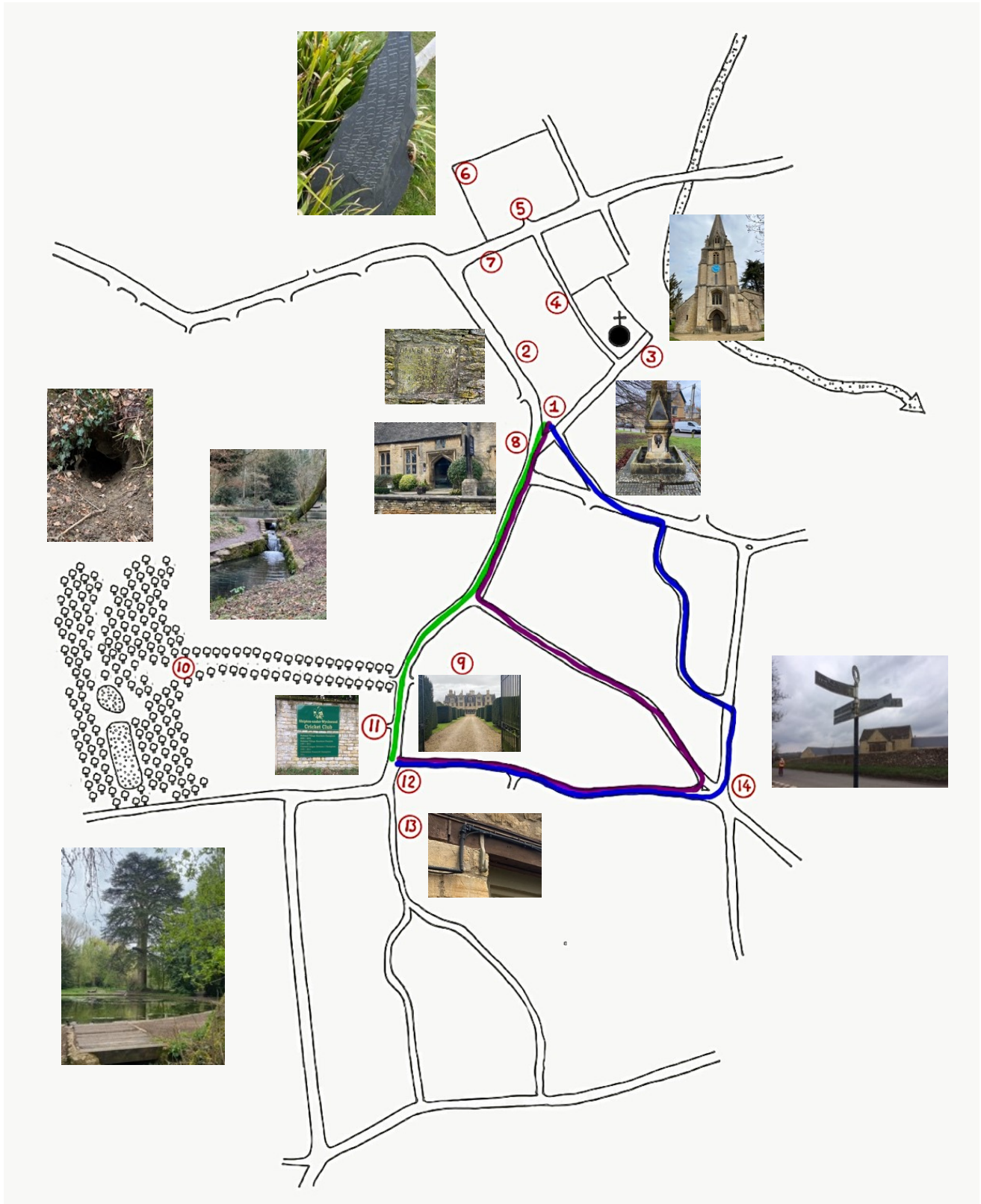




Village Trail for Children



Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire

Village Trail for Children

Part one of this trail starts at the **village green** and takes you past the **church** and many other interesting features, including the **play park**, returning to the green. **Part two** takes you in the other direction from the green and includes the **Wild Garden**, which we will explore. There is a choice of routes to return to the green at the end.

Part one

1 Begin on the green by the **Cospatrick Memorial**. Have a good look all around it. Why do you think it has this name? _____



Where were the people going and when?

How many people died?

What used to come out of the lion's mouth? _____

Look at the big tree close by. Who planted it and why?

2 Cross the Green and find the **plaque** in the wall at the edge of the green. It is quite difficult to read, but you can just see that someone gave the land to the village in memory of his wife.



His name was? _____

His wife's name was? _____

3 Walk a short way down to the **church** and walk around the **churchyard**. The church is over 900 years old.

What is the name of the church? _____

Can you spot these carvings?



Look for these three doors. One is very small.



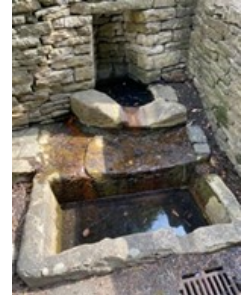
4 Walk down **Church Path**. You will see a house called 'Classrooms'. Why do you think it is called this?

5 Carefully cross the road to the **village hall**. When was it built?

6 Behind the village hall is the **play park**. Who opened it and when?

You might like to stay for a little play. Afterwards, carefully cross back over the road and turn right.

7 Look for the old well set in the wall. This is called **Vant Well** (or sometimes Font or Fant Well). It is hard to believe now, but the water from here was once renowned for its health-giving properties. It is fed by a natural spring. There are several springs around the village.



8 From here walk back past the Wychwood Inn (which used to be called the Red Horse) towards the green. When you reach the green, have a good look at the **Shaven Crown** hotel across the road. This is one of the oldest inns in the country and may have been used by the monks of Bruern Abbey in the 14th century as a place to stay for both pilgrims and the poor and needy.

What do you think this was used for? _____



What do you think the name 'Shaven Crown' is referring to?

The area around the green used to have various shops and businesses. The Shaven Crown used to be called the Crown Inn and a cattle market was held regularly in its back yard. You should be able to spot the old post office and Ivy's the florist.



End of Part
One!

Part two

9 From the green, walk in the other direction up the High Street, taking care crossing the road. After passing a high wall you will reach a stately home on your left. This is **Shipton Court**. It was built in 1603 for Sir John Lacy and became the home of the Reade family in 1665. It is now divided into flats.



10 Directly opposite this are some gates leading to the **Wild Garden**. This was originally part of Shipton Court, but now belongs to the community and is cared for by volunteers. Cross the road carefully, go through the gates and walk down the avenue of L _ _ E trees.

Look up carefully at the trees on your left and after about 15 trees you might see a carving of a woodland creature. What animal is this? _ _ _ _ _

When you reach the wood store, look up and see if you can find a carving of another animal. What animal is this? _ _ _

Explore all around the ponds and the canal. The larger pond used to supply fish for Shipton Court. You will probably see some moorhens and some ducks. Most of these are M _ L _ _ R _ S. As you walk around look for signs of wild-life, including some large badger setts.

The Wild Garden is full of beautiful trees, including this enormous one between the two ponds. It is a C _ D _ R of L _ B _ N _ N and is over 300 years old.



11 Go back down the avenue, noticing the cricket pitches on your right. Go out through the gate, cross the road carefully and turn right. You will see the sign for the Cricket Club. In which year were Shipton Oxfordshire Twenty20 Champions?

- 12 Carefully cross Plum Lane. Look for this on the wall. It used to be a signpost. Can you make out any of the names of places it is pointing to?



- 13 From here, take a little detour straight on to the **Lamb Inn**. This part of the village used to have various shops and businesses and the Lamb once had a butcher's shop in it. If you look carefully you can still see the hooks for hanging meat. Can you spot this little face too?



- 14 Now retrace your steps back to Plum Lane. Here you have a choice of routes, depending on how far you want to walk. You could:

Walk straight back down the High Street to the village green;

Walk down Plum Lane to the Five Ways junction, turn sharp left and go back up Mawles Lane and then turn right towards the green;

Walk down Plum Lane to Five Ways, turn left for a little way and cut through the Sinnels Field estate on your left and back to the green, taking a short cut through Gas Lane (where the original gas works were) after carefully crossing Ascott Road.

It's up to you!



End of Part
Two!