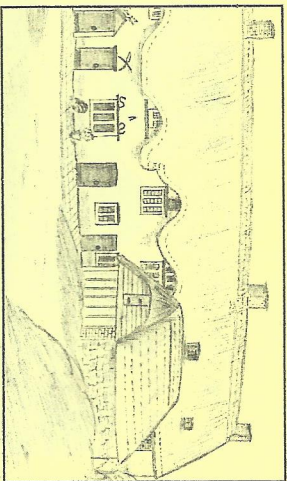


Start from the Ellendune Shopping Centre

- (1) The Ellendune Shopping Centre stands where there was once the imposing Wroughton Hall and its grounds. The Victorian residence was probably built for Samuel Ballard Pickett who called it "Sunnybanks." When Captain Pavy bought it as his family home he renamed it Markham. Later Major Barrett changed the name to Wroughton Hall. He trained race horses and an eminent visitor between the wars was the Prince of Wales, later to become Edward VIII (the Duke of Windsor).  
(See *Wroughton History Book 4 – Home Guard and Pavy Family*).

Walk up the avenue of trees keeping the library on your left and turn right into Wharf Road. Cross over and walk past the school until you reach Markham Road. Turn left into Markham Road and walk up to Pavy Cottages.

- (2) Pavy Cottages stand on the corner of the lane leading to the old work-house, also known as Whalley House. In the years 1770-74 the parish paid double rates to equip a workhouse. It was in use until the 1840s when the new Union Workhouse was opened at Stratton St. Margaret. Later it was adapted to form several cottages.



(See *Wroughton History Book 1 – Poor Law and Book 2 – Whalley - House*.)

Turn left along School Lane.

- (3) On the right is Wroughton Girls' School, opened in 1880 with 106 pupils. Prior to this date boys and girls attended the same school, near the Parish Church. Boys continued to attend the school by the Church. The newly admitted girls were cautioned not to mark on the walls. The original cost of the school building was £2,200. May-pole dancing was an annual event. See *Wroughton History Book 1 – Education*).

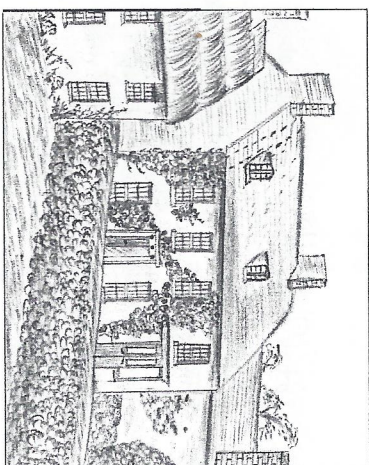
Continue along School Lane to the main road. Cross carefully.

- (4) Facing you is the White Hart. The first certain recorded date of a beer house on this site was 1845 but it is likely the Austin family had the premises in 1795. Samuel Pickett was the owner in 1845 and in 1855 C. Ward was running the establishment. At that time it had a garden in front and an orchard behind. Until the 1880s there was a smithy attached. For most of the twentieth century it was a Wadworth's house.  
(See *Wroughton History Book 2 – Public Houses*).

Turn left down the High Street until you see the old Post Office (the large red brick building) on your right.

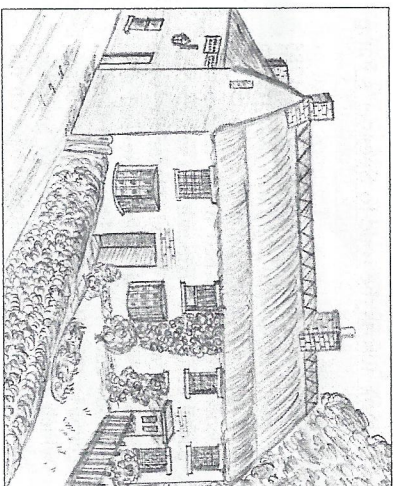
- (5) A plaque on the wall commemorates the service of generations of the Pickett family as postmasters from c1885 until 1996. The building was called The Poplars and the post office was probably installed in 1870. The first postmaster, Mr. Merrifield, who also operated a hauliers business, was father-in-law of the first John Pickett.

(See *Wroughton History Book 3 - Pg 79*.)



Turn right into Sun Lane by Haskins Garage.

- (6) Number thirteen, The Rising Sun is one of Wroughton's lost beer houses. Ales were brewed on the premises from about 1823 until at least 1891 when Charles Hawkins was the proprietor. Later, ales were brought from Malmesbury and other beer suppliers until 1913 when the licence to sell beer was revoked. The original buildings were thatched. Tiles replaced the thatch after the great fire of 1896.

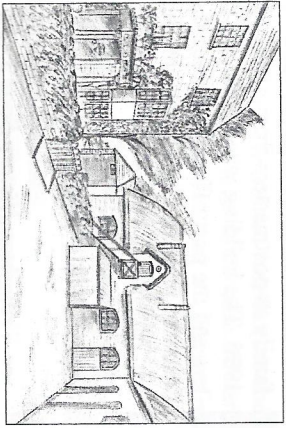


(See *Wroughton History Book 2 – Public Houses and Book 4 – Rising Sun*.)

Walk to the back of the garage and look right.

- (7) The great fire started in the rickyard of Kings Farm which stood here during the very dry summer of 1896. The fire spread rapidly catching numerous thatches alight. Fortunately the wind changed in time to save the Ely public house and Fairwater House stables. One hundred people were made homeless, including families at Marsh Zoar cottages behind the north side of the High Street.  
(See *Wroughton History Book 2 – Great Fire*.)

Return to the High Street and turn right. Cross Nursery Close and continue to Ely Court. The building in front was the Ely Inn, which replaced a much older thatched building in the grounds behind. The next turning is Fairwater Court.

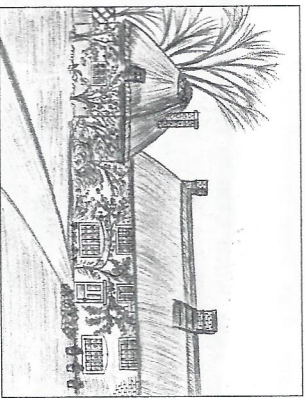


(8) Fairwater House was built about 1700. The name Fairwater was adopted in 1863 when a horse named Fairwater won the Ascot Gold Vase. Tom Oliver and Edward Craddock were well known successful trainers at the stables. George Frederick, the Derby winner in 1874 was also one of several famous race horses from the establishment.

(See *Wroughton History Books 1 and 3 – Race Horses*).

There is public access. Take time to wander round the site. Now look across the road to Spencer's Farm behind the high hedges.

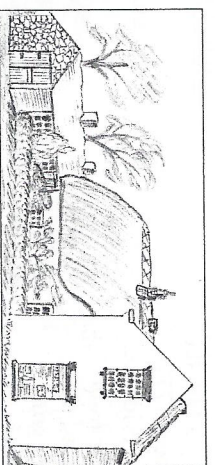
(9) Spencer's Farm was built about 1785 when it was known as Marsh Zoar, on an area of land called Spencer's Close. The Spencer family owned much land in the parish during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the Buckland family were occupants of Marsh Zoar for several generations until 1900. Early in the twentieth century the Hawkins Old Firm busses, which ran a regular service to Swindon, operated from an old thatched barn on this site.



(See *Wroughton History Book 4 – Spencer's Farm*).

Continue on alongside the stream and The Moat, once part of the Manor House garden. Cross Priors Hill to The Pitchens.

(10) On the left is AK (DIY shop). For many years it housed the old forge which was run by the Tarrant family who provided a service not only in shoeing horses but repairing all manner of iron implements.



(See *Wroughton History Book 4 – Blacksmiths*).

(11) On the right is the Brown Jack which was originally named the Three Horse Shoes. It was renamed Brown Jack in honour of the locally trained race horse, which won the Queen Alexandra Stakes six years running from 1929 to 1934. Brown Jack was considered one of the top race horses of all times. He was trained by the Hon. Aubrey Craven Theophilus Robin Hood Hastings at the Barcelona stables in the Pitchens.

Continue along the Pitchens to Manor Cottage on your right.

(12) The name Manor Cottage derives from the use of the house by coachmen of the Manor House in Priors Hill but the building has a longer history. It was the mill house of Watt's (and later Waldron's) Mill with records going back to 1671 and the east wall shows where the hub of the mill wheel entered the wall and the outer rim reached.

(See *Wroughton History Book 2 – Mills*).

Continue along the Pitchens following the central path.

(13) Waterfall Cottage hidden away on your left was built in the seventeenth century. You can hear the waterfall cascading over rocks down towards the cottage. The stream on your right worked seven mills until well into the nineteenth century.

(See *Wroughton History Book 2 – Mills*).

Continue along the path until you reach five large modern houses on your left.

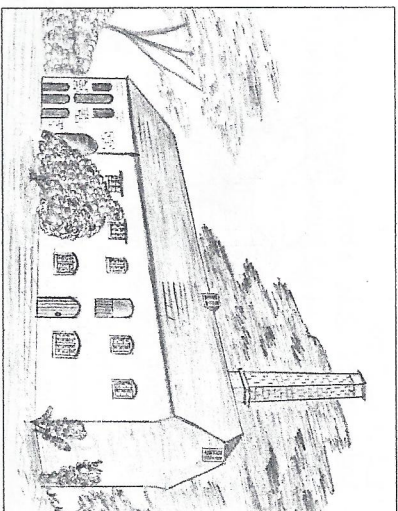
(14) The site on which these houses now stand has a long history. From 1890 Barcelona Stables stood here housing over thirty race horses trained by William Leader and Ivor Anthony whose horses won five Grand Nationals. When the stables closed owing to military deployment in the area the land was bought by The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit and from 1969 until 2002 their Convent stood here.

(See *Wroughton History Books 1 & 3 – Race Horses and Book 8 – Convent page 71*).

At the end of The Pitchens path turn right into Bakers Road keeping the large white house (Woodham House) on your left. Just past the house peep round the corner into Woodham Mill.

(15) Also known as Pavy's Mill the present building dates from 1771 but there is documentary evidence of a mill on the site in 1649. It is the third of seven mills situated along the stream. It was used to grind flour and bones. The overshot wheel is still in place though frail and fixed. The remains of the ponds and leets are behind the building and are now part of a garden feature.

(See *Wroughton History Book 2 - Mills*).

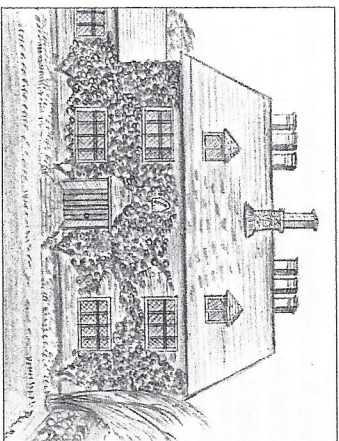


Enjoy your stroll along Bakers Road, one of the oldest lanes in the village dating back to Saxon times. Your next port of call, The Swan, is on the left at the far end.

(16) Once a beer house known as The Dirty Duck, this pub was "Victorianised" in 1897. In 1854 two young ladies were caught fighting outside the pub and the aggressor was sentenced to two weeks hard labour. Seven small cottages clustered on the car park area with a communal washing area in the centre. The residents took in washing from the neighbourhood.

See *Wroughton History Book 2 Public Houses and Book 3 page 71*).

Turn right down Priors Hill and continue until you reach Manor Close on the left.



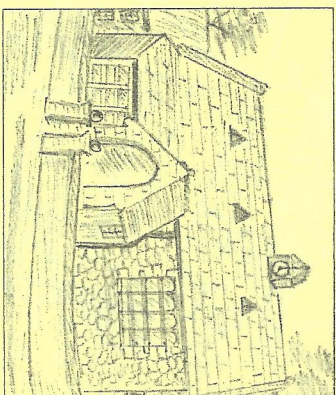
(17) Until its demolition in 1961 the Tudor Manor House stood on this site surrounded by gardens. During Medieval times it belonged to Winchester Cathedral and was the central manor house of the parish. Manor Courts were held in the hall. For much of the nineteenth century it was owned by the Codrington family.

See *Wroughton History Book 4 - Wroughton Manor House*).

Continue down Priors Hill until you reach the Church Hall.

(18) This hall was built originally as the Parish Infants' School in 1874. It remained as such until it became The Parish Church Hall in 1928 when the Infants moved into the Girls School. This low lying area was prone to flooding and the school had to be closed on numerous occasions. Mrs. Robert Fisher (Jane Pavy) gave the clock to the village in 1905. Over the years the hall has housed a Bank and the Public Library.

(See *Wroughton History Book 1 - Education*).



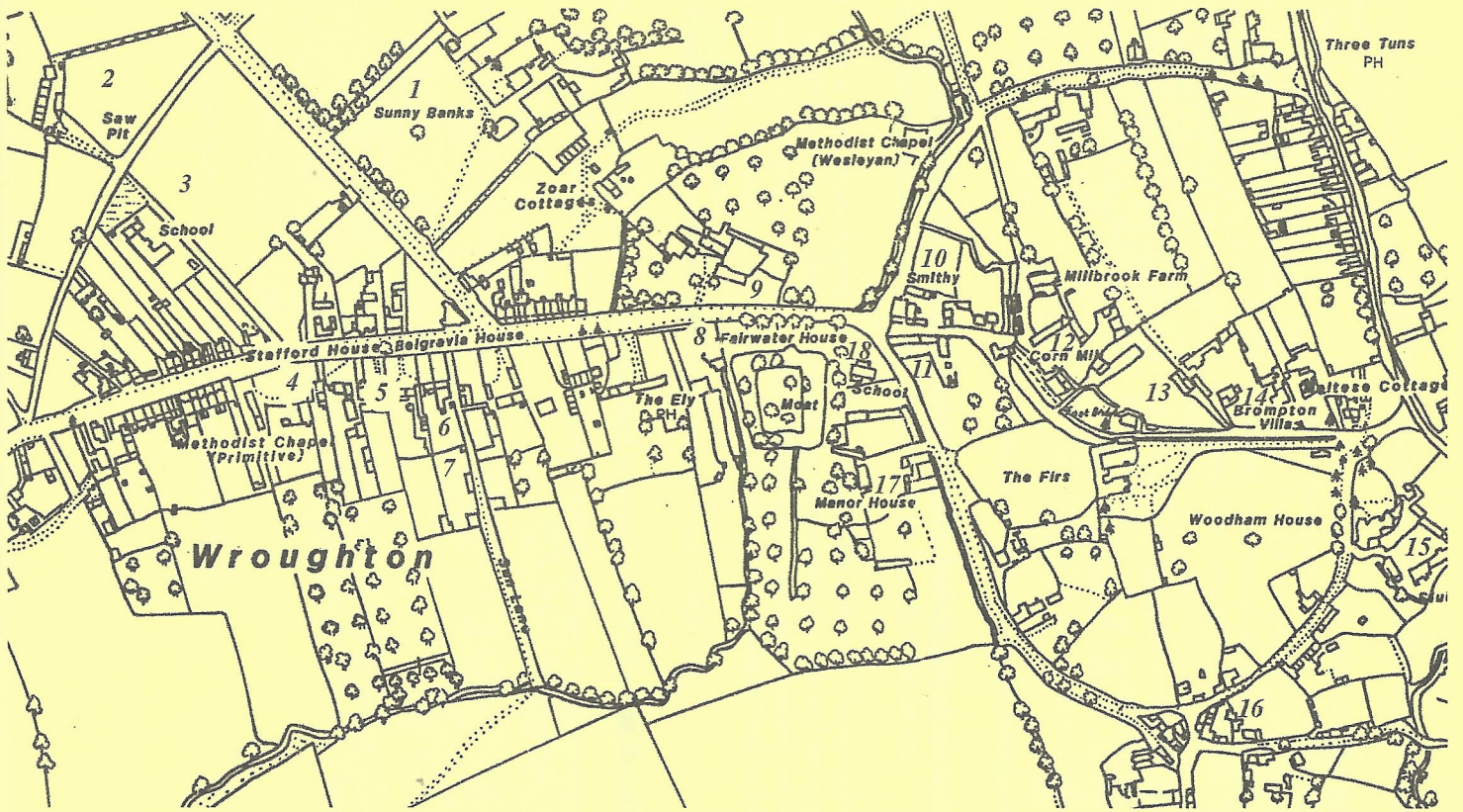
Cross the main road to get back to the Ellendune Centre.

*First produced for Wroughton History Group by Hilary Dunscombe and the late Bill Blackford and revised in 2009.*

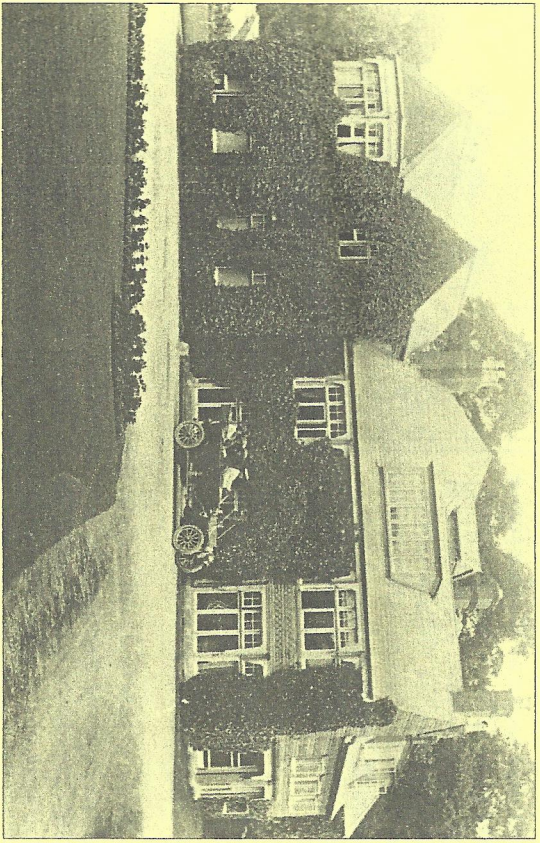
*Comprehensive portraits of village life including numerous photographs can be found in Wroughton History Books 1 to 9 and are available from Danny Hicks (01793-812620).*

*Wroughton History Group meets on alternate Thursdays at The Parish Room, St. Joseph's Church, Devizes Road, Wroughton.*

WHG - 2009



**Wroughton**  
**Village Walk**  
**No 1**  
**Wroughton History Group**



Wroughton Hall - 1912