

### 1. The Ancient Trackway or Bridle Path.

This trackway is well worth a walk though it is best done when the weather has been dry for a while. It cuts very steeply to start with up the hill and then turns right and runs along the hills to emerge eventually in Teddars Lane Road Fitchinghill. It is probably part of a very ancient trackway that led to Dover.

### 2. The Eastbrook Stream

The stream used to flow naturally across the road to join up eventually with the Nailbourne which rises in Well fields and then on down the Ethen Valley. However the spring for this stream rises in Fitchinghill runs under the road at the north end of that village before crossing the fields to the highway. It has long been known as the Eastbrook stream and also the Nailbourne by the inhabitants of Fitchinghill. The origin of the name Eastbrook being uncertain. It does in fact rise east of Tolsted Hill and flows in a north easterly direction but more importantly, from its source & across the fields to the highway it lies east of the Parish Church.

Nailbourne is a colloquial name given to many of the streams in this part of east Kent. Their flow of water depending on the level of the water table. They continue to flow underground when the level is low. Reputedly roughly every seven years this flows in abundance.

### 3. The Springs

On the right of the main road higher up in the field are some springs. The volume of water coming from them is not as great as it once was. Reputedly between the wars the volume increased to form a pond in which the village school children learnt to swim.

4. Glebe

next to the area of the Springs are some of the Glebe fields that were part of the endowments of the parish church.

5. Broadstreet

The present road is not any wider here although the name implies that it should be. Land was given by a previous owner of Broadstreet House to make the footpath from Lymington, but this was long after the area acquired this name.

6. Broadstreet House

According to Hasted it was the property and residence of the Sloddens for many generations. Successive owners have included the Rigdens, Friends and Villiers. It passed to the present owners Seipádier and Mrs Cholmerley in 1958. Within the cottages opposite and surrounding land Broadstreet House was originally a farm house (of uncertain date) possibly (16). The Georgian part was put on in 1820 and the back was extended in about 1910. Until then there was no bath or indoor sanitation. An interesting brick floor in the cellar reveals a gutter running down the center. A skreen ran through this cellar before Lymington acquired better drainage. A stone in the garage is dated early (17).

7. Broadstreet Cottages

These are two Two dwellings but were once four farm cottages, belonging to Broadstreet House. The left hand cottage dates to the date (18) about 1780. The right hand cottage is 1820. This would be the time Broadstreet House was undergoing its Georgian face lift for its earlier farm house appearance.

78. Footpath

This leads back to the parish church area. A  
van time gun emplacement was situated in the corner  
of the meadow by the second stile, where another  
path leads directly up the field to join the old  
Naggen Road from the church to Carl Lodge Farm

89. Footpath

On the left of the main road just past Broadstreet  
house is a footpath which leads to Hatchinghill. The  
lane on the sign post is Faalend Hill, the last  
post in the area is shows this comparatively  
modern term for the village.

Carrying on along the main road just beyond  
the rise you come to

910. Old Roadway

This cuts the corner off the fields and  
emerges back on the main road between New Barn  
and Hatchinghill. It is possible that it traces the  
original roadway. Interestingly it has in places  
a double line of field maples (*Acer Campestre*)  
obviously planted along its course. These were often  
found in connection with old roads and paths.

New Barn

The Postling road straight ahead and haighborough  
lane to the right mark the parish boundary with  
Postling. This area from Broadstreet to and around New  
Barn is very interesting. Roman coins have been found in the  
area and there are two field chases that have been  
connected in other places with Roman mile stones or markers  
ie.

White post meadow is the field to your left before the bend  
in the road

Staplefield is to the left along the Postling road.

### Court Lodge Farm.

This was probably the home farm of the Sharps of Lynnye. The present house was built this century on the site of a previous house that had burnt down. Attached to this house is a room built of brick that belonged to the former house. The name Court Lodge implies that the manor courts were held here or in the vicinity at one time. Also at one stage in its history it was a hop farm and the square boxes of the farm cottages were the square oasts. The south facing hop garden extended up the valley on the right hand side of the road to Farthing Common.

### Old Wappa Road.

This connects (or connected) the farm to the fields behind the Parish Church. It can be walked but the exit for Lynnye is now through the gate in the field just before the hole.

### Ben.

If you turn into Longbough here you can follow the road see the ben. This has been built on older foundations. The present ben is at least the third to be built at this site.

Follow the main road as it bends sharply to the left, a short distance along just passed the exit of the old road and on your right you will see a footpath. This leads to the top of Tolstead Hill passing what could be a medieval hynchel (field) created out of the hill side.

### Etchinghill Cricket Club.

Cadby on along the road and just before the  
 bend on the left hand side is Etchinghill Cricket Club. It was  
 founded in 1919 and its begin with was played on ground  
 at the other end of Etchinghill where the present garage  
 is situated. It moved to the next field before finally  
 settling at its present venue in 1930 onto land  
 loaned by Mr Creech who had bought Ridge House  
 after the death of Mr Ripden. This year 1998 the  
 Cricket Club have gained a lease on the ground for  
 999 years. At present the club is raising funds for a  
 new club house. The one in use to-day was opened  
 in 1956. Founder members of the club included Mr  
 and Mrs Finkeley of Broadstreet House and Mr Cullen  
 of Coombe Farm.

You are now in the village of Etchinghill. The origin  
 of this name is obscure, having variations spanning  
 a period of at least eight hundred years.  
 There was a village here in the 13th and through  
 the next centuries it appears recorded in various  
 archives in the form of land ownership, wills  
 and maps. Most of the older properties in the  
 village would appear to date from the late sixteenth  
 century to the mid eighteenth century and this  
 would comply with the pattern of economic  
 growth that has taken place throughout the  
 country at that time.

Watercress Farm.

On the right hand side of the road where it bends round to enter the village there once stood a farm and farm. This was known as Watercress farm. To-day there are two bungalows on this site, the new Watercress farm.

It was a place of considerable interest judging by the recollections of those who can still remember it. It was probably built at least two hundred and fifty years ago. The double ported part being Kent beather board the back being constructed of a mixture of brick flint and stone. It had four upstairs rooms and a heavy beamed fireplace in the sitting room below.

A dining room kitchen one large garden made up the other downstairs rooms. The land belonging to the farm during the last three generations of the Hogben family who owned it was comprised of seven acres. During the 1920's four cows supplied nearly the whole village with milk excluding the Ethen Union workhouse (now St Mary's Hospital) but Watercress farm had been supplying the village with milk since the late nineteenth century as photographs testify. Mr Hogben who lived at Watercress farm in the early years of this century was the village farmer and his farm was part of this small holding.

Because of the proximity of the Sastbrook (or Nailbourne) stream this area was prone to flooding giving rise to extensive watercress beds thus giving the property its name. haterly at least there were not exploited to any degree but the last member of the Hogben family to live there recalls in the spring and summer an old man coming daily from Folkestone with a large pannier to collect the watercress.

### The Old Wool Barn.

Opposite the site of Watercress Farm is on the left there are four bungalows beyond these behind the high brick wall is the Old Wool Barn. This building as its name implies was the barn in which the wool fleeces were stored after shearing time before being distributed. It was converted to a dwelling in 1973 for the present owner. The outer walls are made of handmade bricks under a Kent peg tile roof. There is an original stone wall in the present sitting room and some of the upstairs beams have names written on them of people who had placed orders for fleeces. These names were covered up when the ceilings were installed but beams and checks are still exposed elsewhere. This was originally a two storied barn.

### Ridge Hill Barn

This is the smaller of two single story barns that once formed the farm complex. It was here that the shearing took place - the fleeces being taken across the yard to the wool barn for storage. It was converted to a dwelling in the 1980's.

### The Barn

This larger barn is thought to be contemporary with the original farm house and therefore of considerable age. It stands on a stone foundation, weather-boarded at the front to meet the clay sloping roof with central double doors. The sides and rear of the barn are of brick the interior has massive oak beams. An old photograph taken about the turn of the century reveals a different shape to the roof. This barn is the last to survive in Etchingham, but it too has now been sold for conversion.

Ridge Hill Farm } Ridge Hill House  
 Hunters Rest }

These two houses were once one property known as Ridge Hill House. It was reportedly owned by the Ripden family for four hundred years and there is no doubt that this family owned practically all the land comprising Ecton Hill and possibly more besides. They were the squire of the village. Hunters Rest is the older part of the now divided property but its exact age is uncertain, three hundred and fifty years being the approximate accepted date. There is a brick over the front porch dated 1609.

There is oak panelling on the staircase and in the hall (from France) and white American pine panelling in the dining room. This is thought to have been installed in the Creelock's time. The original fire place in the sitting room was concealed by two later additions. These being removed in the 1970's it reveals a very old inglenook showing worn brickwork the wearing of the bricks thought to be due to the sharpening of implements. - About the turn of the century there was a large conservatory at the side of Hunters Rest. - This property shares a central stack with Ridge Hill Farm. and the sitting room of this property also has an old fire place and very old oak beams. In 1932 Mr Creelock extended the property on the side nearest to the Wool Barn i.e. Ridge Hill Farm. This was to house servants and stable employees.

The Stables

All the stables here have now been converted into dwellings. Some were undoubtedly older than others but it seems likely that there were stables here for centuries along with the farm. Above the converted stable nearest the entrance is a plaque inscribed W R 1774 thought to represent the initials of William Ridgen. (Dates on buildings can be misleading as they often refer to a time of alteration or renovation by the then owner)

After Mr Ridgen's death in 1929 when Mr Creadock bought the Ridge Hill Horse Farm complex it took on a decidedly equestrian flavour and remained so under various ownership until the late 1980's.

27 Beyond the stables a roadway passes over the triple arch bridge of the defunct Elham Valley Railway to a field beyond where gymnasia were held many years ago. On the opposite side of the road where modern bungalows now stand there used to be apple and nut orchards.

Ridge Hill Cottages.

Although at first sight this appears to be a single house it is in fact two cottages, of uncertain date on stone foundations - possibly 18th. It belonged to Ridge Hill House and was occupied by the farm workers and groom. Judging by the appearance of the brickwork the roof has been raised at some time and other alterations can be discerned i.e. kicked up windows.

## The Mook

Little is known about the origin of the Mook. It is quite possible that it was built on land once belonging to the Inn next-door. A double fronted Georgian building of brick under a slate roof. It was occupied during the 1920's and for at least another four decades by Miss Lucy and Miss Winifred Shillington. Nieces of Mr Rigden and Mrs Fine Kelsey. Being founder members of the Women's Institute and popular motivators of village activities in general, especially during the war years, the back lawn at the Mook was a frequent venue for children's parties, tea for the old folks for the hospital, country dancing and the like.

The wooden building in the right hand corner of the garden was the studio where Miss Winifred used to paint. She was an accomplished artist but her talents were hidden until comparatively recently when an exhibition of her paintings was shown.

It is perhaps fair to say that this village property is now "resting" from a previous period of popularity.

Blook House.

This is a listed typical Georgian Farmhouse. It was built and has been occupied as one house, unlike most of the other old houses in Eetchinghill excluding Watercress Farm and The Nook. It was occupied by Miss Palmer and her father in the early decades of this century. Miss Palmer being a founder member of the Womens Institute in Eetchinghill, and a superb model maker. Two of her model<sup>d</sup> dolls houses were in the possession of the Royal Family.

It is understood to have been built by the Ridder family as the estate bailiff's house. An old photograph taken at the end of the last century shows the bailiff and his wife - Mr and Mrs Barding standing outside the front door of Blook House.

(Post Office directory 1895 - Barding, James - farm bailiff to Thomas Henry Ridder Esq.)

Ridge Cottage.

This was over two cottages possibly of 16 acres. It was occupied in the 1920's by the wagoner for the Ridder's estate.

### Spicers Farm

On stone foundations the exposed timber framework and jetty under a Kent peg tile roof make Spicer's Farm one of the outstanding old houses in the district. On the right of the front door is the date 1634 and the roof timbers at the back of the house - the tail of the T-support an older building than the 17. The large central chimney stack and an unusual Dragon beam were probably incorporated at this time when Spicer's Farm was enlarged to give it the appearance we see to-day. Like most of the houses in Etchingham during the first part of the twentieth century Spicer's Farm was two dwellings. It was occupied by Mr Riddens estate workers, Mr Hutton (carpenter) and Mr Golding (shepherd).

In the 1920's the garage and room above were added the former holds over part of the old well. After Mr Riddens' death it was owned by Mr Chappel a master at Beedon boys school before being occupied by army officers (whose socks were damaged by the Home Guard's machine gunners) during the war. Six inch guns were mounted in the garden and to-day a plaque in the gun pit marks where one of them was placed.

Spicer's Farm had two further owners Mr Cotching and Major General Hanby before Mr White the present owner moved there in the 1950's.

The New Inn.

This is a picturesque as well as a very old building. This summer, 1990, it has acquired a new owner. The licensee landlord William Hipka. Inside is a delightful history of the New Inn and it is interesting to read because it appears to be the only <sup>old</sup> building in the entire village with a date of its founding. "It was built in the 37th year of Elizabeth I in 1595 was and remained for many years two farm dwellings forming part of a considerable estate."

If this date is correct then it is a very good pointer to other Tudor style cottages in Etchingham. It continues "by the turn of the 18th most of the land belonging to and adjoining the cottages had been sold off" which land adjoining and belonging is uncertain but before Mr Rigden's death there were properties that did not belong to the estate, water cross farm owned by Mr Hogben and the New Inn.

Before it gained the status of an inn the properties were known as Gayle or Gale Cottages, presumably after their founder Thomas Gayle of Folkestone. In 1849 the properties next to these cottages were a slaughterhouse and beer house - both were in a dilapidated state and condemned. The licensee of the beer house one Mary Fox in 1851 was granted a lease on one of the Gayle cottages and with the owners consent license was transferred. In 1853 upon being granted a full license she called it the New Inn.

The front elevation has been much altered from the original two dwellings with an obvious addition to the right hand side. In the 1970's the tiles covering the front brick infill were removed to expose the timber frame and attractive herringbone pattern. There was until recently a hitching nail for tying up horses situated at the extreme left, but with age it had become rotten and invariably got kicked its pieces by horses assembling for the local hunt. The New Inn had a very active social status earlier this century due to the fact that Etchingham has no church or chapel had so immediate relaxations and diversions were centered around it.

### Village Hall.

With a corrugated iron exterior now painted green the village hall was built about 1900 as a club room for the work people of Henry Riden of Ridge House. Work people comprising most of the village. The hall passed to Mr Riden's sister Mrs Funn Kelsey and in 1933 to her nieces Miss Lucy and Miss Winifred Shillingford of The Moor. In 1947 they approached Mr Cotching of Spicers Farm about land for a garden at the hall. This was made by the gardeners club and signs of the original boundary hedge can be seen to the right of the building.

In 1948 the Misses Shillingford transferred the hall to the local inhabitants.

In earlier times Cricket Club teas were served at the village hall on match days. Two young lads earning their pocket money looking after the cricket pav back at the ground during the players absence.

It has always been used by the Ettringhill Nona Institute since its founding in 1922 and now is the venue for children's parties, Summer barbecues and other fund raising events.

Ark Cottages.

These were a row of seven tenanted houses of varying dates. The earliest of flint construction being next to the New Inn. From the written history of the New Inn it states "In 1734 by the terms of the will of one Richard Coates of Lymington he bequeathed to his children Richard and Florence the cottages (ie. Gayle Cottages) who in 1763 sold off some six acres of arable and pasture and two acres of woodland adjoining the dwellings. A hundred years later in 1849 the slaughterhouse and beer house next door to Gayle Cottages were erected. Whether they were already there when the land was sold off or whether they were conversions for previous buildings we do not know. What is certain is that there was a slaughter house operating from the premises was known as Ark Cottages the old wheel belonging to it being remembered until quite recently\*. The beer house is also a certainty and the name it acquired was the Ark owing to the licensee being called Noah Dent.

According to a report found by 'Felix' writing in the Folkestone Herald early this century the Ark was also renowned for its excellent beef puddings 'the best tasted'. Perhaps due to a good supply of beef from the slaughter house next door. It closed as redundant in 1913 and became a shop.

Outside No. 1 and 2 which have been renovated and converted into one dwelling there used to be the village pump the water being pumped from here well within living memory.

\* The big pulley wheel is still in the ceiling of No. 1 Ark Cottage.

Ark pub - suspect  
 Noah Dent first landlord pub - 19 - beer shop  
 dated 1913

Rock Cottage is nearly all built of stone. These days  
 have Rock Cottage. It is believed to have been built  
 about 1634 as a year house. It had a small barn  
 and pond in a field that is now the garden of Crossways  
 in Loddons Lane Road. Rock Cottage has been divided for  
 many years and Marion Read who lives in Not Rock  
 Cottage has lived there since 1956. A special feature  
 of Rock Cottage today is its wonderfully eye catching  
 Virginia Creeper. It is the Antium many a passing  
 photographer (see Europe as well as many parts of Britain)  
 is tempted to stop and take a photograph of it.  
 During the last year Miss Palmer who at one time  
 lived at Rock Cottage with her father lived at Rock Cottage  
 and in a lean to cabin which was built against the  
 wall of the river as you see. The property she has  
 made the marvellous models for which she became  
 renowned. The wooden seat opposite is in her  
 memory for friends of the village.

### Tudor Cottage

This timber frame, brick and kent peg tile cottage is reputedly 300 years old, possibly older. The stone foundations being one foot or eighteen inches high at the base. It has a large central chimney stack similar to that at Spicers Farm with deep angle masonry on either side of it. It was for many years, possibly centuries two dwellings having staircases to each. These have been altered since its early days but the single dwelling it is today still has two staircases. Alterations upstairs to make one bedroom from two reveal very old oak timbers that were embedded in the dividing wall of lath plaster and hair. These oak beams that rise up from the floor (ie. timber frame construction) of the room are later than with age but are in fact immensely strong and impressive. Roman funerals are clearly visible on the ceiling beam in one of the down stair doors, suggesting old ship's timbers. The back of Tudor Cottage has a long sloping roof. It housed working families from the Ripden estate until it was bought by Mrs Matthews. During the 1939-45 war she opened tea rooms known as Tudor Cafe for the benefit of the D. day boys and Spitfire pilots from Hawkinge airfield. The tearoom was situated on the left hand side and Mrs Matthews' daughter in law opened a shop on the right hand side of the building, this taking the place of the only other shop Etchingham had at Ark Cottage. The shop at Tudor Cottage also closed in 1978. Previous to this date there had been a shop at Etchingham for 43 years. The tearooms have now closed too and it is a single private dwelling.

Alameda.

This house recently enlarged on its left hand side is situated next door to its Tudor cottage. Rylands' the white pebble dash bungalow and Alameda were both built by Mr Rumbold a local builder in the 1930's.

At Alameda during the last war there was a Red Cross centre operating from this property, the brick foundations of which are still to be found. The property was owned until recently by Mr Bailey (now retired 15 yrs) along with 11 acres of pasture. The pasture has now been sold off. The garden at Alameda is of unusual shape extending down the left hand side into a lane which presumably led to the pastures. However at the bottom of this track on the right side of it the ground dips into a steep hollow to reveal the source of the Eastbrook or Nailbourne. This summer 1990 being exceptionally dry there is only a small puddle to be seen, but in damper seasons and when the water table is high this hollow is a deep pond and the water from it flows quite conspicuously only a few yards further along its course, towards the north end of the village and Watercross farm.

### Ivy Cottage

This house is probably older than its appearance portrays being shown on the 1840 Tythe map. It is double fronted and of brick construction and has been connected with St Mary's Hospital since its early days when it was the Elham Union farmhouse. Ivy Cottage was often referred to as the Hospital House. Mr Dick Webb who lived there half a century ago was in charge of the hospital grounds and pigery. The pig sties went down a lane at the back of Ivy Cottage and Alameda's garden. Some of the cultivated ground belonging to the Elham Union farmhouse stretched up the hill where Tolstead Close is to-day. The vegetable gardens stretched the full length of the present ground in front of the hospital.

### Upstreet

Opposite No. 5 Upstreet a circular dip in the pavement marks the position of an old well. This served the needs of those living in very old cottages reputedly medieval. They were condemned as uninhabitable against much protest and bulldozed to the ground in 1960. Behind plaster on the walls the original construction revealed bundles of wattle overlaid with cow dung. The roof timbers in part were in the round being only roughly squared off here and there giving the impression of large branches. There was one beam up and one down and imagine the floor boards in these really old properties they were very uneven indeed. They were undoubtedly the oldest cottages in Etchampill, whether they were used by pilgrims on their way to Canterbury as suggested is unclear but their passing is a great loss to the village, especially this end of the village, as was Watercress Farm to the other end.

### Teddars leas Road

This old road As Dover leaves the centre of the village in an easterly direction As climb on As the downs. It undoubtedly has the oldest and most interesting name of the roads in Etchingham, its origin having associations with Saxon Kings and Queens and ancient sheep pastures all equally uncertain and all equally tantalizing.

At the start of this road by the old peoples' flats there was once the village pond, with iron railings on its side heaviest the main road. This was the meeting place of the village and when frozen over in wintertime the pond was used by the village children for skidding and sliding about. Behind it and next to the old Upstreet Cottages stood a magnificent old barn which shared the games of many Etchingham children. It was sadly burnt to the ground some 40 years ago.

Sam Clayton from Cheriton was the first owner of the nursery garden a little further up the lane on the right hand side. Alf Mathews took it over in 1934 and extended it, keeping pigs that used to bark down and flop into the village pond.

The land up Teddars leas Road was sold off bit by bit before the 1939-45 war for building the bungalows and houses seen to-day. Crossways on the left was not built until the early 1950's. There were two gun emplacements in this field that sheep used to graze in.

At the top of the hill some 3/4 of a mile distant on the left there is the track way leading back to the highway along the top of the downs. Just beyond it is a large house on the left hand side. It used to be called Newidene House and was used by the R A F during the war as a convalescent home for pilots. It is now called Teddars leas House.

Here the road forks the left going to Shuttlesfield and Aeries the right to Paddlesworth

# ETCHING HILL

Originally TETINGHELDE. 'HELDE' = slope, hill  
'Teting' = various possible meanings but could be connected with the stream there; if so, then could mean 'babbling'.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> century had changed to Etynghyld.  
The term Eachend hill is a comparatively recent corruption.

## C. 1285

In the manorial survey of Archbishop Pecham, who was lord of the manor of Lyminge, the tenant ~~yokes~~<sup>lands</sup> were divided into 'yokes'. These yokes had various services attached to them that the tenants of the land were obliged to perform for the lord of the manor. One group of yokes that seemed to set the pattern for all the others, and therefore would appear to be the oldest, were called the '5 $\frac{1}{2}$  yokes of Tetinghelde'. They were Cokynesyok, Beringeresyok, Keteyok, Trewesyok, and Halle (that was reckoned at  $\frac{1}{2}$  yokes).

Also mentioned in the survey are the cottagers of Tetinghelde, which shows there was some kind of settlement there, who had to mow 3 acres (of the lords ~~land~~<sup>meadow</sup>), spreading it, recollecting and heaping it.

## 1483

? Spicers Farm)

Richard Spicer, who died in 1483 left in his will a house at Etynghyde to his son William. His widow, Agnes, was to have a chamber in the house for her life, and a cow and its maintenance. Richard also left 5 shillings towards repairing the bad roads at Etynghyld.

## 1484

John Gardin, who died in 1484, left money for the repair of the roads at Etynghyde thus:-

- ① 7 shillings to be spent on the road to Hythe between (the land of) William or houses of Spisour and Thomas Spisur.
- ② 6s. 8d. on lane to Newington between Henry Spicer & William Spisour [this could be the no-through lane, leading to a house, just beyond Orchard garage on the parish boundary]
- ③ 6s. 8d on road leading to Dover [Teddars heas]
- ④ 6s. 8d on the road leading to Lyminge Church between Thomas Spisour & Thomas William.

Teddars heas was, in 1485, called Tedward Lees. Lees was a natural or artificial clearing in woodland. It seems that this clearing could have been called after a man - Edward - 'To or at Edwards Lees', becoming 'T'Edward's Lees'.