

Road for the use by 'well-bred ladies of blameless character in reduced circumstances';

**The River Cole**  
The 25-mile (40 km) river bears a Celtic name derived from the old British word for hazel. It meets the River Blythe after Coleshill, then the Tame, Trent and finishes at the North Sea via the Humber Estuary.

**Yew trees**  
Coleshill cemetery has many yew trees. Ancient Druids in Britain regarded yews as sacred and planted them close to their temples. Early Christians built their churches on the consecrated ground of the druids and they have been synonymous since.

the castle was relatively short lived and fell out of use during the 12th or early 13th Centuries. The ecclesiastical importance of Coleshill during Anglo-Saxon times, the fordable crossing over the River Cole and the presence of a Royal Manor would have made the town a strategic location during the immediate post-conquest era, and a likely location for a castle.

**Coleshill Town Hall**  
Built by John Sumner and completed on 25th November 1925. A large made by local grocer Alfred Ffield. John Sumner, now Sir John, built the Almshouses on Sumner

with a moulded head, a platform and transom for the head and hands of two people. The lower section has shackles which formed the whipping post.

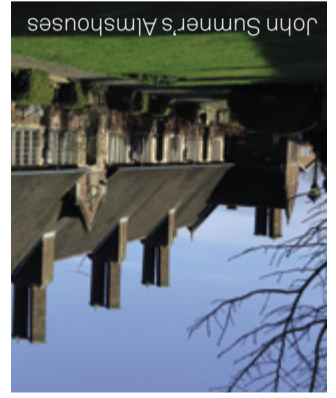
**The Old Grammar School**  
A late 18th Century building with 19th Century extensions. It is thought the original building was a single storey with the upper floor being a later addition.

**The Croft**  
A piece of land opposite Coleshill Parish Church referred to as 'Mons Castri' or 'Castle Hill' in a 13th Century charter. Aerial images show the possibility of earthworks here and could denote a former castle. It is likely

Coleshill's history begins in the Iron Age, before the Roman conquest of AD 43. In 1066 it was a Royal Manor held by Edward the Confessor. Coleshill Manor stood about ¾ mile south west of the Parish Church. The Digby family acquired the Manor in 1495 and became the Earls of Bristol.

**The Coleshill Pillory**  
The pillory is unique in Warwickshire and almost the whole of the UK as it combines a pillory, stocks and whipping post. It was last used in 1863.

This originally stood in front of the Market Hall, demolished in 1865. The post is around 4.6m tall



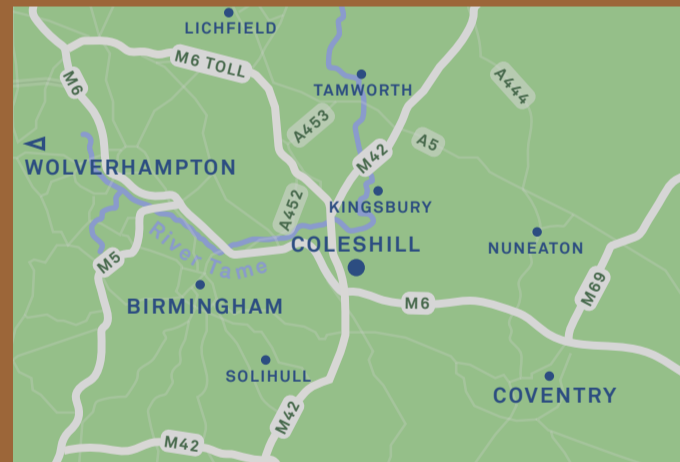
**Follow the Countryside Code**

Sections of this circular walk travel through wildlife friendly areas. Please be aware of this and know your Countryside Code:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs.

**Walk highlights**

**Coleshill Bridge**  
A medieval bridge dated to the 15th or mid-16th Century and built from red sandstone ashlar. It has six segmental arches and is thought to be double its original width of around 2.3m. Historically there was a ford across the Cole in the area of the current footbridge, the river flowed beneath all the arches, being wider and shallower than today.



**Coleshill Town Circular Walk**

Easy: 2.5km / 1.5 miles



**Getting here**

This walk is served by a number of bus services throughout the week. More information can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses) then search for 'Coleshill'

Coleshill has two car parks, both are free to park:  
Church Hill (B46 3AD – 19 spaces). Limited parking Mon-Sat.  
Parkfield Road (B46 3LD – 13 spaces).

This guide is available to download from the website. For more information visit:

[tamevalleywetlands.co.uk](http://tamevalleywetlands.co.uk)  
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This walk has been created with assistance from Coleshill Town Council and:

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**LOTTERY FUNDED**

Cover image, Sumner's Almshouses. All photos © Chris Harris/WWT. Content © Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Recycle after use

**FSC**



**Tame Valley Wetlands**

## Georgian Coleshill

Most of the Georgian houses around Coleshill would have belonged to rich residents trying to impress their neighbours by following fashions in London. In Georgian times, coaches from London would have delivered letters to the Swan Hotel twice a day in a large stage coach pulled by a team of horses. There are quite a few coach entrances in the town. As you walk through the town, look for wide entrances with a high arch.

### A) 1 High Street, St. Paul's House

Built in the early 18th Century, it has classical Georgian features.

### B) 16 High Street, The Arches

Build in the early 19th Century. Its most unusual feature is the three, flat, brick arches.

### C) 38 High Street, Laburnum House

Early 18th Century, unusually with a string course separating the first and second floors. The building appears to have two front doors, one on each of Old Penns Road and High Street.

### D) 68 High Street, The Green Man

Found on the crossroads of the steepest hill in Warwickshire, The Green Man was a carrier inn, for locals wanting to travel to different markets.

### E) 78 High Street, Nantlle House

From the front it appears to be late 18th Century but the rest of the building is much older, with a cellar containing a grille for a coal chute from the pavement and a brick soakaway.

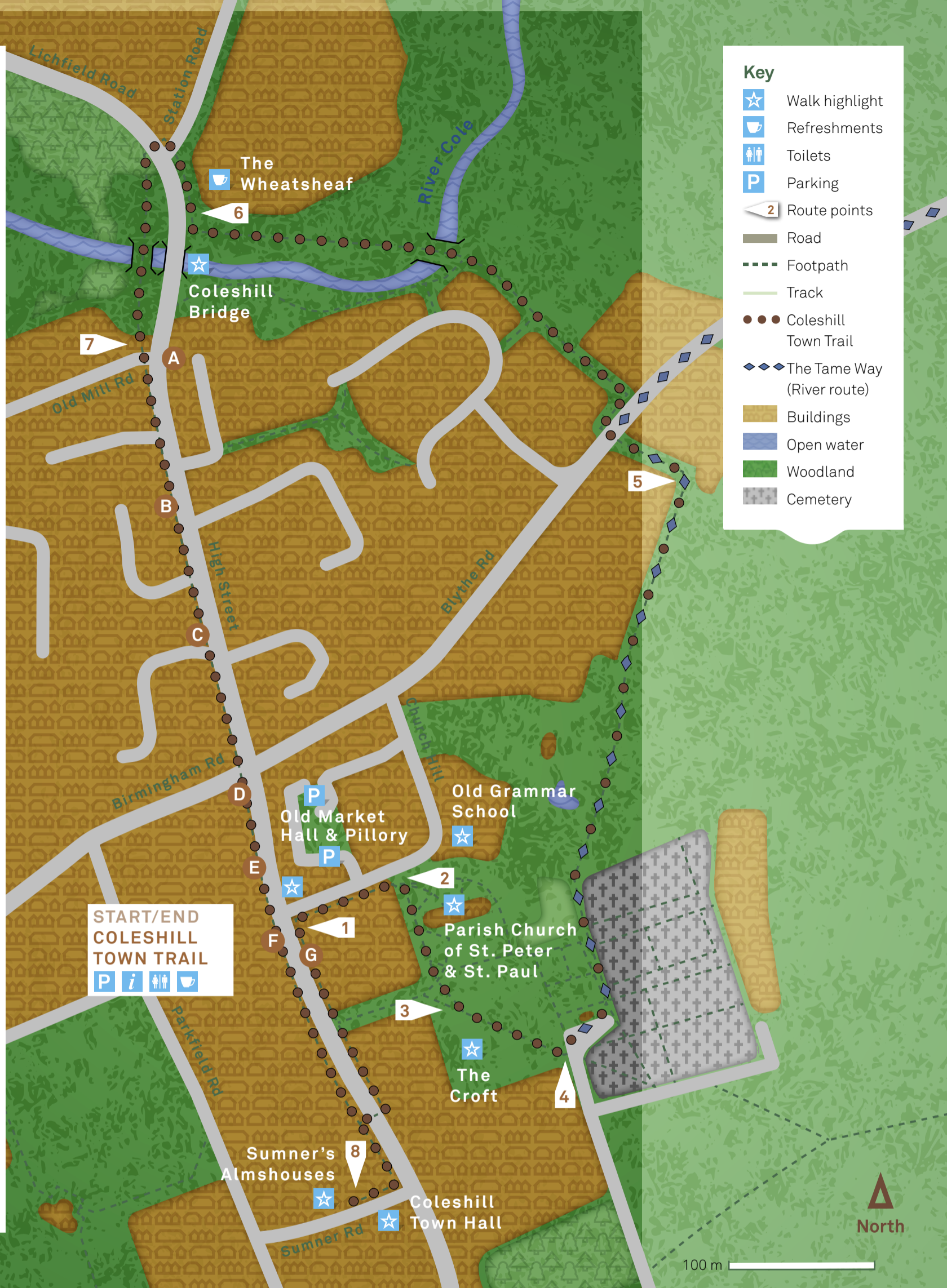
### F) High Street, The Swan Hotel

The rear yard once housed stables for a large number of horses, used by The Royal Mail, which stopped at the hotel daily at 10.45. Local folklore says there is a tunnel leading from the hotel to the Church.

### G) 105 High Street, Blades

Built in the early 19th Century. The doorway has 19th Century surround of Tuscan columns and dentilled pediment.

All of the above information was taken from the 2003 Georgian Coleshill leaflet compiled by the Coleshill Heritage Group.



## Coleshill Town Trail

**Distance:** 2.5km (1.5 miles)

**Allow:** 1.5 hours

### Landscape and path type:

The route uses unsurfaced footpaths through fields, tarmacked pavements and roads. There are sets of steps, footbridges, slopes, pedestrian gates and kissing gates during this walk. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

**Map:** OS Map 221

Coventry & Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa & Kenilworth.

## Directions:

(Circular route through town)

**1** The walk starts at the junction of Church Hill and High Street. Walk along Church Hill towards Coleshill Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, a Grade I listed building. On your left is the Market Hall and outside you will see a pillory post, a unique listed monument in Warwickshire, once found in front of the Old Market Hall in the town centre. Take a few moments to cross over and read the brass plaque on the wall.

**2** Continue along Church Hill to Coleshill Parish Church. Ahead is the Old Grammar School, identified by the circular plaque on the west facing wall.

**3** Walk through the church yard along the right-hand side of the clock tower, following the finger post to The Croft. Take a moment to look at the Parish Church's south side, the earliest existing section dating from 14th Century.

**4** Walk through The Croft towards the cemetery. Turn left and head north through the

cemetery through a kissing gate, along the edge of an arable field.

**5** Turn left, following the way marking post to Blythe Road. Cross the road and walk to the right, going through the kissing gate on your left in 30m. Follow the path into the nearby field and cross the footbridge over the River Cole. Follow the river upstream a short distance and climb the steps alongside Coleshill Bridge.

Please be aware that the path immediately joins with only a small refuge. Please be aware

of the traffic as the next short section is along the roadside with no pavement area.

**6** Walk north along Lichfield Road towards The Wheatsheaf, turn right briefly onto Station Road. Cross station road and head south west back towards the zebra crossing over Lichfield Road. Continue to walk south along the footbridge over the River Cole to join the High Street.

**7** Walk up the hill and High Street, admiring the Georgian buildings, and in 610m you will arrive at Coleshill Town Hall.

Turn left onto Sumner Road and you will find a number of Almshouses built by John Sumner.

**8** Walk back to the High Street and turn left, walk back up High Street to the zebra crossing and cross the road. Walk 190m to Church Hill and the end of the walk, opposite the Pillory.

Take the time to explore more of Coleshill and visit a number of independent businesses for refreshments on the High Street.