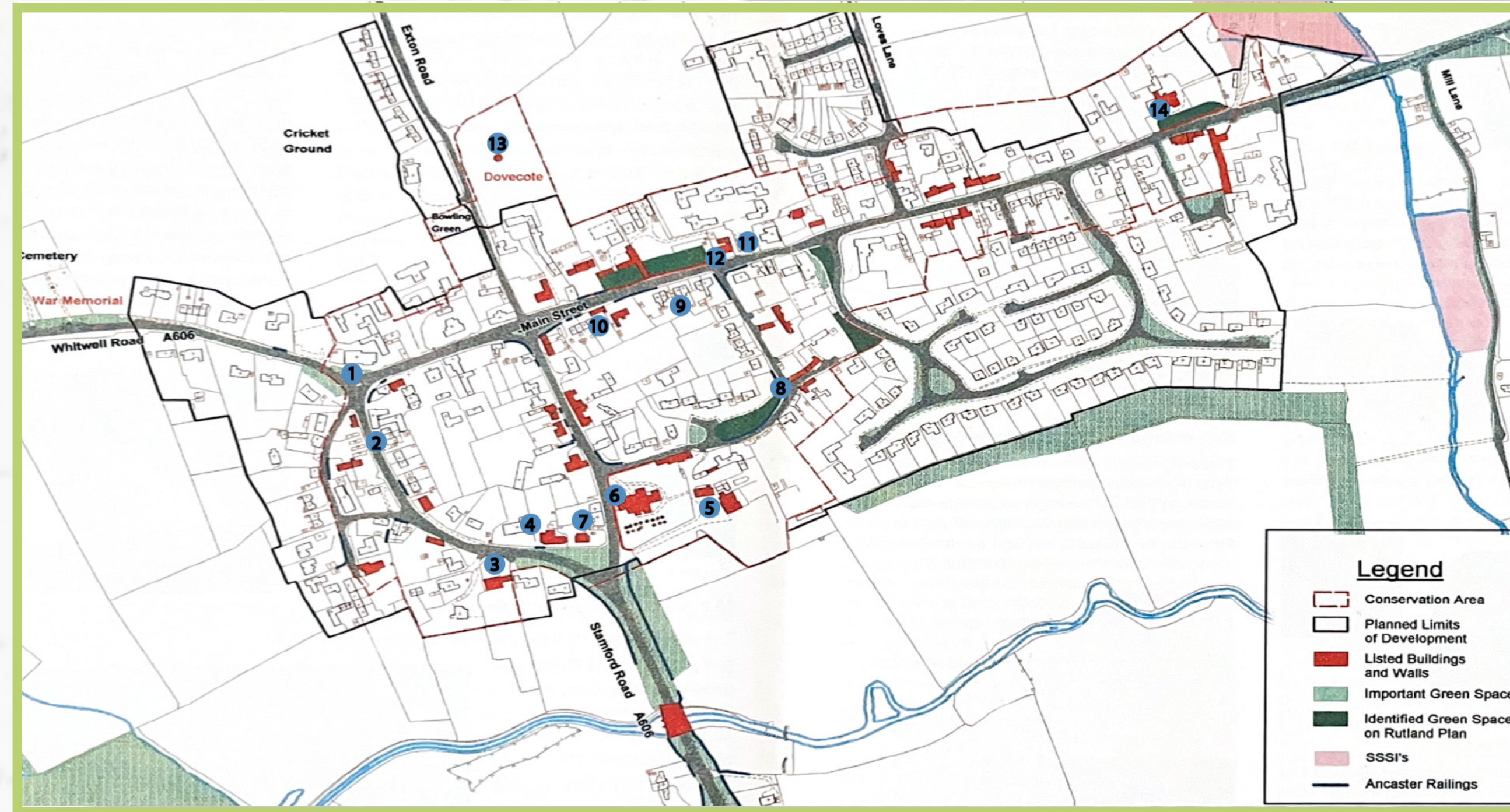


A TOUR AROUND EMPINGHAM'S BUILDINGS



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Q.
Why did they breed pigeons in the Dovecote?

A.
Young pigeons (squabs) were used as a source of food, and having a dovecote was a sign of high social status



1

Let's start our tour of the village at the White Horse pub. Petty sessions were held there every Monday from when they were first established in 1730 until 1846. These were local courts for minor offences, held without a jury.



14

Towards the end of Main Street at the East of the village is the Wilderness once known as 'The House of Correction'. The building was opened by the Heathcotes in 1794 as a House of Protection for the Poor, providing beds and work for a dozen paupers. Later becoming a doctor's residence, it is now a private house.



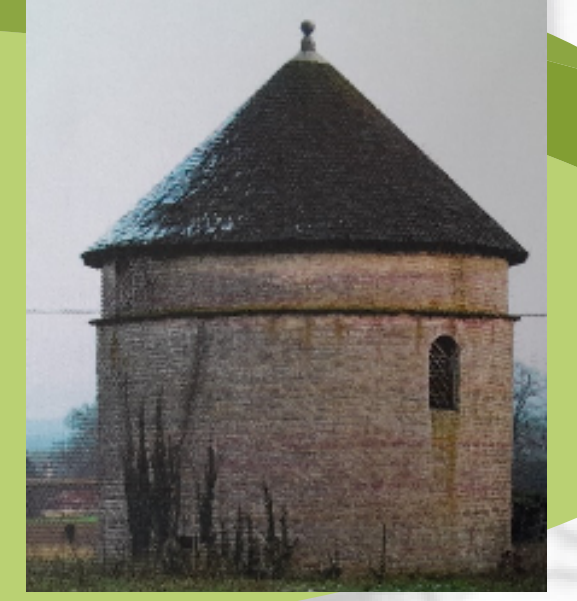
2

Just down the road is the Audit Hall where tenants came to pay their rents to the Lord of the Manor, until the hall was gifted to the village following the sale of Ancaster Estate. It was originally a threshing barn, built before 1700.



13

In the field behind the Weed's Farm up Ex-ton Road is one of the two Dovecotes in the village - the other being within Prebendal House grounds. The interior of the circular stone building retains the 700 nest boxes used to breed pigeons.



3

Further down Audit Hall Road is No.17 The Old Rectory. This had previously been called Lovicks Place, after the Rector Thomas Lovick Cooper who was Rector for 61 years until 1892. It was his daughter who gave £2,000 for the major restoration of the church in 1895.



12

Near the Methodist Church is Wisteria House also known as the Weed's Farmhouse - one of the last remaining farms within the village. This C17th dwelling was originally thatched, before acquiring its Ancaster style tiled roof in the early 1900s.



4

Nearby is the original village Free School. This was built by Gilbert Heathcote the 4th Baronet and opened in 1839. Signs show that girls entered at one end, and boys at the other. The school closed in 1972.



11

The Methodist church also on Main Street was enlarged and opened in 1899, although there was a pre-existing chapel on an adjacent plot. To celebrate its opening, 500 teas were served for the local people in the Audit Hall.



5

At the bottom of Church Street is the entrance to Prebendal House. The original building was built in the C13th, and housed the Prebendary - a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral, with a position senior to the local Rector. The present house was built in 1688.



10

Along the road is Primrose Hall. Now a holiday let, it was originally a thatched barn, then opened in 1899 by the Primrose League (an organisation founded to help spread Conservative principles in Great Britain), and used as a meeting hall and reading room.



6

Adjacent to Prebendal House is St. Peter's Church, one of the largest churches in Rutland. This was established in the C13th on the site of a Norman church, with the tower and west front being added in the C14th. Further additions over time include the raised roof and new windows. In 1895 the pews were replaced by chairs, and a new clock was installed to replace the original made in 1686.



9

At the top of Crocket Lane we enter Main Street. These houses on Main Street were built by the Ancaster estate about 1870. They have a distinctive appearance, with no upstairs windows facing the road (so that the Dowager Duchess was not over looked when driven through the village).



7

Opposite the church is Barbara's Store. This is now the village shop, and was previously the Co-op. The attached building has recently been a hairdressers, and before that an antique shop.



8

There are a number of thatched houses in the village built in the C17th and C18th, such as these on Crocket Green used to house estate tenants relocated from Normanton. Some have brick extensions with tiled roofs, an improvement made by Ancaster estate from the late C19th.

