

Walk down the yew avenue to the South porch of the church

u 1 The parish church, dedicated to All Saints, was heavily reconstructed in 1864. The 45' high tower was encased in Ashlar stone, and the doorways and 13th to 14th century arcades were preserved. There is a Saxon font in the bell-ringing chamber. Fine early Pre-Raphaelite windows are by William Morris and his friends.

u Constance Penswick-Smith (1878 – 1938), tireless campaigner for the revival of Mothering Sunday in Britain, was the daughter of our vicar Charles Penswick Smith. She was concerned that the religious aspects of the medieval festival of Mothering Sunday would be overshadowed by the new American tradition of Mother's Day. You can find both their graves near the church porch.

Leave the churchyard by the West gate – near the graves of the Thorpe family.

u The Gables (to the left of the church, on the corner) was once owned by Stephen Ashwell (a petitioner for the 1760 Coddington Enclosure Act). The Cargill family owned it for most of the 19th century. It is one of several houses that has served as our vicar's home in the 20th century.

u 2 'Old Vicarage' was once the schoolmaster's house. Joseph Chantry Hunt was head teacher from 1883 to 1925. He was a disciplinarian, but had great energy and many new ideas for the school.

u 3 Single storey almshouses built in 1933 with money from Joseph Birch's charity. A public footpath runs northwards from almshouse corner through its garden, across the road and the fields to Drove Lane corner.

Turn right down Chapel Lane past the north side of the church.



Detail from a Chapel Jug

u 4 The Wesleyan Chapel (now Chapel House) held services up to the 1970s. A chapel dates from 1827, but the existing building is from 1865. In response to the Church of England school, the Methodists built a day school in 1858 for up to 80 pupils (behind the Chapel). The two schools competed for funds and pupils, but the other school enjoyed the 'Squire's' support and the Wesleyan school had to close in 1895.

u 5 Charity Farm (first on the right after the church) The farmhouse is all that remains on the site. In 1738 Joseph Birch left his 98-acre farm to the village poor. In 1885 a third of the land was let as small allotments, and of the money raised £50 went to the National School and £20 to the Wesleyan school. From 1912 money was being put each year into the almshouse fund. The Walsters, a large family descended from the schoolteachers' daughter Mary Roberts and her husband, used to farm here.

u The stone wall (once part of a demolished farm building) further along is built of limestone. An 1835 map shows several lime pits and limekilns, and villagers are listed as lime burners in trade directories up to 1916. Limestone, burnt lime and slaked lime had many uses in agriculture and building materials (including in mortar, floors and rendering).

Turn left at the end of Chapel Lane towards the crossroads.

u 6 The Plough Inn is the only one of several 19th century pubs and alehouses remaining in the village today. Between 1869 and 1912 the publican was Mary Ingram or her husband Thomas. For the first half of the 20th century, the house next door was Thomas Knott's shop with his bakehouse behind it.

The crossroads has two nice old houses with chequered brickwork.

Continue over the crossroads along Main St, past the former site of Hall Farm (now housing).

u 7 The Inn on the Green was a farmhouse and maltings complex including orchard, maltkiln and offices, stables, granaries and warehouse. In 1863 the tenant was John Fryer. When James Hollingworth bought the 151-acre farm in 1918, there was a brewhouse and dairy, but the malt kiln was being used as a barn. In 1948 he sold the buildings to Col. WAC Anderson, who turned it into an exclusive social club – 'The Dice House Country Club'. In the 1950's Squadron Leader 'Lofty' Allen bought it and Tommy Trinder appeared there. The licence was changed from club to public house in the 1970's.

Follow Main St. left around the bend onto The Green.



u 8 The Laurels on the corner is a handsome late 18th century listed building with a gated entrance. The farm offices next door have chequered brickwork, and beyond the second gate are the remains of the 9-bay maltings.

Follow Main St., turning right onto Drove Lane

u 9 Manor Dairy Farmhouse The farm that James Hollingworth bought and named Manor Dairy Farm stayed in his family until 1982. The current farmhouse was an old cottage that the Hollingworths converted in 1948. James and his son Fred built up a quality herd of Friesian dairy cows, including 1950s prize bulls 'Coddington Nutty' and 'Coddington Hiltbar'.

Fred was a leading figure in Newark and Notts Agricultural Society and a pavilion at the showground is named after him. Their dairy in Albert St. Newark bottled their milk until they left dairy farming in 1964. After they retired, the stackyard brick buildings were converted to become the properties on the south side of the Courtyard.

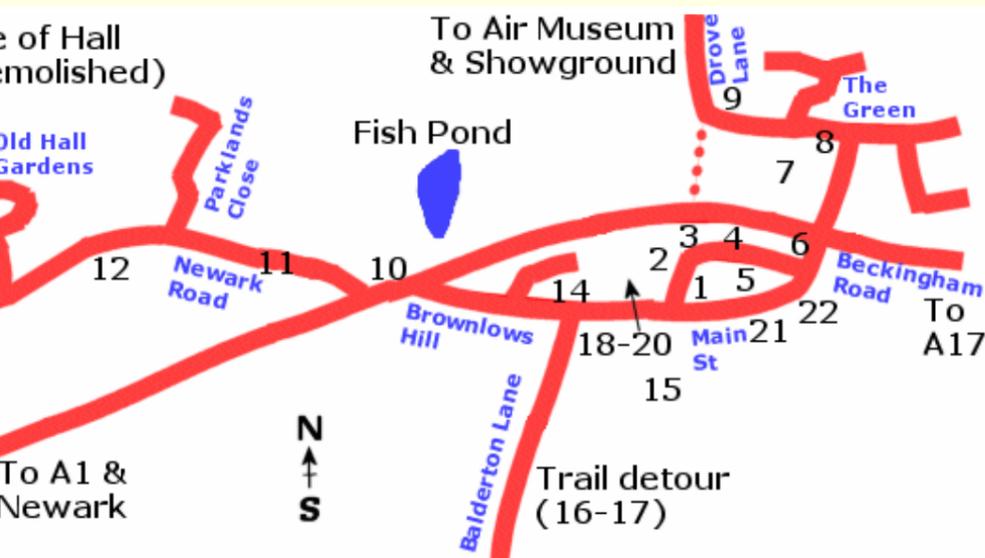
Return to the Plough crossroads and turn right along the main road (a public footpath also runs across the fields to the main road). Walk past the wooded-entrance to the fishpond and the village sign, then turn into Newark Rd.

u 10 The village sign was designed by a resident and local schoolchildren and has a time capsule at its base.

u 11 Newark Road is lined with very large horse chestnut trees - a legacy from 19th century estate times. The older buildings are a mixture of Victorian rural and grander early 20th century houses.



Beswick pottery figurine of Coddington Hiltbar



u 12 Almond Cottage (on the left) was the home of Miss Gomer, a village teacher for 40 years whose father was a butler at the Hall in the 1890s. Past her cottage are views across the fields to the windmill on Balderton Lane. Black's Farm was once hall-gamekeeper Isaac Clipstone's cottage. Arthur Black from Kelham bought this and other lots in 1918.



Almond cottage

map. John Black and his family ran the smallholding from 1861. His grandson Fred bought the lot in 1918, but not most of the land he had been farming before the sale. He revived the pub in the 1920s.

u The Lodge (on the corner next to the Post Office) formed a single storey gatehouse to the old hall. It is now a two-storey house but still has some original railings next to the pillar box, and interesting chimneystacks.



Sunnyside and Manor Farmhouses

u Parklands Close and Old Hall Gardens (on the right) jut into the parkland of the former Hall. The houses of Parklands Close were once married officers' houses for RAF Winthorpe.

The demolished hall and its gardens. The fountain was blown up in VE day celebrations.

Walk on to the Post Office, opposite which are several old houses.

u 13 Enfin is described in the 1918 sale as a brick built and slated laundry, with cottage outbuildings and garden. It was the laundry for The Hall. Part of a smallholding near here (but now under the A1) was a pub called the Catch'em Inn that appears on an 1835 Newark

Return to the village sign. Cross the road and continue past the school up Brownlow's Hill. Brownlow's House is opposite Balderton Lane.

u 14 Brownlow's House was probably built by the Thorpes in 1870 - 74. It is named after the original tenant, blacksmith John Brownlow. George Henry Hough bought it in the 1918 sale. The Houghs owned the threshing machine and had been blacksmiths in Coddington since the 1830s. Hough's threshing machine



There was a blacksmith's shop and shoeing shed, cow house for three, chaff house and pigsty. Later the Houghs became contractors - they reused woodwork from the demolition of the Hall conservatory in their front porch. From 1967 to 1989 the house belonged to the family farming Hill and Vale Farms. Two large brick outbuildings remain: the restored blacksmith's forge and animal housing.

u 15 Coddington House was built in the mid 1850s by James Thorpe as a dowry house for his widowed mother Ann. The best views are from Balderton Lane. In 1964 traces of civil war earthworks were recorded in the house's parkland.

Optional detour down Balderton Lane 15 - 17. (See the next page for details)

u 18 Post Office Row A terrace of two-storey brick cottages with pantile roofs and vertical plank doors (except no 24). No 22 has original inward-opening casement windows. William Sharp, tenant of No 21 in 1918, used the front room as the Post Office.



u 19 The old Church of England School (now the scout hall) was built in 1846. It was originally a single room measuring 40 x 16ft. It grew to have three classrooms and was replaced in the 1960s by the current Church of England infant school. The single storey stone building has two porches with decorated carved doorways.



u 20 Coronation Hall Part of the village hall was once the 'Working Men's Reading Room'. Col. James Thorpe paid for the building, which housed about 100 books paid for by Mrs Deeping of Newark.

Continue down the hill, past The Gables and the South boundary of the churchyard, to Manor Farm and Sunnyside Farm.

u 21 Manor Farmhouse and its dovecote (now converted into a cottage, and private property with no access) date from 1713. They are listed, brick and pantile buildings, believed to be the oldest in the village. Frank and Harold Simpson, who farmed Manor Farm in the 1940s, also owned the butcher's shop. They had their own abattoir, and sold their meat in a small shop by the farm gate. The barns are being converted.

u 22 Sunnyside Farmhouse is a large early-Victorian frontage (with an older range behind) and original brick and pantile farm buildings. Gentleman farmers and limekiln owners the Young family ran the farm in the 19th century. Mr John Cooling Smith, from Allington, owned it in the 1920s. The head waggoner George Kirton rented it from 1945, and later bought it. His two sons now continue the family business.

On Main St., between here and the crossroads once stood the Red Lion pub, a cobblers shop and early Post Office, and Hough's Yard. William Ellis had been a village shoemaker since the 1840s before he also became the first postmaster in the 1870s and 80s.

Coddington History Group hopes you enjoyed walking our trail.

Optional Trail detour down Balderton Lane

NB there is no pavement between the Moat and the Windmill. (Both are on private property and may only be viewed from the road.)

15 Coddington House Look back across the fields at the pale-brick house. When Ann Thorpe died in 1877, the school logbook stated, "The Schools have lost a great friend". Godfrey Tallents, solicitor and Newark Town Clerk, was living at Coddington House by 1881 - Mrs Tallents was still there in 1950.



16 The Old Forge On the right is one of the village's five listed buildings. It is an 18th century 2-storey brick and pantile cottage, but the forge buildings have gone.

17 The Homestead (on the left, further on) When our church was annexed to East Stoke the curate often lodged here with

Farmers, the Booths. Current owners, the Daybell family, came to the village at the start of the 19th century. They prospered, and after the 1918 Sale Charles Robinson Daybell became the principal village landowner.

The Moat (almost opposite The Homestead, on the right) You can see parts of the Moat from the pavement near 'Moat Edge'. The moat is a listed ancient monument, probably 12th century. Fed by a stream, it would have been about 2m deep - but we have no evidence for any buildings on the island.



The Windmill is a listed, tarred brick tower-mill about 5 minutes walk beyond Moat Edge. It is now a private house, with no cap or sails. The Lee family owned the mill for most of the 19th century. They installed a 10 horsepower steam engine in 1862, and it was used until WWII.

[Return to Brownlow's Hill corner.](#)

Ref: version 1/2004

How to get to Coddington



By Car

2.5 miles East of Newark. From Newark travel along Beacon Hill Road - turn right onto Brownlow's Hill ahead to Main Street and park in Chapel Lane or Main Street. Coddington is also easily accessible from the A1 and the A17.

By Bus from Newark

Service 83 Lincolnshire Roadcar - every 30 minutes (2 hourly on Sundays), stopping at The Plough Inn on Main Street. The Trail starts at All Saints Church off Main Street

The Countryside Code

While in the countryside please follow the Countryside Code:

- u Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- u Guard against all risk of fire.
- u Fasten all gates.
- u Keep your dogs under close control.
- u Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- u Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- u Take your litter home.
- u Take special care on country roads
- u Make no unnecessary noise



This trail was produced with funding from:



Coddington History Group would like to thank all the people who provided photographs or helped the production of this trail in any way.



Welcome to the Heritage Trail

We hope you enjoy walking this trail. Please respect the village, its inhabitants and our environment and avoid entering private property.

Early Coddington

In 1086 Domesday records that the main landowners in Cotinton(e) were the Bishops of Lincoln and Bayeux, with local landowners Wulfric, Bugg, Leofric and Oudkell. There was a village population of about 30 men plus their families.

In 1404 Henry de Codyngton, parson of Bottesford, founded a chantry in our parish church to pray for his soul and endowed it with an estate of 5 dwellings and 171 acres. Edward VI gave it to Sir Edward Bray and others at the Dissolution. Elizabeth I re-assigned it to Thomas Pocklington at the yearly value of 67s 4d.

Coddington and the Civil War

A 17th century bronze spur was found here, and an iron cannonball at Charity Farm. On 9th March 1643 Sir Charles Dallison attacked the roundheads on Coddington Heath.

On 14th March 1644 Prince Rupert left Shrewsbury for besieged Newark. He drew up his men at Coddington and swept down Beacon Hill towards Newark, before the Parliamentary leader Meldrum had time to prepare.

Meldrum was forced to sue for peace and lost 4,000 muskets, as many pistols and thirty cannon.

During the last siege, in 1645-6, Parliamentary forces were stationed in all the nearest villages ringing Newark including Coddington, Balderton and Winthorpe. They built extensive earthworks along Balderton Lane between the moat and Brownlow's Hill. The map shows the traces (no more than 18" high) found in the area in the 1964 survey.

Coddington Hall and the Thorpe Family

Coddington Hall, probably demolished in the 1960s, once dominated the west side of the village. It was originally called Beaconfield House and a Mr Bell left an annual £2 charitable bequest to the village out of the estate. Thomas Spragging Godfrey, banker and Mayor of Newark in 1836, lived there before he left in 1840 to move into newly-built Balderton New Hall.

James Thorpe (another former Newark Mayor) then moved into Beaconfield House but died soon afterwards. His young son James Jnr. inherited the property and the malting, flour, coal and wharfinger business along the River Trent. For almost 75 years James (later Colonel Thorpe) and then his son John Somerled, became the village's patron and de facto 'Squire'.



Captain JS Thorpe MC

James paid for the restoration of the church and other good causes. He was a Manager and regular visitor of the school. The family came to own a good part of the village and dominated all the village institutions.

After James Thorpe died in 1902, his son John Somerled succeeded him. Captain J S was killed in 1916 in the battle of the Somme, and was awarded an MC for bravery.

There is a plaque in the church, but he is buried at Carnoy in France. The Ministry of Defence requisitioned the Hall in 1917, and the family sold the estate and left the village. Only Lt-Col. Harold Thorpe (John's younger brother) stayed, at Coddington Moor near Stapleford Woods, until shortly before he died in 1953.



Coddington Hall, demolished around 1960

The 1918 Coddington Estate Sale catalogue gives us detailed information about much of the village. It describes the Hall and 13-acre estate as a mansion, buildings, stabling, gardens, parkland, woodland, road, spinney and lodge. The east side of the mansion was Georgian in design, with a fine clock tower. The gardens included sunken flower and rose gardens, lawns and grass walks, an ornamental fountain (blown up on VE day), yew hedging and shrub borders. (Only fine parkland trees, the site of the fountain and the yew wood now remain.) The hall lot was not sold at the auction, but was bought privately later. In 1928 Major H D Day and Joseph Dyson Scaife were living there - but by 1941 it was a trainee hostel for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co.



Coddington School in the Victorian Age

In 1987 local historian Rolf Vernon wrote a fascinating account of our school up to 1900, using the school logbook. In 1832 Joseph Birch's charity was providing money to teach 12 poor village children. For many years after the school was built in 1846, the teachers were John and Mary Roberts who lived next door but one. In 1872 it became the National School, and subject to more rigorous inspection. The School Managers replaced Roberts in 1883 with Joseph Chantry Hunt. School funding was partly dependent upon attendance and partly on results in the '3Rs'. The logbook records both of the headmaster's daily trials and triumphs, including competing with the demands of agriculture and the difficult job of keeping the post of sewing mistress filled.

Coddington Hall and RAF Winthorpe

In the late 1930s farmland at Coddington, Langford and Winthorpe was used for RAF Winthorpe, initially a satellite for RAF Swinderby. It opened in September 1940 as training grounds for Polish bomber squadrons. Coddington Hall became RAF Winthorpe's Officer's Mess and sleeping quarters. Active missions stopped in late 1945, when the base held a big closing down party. It finally closed in 1959. Visit the Air Museum or see W Taylor's two books for more information. The Air Museum and Showground reuse some of the airfield's runways and land.

Sick bay at RAF Winthorpe



Visit Coddington History Group:

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