



Walk No. 2 – Chudleigh Town North

*This is walk number two in a series of historical walks around Chudleigh and the surrounding countryside compiled by Alan Brunton for the Chudleigh History Group. Each walk commences from the Town Hall. The historical content of the walks is mainly brief, but further information can be found in *The Chudleigh Book*, available in the library.*

Walk 2: Distance approx. 1.5 miles. Time 1 hour. Easy walking.

From the town hall bear left into Woodway Street. You immediately pass what was once the entrance to the early 18th century Presbyterian Chapel, then the Congregationalist Hall, and more recently until 1990 the United Reform Church. It is now part of the Town Hall complex as the Woodway Room. The premise's shell survived the fire of 1807 but the roof and interior suffered much damage and was not refurbished until 1830.

Walk up Woodway and just before the road crosses the A38 turn right through a kissing gate onto a short footpath to Highlands Park. Before crossing Old Exeter Street into Colway Lane locate the small doorway with a plaque reading "*Dipping place of pot water ancient town water supply. Provided by Bishop Lacey circa 1430. Cut off by new bypass 1973.*" A chapter in *The Chudleigh Book* details the history of the pot water supply which commenced several miles northwards near Oxencombe.

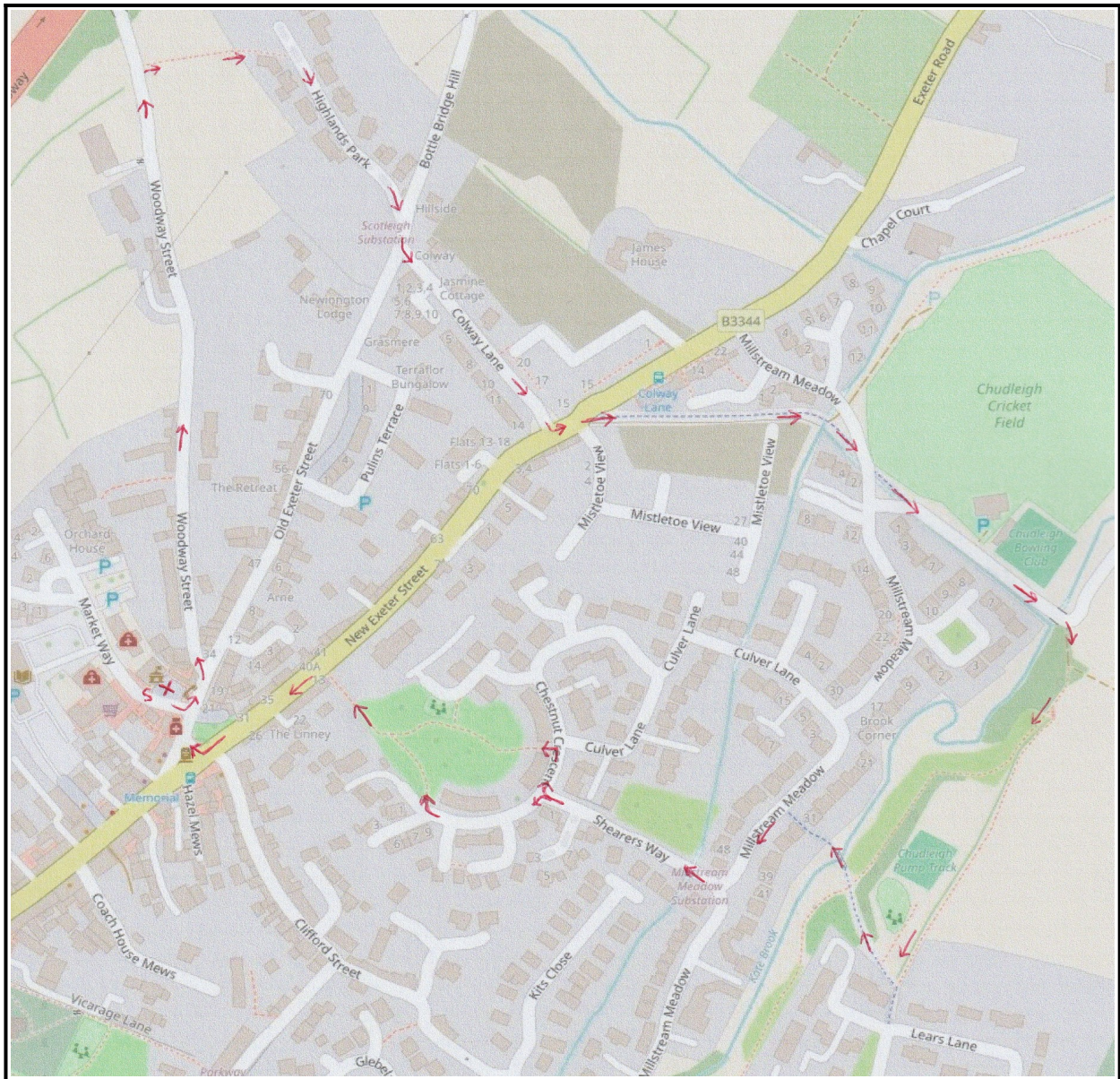
Walk down Colway Lane, cross the main road and follow the small lane towards the Sports Centre and Millstream Meadow. Near the bottom, the lane passes over the leat. This can be viewed but at the time of writing the leat is in a state of neglect. It runs behind and between housing to Chudleigh Town Mills (Walk 1). The leat is taken off the Kate Brook 200 yards or so upstream, this side of Hams Barton and was originally dug out in the 13th century. Since the building of the Millstream Meadow estate it has caused many problems through it leaking into adjoining gardens and not being maintained as it should be.

Cross the road and walk down to the Bowling Club, over Old Kate Bridge and turn right into a short path to the various playgrounds, passing over a small water course coming from above Burrows Farm. Follow the path above the play areas to its end. Turn right, cross the small bridge over the Kate Brook, then left and after a few yards right up Shearers Way. On the right is a sensory garden and the 400-year old twin oaks. They have tree preservation orders and when Cavanna Homes proposed felling them to build more housing, a campaign by the Amenity Society and the History Group resulted in them withdrawing their plans. Now turn either left or right and enter the parkland behind Culver House.



While parts of Culver House date back to the 16th century, the current building was erected in the early 19th century. Over the last fifty years or so, Culver House had been converted into flats and since has survived several applications to demolish it and replace it with modern housing. For many years it stood empty and in a very dilapidated condition but a few years ago was purchased by new owners and is now three separate restored properties. When leaving the park on the path alongside the house note the seven doves on the archway and the dipping point in the wall just to the right. New Exeter Street used to be named Culver Lane and the stone wall here is listed.

Turn left back towards the town centre; after a few yards is whereabouts the fire of 1807 started in what was then a baker's shop. Return to the Town Hall.



Route of Walk No.2 (map source: OpenStreetMap)