

**ASH TREE SURVEY
ALONG THE LANES OF WOODBURY PARISH,
IN DEVON
2015**

Prompted by the spread of Ash Dieback Disease

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INTRODUCTION

With the arrival of ash tree dieback in Britain, it was decided that it would be desirable to have a record of their contribution to the Parish landscape and so this survey has been made. For practical reasons it was not possible to deal with all the field boundaries, but for each lane a simple map was made at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile, and any ash trees along it were approximately marked with a small square for a large ash, and a dot for a small ash. A photo was taken of any that are particularly noteworthy and numbered on the map and the accompanying photos. This gives an idea of the contribution of ash trees to the landscape. The survey is housed in the Woodbury Parish History Society archive and is available to view on the Woodbury Parish website www.woodburydevon.co.uk

The ash is a native species, recorded in the Anglo- Saxon Charters, dating from 600 to 1080, as a boundary-marker tree defining land ownership. The earliest mention of an identifiable tree appears as "one ash" at Tangmere, Sussex in 680. Over the centuries, the strong, durable, pliant, shock-resistant wood has been invaluable to the rural economy, where both the tree's timber and coppice poles have been put to various uses. Wheelwrights, wainwrights, tool- and handle-makers, rake- and hurdle-makers, have all exploited the qualities of ash wood. The ash was credited with healing and magical powers, and its graceful beauty has been the inspiration of poets, artists, and musicians. It has been celebrated in folklore and surrounded by superstition. The ash has lent its name to many places: Ashcombe, Ashclyst, Ash Hill, Ashford, are just a brief selection. In these diverse ways, the ash has secured a place in the story of the country's history and heritage. How cruel, then, that the ash now faces a deadly disease for which there is no cure.

Ash dieback, also known as Chalara, is caused by a microscopic fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*, that inhabits leaves and twigs and which it damages through a chemical that is very toxic to ash. In summer it produces dust-like fungal spores which are carried by the wind to spread the disease elsewhere. The disease first becomes evident in the leaflets, which develop blackish spots. It then infects the whole leaf, turning it dark brown when it withers, goes rigid and hangs down. The infection continues to the twigs and thence to the branch. At the point of entry to the trunk, a long narrow strip of bark goes blackish, sunken and dies. The surrounding area forms an elongated canker. As the disease progresses through the tree, death or severe weakening usually follow. Young trees and coppice shoots are the most vulnerable, with old trees less easily infected.

Chalara has been present in Europe for more than two decades, and reached Britain in 2012, when it was detected in a consignment of saplings from the Netherlands, which had arrived at a Buckinghamshire nursery. Since then it has spread, with the eastern

and south-eastern counties being especially stricken. DEFRA figures confirm that the number of infected sites has risen from 323 at the end of 2012, to 949 at the end of 2014. While wind-borne spores, able to cross the seas as well as the land, are held responsible for much of the spread, commercially motivated imports of nursery stock, unwittingly carrying pests and diseases to which native species have no resistance, are also to blame. Dutch elm disease - which virtually wiped out the country's elms - is a prime example of the potential dangers of this practice. To quote Oliver Rackham, a leading authority on these matters:

"Stop treating plants (and bees) as mere articles of trade, like cars or tins of paint, to be made and brought in industrial quantities from anywhere."

The Government's response has been to attempt to slow the spread through tightening bio-security and import regulations, while encouraging replanting of infected areas with alternative species. They have also committed funds into research to identify strains of ash that are naturally resistant to the disease.

Enquiries to the Forestry Commission, for an update on the situation up to September 2015, have yielded bad news. There have been several new confirmed cases during this year. As regards the South-west, there is one in Cornwall, three in Devon north of Exeter, and some in Somerset and Dorset. In short the authority fears the disease is spreading out of control. The Forestry Commission's website has detailed information, including a case distribution map and an illustrated guide to the symptoms. It is important to report suspected cases to this authority so they can take swift action to minimise further outbreaks.

Phone the Tree Health Team on 03000 674 042

Source reference: Oliver Rackham, *The Ash Tree* (2014), pi66

WOODBURY PARISH : 2015



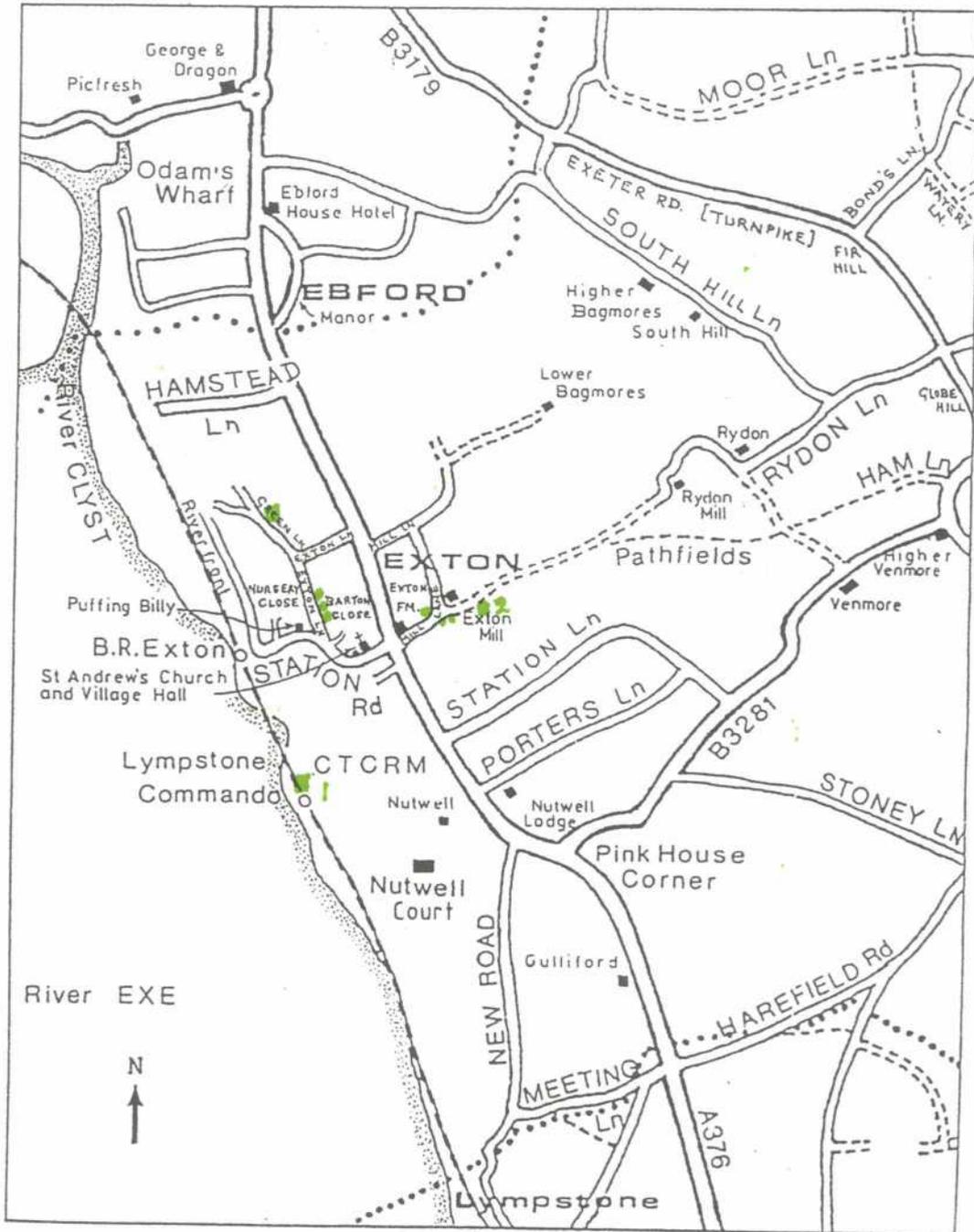
scale

1 mile

total area of PARISH

2930.92438 hectares (1.055 people
per hectare)

EXTON & EBFORD

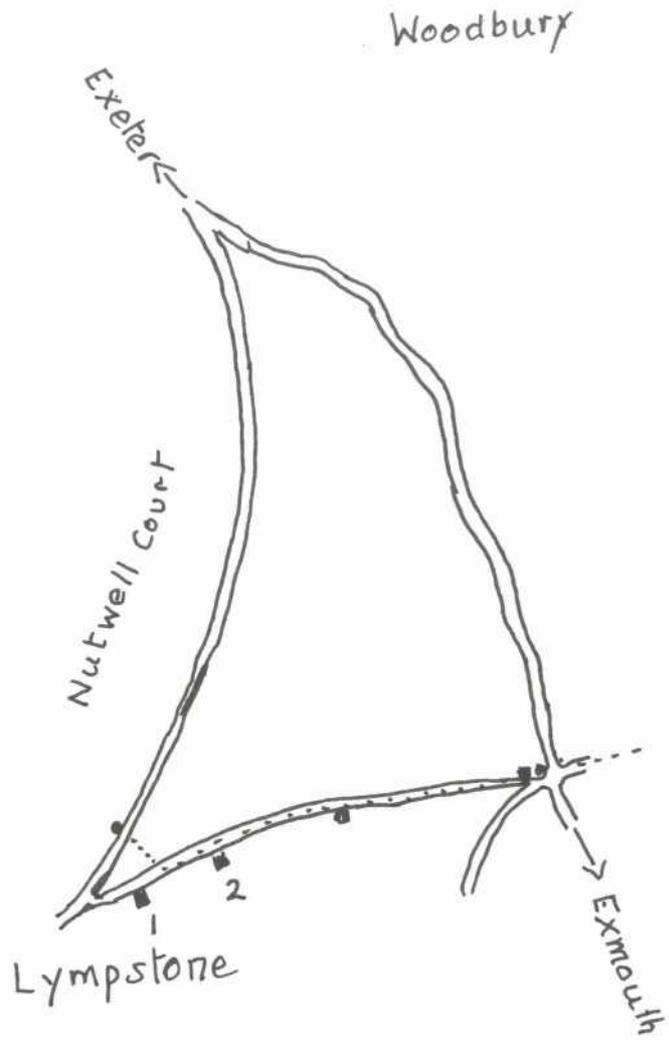




Exton - by the edge of Marine Commando base

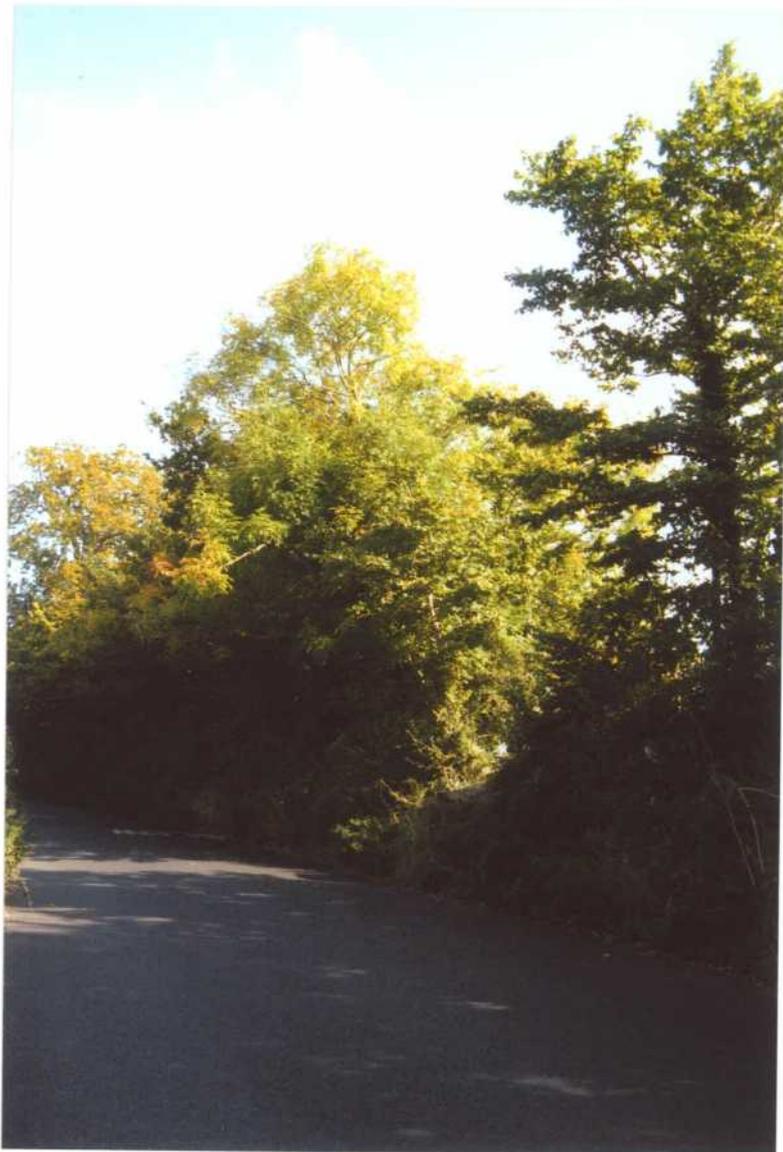


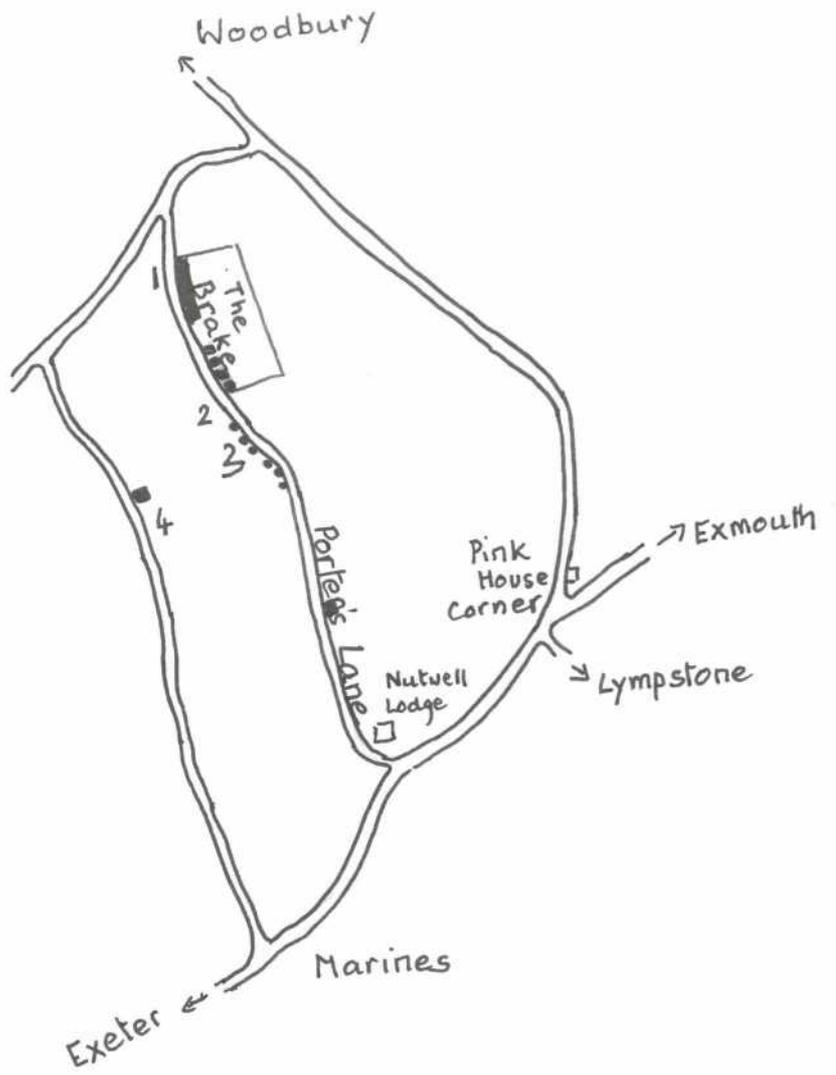
Near Exton Mill





Lympstone







1

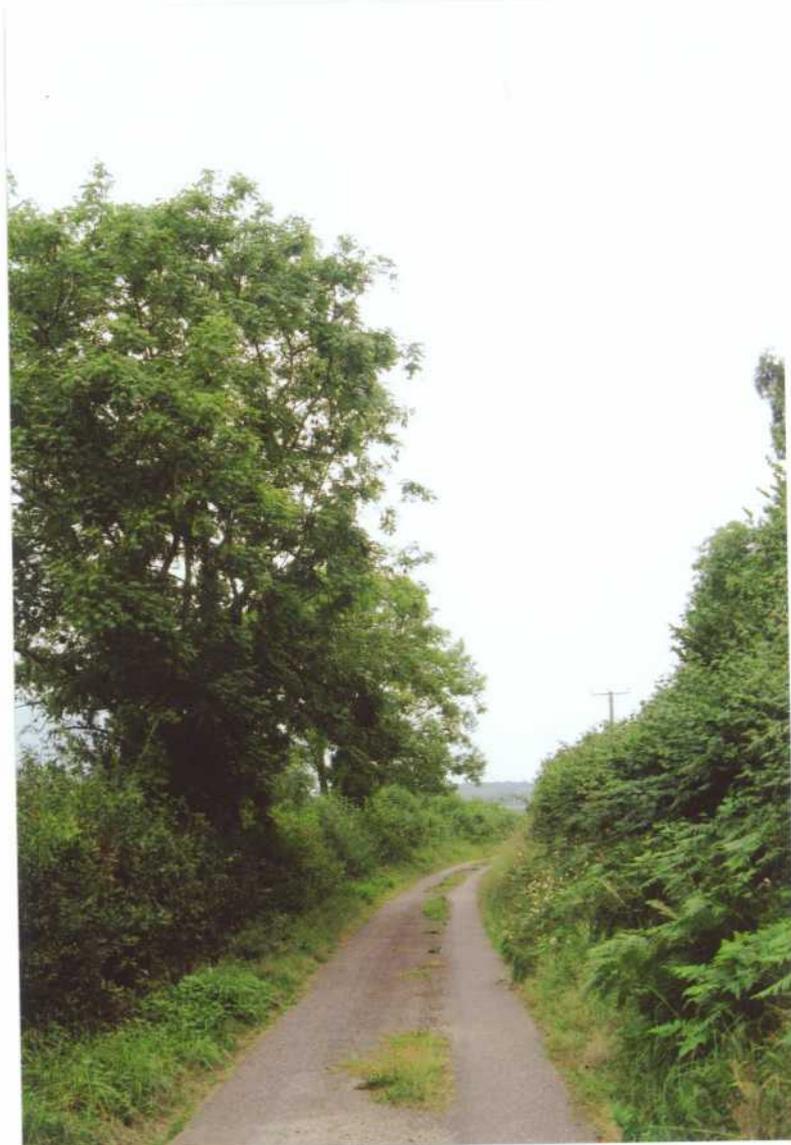


2



3

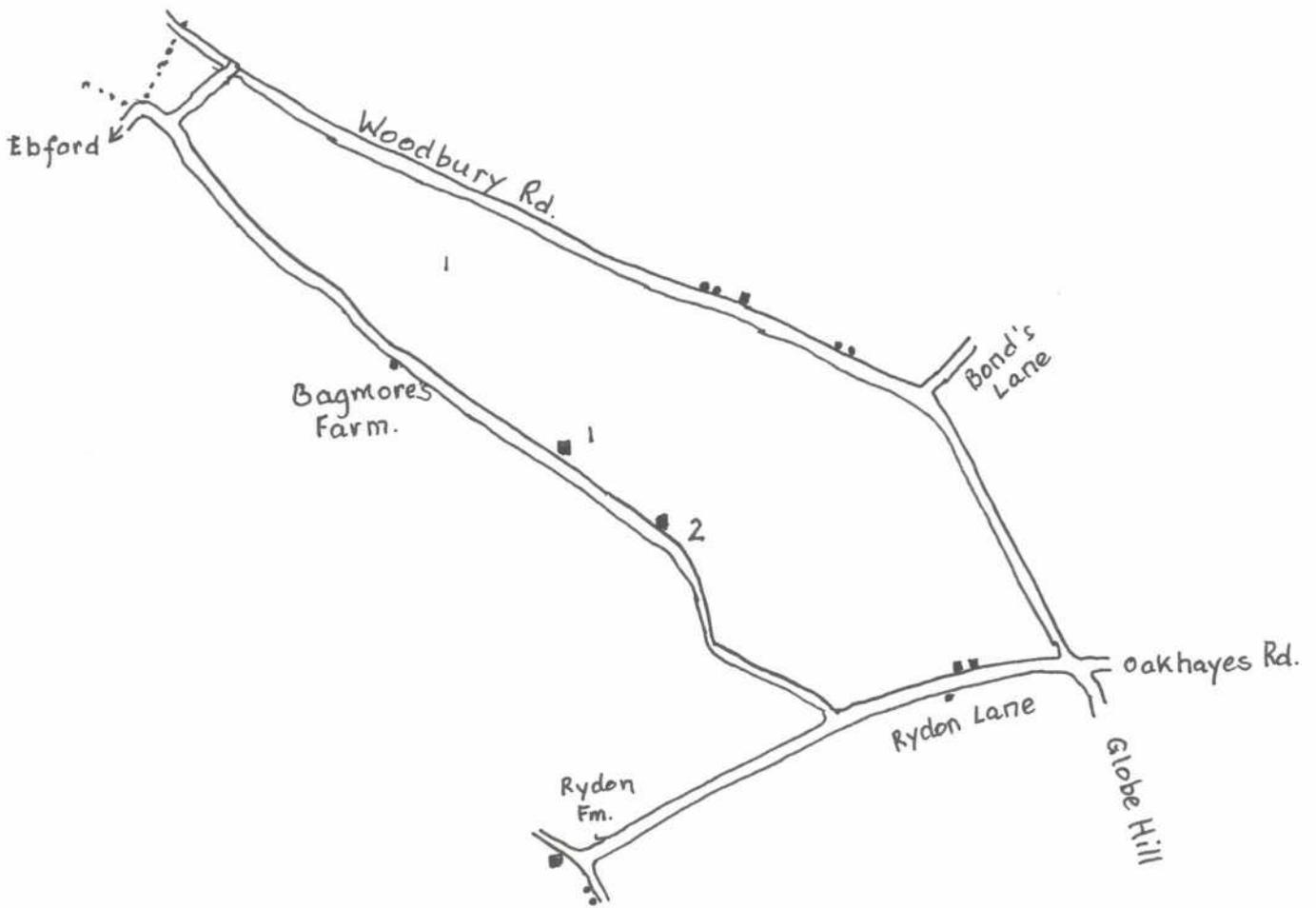
Porter's Lane



4

Lane parallel to Porter's Lane.

8



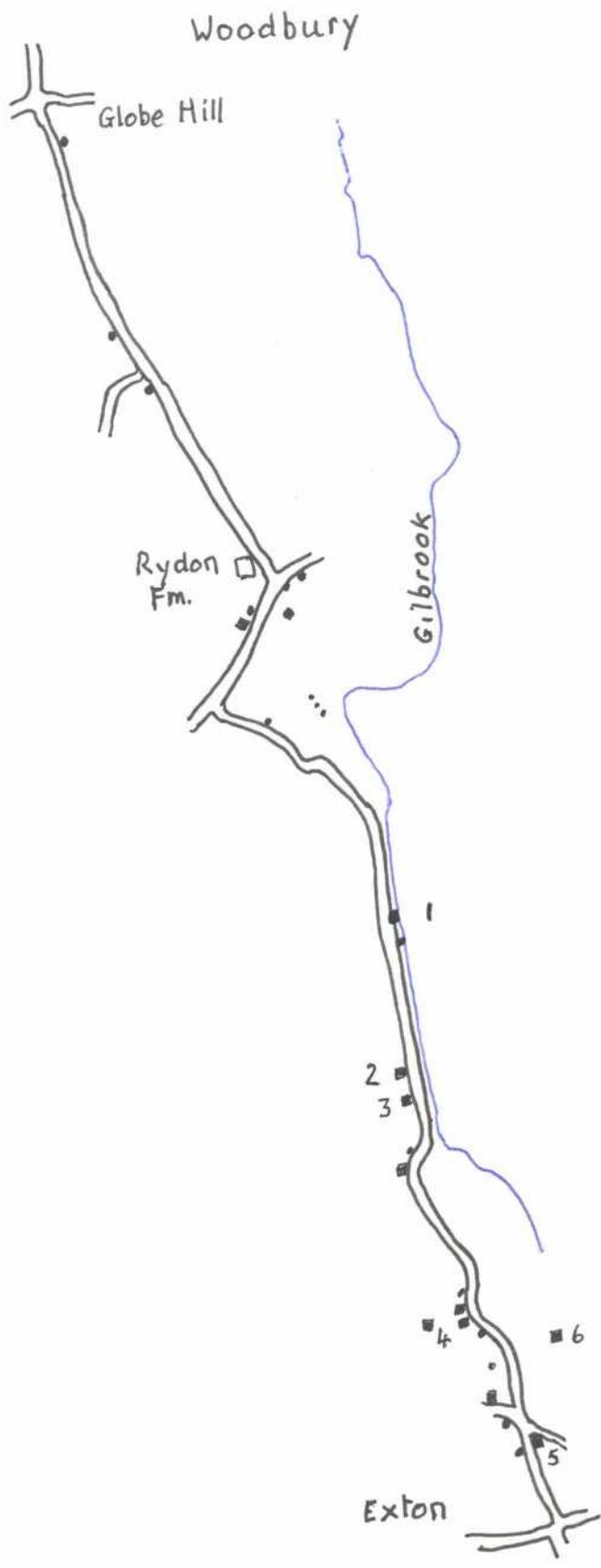


1

Near Bagmores Farm



2





By Gilbrook



2



3

By Gilbrook



4

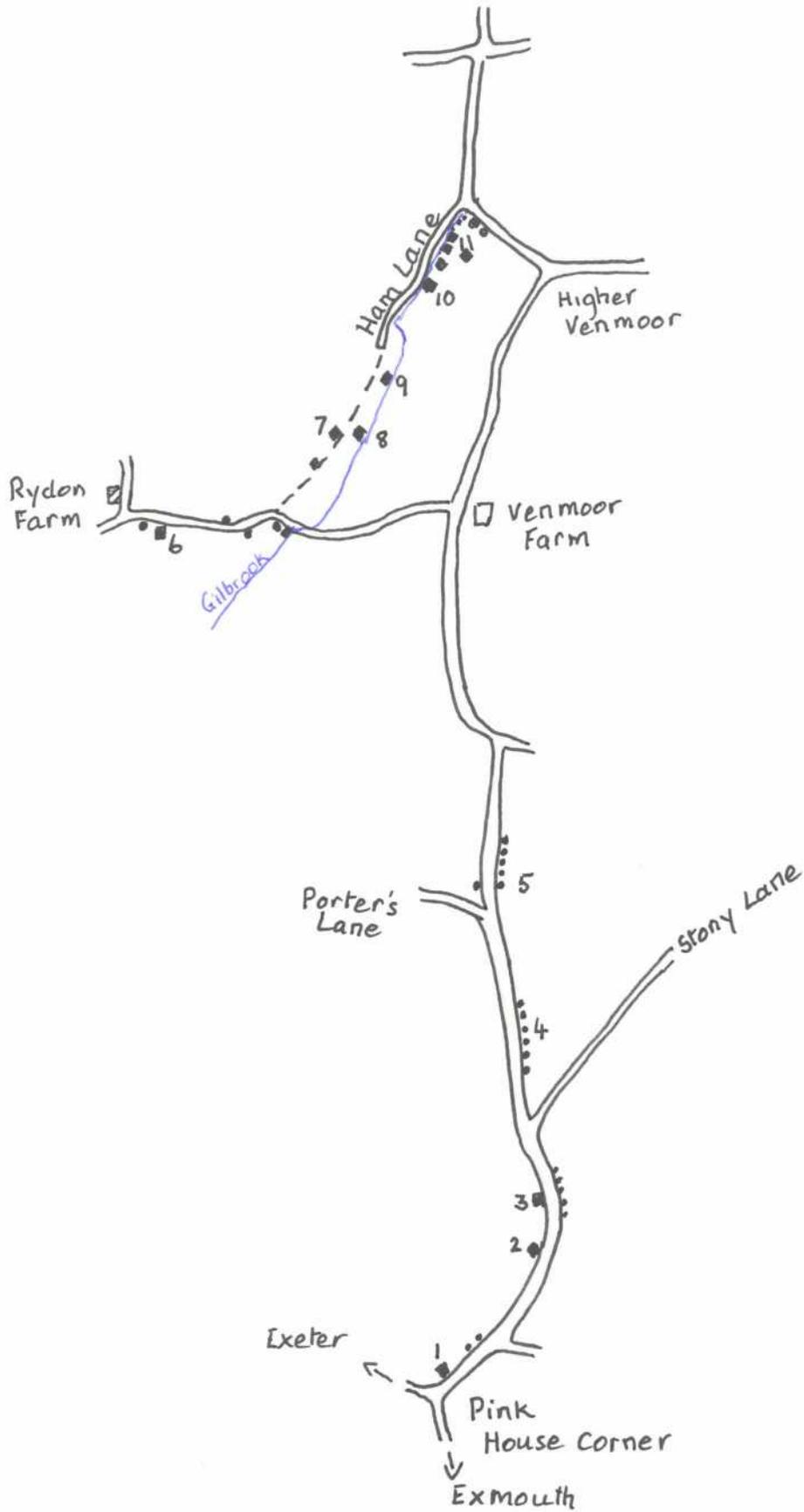


5

Edge of Exton



6





1

Pink House Corner



2



3



4

18



5



6

Gilbrook -
Rydon Fm
Track

18



7

Ham Lane field path



8

By Gilbrook

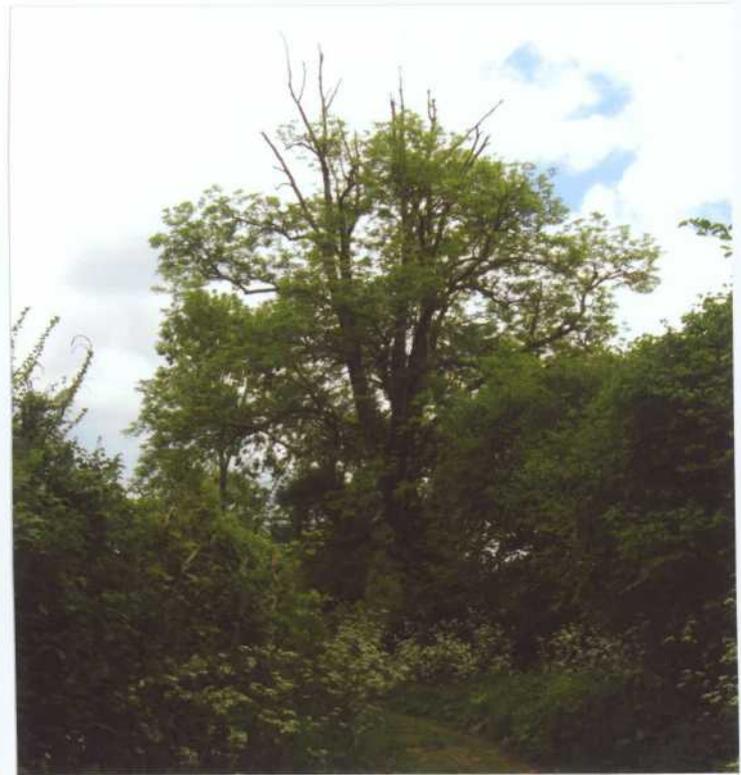


9

By Gilbrook



10

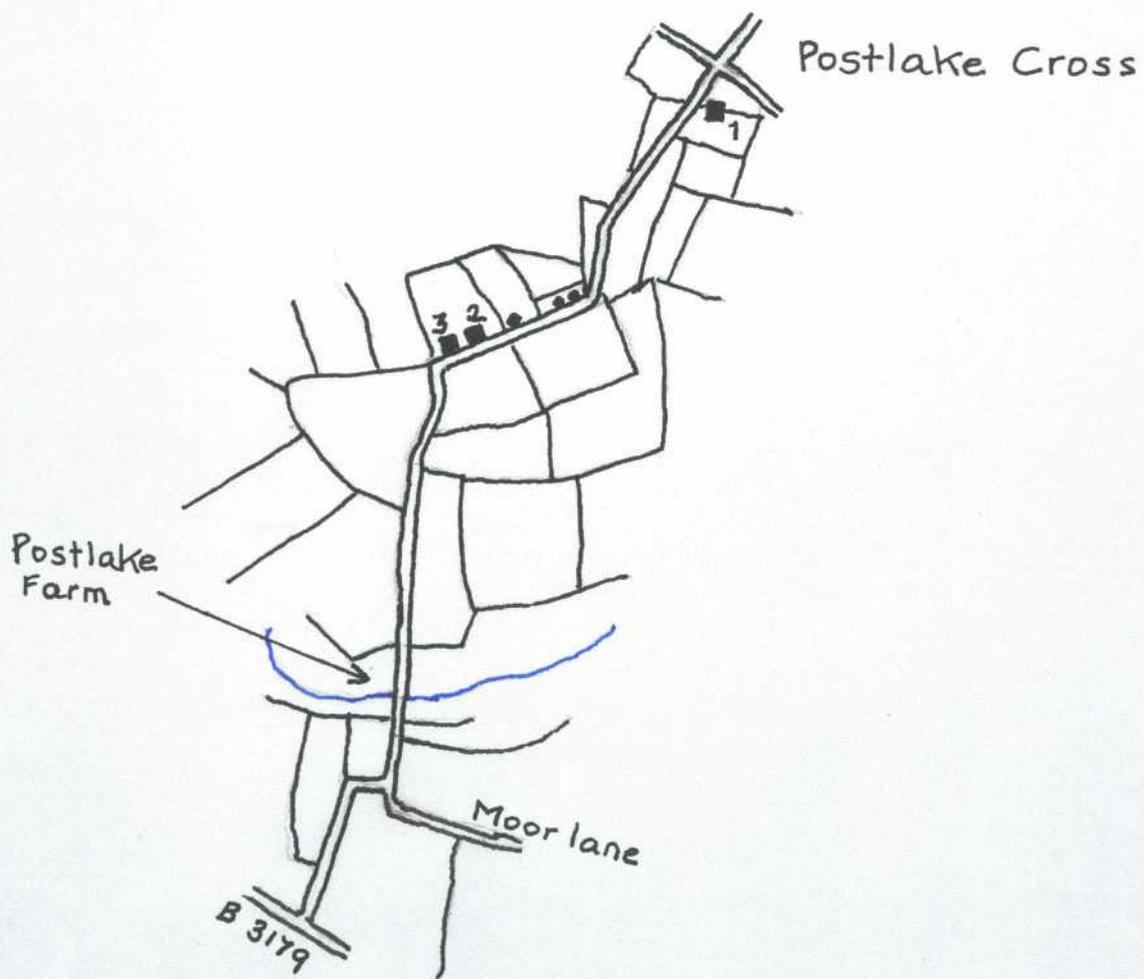


11

Ham Lane Path

20

POSTLAKE LANE



POSTLAKE LANE



1



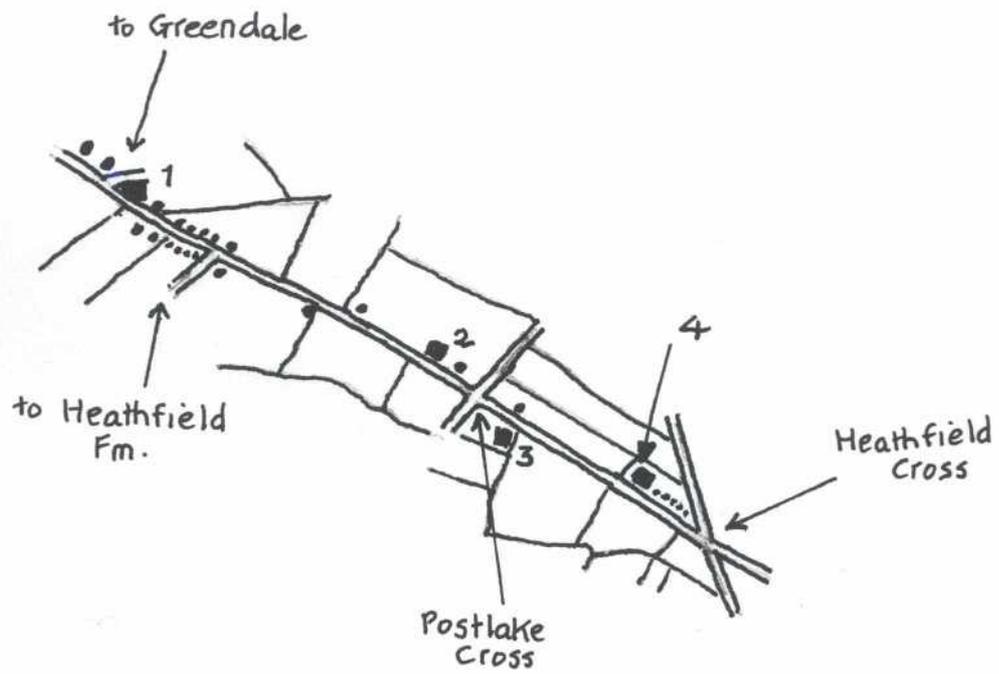
2

3



23

OIL MILL LANE



OIL MILL LANE



1



2



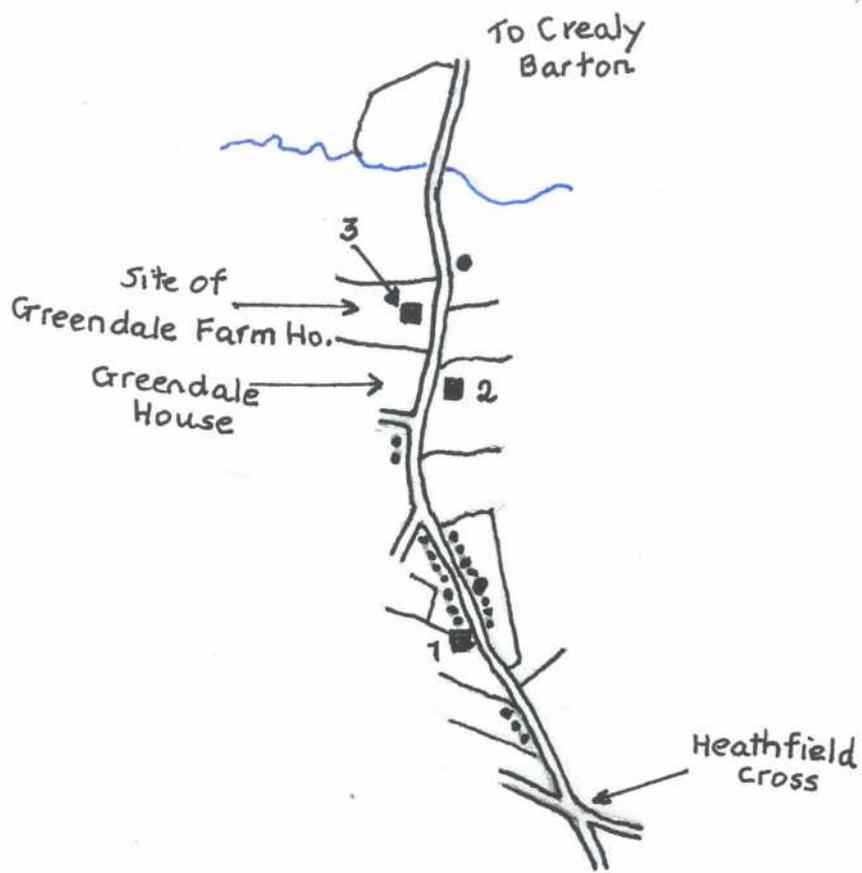
3



4

GREENDALE LANE

W/S



GREENDALE LANE



1

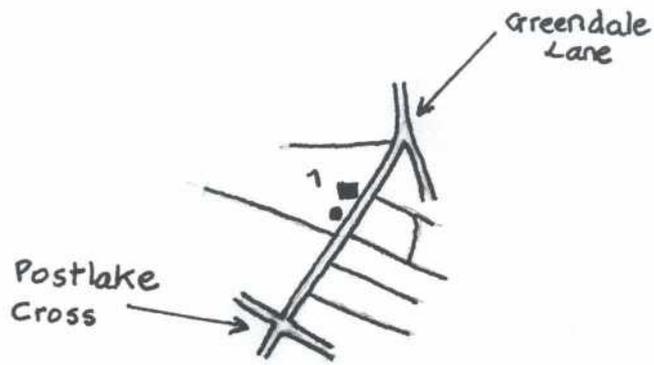


2



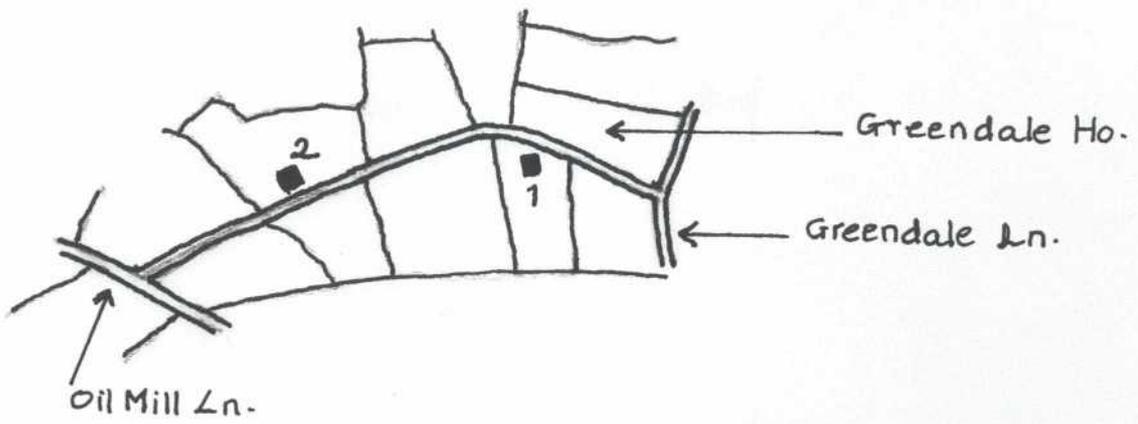
3

GREENDALE Ln/POSTLAKE X



1

OIL MILL Ln./Greendale Ln.Link



OIL MILL LANE / GREENDALE Ln. Link

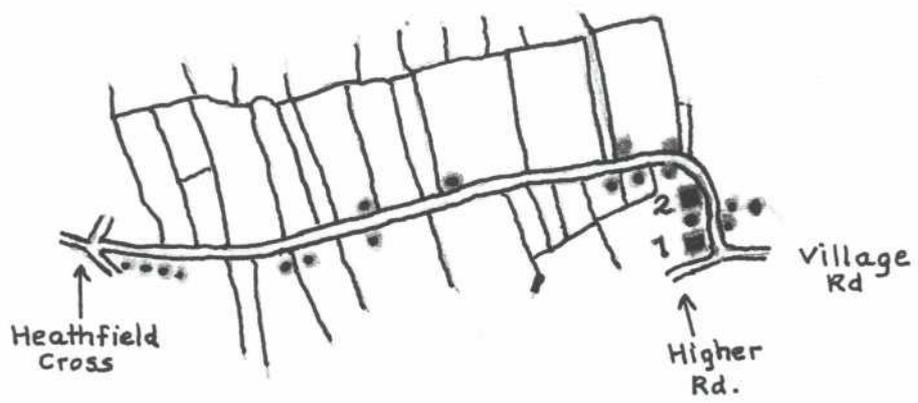


1



2

LOWER RD. W/S



LOWER Rd. W/S

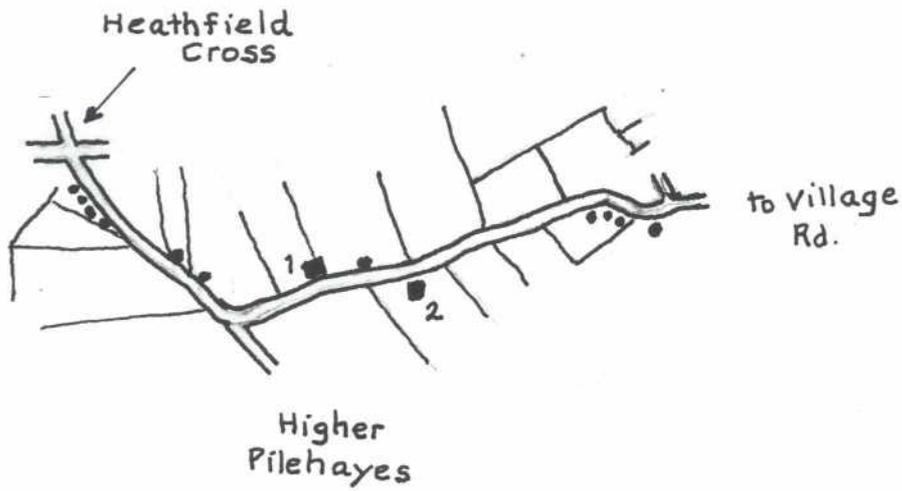


1



2

HIGHER RD. W/S



HIGHER ROAD

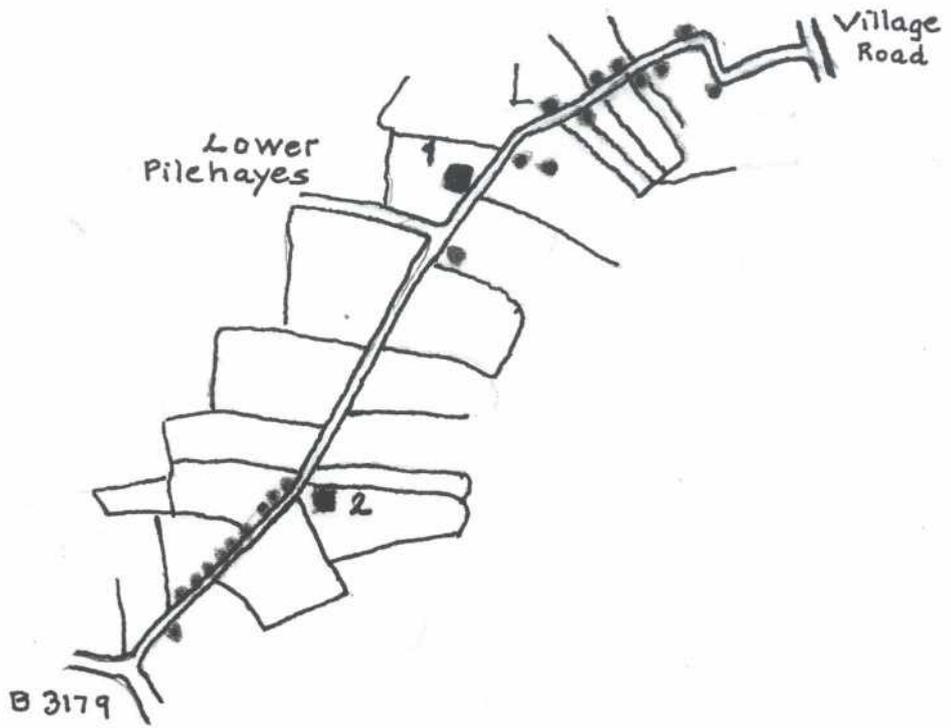


1



2

BONDS LANE W/S



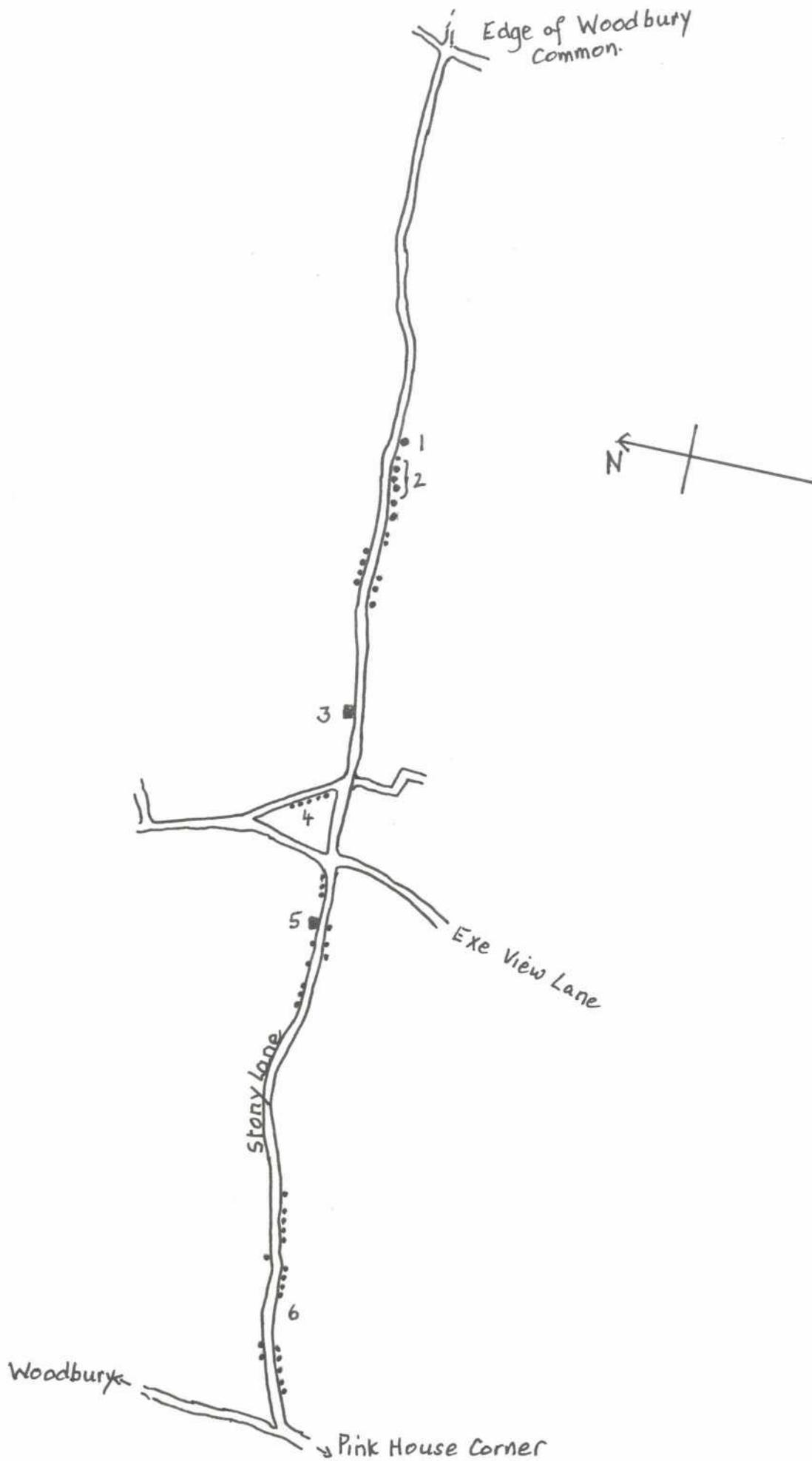
BONDS LANE



1



2





1



2



3



4

41



5



6

42



1

Track to Windmill Hill



2

Bottom of Castle Lane



3
Bottom of
Castle Lane



4

Orchard Close

45



5

Town Lane



6

Beeches Close



7
Beeches
Close



8

Opposite the Green

47

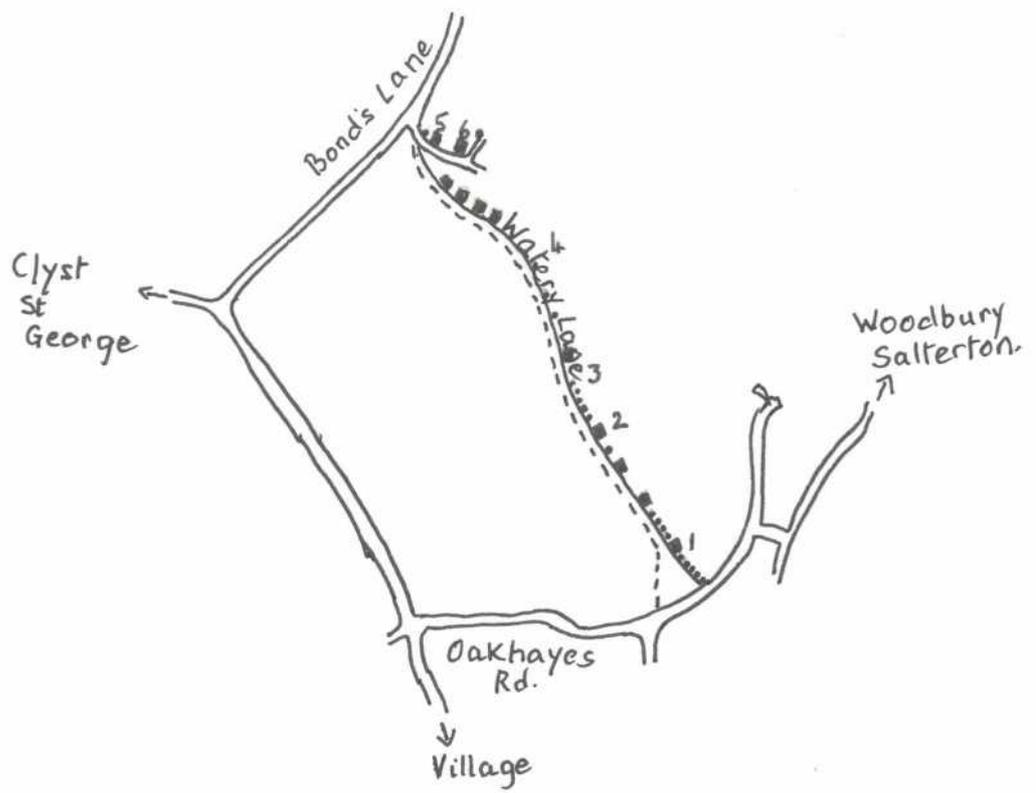
9
Globe Hill



Globe Hill

10

48





By the Allotments

1



2



50



3



4

51

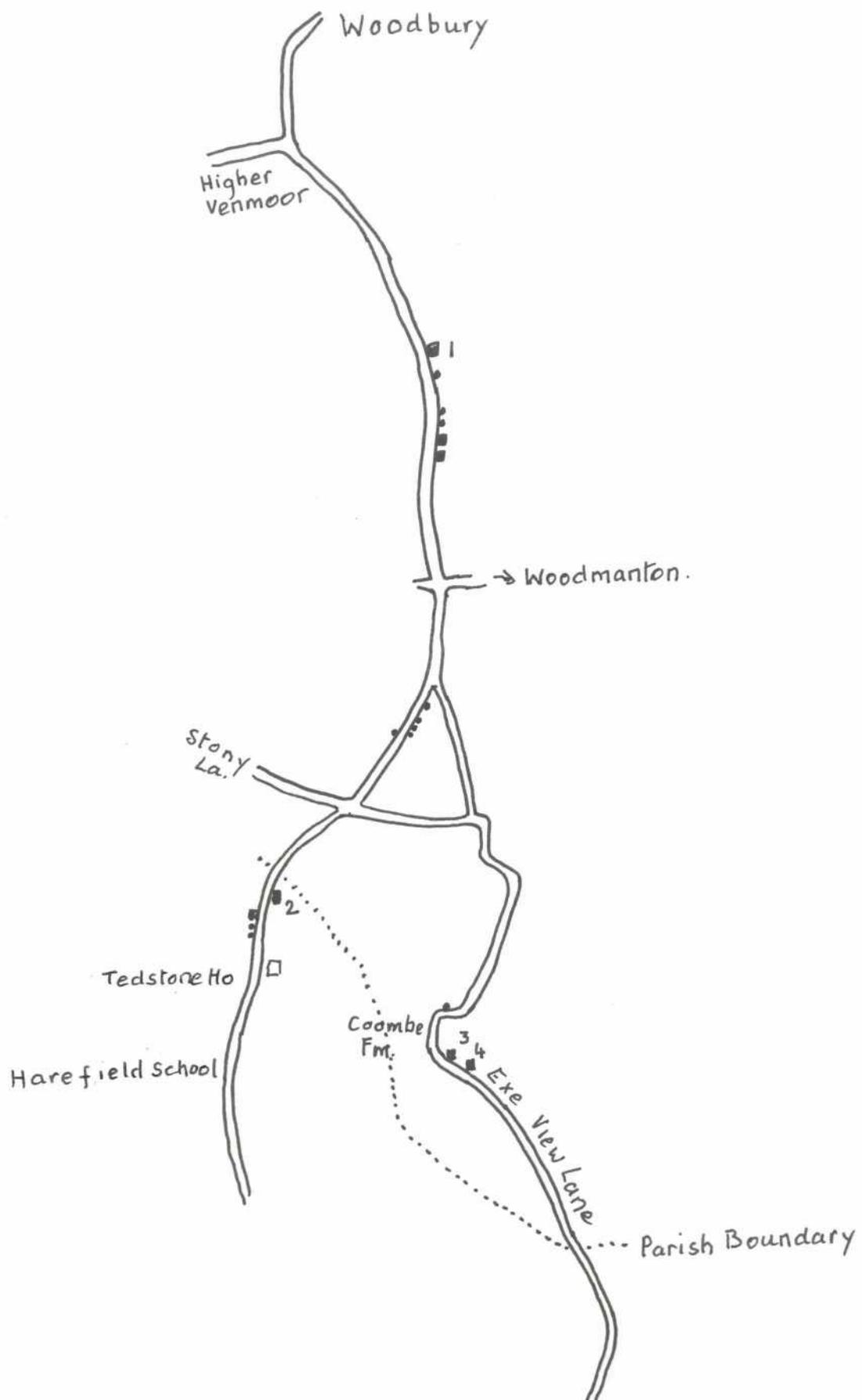


5



6

52





Exe View Lane

1



Tedstone Lane

2

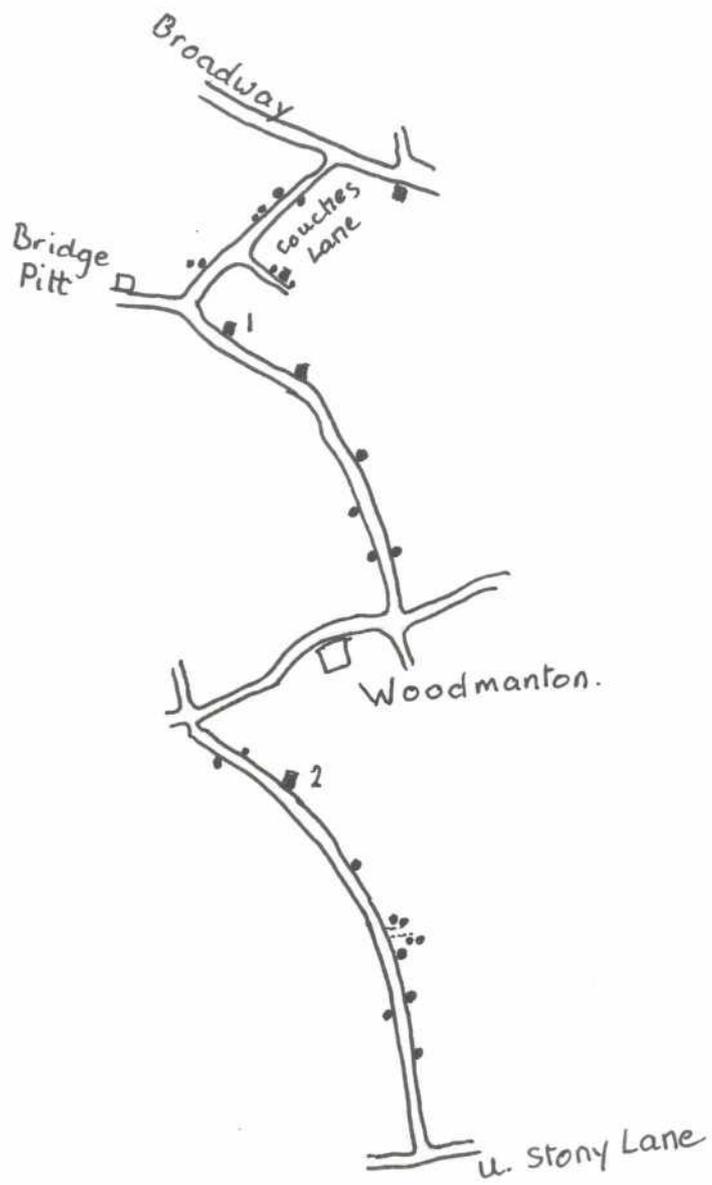


3

coombe Farm



4





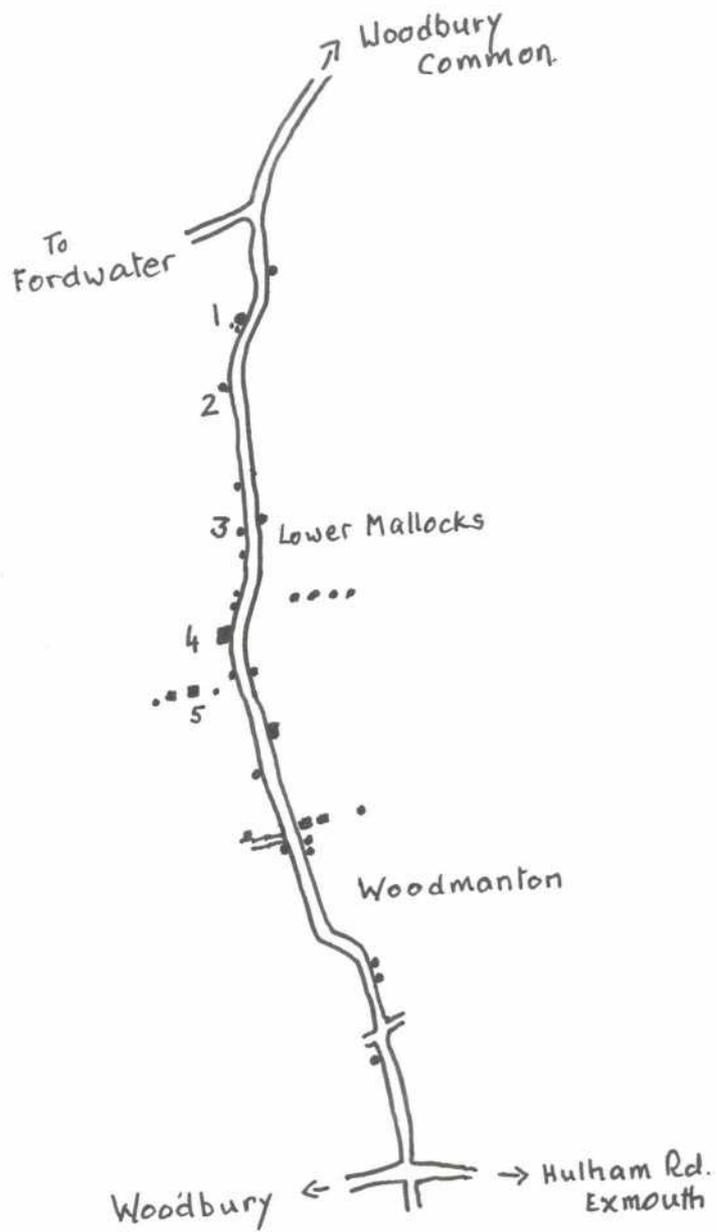
1

Near Couches Lane



2

Above Woodmanton





1

Woodmanton Lane



2



3

Near Lower
Mallocks
Farm



4

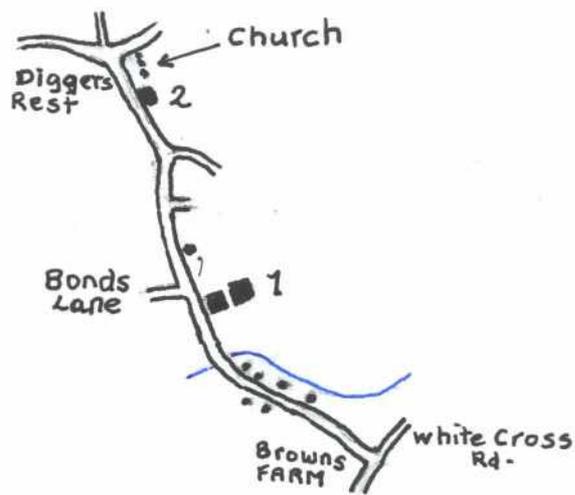


5

Near Woodmanton Farm

61

VILLAGE RD. W/S



VILLAGE ROAD

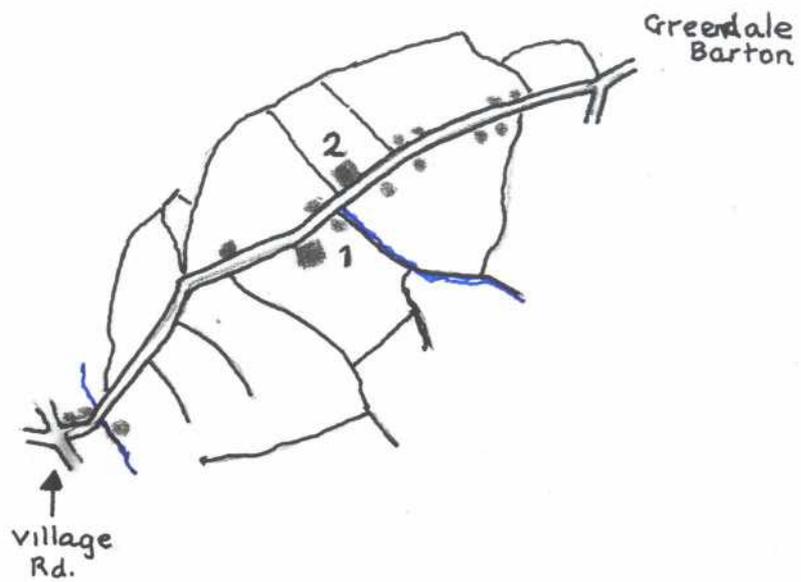


1



2

HONEY LANE W/S



HONEY LANE

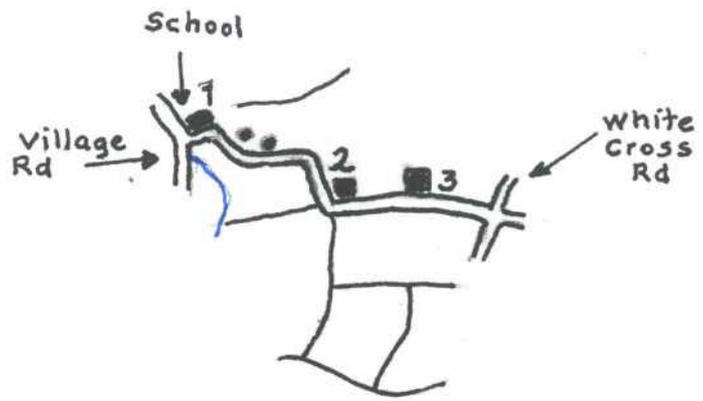


1



2

STONY LANE



STONEY LANE



1



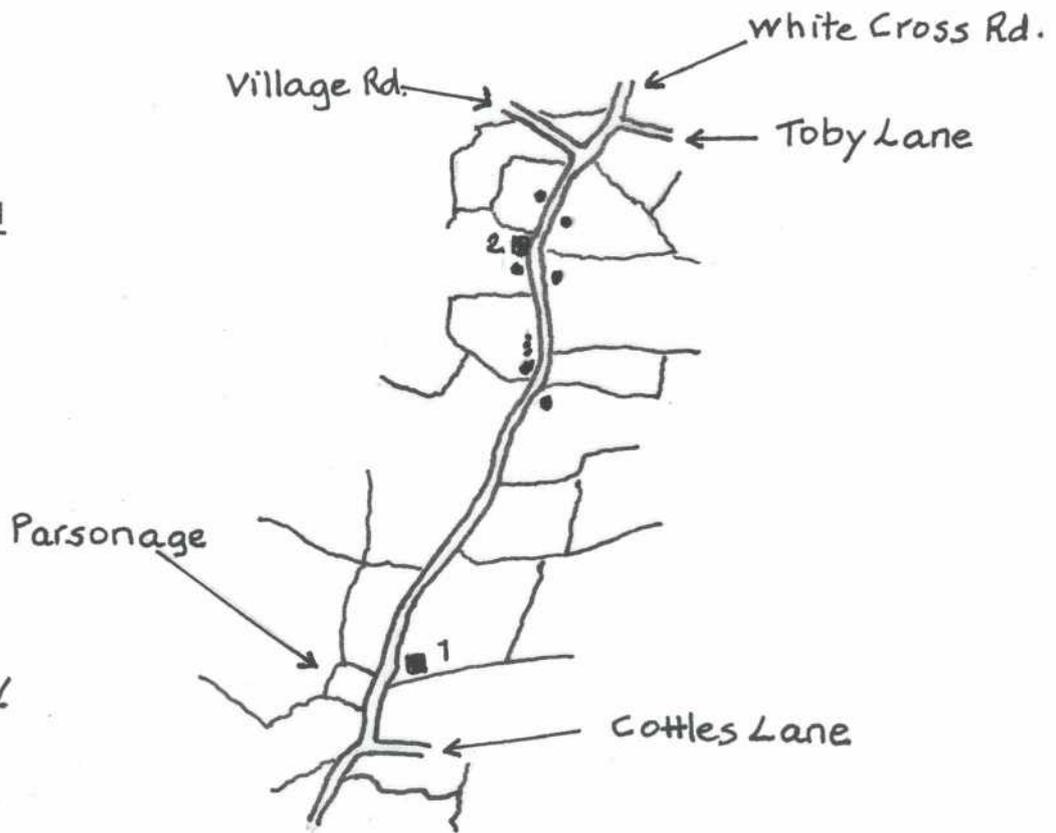
2



3

DEEPWAY

WOODBURY
SALTERTON



WOODBURY

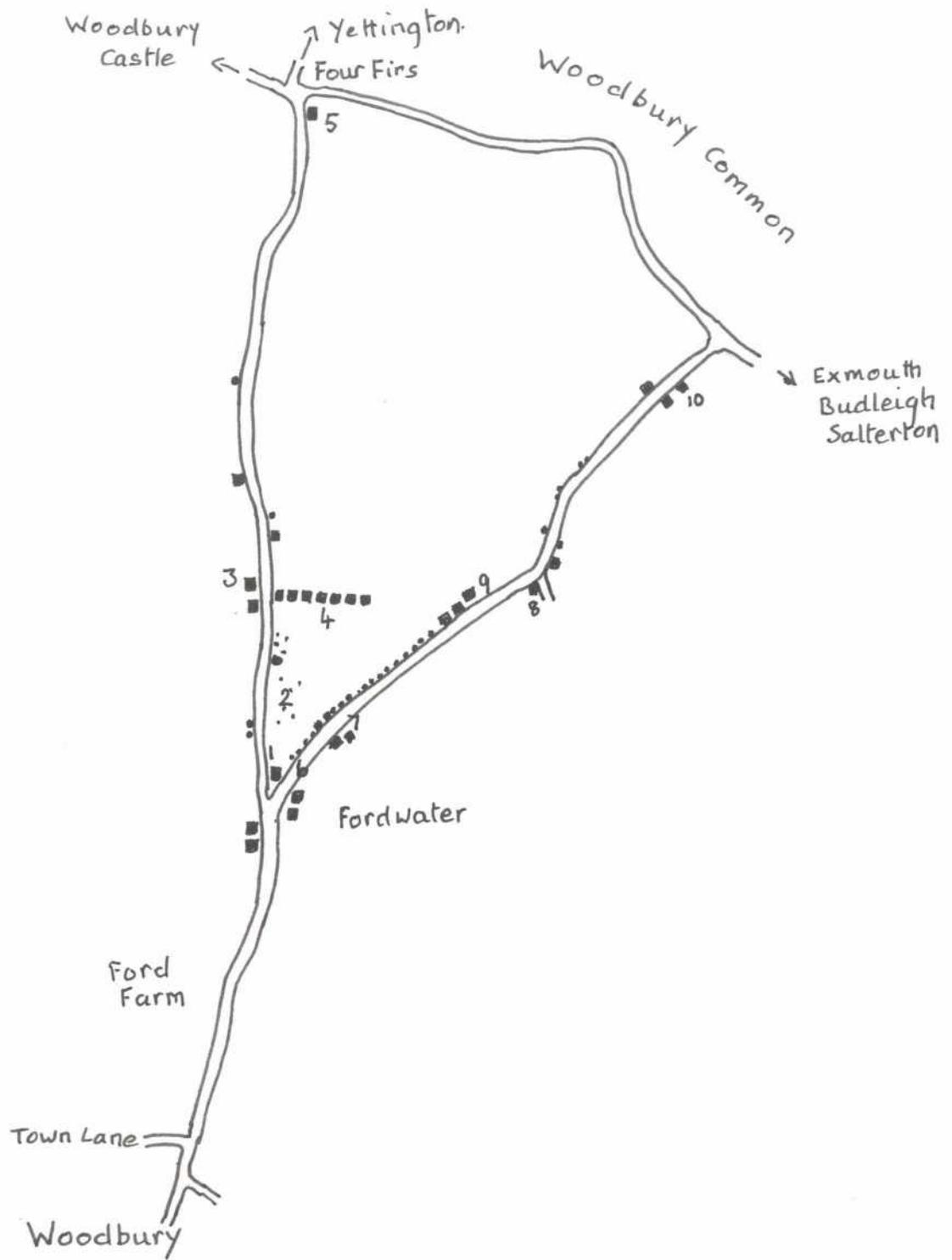
DEEP WAY



1



2





1

Fordwater Corner



2



3

Fordwater to Four Firs road



4



5

Fordwater to Four Firs road



6

Above Fordwater, road to Budleigh Salterton

74



7

Fordwater to Budleigh salterton road



8

75



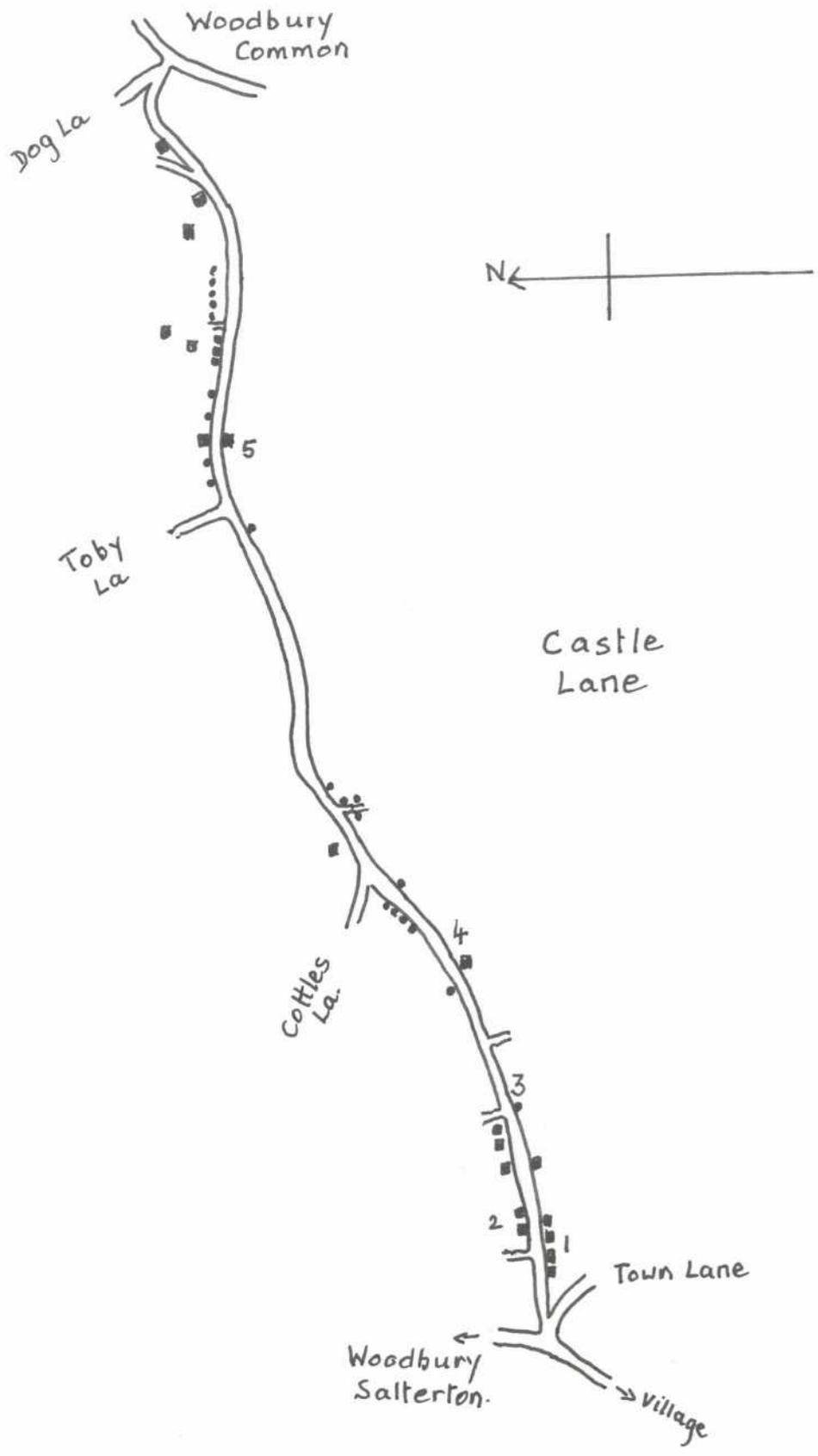
9

Fordwater to Budleigh Salterton road



10

76





1

Castle Lane

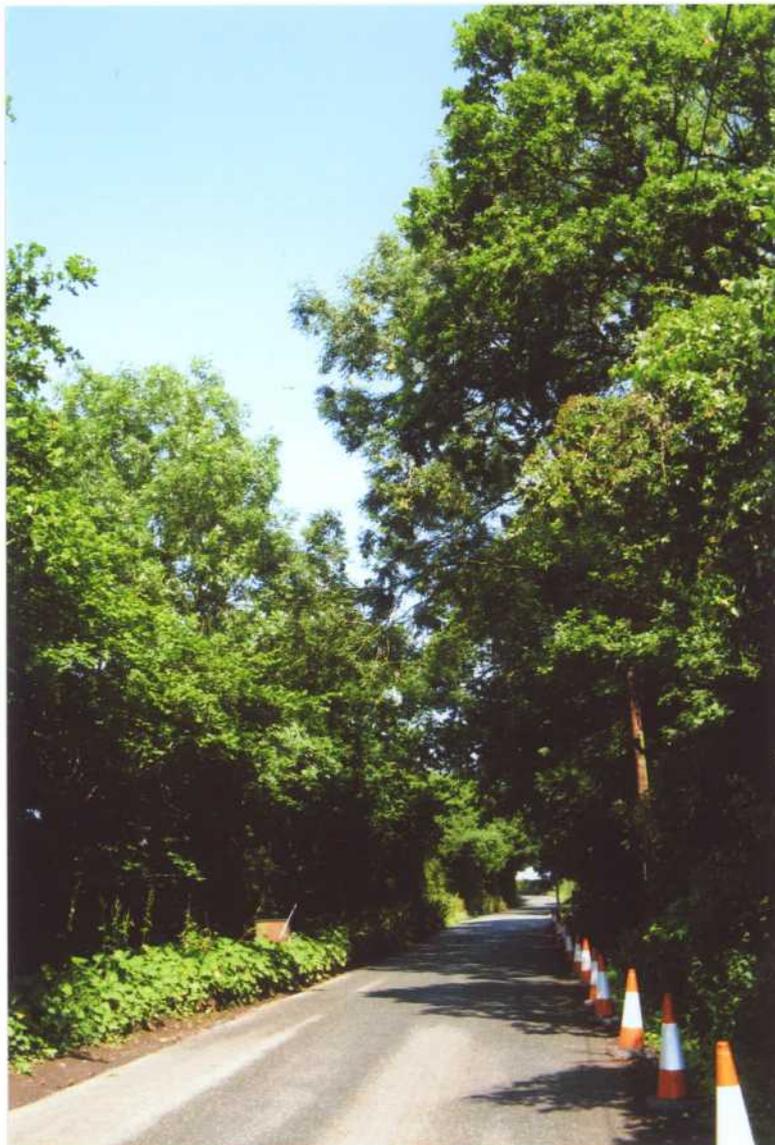


2



3

Castle Lane



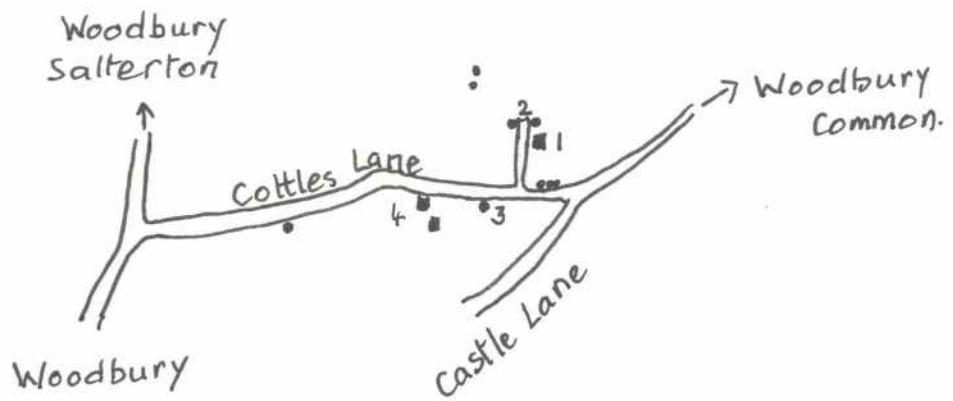
4

79



5

Castle Lane





1

Off Cottles Lane



2



3

Cottles Lane

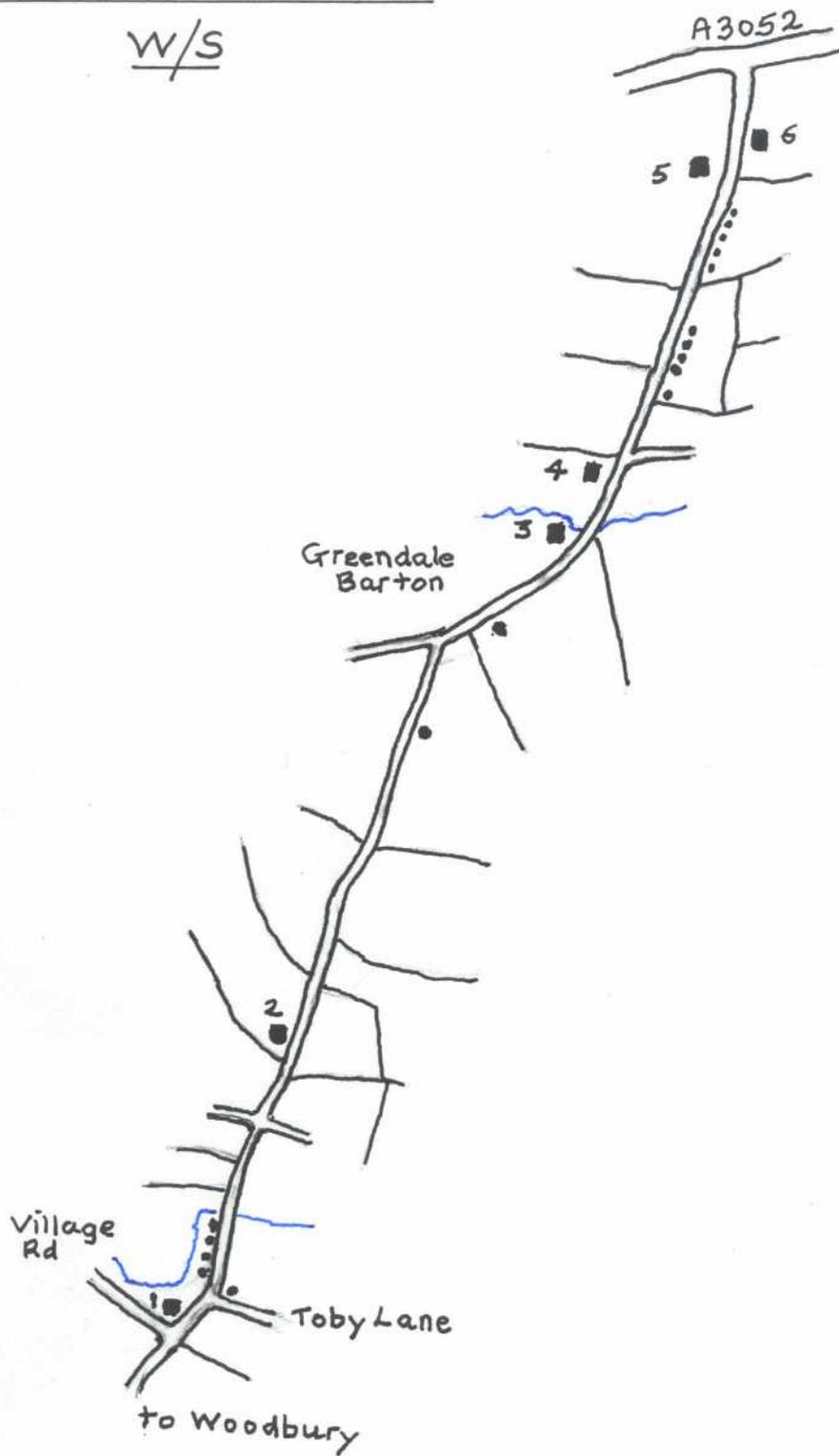


4

83

WHITE CROSS Rd.

W/S



WHITE CROSS ROAD

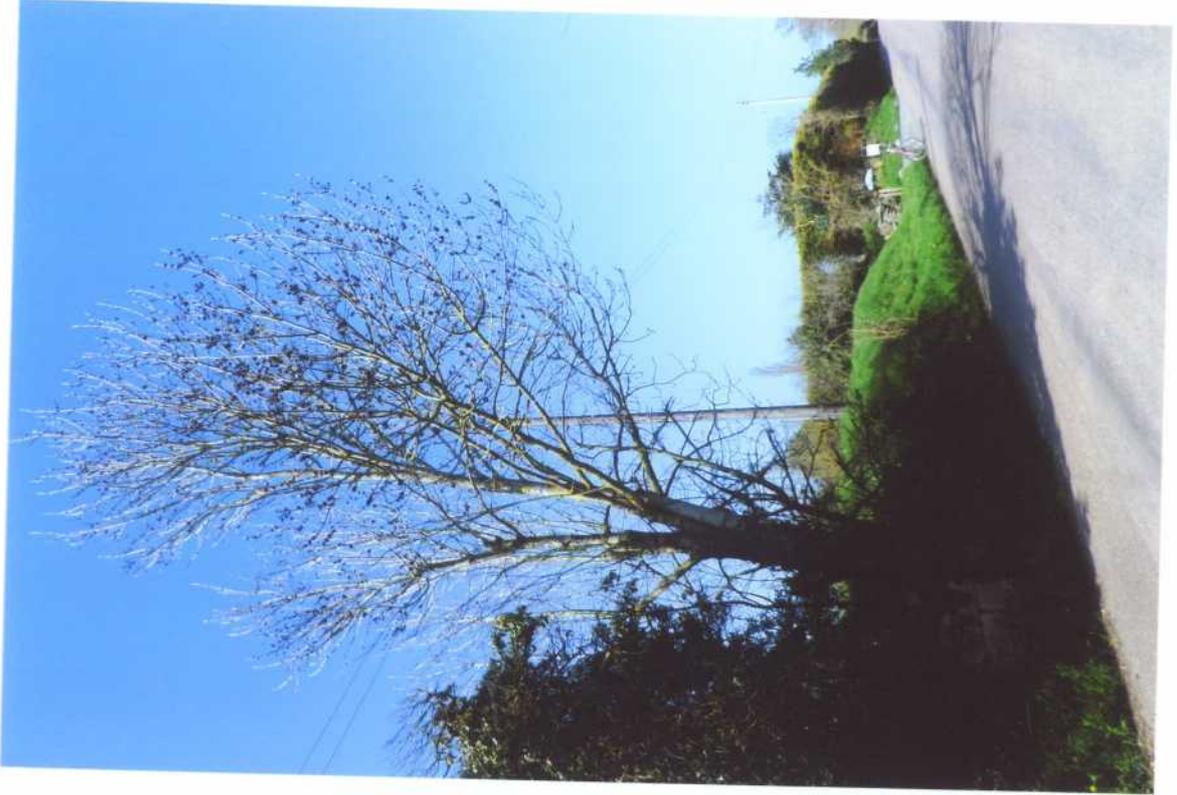
1



2



4



3

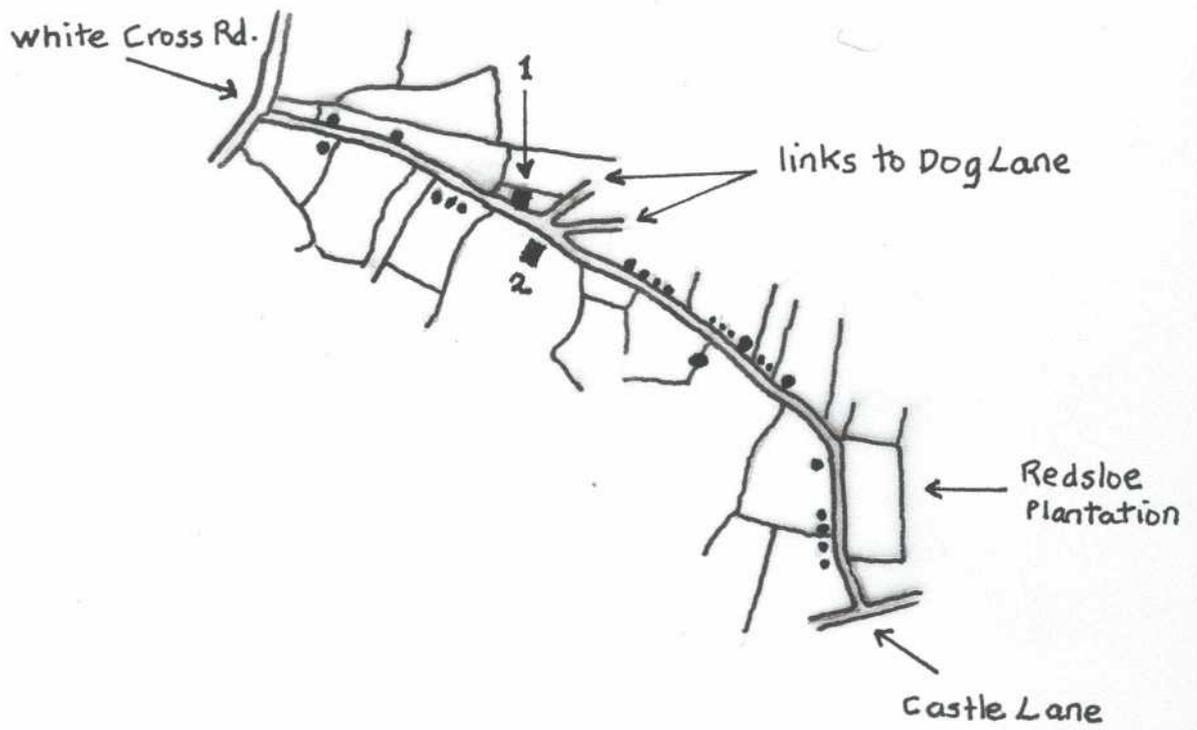


526



87

TOBY LANE
W/S



TOBY LANE

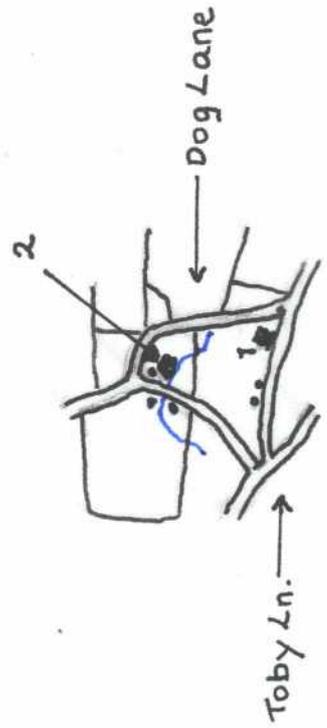


1



2

DOG LN. / TOBY LN. LINKS
W/S



DOG LN. / TOBY LN-LINKS



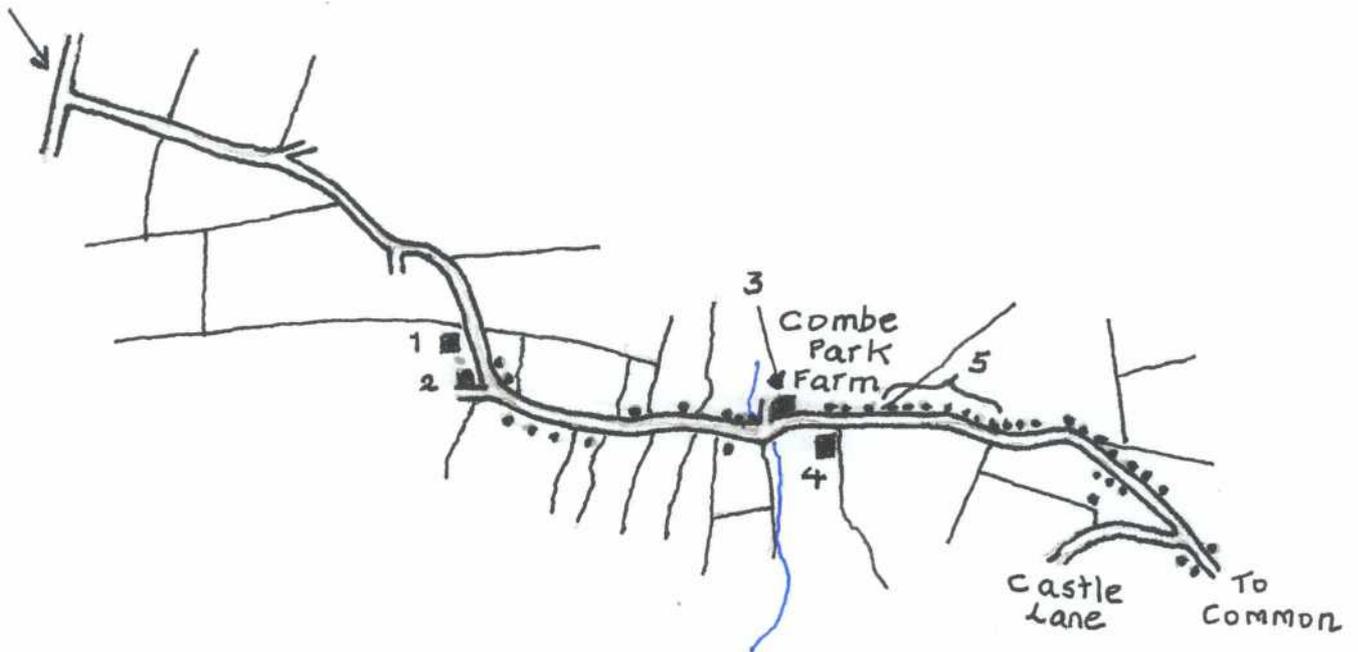
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2

DOG LANE W/S

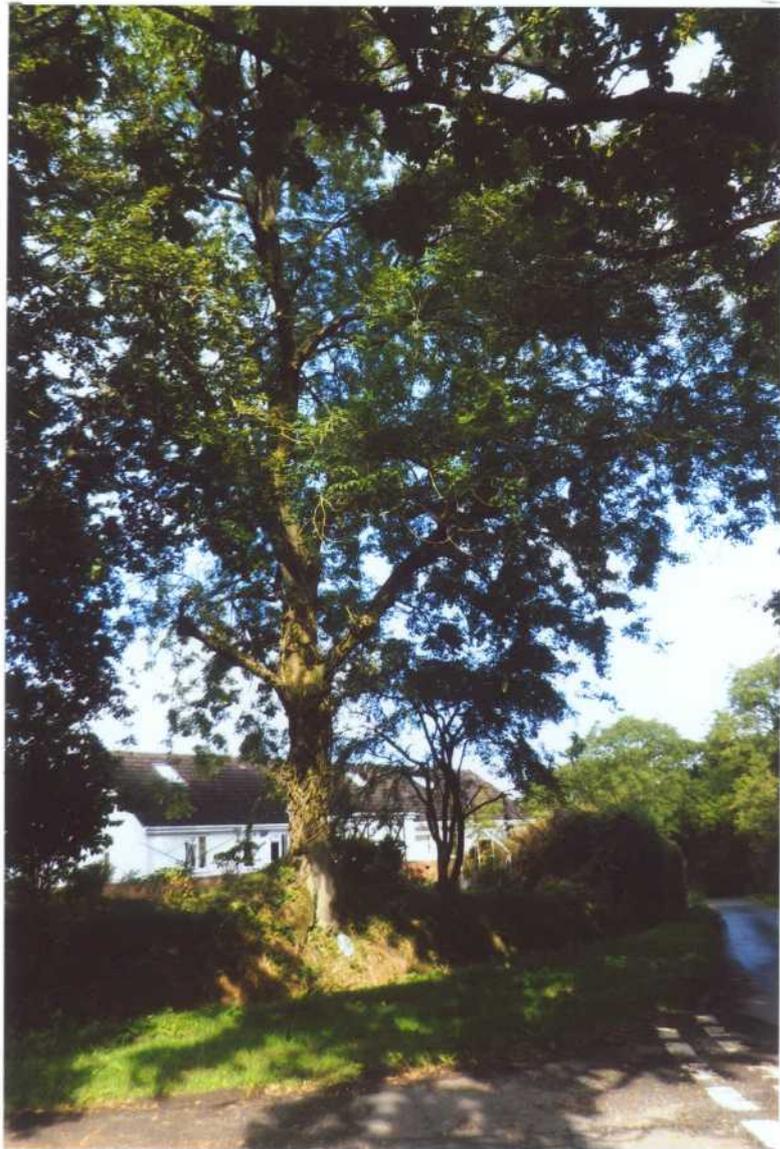
White Cross Rd.



DOG LANE



1



2

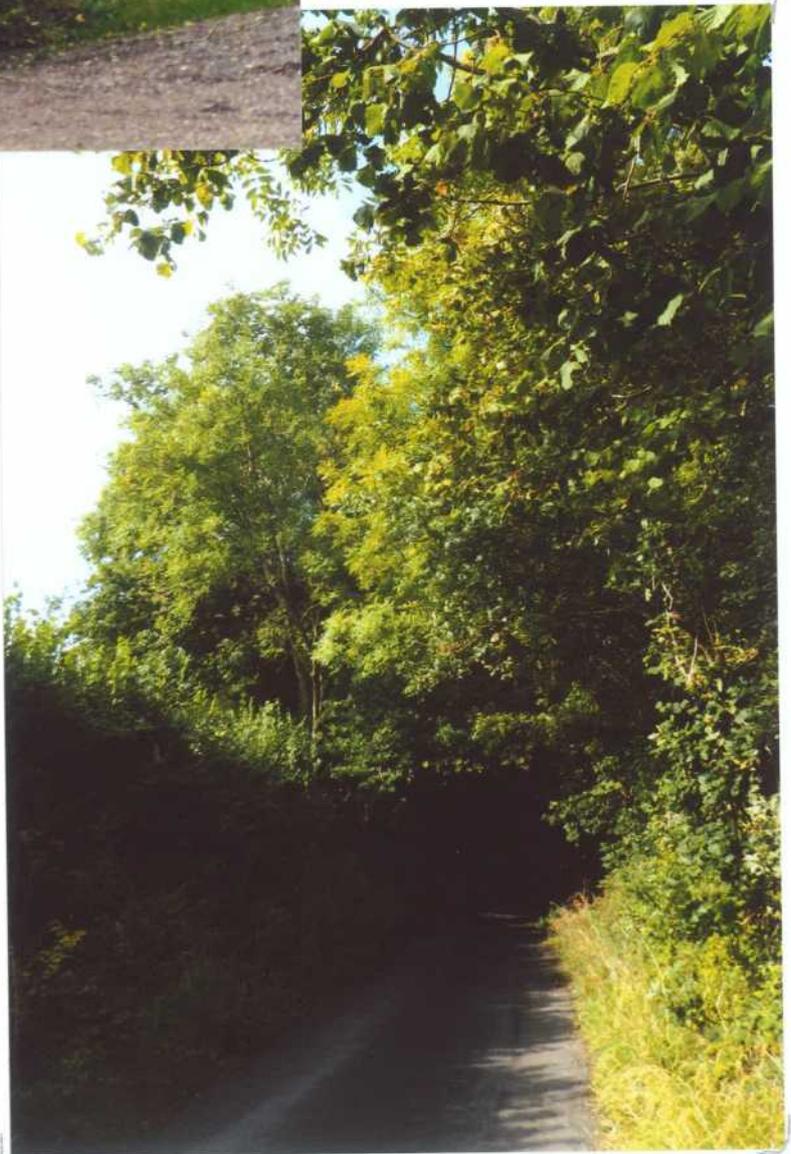
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3



4



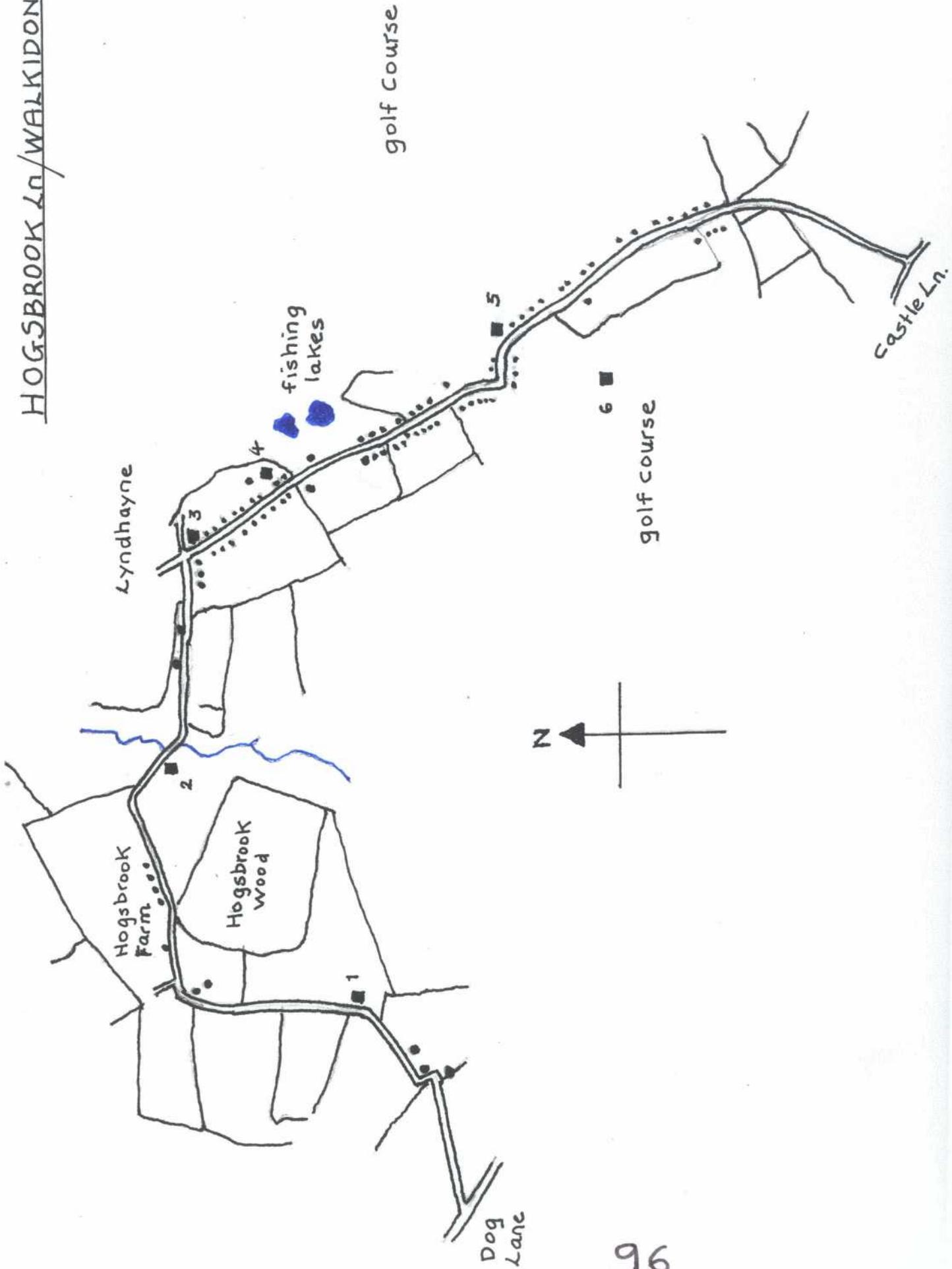
94

5



95

HOGSBROOK Ln / WALKIDONS WAY



HOGSBROOK LN. / WALKIDONS WAY



1



2



3



4



5



6

99