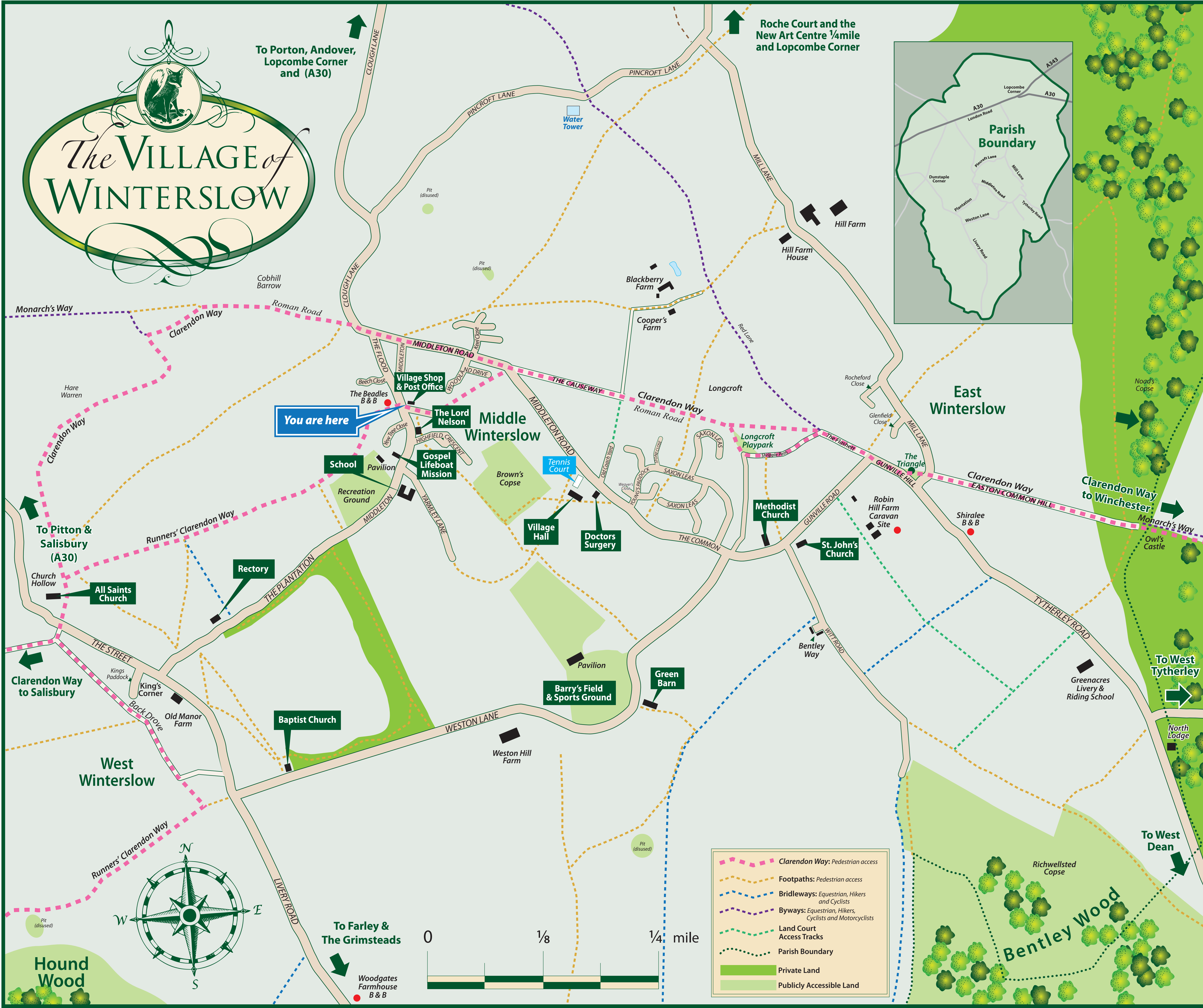


The Village of WINTERSLOW



Winterslow, which covers about 4,800 acres, has been occupied for millennia. There are remains from Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and from Romans who built a road across the area. The Saxons and Normans also left their marks. The Domesday Book describes the two manors of West and East Winterslow which remained for centuries, although a third manor, Middle Winterslow, was formed later. Despite having three district manors Winterslow has always been one ecclesiastical parish with its church in West Winterslow.

The manors were held by mainly absentee landlords for centuries until the late Nineteenth Century when they began to be sold off and broken up. In 1892, Cooper's Farm, sandwiched between the large estates, was sold to Major Robert Poore, who made land available for smallholdings. This scheme, known as Winterslow Land Court, allowed fifty families to own their own homes well before the First World War. The holdings were between The Causeway and Middleton Road and between the Gunville, Tytherley and Witt Roads. Many of the holders set up small businesses, which flourished.

The village was isolated, with no modern facilities. From 1925 the roads were made up; piped water arrived in 1935 and mains electricity in 1938. Few new houses were built between the wars but in 1939 the first council houses were built in Red Lane. The Second World War saw many changes but few new buildings appeared until the 1950's.

In the mid 1960's Saxon Leas was developed and was followed by other estates with in-filling continuing in the older areas.

The village has a strong tradition of non-conformity, with Baptist and Methodist chapels well established in the Nineteenth Century. In the 1890's the Gospel Lifeboat Mission was formed by local initiative. In addition a second Anglican Church, St Johns, was built at the Common in 1860. All these churches continue in use by their various communities.

The School, whose main buildings date from 1865, was an all-age school until 1963 when it became a Primary School. Since then it has grown, both in buildings and in reputation. The Recreation Ground, opened in 1905, was the home of the village Football and Cricket clubs for a century until new sports facilities were created at Barry's Field off Weston Lane. The Recreation Ground continues to be very well used by the community.

In 1900 the main meeting places were the Oddfellows and Rechabite Halls, built by Friendly Societies. In 1927 a Parish Hall was built in Middleton and served the village well until it was replaced by the current Village Hall in 1992, which is now in constant use with an astonishing range of activities.

Before 1914 people worked locally and used local facilities, including a dozen shops and four pubs. A century later many people work outside the village, which now has two pubs and one shop. However, small businesses proliferate, as can be seen in the Parish magazine, which also reflects the many community events which contribute so much to the rich tapestry of modern village life and create a sense of belonging.