



**discover
LUDHAM**

A self-guided walking tour around the village

This book has been produced by the Ludham Community Archive Group as part of its work of researching the village. This is a continuing process that will record events to help local historians of the future. From time to time the Archive group produces booklets, CD ROM's and DVD's.

The plan for this book is to encourage visitors to explore the village, to obtain an introductory amount of information about the buildings and to take away with them a small, permanent record of their visit. The book is organised so that each building is numbered and its numbered location can be found on the map in the centre pages. By choosing a combination of buildings and looking at the map the reader can organise their own self guided walk, making it as short or as long as they wish. Please remember that most of these buildings are private property. Please respect this.

My thanks must go to the artists who have drawn the delightful sketches to illustrate the booklet. They are Kathy Bugden, Linda Cruickshank, Kathie Jones, Nancy Legg and Roger Watts. Thanks are also due to the many villagers who have contributed to the information to be found here.

Roger Watts, Autumn 2005
Re-edited by Jon Simpson, January 2015

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1. St. Catherine's Church

In the centre of the village, much of the building is in 15C perpendicular style (nave and aisle), but with a 14C chancel in decorated style. The present church was built on the site of earlier one which in 1220 was taken over by St. Benet's Abbey. On the south side of the church, note the priest's door leading to the chancel and to the right the scratch dial, which with the aid of a pointer would show the time of a service. Inside the church take time to see the tympanic painting of the crucifixion, thought to have been painted

locally in the reign of Mary Tudor and on the reverse the canvas painted with the Coat of Arms of Elizabeth I. Of special note on the 15C font is the figure of the Green Man or Woodwose on One side with a female one on the other, (believed to be the only example in the country), showing a rare link to an earlier tradition.

2. Sunnyside

Restored in 2002, it is believed that Sunnyside dates back to the 1600's indicated by the brickwork and low ceilings. In 1842 it was known as the Royal Exchange, a small beer house with no cellar. Above the front door (but now covered and preserved under the facing work), oyster shells are present. These are believed to be a 'good-luck' symbol to protect the inhabitants from harm.



3. Staithe House

The staithe was here and local farmers and traders would have brought and collected goods from the wherries that worked the waterways. The Clarke family owned the house for much of the 19C and operated several wherries, one of which was named Harriet. The remains of a lime kiln is located at the rear of the house. At the end of 19C the wherry trade declined and the house became a private dwelling.

4. The Dutch House

Once named Walnut Tree House this is one of Ludham's oldest houses, built in 1603. Its Flemish bond brickwork with red stretchers and blue headers and gable ends show links with the Low Countries. It was the home of artist Edward Seago from

1947 to his death in 1974. It is here that much of his painting was completed.



5. Hall Common Farm

Characterised by its Dutch gables and thatched roof it is larger than the Dutch House. There was once a very similar house adjacent to it in the walled garden to the left. This was destroyed by fire in the early 20C. It belonged to the Bond family in the latter part of 19C, once owners of the well known store in Norwich that is part of the John Lewis Group.



6. Ludham Hall (Hall Farm)

This is on the site of an earlier building destroyed in 1611. It was part of the estates of the Bishop of Norwich. Bishop Harsnett (1561-1631) built the chapel, now a workshop and store, which was consecrated on Christmas Day 1627. The house received a new front in about 1810. In recent years the farm and its land has been owned by the Norwich Union but is presently owned by the Crown Estates.

7. Hall Farm - Great Barn

Believed to date from 1627. Brick construction with nine bays divided by buttresses. Addition of two buttresses in late 18C to south gable. See honey comb brick ventilation grids, two of which have been opened out and formed into windows.



8. Pike's Nursery

Gilbert Pike ran a small market garden here until he died. The land was sold by auction in 1988 to Steward Bros. The building programme started in 1990. The sketches for this residential development were prepared by local artist Martin Walton and this development was featured in 'Country Life' magazine. The two pillars near the roadway were built to help support a bridging arch but the archway was never built.

9. The Limes

Houses in this part of the village seem to follow the Saxon street plan, many of them being built end on to the road. The Limes is one of these and is next door to Fern Cottage. Butchering was done in what now the garage, from which pigs could be heard squealing. In the space between the garages and the cottages was a shed in which the carrier's wagon was kept at the beginning of the 20C.



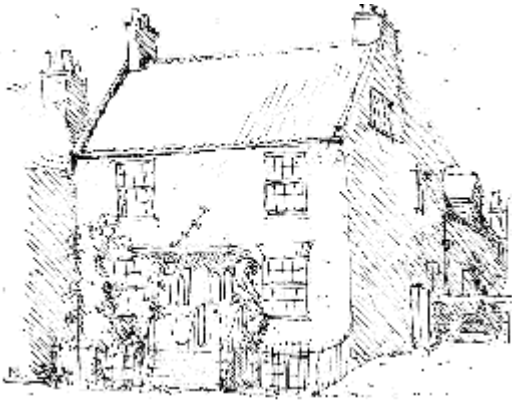
10. Alma Cottages

These late Victorian cottages were named after the Battle of Alma in the Crimean war (1854). They are typical cottages, see also West Terrace (27).

11. Cottages

Probably dating from the late 17th Century and originally comprising up to five dwellings. The building at the right-hand end (dating from 18C) has been in business use for over one hundred years, first of all housing a saddlery, which, with the demise of the horse in agriculture, became a hardware store, gem shop and after that a cafe and restaurant. By this cottage a mounting can be found. This was originally located on the opposite side of the road, but was moved here when the road was widened. The left-hand end of the group has been a carpentry shop, a post office and also a pub called The Royal Oak (prior to 1729) at different times. It shows 'tumbling in' a type of decorative brickwork on the gable end. Look for Norwich Union Fire Mark on the building.





12. Church View

Known in the village as 'The Step Houses' they were built in about 1800. Though they appear to share some symmetry in appearance, they are quite different internally. They have four storeys including a semi-basement. At one time the right-hand house was lived in by Mr Riches, carpenter and undertaker.

13. Church Room

The Church Room was built in the early part of the 20C in Arts and Crafts Style. It was designed by the Norwich architect, Edward Boardman who lived locally at How Hill House. It was built on the site of the old National School (built 1841). A plaque from this can be seen on the front wall. A front porch was demolished when the road was widened in the 1960's.



14. Retail Shop (now the Butchers)

On a map of 1842, it is shown as being owned by William Fairhead, a carrier who travelled to Norwich with his cart on a Wednesday and Saturday. His daughter Clarissa kept a small general shop next door. It has also been a General store and a Café.

15. Crown House

This had been a public house from 1752 called the Crown. It was de-licenced in 1907 when Ebenezer Newton bought it. He was a corn and coal merchant and also the local carrier. One of his jobs was to arrange for the migration of those in the area who wanted a new life abroad. In the front hedge can be seen the metal shaft of the hitching rail where horses were secured. The uprights are now short concrete posts.



16. Manor Whin

Part of a terrace of houses and (formerly) shops that date from the middle of the 18C. Built of white washed brick under thatched roofs. The larger house was The Ship Inn in 1794. Opposite these cottages stood the Baker Arms Public House which was demolished to enable the widening of the road at this point. The village sign stands on part of this site.



17. Manor Croft and Manor Gates

Now private residential accommodation, this interesting group of buildings has had varied history. From the early 1800's to 1858 it was the vicarage, backing as it does directly on to the churchyard. It later became the Spread Eagle pub, then a lodging house and later a Temperance Hotel. The small single storey annex to the right was once the communal bake house.





18. Rose Cottage

It is thought that what is now Rose Cottage was originally three cottages for farm workers. It was built towards the end of the 17C. It was restored in the 1970's and Little Cottage was restored in the 1980's. In the first half of the twentieth century this would have been next to fields at the edge of the village.

19. The Beeches Farmhouse

The oldest part was built in 1723 and was part of Beeches Farm until 1980. The later extension was added in 1913. Now a private house and named just The Beeches. At the entrance to the drive were two Beech trees which gave the house its name. Only one Beech tree now remains.



20. Beeches Farm Barn

This barn dates back to 1748. This is given on a badly worn panel on the South end of the barn. The barn has been part of a stables area for much of its life. At the time of publication of this booklet the barn had received planning consent for conversion into holiday accommodation, so extensive remodelling may follow.

21. Fen Side

Originally part of Harrison's Farm which included a thatched open boatshed where the wherry Zoe was built and several more were repaired. The earliest (rear) part of the house believed built in 18C, The road frontage is larger and was built during the Victorian period. This has resulted in two gables with a valley gutter. The porch was added in 1979.



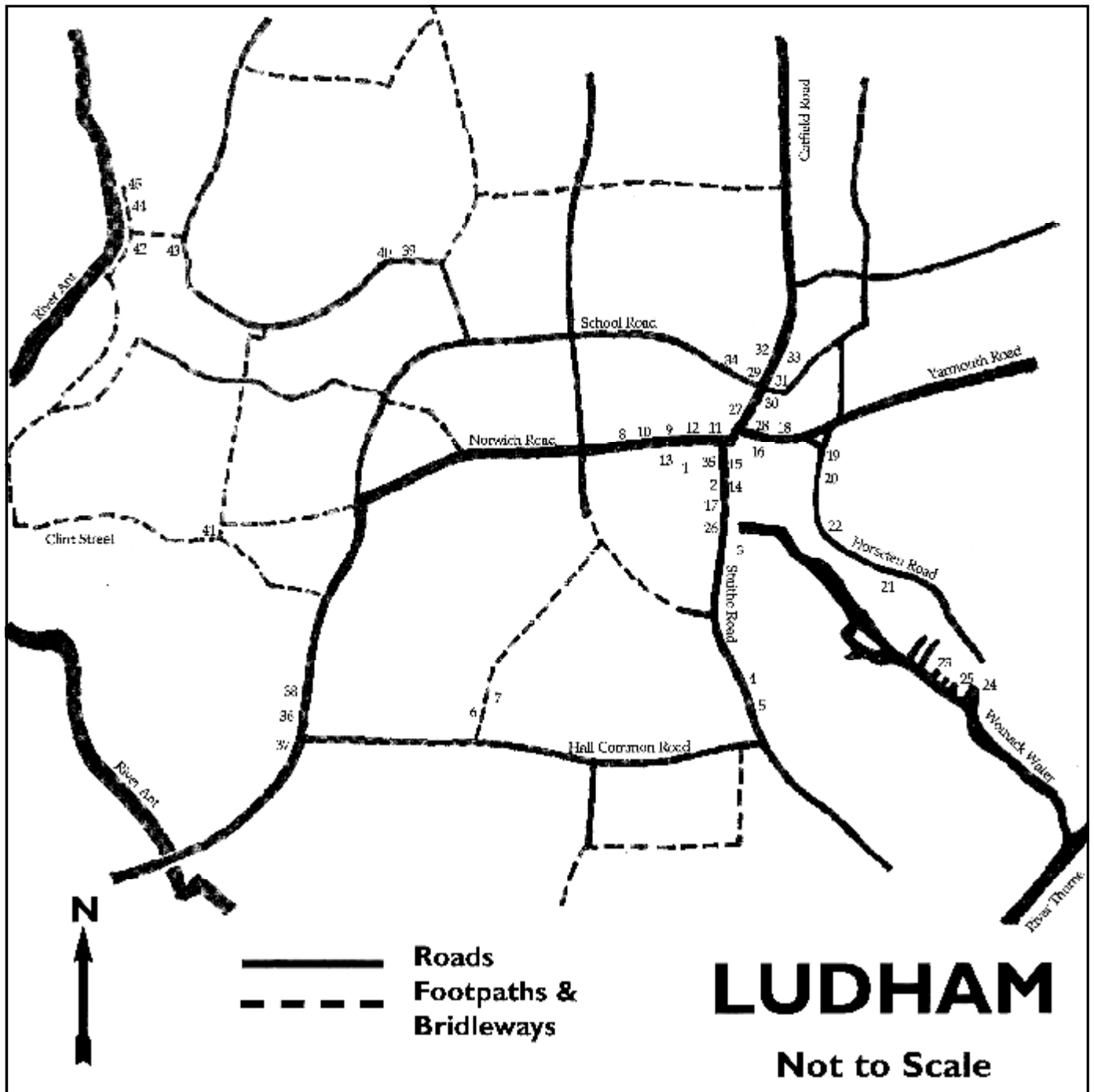
22. The Malthouse

Believed to have been built in the 1850's. Opposite to one of the village staithes it was ideally sited for transfer of malted barley by wherry to other destinations in the area. To the right hand side of the building were two brick kilns, with clay coming from a pit near High Mill on the Yarmouth road. Both industries were in decline by the early part of the 20C. In 1965 the Malthouse was restored and converted into ten holiday units for let and the brick kilns were demolished. The back of the Malthouse looks quite different from the front.

23. Swallowtail Boatyard

Built in 1994 it shows simple 'board and bat' cladding over a pre-fabricated steel framework, complying with the Broads Authority guidelines for commercial and industrial buildings in the Broads area. New boats are built here, particularly, the successful Broads yacht, "the Bure Classic". Repair and restoration is also carried out.





24. Hunter's Yard

Both dyke and shed were built by Percy Hunter and his sons in 1931. By the following year the first two cabin yachts had been designed and built (Lustre and Lullaby) to form the basis of the fleet. The Hustler and Wood classes of cabin yacht swiftly followed, until a fleet of fourteen boats were in hire. The yard became an education centre in 1968, but the Education Department felt it necessary to close the yard in 1995. Fortunately a Trust has taken over the reins and these historic craft continue to be available to Broads sailors.





25. Broads Authority Field Base

Built in 1993 on land provided by Norfolk County Council, the building has a commanding view across the Thurne valley and Horsefen marshes. It is built in a style reflecting the local boatyards and is used as the field base for the Broads authority. It provides workshop and planning facilities for boat maintenance, signage and footpath construction and

maintenance. On the first floor is a small conference and meeting room.

26. Town House

The Town House is on the site of the Parish Poorhouses. It is not known if this building was the original Town House (it was sold in 1790 for £50), but the decorative brickwork under the guttering is of the same type as at Fritton House which was built in 1797. The poorhouses were in the garden to the south of Town House and were occupied until the early 1950's, when they were demolished.



27. West Terrace

Once red brick with small windows and plank doors. Some had ovens installed. The front door would have led straight into the front parlour. Stairs were in the 'front room' on one side of the fireplace, with a cupboard on the other. Brick sheds in the long strip of garden housed the coal store and a pail toilet. A communal pump was at the back. The sites of former wells have also been found at the rear. They were renovated in 1974.



28. The Cat's Whiskers

May originally have been a two roomed cottage. The Cat's Whiskers has had many uses over the years. It has been a corn store for Hubert Newton who lived next door at The Firs, a cobblers shop, a waste paper depot during the war, a cycle shop, an agent for Broads holidays and at least three hair dressers. The building has been extended but is still in the same position.



29. Cook's Corner

One of the earliest properties in the village. Known in 19C as Town Farm and as The Stores from the early part of 20C, it was used as such for many years. Tea rooms were on the top floor of the corner cottage. The top floor of the cottages facing Catfield Road have windows called "coffin windows". They are the only way coffins can be taken out of the properties as the stairs are too narrow and steep. Two of the properties retain their original design of wooden gutters. In the 1990's it was sold off as three private two bedroom cottages. Known locally as Cook's Corner.



30. The Firs

Built by Simon Grapes the miller at High Mill on Yarmouth Road in about 1865. Hubert Newton and his wife were there in 1929; he was also a miller using High Mill. He installed an engine in a building at the rear of the Firs where he ground corn into meal and flour. This mill building is now called The Old Barn which can be seen from Latchmore Park.



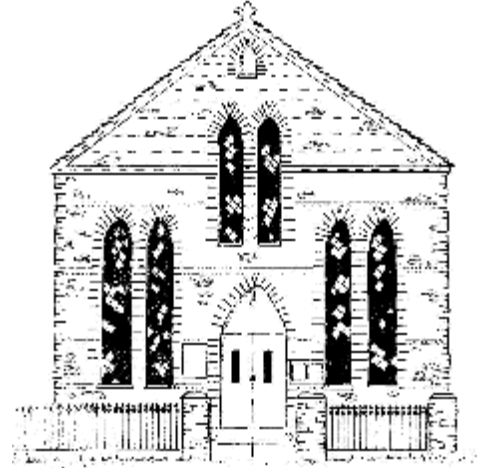


31. Albury House

Dating from the early 19C, it is of pleasing proportion with interesting cast iron details of lion heads in the gutter supports. On the right hand side of the building near to the first ground floor window was the door to an old butcher's shop. This was run by Mary Ann Clark during the 19C along with a 13 acre farm. Beyond the house was a large thatched barn which burned down in the 1950's. On this site there is now a bungalow.

32. Ludham Methodist Church

The foundation stone was laid in 1866 and the church was opened in 1867 at a cost of £565. Of particular note is the symmetry of the building, pierced by tall elegant leaded windows, the outside surface is clad with square-dressed flint and red brick bandings. Designed by local man, Mr. Chaplin.



33. Folly House

During the early part of the 20C a cycle shop and garage was situated in the front garden of the house and two petrol pumps were at the roadside. A cycle repair workshop was sited to the right of the building. At one time the home of the actor William Mervyn, who housed his collection of classic cars in the garage; a 1924 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, a 1911 Renault, a 1909 Opel Doktorwagen and a 1927 Type 35 Bugatti.

34. Ludham School

Built as the Ludham School Board in 1873, on the site of Town Farm Great Barn, it is built in the Victorian style with decorative bricks over the windows and doors and a dated panel over the west porch. The School House can be seen to the right; this is now a private dwelling. The school opened in 1874 with room for 140 pupils. There was no school field originally so pupils used a near-by meadow, part of the Grange Estate, for games. It is believed that in the early days the school taught approximately 120 pupils. Recently, in its role as First School, there have been approximately 50 pupils and it will be a Junior School from September 2006 with an expected roll of about 110.



35. The Old Post Office

It was run as a Post Office from 1923 by George and Helen Thrower. Groceries and Patent medicines were sold, a Taxi Service was operated and on summer Sundays George was to be seen along the river bank with an ice cream box selling ice creams. After restoration in the 1990's it was in use as an antique shop and then a restaurant, before becoming a domestic dwelling.



36. The Stone House

Once known as The Great House. The front and north faces are clad with square-dressed knapped flints which possibly came from St. Benet's Abbey. The main house is of brick construction and shows a number of bricked up windows. The façade is a later addition. It was once a farm owned by William Clopton Johnson, giving his name to the hamlet. Joan Snelling refers to one room being used as a school room in c.1801 and later as a Methodist meeting room.

37. Marsh Cottage, Johnson Street

Fadens Map of 1797 shows a building in this location. Chiselled carpenters marks can be found and a pegged bladed scarfe joint has been used in one place, similar to joints known to have been used in the 17C. Believed that at one time it was a farm workers cottage belonging to Limes Farm. The thatch was replaced in 2002.

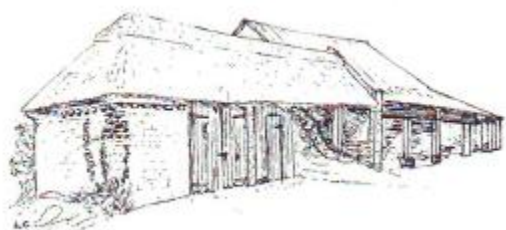


38. Methodist Church, Johnson Street

Despite its appearance this chapel was built in 1914-1915, with much assistance from William Wright, who farmed at Ludham Hall Farm. Used by residents of Johnson Street, many of whom were local farm workers. A Primitive Methodist Chapel until Methodist Union in 1930. Decline in attendance after WWII led to its closure in 1983, when planning consent was sought and it became a private residence.

39. Page's Farm

The present building dates from 1818, but is built on the site of an earlier cottage. Its first occupant was William Sherwood Page from whom the house gained its name. His eldest son moved to How Hill Farm and the two farms were then worked as one. This cottage has undergone a number of restorations to bring it to its present condition. It is of double gabled form with a central valley gutter.



40. Barn - Page's Farm

Similar to the Great Barn at Ludham Hall farm which was built in 1627, so could date from a similar period, although it has also been suggested as dating from the 1700's. Of interest are the buttresses and the square pierced openings for ventilation. The roof shape suggests that it was entirely thatched at one time.



41. Limes Farm

It is believed to date from the late 17C and to have originally been divided into three cottages. The adjacent barn was restored in 1764. The barn, like the farmhouse had been thatched, but this was changed in the middle of the 20C. Notice windows that have been closed off to avoid the window tax.

42. Toad Hole Cottage

A typical marshman's cottage adjacent to How Hill Staithe, which dates from 1728. The small rooms are simply furnished to reflect the lifestyle of the marshman, but cannot show how hard life would have been for both the marshman and his family. It is now managed by the Broads Authority and is open to visitors in season. You can purchase tickets here for boat rides into reed-lined dykes opposite the staithe and for an adjacent nature trail leading to Crome's Broad.



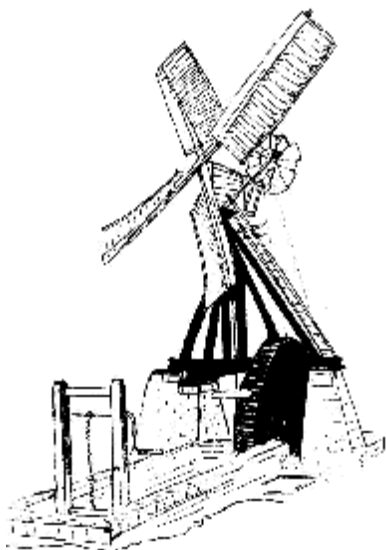
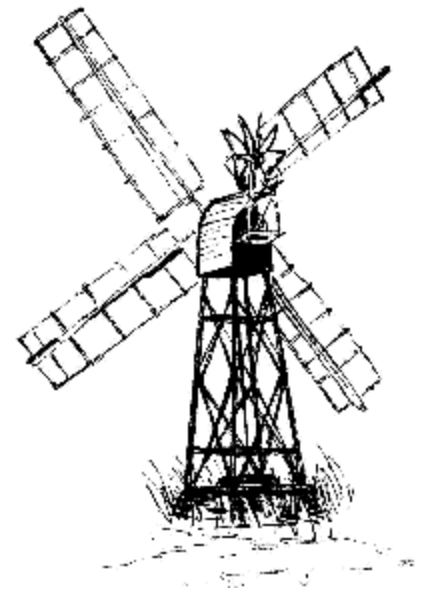
43. How Hill House

Designed by Edward T. Boardman in 1903, it was built in 1904 and occupied in 1905 as a holiday home. The estate eventually covered 872 acres. A new wing at the west end of the house was constructed in 1916 and the family took up residence in 1918. The house was sold in 1966 and bought by Norfolk Education Committee as a Residential Centre. Economies in education forced the Education Committee to dispose of the site and How

Hill Trust was established in 1984 to preserve it. The house was separated from the land, with the latter being purchased by the Broads Authority.

44. Boardman's Trestle Mill

With its brick piers and skeleton tower it was used in the early 20th century to keep a major part of the How Hill Estate dry enough for the summer grazing of beef cattle. It is a trestle smock mill, a small wooden structure, which drained the 27 acres of Clayrack marshes. It was one of a remarkable group of about 30 Broadland drainage pumps built by Ludham millwright Daniel England.



45. Clayrack Mill

The only surviving hollow post mill with its original scoopwheel. It began life on Ranworth marshes in the mid 19C, but was rescued by the Norfolk Windmills Trust in 1981 and reconstructed here by the millwright Richard Seago as part of the Windpumps Protection Program financed by the Broads Authority.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported us in this project, particularly our local sponsors who are listed below.

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Written by Roger Watts
Re-Edited by Jon Simpson, 2015.



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& Guarantee Fund & Defra



the countryside code

respect

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave gates and property as you find them

protect

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

enjoy

Keep dogs under close control

Consider other people

www.countryside.gov.uk