets Church Lane look for remnants of an old chalk wall on the left.....

5. The Old Vicarage



The small sections of wall you have just seen are all that remains of the former Vicarage. Believed to have been built in the 18th century, it was an imposing 3-storey, 14-room, building and in 1851 the vicar, Weever Walter, lived there with a household totalling 12, including a cook and 3 other servants. The Vicarage was pulled down

in 1957 and there are now 12 properties occupying the former vicarage grounds and its adjacent glebe land.

Cross the road towards the church and stand with your back to the lych gate.....

6. The Village Pump



This is the last of the village pumps known as an Ogram pump. They were spring-fed. Other springs include one on Sheepdyke Lane, with another beside Bonby Hall, and one that used to run down the northern boundary of the church before being piped. All settlements require a water supply to exist and survive.

The Low Villages, Worlaby, Bonby, Saxby All Saints, Horkstow and South Ferriby sit on a natural spring line which mean that water flowing through the underlying (pervious) rocks meet rock through which water cannot flow (impervious), so the water issues forth as a spring. There are/were a total of

seven springs in Bonby parish.

Ahead of you up the hill on the bend of the road is a white house which was...

7. The Blacksmith's House and Smithy

The two buildings are now known as Forge House. When the only transport was horseback or horse-drawn vehicles, a blacksmith was an essential service in every village. The sheer number of blacksmiths up and down the country is the reason why Smith is the most common surname in England.

In 1841, the blacksmith was John Grant, later succeeded by his son Joseph.



Now enter the churchyard and pause under the lych gate.....

8. The Lych Gate

Lych gates were built outside churches as covered resting places for pallbearers to rest a coffin before entering the churchyard.

Above your head are two inscriptions commemorating the jubilees of both Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Look up to see the dates.

The gate was built in 1897 and extensively repaired in 2023. A section of the old wood has been turned into a large candlestick that can be seen near the altar.



Ahead of you is

9. St. Andrew's Church



This site has been occupied by a religious building since at least the 12th Century. The dedication to Saint Andrew was a favourite of Benedictine monks who administered the church in Bonby from the Priory of Saint Fromund, Normandy, France.

The top of the tower is unusual in form, being a tiled pyramid. The blocked-up doorway facing you was the original entrance and inside, has Anglo-Saxon long and short stone work.

For more information about the history of the church, the churchyard and the War Memorial, there are additional leaflets available in the church.

When leaving the churchyard, turn right down Church Lane, cross the main road and turn left. Look for house number 99 and a white shield-shaped crest at the top of the house.....

10. The Pelham Family Crest



When the king of France surrendered his sword and belt in 1356, to a knight of Edward III, John de Pelham he took the shape of the belt buckle to form his crest.

The Pelham family moved to **Brockelsby** in 1565 and took the title of Baron in 1794, upgrading to Earl of **Yarborough** in 1837.

When Marcia Amelia Mary Lane Fox married the 4th Earl in 1886, she was given a cottage and land as a marriage settlement. The annual revenue provided her with 'pin' i.e. pocket money/allowance.

Bonby was a Yarborough estate village, and the census returns from 1841 through to 1901 show that many of the inhabitants were working on the estate as agricultural labourers and in other essential rural trades.

Proceed down Main Street to.....

11. The Telephone Kiosk

The original telephone box first appeared in 1924 and was the result of a competition. It was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The colour red was chosen to make them easier to spot.

Bonby's kiosk was given a coat of platinum coloured paint in 2022 to mark the jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

It is now a redundant piece of street furniture as most of the population own their own mobile phone.



A little way past the telephone box you will come to School Lane.....

12. School Lane and the Village School

Day schools and Sunday schools had existed in the village since at least 1818.

Bonby National School was opened in the village in 1855 with capacity for 85 pupils and had 2 teachers.

It remained open for over 100 years and closed on 28th March 1972.

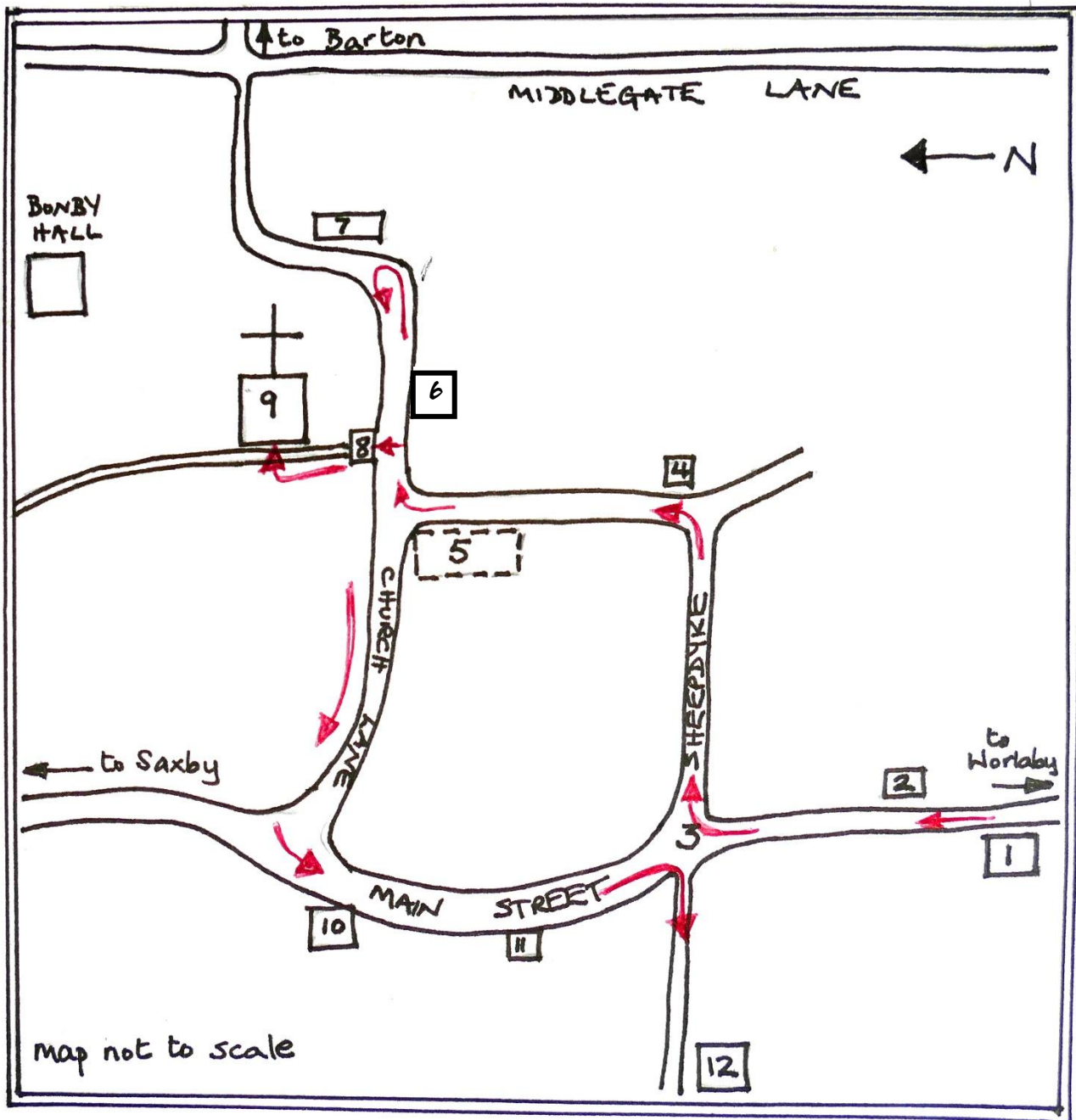
Children are now bused to Worlabby School, about 1 mile away or attend schools such as Brigg, South Ferriby or Barton for example.



The school and school house, are situated at the end of School Lane adjacent to the Playing Field and are now a private residence.

Continue along Main Street to return to the Village Hall.

THE ROUTE OF THE BONBY HISTORY TRAIL



For the more energetic, before leaving the village why not make your way to the top of Church Lane to where it meets Middlegate Lane for views across The **Ancholme Valley**, the route the Vikings took inland in the 8th and 9th centuries when the river occupied a wider course than the present day and the fields were marshes.

On a clear day look for **Lincoln Cathedral** on the far horizon, over 30 miles away.

For more Bonby history search <https://e-voice.org.uk/bonbyhistory>