

Follow the path back into Cottesmore and on your right is **Rogues Lane** leading to the RAF Station (soon to be an army base). The Village Cemetery can be found up the lane which also contains graves of RAF servicemen. The lane was named in the 1880s after a travellers camp set up there.

The construction of Royal Air Force Cottesmore began in 1935 and opened on 11 March 1938. Some of the first night bombing trials took place from Cottesmore in late 1938. On 8 September 1943, the US HQ Troop Carrier Command took control of Cottesmore which became known as USAAF Station 489. During the World War II, RAF Cottesmore was bombed – mainly at night. Victory in Europe was declared on 8 May 1945 and the Americans departed for home on 11 May. The last aircraft to be based at the RAF station was the Harrier.

Moving on past Hall Close to **Colin Eassons Garage and petrol station** on your right. Prior to 1976 this was the location of Cottesmore Tractor Motors. Turning right into **Mill Lane** on your right are the remains of the outbuildings of **Cottesmore Hall (5)** The outbuilding is grade II listed and formerly probably a cottage and stabling of late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> Century and later. There are three-light stone mullion windows with Tudor arches to each light. This was seriously damaged by fire in 1928 and eventually demolished in 1974 to make way for a housing estate



**Cottesmore Hall 5**

were billeted here during the Second World War

Proceeding further up Mill Lane on your left is **The Tithe Barn (now a B&B)**. Originally this was a 100ft Barn owned by the Church and dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Although named the tithe barn it is not believed that this was ever used for the collection of tithes. This building was converted in 1974 using material from the old Hall – roof timbers for the stairs & flooring and floor tiles from the old kitchens. There was a **Reading Room** on the site, but has since been demolished. Previously the 'Reading Room' was a school and subsequently the Village Hall. Also here was a **Lambing Yard** run by a Mr Glover.

Just past the Tithe Barn on the left hand side is the entrance to the **Old Rectory**, now called Clatterpot House. Next door is the **Old Brew House** – this was believed to have been the brewery at one point and then the wash house for the **Old Rectory**.

On your right (**15-17 Mill lane**) you will see **The Farrier's house** formerly **Sunnyside**. This house of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century, grade II listed, with welsh slate and pantile roofs previously belonged to the Gainsboroughs. This ceased to be the case in 1965.

19 Mill Lane is **Lilac Farmhouse (6)**. A part thatched house which is grade II listed. This property is part of the Exton Estate. The Faulkner family used to deliver the milk and papers by bike to the village and also to Market Overton, Greetham and Exton. The farm was the location of another tap for the village water.



**Lilac Farmhouse 6**

In the grounds, evidence was found of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation. 245 shards of pottery were recovered as well as iron slag and furnace lining confirming the area was a metal working site. Opposite are Nos. **16, 18 & 20 Mill Lane**. All grade II listed thatched cottages. No.16 is dated 1734 with an over door stone tablet with 'T.B.A. 1734. Nos. 18 & 20 are mainly 18<sup>th</sup> Century with 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Century origins.

Past the new houses built on the Lilac Farm land we come to the site of the old **Sheepdyke (7)** Turn right into the continuation of Mill Lane, formerly known as Sheepdyke and on your left is **37-39 Mill Lane**. Now one cottage but previously two of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century grade II listed with thatched and pantile roof. Three cottages here were destroyed in 1948 and were replaced by two new houses.



**Sheepdyke 7**

Sheepdyke was not just a pond, but a brick built pond with edging stone. This was the Cottesmore washdyke. The cottages in Sheepdyke used the water for washing and bathing. The ownership of the washdyke was shared among the local farmers. It was last used in 1950 and later filled in.

Exiting Mill Lane by the school, **St. Nicholas' CE Primary School**, walk down the footpath (un-named) leading to **Clatterpot Lane**, so called because of the clattering of pots at the **Bakery**, the site of which you will come across at the end of the lane where it meets Main Street.

On the left you will pass the back of **No. 7 Clatterpot Lane (8)**. A grade II listed cottage from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century with a Collyweston slate roof, this is an Exton Estate property.



Next door is a former Primitive **Methodist Chapel**, opened in 1890 and closed in 1964. It was converted to a house sometime after 1970. During the war the Americans referred to this as 'Sunshine Corner'.

**No. 7 Clatterpot Lane 8**

Moving down a little further you will come to the back gate of the Church. To the right is an area known as the **Camphor Dyke**. This is part of a stream which runs through the village (now underground) through to Greetham.

Continuing down **Clatterpot Lane** you will see on your left **Little Cottage, No. 8 Clatterpot Lane (9)**. This cottage was previously known as 'Hope Cottage'. The current owners have a date plaque for the cottage from 1725. Opposite Little Cottage were two thatched cottages, but these have been demolished and the area is now **St. Nicholas Court**. The village Bakery was once housed here.

**No 8 Clatterpot Lane 9**

It was on the site where **St Nicholas Court** is now that Ron Barker and Colin Easson started up their commercial vehicle repairs workshop. The successor, Eassons Garage, can be found further up Main Street

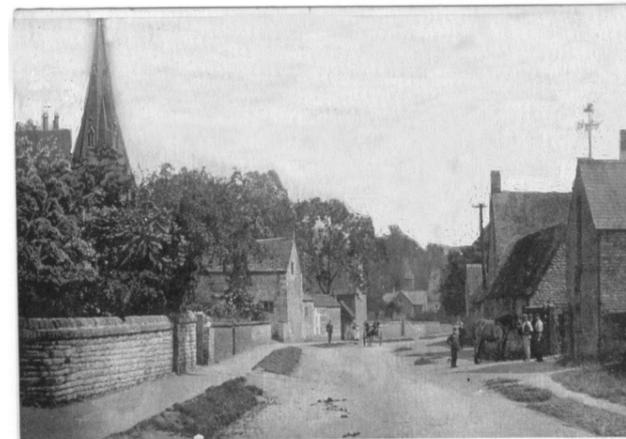
As you approach Main Street on your left is the **Hub** office for the Church. Originally this was the site for 5 cottages. On the opposite side of the road at 41 Main Street, you will see the **Chip Shop and Restaurant**. Earlier these premises and the house next door have been any number of different trades including a delicatessen and latterly a butcher. It was also once Collards the grocers.

On your right is the **Shop and Post Office**. On the land adjacent to the Post Office, excavations in 1998 revealed several finds indicating a Boundary Ditch from the Iron Age, plus Roman and Late Saxon activity. The village baker previously occupied this site. A little further up and again on the opposite side of the road is (**No.35 Main Street**) the old Post Office. Next door is the **Old Smithy** (number **33 Main street**) which was previously the village blacksmith shop.

Ahead of you is **No. 32 Main street (Church House Farm)**. This was formerly part of a farm owned by the Fountains. For this reason next door, No 32a is known as **Fountain's Barn**.

Across the road is **29 Main Street** – named **Pinfold House** (a relatively new house) as this was the site of the village Pinfold (Originally built to hold animals that were found straying). This was before the area between Main Street and The Leas was used by **Blands Coaches** (The company used the name 'Pride of Rutland and was founded in 1929 by Reginald H Bland). Continue right up Main Street and on your right is **No. 20 Main Street (Reed Cottage)**. This a 17<sup>th</sup> Century thatched house which is grade II listed. This was the site of the old butchers. The slaughterhouse is now 18 Main Street.

## Cottesmore Round



We hope this leaflet helps you see the village in an historic light with its 27 listed buildings and 800 years of history

Records show that there has been a settlement in Cottesmore since the mid 11th century, its current name originating from Cotts Moor, and correctly pronounced Cotts'more. Set in England's smallest county, Rutland, Cottesmore is its third largest parish settlement, and is known for the famous Cottesmore Hunt. Cottesmore was already a flourishing village at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 probably under the name of Goda's Moor since at the time of Edward the Confessor a man called Goda held 3 carucates (the area of land to be ploughed in a day by a team of 8 oxen) of land there. For many years the area was mainly agricultural and ironstone quarrying. Until relatively recently the village was primarily part of the extensive Exton estate owned by the Noel Family, the Earl of Gainsborough.

Published by the Cottesmore History and Archaeological Group and funded by the kind contributions from .The Sun Inn, The Chip Shop, Colin Eassons Garage, The Tithe Barn B&B, Cottesmore Stores/Post Office plus two residents.

By this cottage there used to be a small cottage called **Pump Cottage**. Villagers came here for their water – the pump was called "Issac's Pump".

Further along on the right-hand side is **Fir Tree Farmhouse, 16 Main Street**. This is a thatched house grade II listed from the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Century. The outbuildings included a milk parlour and pig sties. Next is **Home Farm**. This is a house from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, extended in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with a 20<sup>th</sup> Century tile roof and is grade II listed. This was a former farm though it ceased to be an active farm 30 years ago. The farmyard and field (Now **the Spinney**) were developed around 15 years ago.

If you continue to follow the road exiting Cottesmore you will come to the housing development built in the 1960s. This was on the site of the old school known as the Central School now **Wenton Close** – (named after the now lost medieval hamlet of Wenton). This is where there were ex army Nissan huts. It was around this area in 1906 that artefacts from about 700 BC were found. These are known as the "Cottesmore Hoard" and can be seen at the Rutland Museum, Oakham.

Turn back towards Cottesmore once more. On your right hand side is **The Thatch, 5 Main Street**. This is a grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> Century thatched cottage. Mr H D Smith (HD), headmaster of the school lived here in the 1930s. He also lived at **Ivy Cottage** next door. It was here that a Mrs Challoner ran the 'Scottish Tea Gardens'. Further down on the right you come to **The Limes, 15 Main Street**. This is an 18<sup>th</sup> Century cottage with pantile roof and is grade II listed. The man in charge of the ironstone horses (the horses used in the quarrying in the surrounding area) lived here. Next door is **17 Main Street**. This is another grade II listed cottage of 1775. It has a Collyweston slate roof with stone coped gables. These are the oldest examples of terraced houses in the village. There is an overdoor stone tablet carved with 'John Abbey, 1775' at the rear of the property.

Cross over road to the car park at **The Sun** and you are now where you began the walk. We hope that you enjoyed the walk. Please visit us again.

Our website is [www.rutnet.co.uk/pp/location/detail.asp?id=14](http://www.rutnet.co.uk/pp/location/detail.asp?id=14) For further information on the listed buildings see English Heritage [www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/)

The walk starts in front of **The Sun Inn** public house in Main Street. The **Sun Inn (1)** is a grade II listed building with a thatched roof and dates from around the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Century

It is believed that there was a Malt House, at the rear of the premises, . In the kitchen of **The Sun** there used to be a pump, this was one of the few sources of water in the village prior to mains water arriving in the 1950s.



Sun Inn 1

On the corner of Main Street and The Leas is **Holly Cottage, No. 27 Main Street**. This Grade II listed cottage dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and has a Collyweston slate roof. To the rear is a full length outshoot with catslide Collyweston slate roof. The Blands of Blands Coaches used to live here.

Turn right up The Leas (Previously known as School Lane and before that Hacks Lane).

It is understood that at the back of **The Leas** is the site of a medieval 'Shrunken Village'. Continuing up The Leas, past Gainsborough Court, (built on the site of what was Elye's Farm), and on your right you will

come to **No. 5 The Leas, The Old School House**. Behind this was the old brick built school – just one room initially, but later another added on. There was an outside toilet .

At the top of the lane leading to the field you can see two existing Glebe cottages. In the gardens of **No. 21 The Leas** a Neolithic polished stone axe was found. Further along The Leas is **April Cottage (23 The Leas)**. At one time this was used for the weekly visit of the Doctor.

**No. 12 The Leas, The Leas House**, formerly the Old House, one of the oldest buildings in Cottesmore. This is a house of 1710 with 19<sup>th</sup> Century alterations, formerly 3 cottages,. It has a Welsh slate roof and over the porch is a stone tablet with 'Thomas Jackson 1710' .

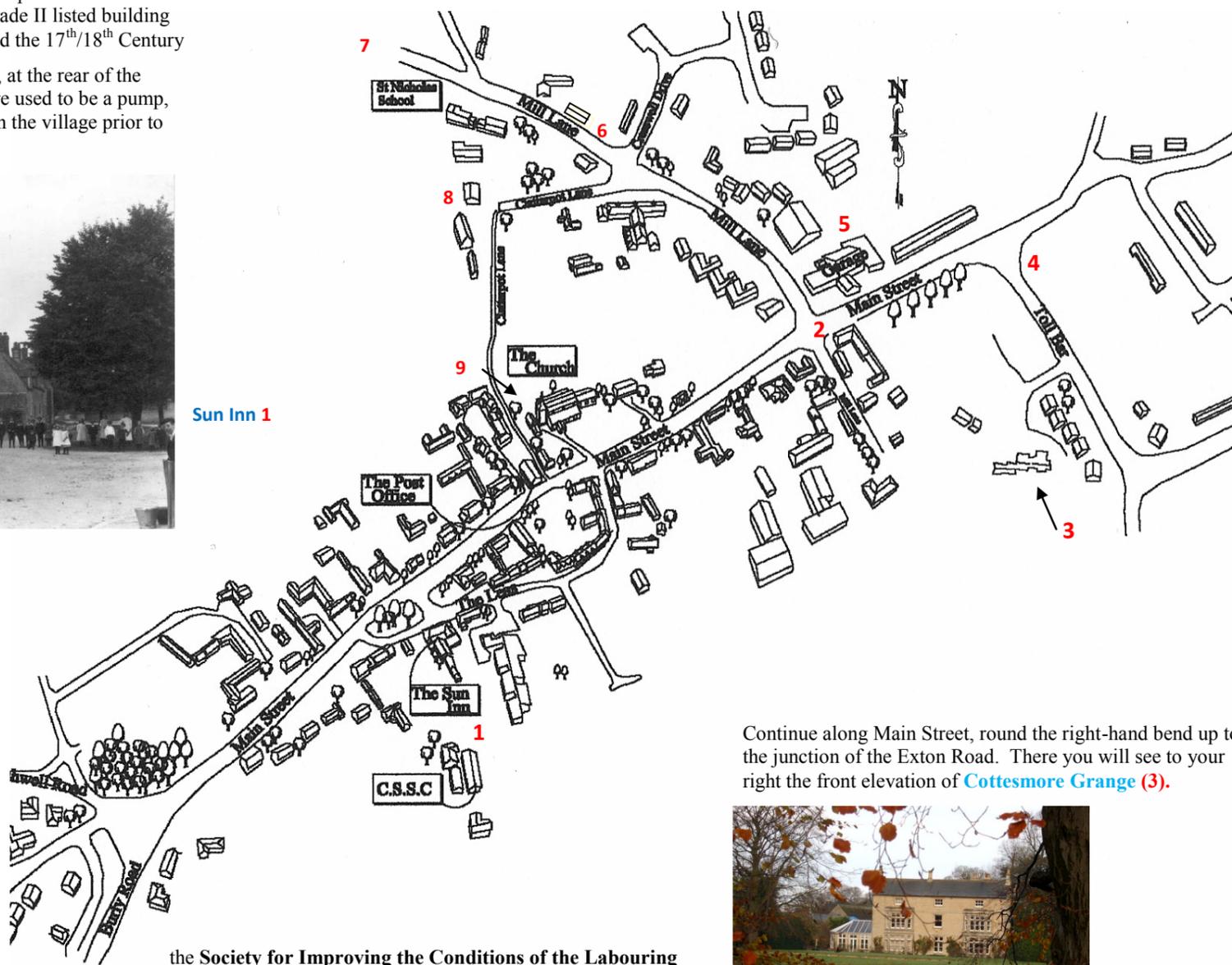
Granny Ireland ran a sweet shop now demolished in front of **Fox Cottage (27 The Leas)**. At the back there used to be stabling. Next-door is **Fountain's Cottage** – this was the home of a carpenter who made coffins.

As you exit The Leas and on the opposite side of the road is **St. Nicholas' Church (a grade II\* listed building)**. The church has stood for 800 years in the centre of Cottesmore and a church on the site is mentioned in the Domesday Book. There seems little doubt that a church stood in the present site long before the earliest portion of the building as it now stands. Within the church grounds the war memorial is also listed. Take some time to look around inside. The connection with the military in this village is very evident.

Patrons of the church have included Henry IV, Henry VII and Charles II. An old village custom involved selling wives outside the church

On the corner of the Leas is **45 Main Street, (Cob Cottage)**. This is a grade II listed thatched cottage built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It was once two cottages. In the 1930s the cottage was used as a surgery for a weekly visiting Doctor. Villagers used to pay sixpence a week into the "Sick & Divided Club" that is you received payment when you were sick and any surplus "divided" out at Christmas . Next door is **'Dicks Cottage', 47 Main Street**, named after Dick Stafford, a farm labourer, also a grade II listed thatched cottage from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At one time this used to be three cottages.

On other side of the road is the new **Rectory** built in 1970s. Next we come to **42 Main Street**. This was formerly a pair of cottages built in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century and designed by Henry Roberts as architect to



the **Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes**. He was a pioneer in the field of working-class housing and his designs were published by the Society for land-owners and others to use.

**The Anchorage (46 Main street)** has a stream running through the garden from the **Camphor Dyke**. This was reputedly the site of a former public house called **Fox and Hounds**. Until the early 1900s the village possessed a stream, the Rundle, running the length of the street. Bit by bit it was piped and buried under ground. No **53 Main Street** is a Grade II listed thatch cottage from the 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Next door, **No. 55 Main Street (The Faulklands)** used to be 3 cottages and is a grade II listed 18th Century thatch cottage. One of the village's Faulkner families, used to live in one, hence its name. In the front is a small cottage which used to be an old wash house. (a small brick built 'lean to' rather than 'cottage'). There are only two cottages now, the one by the road and the middle one have been joined. **59 Main Street** is an other Grade II listed thatched cottage from the 18th Century. (visible through the garden of No. 55)

**Manor Farm** is the only remaining farm in the village. At one time there were seven. Adjacent is a pair of semi-detached houses with the date 1883, a coronet and the letter "G". This is a reference to Lord Gainsborough. There are some other later examples of this design further up the road.

Adjacent to the entrance to the farm is a pair of semi-detached buildings **Honeypot Cottage** is two thatched cottages from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century; grade II listed. Through the side gate was the area once known as **'Tap Yard'** where villagers could come for their water. It was also here that one of the five air raid shelters was located. There was also a windmill on Mill Lane.



Sticky End 2

**Sticky End (2)**, No. 73 is a grade II listed building

Continue along Main Street, round the right-hand bend up to the junction of the Exton Road. There you will see to your right the front elevation of **Cottesmore Grange (3)**.



Cottesmore Grange 3

The Grange is a house of 1811 and mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, grade II listed, with a slate roof. . In the grounds of Cottesmore Grange there was a site of a leper hospital – St Giles circa 1266 but no remains exist. In the 19th century, Cottesmore gained fame as the home of Richard Westbrook Baker, the Exton Estate manager, who became High Sheriff in 1842 and was renowned for his service to agriculture and his efforts to improve the conditions of farm labourers. He, acting as agent for Lord Gainsborough, originated the Small Allotment System in 1830. The well known Rutland Plough was his invention.

Further along the Exton Road used to be **Cottesmore House** The house was struck by lightning in the 1950s and was burnt to the ground and sadly no remains exist. It was a former residence of the Noel family, the Earl of Gainsborough. Tom Noel started the Cottesmore Hunt in 1732 and the village became famous in hunting circles. Turn back to Main Street at the **Old Police House (now 21 Toll Bar, The Sycamores)**

The next few houses are known as **Toll Bar (4)** back towards the heart of Cottesmore. A single storey toll cottage stood on the site of 11 and 12 Toll Bar, being demolished in the 1930s. Mrs. McCrow was the last occupant and it is said that hunting folk on returning to the village would jump over into the adjoining field to avoid paying the toll. Children walking from Greetham going to school in Cottesmore were convinced she was a witch and would walk miles round the toll to avoid crossing her path .

Toll Bar 4

