

Walks around Charlton and Newbottle



Newbottle and Charlton Parish Council 2018

Note: This publication was originally created by Diane Morgan (Parish Footpaths Warden) in 2009.

Introduction

We are very fortunate that Charlton and Newbottle are surrounded by such varied and beautiful countryside. The aim of this booklet is to encourage you to enjoy the area around by using the network of footpaths and bridleways that pass through it.

There are 6 circular walks of varying length and these are explained by means of a map together with detailed instructions. In the middle of the booklet is a schematic map which should help you plan your own walks, and at the back are maps showing the footpaths in the whole of the area.

Please note that only official Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths have been used. No use has been made of unofficial paths which have developed over the years.

If you would like to add a route or you believe a route printed here needs altering please get in touch via the village website; www.charltonandnewbottle.com

WALK 1: ROSAMUND'S BOWER AND FORCELEAP **4.8miles, 2.25hrs**

This walk takes you past Newbottle and north to Rosamund's Bower. The route then heads east along Sandy Lane and Green Lane. The path goes through Forceleap Woods and returns to Charlton through the Playing Field.

There is a chance to visit the beautiful church at Newbottle and to catch a glimpse of the Manor in this deserted village which was once the size of Charlton. Purston, near the northern section of this walk is also a deserted medieval village. Both were probably deserted because of enclosure for sheep.



WALK 2: RAINSBOROUGH CAMP AND WALTON GROUNDS **3.6miles, 1.5hrs**



This walk takes you to the south west of the village. It passes through Stonepits which is an old quarry, and up to Rains-borough Camp, an old Romano-British encampment. You have good views over the Cherwell Valley on the way to the deserted village of Walton Grounds. The return follows the old Mill Stream to Charlton and along the Main Street past The Cottage, former home of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Birkenhead (F.E.Smith.)

WALK 3 THE FORCELEAP WALKS

1.6 or 3.6miles, 0.75 or 1.5hrs

This selection of walks take you to the north of the village. The longer walk allows you to see the old WW II airfield of Hinton in the Hedges. It was here that pioneering work was done which ultimately led to the development of Instrument Landing Systems used on today's aircraft. Further on is Forceleap Farm where in 1872 a waterspout was observed here, part of a larger whirlwind which tracked across Newbottle and Walton Grounds



WALK 4 HIGH LEVEL TO WALTON GROUNDS

4.2miles, 1.75hrs



This walk to the west of Charlton has good views over the Cherwell Valley and Kings Sutton. It returns along the valley bottom and follows the old mill stream.

Stonepits are the remains of old quarries used for building stone after the quarries in Newbottle Woods were exhausted in the 1650s.

There were two watermills along the stream. One was by Charlton Lodge, near the road; the other known as Newbottle (or Bull) Mill was further downstream. Its ruins can still be traced.

WALK 5 RAINSBOROUGH CAMP AND HINTON

6.25miles, 2.25hrs

This walk takes you south to Rainsborough Camp with good views over the Cherwell Valley and then east along the parish boundary to Hinton in the Hedges. It returns to Charlton along the perimeter track of the WW II airfield. Rainsborough Camp is an Iron Age hill fort dating from 6th century BC. Two centuries later it was attacked, burnt and abandoned. In the 1st Century AD it was occupied by Romano-Britons, and was landscaped by the Cartwrights of Aynho in the 1700s. A Roman mosaic lies buried near where the route joins the Charlton-Evenley road.



WALK 6 CROUGHTON, SOULDERN AND AYNHO

9.4miles, 4.25hrs



This longer walk goes via Rainsborough Camp to Croughton. It then follows a pathway through woodland and parkland to Souldern. Return is through Aynho Park to Aynho and continues along the ancient Roman Road of Portway to Walton Grounds and then along the valley bottom to Charlton.

Aynhoe Park was the home of the Cartwright Family for nearly 400 years until a tragic car accident killed both father and son in 1954. The Cartwrights owned large parts of Newbottle and Charlton. Charlton Memorial Hall is in memory of Frances

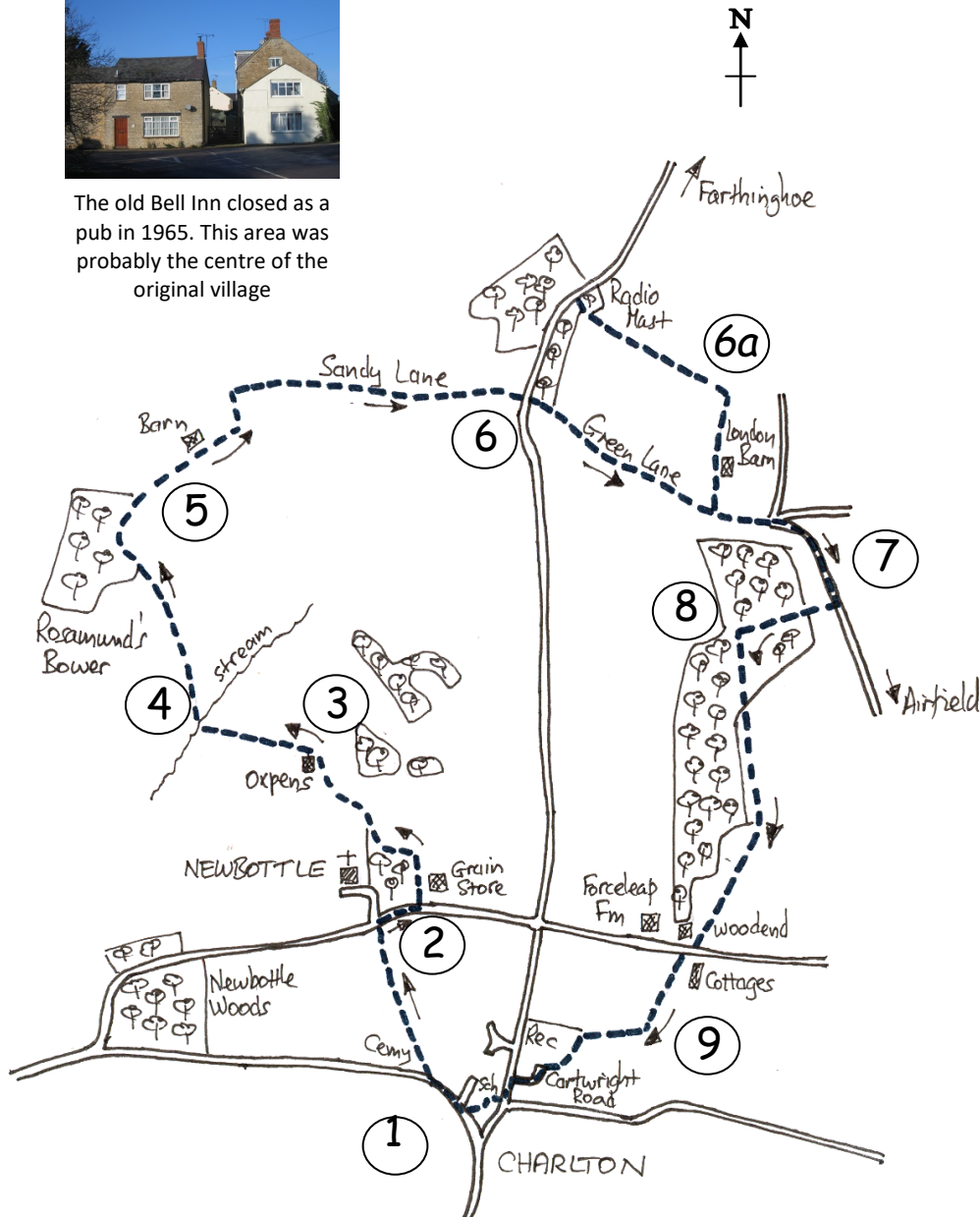
Cartwright of Newbottle Manor and Charles Whigham of Purston Manor.

WALK 1

ROSAMUND'S BOWER AND FORCELEAP
Distance about 4.8 miles Time about 2.25 hours



The old Bell Inn closed as a pub in 1965. This area was probably the centre of the original village



Park on verge at Charlton Cemetery: Grid Ref: SP526364

- ① Follow tarmac path towards Newbottle (*worth taking time to look at the church 150 yds along the lane opposite the end of this path*)
- ② At end of path turn R onto road as far as Grain Store
Turn L onto track, keeping grain store on R
- ③ Follow track to Oxpens, Immediately past Oxpens, turn L down the field path towards stream
- ④ Cross bridge (usually muddy) and follow field path diagonally up hill over 2 fields to Rosamund's Bower
- ⑤ Follow field edge down as it curves R past old barn. Path follows field edge round to L. Then in 100yds, turn R across field to Sandy Lane
- ⑥ Go up Sandy Lane to Farthinghoe Road. Cross road into Green Lane
- ⑥a (*Green Lane is often muddy and impassable. An alternative is to turn L along road for 200yds, then R onto footpath. Follow path turning R to pass London Barn on your L. Rejoin Green Lane and turn L*)
- ⑦ At end of Green Lane turn R along road toward airfield.
At the first house on R, turn R onto track (waymarked)
- ⑧ In woods, turn L and follow narrow path (often muddy). Path exits wood and follows track to paintball area. Cross road onto path by seat. Follow path across 2 fields to road leading to airfield

Turn R onto road towards Charlton. At bottom of dip, turn L into track. Just before end of track turn R over stile up to Recreation Ground.
- ⑨ Turn L towards Cartwright Road. Over stile into Cartwright Road, At end turn L, towards village centre. Opposite Brackley Road, turn R onto footpath towards school.

At end, turn R onto Kings Sutton road towards cemetery

WALK 2

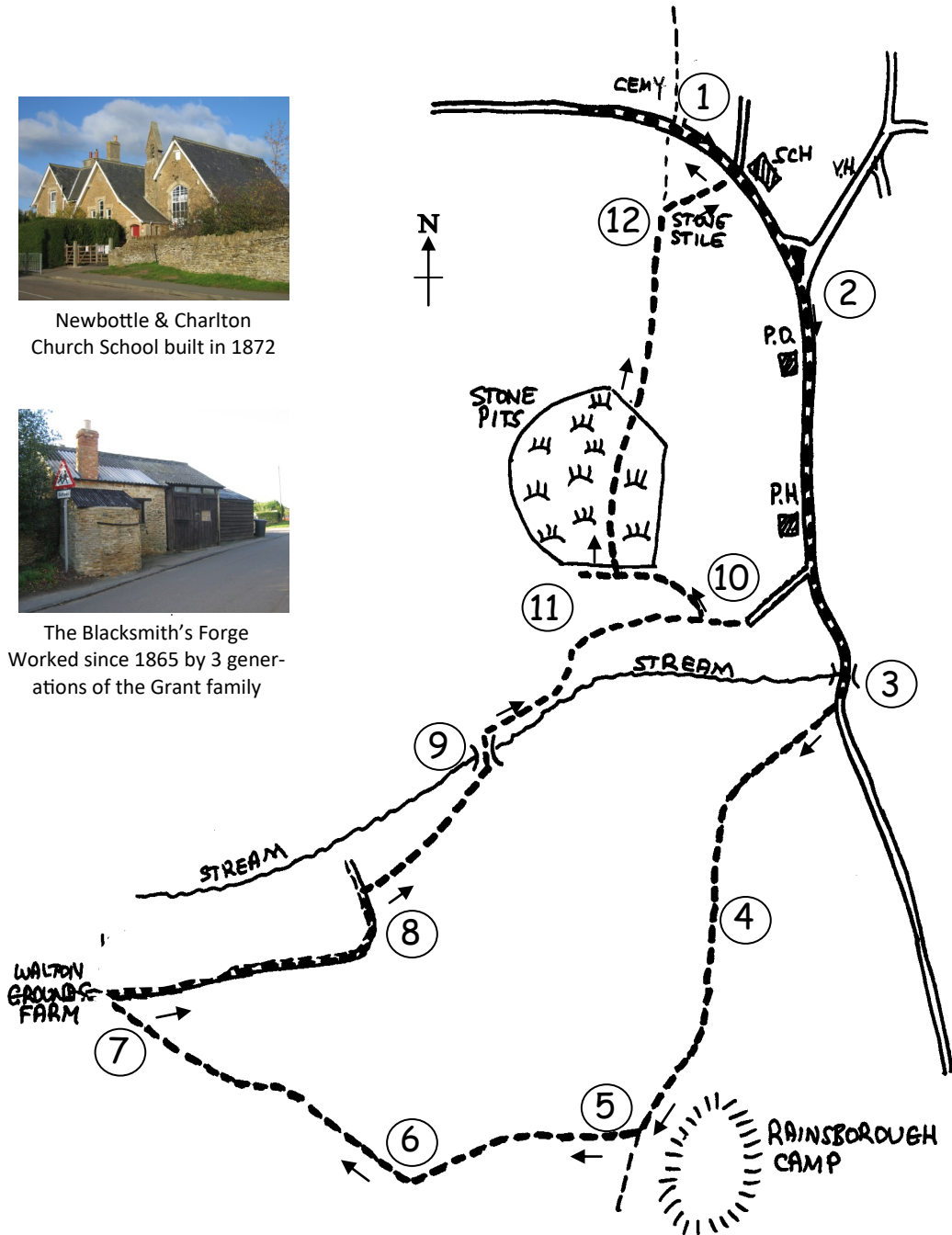
RAINSBOROUGH CAMP AND WALTON GROUNDS
Distance about 3.6 miles Time about 1.5 hours



Newbottle & Charlton Church School built in 1872



The Blacksmith's Forge
Worked since 1865 by 3 generations of the Grant family



Park on the verge at Charlton Cemetery Grid Ref: SP52364

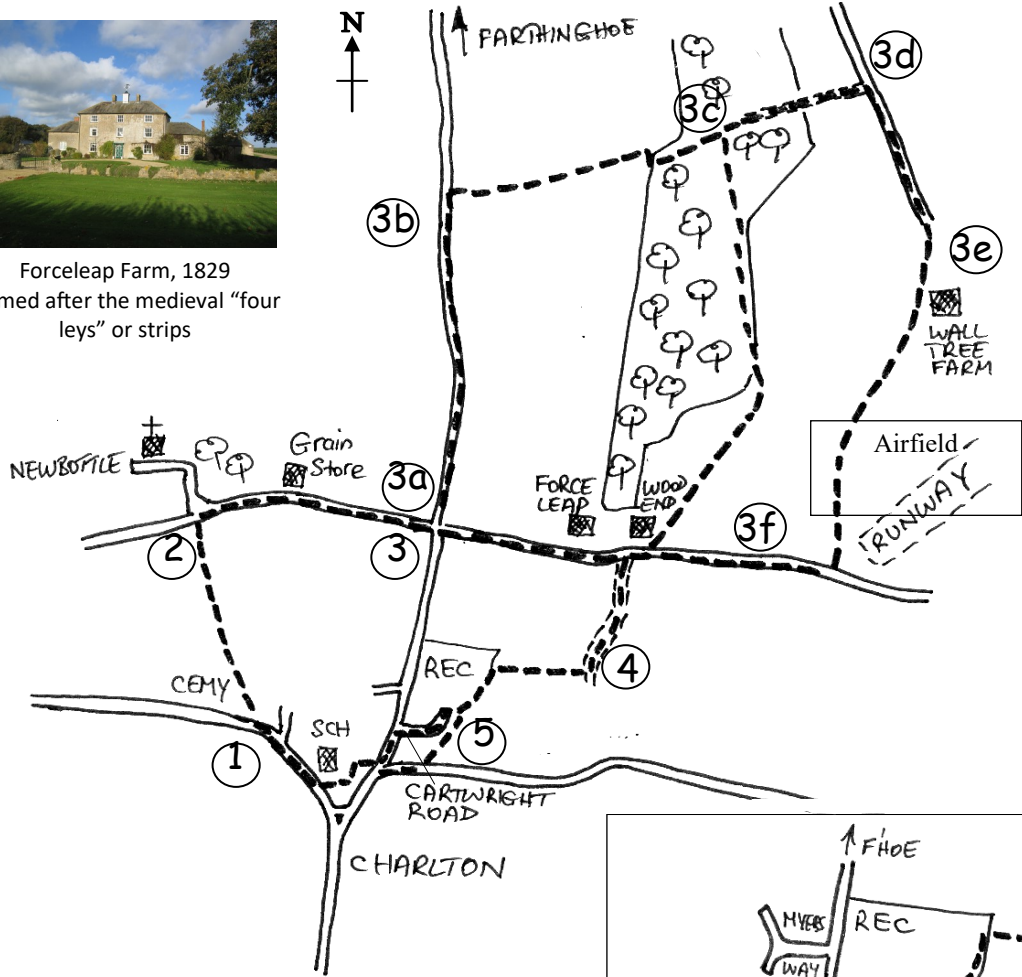
- ① Follow the road past the school to the small triangular green
- ② Turn R down the main street past the Post Office and The Pub. Be careful to walk on the R as you go out of the village down the hill.
- ③ At the bottom of the hill turn R onto the footpath (muddy gateway!)
- ④ Follow the path as it bears L through a gate and through two more field gates towards the Camp at the top of the rise.
- ⑤ Keep the Camp on your L and bear R along a path through a gate and along the ridge, keeping the hedge on your R. *(You may explore the Camp)*
- ⑥ The path then goes to the R of the hedge and after one field bears diagonally R over three more fields towards the valley bottom.
- ⑦ At the bottom, turn sharp R onto the track which runs back along the valley bottom, keeping the hedge on your R.
- ⑧ Follow the track round to the L at the end of the field, and in 20 yds. turn R through the wide gateway into the next field. Go towards the far L corner of this field.
- ⑨ Just before the end of the field, turn L into the hedge and over a bridge to cross the stream. Turn R to follow the path over 2 fields (including a sleeper bridge)
- ⑩ Just before another bridge, turn L to follow the path diagonally L up the hill towards a gate at the entrance to Stonepits
- ⑪ Go through the gate into Stonepits. Follow the path onto the next field and as far as a stone stile on your R
- ⑫ Cross over this stile and follow the path towards the road and over another stile to the road. Turn L to the Cemetery.

WALK 3

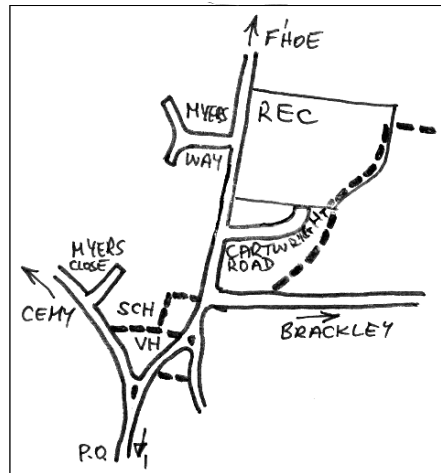
THE FORCELEAP WALKS
 Distance about 1.6 miles Time about 0.75 hours
 Distance about 3.6 miles Time about 1.5 hours



Forceleap Farm, 1829
 Named after the medieval "four
 leys" or strips



⑤ Though the way described is all public Right of Way, the actual Public Footpath goes from the corner of the Recreation Ground, behind the houses in Cartwright Road, to the Brackley Road. Then turn R into the village.



Park on verge at Charlton Cemetery; Grid Ref: SP526364

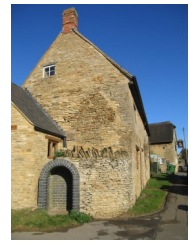
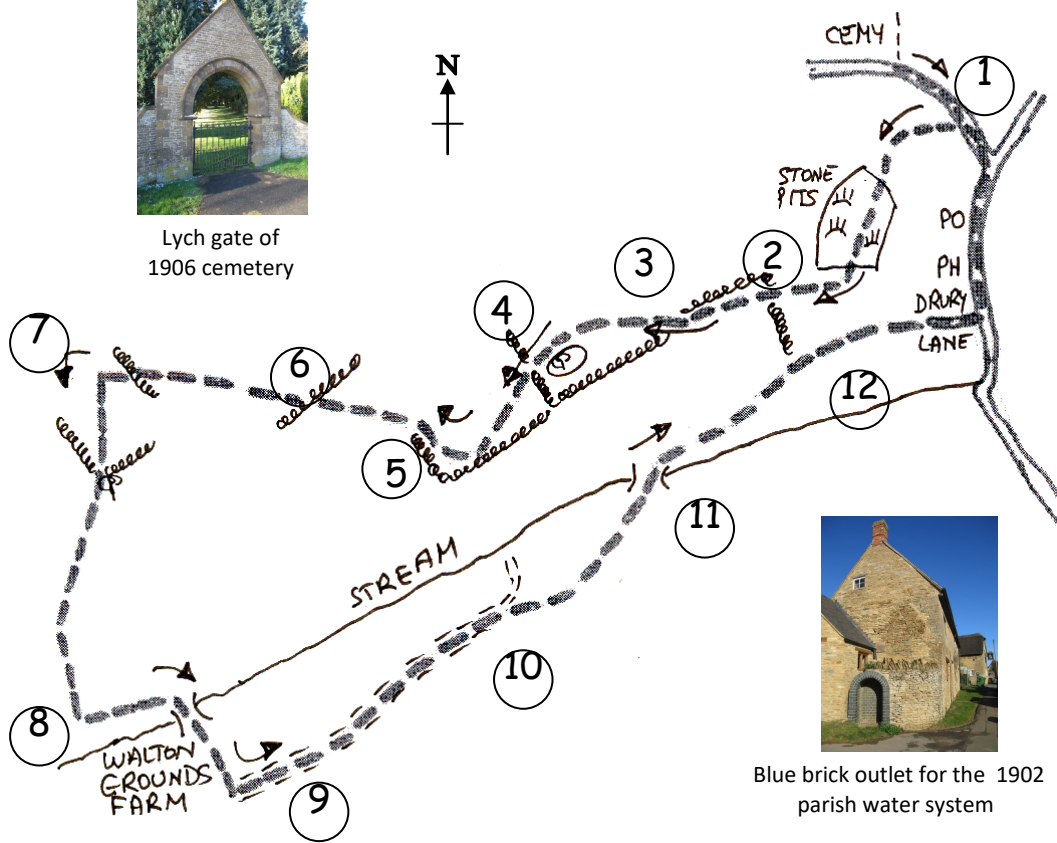
- ① Follow tarmac path towards Newbottle
- ② At end of path turn R along road to the crossroads
- ③ Cross over Farthinghoe Road and continue past Forceleap Farm to bottom of dip. Turn R onto track.
- ③a A longer walk may be made by turning L here along Farthinghoe Road for about half mile to the footpath sign on R.
- ③b Turn R onto footpath alongside hedge (on L). At the end of the field, path deviates to R for 10 yds then L through hedge into woodland. Turn L on to track. After a gate, turn R for 100yds and enter woodland through another gate
- ③c Take path on R (often muddy) Path exits wood and follows track to paintball area. Cross road onto path by seat. Follow path across 2 fields to road between Woodend and Airfield
- ③d A slightly longer (and drier) walk may be made by continuing along the path and track to the road. Turn R along road to Airfield.
- ③e Continue in more or less straight line keeping Walltree Farm on L, through gate onto path alongside hedge on L, and straight over open arable field towards end of runway
- ③f Turn R onto road towards Charlton . At the bottom of dip turn L onto track
- ④ Just before end of track turn R over stile up to Recreation Ground. Turn L towards Cartwright Road.
- ⑤ Over stile into Cartwright Road, At end turn L, towards village centre. Opposite Brackley Road, turn R onto footpath towards school. At end, turn R onto Kings Sutton road towards cemetery

WALK 4

HIGH LEVEL TO WALTON GROUNDS
Distance about 4.2 miles Time about 1.75 hours



Lych gate of 1906 cemetery



Blue brick outlet for the 1902 parish water system

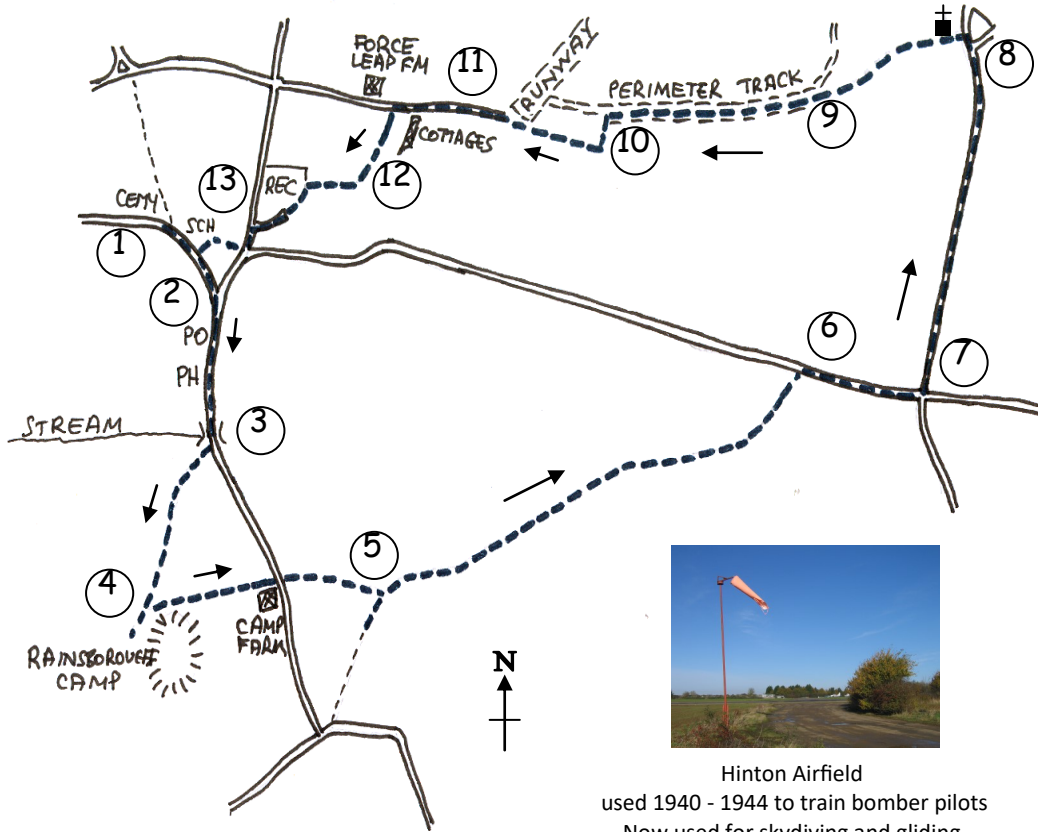
Park on verge at Charlton Cemetery Grid Ref:L SP526364

- ① Walk towards the village and after 100yds, turn R over stile onto footpath to Kings Sutton. Cross over a stone stile and turn L to go through Stonepits
- ② Go through the gate and turn R. Follow path Westerly over field, through gap in hedge. Continue along path, keeping hedge on you R
- ③ At end of field, go through gap in hedge on R and continue more or less West-erly to pass to the R of a clump of trees in the field

- ④ Go through gap in the hedge and bear slightly L to continue more or less Westerly. When you reach the track at the field edge, turn sharp R to go diagonally across the corner to the field boundary
- ⑤ Bear R to follow field boundary and then slightly L across field towards and orange gas pipeline marker
- ⑥ Go through hedge and bear L to follow path across field to field corner
- ⑦ Go through hedge and continue **across** field for 100yds, In middle of field, turn sharp L and follow path towards hedge and field corner on skyline. Continue through scrubland and across next field towards hedge. Go through gap and follow path along field edge and then past a house to a road.
- ⑧ Turn L onto road for 20yds, then turn L onto Byway, keeping conifer hedge on your L. Continue along track for 150yds and near the end, bear R to go through gap almost at the end of a line of poplar trees. Cross over the bridge and follow track to a crossroads of tracks
- ⑨ Turn L and follow track keeping hedge on your R.
- ⑩ At the end of the field, follow track round to L and after 20yds turn R through the wide gateway into next field. Go towards the far L corner of this field
- ⑪ Just before the end of this field turn L through the hedge and over a bridge. Turn R and follow path over 2 fields (including a sleeper bridge)
- ⑫ Continue over another bridge and go up the field towards a gate to the L of the house. Go along Drury Lane to the main village street. Turn L and follow road past the Post Office and bear L towards Kings Sutton and the cemetery

WALK 5

RAINSBOROUGH CAMP AND HINTON
Distance about 6.25 miles Time about 2.25 hours



Hinton Airfield
used 1940 - 1944 to train bomber pilots
Now used for skydiving and gliding

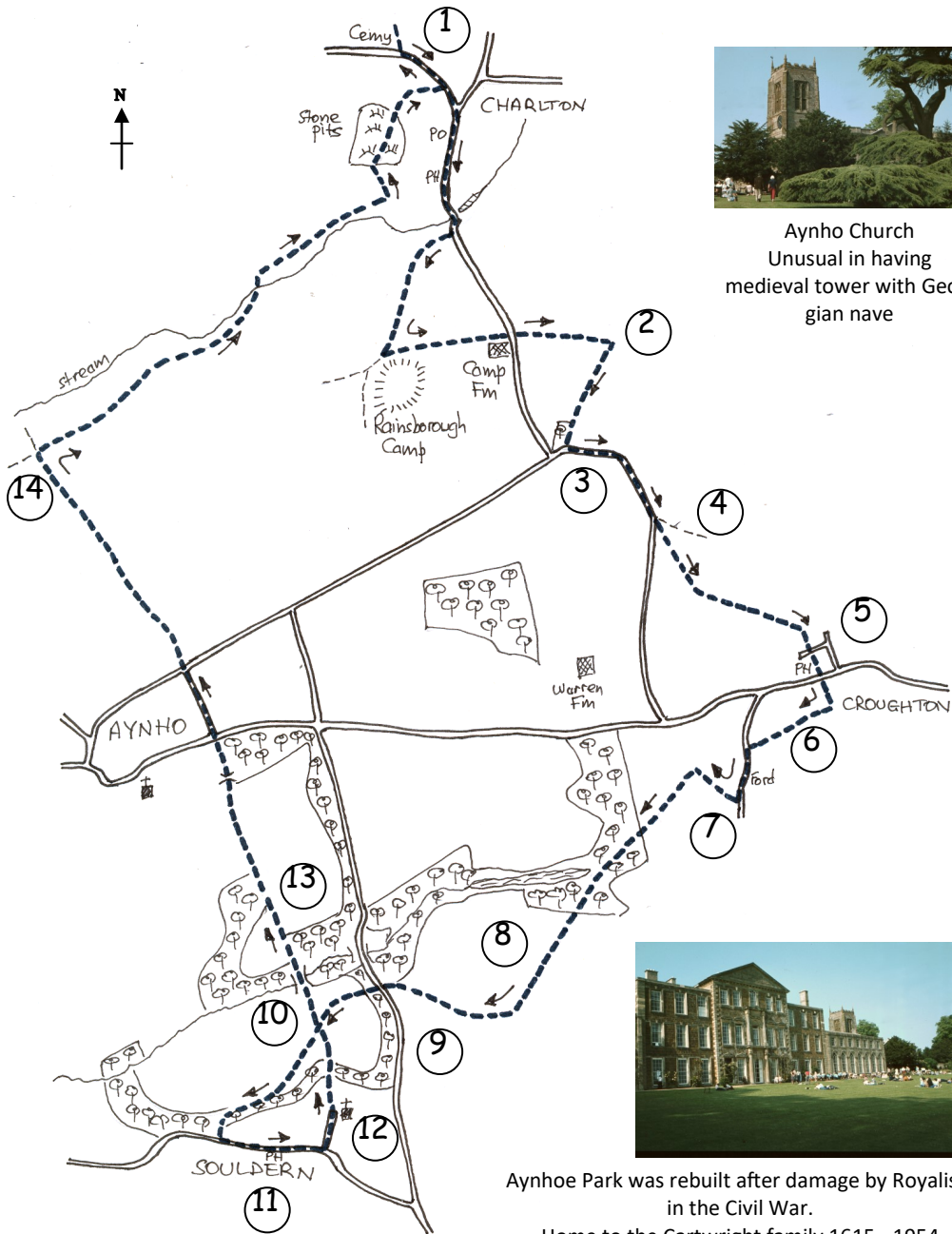
Park on verge at Charlton Cemetery Grid Ref: SP526364

- ① Follow the road past the school to the triangular green
- ② Turn R down the Main Street past the Post Office and the Pub. Be careful to walk on the R as you go out of the village down the hill
- ③ At the bottom of the hill turn R onto the footpath (*usually muddy*)
Follow the path as it bears L through a gate and through 2 more field gates to the Camp at the top of the rise

- ④ Turn L and go through 2 field gates to the road at Camp Farm
Cross over the road and continue along the track as far as a
junction of tracks
- ⑤ Follow the main track which bears R and continue in a straight line past a
wood on the R. Keep to the L of the 1st hedge and to the R of the 2nd one.
The path then follows the field edge and continues between 2 hedges until
you reach the road
- ⑥ Turn R and walk up the road, keeping to the R where there is a verge
- ⑦ At the crossroads, turn L to Hinton and follow the road past the houses to
the Village Green
- ⑧ Turn L towards the church. Follow the L side of the churchyard to a stile.
Cross this stile, and in 100yds another stile. Continue in a straight line over 3
fields and over a sleeper bridge. Continue along a track which bears R
through a gap in the hedge.
- ⑨ This track leads onto the concrete airfield perimeter track. Turn L and follow
the perimeter track
- ⑩ At the end of the hedge on your R, turn L over the field for 100yds to a track
which runs parallel to the perimeter track. Turn R and follow this track to the
end of the runway
- ⑪ Beware of low flying aircraft as you cross the runway and continue along the
road to the bottom of the hill. Turn L onto track for Charlton.
- ⑫ Just before the end of the track turn R over stile onto path up to Recreation
Ground. Turn L to end of Cartwright Road. Over stile into Cartwright Road
- ⑬ At end of Cartwright Road, turn L. Opposite Brackley Road turn R
And follow footpath past school, turning R to reach the Cemetery

WALK 6

CROUGHTON, SOULDERN AND AYNHO
Distance about 9.4 miles Time about 4.25 hours



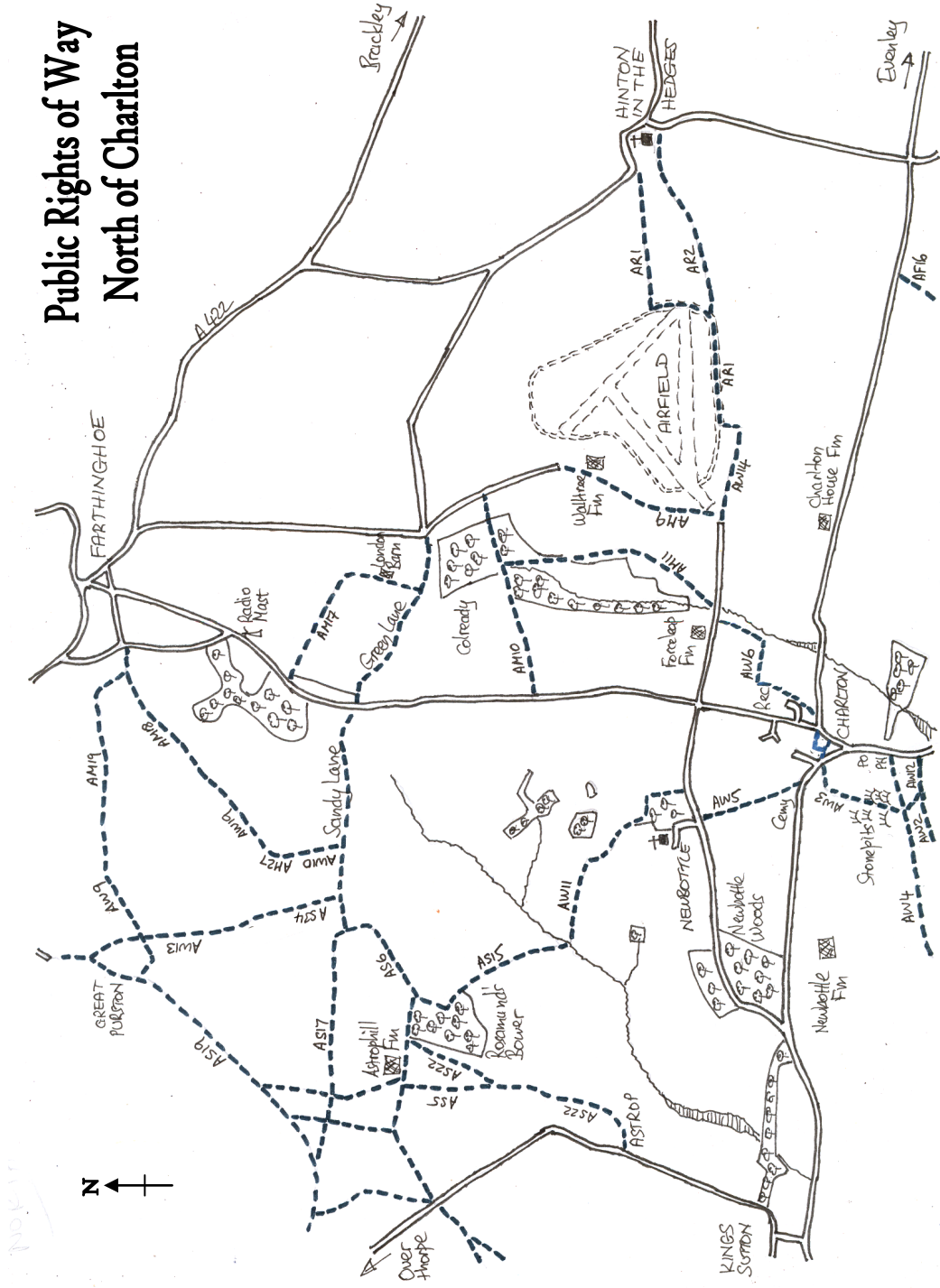
Aynho Church
Unusual in having
medieval tower with Georgian nave



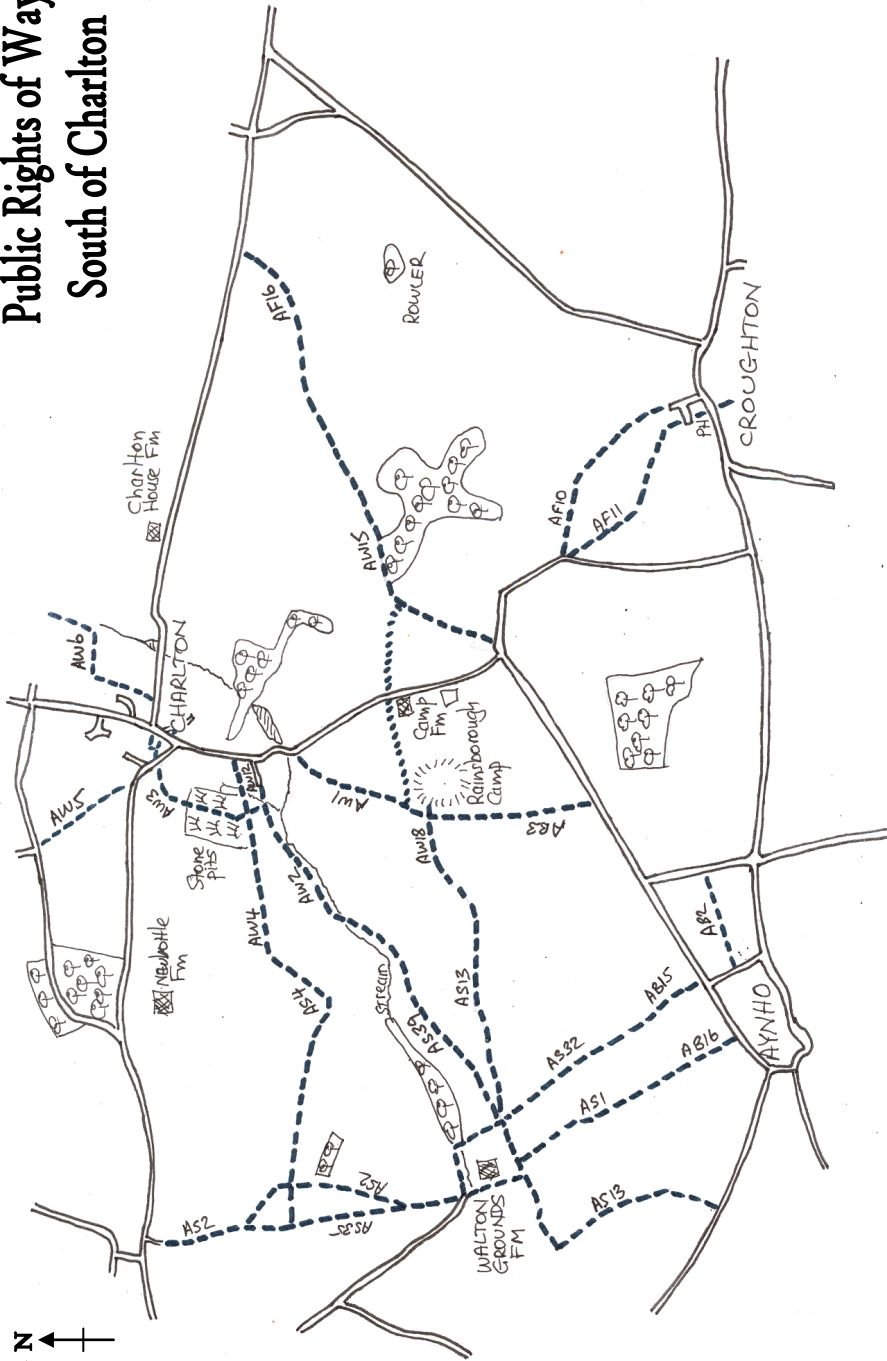
Aynhoe Park was rebuilt after damage by Royalists in the Civil War.
Home to the Cartwright family 1615 - 1954

- ① Park on verge at Cemetery. Follow instructions 1 - 5 on Rainsborough Camp and Hinton walk (Walk 5)
- ② At path junction turn R and follow path to the road
- ③ Turn L and follow road to footpath signs near smallholding
- ④ Follow the R footpath diagonally across the field bearing L at the hedge. The footpath then turns R past Croughton Village Hall
- ⑤ Continue through the houses to the main road. Cross over and continue to cross a stile
- ⑥ Turn diagonally R to the corner of a stone wall, and follow path to a lane
- ⑦ Turn L along to cross a ford (bridge provided!). Turn R onto signed footpath. Follow this path and then turn L to cross a field towards a gate into the wood.
- ⑧ Follow the path through the wood and through Upper Aynho Grounds to the main road
- ⑨ Cross the road and through a gate. Follow the path to a fence.
- ⑩ Cross this fence and continue slight L to a gate. Go L through the gate and follow path onto the road
- ⑪ Turn L and follow the road through the village to the pond at Souldern
- ⑫ Turn L towards the church. Continue to the L of the church onto a path past the sewage works. Continue in this direction through the wood and over fields to a stile
- ⑬ Cross the stile onto a path which goes between 2 walls and through a tunnel to the main road at Aynho. Cross the road and follow the smaller road to cross another road and onto a byway. Follow the byway to the bottom of the hill.
- ⑭ At the junction of tracks, turn R and follow instructions 7 - 12 of the Rainsborough Camp and Walton Grounds walk (Walk 2)

Public Rights of Way North of Charlton



Public Rights of Way South of Charlton



THE COUNTRY CODE

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

Keep dogs under close control

Protect plants and animals

Take your litter home

Keep to authorised paths across farmland

Use stiles where they are provided

Leave gates and property as you find them

Enjoy the countryside and consider other people

Leave only footprints

Take only photographs

Much more detail about the area's past can be found in
the excellent book

"Charlton & Newbottle - The History of Two Villages"

published by Charlton and Newbottle History Society