

## SEFTON VILLAGE HERITAGE TRAIL

The aim of a heritage trail is to promote awareness of the architectural and historical development of the urban environment. This trail focuses on Sefton Village and the atmosphere and rich variety of building styles that make up its unique character.

Sefton Village hamlet is located south-west of Maghull and to the north-east of Great Crosby. It is on the flood plain of the River Alt. It was designated as a Conservation Area in 1974. An Article 4 Direction was made in 1983 to protect its character and appearance. The area includes a concentration of important historic buildings.

The architectural and historical importance of Sefton Village Conservation Area is emphasised by the number of protected buildings within its boundary. The range of surviving buildings bears testimony to the continued occupation and shifting status of the village from a pre-conquest minor hamlet through the chief seat of the mediaeval lord, returning to a mixed residential and agricultural village. Since its designation, the village has significantly grown.



Well Cottage (1), grade II Listed Building, was constructed during the 18th Century. The stair inside the

cottage has turned balusters, moulded handrail and closed string, said to be taken from pulpit of St. Helen's Church.



St. Helen's Well (2), with mediaeval origins, originally stood inside a rather nice little wellhouse with a pyramid-shaped, overlapping roof and railings running around it. It was renowned for its icy waters, which were especially good for people suffering from rheumatism, sprains, bruising, and nervous problems. It had a hand pump at the side of the wellhouse to

enable people to drink the water. It was probably a pre-Christian spring that in the Middle Ages turned into a pilgrimage site, especially so in the 14th century when the church was built close by. It was also used as a plague pot. It is said that anyone that died of the plague was thrown down the well.



The Punch Bowl Inn (3), grade II Listed, extensively altered in recent years, dates from the early 19th century. The

pub forms part of the attractive setting around Sefton Church, creating a balanced group with the mill buildings.



St. Helen's Church (4)



St. Helen's Church (sundial) (4a)



St. Helen's Church (cross base) (4b)



St. Helen's Church (boundary wall) (4c)

St. Helen's Church (4), which contains architectural details from the 14th century and is Grade I Listed, stands as a conspicuous landmark in the fen-like country that surrounds the village. The status and wealth of the Molyneux family can be gauged from the quality of the interior of this church. The hamlet of 'Sefton Town' grew up about half a mile to

the south along Brickwall Lane at the crossroads. It is difficult to establish the relationship between the manor and the village as a mediaeval settlement; however, by the 18th century, estate maps indicated just a small cluster of buildings around the crossroads. The sundial, cross base, and boundary walls of the church are also Listed.



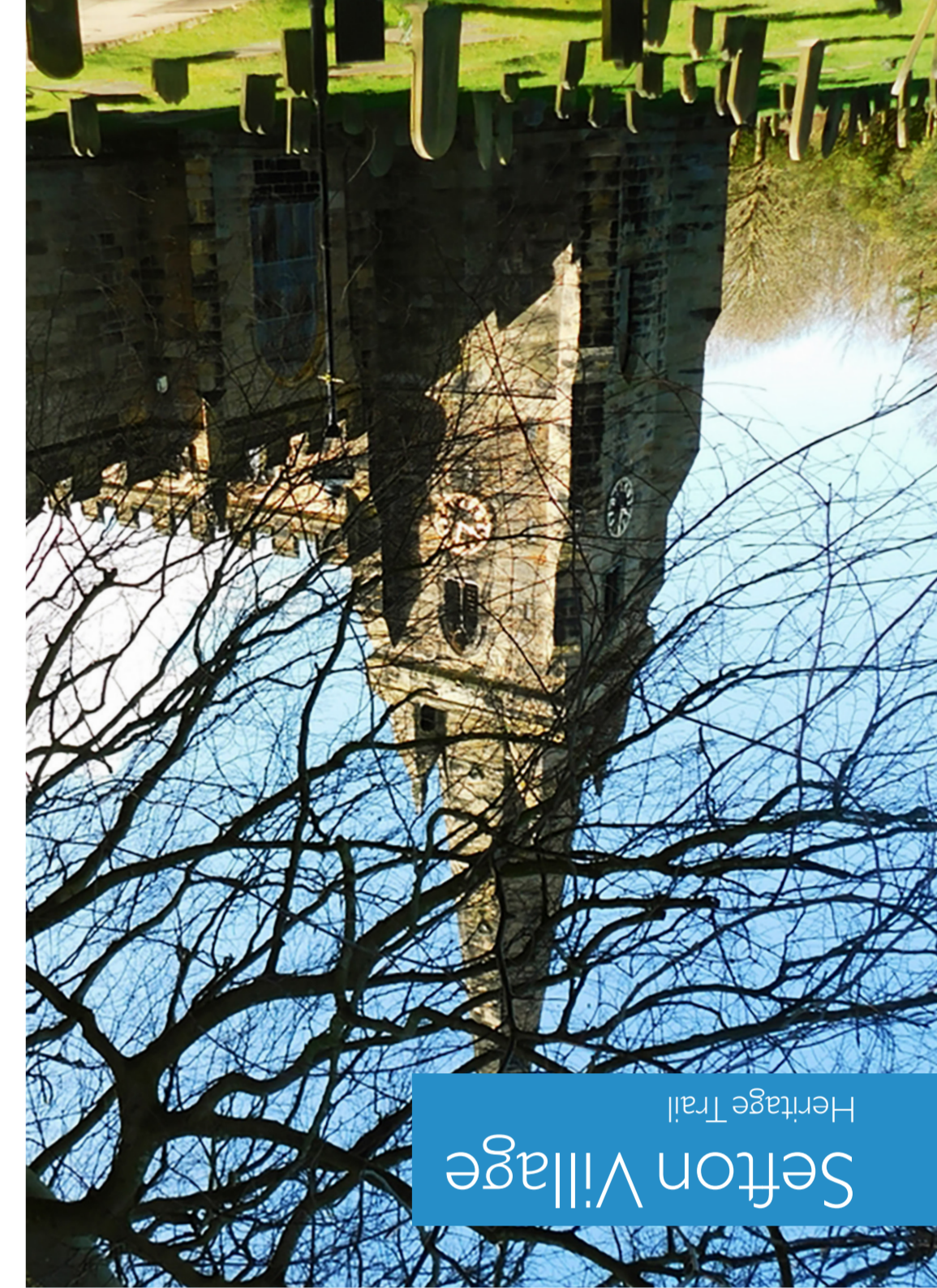
The War Memorial (5) from the 1920s, which stands in front of the church, is a Grade II Listed Building. Recorded on the memorial are the

names of 26 heroic servicemen who gave their lives in the Great War. 328 'Commonwealth War Graves' can be found on St. Helen's Church cemetery.



Prior to the Norman Conquest, the ancient settlement of Sefton was an agricultural hamlet. The Molyneux family built Sefton Hall on a moated site of about a quarter of an acre opposite where St. Helen's Church stands. This was the home of the Molyneux family from at least the end of the 12th century. Nothing now remains above the ground of the

Hall as it was dismantled in the 18th century after the family had previously moved to Croxteth Hall, although parts of the moat and fishponds are still evident and an old well can still be seen on site. This site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (6).



This leaflet has been produced by the Conservation Team of the Planning Department from Economic Growth and Housing of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in conjunction with Sefton and Lunt Parish Council. The architectural importance of Sefton Village was officially recognised in 1974 when it was declared a Conservation Area of outstanding importance. Since then much thoughtful work has been carried out in respect of restoration and preservation.

The Sefton and Lunt Village Parish Council comprises of seven councillors who all live within the Parish boundary or within 3 miles of it. Councillors are elected every four years for a four year term. Parish Council meets regularly to address matters that are important to the community. They are always keen to hear from residents about any areas that concern or interest them. For more information about Sefton and Lunt Village Parish Council please visit their website, <https://www.seftonandluntparishcouncil.uk/> or contact [clerk@seftonandluntparishcouncil.uk](mailto:clerk@seftonandluntparishcouncil.uk).

More information about Sefton Village Conservation Area can be found on the website <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/conservation-and-heritage/conservation-areas.aspx> or contact [heritage.queries@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:heritage.queries@sefton.gov.uk)



Sefton Mill Cottages (7)

The Sefton Mill Cottages (7) and Houses (8) form a group of 18th-century buildings and are important as a physical reminder of the presence of the original Sefton Mill (9), said to have been built in 1595, which had been a traditional component of the mediaeval settlement. The original mill was destroyed by fire in the 1940s, and a concrete replacement was erected at a later date. This building was in turn demolished in the 1990s as part of a



Mill Houses (8)

renovation and conversion programme of the listed mid-18th-century Mill House and Cottages. Today, the layout of the building can be seen on site.



Sefton Mill (9)



Sefton Mill (9a)



The Grange Farmhouse and Outbuildings (11)

Moving south along Brickwall Lane from the church lies an interesting group of buildings (again listed) centred on the Grange Farmhouse (11), which dates from the 18th century, if not earlier. The outbuildings were formerly used as a brewery and have now been



Former Old Hall Farmhouse and Barn (10)

converted into houses. The Old Hall Farmhouse and barn (10) date from the 17th century. The buildings were converted into houses in the late 1980s and are now known, along with a number of new buildings, as Brickwall Green.

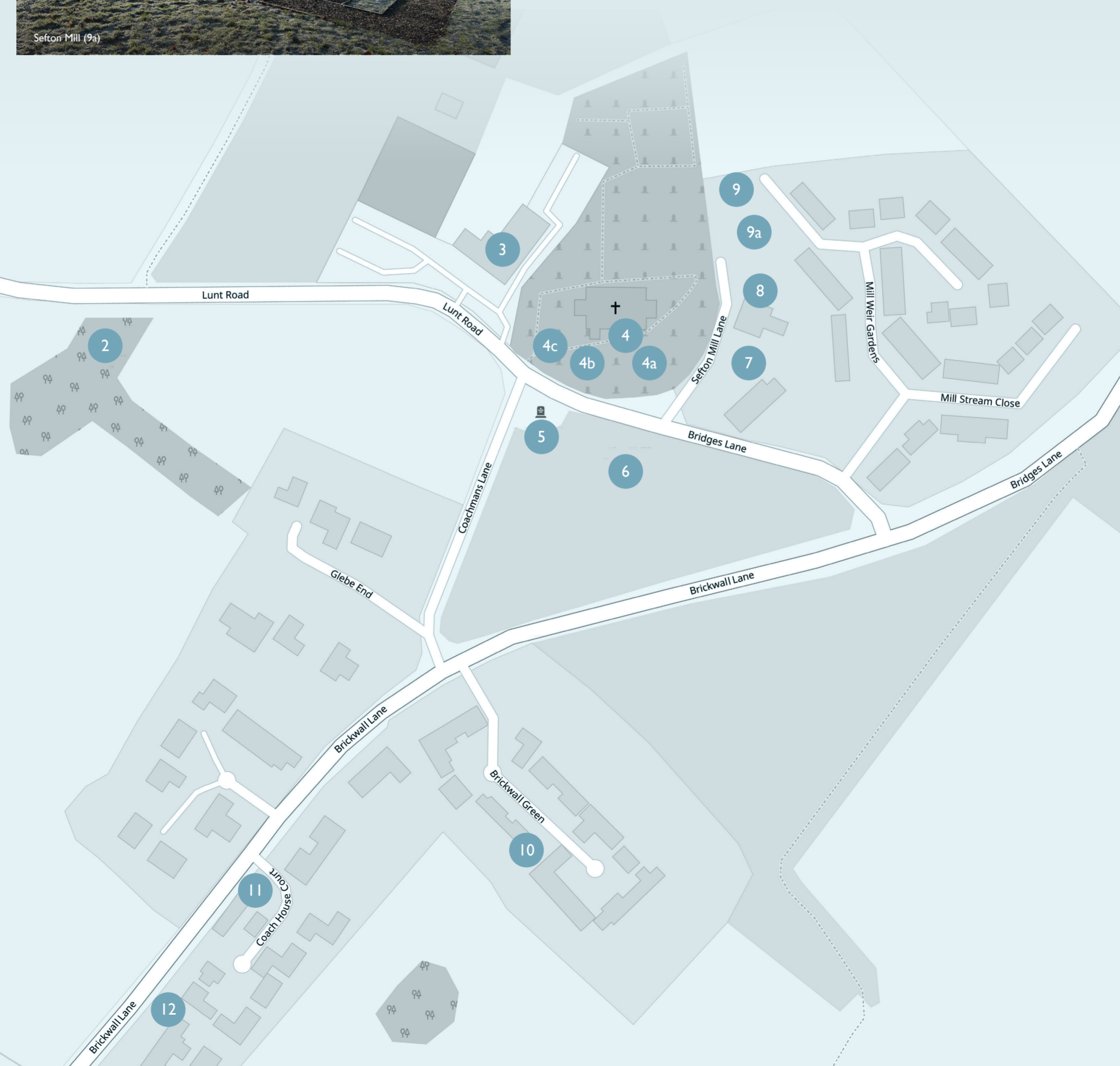


The Old School (12)

The Old School (1-5 Brickwall Lane) sits on the former site of Sefton County Primary School (12). The school was built in 1886, now partially demolished and transformed into residential. The school consisted of a mixed and infant schoolroom.

The school catered for 140 children; average attendance in 1905 was 96. The building still preserve some interesting historic features as the engraved 'Girls' on top of the main entrance (2 Brickwall Lane).

To Lunt ←



- 1 Well Cottage
- 2 St Helen's Well
- 3 The Punch Bowl Inn
- 4 St Helens Church
- 4a St Helens Church (sundial)
- 4b St Helens Church (cross base)
- 4c St Helens Church (boundary wall)
- 5 War memorial
- 6 Sefton Old Hall Moated Site and Fishponds
- 7 Mill Cottages
- 8 Mill Houses
- 9 Sefton Mill
- 9a Sefton Mill
- 10 Former Old Hall Farmhouse and Barn
- 11 The Grange Farmhouse and Outbuildings
- 12 The Old School

Scan here to download a digital version of this **Sefton Village Heritage Trail**.

Scan here to find out more about the local area by following the **Lunt Village Heritage Trail** which takes you around this medieval settlement.