

## Local Snippets

In Saxon times Rothwell was the centre of a large estate. Later its importance was recognised with both a weekly market and annual fair being granted by King John in 1204. It has many springs and wells and due to their mineral content some were considered to have healing powers.

Rothwell is called Rowell by today's inhabitants but is derived from the Danish word Rodewell which means 'The Settlement by the Red Well' or 'The Clearing by the Stream where the Roe's Feed'.

Evidence of Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupations, within the parish, were discovered during the extensive ironstone quarrying operations which started in the late 19th century.

The Trinity Monday Fair begins at 6 a.m. when the Bailiff for the Lord of the Manor of Rowell, seated on horseback outside the Church, reads the 1604 Charter of King James I. Accompanied by his bodyguards of halberdiers and the Rowell Fair Brass Band he repeats it outside each of the town's public houses. In return the ceremonial party receives a glass of traditional Rowell Fair Rum and Milk. Originally it was a four-day horse fair but is now a pleasure fair which attracts thousands of visitors. (Trinity Sunday is the Sunday after Whit Sunday.)

PLEASE KEEP YOUR TOWN TIDY!

## A Walkers' Code



1. Always keep to the path to avoid trespass. If the path is obstructed you are allowed to seek a reasonable way round the obstruction, taking care to avoid causing damage. Please report the obstruction to the highway authority.
2. Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease and carelessness may lead to tragedy.
3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wildlife it is best to leave dogs at home. If you have to bring them they should be kept on a leash.
4. If your route takes you onto a road keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic and use the verge if one exists.
5. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season and remember to allow plenty of time to complete your chosen walk.
6. Remember that every piece of land in the country belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and other walkers will be made welcome.
7. Remember that Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected by law in order to ensure their survival. Please respect them and other archaeological sites.

If you experience any difficulty on your walk such as barbed wire, locked gates or damaged stiles and footbridges please report them to the Principal Rights of Way Officer, East Office, 73 London Road, Kettering. Tel. Kettering 524100.

Your general comments on this leaflet and the routes will be welcomed by the Director of Planning and Transportation, Northampton House, Northampton. NNI 2HZ.

Leaflet compiled by Rothwell Town Council.

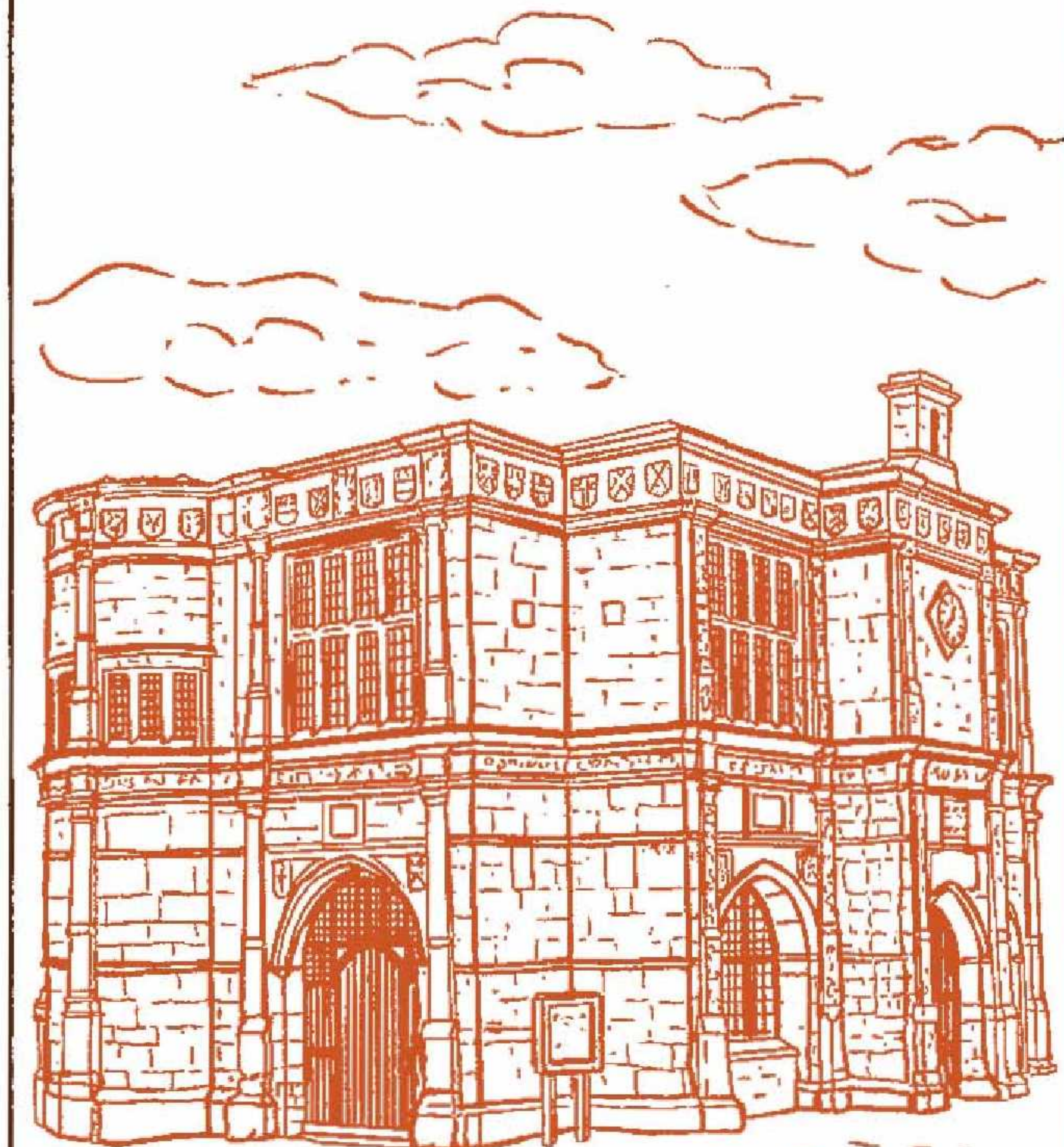
Drawn by Sue Payne (1990).

Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 31.

Northamptonshire Countryside Services is a branch of Northamptonshire Planning and Transportation Department

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# Countryside Walks Rothwell



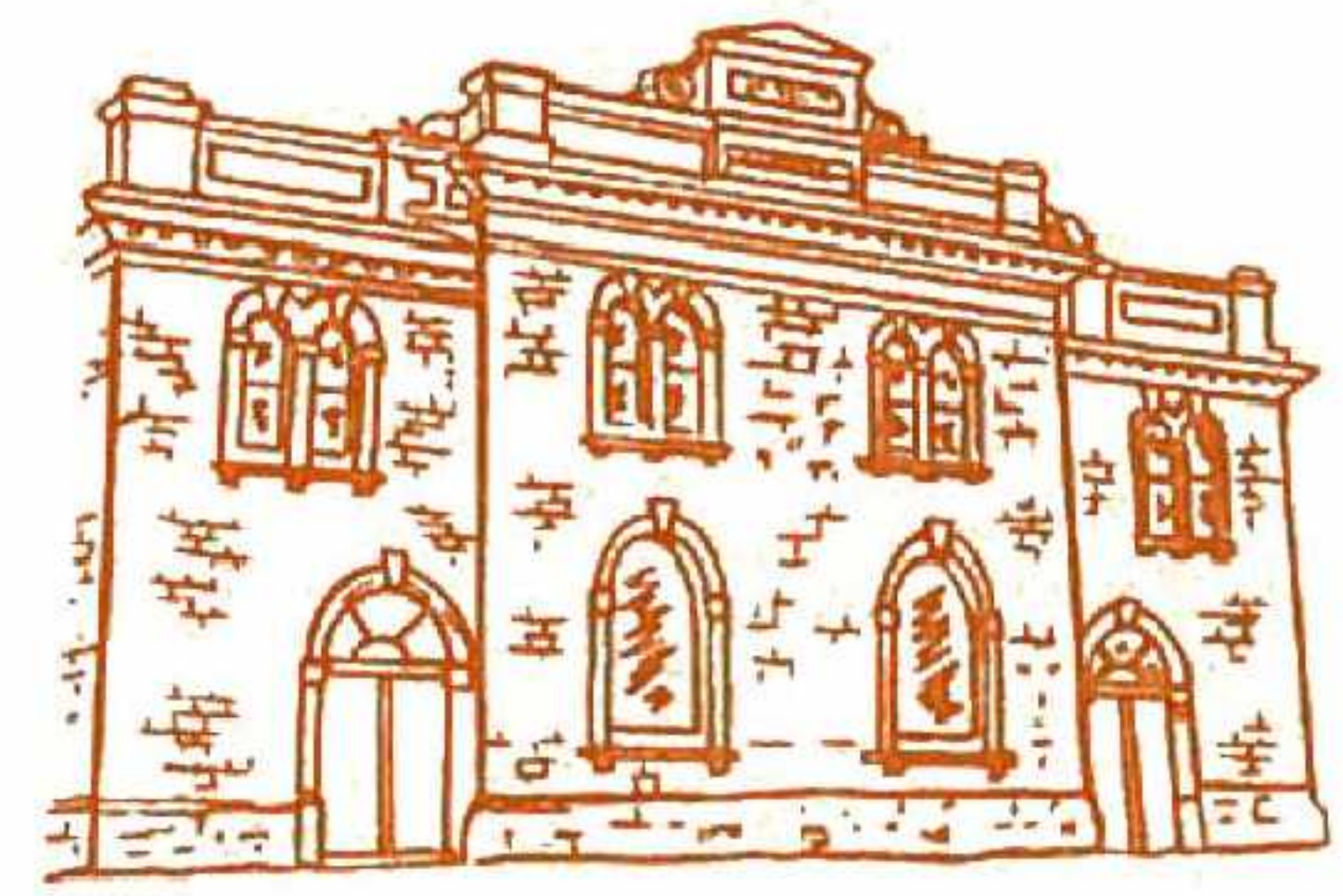
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4. Manor House.

The road leading from the Church to the High Street is called Squires Hill after the occupants of the Manor House. This building is a fine 18th century house and formerly the home of the Urban District Council. Today it is the headquarters of the National Physiotherapy Service. Opposite is the Manor Park which still retains an old fishpond.



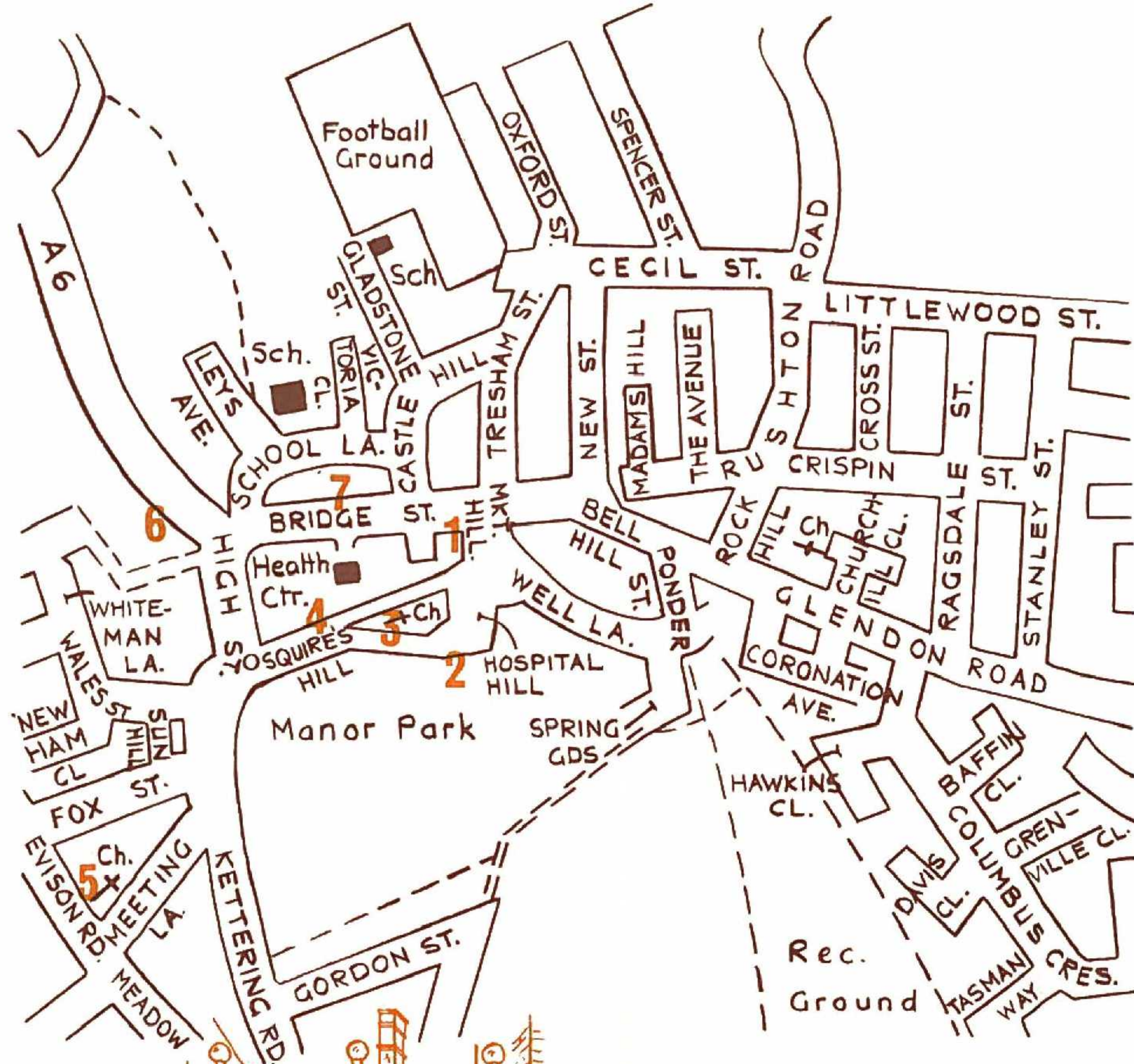
5. United Reformed Church.

This church was formerly called the Independent Chapel and has an unbroken history from 1656, in fact it is the birthplace of Midland Nonconformity.



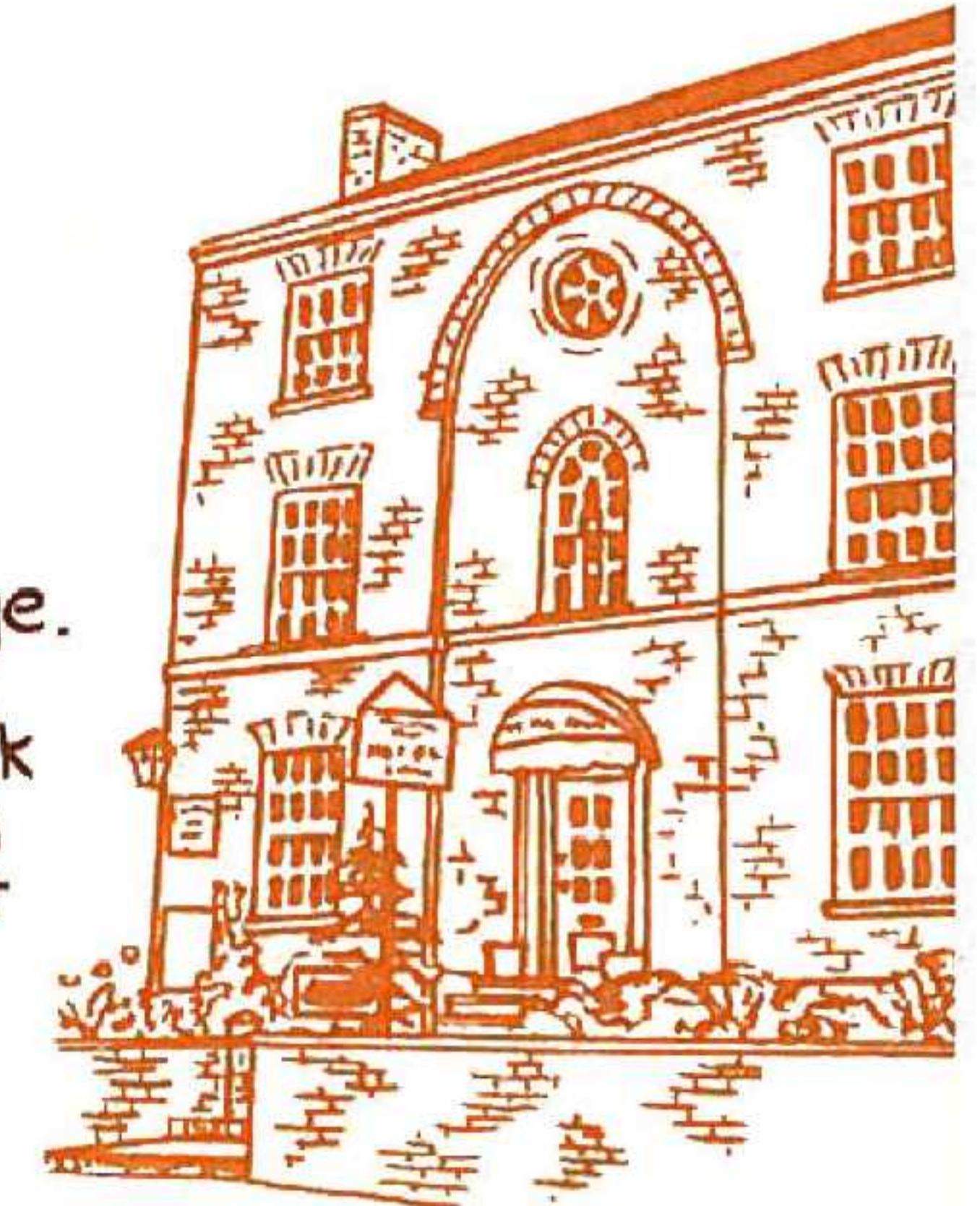
6. Priory House

Priory House, dated 1660, is possibly built on part of the site of a Nunnery which was founded in 1247 by Richard Earl of Clare. Dedicated to St. John the Baptist this order of Augustinian Nuns was always poor and had to resort to begging. The house was demolished after King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries.



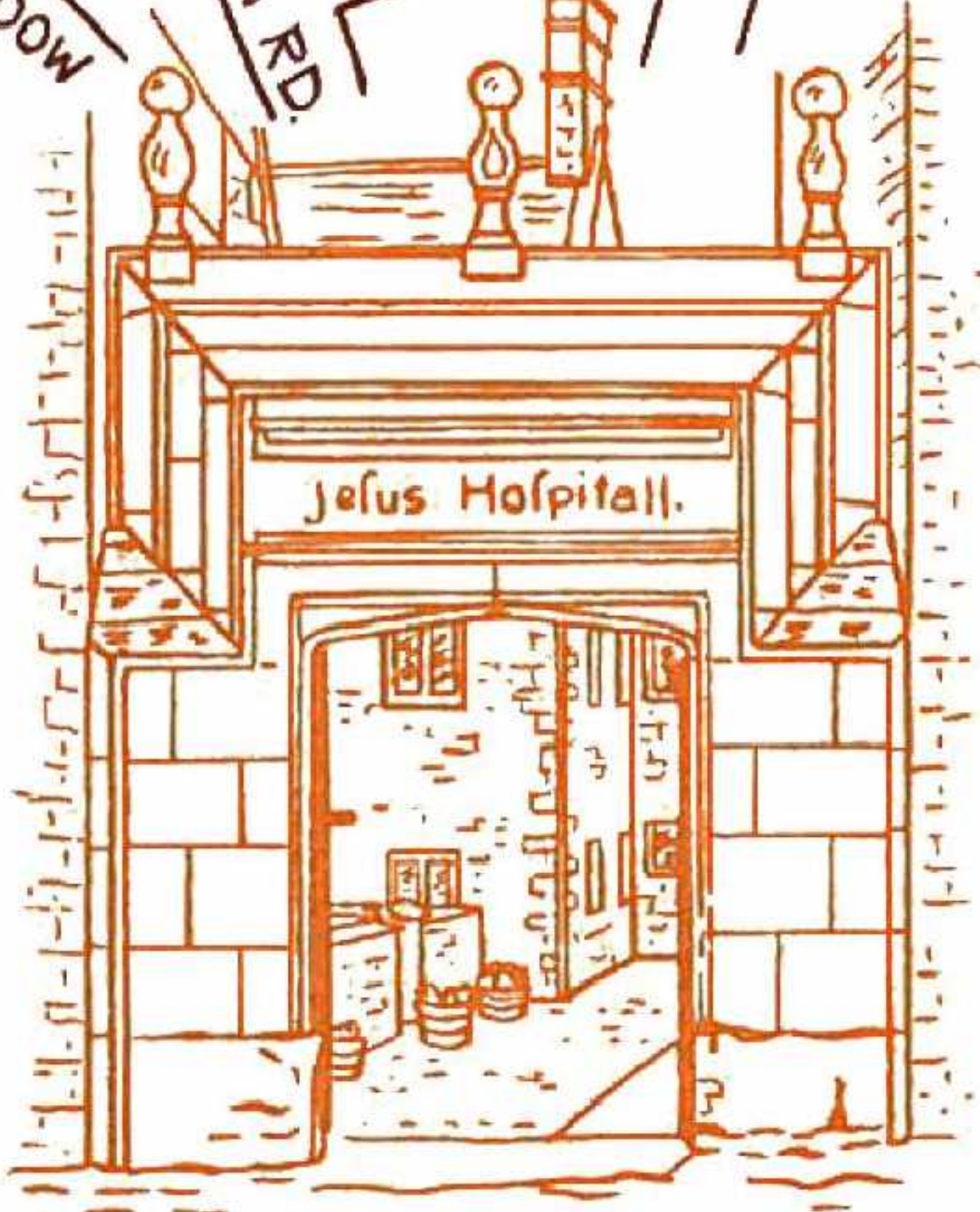
7. Rothwell House.

Rothwell House Hotel was formerly the vicarage. It was built in the late 18th century of red brick and its centre windows are framed by a giant arch.



3. Holy Trinity.

The Parish Church of the Holy Trinity is the longest Church in Northamptonshire and exhibits various periods of architecture dating back to Norman times. It once had a spire which fell in the 17th century damaging six bays of the Church. The most interesting feature of the church is the Charnel House or Bone Crypt which was discovered in the 18th century when an unfortunate sexton, who was digging a grave in the south aisle, fell into it. Thousands of human bones are stacked in rows and piles - probably the result of clearing the graveyard for new burials and the building of the Jesus Hospital.



2. Jesus Hospital.

The Jesus Hospital was an almshouse, founded by Owen Ragsdale in 1585 for 24 poor men. In 1961 the buildings were internally modernised and converted into flats for six widowers or bachelors and four married couples who live rent free and have to be of pensionable age. The hospital was officially re-opened by Countess Spencer in 1962.

1. Market House.

Rothwell Market House was built by Sir Thomas Tresham of Rushton in about 1577/1578. Around the top of the building is a frieze of 90 coats of arms representing Northamptonshire families. The building remained unfinished for 300 years as a result of Tresham's involvement in the Gunpowder Plot. Eventually in 1895 a flat roof was added by J.A. Gotch. Prior to this the round stairwell was used as a local jail. The Market House has also been the office of the Urban District Council and Public Library. Today it is used by the Town Council, the Rothwell Preservation Trust and the Orton Trust.





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- Key**
- Footpaths on suggested walks
  - |-|- Bridleways on suggested walks
  - Other footpaths
  - o o o Parish Boundary
  - S.P. Sign Post
  - F.B. Footbridge
  - S Stile
  - G Gate
  - K.G. Kissing Gate
  - Ch. Church
  - Viewpoint
  - Car Park
  - Sheep! Dogs on leads.

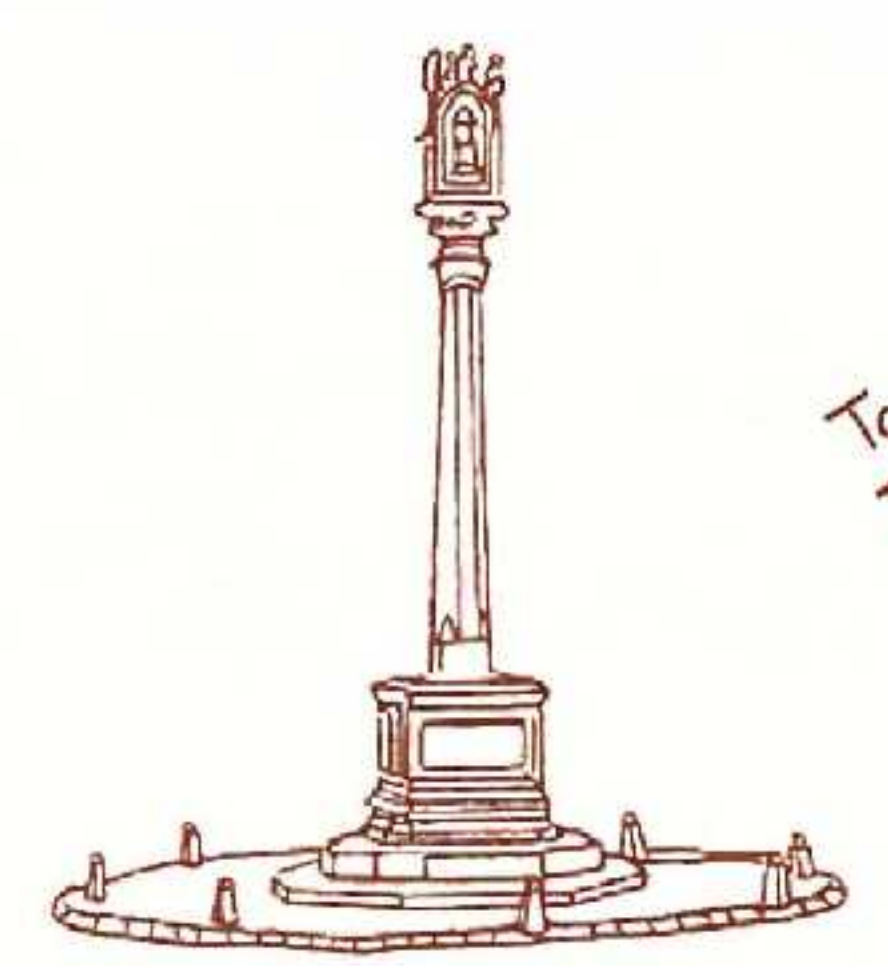
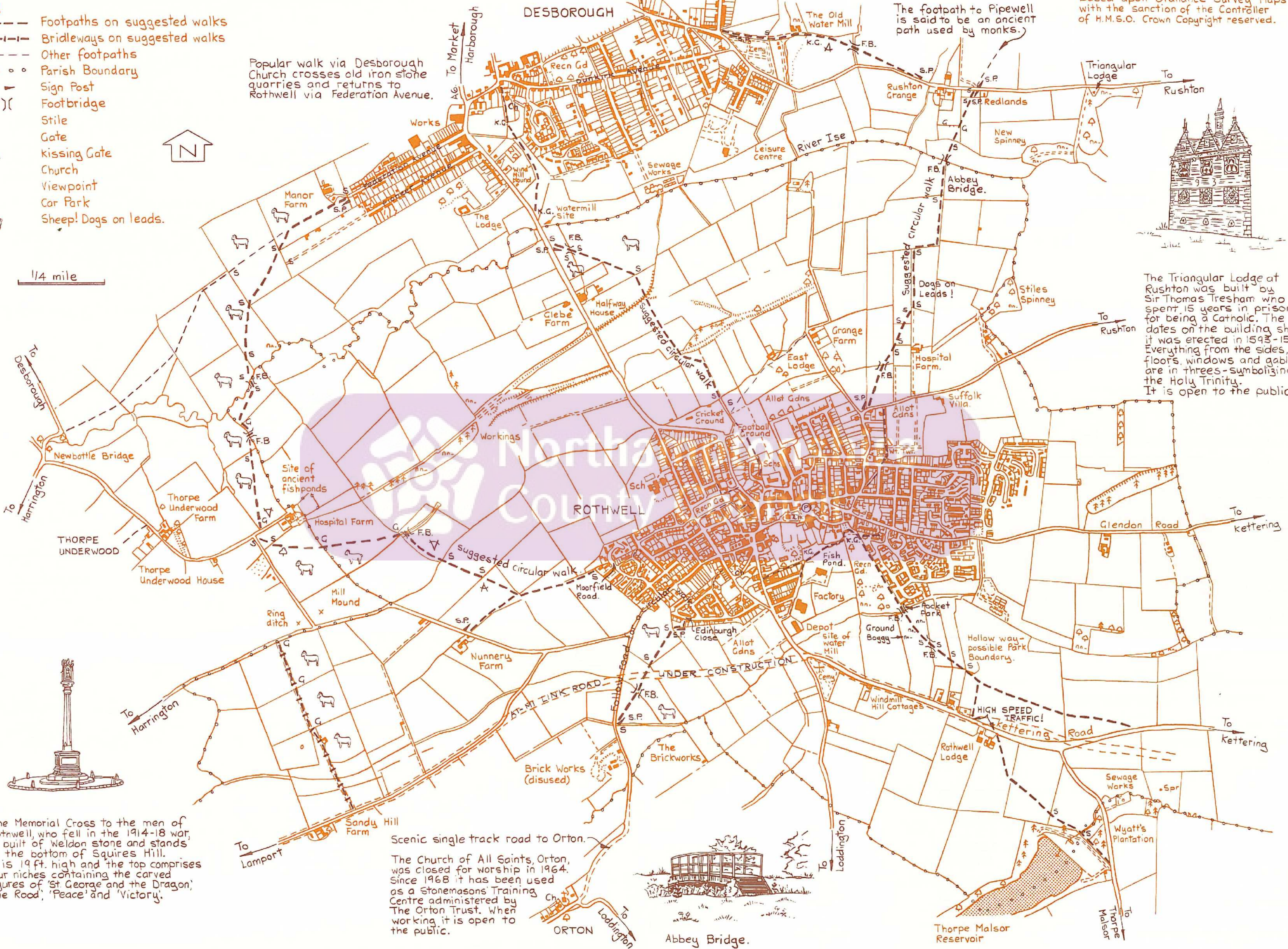
Popular walk via Desborough Church crosses old iron stone quarries and returns to Rothwell via Federation Avenue.

The footpath to Pipewell is said to be an ancient path used by monks.



The Triangular Lodge at Rushton was built by Sir Thomas Tresham who spent 15 years in prison for being a Catholic. The dates on the building show it was erected in 1593-1595. Everything from the sides, floors, windows and gables are in threes - symbolizing the Holy Trinity. It is open to the public.

1/4 mile



The Memorial Cross to the men of Rothwell, who fell in the 1914-18 war, is built of Weldon stone and stands at the bottom of Squires Hill. It is 19 ft. high and the top comprises four niches containing the carved figures of 'St George and the Dragon', 'The Road', 'Peace' and 'Victory'.

Scenic single track road to Orton.

The Church of All Saints, Orton, was closed for worship in 1964. Since 1968 it has been used as a Stonemasons' Training Centre administered by The Orton Trust. When working it is open to the public.



Abbey Bridge.

Thorpe Malsor Reservoir