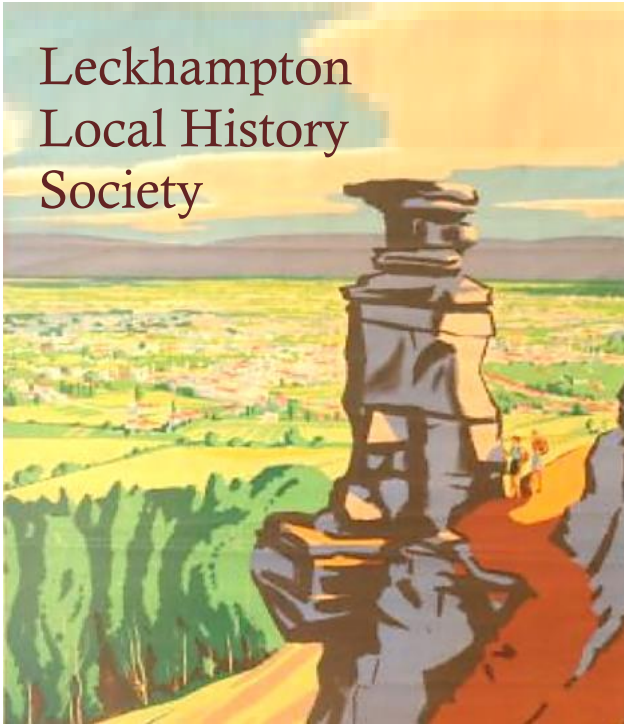


Leckhampton Local History Society



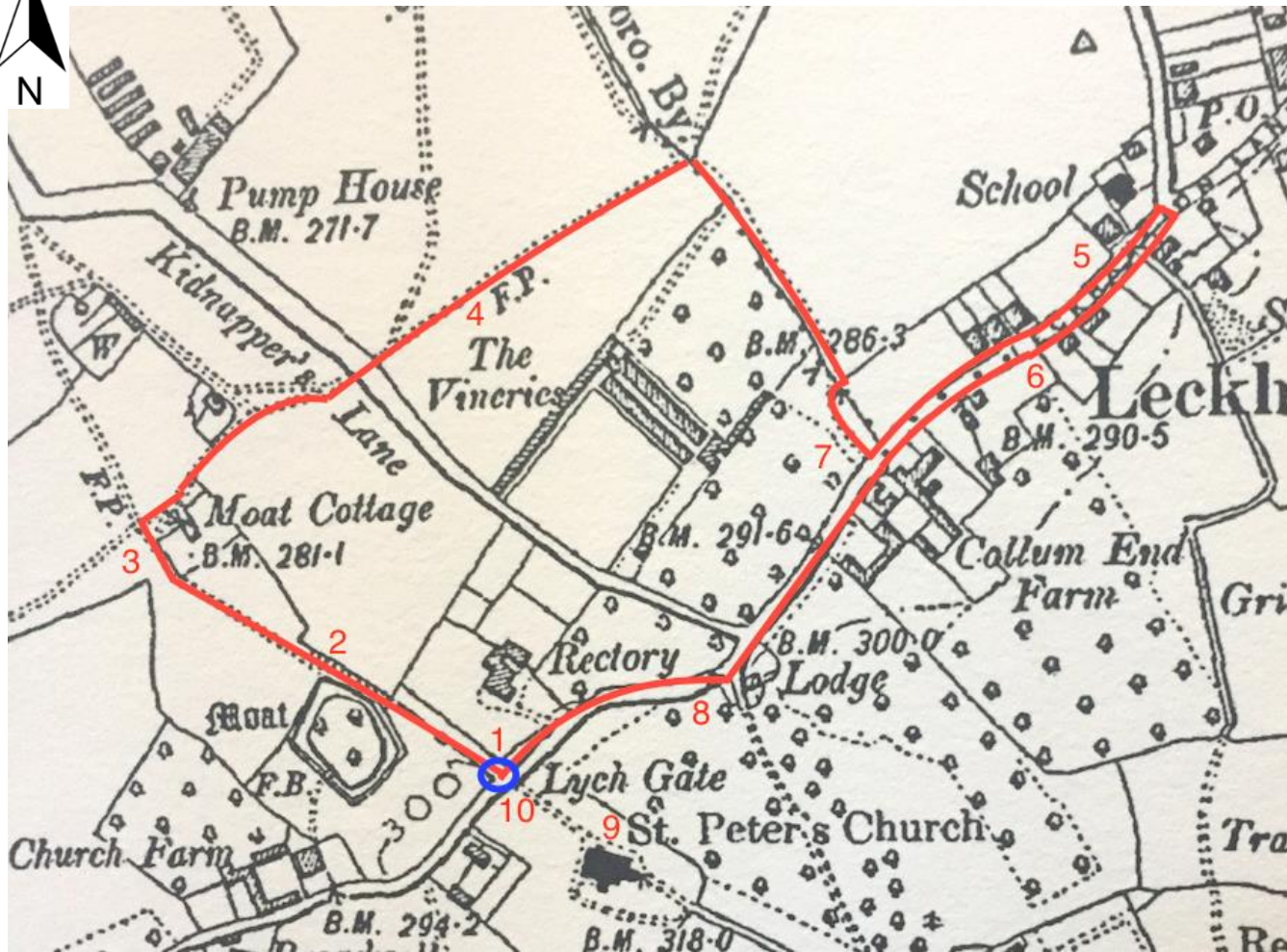
Walk 2

Old Leckhampton Village

(approx 1 hour)

1. Start at the small car park opposite St Peter's Church (1) and take time to note its previous importance. This little lane was an ancient thoroughfare. Look at the line that leads through the lych gate, through the manor and on up the hollow way onto Leckhampton Hill. In the other direction, it appears to disappear but in fact carries on - you will come upon this again later in the walk. This was also the site of the Parish Pound, where stray cattle would have been kept overnight and, while that appears on early maps, nothing now remains of it.
2. Follow the path west, as it narrows, through the kissing gate, and rise up onto the moat of what is now a designated ancient monument (2). This was the site of the second manor of Leckhampton. Not much is known about it. There was a stone and timber building in the middle dating from around the 13th/14th century. The crossing was around where you are standing now. Older residents can recall there being ice-skating on the moat! To our right stood one of Leckhampton's early farms known as Manor Farm, or Mr Nurse's Farmhouse, which dated from 17th to mid 19th century.
3. You are now in the heart of the oldest part of the village. This meadow was known as The House Ground. If you look back to the hill this is a great spot to see the quarries that led to so much of the wealth of the manor of Leckhampton Court for the Norwoods and Tryes. Just ahead of you lies Moat Cottage (3), the oldest surviving house in Leckhampton. It is of true cruck construction, suggesting 16th century. As you pass Moat Cottage look west and you'll see the hollow way that is the continuation of the ancient lane seen from the parish pound.
4. Continuing towards Kidnappers Lane you will pass another of the old village's early homes - Field Cottage. This house is a little later than Moat Cottage, probably the 17th century. Crossing Kidnappers Lane (nobody knows why it's called that!) you enter what is now known as Lotts Meadow (4). A little further and you reach one of the two main streams that pass through the parish, the Moorend Stream. Beyond it is Burrow's Field, provided as a recreational ground for the staff of Ed.J.Burrow's publishing company in Cheltenham (1930).
5. Follow the footpath alongside Moorend Stream towards Church Road - this is an old borough boundary of Cheltenham. On reaching Church Road, turn left and head towards the War Memorial (5). The memorial sits where the old village well was located. The original village school dating from around 1840 is next to it. The village Post Office was on the opposite corner of Hall Road. On the other side of Church Road, opposite where the Post Office lay, stood the thatched Cromwell Cottage, sadly demolished in 1962. There was some action in the civil war around here, but no one is sure of the origin of the name.
6. Returning back along Church Road, you will pass Norwood cottages (6), formerly two dwellings dating back to the 17th century linked by name to the Norwood family, lords of the manor. Also on your left is 'Old Farthings' dating back to the 18th century - it was sadly neglected up until the 1970's when a restoration took place. Formerly a working men's club, it had a rifle range, including a women's section. The next thatched cottage just beyond dates back to the 17th century. You also pass Collum End Farmhouse (16th century - see photo), possibly the oldest farm in Leckhampton, and certainly central to village life.





7. Across the road from Collum End Farm sits 'Homeland' (7). Built by Alf Bendall, his daughter Jean lived there until quite recently. The ironwork veranda was taken from Trowscoed Lodge on the Leckhampton Road. Further along on your right is 'Home Orchard' which was built by Alf Bendall's father, the builder John D. Bendall, sometime Mayor of Cheltenham. He built the new school back in 1906. Inside Home Orchard, the grand staircase also originated from Trowscoed House. Across Church Road from

Home Orchard sits 'The Old Lodge' (8). This is one of three lodges to Leckhampton Court and dates from the early 1800s. The driveway beyond the Old Lodge leads to Leckhampton Court, owned by three main families from the 1300's - the Giffards, the Norwoods and the Tryes.

8. You now pass The Old Rectory, built in about 1830 by the Rev'd Charles Brandon Trye, rector and son of Charles Brandon Trye (a contemporary

and friend of Edward Jenner). Across from The Old Rectory in the field (8), you'll see large concrete plinths and the odd step. These are the remains of the German prisoner of war camp. The small stone structure is all that remains of an ornamental garden the prisoners created with a water fountain at its centre.

9. St. Peter's Church itself dates back to the early 14th century. The adjacent Church Cottages are constructed from stone from an older set of dwellings that were in the middle of the churchyard. The church lych gate is also worth noting.

10. You are now back at the Parish Pound, the journey having taken you from Leckhampton in the Dark Ages to the present day.



An illustration of how the moated manor house may have appeared, Eric Miller.

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