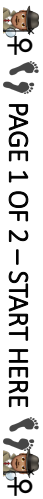


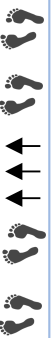


Crayke Village Trail

Crayke (the name possibly comes from the Saxon word 'Crecæ', meaning crag or rock) has a long history, with archaeological evidence showing occupation since Neolithic times. It seems to have been a key staging point on an ancient trackway going north – south. There is strong evidence of a Saxon settlement, possibly a monastery, on the hill. Indeed records show that in 685 Crayke and the land three miles around it was given to Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, as a resting place on journeys to York. Thus started Crayke's long association with Durham. Local finds include a polished stone axe head, dated to 3000BC, Roman pottery (possibly associated with Crayke's use as an inland signal station built as part of the Roman defences in the 4th century), a 7th century pendant, a fragment of a 9th century stone cross and a curious hastily constructed burial pit containing one female and fifteen male skeletons. Are they Saxon monks, plague victims or maybe victims of William the Conqueror's Harrying of the North? The Domesday Book (1086) shows Crayke's value had halved since the time of Edward the Confessor, almost certainly the result of William's actions. For more information on Crayke History visit our website: www.craykehhistory.uk



Start the trail at the top of the hill. Go past the church and on your left, as the road bends to the south is **The Old Rectory (1)**, much altered in 1803-5 by Rector Robert Gray, who began the addition of a third storey which had to be demolished in 1839, after high winds showed it had made the building very unstable. Turn back and go down the hill. On your right, set sideways to the road is **Church Farm (2)**, once the village blacksmith's forge. Further down stands the modestly named **Crayke Cottage (3)**, thought to have been built in 1852 as the curate's house, it was the birthplace of William Ralph Inge, who was Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London from 1911-34.



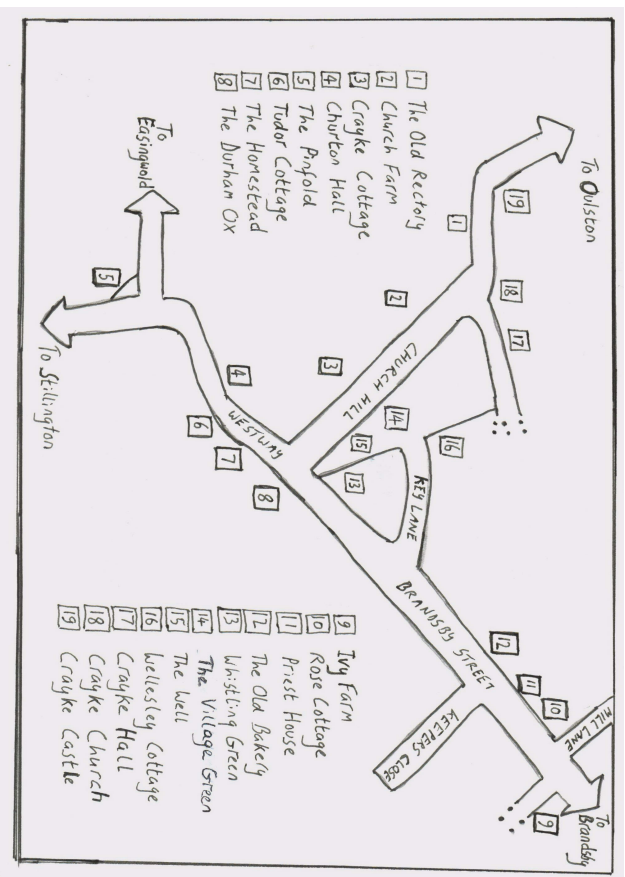
The Old Rectory (1) ↓



Crayke Cottage (3) ↑



Turn right at the bottom of the hill and head down Westway. This street was known as School Street until relatively recently, as **Churton Hall (4)** (on your right) was the original school house. Opened in 1846, it was erected at the expense of the Reverend Edward Churton and other benefactors for the free education of boys, later enlarged to take girls. The rectors were hard taskmasters, records show a high turnover of schoolmasters in the 1870s with money, poor school attendance, low standards and inability to play the organ being cited as problems. Part of the bell tower fell down in 1971, after being struck by lightning, and in 1972 a new school was built on the site of the old Village Institute. The old school, now a private house, became the village hall, named in memory of Edward Churton. Head further down the hill and cross the Easingwold road. Behind the hedge on the small green in front of you at the corner you will find **The Pinfold (5)**, where straying farm animals were kept after being rounded up. This was not the first pinfold in the village. It was built in 1852, after the Reverend Churton became exasperated by the noise the animals made when held in the original one beside the church. Farmers had to pay a fine to both the person whose land they had strayed on to, and to the pound keeper before the animals were released.



Now cross over towards Town End Farm and head back up Westway. Looking up the road, you will see that, as with much of the village, the original cobbles remain in place. First you will come to **Tudor Cottage (6)** with its original timber frame, thought to date from the early 17th century. Further up, outside **The Homestead (7)**, you will also see by the steps to the house some staddle stones, these were traditional rodent proof footings for grain stores. It was built in 1782 by William Bayston, hence WB on the gable.



Tudor Cottage (6) ↑



Head up past **The Durham Ox** (8), onto Brandsby Street. The Durham Ox is over 300 years old and is named after the famous Shorthorn Ox of immense size and weight. It also references Crayke's link to Durham, to which county it belonged until 1844. This status made the parish a favourite haunt for those poaching in the Forest of Galtres, as they could escape prosecution by York authorities. When Crayke had 3 or 4 public houses, names such as The Greyhound show no attempt to disguise poaching activities.

Churton Hall (4) ↑



The Durham Ox
(8) ↑

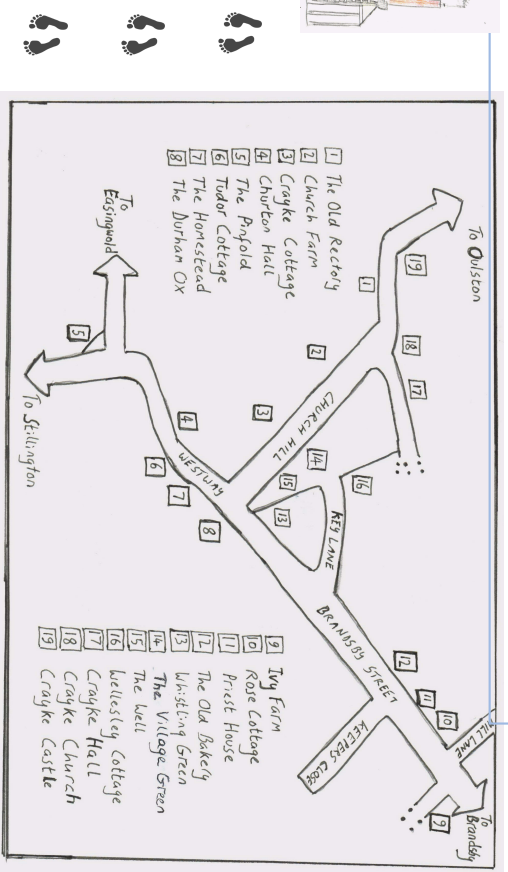
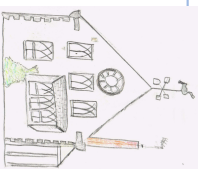


Walk all the way down to the last house on Brandsby Street on your right (you will need to cross the road as there is no pavement). This is **Ivy Farm House (9)**, which was in 1560 (although the plaque on the house dates from Stephen Cliff's time). Go a few steps down the lane beside it to see its timber framing at the rear. Now go back across the road and head up into the village. On your right you will see several properties of significant age: **Rose Cottage (10)** and **Priest Cottages (11)** next door. Rose Cottage served as a Catholic chapel from 1794 to 1833 (Catholic worship being legal again in England in 1791). Historically, Crayke has been a multi-faith village with Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Quaker buildings at one time or another. Go a little further and you come to **The Old Bakery (12)**, originally belonging to Charles Hogg Builders. A long established business, it was responsible for key village works such as enlarging Crayke Manor in the 1890s for Stephen Cliff, who had bought most of Crayke Estate and whose family still own much of it. The property then became

Banks' Bakery.
Rose Cottage (10) ↓



↓
Whistling Green (13) →



Now head up **Key Lane**. This was originally known as Kiln Lane, a clue to early pottery works in the village. On your left you will see the original Methodist Chapel, now a house. It was replaced by the chapel on Church Hill. Turn left at the top and walk down to this chapel, now also a house named

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Whistling Green (13). It dates from 1902. Looking back up the hill, you will see the

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Village Green (14), where bonfires were held to celebrate key events including Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Picture postcards survive of children sledding

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down the hill in the snow. In front of you is **The Well (15)**. Crayke has many natural springs and wells. It was blocked up in 1933, when piped water came to the village. Crayke resident Mr Hogg, who was born in 1885, recalled a Mr Cooper, well sinker, being gassed in it when he went down to save his son who had got into difficulties. Only the boy survived.

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