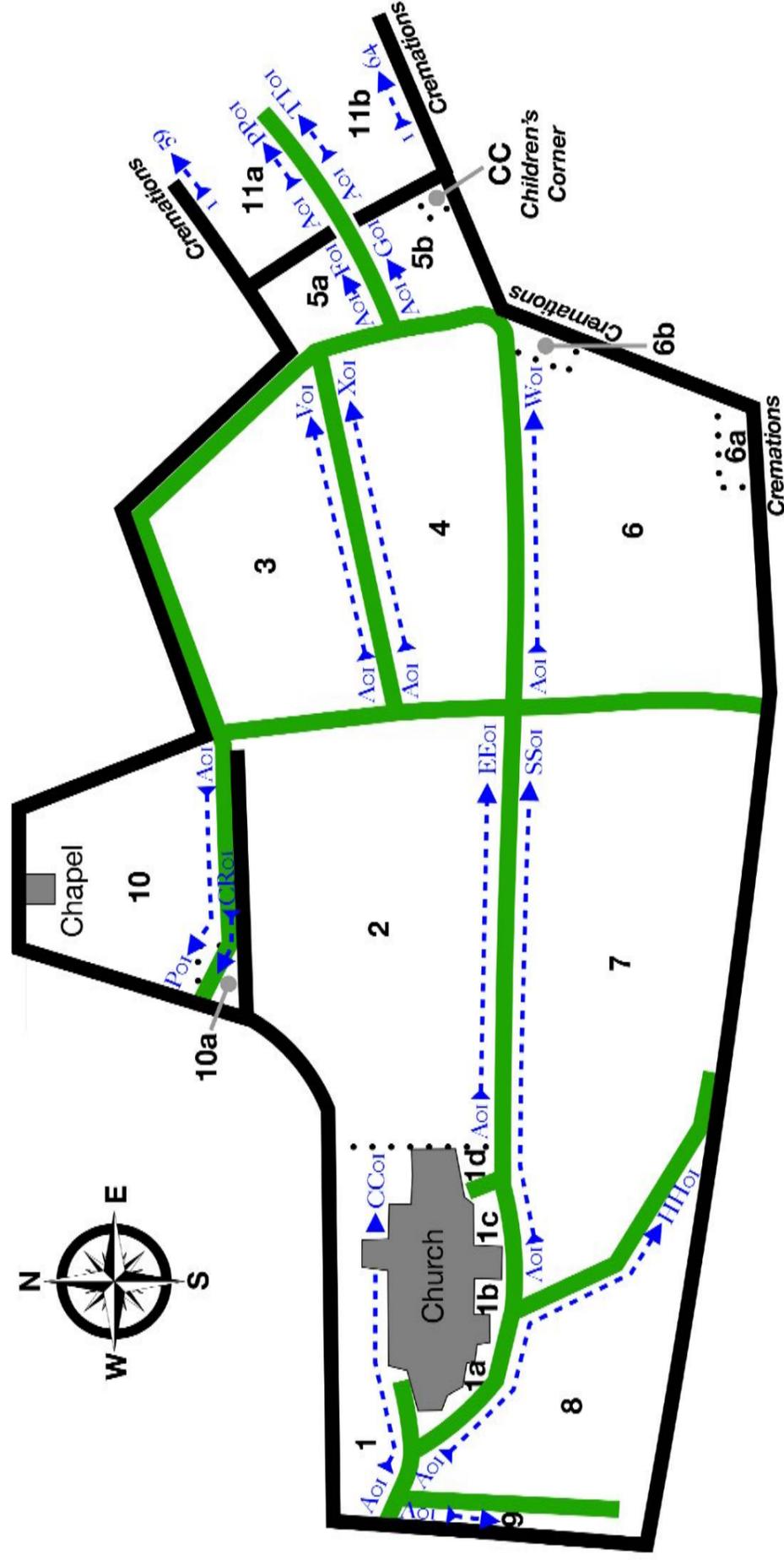


The St Mary's map with plot numbers and row information



HOW TO FIND A GRAVE

Using the reference books (1&2) located in the church and at Brixham Library:

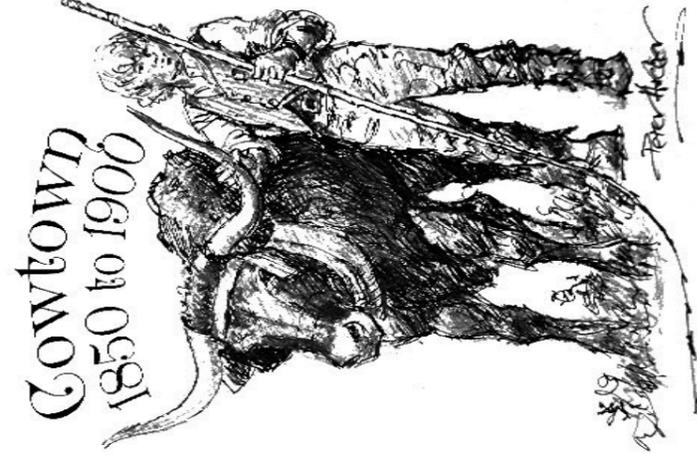
1. Find surname in book 1.
2. Identify plot number & row number in last column.
3. Go to book 2 and look up the plot number and row.
4. To make your search easier, from book 2, note the name on the first grave in the row and also the names on either side of the grave you are researching.
5. Look at the map of the graveyard (above and in front of the books) to find the plot location.

Please note:

- Rows are recorded A – Z and then AA – ZZ.
- Some graves do not have headstones but are numbered in the row.

See our website for further details:

brixhamstmaryschurchgraveyard.org.uk



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Cowtown Historic Walk
Brixham St. Mary's Church

Find a Grave



COWTOWN HISTORY WALK

A gentle 2 ½ mile stroll around the most historic area of Brixham taking around an hour.

Start at **1** "Great Gate", the Bolton Street side of Rea Barn Road, the main junction between Cowtown and Fishtown. The name "Great Gate" is thought to originate from a Norman Castle, this area being the gateway. Notice the house on the corner dated 1636, much changed over the centuries. Next door, a modern plaque advises us to "Stop and pay Nicholas Petherbridge 1720. The Great Gate hangs well and hinders none. Refresh and pay and travel on". Cross the junction towards Burton Street, this would have passed through a building that was the Masonic Lodge. This was built in 1801 on the site of ancient almshouses.

Walk along Greenwood Road and cross Doctor's Road where the River Eden goes underground. Look right to see **2** Eveleigh House, one of many built by Mr. Gillard of Black House for his daughters on their marriage. Notice the pointed windows and the same arch over the garden gate. We will see them again.

Continue up Drew Street past St Kilda Terrace. A Victorian terrace for the up and coming middle classes with Mr Smelt, a photographer, living there in 1897. **3** St Kilda was a grand house and garden. Spot the windows and porch and the lions looking down from the guttering. Pretor House has the large Monkey Puzzle tree, possibly brought back from the Victorian occupiers "Grand Tour" of South America.

Cross Knick Knack Lane, the name having its origin in Nathaniel Lake Lane. **4** The Skipper was The Town Arms and in 1878 James Rowe was the landlord. The carriage entrance on the left leads to outbuildings which would have stabled the horses. **5** No 61 is a late medieval cross passage house, originally a long passage with 3 rooms leading off, one housing livestock. Note the much wider door than normal allowing the cows to enter! Opposite is the **6** Non-Conformist Chapel of Rest, dated 1861. Rear doors lead out to the burial ground behind. The Edwardian Chapel House next door is one of only a few buildings in the area built of exposed limestone and yellow brick. There is a very similar design further up Milton Street.

Drew Street Council School was opened in 1913. Next to the entrance is another passage

house dating from 13th Century. The doorway has been narrowed and is at one end rather than along one side of the building. As the road bends, on the left was **7** Ring O' Bells Pub. The last landlord was George Philp who was often summonsed for selling liquor during prohibited hours. It was replaced with the current houses between the wars. **8** A small path now leads down to Eden Park Primary School which was built on an orchard that belonged to Church Farm. The school logo has a tree that remembers this. Next door is The Myrtles and the architect had some fun here. Look at the key stone details above the door off the driveway but you are being watched by the men above the front windows!

We are now entering the area of St Mary's Square, which is the historical heart of Cowtown. Shops have come and gone over the years and the present shop is an obvious modern addition. The Lych Gate of the Church was originally a medieval two storey cottage, in disrepair by 1897 it was remodelled as the gateway. Rev. Morris added the crenellations later.

9 Church Farm is 17th century and was originally a two room cross passage house with a long wing behind. Notice the leaded windows distorted by time and weather The Bell Inn is early 19th Century. In

1878 William Poole served the ale. The Waterman's Arms is thought to be early post medieval. On the Horsepool Street side is a wide carriage entrance. The Ash family were long term landlords in the 19th century. The phone box is Grade 2 listed and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935. Near this spot was the stone St Mary's Cross which was removed in 1781 as it was "incommodious for wheeled carriages". It was used as infill for Beggar's, now Bakers Hill. This was replaced by a well, later a pump was added and then a stone pillar with a tap known as the "Town Shute". At the Square note the smaller windows of the cottage in the corner. Next to number 11 were cottages which were knocked down in the 1930s.

Turn right down Horsepool Street. The "pool" was on the left at the bottom of the hill where a small car park is now. The stream once operated Horsepool Mill. Part of a mill and a millers house still stand as **10** Goat House which also had other uses through the ages. Polhearne Lane led to Polhearne Farm which is now under Margaret Clitheroe School. It was first documented in 1581. Only the high stone boundary wall remains. There was a well in the right corner where a small car park is now. Opposite Polhearne Lane on the edge of Dashpers (formerly Frogwell Lane) is Brookdale House. Its genteel Georgian facade hides a much older building.

11 Greenover Farm was at one time Hill Farm and through many years was worked by the Elliott family. It was originally a three room passage house. There is a pump in the grounds dated 1746. An unusual carpenter's mark gouged in an original roof timber is an Arabic 4. The outbuildings and a threshing barn are now houses. As with much of Cowtown there was an orchard here.

On the left is **12** Hill House. Originally late medieval or possibly even earlier. Note the alterations carried out over many centuries, the change in roof line by the door, the change of soffits, square leaded windows in front and diamond on the side and the obvious modern extension at the rear. Inside there is an early 18th century staircase. In 1840 this was owned by Henry Chilcote, a wealthy landowner.

Cross Horsepool Street with care and turn left up Mathill. Cross Park Avenue. Notice the **13** Modernist house, Sunpark, built in the 1930s. In 1850 this was all fields owned by William Gillard of Black House. Carry on along Mathill and before you turn left at the end, look ahead. Before it was quarried away this

was Brixham's "Moot Hill", an outcrop used in Saxon times as an assembly or meeting place to decide local issues. So Moot Hill became Mathill. Turn left around the bend and ahead is **14** Laywell House. This grand home was given for the care of the elderly of Brixham by Mrs Hay Matthay in 1958.

Below the present house was Laywell Spring. First recorded in 1693 by Dr William Oliver who noted "A remarkable well sometimes bubbles up like a boiling pot". A rare natural occurrence, it ebbed and flowed. Beginning with a vibration on the surface it soon changed into a violent current with bubbles forcing their way to the surface making a hollow murmuring sound. It must have appeared magical in ancient times. Early in the 1840's either roadworks or nearby quarrying upset the natural geology and all this stopped.

Carry on down Summer Lane. Look to the skyline on the opposite Southdown Hill. You may just be able make out the remains of "Black Barn", a prominent land mark before it was destroyed by fire. The remaining large buttresses hint it was once a more important structure than a simple barn. Turn left down Milton Street. Here is **15** Laywell Cottage and **16** Alymer is a Grade 2* villa built by the Gillard family of Black House for a marrying daughter. Note the porch and the windows are in the same style as the earlier Eveleigh House.

Opposite is **17** Luzon. Captain Martin lived here in 1866 when he only just survived the Great Gale, his Brig "Zoe" being dashed to pieces on the rocks at Churston losing most of his crew. A pathway leads between the bungalows and the block of flats which is known as Church Walk, the route for the occupants of Laywell House to get to Church.

Where the flats are now was **18** Nut Tree Cottage which was demolished in the 1970's. During WW2 three members of the British Resistance lived there hiding their huge stash of weapons and explosives in the outbuildings in case of invasion. Opposite the flats are **19** Hearthstone East and West. Thought to be early post medieval, Mrs Honore Morrow, an American novelist lived there in the 1930s.

Cross over Upton Manor Road, leading to Upton Manor which was mentioned in the Domesday book. Also the bottom of Southdown Hill which was a main routeway to Kingswear and Dartmouth. The cottage at the bottom is known as **20** Annie Tolchard's Cottage, much photographed in the Victorian era. Opposite is **21** Verbena, an early medieval house. Note the frame and chain on the apex. In the late 19th century it was a "Dame" School. A simple school run by local women. The tall buildings in front are known as "The Follies". Past this on the right is **22** now a bay fronted cottage that was a Blacksmith's forge. You can still see catches to hold open the wide doors. In 1880 the Primitive Methodist Chapel and school rooms were built on land given by William Varwell. It cost £475 to build and was finished in 1889 but the final debt not paid until 1910.

Look right to see the original hayloft and stables for **23** The Pound, set back from road. The building next to the road was Brixham cider pound. Records show it was running from 1485 and operated until 1880-90. It later became a series of potteries before being converted into houses in 2001. Pound Cottage and next door have some medieval features and were originally used as accommodation, storage and sales for the cider pound. Behind the high stone wall is **24** The Lodge and The Lilacs. Originally one house, it was the home to Dr. Tucker in the 1850's. At his burial it was said he was a good man who treated the poor for free. Originally owned by Nicholas Gillard, a wealthy landowner, who married a daughter of the Black House Gillards.

25 Black House, and it's now separate wings, was home to the Gillard family who were solicitors for many generations. The dates are slightly misleading as this records the history of buildings on the site. The garden opposite has a historic orchard and used to house many exotic plants from the Gillard trips around the world. There are many ghost stories told about the house. Note the pointed arch in the back garden and recall the Eveleigh House and Almyer windows. Also spot the "Tradesman's" gate to the side.

26 Norton House opposite is early 19th century and another house built for a marrying daughter of the Gillards. Like The Lodge, it is aligned at right angles to the street. Spot the familiar pointed arch windows and doors. Attached is Trosbie Cottage, another passage house, remodelled to become a service wing for the later Norton House. The upper windows were changed to match the same design but note evidence of a much wider door behind the more modern porch. Return back to St Mary's Square

Turn right up Bakers Hill, **27** the large stone building at the top was firstly the workhouse, then a courthouse then a school and now housing. Note various blocked up doors and windows over the years. Petty court sessions moved here in 1861. It was used as a mortuary after the 1866 Great Gale and a place of confinement during Cholera outbreaks. In 1878 Miss George was appointed Schoolmistress of the new school.

The high wall on the right is St Mary's Park. Brixham Council bought two fields called Castle Parks in 1938 to create the park. Turn left into **28** St Mary's Church Graveyard. We are now following the last walk of Rev. Carey who left his deathbed to give an emotional final sermon in 1900. After the second set of steps turn right through the Graveyard, stopping to read some inscriptions along the way. They were the people who lived in the houses we have looked at.

Leave the Graveyard opposite **4** the Skipper and turn right to return to Great Gate. **29** The Lord Nelson Inn was further down on the right. The square arch would have allowed coaches behind. The Landlord in 1851 was James Pearse having taken over from his father Thomas.

Turn down the lane by The Three Elms pub and at the end look right towards **30** the shop which was Castor Farm and the West of England Corn Steam Mills. The machines were first tested in August 1850 Turn left then right at the junction. Go past **31** Brixham Hospital built in 1928 and paid for by Charles Hellyer on land known as Drew's Show Field or Crews Orchard. Bernard Astley left money to the hospital along with restoring the fortunes of Brixham Rugby Club. Hoskins lemonade factory and warehouses next to the drive are now housing and we are now back at Great Gate.

Hope you have enjoyed this brief exploration of Cowtown.

