



Nottinghamshire
County Council

West Stockwith Village Trail



West Stockwith Village Heritage trail

This trail around the village gives a route that can be started from whichever point you wish and followed as far around the village as you feel.

There are two points at which it is easiest to start, however. The village has two car parks suitable for visitors, both of which are opposite or alongside one of the two public houses of the village.

Starting at either of these points allows a circular route around the village, with the public houses providing handy areas to break up the trail into smaller pieces whilst allowing time to rest and refuel.

Of course, this trail does not detail all the history of West Stockwith, so more information can be found by contacting the local history group:

West Stockwith Parish Council
c/o The Gertrude Morris Hall,
Main Street,
West Stockwith
DN10 4HA

email: heritagetrail@live.co.uk

St. Mary's Chapel of Ease: (Point 1)



The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in 1722 in order to help serve the spiritual needs of the village. It was raised thanks to the donations of William Huntingdon, who lies interred in the chapel.



Sepulchre of William Huntingdon

The Church also had a row of attached almshouses for the poor of the parish - the course of their rooflines can still be seen in the brickwork at the rear of the Church.

Behind St. Mary's is the building that was used as the village's Wesleyan Methodist chapel until the 1930s.

This chapel was used by many villagers, with services also attended by parishioners from nearby villages.

The chapel ran a Sunday school, but due to its size the schoolroom was further down the village by the side of the water lane marked **Point 7**. It was also used as a meeting and practice room for the chapel band, though it was known to flood occasionally!

West Stockwith's water lanes: (Points 2-4, 6-8 and 10)

These historic routes between the houses of the village helped supply people living here with fresh water.



One of the village's restored waterlanes

For more information, see the local heritage interpretation board in the Malt Kiln area of the village.

The Malt Kiln: (Point 5)

This was once the location of the Malt Kiln, where cereal crops would have been prepared ready for brewing in the village. For more information, see the interpretation board in the old Malt Kiln area of the village.



Etching of the village malt kiln

The old primitive Methodist chapel: (Point 9)

This chapel used to stand on the site that is now home to Fox House, north of the area of the old Malt Kiln. It was a place of worship for the Primitive Methodists of the area, who believed in simple services and surroundings, rather than the more impressive offices of the Church of England. This area of Nottinghamshire was well known for non-conformist worshippers in the past, the most famous of these later becoming known as the Pilgrim Fathers.



Site of the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, c1900



Site of the old Primitive Methodist Chapel today



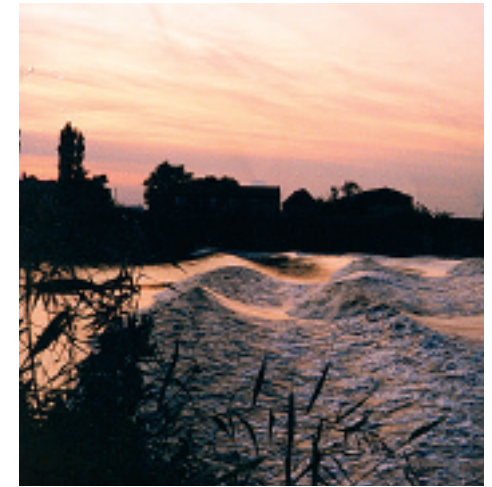
Reconstruction of The Mayflower

Passage of the Pilgrim Fathers: (Point 11)

A walk along the village towards the canal basin will bring you to the point where the River Idle joins the Trent. This may be the point where the religious travellers now known as the Pilgrim Fathers, from the nearby villages of Babworth, Scrooby and Bawtry came to transfer to larger ships. These would take them, via the River Humber, away from religious persecution in England.



Conjectured portrait of William Brewster, a Pilgrim Elder

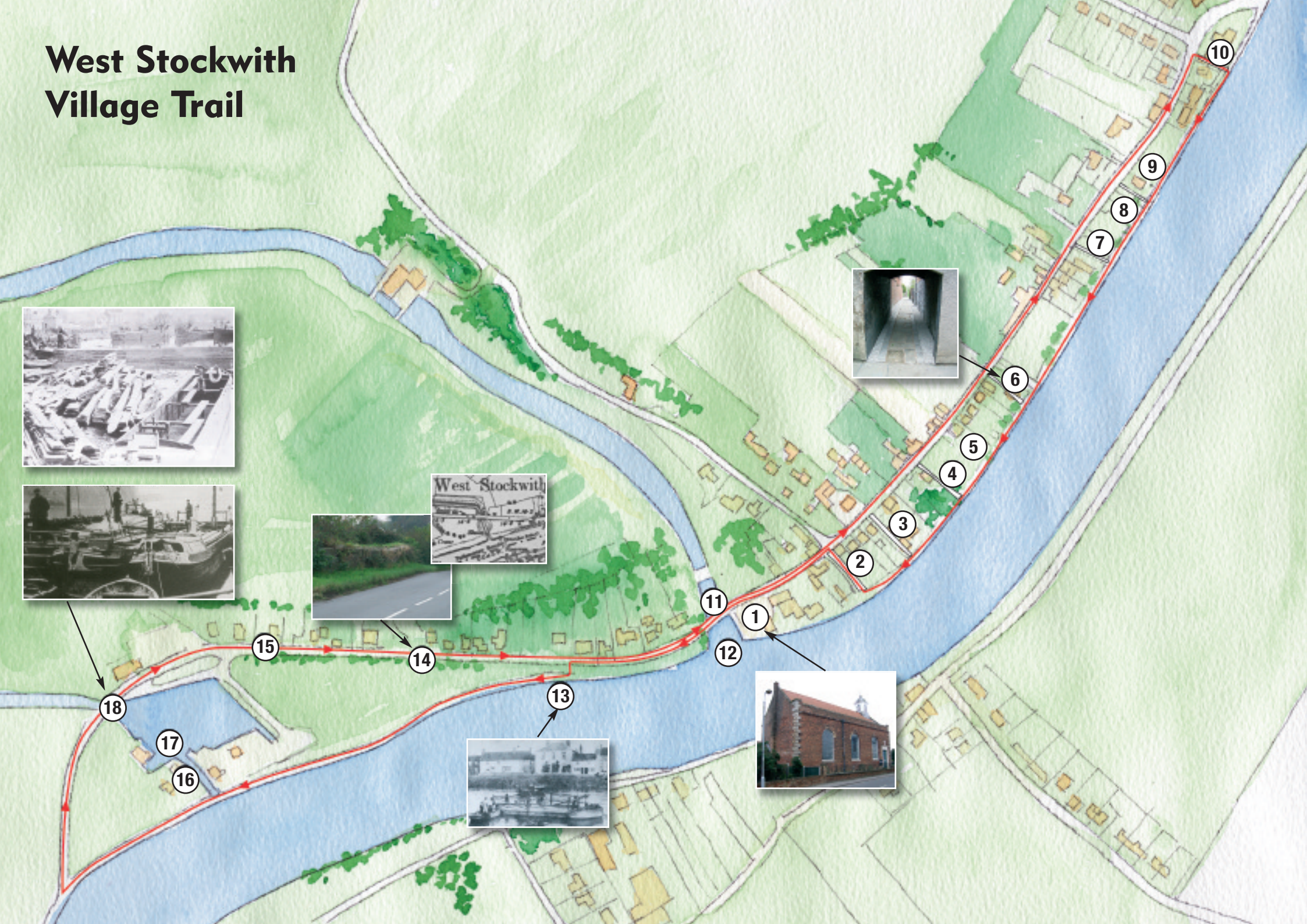


The Aegir at Stockwith in 2000. ©Margret Arbon

The Aegir: (Point 12)

The Aegir is the name given to the action of the tidal bore of the River Trent. Occasional surges of water at high tides from the river estuary at the Humber will force water back upriver against the flow of the Trent. This creates a miniature tidal wave that has previously been recorded at heights of up to 1.5m (5ft) high.

West Stockwith Village Trail





West Stockwith ferry circa 1890

2 shillings per week. Instead of paying this much, many workers bought boats in groups and rowed across the Trent to work.

Local stories state the ferry rarely suffered any problems, but there were a few occasions when it foundered. One accident drowned a ferry-load of cattle when their moving weight tipped the platform into the water during bad weather.



West Stockwith ferry circa 1900

West Stockwith Ferry: (Point 13)

The winch operated ferry was the quickest way to cross the river Trent for the people of both East and West Stockwith. The ferry went from the area in front of East Stockwith's 'Ferry House' pub (The white building opposite), straight across the Trent to land on the Western bank. Behind the houses opposite there is still an area called 'Ferry Landing' from the days that East and West Stockwith were linked by the ferry's chains.

In the first half of the 19th century, William Morris brought his Chemical Works to West Stockwith making manures, sheep dips and disinfectants. It cost workers a penny per trip, making commuting costs for workers living in East Stockwith



Site of the former bridge now

The former bridge: (Point 14)

This wall hides the remains of a bridge that ran across to the current road. This bridge was probably placed here in order to cross the Mother Drain, which drew water out of the River Idle upriver of Misterton Carr.

The course of the Mother Drain can still be traced in maps of 1901 as crossing the main road at this point, with the bridge possibly installed by the Chesterfield Canal Company.



Early Ordnance Survey map showing the bridge

More recently, the mother drain has been halted a little way before the field opposite, with pumps upstream to divert water away from its old route to the Trent.

The Dutch Houses: (Point 15)



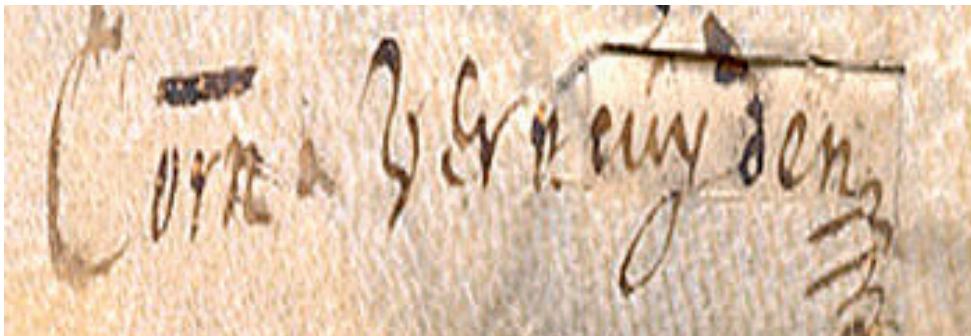
"Dutch House"
style from Oude Doelenkade, Holland

These houses are built with ornamentation in imitation of the popular Dutch style of the 17th century. This is to commemorate the influence of Vermuyden in the area, who was appointed by King Charles I to drain and reclaim lands for cultivation on the Isle of Axeholme and at

Hatfield Chase, in the counties of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Several of the nearby fields were apparently drained by the works.

Vermuyden's land reclamation was unpopular with commoners, as he reduced the amount of common land that was theirs to use freely, creating drained enclosed land that was then granted to landowners, with some land being granted to Vermuyden himself.

Many local attacks and skirmishes followed Vermuyden and his works, to the extent that he was given Royal permission to erect a gallows wherever he was draining land to deal with any attacks upon his workers.



Signature of Cornelius Vermuyden

Stone for the Houses of Parliament: (Point 16)



The Palace of Westminster

The original Houses of Parliament burnt down in 1834. One of the quarries chosen to provide stone for the buildings that stand today was North Anston, in south Yorkshire, another being Parliament Quarry in Mansfield Woodhouse.

The new blocks of stone were dragged by cart to the Chesterfield Canal at Dog Kennels Bridge, Kiveton Park. The stone was loaded onto boats and taken down the canal, to join the stone from Mansfield

Woodhouse being floated to West Stockwith, where it was transferred to Humber sloops.

From West Stockwith, the sloops sailed down the Trent, the Humber and into the North Sea, then down the east coast to the Thames and the Westminster embankment. It took four years to carry the amount of stone needed to rebuild the Houses of Parliament, much of it passing through West Stockwith Basin.

West Stockwith Basin: (Point 17)

This is an area that has long been involved in the boatbuilding business, tying the village to river traffic. For more information, see the interpretation board opposite the lock gates at the basin.



Tomlinson's Boatyard in Stockwith basin c1900

The Chesterfield Canal: (Point 18)

Built between 1771 and 1777, this canal continued the village's links with water transport, and is still used today by cruising narrow boats. For more information, see the interpretation board opposite the lock gates at the basin.



Chesterfield Canal Cuckoo Boats



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