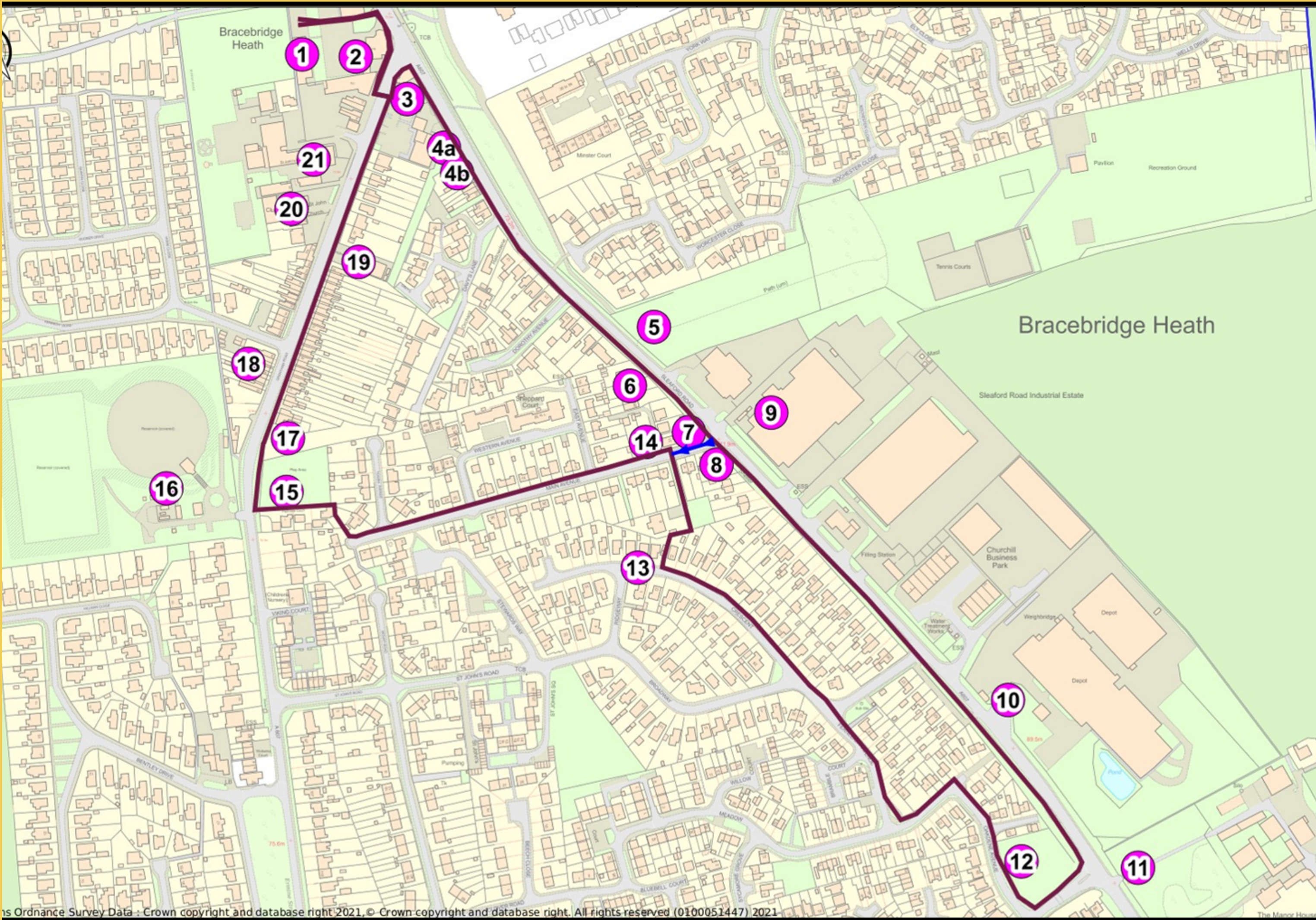


BRACEBRIDGE HEATH HERITAGE TRAIL



ROUTE 2



HISTORY. COMMUNITY. IDENTITY

DISTANCE

2.7km

1.75 miles

ALLOW

1.5 – 2 hours



Circular route

Starting and finishing at The Village Hall
(Point 1)

Many of the buildings visited are private dwellings.
Please respect the privacy of local residents

1

The Village Hall

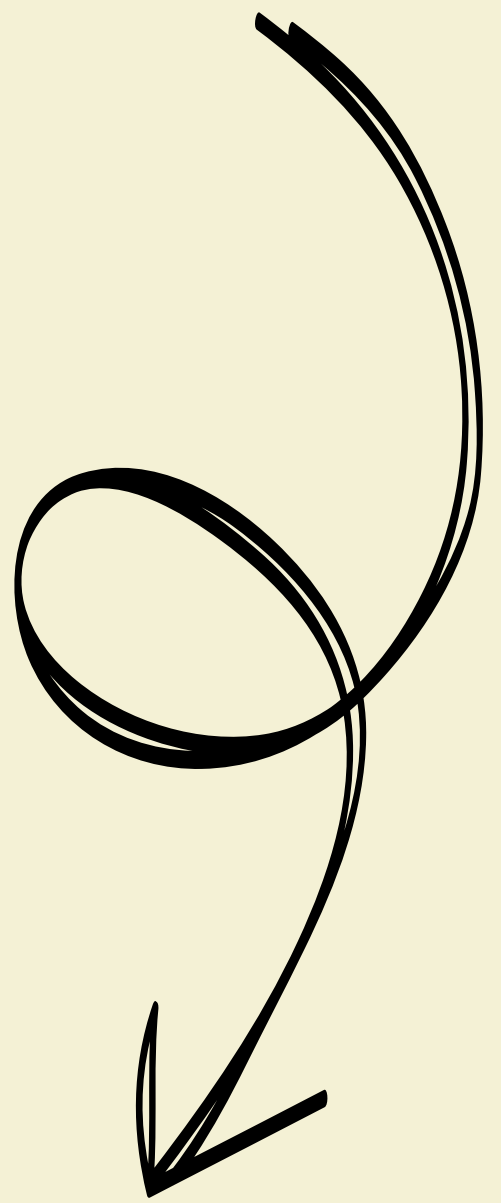


The village hall was opened in 1972 and was the first purpose built community centre in the village. The hall has been extended over the years and has recently been refurbished in January 2024.

It now houses our library and parish office, along with having a large hall, meeting room, large kitchen and toilets.

It also has a new name – The Heath: Village Hall & Library.

Proceed across The Bull car park and take the footpath beside the stone built doctor's surgery to London Road. Turn south towards The Bull.



2

The Bull



Originally called the John Bull it was built in the late 1800s. It is a limestone building which has been covered in cladding. Snuggled around its base are a number of one storey extensions and the original coach house. For many years the coach house was used by independent small shops, including a scuba diving shop. Today it forms part of The Bull's restaurant area.

Proceed along Grantham Road to the pedestrian crossing next to the takeaway shops. Cross over Grantham Road and proceed around the front of the Blacksmiths Arms onto Sleaford Road. Continue walking south.

3

The Blacksmiths

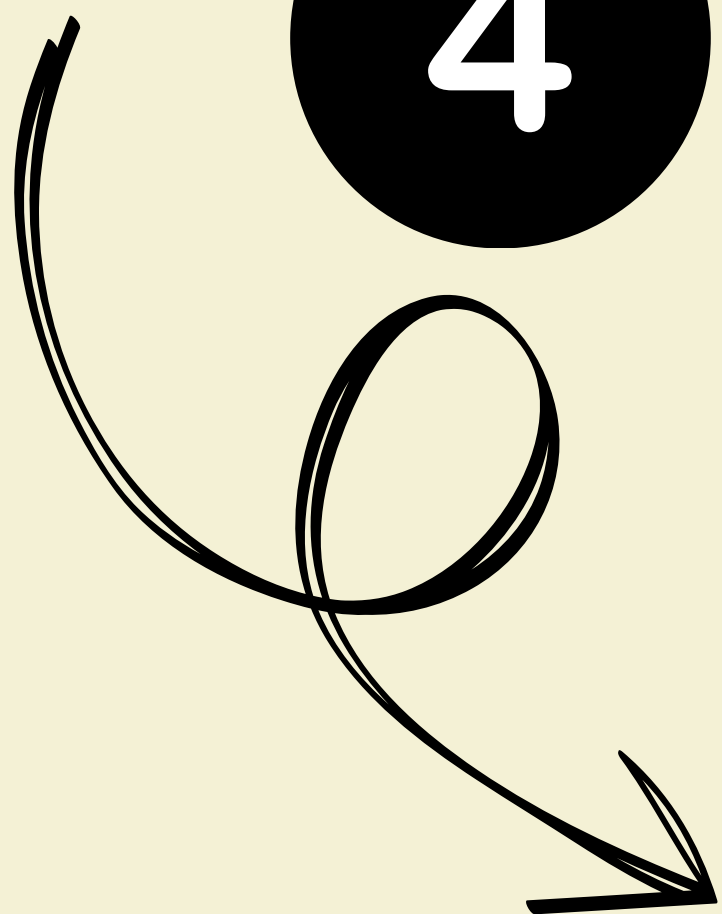


This limestone building was built between 1848 and 1860 on a Chartist plot of land. Originally a one-storey limestone cottage and blacksmith's shop.

The 1861 census records show Mr Green, the blacksmith living here. By 1871, Mrs Green was selling beer. The second storey was added in 1909 and the original tall chimney stacks were retained. The first time it is mentioned as a public house was 1926.

4

(a) Rumbles Cottages



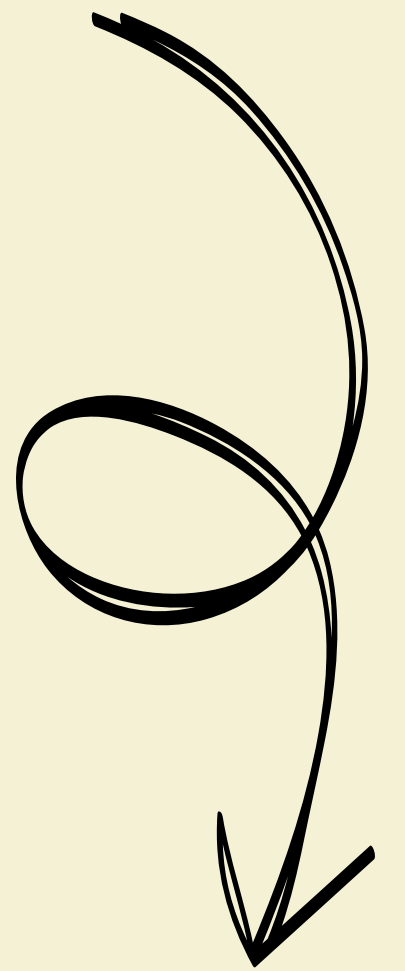
These limestone cottages were built soon after 1848. Two more cottages used to stand behind this row. All had long, thin gardens, complete with pig sties and a communal well. In the late 1970s all but No.3's garden were compulsory purchased to build sheltered housing. An old stone wash house stood at No.3's garden entrance. Until the late 1970s a row of outside toilets used to stand along the northern boundary.

4

(b) Mason's Arms

This three-storey building is one of the few buildings in the village with cellars. Built around 1850 as a public house for the workers building the hospital. It had ceased trading by 1861.

Originally a very grand building it is now divided into two houses. Notice the raised quoins (corner stones) and the detailing above the door and windows. The brick cottages to the south of Mason Arms are later Victorian additions.



5

RAF Bracebridge Heath cottages



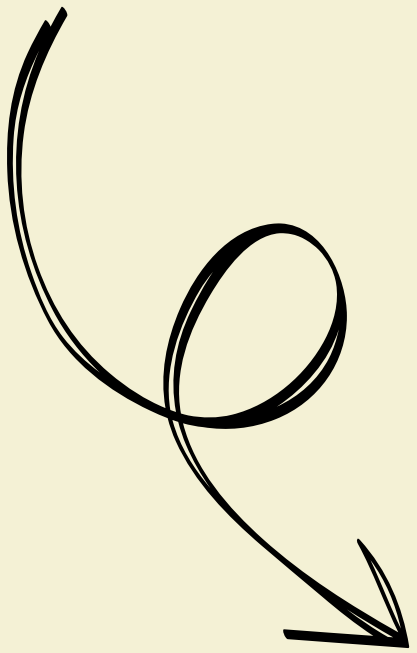
It has yet to be proved conclusively that these cottages (Nos.26, 27, 29-31) were originally workshops and buildings put up and used by as part as part of RAF Bracebridge Heath as some documents and sources suggest.

What **is** known is that they were turned into cottages in 1926 having spent a few years' as large pig barns. However, it is unlikely that they would have been built as pig barns, more likely as a convenient use of the redundant buildings.

6

Stone wall and entrance gate to St John's Hospital Cemetery

Originally it was planned to build a stone wall around the entire hospital grounds. This proved too expensive and the limestone cemetery wall is one of only two areas with stone walls. It is a mortared wall with capping stones. Notice the dressed stones that form the arch and the shape of the arch. It is the main entrance to the cemetery. (Further information on the cemetery is on Heritage Trail Route 1).



7

Post box

At the entrance to Main Avenue you will see the oldest post box in the village. It dates from the reign of George VI. How would you know this from looking at it? Using the information given, how can you tell how long it's been positioned here?

Old Police Station

8



This was the first police station in Bracebridge Heath, It was built in the early 1930s. The 1939 register shows it was occupied by Police Inspector Ronald Duckles. It was replaced in the 1960s by the police station on London Road (which is now the Bracebridge Heath Pre-school and Nursery).

It then became the only bed and breakfast guest house in the village and is now used as a private residential home.

9

RAF Bracebridge Heath (Sleaford Road industrial estate)

This large blue structure is a Belfast hangar, built in 1917 as part of RAF Bracebridge Heath. Belfast hangars are unique in the way they are constructed with their mainly wooden structure and lattice patterned roof trusses. Sleaford Road industrial estate was once all part of RAF Bracebridge Heath.



Continue south along Sleaford Road.

Alternative shorter route missing out Nos. 10 to 13: walk west down Main Avenue. On the northern side just past the post box you will see No.14 Toft Lane.

10

Entrance to AV Roe's and Guard Room



After WW1 AV Roe and Co Ltd took over part of the site. Notice the original guard room and the wide sweeping entrance. Aircraft did not fly from here but were towed to and from RAF Waddington by road. The site was used for repairs to aircraft during WWII. The AVRO 707 was developed here after the war as a prototype for the Vulcan.

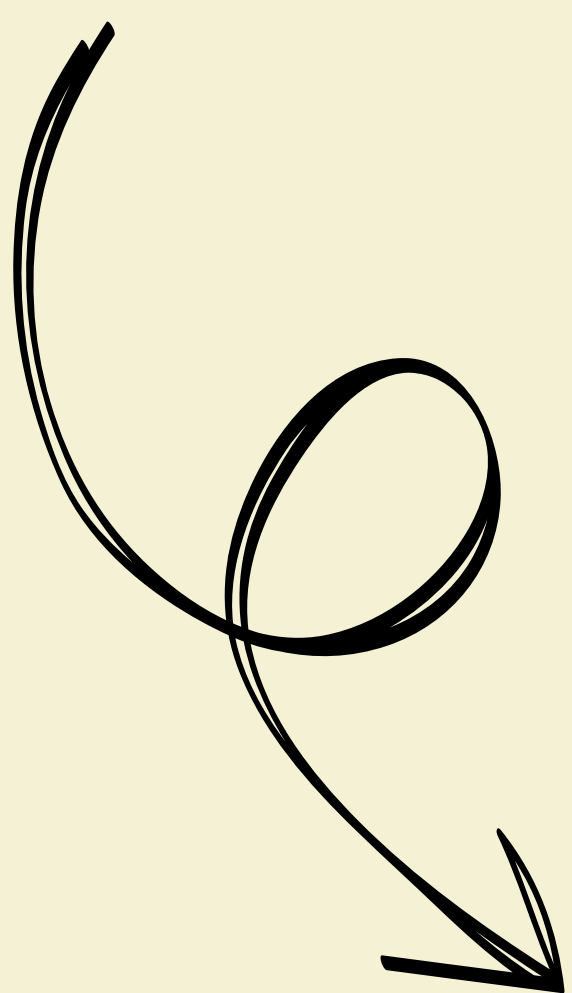
11

Manor Farm



NB: you will only see the shrubbery surrounding the estate

Originally called St John's Heath Farm it was renamed in the late 20th century to avoid confusion with St John's Hospital. The limestone farmhouse was built in 1783 and is Grade II listed along with the farm buildings, stone walls and gates. There are references in the archives to St John's Heath as far back as 1579. The 1842 tithe maps show that it did not pay tithes (money or goods) to the local church in Bracebridge because it was linked to Temple Bruer.



12

&

13

Estate



Sycamore Grove / Oakdene Avenue



Fernleigh Avenue



The Close

This part of the route takes you through three different estates. Turn left (west) onto Sycamore Grove then turn right (north) onto Oakdene Avenue. Turn right onto Fernleigh Avenue. Carefully cross the road onto The Crescent.

Once on The Crescent look for a narrow footpath next to No.21. Go down the footpath to The Close. Walk along The Close to Main Avenue.



Toft Lane

This is one of the original roads forming part of RAF Bracebridge Heath. It is next to No.1 Main Avenue. It once led onto East Avenue past a large hall. This hall, which was still shown on the 1932 OS maps could (although not yet proven) have been the RAF mess, rather than large workshops. Today Toft Lane is a **private** green lane leading to nowhere...

Main Avenue

This area has undergone several redevelopments since 1914. By 1917 this area was part of RAF Bracebridge Heath and some of the road pattern was established including Main Avenue, East Avenue, The Close and Toft Lane. The council housing was built in the 1930s.

Post WWII a number of prefabs were built at the west end of Main Avenue and along Western Avenue. Later a set of garages were also built along Western Avenue. Today the prefabs and garages have been replaced by sheltered accommodation and apartment blocks and many of the former council houses are privately owned.



At the western end of Main Avenue take the footpath on the right which leads to Grantham Road.

15

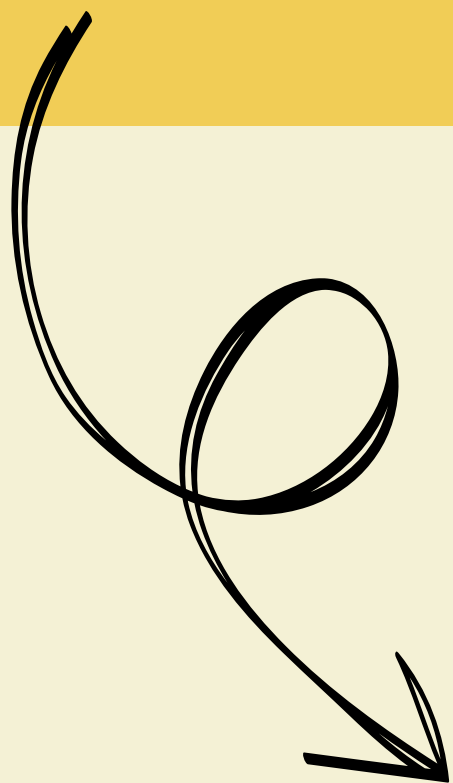
Grantham Road play park

Originally this area was an orchard belonging to one of the Chartist smallholder plots of land. It provided fresh fruit for Lincoln. By the 1960s, it had fallen into disuse and many of the trees had gone.

It then came into the ownership of Bracebridge Heath Parish Council and was the first children’s play area in the village.



At Grantham Road immediately in front of you is the Pump House (do not cross the road)



16

Pump House (Water Tower)



This Grade II listed building was built after the typhoid epidemic of 1906 and opened in 1912 to bring clean water to this area.

It is built in the Baroque Revival style out of rough limestone with ashlar dressings to all the wall corners in the form of flush quoins. Ashlar dressing is also found around the doors, plaque areas and windows. It is octagonal in shape with three flights of stairs to the entrance. The mound it stands on is the actual reservoir. The Pump House can be seen from many miles away and is easily recognised.

Turn right (north) and continue walking along Grantham Road towards the village centre

17

Conway House

This L-shaped limestone detached house dates from around the 1850s. It still has its original attached stable building and has its own well in the garden. It

is thought the bay windows are late Victorian additions. Notice the symmetry of the building and the lack of dressed limestone or other features. Previous occupants included a headmaster and mistress of the local primary school.



18

Stevenson's Cottages



These small cottages are among the earliest terraces in the village. Although many of the exteriors have been modernised, original features can still be seen. All are only one room wide with no hallway, the front door going directly into the front room. The passageway gives access to the long, thin back gardens. Notice the curved tops to the windows picked out in a different brick colour.

19

Terraced housing

As you walk past the late Victorian and Edwardian terraced houses, notice that they were not all built at the same time. The earliest are at the northern end of the terrace.

See if you can see the 'joins'. Notice the very detailed brickwork below the guttering. Originally all the windows were narrow sash windows. Passages lead to the front doors and the long back gardens. Very few of the houses have their original slate roofs.

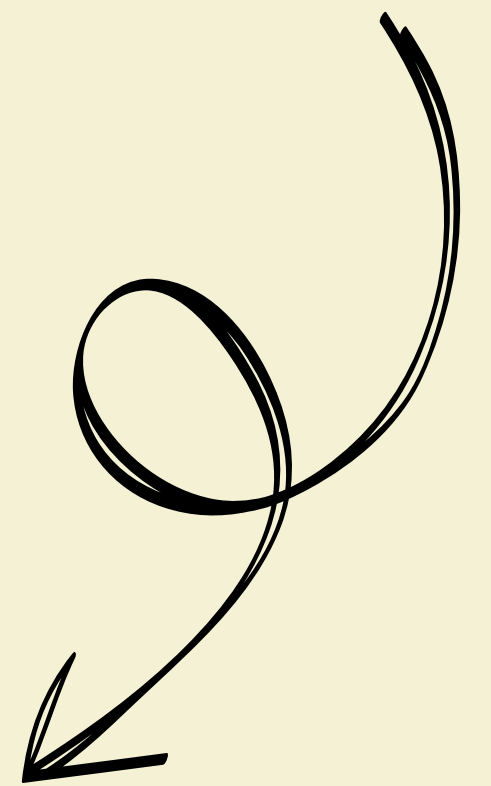


20

Methodist Church

There has been a Methodist Church on this site since 1872. The original timber and corrugated iron Primitive Methodist Chapel was replaced in 1969 by this brick building. This new building was designed for community and religious use.

Fifty years after this building was opened it held its last religious service in August 2019. It has now been sold and is used as offices and a training centre for the NHS. The cross has now been removed.



St. John the Evangelist Church

21

Built in 1908 of locally made red brick as a Mission Church, it became a PARish Church in November 1971. The stone around the windows was moulded on 15th Century designs. It is often open to view inside (use the crossing further north to cross the road). Above the altar is a large stained glass window which depicts Christ holding the sacraments. This window is a memorial to the fallen in both World Wars.



22

St. John's Primary Academy



Opened in June 1880 to 36 pupils. The original school building has now been rendered white. Notice the stonework surrounding the windows on the original building. The school has expanded as the village has grown with major extensions in 1933, the late 1960s and post 2000. The school grounds were also greatly extended in the 1960s.

**Continue to walk along the street to the pedestrian crossing.
Cross the road and retrace your steps to the starting point**

Enjoy finding out about the history of the village?

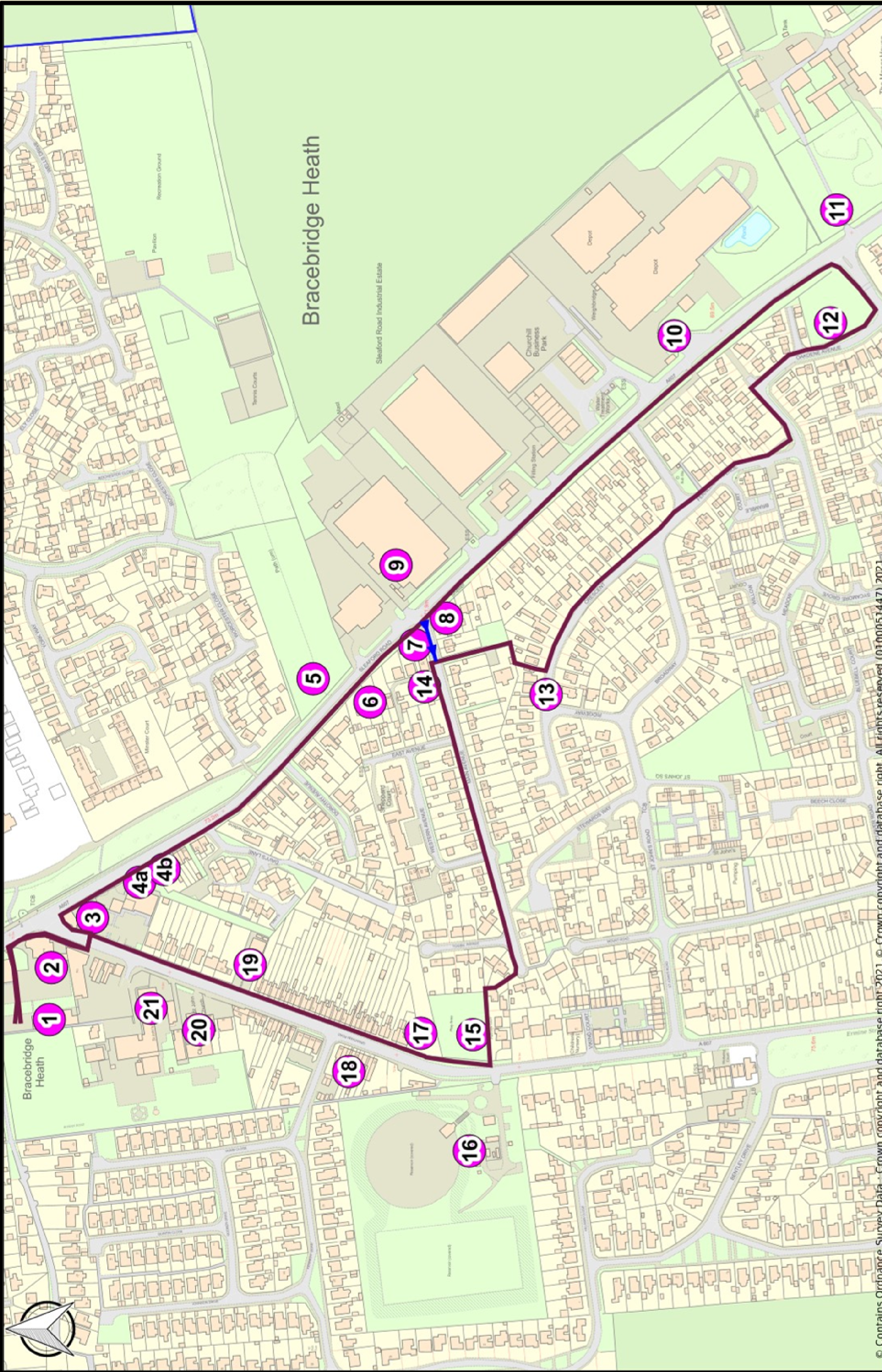
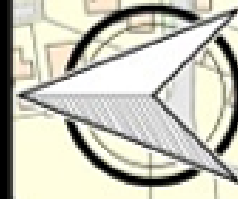


Find out more about Bracebridge Heath Heritage on our website. Scan the QR code or visit our website directly

<https://bracebridge-heath.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/heritage>

The heritage trails and other heritage information is available to view in St John's Church (on Grantham Road). The church is open all day on Wednesdays and Fridays and there is a coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month where Sue Manders would be happy to discuss any local history information.

With thanks to Sue Manders for producing the heritage information and trails.



Bracebridge Heath

Sleaford Road Industrial Estate

13

10

11

12

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4a

4b

3

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16