



CIRCULAR HISTORICAL WALKS
THROUGH NEWTON FLOTMAN

Introduction

The Newton Flotman Parish Council has great pleasure in providing these two walks which we hope will do two things for you:

- (a) Provide you with some information on the history of the village and some of the people who have helped to shape the village and its community to what it is now;
- (b) Give you a fun short walk which will help you to maintain your fitness whilst, at the same time learning more about this village.

We would like to thank Karen Elliott who originally suggested that we create some short walks around the village and all those who contributed to the creation of the walks.

Circular walk one

A walk through the history of the west of the village

Distance: 1.74km. Duration: 22 mins

Start point: Village Hall and Alan King Playing Field

Start in the car park at the Village Centre and Alan King Playing Field (assuming that the gate is open from Grove Way). Alternatively, you can park on Grove Way near to the Alan King Playing Field entrance.

Walk from the car park across the Alan King Playing field in a northerly direction to the entrance to the Alan King Playing Field on Grove Way.

In 1996 the 'Alan King Playing Field' (**see 1 on the map**) was gifted to the Village by Mrs Joy King as a permanent memorial to her late husband Alan King who was chairman of the Parish Council for 14 years. The playing field has been used by the village as a play area for children who use the play equipment located beside the Village Centre. The Newton Flotman football club play regularly on the football pitch during the season.

The Climate Care group in the village have planted a small copse of trees to the west of the car park and an avenue of trees around the edge of the playing field.

The bomb doors on a bomber from a Norfolk airfield failed to open on a bombing mission during WW2 which meant they couldn't safely land their aeroplane unless they could open the bomb doors and discharge the payload. The crew finally managed to open the bomb doors and release the bombs over what is now the playing field which enabled them to land (**see 2 on the map**).

Walk along Grove Way to the junction with Church Road. The original track to the playing field was on the other side of the hedge on the left side of Grove Way as you walk along the road from the playing field. Opposite the junction is Aswad Barn (**see 3 on the map**). The barn was built between 1680 and 1720. It is probably one of the few wooden barns from this period left in Newton Flotman.



Aswad Barn

The original barn and cattle shed have been converted into a house with holiday accommodation. The beams in the earliest part of the barn are reputed to be upcycled

from wooden sailing ships. The restoration and recent additions to the structure have been carefully crafted to match the building materials and style of the original building.

It was originally part of the (old) Rectory and stands near to the Rectory Coach House.

Walk down Church Road in an easterly direction.

The Old Rectory (**see 4 on the map**) was built in 1835 to replace the original Rectory which was located on Ipswich Road and the remains are now part of Holland House (see the second circular walk). It is Grade II listed property.

The rectory was the property of the Long Family who were the rectors in St Mary's Parish Church from 1797 to 1948.



Picture of the front of the Old Rectory

Opposite the Old Rectory is Clabburn Close (**see 5 on the map**) which is named in recognition of Thomas Clabburn.

The Thomas Clabburn Charity was established by the will of Thomas Clabburn, a worsted weaver and bed cover manufacturer from Norwich, dated 17th February 1815. Clabburn, who died in 1816, left several bequests to benefit the poor across various parishes in Norfolk and Norwich including Newton Flotman.

He left £400 to the churchwardens in Tasburgh to be invested and the income used to distribute coal and bread to the poor of the parish on the first Monday in February each year, but only to those who were of good character and regular churchgoers. He also left £200 on similar terms to the parishes of Tharston, Flordon and **Newton Flotman** as well as to various parishes in Norwich, and larger amounts to the hospitals and other benevolent institutions in the city. £400 in those days would be roughly equivalent to £20,000 in today's terms.

His 1815 bequest is now part of the Charity of John William Sewell (also known as Newton Flotman Charities), combined with the John Pye and John William Sewell charities. (See the reference to Sewells Close below – 7 on the map)

Continue down Church Road in an easterly direction to Brightons Road on the right. Brightons Road (**see 6 on the map**) is named after the Brighton family who settled in the Village in the 1800s. By 1933 J L Brighton had established himself as a farmer, haulage contractor and sand and gravel merchant.

Off Brightons Road are Longs Close and Sewells Close. (**see 7 and 8 on the map**).

Longs Close is named after the Long Family who were the lords of the manor from 1721

to 1937. They lived in Dunston Hall. The Long Family were the rectors in St Mary's Parish Church from 1797 to 1948 and lived in the Old Rectory which is on Church Road (see 4 above).

Sewells Close was named in recognition of John William Sewell who left a legacy in 1931. He lived in The Lodge, Cargate Lane. In his will dated 25th April 1925 Sewell stated that:

"I give to the Rector and Churchwardens of Newton Flotman in the said county of Norfolk the sum of £100 to be distributed by them amongst such of the poor of the said Parish as they shall select."

£100 in those days would be roughly equivalent to £80,000 in today's terms.

His legacy along with the bequests of Thomas Clabburn, and John Pye are now part of the Charity of John William Sewell (also known as Newton Flotman Charities).

Brightons Road becomes St Mary's Close just after the junction with Sewells Close. Continue along St Mary's Close travelling south and then east until you reach the village shop (**see 9 on the map**) which is at the corner of St Mary's Close and Christopher Close. The current village shop used to also be the village post office until 2006.

Continuing down St Mary's Close on the left hand side of the grassed verge there is a bench to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee on 6th February 1977.



Bench commemorating Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee

Crossing the road at this point and walking slightly back up the hill is the turning onto Lime Kiln Close (**see 11 on the map**). The road originally contained Airey houses built after WW2. It was formerly called Lime Kiln Crescent and was known locally as "The Ring". The road is named after the Lime Kiln (**see 12 on the map**) which was a Lime, Chalk and Marl pit which was shown on the 1887 ordinance survey map. There were 3 kilns.

J L Brighton later owned the pit and provided the materials when Back Street/Flordon Road was resurfaced.

Returning to St Mary's Close walk up the hill in a westerly direction. To the left is a crescent of bungalows (**see 13 on the map**). This area was a sand pit before the bungalows were built.

Walk past the crescent of bungalows (cross the road to the other side as there isn't a path for a short section of the road). Continue around the corner to Exchange Road on

the left. Walk along Exchange Road until you get to Blundeville Manor (**see 14 on the map**) on the right.

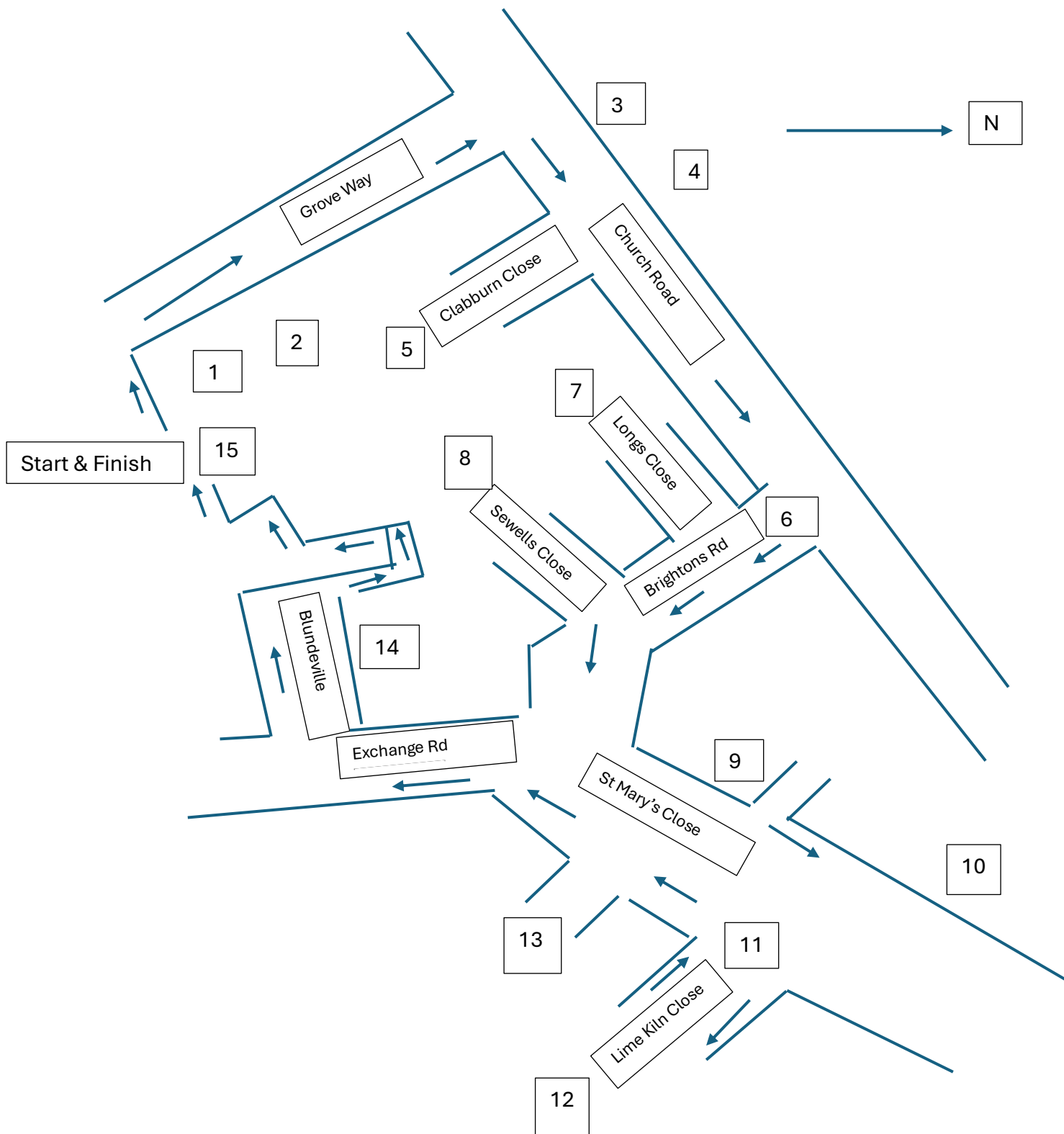
Blundeville Manor is named after the Manor House (no longer in existence) occupied by the Blundevilles who lived in Newton Flotman for over 400 years from 1294. Note that this is not the original site of the Manor. That was located on what is now the Shotesham Park estate off the A140 Ipswich Road to the north of Newton Flotman.

The most notable member of the family was Thomas Blundeville (1522 – 1606) an Elizabethan scholar who published a large number of literary and scientific works.

Walk up Blundeville Manor to the end and, on the right, follow the path that goes past some two storey flats and onto the Alan King Playing Field.

The end of the walk is the Village Centre (**see 15 on the map**) which was built in 1987 to replace the village hall that had been on The Crescent off St Mary's Close.

You are now back at the car park where you have left your car (If the gate was open!)



Circular walk two

A walk through the history of the east of the village

Distance: 1.41km. Duration: 20 mins

Start point: The graveyard of St Mary's Church

The walk starts at the graveyard for St Mary's Church (**see 1 on the map**). The Church dates from the end of the 14th century onwards when it was rebuilt in 1385. The south wall incorporates part of the original Saxon wall of the Church built in that period. Major additions were made over the next 150 years. The building is mainly in the 'Perpendicular' style of architecture. The nave and chancel were probably built first, followed by the tower, the porch and finally, in 2006, a modern extension ("Room for all") was added.



St Mary's Church

There are two particularly interesting monuments in the chancel. One is the plaque on the south wall in memory of William Fortescue Long, son of the then rector, who was drowned saving a boy off Norfolk Island, a small remote Australian territory in the South Pacific, in 1915. The principal monument is in the northeast corner; it was placed here by Thomas Blundeville (1522-1606), 'most brilliant son of Newton Flotman', writer on mathematics, astronomy, navigation, horsemanship, history, military craft and logic! The London made brass commemorates his forebears - father Edward who died 1568, his grandfather Ralph 1514 and great grandfather Richard 1490.

Follow the path around the church and down the slope to Ipswich Road where you should turn right and walk along Ipswich Road towards the village green. On the right is Seastar Motorcycle shop (**see 2 on the map**) which was the former site of a garage and store owned by the Brighton family from the 1920s. Albert Brighton was the garage proprietor in 1939.



Brighton's garage in the early 1960s

Next to the motorcycle shop is the ARTS theatre school (**see 3 on the map**). The building was formerly the village school. The National School was built in 1865 to replace the existing school that was held in the original Rectory (now Holland House on

Ipswich Rd). The school was enlarged in 1886 and had an average attendance of 54 pupils.



Photo of the National School in 1895

Beside ARTS on the corner of Flordon Road and St Mary's Close is the Bus Shelter (**see 4 on the map**) which was built in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

A seat was put in place on this site in 1951 to mark the Festival of Britain.

Continue along Flordon Road and onto the Kings Green. On the green is the village sign (**see 5 on the map**) which was erected in 1990 by the Parish Council. It was a gift to the village by Mrs Joy King in memory of her late father, Mr J L Brighton who was chairman of the Parish Council for 41 years and her late husband Mr Alan King who succeeded him and served as chairman for 14 years. The village sign depicts a Saxon ship which would have sailed the river when the Tas was navigable and also the 16th century bridge with its Gothic arches which has now been bypassed by its modern equivalent to support the increasing traffic travelling along the A140. The background comprises the 14th century Church of St Mary the Virgin, a landmark which is clearly visible on approaching the village from Norwich. The sign is cast in iron and mounted on an oak post which is embedded in a mill stone to highlight the village's connection with milling which is still practised today by W L Duffield and Sons across the river at Saxlingham Thorpe.

The Kings Green was the village allotments probably until the A140 Ipswich Road improvements were made and the new bridge installed (see 7 below). It was known locally as "The Heater".



View of the original rectory

Across the A140 Ipswich Road is the entrance to Holland House (**see 6 on the map**). The original house was built in the late 17th or early 18th century with a thatched roof. It was the village rectory until another rectory was built in 1835. At that time the original rectory was turned into a school which lasted until a new school was built in 1865. It fell into disrepair over time and was demolished in 1970. The Dutch style curved gable ends are preserved in the present house.



Holland House Winter 1981

Go to the southern end of the Kings Green and walk along Old Street for a short distance until you are able to walk on the footpath which goes along Ipswich Road to the south. You will walk over the New Road Bridge (**see 7 on the map**). The bridge is a concrete beam bridge built in the 1970s to take the diverted and upgraded A140 Ipswich Road around the eastern outskirts of the village.

At the end of the bridge turn right onto the Old Bridge (**see 8 on the map**). The old bridge is a five-arch road bridge which carries Old Street (the former Norwich to Ipswich Road that runs through the village; now bypassed) across the River Tas. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in 1976 when it was superseded by the new bridge. The old bridge is a scheduled monument and Grade II Listed Building. The earliest parts of the bridge are late medieval, and it has been modified over many years. It was originally only 6 feet wide and was widened in 1838.

The bridge suffered a partial collapse in the 1912 flood when the middle of one arch collapsed.



Picture of the collapsed section of the Old Bridge in 1912.

A white stone in the western parapet has the inscription S|N 1838. This is believed to designate the position of the parish boundary between Saxlingham Nethergate (S) and Newton Flotman (N) at that time.



The white stone in the wall on the Old Bridge

At the eastern end of the bridge (just after you have turned onto it) there is a Milepost (**see 9 on the map**) which was installed sometime after 1767 when mileposts were compulsory on all turnpikes. Turnpikes, including the one from Norwich to Scole, had been established by act of parliament from 1706 to the 1840s. This Turnpike was created in 1768/69 and lasted for 106 years before being disturnpiked in 1874.

The milepost is one of only 14 remaining mileposts on the Norwich to Scole turnpike (now part of the A140). The A140 largely follows the route of the Roman “Pye Road” which ran from Venta Icenorum at Castor St Edmund, through Long Stratton to the Roman settlement at Scole. After crossing the River Waveney into Suffolk, it eventually made its way to Colchester.

The Old Bridge is part of Old Street (**see 10 on the map**) which you will walk along when you leave the bridge and walk north. It was the original main road through the village and called Front Street. In the 18th century the road was probably called Briggate which was derived from the Old Norse word “gata” meaning street, road or way. The Brig part of the word meant bridge.

Some of the houses date back to the 19th Century and earlier. (See map for reference)

- (a) The former main pub (a Grade II listed building) which was called the Maids Head and later the Relish was a coaching inn and is 500 years old. **(10a on the map)**



Maids Head pub with J L Brighton and A King outside

- (b) the former butcher's **(10b on the map)**



The butcher's shop on Old Street

- (c) the bakery. **(10c on the map)**



Bread being distributed to residents from the Bakery

in the 1950s.

Behind the cottages on Old Street was Banhams Yard which was accessed by the side of the bakery. The 1851 census records at least 14 households were living in the yard.

At the end of Old Street turn left onto Short Street (**see 11 on the map**). Some of the houses on this street may have dated back to the 18th Century but have now been replaced by modern housing.

- (a) The original post office which is still standing on the corner of Old Street and Short Street and later became a hairdresser's. (**see 11(a) on the map**).



Photo of the corner of Old Street and Short Street

(b) On the corner of Short Street and Flordon Road there was probably a pub as the corner of Short Street and Flordon Road was called White Horse corner in the 1851 census. (**see 11(b) on the map**).

Behind the old post office on Short Street was Sayers Yard which had 4 households in the 1851 census. By the early 20th century, it was known locally as Piccadilly yard.

At the end of Short Street turn left on to Flordon Road (**see 12 on the map**).

A short way along Flordon Road and opposite the entrance to Olive Avenue are Rosemary Cottages (**see 13 on the map**), two detached cottages that were built in the late 1800s or early 1900s. They may have been purchased and commissioned by the Earl of Clarendon for his nanny. The Cottages were named Rosemary after Lady Hyde who was the earl's sister and a lady in waiting to the Queen.

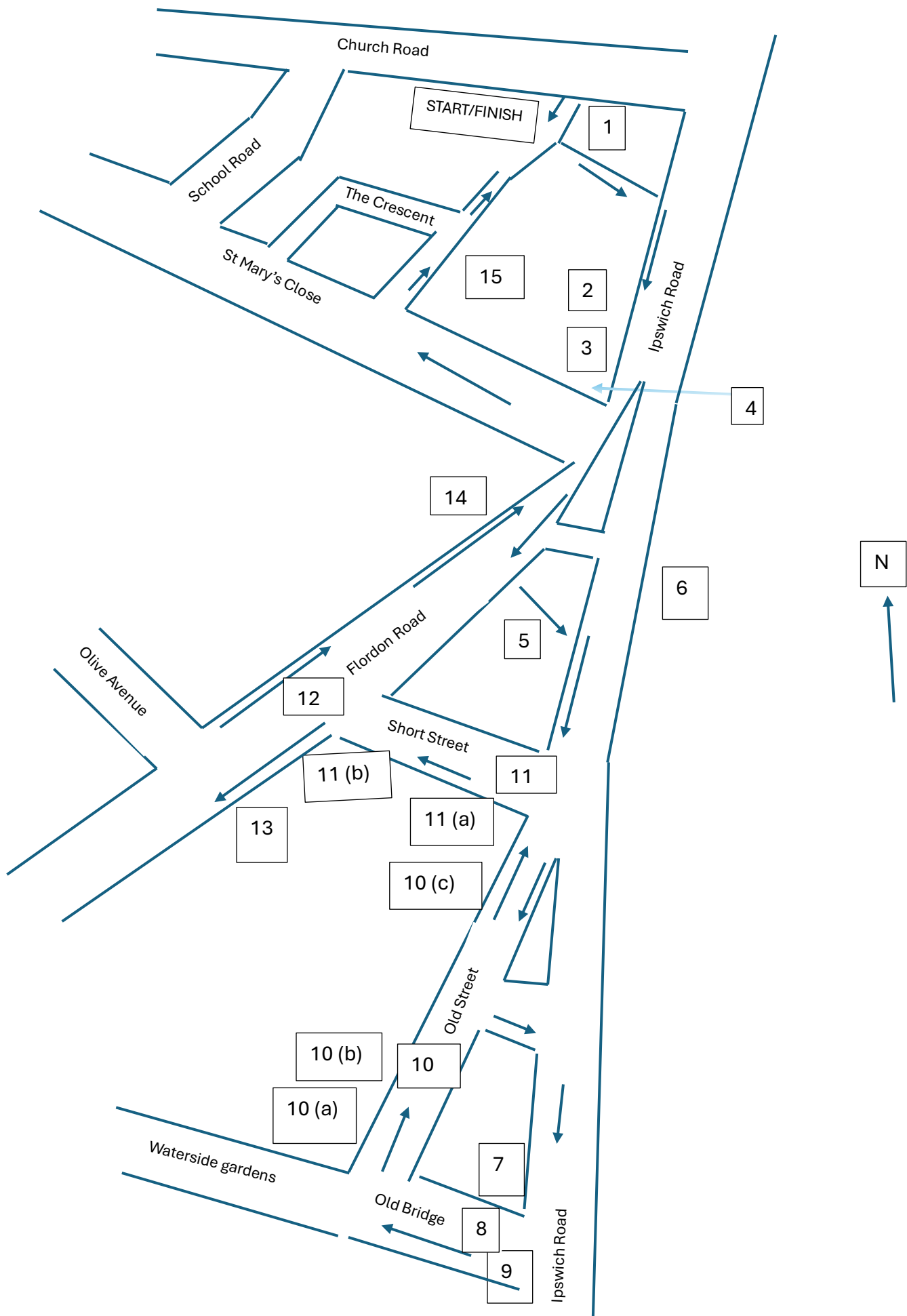
Cross the road and walk along Flordon Road back towards St Mary's Close. Opposite the Village Green is Lime Bank (**see 14 on the map**) which contains six semi-detached two storey houses which were previously local authority council houses built in the 1920s/1930s.

Turn left onto St Mary's Close and walk up the hill until you reach The Crescent on the righthand side. Turn into The Crescent. On the righthand side there is 7 Tower View which is the site of the old Village Hall which was built in the 1950s (**see 15 on the map**).



Village Hall with church tower in the background.

Go past the property on your right and follow the path which goes between the back of the houses and a hedge. The path will come out into the graveyard in St Mary's Church which marks the end of this circular walk.



Produced by

Newton Flotman Parish Council in conjunction with Newton Flotman and Saxlingham
Thorpe Heritage Group (NFAST)
