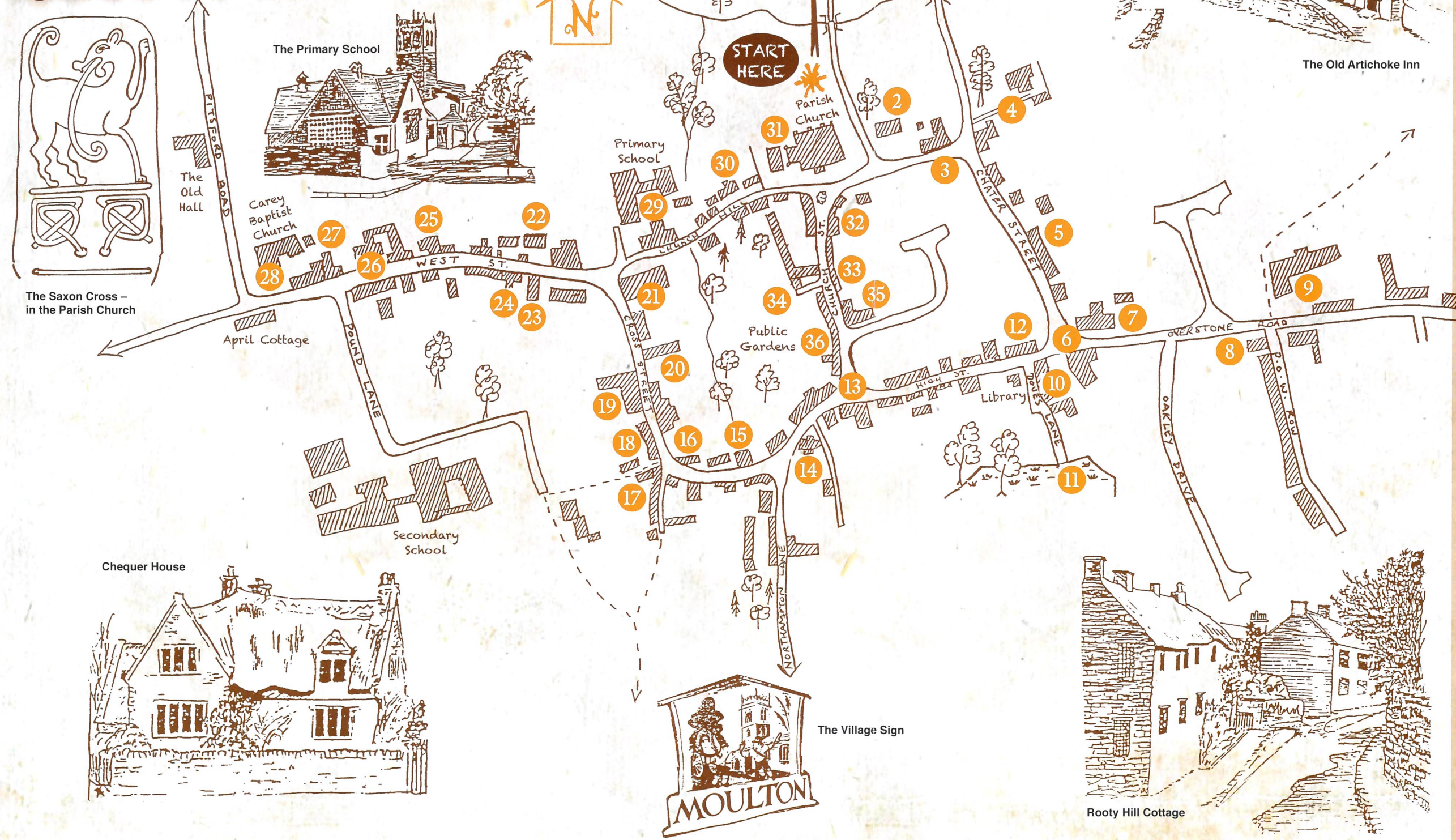


# Moulton Village Trail Guide

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Moulton has a strong and distinctive character, being fortunate to have a large number of historic and visually attractive buildings constructed of the local stone. There are many fine streetscapes and pretty views, with pleasant groupings of gable-ended cottages set close up to the street. The tour begins at the rear of the Parish Church, looking across the valley.\*



1 Across the fields to the north of the Church stands Manor Farm. It is the site of the original feudal manor house which, with the Church and a cluster of huts in the valley formed the first settlement.

2 Between the Church and the 'Artichoke' is Waterloo House, built 1777 and having pleasant Georgian proportions with limestone quoins (Cornerstones).

3 The Artichoke Inn - the eastern part, at least as old as datestone, was built as a public house - one of the 8 or so the village once had. Many were simply the landlord's front room, serving beer and other brews prepared in the back room.

4 Until the beginning of this century a steam mill operated at Mill House (1665) - the building and chimney have almost disappeared, the 4 millstones remain set into the path near the house, 2 midstones for barley and 2 for wheat.

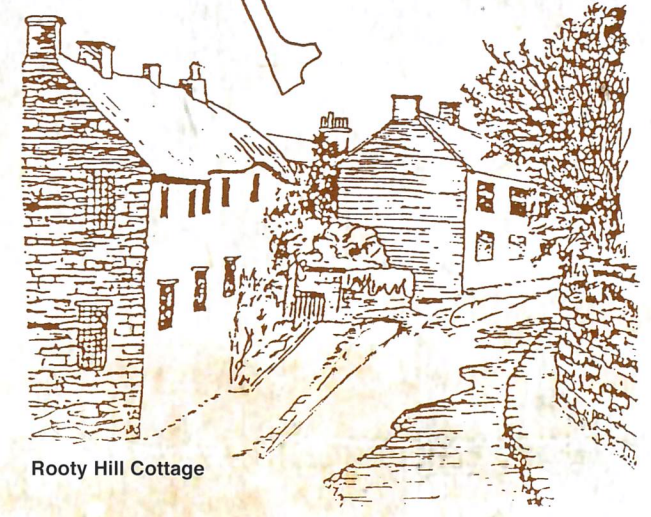
5 Rooty Hill Cottage in Chater Street may be 15thC. It retains a rare medieval roof truss, inglenook fireplace, and one stone mullion window.

6 Facing down Chater Street is Wantage Farm, dated 1771 and was once part of Lady Wantage's estate until the early 19thC. Fine thatched roof!

7 Dairy Farmhouse belonged to Lady Wantage's father, Lord Overstone. No longer a farm - its buildings and land having been lost under new buildings - the names of the last 2 farmers, John Siddons and Sid Tarrant are perpetuated in the names of residential roads nearby.



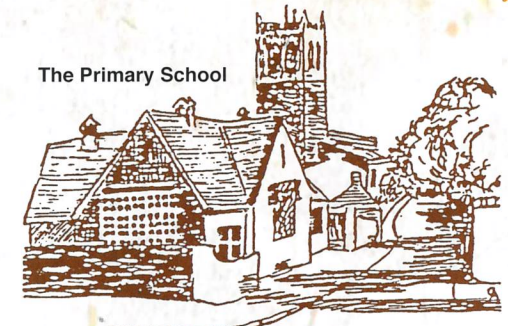
The Old Artichoke Inn



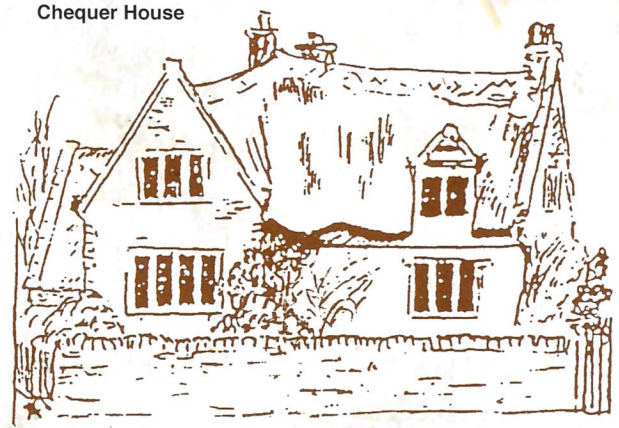
Rooty Hill Cottage



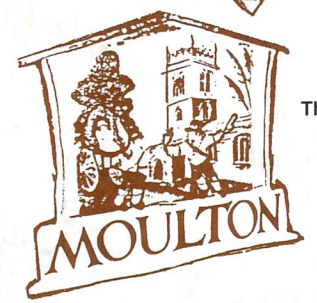
The Saxon Cross - in the Parish Church



The Primary School



Chequer House



The Village Sign



Turn left into Church Hill. The Primary School - the oldest part was built in 1843. The brick wing was added in 1870 or the modern parts in the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s. Lovely old blue pavilions in front of the old building - these are Victorian bricks. Church Hill has been less change than many parts and presents a pleasing, almost timeless streetscape as it winds uphill.

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Also spot the 'y' shaped tie beams on the upper levels.

**28** High on the wall of Carey Cottage is a tablet remembering William Carey, the famous Baptist missionary. There is a small museum recalling his stay in Moulton and can be visited by prior arrangement with the Minister or secretary. Parts of the Church date from 1750 or so, but most dates from 1870. There is a fine mural inside. Retrace your steps along West Street noticing the panelled doorcases at many of the cottages. Also spot the 'y' shaped tie beams on the upper levels.

**27** The Telegraph Inn and Restaurant (formerly known as the Maycart Restaurant). The Maycart Procession with the May Queen is an old village tradition.

Agriculture, now offers many courses.

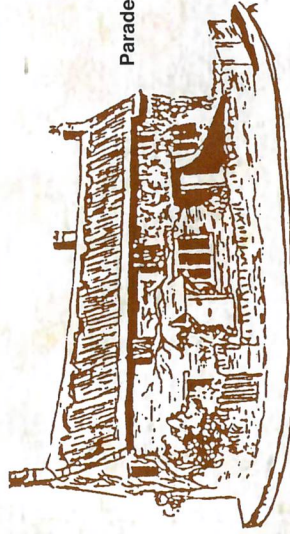
**23** The Malthouse just opposite is also thatched and is one of at least 5 former locations of the village Post Office. Next door - Bluebell House was another of the former pubs - The Bluebell Inn. **24** House number 26 was once home of College of Agriculture Principals. Lovely 18thC Bay Window **25** on the map. **26** The Cottage - much enlarged in recent years. Once just Agriculture, now offers many courses.

**21** Once the Vicarage - Jacobean staircase. West Street shows a variety of styles and interesting buildings. **22** Holly Cottage has a very steep roof and a datestone with a sun motif 1695.

Outside No. 12 look back over the wall and note the different angles of pitch of the 2 gables, and old ridge marks of a former roofline on the Vicarage.

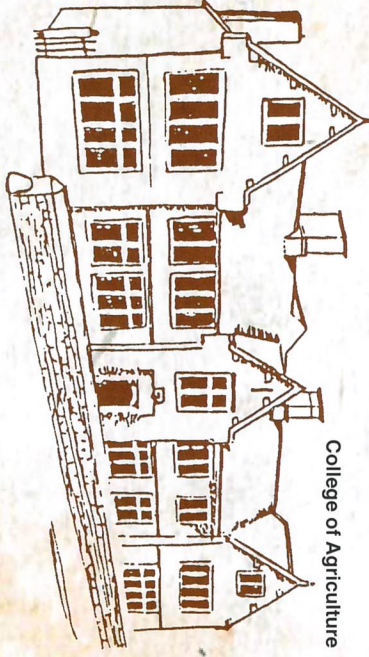
**30** Dolphin Cottage - formerly The Dolphin Pub - has an interesting weather vane just opposite (between Nos. 3 and 5) and can be seen with a pig in the wall which was once the water supply for all the adjoining cottages. A terrace of cottages once stood where the Church Hall has been built.

**31** The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is the oldest village building. Parts date from the 13thC. Earlier buildings occupied the site once and Saxon stones can be seen in the walls here and there. Inside is the remains of a fine Saxon Cross. There is a sheep and a pig carved into the stone on the ends of the clerestory roof eaves. The Church was completed in 1422 when the upper stage of the tower was built. It holds a fine set of 12 bells. Walk up Church Street noting the raised pavements. **32** Benwill House - another former Post Office. The curved terrace of cottages **33** is interesting. On the right are the Public Gardens **34**.



Parade House

**35** Parade House - note the datestone. This shop shows evidence of its earlier use as a bakehouse - large upper door where the floor hoist was located. **36**



College of Agriculture

**20** Bay Tree Cottage - originally 2 thatched cottages (note the old roof line). John Blunt, a stonemason (in the quarry?) lived here for 50 years until his death in 1891 when the cottages were sold for £42-10s-0d.

**19** The Poplars Hotel - standing back to front - has been a hotel since 1922, but in 1887 it was described in deeds as 'farmhouse, bakehouse and mixed hereditaments'.

**18** This was once The Shoulder of Mutton Public House, typical pub steps!

**17** Across the road are the cottages of 'the Nurseries' - derivation of the name is uncertain - some of them were farm buildings. Note the firemark on the wall of number 29, which showed the insurance was paid so the fire could be extinguished! Not paid, it burned down!

**16** Among interesting cottages in Cross Street is The Hollies, behind which was a stone quarry. It closed in 1890.

**15** Moulton Players Theatre, which was once the Village Methodist Church (1835).

**14** Moulton is a group of cottages, one still thatched, known as Walker's Yard. Many such yards were once to be found clustered round a well. Here the well remains but most are filled in, or covered up. Walker's Yard was the location of one of the last 'home pig killings', a great attraction to the village boys on a Saturday afternoon in 1946.

**13** Manfield Hall in the High Street was once the Village Hall. Presented to the village by the Manfield family (Manfield Shoes). Now a church.

**12** Moulton's Crowfields Common, 25 acres of open countryside for you to explore and enjoy.

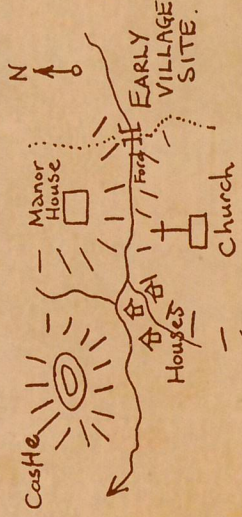
**11** The 'Old Boot Inn', once a bakehouse too! Note the red bricks of many houses in High Street; they came from the local brick works in Grove Farm Lane area in the 19thC.

**10** Stocks Hill. Note the village sign with local traditions display. Lovely ornate gable-end bargeboards on 1 to 3.

**9** Chequer House - 1700. Probably it was a 'longhouse' in medieval times. Once it was the Chequers Pub! Continue down Jubilee Hill (now called Cross Street), much changed since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1887, where an oak tree was planted on a grass triangle in the middle of the junction. Most of the similar features until the advent of the

## A Brief History

To the south of Moulton the remains of a Roman Villa were excavated by the Northampton Development Corporation. There are suggestions of even earlier settlement nearby at Round Spiney where a stone circle was found. Recent researches on the higher land on the north side of the village suggest Stone Age hunting and perhaps settlement too. The name 'Moulton' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'ton', meaning an enclosure together with either the word for a mill or a stream. A mill is recorded in the village in the Domesday Book. An alternative derivation may be 'Mereton' - a protected enclosure, since the early village site lay within 3 low hills of defence. All within bowshot of each other - the castle, the Church and Manor House.



Throughout the medieval period, the village was noted for its 'Chalybeate Waters' (iron water). This and substantial additions to the Church seem to indicate a degree of prosperity and importance for the village. During the 16thC, the area underwent the ravages of the plague and during the religious bitterness prevailing in Henry VIII's time, several vicars were 'on the wrong side' and the village no doubt suffered as a result. Before the Civil War the population of the village was about 450.

Agriculture was the mainstay of the community's economy but lace making by the womenfolk was very common as a cottage industry. Several buildings with origins in the 17th and 18thC seem to indicate specialist building tradesmen by this time. It is also said that there was a clay pipe industry here in the 18thC.

The home shoe trade does not appear to have been as important here as in other villages in the locality. After factories became established in Northampton many villagers travelled daily to work in the town. Most of the older buildings are built of local sandstone, which gets its distinctive colour from its iron content. Some of the later buildings are constructed of local red bricks made in the village brickworks in The Grove, which closed early century.

**'I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL  
AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMONS ALL'**

Inscription on the Tenor bell of Moulton Parish Church.



... in the heart of the Northamptonshire countryside