



Rutland Local History & Record Society

Registered Charity No. 700273

Lyddington Village Walk

September 1995
(updated 2022)

INTRODUCTION

In the Domesday survey of 1086, the village is named as Lidentone, referring possibly to the farm or estate of a man named Hlyda. Over the centuries, the name changed first to Lidinton and later Liddington. The modern spelling of Lyddington only appeared towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Prior to the Domesday Book of 1086, in the time of King Edward the Confessor, the village was held by Bardi, a Lincolnshire thane and landowner. William the Conqueror gave it to Remigius when he made him Bishop of Lincoln in the 1070s. A residence of the bishops of Lincoln was established here by Bishop Robert de Chesney (1148-1166) and by 1235 it was operating as an administrative centre and palace. The Manor of Lyddington remained a possession of the bishops of Lincoln until it was handed to the Crown in 1547. In 1568, it was one of the manors granted by Elizabeth I to Sir William Cecil of Burghley House, who was created Baron Burghley in 1571. His son and successor, Sir Thomas Cecil, was created Earl of Exeter in 1605. The manor has since been passed down with the title of Earl and then Marquess of Exeter.

The large village lies at the core of a medieval Manor which originally included Caldecott, the now abandoned settlement of Snelston and part of Thorpe by Water. Stoke Dry, which in 1086 belonged to the Abbey of Peterborough, was added later.

This Manor was within the bounds of the medieval Royal Forest of Rutland which provided excellent hunting. The woods were gradually cleared over time, resulting in the typical Midland pattern of nucleated villages surrounded by open fields, many traces of which still survive in the form of ridge and furrow.

It was also situated on an ancient communication route from London to Nottingham which passed through Rockingham and over the River Welland to Caldecott, through Lyddington and on to Uppingham. In the mid-eighteenth century, this part of the route was superseded by the Kettering to Nottingham turnpike which ran along higher ground to the west (now the A6003), bypassing Lyddington. It was crossed near the village green in Lyddington by another route from Stoke Dry to Seaton.

THE WALK MAPS

The **Lyddington North** and **Lyddington South** maps are based on the 25 inches to one mile Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1886. Consequently, later buildings, extensions and demolitions are not shown. Numbers in the text, [12] for example, refer to locations shown on the map.

Please:

Respect private property.

Use pavements and footpaths where available.

Take great care when walking alongside or crossing roads.

Remember that you are responsible for your own safety.

THE WALK

The walk starts at the Old White Hart in Main Street and initially follows the **Lyddington North** map.

The Grade II listed **Old White Hart [1]** public house at 51 Main Street is mainly nineteenth century with later extensions, but internally part is original sixteenth century with some evidence of cruck frame construction. It belonged to the Ward family from 1590 until the 1660s, then the Boyalls, who were farmers, until it was acquired by John Manton in 1789, but it was not until about 1815 that it became a public house. Members of the Manton family were landlords until 1922. It was sold to Morris's Rutland Brewery, of Oakham, in 1886.

The Grade II listed **Bisbrooke** and **The Old Reading Room [2]** at 55 and 57 Main Street were originally a single dwelling which had been divided into three by the mid-seventeenth century. On the left was a cottage, next was a grocer's shop (note the blocked shop window) and the remaining part was a shoemaker's shop (note the blocked doorway). The present building is an early nineteenth century remodelling, incorporating some seventeenth century fragments and a later rear wing making it L-plan. The rear wing, with dormer windows, runs along Stoke Road and incorporates a former wide doorway, now a window, with a moulded stone surround. At the end of this wing is a former barn, now a garage, which was the village fire station. The shoemaker's shop, together with the rear wing, became the village **Reading Room** which was purchased by the Parish Council in 1929.

Turn left into Stoke Road which was once known as Pig Lane. Pigs were penned along here because of complaints of the smell when Lyddington markets were held on The Green. The markets were transferred to Uppingham in the early 1600s.

On the left, the Grade II listed **Fineshade [3]** at 9 Stoke Road was originally two cottages, possibly of late sixteenth century construction. From the middle of the nineteenth century, as its name suggests, it was owned by John Monckton of Fineshade Abbey. The thatch was removed and the roof raised in the 1930s. The walls are of coursed ironstone rubble, with courses of large blocks at the base of the front wall. The ground floor has ovolo-moulded ironstone mullion windows with leaded glazing.

Next on the left, **Mullions [4]** at 11 Stoke Road, sometimes referred to as 'Mullins', is an early sixteenth century four-bay hall house and may be a re-modelling of an even earlier building. It is Grade II listed with the original house being at right angles to the road. The central two bays would have formed a hall which was open to the roof, with separate rooms at either end. It is another property purchased by the Moncktons of Fineshade in the nineteenth century. The two-storey range parallel to the road is modern.



Fineshade and Mullions about 1926. The roof to Fineshade has since been raised and both have lost their thatch (National Monuments Record BB754048).

Across the road, the sixteenth century **Poplars Farmhouse [5]** at 2 Stoke Road is of cross-passage plan and is Grade II listed. It was another property acquired by the Moncktons of Fineshade. The 1987 listing describes it as having an asbestos slate roof, but this was replaced by the present thatch in a recent total refurbishment which retained the gable copings from the original roof.

Walking back towards Main Street, the garden wall on the left is the remains of a thatched barn belonging to Lyndon House in Main Street. When the barn caught fire in 1898, the thatch was pulled off and buckets of water were passed along lines of people. The village thatch hook can be seen at the Bede House. It was after this event that a fire engine was purchased and kept in a barn at the rear of 57 Main Street, just across the road from this wall.

Continue to the end of Stoke Road and turn left into Main Street to view buildings on the left-hand side.

On the left, the Grade II listed mid-seventh century **Lyndon House [6]** at 59 Main Street is an old farmhouse and yet another property acquired by the Moncktons. Note the ashlar chimneys, and Welsh slate roof with stone coped gables indicating a former thatched roof. Also note the lower front wall of large dressed ironstone blocks, leaded windows with ironstone mullions, and the door surround with a four-centred arch and Tudor hood-mould.

The ornate datestone over the door of **Slievenanee [7]** at 63 Main Street is inscribed RDA MDCCLXIII (1763)



and, from the parish registers, probably marks the marriage of Robert and Ann Dexter. This Grade II listed house, which was originally thatched before the roof was raised, is named after a mountain in County Antrim and is thought to mean 'mountain of the warriors'. Note the ironstone ashlar front with Uppingham stone quoins, flush first-floor band course and stone door surround with a narrow edge moulding. It was a blacksmith's shop until

the 1920s and one of the four Uppingham School laundries in the village.



Slievenanee in 1921 before the roof was raised and the thatch replaced with tiles (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Orchard House [8] at 71 Main Street is another Grade II listed house. It is of seventeenth century origin, but much altered in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Collyweston slate roof was originally thatched, but the coped gables have been retained. Note the window surrounds of pale limestone with Uppingham stone sills, and the moulded and stopped door surround with four-centred arch. The property was owned by the Clarke family, a long-established line of Lyddington builders and stonemasons. The land to the north of the house was their builder's yard and orchard until recent years. A small estate of new houses was erected on this site in 2010.

The Homestead [9] at 81 Main Street is an early 1600s Grade II listed house. Built as a three-room, lobby-entry house, it was altered in the later seventeenth century when the parlour (north) end was rebuilt as a cross-wing. It was fully renovated in the 1980s. A particular feature is the banded ironstone and pale limestone front. In the seventeenth century, in areas where both ironstone and limestone were available, there was a fashion for this characteristic decorative banded effect. It can be seen in other local medieval buildings such as Oakham Castle. Behind is a high-quality three bay barn which has a datestone over the stable door showing that it was built in 1758 for John Pretty who was a maltster. The barn would have been used for storing barley after the harvest, and the malthouse and kiln were probably located in the two-storey building at the rear of The Homestead, now converted into a cottage.



Dalkeith House [10] at 85 Main Street dates from the sixteenth century. When it was owned by a butcher in the nineteenth century, it included a butcher's shop, and a slaughterhouse.

Red Hall [11] at 87 Main Street is early eighteenth

century and Grade II listed. When it was extensively renovated and extended in the 1960s, a central carriage entrance was replaced by the two-storey extension with its gable end to the road. The original part on the right is of coursed ironstone rubble with Uppingham stone quoins, raised thatched roof and coped gables. In the nineteenth century the house was owned by a fellmonger, a dealer in sheep hides and skins, and woolstapler, a dealer in wool. The sheep skins were cured in lime pits in the yard, and wool was washed in the nearby River Welland and dried in the buildings at the rear. 87 Main Street was also an Uppingham School laundry.

Appletree Cottage [12] at 89 Main Street is of seventeenth century origin and is Grade II listed. The narrow stone extension to left, with the entrance door and hipped porch, was added in the twentieth century as was an extension to the rear. The Collyweston slate roof with coped gables and moulded kneelers has replaced the original thatch. Note the original ground floor windows in chamfered surrounds of Uppingham stone with quadrant cornices and dropped sills, and the small fire window to the left.

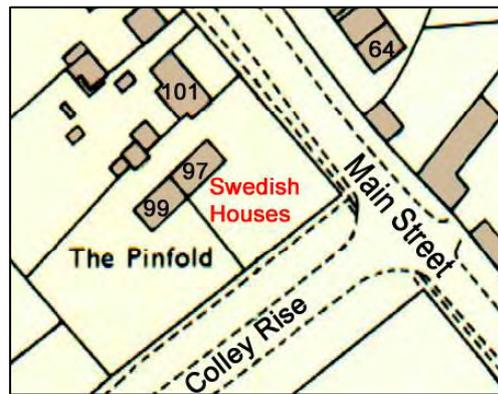
Standing at right-angles to the road, **93 Main Street [13]** is another seventeenth century Grade II listed property with Uppingham stone window lintels and quoins. With stone-coped gables, the Welsh slate roof replaced the earlier Collyweston slate roof and a thatch before that. Until the twentieth century, the cottage was in the hands of the prominent Pretty family.

95 Main Street [14] is a modern house which was built in the former orchard of 93 Main Street.

A house which stood on the line of what is now Colley Rise and another immediately to the north (as shown on the walk map), where the present **97 Main Street [15]** now stands, were demolished at an unknown date. Prior to the erection of the current 97 Main Street, the site had been occupied by a pair of semi-detached Swedish houses fronting onto Colley Rise but numbered 97 and 99 Main Street. At the end of World War Two there was a severe shortage of housing in Britain. As a result, 5000 Swedish Baltic pine prefabricated houses, with a life expectancy of about 60 years, had been sent to the UK by March 1946. They were erected in small numbers in mainly rural areas, including Barrowden, Lyddington, Ridlington and Wing in Rutland. Only those in Morcott Road Barrowden and Top Street Wing have survived.



A typical pair of Swedish semi-detached houses with wash house extensions (The Prefab Museum).



The location of the former Swedish houses in 1970.

Long before the Swedish houses were erected, this area had been the village pinfold, used to pen stray animals.

The coursed ironstone house with a Collyweston slate roof known as **The Lilacs [16]** at 101 Main Street is Grade II listed. It stands on the site of a former messuage with barns, stables and orchards belonging to the Ireland family and was rebuilt by the Clarke family of stonemasons in the early 1800s. Note the use of Uppingham stone for quoins, windows with raised surrounds and key blocks, and the door surround. The ashlar ironstone front garden walls with a chamfered plinth are also Grade II listed.

The Knoll [17] at 103 Main Street is Grade II listed. It has a rare local example from the late eighteenth century of a fully developed Georgian front in ironstone ashlar, with an Uppingham stone surround to the tall sash windows. The quoins and flush band courses at first floor and eaves level are also in this stone. The kitchen extension to the left, with external walls of rendered brick, was added in the mid-1800s and is one of the earliest buildings of such construction in the area.

The thatched **Jasmine Cottage [18]** at 105 Main Street is another Grade II listed property. Above the right-hand door it has a fire insurance plaque and a datestone with DTP 1741, although there is evidence of earlier occupation. This is yet another house of ashlar ironstone with Uppingham stone details, including a raised first floor band course. The left-hand bay with a thatched canopy over the door is a twentieth century modification and extension. In the nineteenth century, this property was divided into three cottages, two being used as poor houses for Stockerston and Lyddington, but it is now a single dwelling again.

The mid-eighteenth century **Westhill Cottage [19]** at 109 Main Street is another Grade II listed house with coursed ironstone rubble front elevation and Uppingham stone dressings. The Welsh slate roof, which replaced a former thatch, prevented the fire of 1907, which started at 113 Main Street, from spreading further down the line of cottages (see below).

Hillcrest [20] at 111 Main Street is a Grade II listed two-storey house with ironstone ashlar front walling, Uppingham stone quoins, a flush lintel band and a projecting first floor band course. It was built in the seventeenth century, but there is a later datestone with 1777 over the front door, probably indicating the date of alterations. In 1907, a serious fire, which spread from 113 Main Street, destroyed the thatched roof and the interior of Hillcrest (see below).

Hillcrest was subsequently rebuilt above the projecting front ashlar band to provide a higher eaves level and the original thatch was replaced with Welsh slate. A two-storey barn with front cart doors at the north end was originally a continuation of the main house, with matching ridgeline and roof, but this was lowered to single storey with a flat roof. The house was renovated and extended in 2020 when the north end was returned to two-storey.



West Hill Cottage (left) and Hillcrest (centre) before the fire of 1907 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

113 Main Street [21] is a later ironstone house which was the home in the 1970s of Bryan Matthews, author of *The Book of Rutland* (1978) and *By God's Grace; a history of Uppingham School* (1984). It is behind the site of William Curtis's former cottage which was destroyed by fire on Saturday 17th March 1907.

This cottage was dated 1773. By 1882, it had become William Curtis's home and workshop where he made and sold horse collars and harnesses. He tanned his own skins and made leather thongs to stitch the collars and harnesses.

The fire started at the rear of the cottage when a stack of straw was deliberately ignited by a local youth who was later convicted of arson. It quickly spread to the cottage thatch and then along to Hillcrest, totally destroying both premises.



The Curtis cottage in 1895 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).



The sign over the door of William Curtis' cottage enlarged from the above image.

Unlike Hillcrest, William Curtis's cottage was not rebuilt, but the remains of the front wall can still be seen in the garden wall. After the fire, William and his daughter Mary, a dressmaker, moved to a house in Church Lane and William used one of the buildings at the rear of Fern Cottage, 43 Main Street, as his workshop. He died in 1912, aged 75.



The cottages after the fire (Private collection).

A house on the site of **Lapwing House [22]**, 115 Main Street, was owned by Thomas Elliot in 1632. The present house, dated 1744 on a tablet, came into the hands of the Wright family of farmers who owned it until it was seized in 1885 by a High Court order and sold to pay off the debts of William Hugh Wright of Caldecott.

This house is of ironstone ashlar with a lowered cart entry to the rear yard and a possible former barn or cottage beyond which the listing refers to as an office, all under modern tile roof. Originally, the main house was thatched and the cart entry was full height.



Lapwing House about 1925 with a thatched roof and full height cart entry (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

As reported by the *Grantham Journal* (Saturday 24th March 1906, p3), this house only just escaped the ravages of the fire which destroyed William Curtis's cottage: '*A large newly thatched house, occupied by Mr. T. Chambers, market carrier ... was in jeopardy, the gable being only separated from the burning pile by a gateway a few yards wide. Ladders were obtained ... men were able to prevent the thatch igniting, water being poured down the roof.*'

The history of **117 Main Street [23]** has been traced back to the early seventeenth century when the owner was Robert Tansley. This Grade II listed house was originally thatched as suggested by the coped gable ends. Note the Uppingham stone quoins and flush first-floor band course.



117 Main Street about 1925 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Just beyond 117 Main Street, a **wagon wash [24]** can be seen at the side of the road where the stream passes under an old stepper bridge covered by the modern road. Soaking the wagon wheels prevented the wood from shrinking away from the iron rims.

The walk now returns along Main Street looking at the buildings on the east side.

North Hall [25] at 72 Main Street is the last old house on the east side and was one of the few freehold houses in the village. It was owned by William Wilson, a tailor, in 1910. This late eighteenth century L-plan two-storey house is Grade II listed. The walls are dressed and coursed ironstone with Uppingham stone quoins. The Welsh slate roof with coped gables and moulded kneeler was originally thatched.

In 1662, the Grade II listed **Stoneville Farm [26]** at 62 Main Street was on the site of a messuage owned by Richard Munn, vicar of Lyddington. It included the late fifteenth century barn and outbuildings that were later converted into Stoneville Farm and two cottages.

By 1853, the two cottages had become poor houses in multiple occupation and known as The Hole in the Wall. They were very dilapidated and when they were demolished, **Red Roofs [27]** at 60 Main Street was built on the site using material from the old cottages.

The right-hand bay of the Grade II listed **Avalon [28]** at 58 Main Street is one of the oldest dwellings in the village. A smoke-blackened upper part of a cruck truss in the roof void confirms that it was once a hall house with the main hall open to the roof. Tree-ring dating has indicated a felling date for the roof timbers of between 1388 and 1413. This house is an unusual survival of a very early cruck framed building in this part of England. It was owned in the eighteenth century by the Pretty family of tanners.

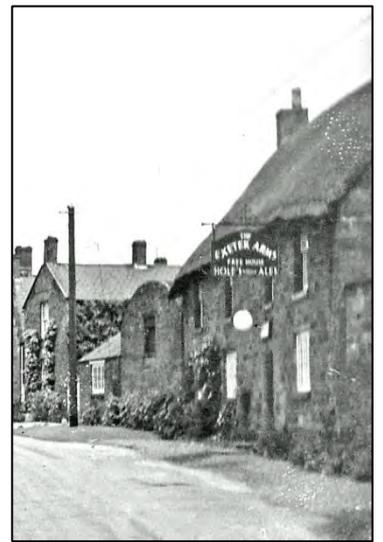
The seventeenth century **Marquess of Exeter [29]** at 52 Main Street, known as the Exeter Arms until 1967, is Grade II listed and is of cross-passage plan. Inside, there are heavy stop-chamfered spine beams and a fine example of an inglenook fireplace. It also has a very fine roof of c1610-50 with arch braces, giving very lofty rooms.

In the seventeenth century, the site was owned by Lawrence Peach of Uppingham, and in 1786, it was owned by Thomas Bryan of Stoke Dry. The earliest record of it being a public house is in 1831 when William Hill was the landlord. He was followed by Thomas Hill who was landlord until 1862. From then on until 1941, the inn was

owned and managed by members of the Colwell family.

It was extensively damaged by fire in 1994, but its old oak rafters and beams were salvaged and re-used, and the roof was re-thatched.

The Exeter Arms about 1950 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).



The datestone over a door to left of centre on the grade II listed **The Maltings [30]** at 42 and 44 Main Street has H C E and 1765 for the owner Hugh Clarke who was a stonemason. Later, there was a bakehouse here. John Burbidge bought the cottages in 1912 and continued to bake bread for the village for many years. The arched Uppingham stone lintels with triple keystones to the left-hand ground floor windows are the earliest known examples of this style.

The grade II listed **Swan House [31]** at 36 Main Street, one of the larger houses in the village, was probably built on the site of the former fifteenth century Swan Cottage. On the west facing gable, above a fire insurance plaque, is a datestone with P over L S and 1674 in a raised diamond under a hood-mould. This is for Lawrence Peach and his wife Susanna who established the house as a coaching inn. The road through Lyddington was on the coaching route from Richmond to London and the inn was ideally located. It closed after 1757 when Lyddington was bypassed by a new turnpike, now the A6003.

Inside is a seventeenth century staircase with turned wooden balusters and tall moulded newel finials

In 1849, part of the south wing was converted into a Wesleyan chapel to replace the former chapel at 30 Main Street. It closed in 1970.

30 Main Street [32] is Grade II listed. It was built in 1813 and became a small Wesleyan Chapel. However, it was eventually too small for the expanding congregation and a new chapel was established at Swan House (see above). The ceilings to the upstairs rooms are curved, possibly confirming its previous life as a chapel

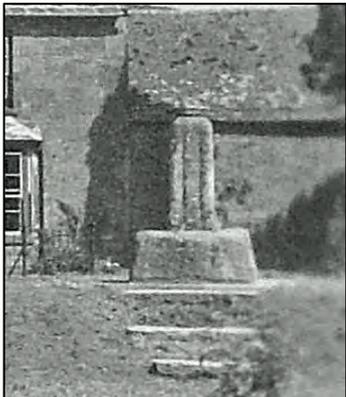
The Grade II listed **28 Main Street [33]** is a late eighteenth century remodeling of an earlier building. It was then a freehold property, the home of the Roberts family. The house was one of the village laundries working for Uppingham School in the early twentieth century.

Just before the green is a Grade II listed **K6 type telephone kiosk** designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V.

Now change to the **Lyddington South** map and follow the road round to the left into The Green.

A thirteenth century limestone **market cross [34]** stood on The Green until it was removed in 1837. It had been damaged in a drunken brawl by men from the William IV

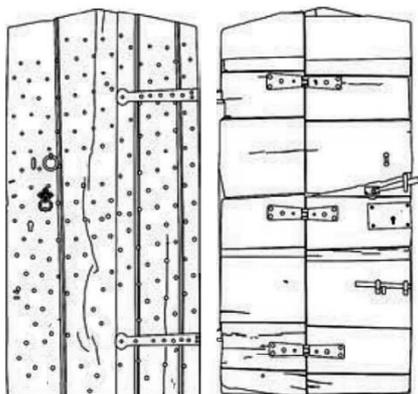
public house who were working on the turnpike. The lower part was found in a nearby local builder's yard and re-erected at the centre of The Green in 1930, with a selection of artefacts of the time buried beneath it. It is now a scheduled ancient monument.



The re-erected market cross in 1930 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Also on The Green, where the bus shelter now stands, was a **blacksmith's workshop** which is shown on the walk map as 'Smithy'. The last blacksmith was Jack Clarke who was working here in 1930. He was also a warden of the Bede House and keeper of the Bede House orchard and garden. A previous blacksmith here from before 1881 was Michael Butler who was 65 years old at the 1911 Census. He retired in 1912, but his son Archibald, also a blacksmith, may have continued working here for a time.

6 The Green [35] was the William IV public house from before 1837. Although it is not listed it has some interesting early features. It is a lobby entry house built around 1620–60. One of the A-frame roof trusses has been tree-ring dated to 1755 confirming that the roof was replaced in the eighteenth century. On the east side there is an original oak external door dating from when the house was built. An exceptional feature of this door was that it could be folded into two halves on its original hinges so that it did not block the small entry lobby.



A drawing of the front and rear of the oak door at 6 The Green (Robert Ovens).

Lincoln House [36] at 5 The Green is a Grade II listed cross-passage house built in the first half of the seventeenth century. A rear wing, for service or agricultural use, was added *circa* 1695, as indicated by tree-ring dating of the roof. In 1850, there was a butcher's shop here, as well as a barn and stables.



During alterations to form a new doorway here, an original early seventeenth century oak window frame with plain-chamfered lights was uncovered. It had no rebate for glazing but retained the hinge-hooks

for an internal timber shutter. At this time, glass was expensive and cheaper houses were often built with unglazed timber windows which had internal shutters.

Bell House [37] at 4 The Green, originally known as Home Close, is a late eighteenth century Grade II listed property. The external walls of this two-and-a-half storey house are of ironstone ashlar, mostly of orange Lyddington stone but with brown Uppingham stone quoins, bands and window surrounds. To the right, the single-storey extension with a hipped roof was formerly a stable.

In 1846, the house was owned by Robert Peach, a merchant seaman of Liverpool. Later, it was the home of Dr Astley Clarke, a master at Uppingham School. He was author, in 1936, of *Lyddington, Some Points in Village History*.

The Grade II listed **Stoneleigh [38]** at 3 The Green has always been described as a bakehouse and was part of the complex of buildings associated with the former bishop's palace. The Bishop of Lincoln's account rolls of 1563 record that the bakehouse was built for the bishop in 1510 by workmen from Buckden near Huntingdon.

This coursed rubble ironstone and limestone house is a late seventeenth century remodelling of the medieval building which was altered and extended in the twentieth century.

If time allows, follow the lane at the back of The Green to the stile and walk across **Little Park** to see the earthworks of the **medieval fishponds [39]**.

In 1215, King John granted Bishop Hugh II licence to enclose part of the Forest of Rutland to create the **Great Park** to the north-west of Lyddington. A second park, known as Olde Park, to the north-east of the Bishop's Palace, was first recorded in 1348. This was later increased in size to become the **Little Park** with large fishponds, the earthworks of which can still be seen. The fishponds played an important role in supplying the palace household with freshwater fish and provided opportunities for walking and boating. There was also a water mill here which was probably on the out-fall of the largest pond.

Return to The Green and then walk along Blue Coat Lane.

Blue Coat Lane [40] was formerly known as Jesus Hospital Lane. It leads to the Bede House and is named after the blue coats worn by the Bedesmen.

Now is an opportunity to visit the **Bede House [41]**. Entry is free for members of English Heritage.

The Bede House is part of the former residence of the bishops of Lincoln which was established by Bishop Robert de Chesney. The first great hall was built about 1160 and by 1235 the bishop's house was operating as an administrative centre as well as a palace.

In the fourteenth century, the palace was upgraded under Bishop Henry Burghersh, who built a larger great hall. Later bishops also regularly stayed at the palace and frequently entertained royal guests. Further building work was carried out in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.

After the Manor was handed to the Crown in 1547, it passed to William Cecil, Lord Burghley, in 1568. He converted the chamber wing of the Bishop's Palace into an almshouse which was named Jesus Hospital.

Accommodation in the hospital was provided for twelve poor Bedesmen and two women to look after them, 'all free of lunacy, leprosy or the French pox' The building eventually became known as the Bede House and it served as an almshouse until the 1930s. It is now in the care of English Heritage



Bede House cloisters about 1910 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Now follow the footpath to the churchyard under the west end of the Bede House.

The first mention of a church at Lyddington was in 1163 when it was dedicated to All Hallows, but the oldest parts of the existing **St Andrew's Church [42]**, as it is now known, date from the fourteenth century. As well as the beautiful nave with high arches and large windows, there are many interesting features to see. It is normally open during the day and there is a printed guide available inside.

Behind the church to the east, but not visible on this walk, is **Prebendal House [43]**. It was built in the 1870s by Edward Sharman to replace the old Prebendal House which was in a ruinous condition. The old Prebendal House was nearer to the church and had a hall, parlour, kitchen, pantry, larder and cellar, and six lodging chambers. Its farm buildings, now all converted into houses, included a malting house, malt kiln, brew-house, dovecote, two stables and several barns. In the Hearth Tax return of 1665, Sir Euseby Pelsant's Prebendal House was the largest house in the village with eleven hearths.

From the church, leave the churchyard via the Church Lane gates and turn left.

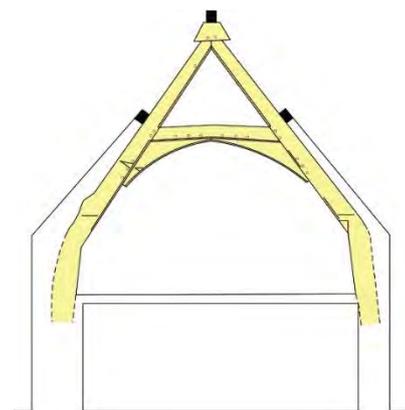
The house was acquired by Edmund Sismey in 1656 who referred to it as his Upper House. Bay House (see later) was his Lower House. In 1843, it was the vicarage, occupied by the Rev Thomas Wheeler Gillham and later by the Rev J Baynard.

On the right, on the south side of Church Lane, is **The Hermitage [44]** at 6 Church Lane which is Grade II listed and dated E (P?) S (for Edmund Sismey) 1668 on a datestone. It is of dressed ironstone with a Collyweston slate roof, three ashlar chimneys, a moulded limestone first floor band and pale limestone ovolo-moulded mullion windows with leaded lights.

Now walk along Church Lane towards Main Street. On the left, set back from the road, is **The Firs [45]** at 4 Church Lane. It is of fifteenth century cruck-beam construction and is the most complete cruck building of the five recorded in Lyddington. Each pair of cruck blades was made from a single elbowed-form oak tree which was cut

in half to create a matching pair. The blades originally extended down from the roof apex to just above ground level and have been radiocarbon-dated to about 1420.

The walls of The Firs were raised and the thatch removed early in the twentieth century.



The cruck beams at The Firs in Church Lane (Nick Hill).

The Grade II listed house at **2 Church Lane [46]** was built about 1833 as a showpiece by William Clarke, a mason and quarry master of Lyddington. For many years it was the village police house.

Originally this house had elm pole rafters, often used in this area because of the shortage of oak. Notice the main front which is a very sophisticated design of finely jointed ashlar masonry with contrasting band courses of brown stone and limestone. This orange-coloured Lyddington stone was also widely used in Uppingham and came from local stone beds which have mostly been quarried out.



The tower at the corner of Main Street and Church Lane, and the quarry master's house beyond, in 1910. (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

The late fifteenth century **tower [47]** (*Watch Tower* on the walk map) at the corner of Church Lane and Main Street is Grade I listed as a gazebo and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was used by the bishops as a place for reading with seats and shelves for books. Entrance was via a high-level walkway from the palace along the adjacent wall. It has the arms of John Russell who was Bishop of Lincoln from 1480 to 1494. A panel above the west window has blind tracery and a heraldic shield.

Now turn left into Main Street to view the buildings on the east side.

The Uppingham stone mullioned windows with full Tudor hood-moulds on the ground floor at **12 Main Street [48]** are much admired by Pevsner. 10 and 12 Main Street were originally a single farmhouse dating from 1620-50, with 8 Main Street being a nineteenth century extension. These properties are Grade II listed as a single group.

Cranford [49] at 4 Main Street was The Lord Roberts public house which was owned by the Northamptonshire Brewery Company from 1910. It closed in 1933. This coursed ironstone rubble Grade II listed seventeenth

century house was originally thatched. The semi-conical tiled porch on wooden posts and the extension with a garage entry and gabled semi-dormer set back to the left are both twentieth century.



The Lord Roberts from the south in 1920 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

The Grade II listed **The Elms [50]** at 2 Main Street is a mid-eighteenth century building which contains fragmentary evidence of an earlier cruck-built structure dating back to the sixteenth century.

The last three houses on the right are **1, 3 and 5 Main Street** which were built in 1848 as a single house and stables by the Bryan family. **Lyddington House [51]** at 1 Main Street was purchased in the 1930s by the Church Commissioners to become a Vicarage. It was again sold in the 1990s and is now a private residence. This magnificent Grade II listed three-storey house is of dressed ironstone with pale limestone quoins, flush band courses and sill strings. The roof is Welsh slate. The **dressed ironstone gate piers** at the pedestrian entrance to the garden and in front of 3 Main Street, together with the wall and railings, are also Grade II listed.

Now walk back along Main Street to view the buildings on the west side.

Orchard Cottage [52] at 9 Main Street is a nineteenth century property, but there is a datestone with KW EW over 1619 on the gable end of the former barn facing the road, perhaps indicating a much earlier building here.

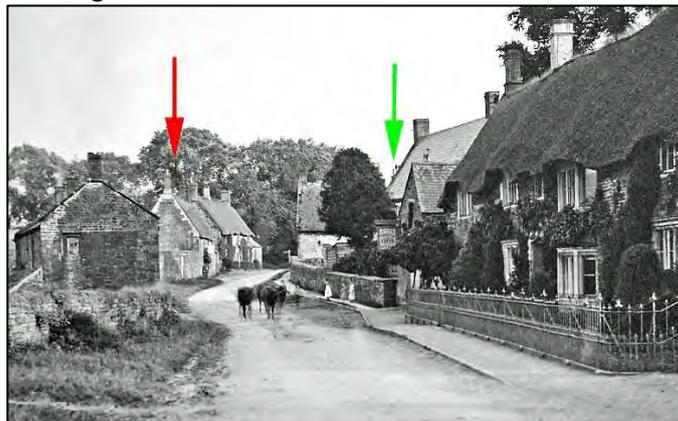


The datestone at Orchard Cottage (Nick Hill).

Pied Calf Cottage [53] at 13 Main Street is Grade II listed and was the Pied Calf public house from about 1850 to its closure in 1933.

Bay House [54] at 17 Main Street is also Grade II listed. It has a stone bay window dated 1656 with the initials EA for Edward Allen. This thatched two-storey house with moulded stone chimney stacks remained in the hands of the Allen family until they sold it in 1756 to Daniel Thorpe who was a horse dealer. It was owned by the Bryan family of Gretton from 1790 until 1856 when

Hugh Clarke bought it for £100 at an auction in the Exeter Arms. In 1935, it was purchased by Charles Herbert who produced the decorated lists of vicars and churchwardens in the church. Barns and other farm buildings were taken down in 1948 and the stone used to build houses at Rockingham.



Main Street looking south in 1905. The Lord Roberts [red arrow] and The Pied Calf [green arrow], with Bay House on the right (Jack Hart Collection RCM).

Scales Dyke [55] is an unmade road leading to the site of a **horse pond** to the rear of the house known as **The Arches [56]** at 23 Main Street, which was built by John Thomas Clarke in 1890. At the pond, horses could soak their feet to prevent cracking in dry weather. Further up the lane was a Women's Land Army hostel that later became a prisoner of war camp during World War II. When the camp was demolished after the war, the materials were used to build a bungalow on the site.

The **Village Hall [57]** at 27 Main Street was the Church of England National School which opened in 1870 when there was a headmaster and three assistants. It closed in 1971.

Priest's House [58] at 31 Main Street is a Grade II listed house which was extensively renovated in 1966.

It has a coursed rubble front wall with alternate bands of ironstone and pale limestone, with the gables rebuilt in red brick. Windows have ovolo-moulded stone surrounds and moulded cornices. On the front is a re-set stone with the inscription: *'Cælum Patria Christus Via'* which is translated as *'Heaven is our home, Christ is the way'*. It is dated 1626 and has the initials of the Rev Robert Rudd which are also on the altar rails in the church. He served as vicar for 57 years until his death in 1647.



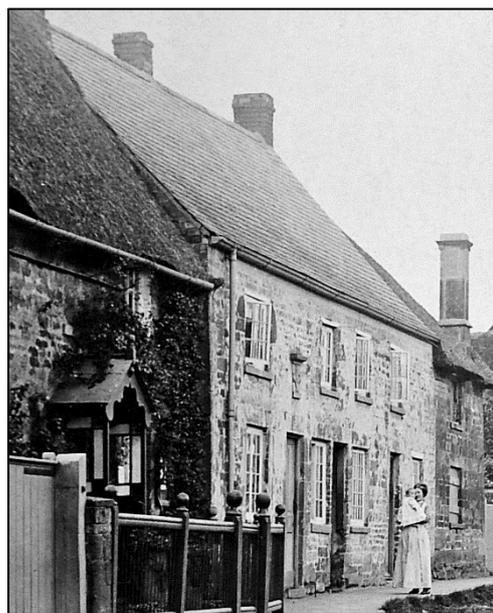
Home Farmhouse [59] at 35-37 Main Street is a Grade II listed property from the early seventeenth century when it was held by members of the Manton family. A fragment of a cruck truss remains from an earlier late medieval house on this site. The kitchen has an original inglenook fireplace with a projecting bake-oven. The original stud wall with mud infill which divides the passage from the

kitchen also survives. The extensions to the left and right of the main house, are nineteenth century. There is also a fine range of eighteenth century farm buildings here.

The Grade II listed **Bede Cottage [60]** at 39 Main Street was also owned by the Manton family in the seventeenth century. It was a blacksmith's in the nineteenth century. and it was refurbished and the roof raised in the 1960s.

41 Main Street [61] is Grade II listed and was held by the Adcock family in the early 1700s. The initials on a tablet over the door are for the stone mason Joseph Clarke, a later owner. After 1787 it was owned successively by John and William Sharman, who were both millers. Alfred Manton was the new owner in 1893 and his wife kept the post office when it was located here.

The earliest record for the site on which **Fern Cottage [62]** at 43 Main Street stands is in 1696 when it was owned by William Palmer. Originally, there were five cottages here, with two at the back and three at the front. Of the three front cottages, Fern Cottage is the only survivor. One was burnt down and demolished during World War II and the other was demolished in the 1960s. These two cottages, with a passage between them, were built by William Clarke. A datestone with his initials was originally on the front. It is now on a pillar next to 41 Main Street.



The cottages between 41 and 43 Main Street which were demolished (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

From 1841 to 1934, stone masons Seaton Clarke and his son George Henry Clarke used the room at the front of Fern Cottage as a workshop. William Curtis, collar and harness maker, used a building at the rear as his workshop after his cottage and workshop burned down in 1907 (see above).

The **village pump [63]** can be seen across the road from Fern Cottage. It was removed in 1940 but replaced in 2005, although it is no longer in working order. In 1904, a water main was laid through the village to Uppingham from the new waterworks in Gretton Road, but it was not until 1938 that water was piped to the houses in the village.

The Grade II listed **Pageant House [64]** at 47 Main Street is a fine example of a cross-passage house. A smoke-blackened roof truss and thick stone walls indicate a date of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. It has coursed ironstone rubble walls, thatched roof, coped gables, stone-mullioned windows and a stone doorway, as

well as an inglenook fireplace with a fire window.

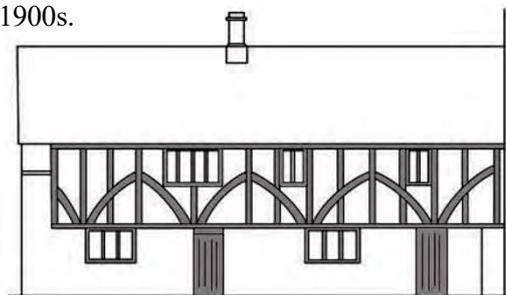
When George Cheatle moved in Lyddington in 1881, he and his wife set up a grocers' and drapers' shop at Pageant House. The Post Office moved there in 1929 and their daughter Annie became the postmistress.

Manor House [65] at 22 Main Street was probably built by Bishop William Smyth early in the sixteenth century, and then rebuilt in 1758 by the Marquess of Exeter for Edward Sharman, the village miller. It was sold to Richard Jeffs, builder and wheelwright, in 1876 and held by the family until the 1980s.

This is a Grade II listed L shaped, two-storey house with a cellar and attics, and a modern single storey extension at the rear. The walls are of coursed ironstone, with quoins of Lyddington purple ironstone. All the windows are wrought iron casements with leaded lights in restored mullioned and transomed oak frames.

Next is **24 Main Street [66]** and **1 The Green [67]**, which together were originally known as **Market House**. It was probably named after the former weekly markets held in this area. A market was established at Lyddington shortly after 1215 when the Bishop of Lincoln was granted permission to hold weekly markets in all his manors. The Green is probably a remnant of a larger marketplace area of the Middle Ages.

This Grade II listed early sixteenth century house is of cruck-beam construction. Together with a **line of thatched cottages [68]** which used to stand along the south side of The Green, the high-class timberwork to the original first floor suggests that this and the cottages may have been built as lodging houses for the bishops' retinue. The front elevation was stone to first floor and half-timbered above. The front wall was rebuilt in brick when it fell out in the early 1900s.



A drawing of the front wall of Market House before it fell out in the 1920s (Nick Hill).

This is the end of the walk. For more information on the history of Lyddington, see *Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor* which is free to read at: <http://www.rutlandhistory.org/pdf/bprm.pdf>

Acknowledgements:

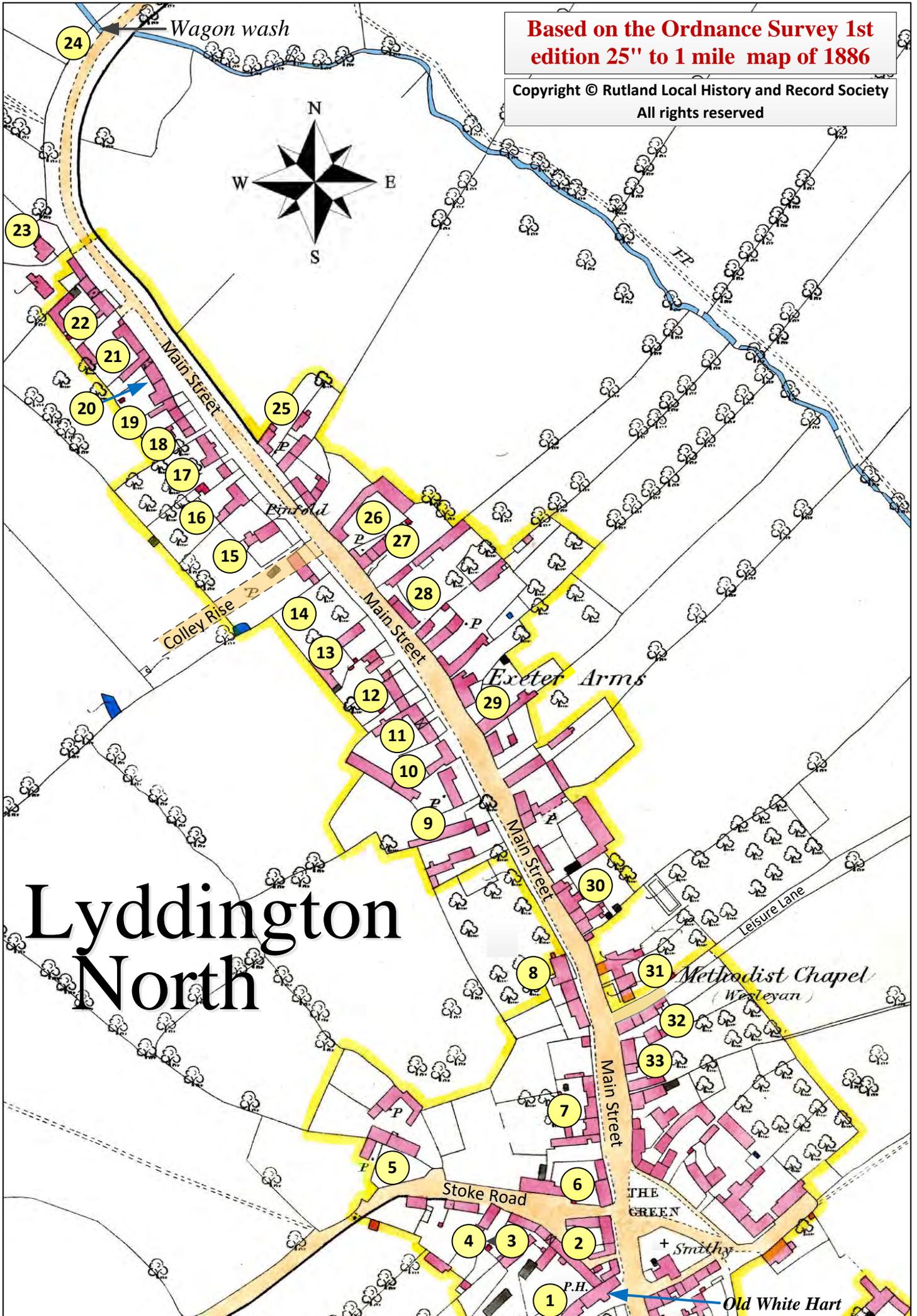
Lyddington Manor History Society (LMHS), Tim Clough, RLHRS Editor, Nick Hill, and Rutland County Museum (RCM).

References:

British Newspaper Archive.
LMHS, *Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor*, 2015.
Cossons, A. *The Turnpike Roads of Leics and Rutland*, 2003.
Cox, B, *The Place-Names of Rutland*, 1994
Find My Past, *Parish Registers and Census Returns*.
Page, W, *Victoria County History - Rutland*, Vol II, 1935.
Pevsner, N, *The Buildings of England - Leicestershire and Rutland*, 1973.

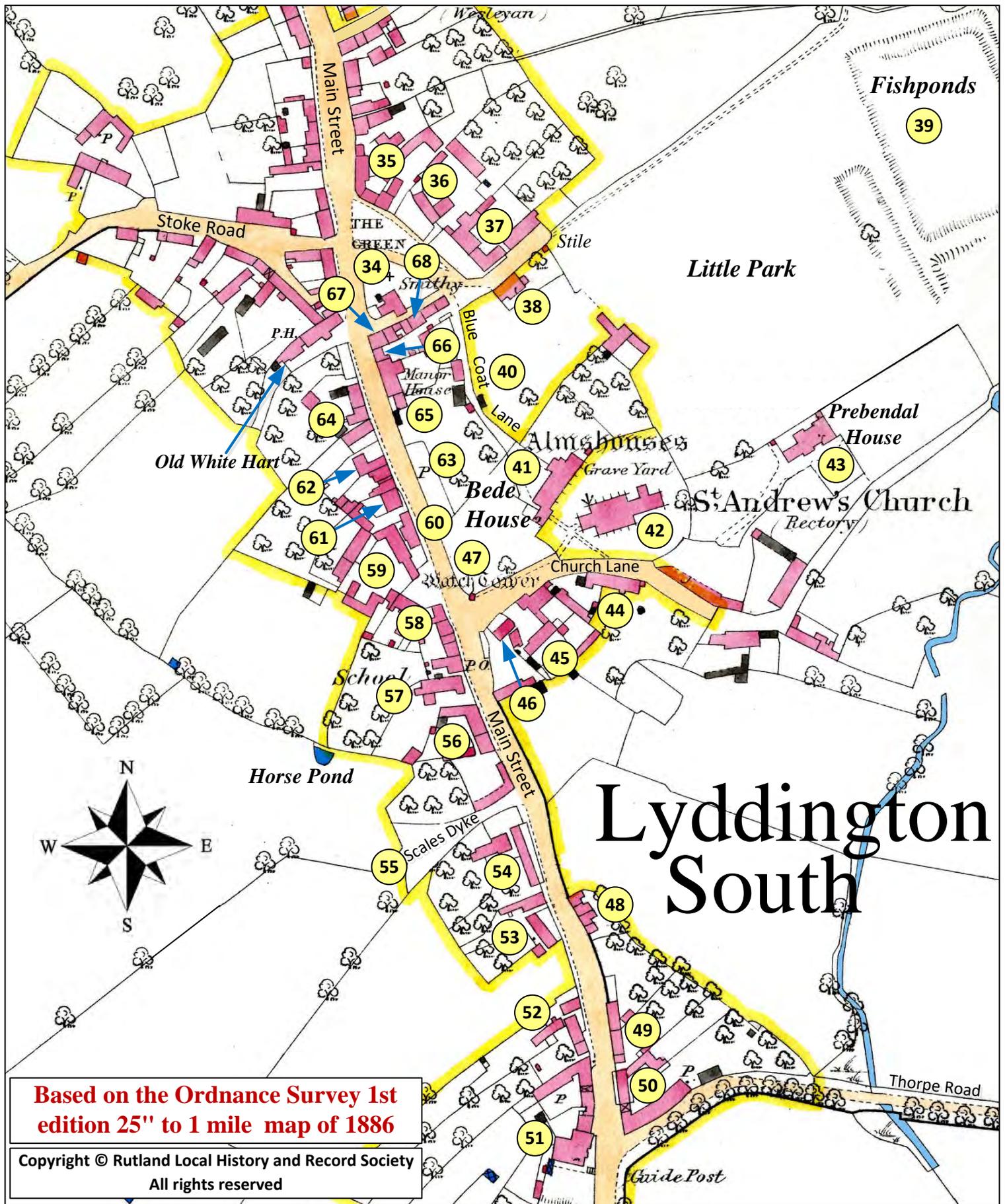
Based on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" to 1 mile map of 1886

Copyright © Rutland Local History and Record Society
All rights reserved



Lyddington North

Old White Hart



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" to 1 mile map of 1886

Copyright © Rutland Local History and Record Society
All rights reserved