

commemorating the men connected with the Parish who gave their lives in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. Nearby is the old village Lock-up or Cage used by the Parish Constables to restrain drunkards and wrongdoers until they could be taken to the local Police Station or prison.

The soil of the Parish consists of varying proportions of mixed loam and clay, with a large area of meadow lands, which were originally submerged for the greater portion of the year. Arable farming has always been the principal occupation in the area, together with orchards of apple and plum trees, but the Hanson Quarry continues a tradition of gravel extraction and brickmaking. In Holywell, eels were caught and rushes were cut.

Between Holywell and Needingworth, there was an old post windmill (h), and part of this road is still called Mill Way. The mill stones, still owned by the Parish, may be seen both outside Mill Bungalow and in Holywell. Between the settlements is the Falklands Walk, an area of woodlands and footpaths funded by a unit of the Royal Engineers after their posting to the Falklands in 1989 (g). This is also the site of the Parish Cemetery, the Garden Plots and Millfields, the new Sports area for the Parish that was largely funded by the Lottery through the Sports Council.

Overcote Lane leads from the War Memorial, past the old Sports Field and Village Hall/Parish Office (j) to the Pike and Eel Inn (f), which is another popular hostelry on the river. Here, a ferry crossed to Over. The Inn may be reached by the Ouse Valley Way from Holywell.

In both Needingworth and Holywell there were originally many public houses including the White Horse and the Three Horseshoes. The Queen's Head (o) now remains alone in the Needingworth High Street and is a popular meeting place.

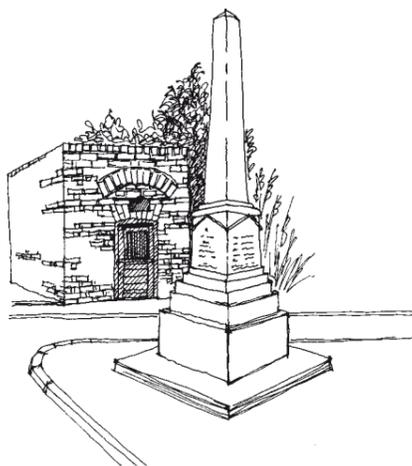
A modern school (i) stands in Mill Way on the site of the former Victorian building and the Village Shop and Post Office (m) are situated in the High Street.

In 1996, to mark their own centenary, the Womens' Institute presented the Parish with its own Village Sign (q), which stands by the road on Pound Hill (near the site of the former Pound). It represents many of the aspects of Parish life which have remained constant through the ages.

On 3rd November, 2003, Holywell-cum-Needingworth became the first Parish Council in Cambridgeshire to achieve accreditation as a Quality Parish Council. The Community has published a full Village Plan and Village Design Statement.



Bakers Dozen, Church Street, Needingworth



The War Memorial and Village Lock-up



he parish of Holywell-cum-Needingworth lies on the north bank of the River Ouse which at this point was the old boundary between Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. To the east the Greenwich Meridian passes through a corner of the Parish, where it is marked by a stone placed to celebrate the year AD2000 (a).

The village of Holywell developed by the river as a traditional ring village. Many fragments of Roman and prehistoric pottery have been found here. The village takes its name from the ancient spring (b) which can still be seen in the churchyard. This was originally credited with healing properties and was surmounted by a stone canopy in 1845. Each year, in June, there is a Well Dressing to celebrate the Church Patronal Festival.

The Church of St. John the Baptist (c) is built of stone in the Early English style. The registers date from 1667 and there is a list of Rectors from 990, including Thomas Tenison (1667-81), who later became Archbishop of Canterbury (1696-1716).

At the other end of the 'ring' is the Ferry Boat Inn (d), which claims to be the oldest inn in England. The ghost of Juliet Tewsley is said to walk each year on March 17th, the anniversary of her suicide for love in 1050. For hundreds of years a ferry to Over crossed the river here; according to Charles Kingsley, Hereward the Wake was a passenger after escaping from the Normans at Madingley in the 11th century. The Ouse Valley Way runs for 26 miles through Huntingdonshire along the River Great Ouse, starting at Eaton Socon and running along the Common Land beside Holywell Front before finishing at Earith.



ERECTED BY THE REV'D J. B. BECKWITH RECTOR OF THIS PARISH A.D. 1845



Moynes Hall

Holywell is a conservation area and many of the buildings are thatched and worthy of note. Probably the oldest house in the village is Moynes Hall (d), now a farmhouse, which was formerly one of the residences of the family of Le Moygne.

As river traffic declined, the prosperity of Holywell as a trading centre diminished and the hamlet of Needingworth began to develop along the road which linked St. Ives

with Ely. There was formerly a chapel of ease here dedicated to St. James.

Needingworth grew steadily until it became the larger of the two settlements. On September 16th 1847 a terrible fire, caused by accident, completely destroyed 86 houses and damaged others. Copies of the insurance map of the Great Fire are kept at both the County Record Office and within the village. The fire hooks in the High Street (k) are a reminder of the days when many houses were thatched and such implements were needed to remove smoldering straw. The Chestnuts is one of the few notable buildings to survive intact. Formerly a significant farmhouse, it became a bar and restaurant and recently re-opened as a French restaurant. The Baptist Chapel was erected in 1861 (n); the Methodist Chapel (1888) is now a private residence (p).

Sir Ambrose Nicholas, Lord Mayor of London in 1576, was born in Needingworth. In the centre of the High Street (k) there is a War Memorial in Portland stone

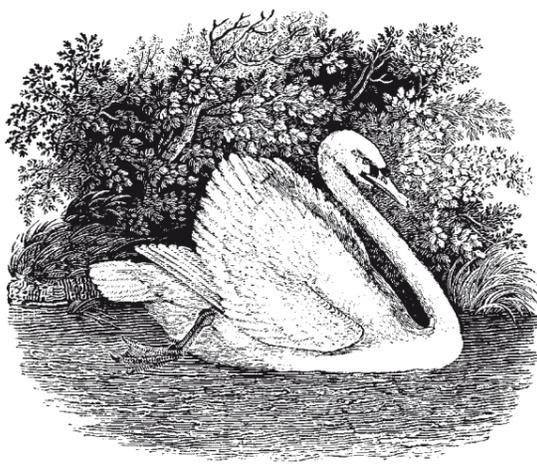
Please follow the Country Code ...

Because the countryside is a place to be enjoyed by all: protect wildlife, plants and trees; take your litter home; and respect the quiet of the countryside.

Because the countryside is a place of work: keep to paths and use stiles and gates to cross fences. Please keep dogs under control.

Leave only footprints; take only memories.

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The rights of way shown are correct at the time of going to press in 2007.

price 50p

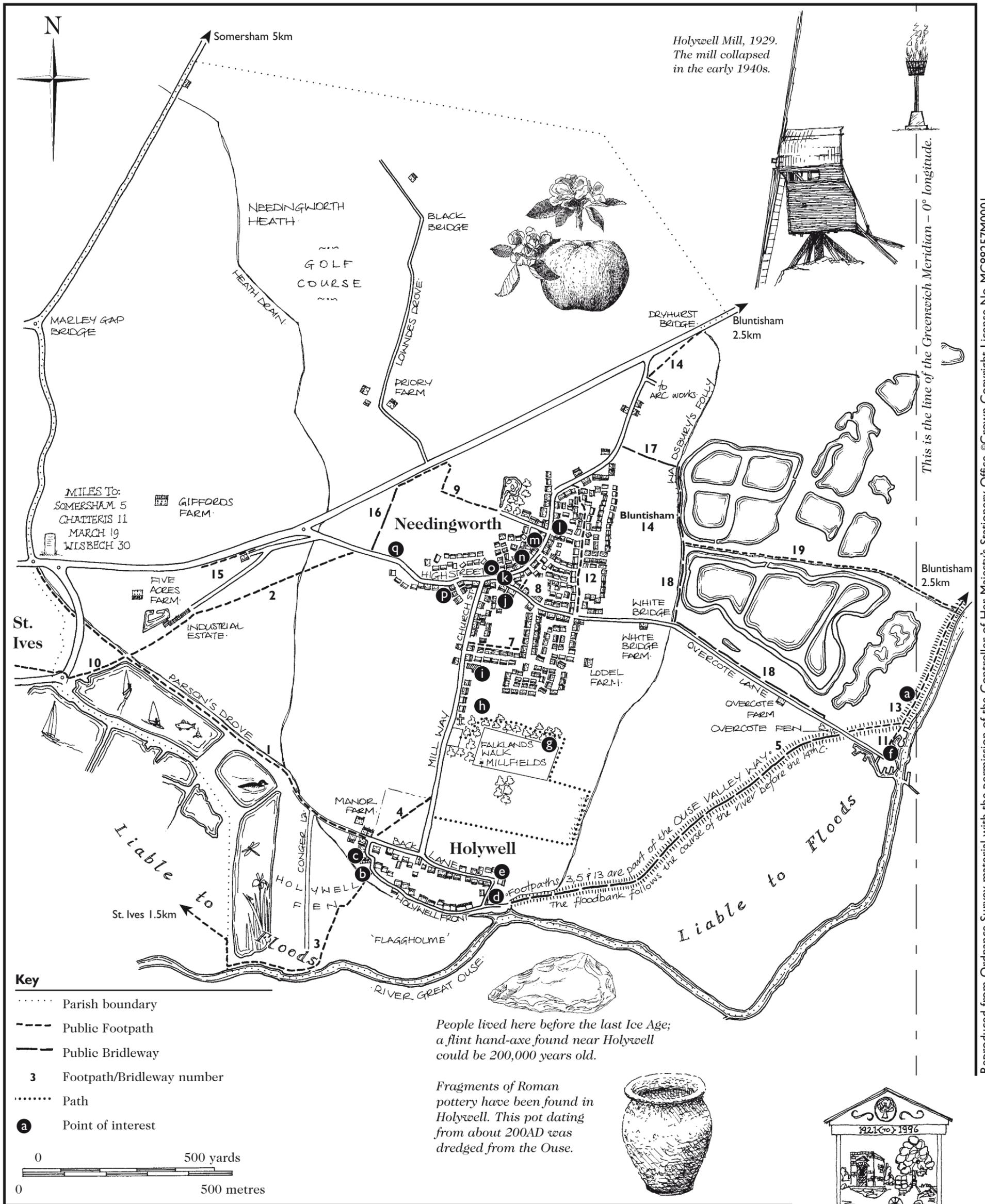
Sarah Wroot design

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Paths



*Here Ouse,
slowly winding through a level plain
of spacious meads,
with cattle sprinkled o'er,
conducts the eye along
its sinuous course
Delighted.
Cooper*

William



Some places of interest in Holywell-cum-Needingworth

- | | |
|---|--|
| a The Meridian Stone (near Pike & Eel) | i The Village Hall |
| b The Holy Well | k The Fire Hooks, War Memorial, and Village Lock-up |
| c Church of St. John the Baptist | l La Rochelle (formerly The Chestnuts) |
| d Ferry Boat Inn | m The Shop and Post Office |
| e Moynes Hall | n The Baptist Chapel |
| f Pike and Eel Inn | o Queen's Head |
| g Millfields Sports area | p The former Methodist Chapel |
| h The site of the old post-mill | q The Village Sign |
| i School | |

