Welcome to the living village of Fenstanton

It was the Saxons who first put the name to our village. The name Fenstanton literally means 'the stoney place in the fen'. This is an apt description of the village location beside the old Great Fen. The first recorded appearance of the village name was in a charter dated 1012.

With recent development, housing in the village now numbers around 1,500. The population in 2024 is in excess of 3,000 people. Even with all the new developments, it has lost none of its charm and character. It is simply a great place to live.

Fenstanton has a long and fascinating history. Many famous people have passed through the village, including Queen Boadicea, Hereward the Wake, Godson of Thayne Ulf, one time lord of the manor. Queen Joan of Scotland lived here and Queen Elizabeth I dined at the Fenstanton palace of the Bishop of Ely. Even Samuel Pepys refreshed himself in the village. During Cromwell's time, many of his men were stationed in the village so it is more than likely that Cromwell too passed through. WW2 saw military personnel from the USA, Canada and Australia stationed here.

John Howland, one of the original passengers on the Mayflower which sailed to America in 1620 was born in the village. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown bought the manor of Fenstanton cum Hilton in 1768. Although he never lived here, he and his wife are buried in the churchyard.

Fenstanton is just around seven miles from Huntingdon town centre and railway station, 14 miles from the Centre of Cambridge and just three miles to the centre of St Ives. The start of the Cambridge guided busway is just two miles away at St Ives.

Fenstanton is a lively village and is well provided with the necessities of life. There is one pub, The Duchess (with restaurant) and a restaurant called 'Little Piggy'. There are also two general stores, a farm shop, fish & chip shop, post office, butchers, hairdressers and beauty salons. As well as three churches and a primary school. Uncommonly, the village is able to boast its own marina.

Fenstanton is on the tourist trail and the village offers reasonably priced hotel and B&B accommodation. Huntingdon racecourse is located 9.5 miles away and provides a thrilling day out. There is a caravan and camping site that includes a children's play barn and some excellent fishing.

Scan here to read more.

Welcome to the village of Fenstanton in Cambridgeshire. We have no idea what name the village had prior to the Saxon period, it is more than likely that it was not named. In a period when people were born, lived and died in the same place, chances are that a village did not need a name.

We shall never know for sure. We are sure that the Romans had a name for the Celtic village with its Imperial Mansio that they passed on the Roman Road from the fort at Cambridge to the Fort at How Hill, south of the river at the ford.

Enjoy your historic tour around the village where you will learn all about our past. Whether you are visitor or a resident we are convinced you will learn something about the village of Fenstanton.

Fenstanton Parish Council has created this heritage trail with the help of volunteers in the village and is provided to visitors free of charge. All we ask of you is:

- Support our local village businesses with a visit
- Keep to the paths, respect homeowner's privacy
- Help to keep the village tidy by taking litter home including any you see on the walk
- Tell others of the good time you had on the heritage trail!

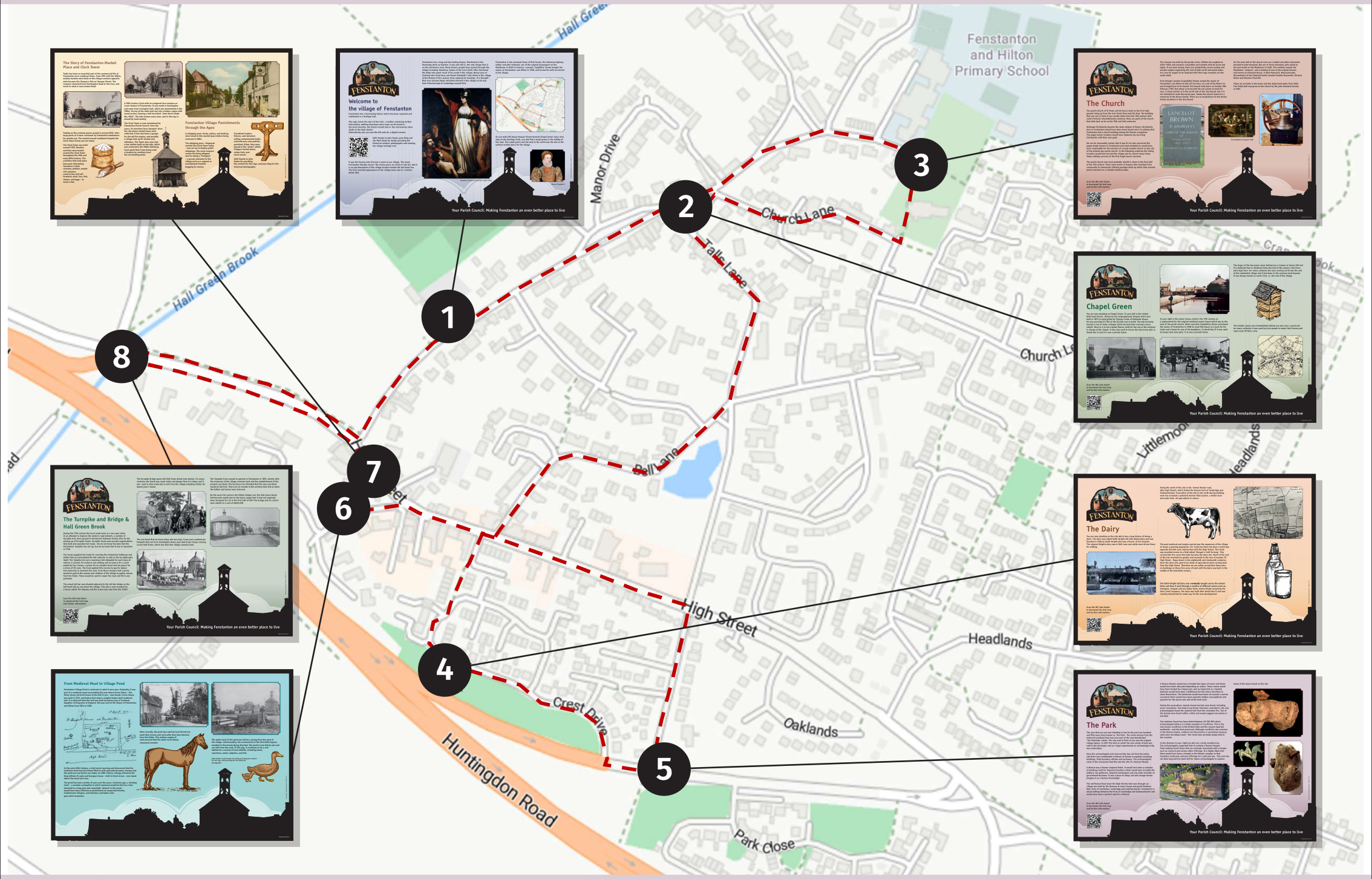
Fenstanton Parish Council
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www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Heritage Trail

A historic walk around the village of Fenstanton

Published by your Parish Council
Making Fenstanton an even better place to live


Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School
Hall Green Brook
Manor Drive
Church Lane
Tally Lane
Bell Lane
High Street
Headlands
Crest Drive
Oaklands
Huntingdon Road
Park Close
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
The Story of Fenstanton Market Place and Clock Tower
Fenstanton Village Punishments through the Ages
Welcome to the village of Fenstanton
The Church
Chapel Green
The Turnpike and Bridge & Hall Green Brook
The Dairy
From Medieval Moat to Village Pond
The Park
Your Parish Council: Making Fenstanton an even better place to live