

NAVENBY LANES AND SIDE-ROADS

Before we start: car parks in Navenby are for the use of business/shop customers. Road-side parking is unrestricted. Please don't block driveways.

Please remember that however interesting a premises may be, it is usually **SOMEBODY'S HOME**, so please respect their privacy!

This is not intended to be an historic document, merely an introduction to the history of this village.

Navenby History Group thanks Peter Welbourne and Liz East for their advice and participation, and acknowledge the local history gleaned from the late Maurice Addison's book "Hat Pegs of History".

We start at the top of *Clint Lane*. "Clint House" has already been covered in the High Street walk; on the left walking down, we see what is commonly known as "Miksa's Yard" where the well-known local business started. Following on from there is a row of 1960s bungalows, beautifully built by Mr Miksa (the original one!) They are on the site of a row of cottages, Grantham Row; teeming with families, these are well-documented in censuses.

Next comes the footpath which used to lead to Henson's crop drying yard. Stonegarth is an ancient dwelling, with newer properties built on the land.

At the bottom is Old Clint Farm, dating back to 1670, and restored by its present owner. The original Clint House was also situated on this land (see old maps). This sadly deteriorated and was eventually demolished; the "Clint House" name was then at some stage moved to the building on the corner of Clint Lane and the High Street. Note the pond, especially beautiful in the spring and early summer. Opposite is Clint Cottage, and running alongside the row of "Oddfellows Lodge" cottages is The Smoots, popular with ramblers and dog walkers alike, and part of the Viking Way.

Rose Cottage is a lovely old house, now restored. The big stone house on this left hand side is Albion House. At the back, leading on to Gas Lane,

stood some tenements, Albion Cottages, but now long gone, these were sometimes occupied by travelling pedlars and teeming with children. This is also well-documented in the censuses.

Next, carry on to *Gas Lane*, previously Megs Lane. The old Navenby Gas Company (1872) was down here on the left, note the pillars. The Company House was opposite. Gas Lane is a dead end, but the site of the Albion House tenements can be seen. Most residences on the left cut through to Clint Lane.

Alongside the old Post Office (number 46) is a drain which runs down to the River Brant. This takes the surface water away from the High Street.

Between the Co-op and Welbourne's is *Tenter Lane*, which gets its name from livestock being "tended" on the grass verges. Lovely house at the end, The Granary, and Heritage Court for the over 55s on the left. Always a popular spot in the 1980s and 1990s for the Navenby Carol Singers to stop!

Maidenwell Lane.....many new homes built in the 1980s and 1990s. On the left near the top was the old telephone exchange. Andersons Farm had racehorses. Not a dead end, you can access the Viking Way and The Smoots down here, as a change from Clint Lane!

Church Lane: we all know that one! On the left, look up and see the beer hoist for the former Reindeer Inn. "Manor Farm" has had various lives, including a riding school. Cliff House used to be the home of footballer Gary Crosby, who played for several local League clubs including Nottingham Forest where he scored a famous goal. Opposite is of course St Peter's church, and to the right of the Church the old school and school house.

Cat Walk is the cut-through to North Lane. Giving access to the churchyard (always a good place to investigate local history, flora, and fauna); on the left you pass the Old Rectory and the coach house.

Turning left on to *North Lane*, The Old Rectory can again be seen. The wide footpath (a good ski or sledge run in snowy winters) leads down to the Viking Way, which joins North Lane up a few steps across the lane.

Walking further up towards the main road, on the right is Navenby Playing Field. On the left is the 1707 "Poor House" although there was apparently another on one Chapel Lane, possibly more if hearsay is to be believed.

North Lane was popular for doctors: Gills' cottage on the right in early years, and almost opposite on the left was "The Surgery" for many years until comparatively recently.

Crossing over High Street to *East Road* (formerly Blacksmiths Lane), the corners are already documented in the High Street walk. Note that this junction was the site of the Market cross, sadly long gone. On the left, the blacksmith's "apprentice" house, which traditionally had the young apprentice living upstairs! Mrs Smith's Cottage (of course), then the old blacksmith's shop. To the right of the blacksmiths shop was the site of the Fire engine shed, now a car hard standing. All the land around Addison Close was open-cast quarry. The new school (1975) and the new cemetery (1931) on the left. Opposite, the path through to Chapel Lane is Pitfield Walk, which was once used as the village "dump" area! More quarrying there, good stone. On the right you can see the Airey Council Houses which were all refurbished.

Chapel Lane itself is known for being one of the first places where Roman remains were found. Schoolchildren in the 1960s and their headmaster soon found plenty of project material, which formed the basis of the now closed, Navenby Archaeology Group.

Turn left towards *High Dike* and you arrive at the "Open Space" part of the original Roman site, and designated to remain undeveloped for the village to enjoy. Back towards the main road, on the left is the telephone exchange, and what was Hodson's bus yard. Another "poorhouse" or probably workhouse, came just before the main road. Opposite stood the old Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School. The Sunday school was converted to a dwelling house and is now a B&B; the chapel was demolished and the land is now the garden of the B&B.

The roads on the south side of Grantham Road, which are of course part of Navenby, are all post-1960 bungalows. The only access to the Viking Way

from that end is now via the footpath on Henson Drive; there was once a gate to climb at the end of The Rise, but access now forbidden.