



Appledore **First World War** **Walking Trail**

***Revealing the history of local people,
places and events***

**This trail was developed with assistance from
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Additional material from Darrienne Price**

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All trails are accessible digitally at www.kentww1 on 100 miles tab, where you will find a link to an app.

Travel information:

By car: Appledore Village Hall, TN26 2AE

Parking: Free car park to the rear of the Village Hall, up to 25 spaces.

Places of rest / Facilities: There are public toilets at Recreation Ground, The Street, Appledore TN26 2AF

Walking Advice – Health and Safety

Some of the locations shown on our maps can be dangerous, particularly coastal areas where the incoming tide may cut off routes, and cliff edges may be prone to collapse. Always check local safety information before travelling, and use caution when visiting.

Our maps and points of interest are provided for historical information only. If you are not familiar with the area, always walk with an appropriate OS map.

For schools and groups, a pre-visit should be undertaken by the organiser. Any educational walks or visits must be arranged in advance through [e-Go](#).

Please view the following websites for important health and safety information for walking:

- gov.uk – Rules for Pedestrians
- www.walkingandhiking.co.uk – Health & Safety When Walking

Always use designated crossing points even if they are not shown in any walking guidance, neither Kent in WW1/ 100 miles for 100 years nor any associates assumes any liability for loss, damages or injury whilst following this trail.

Disclaimer

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For more information please visit www.kentww1.com

Trail specific information

Walking guidance please take great care if you are going to walk to point 8, we do not recommend this for groups, or families this is a very busy and narrow road with no footpath.

An alternative way to the Canal and Bridge would be to walk down Old Way Lane (near The Swan), where a short footpath continues to the Canal bank. You can then turn right and walk along the Canal Bank to the Bridge.

If you are going to walk down Court Lodge Road proceed with care as there are no footpaths.

Note: text in 'burgundy' shows directions to a particular stop.

Introduction

Once **a coastal town** and port with river access inland, **Appledore** was well established when it was mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was a thriving port where ship building was also undertaken.

Through the centuries Appledore lost its coastal position but still retained river access to Rye. There was a weekly market and the main occupations were sheep rearing and farming. The building of **the Royal Military Canal** drained the marsh land which had caused diseases, and so the population were healthier. When the **military use** of the Canal waned it was used to transport goods and also stretches were sold off with fishing rights.

Although **the railway** was built 2 miles from the village it still brought more prosperity and visitors to the village who patronised the tea rooms and admired the architecture of the **High Street**.

Appledore in **the First World War** is representative of many **small communities**, there were only **547 inhabitants** at the beginning of the War. The men who went to fight were agricultural workers, wheelwrights, or used to dealing with horses and served **in several different regiments** in all theatres of the War **around the world** and in both the Army and Navy. Their place in the community was taken briefly by other young men away from home and serving with **the 4th Battalion the Lancashire Regiment**.

In 1914 the arrival of **Belgian refugees** brought the War closer to home as the villagers became aware of what was happening to civilians in Belgium. These refugees were housed in **Court Lodge Road** and made friends in the village; with the **children attending the village school** and the family attending services at the Church.

On **the Home Front** men served as Special Constables helping **to guard the Bridge**, women registered their **ration books** at Avery's and children at the village school were allowed to miss lessons in order the help **with harvesting**.

In the village the names of the **16 men** who served and fell are **remembered** along with the other 45 who fought and returned.

We hope that our trail provides you with an insight into **the impact** that the First World War had on **rural communities**.

Appledore Trail

Distance: 0.5 miles (700 m)

1. Village Hall and Car Park

Start here, TN26 2AE

Village Hall was built in 1926 but houses a very unusual artefact from the First World War. This is a **deactivated 15inch Howitzer Shell**; which was presented to the village in recognition of the community's contribution to **the war effort** by purchasing War Bonds.

War Bonds were used by the Government to raise funds to finance the War; they did not offer a good **rate of interest** so were a cheap way for the Government to borrow money. People were encouraged **to be patriotic** and buy War Bonds to support the country.



942ASH Courtesy T Morgan



1031ASH Courtesy Appledore Local History Society



Shell and poster images Appledore Local History Society

Larger towns such as Ashford were presented with tanks after the War in recognition of their **fundraising support** but for such a small village **to be recognised with a shell** was an achievement.

Originally the shell had a **brass plaque** but there seems to be no record of it being **displayed** in the village. In the 1950's it was laying on the ground at the back of the village hall and was abandoned until a few years ago when it was moved **to Hall House** where it was more secure and also still accessible to the public. **The Appledore Local History Society** took on the task of renovating the shell, having the shell casing shot blasted, zinc plated and painted to preserve it and then placing in its current position **in November 2014**.

2. The Methodist Chapel

Walk along The Street until you reach The Methodist Chapel on your right.



943ASH ©T Morgan

Inside **the Methodist Chapel**, founded in 1836, is a **wooden Roll of Honour** which lists all those from the village who served and those that fell.

The population of Appledore in 1914 was **547**, and by the end of the war 61 men from the village served of whom **16 died**. The names of the fallen are listed on the central panel of the Roll of Honour.

Some of the men listed would have attended the **Sunday School at the Chapel**.

It is believed that this Roll of Honour was originally in the school but it is not known what year it was moved to the Methodist Chapel.



933ASH Courtesy T Morgan

This building is not usually open unless there is a service.

3. 42 The Street E Avery and Sons

Keep walking along The Street until you reach 42 The Street on your right.

E Avery and Son was the largest shop in the village and **the Post Office**. The shop sold everything that could be needed **including groceries and clothing** and was a corn dealer supplying local farmers and also anyone in the community rearing chickens.

As a **Post Office** this is where telegrams were received and often **the first place to know** about important national events such as War being declared, when the telegram would have been put in the window for the villagers to see; likewise **when peace was declared**.

The postal service was very important as it was the only way to keep in touch with loved ones far away - even **in a rural area** such as Appledore there would have been 5 deliveries a day.

Avery's is where many of the villagers would have registered their ration books in 1918. **Rationing** was brought in **during 1918** to counteract shortages of food caused by **U-boat activity** and to ensure that everyone had a certain amount of food. However **poorer families** still went short as prices were high. The villagers were fortunate as they could grow their **own vegetables** and rear chickens.



4. Looking back down the Street from number 30, The Street

Walking along The Street until you reach 40 The Street and look back.

The 4th Battalion the Royal Lancashire Regiment was stationed in Appledore in late Autumn 1914 preparing to go to the Western Front.

A letter from Ben Carbis **to his parents in Newton le Willows** provides an insight into Appledore at this time. Lance Bombardier Ben Carbis and his brother Corporal Tom Carbis will both be in this picture and **throughout their service** they wrote letters home to their parents which are now part of the National Archive.

All of the men **were billeted** with local families, 2 to 3 to a home and **their presence** would have had a big impact on such a small village. They were only here for a short time and were engaged in **digging a trench** by the Royal Military Canal close to the road - the whereabouts of trench is not known but Ben describes it as being **5 feet deep and 2 feet wide** with tunnels leading off for a **Kitchen and Hospital**.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/3b84ae0d-1fe8-428b-93a1-bf6643217fce>



5. 22 The Street - site Forstal Hall

Continue along The Street until you reach 20 The Street on your right.



22 The Street is the site of Forstal Hall which was the home of Ian A(rthur) Millar who was born in 1897 and educated at **Cranbrook** according to the 1911 census. He initially enlisted as a private in the **East Kent Mounted Rifles Regiment** but at some point transferred to **The Royal Irish Rifles, the 6th Battalion** with whom he would have sailed from Liverpool for Gallipoli in 1915.

2nd Lieutenant Ian Millar died of wounds aged 19 in Greece on 30.9.1916, leaving a widow Williamina. He is buried in **the Military Cemetery in Struma**.

His service reflects that men from the village fought in all theatres of the war worldwide – not just on the Western Front.

Sources: <http://www.everymanremembered.org>

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/35000/STRUMA%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY>

<http://www.1914-1918.net/ririfles.htm>

6. 8 The Street

Keep following The Street until you see 8 The Street on your right.

Local history suggests that this was a **private convalescent hospital during the War** and that the wounded were brought **here on the Royal Military Canal** as this was a less stressful method of transportation for the wounded. Although there is **no official record**, it is entirely possible that; if the hospital was **run purely on private funds**; the Red Cross or other bodies would not have any records of the establishment. It is also rumoured that **Lloyd-George** paid a visit.



After the War this was a bakery and tea room.

7. Court Lodge Road

Continue walking along The Street until you reach a turn to Court Lodge Road. If you are going to walk down this road proceed with care as there are no footpaths.

Looking down the road you will see **Lushington Cottages**, which is where **Ben Carbis** was billeted at the Johnson family home. **Alfred and Helen Johnson** (who was born in Aberdeen) both worked at Court Lodge. Their son Richard Simon (born 1891) was serving with **the 4th Royal West Kent Regiment** and away from home, when Ben and his fellow soldier Alec were billeted with them. The Johnson's daughter Dorothy (b 1895) was employed in London in an Oxford Street store **Bourne and Hollingsworth** on the evening dress department, where she was living in a large hostel; Warwickshire House in Gower Street; with the other female employees. Mr Johnson was a **Church Warden** and head bell ringer at the Church and also a **Special Constable**.



The owner of Court Lodge who the Johnsons worked for, was **Mr E B Terry**, a prominent local land owner. In **July 1919** when the village held their peace celebrations Mr Terry **lent** his meadow

as the venue. The newspaper report of the time refers to a **procession** forming at the Church and proceeding to the **meadow**, and so we assume that the meadow was attached to Court Lodge. The day itself was part serious, commencing with a **service remembering** those who fell but also a celebration.

The programme of events included **various sports events**, including a goal running match between the **ex-servicemen** and a **local club**. Goal running was a game which was very popular in East Kent and The Weald and consisted of **teams of 10 men** who played a version of tag, barefoot.

The evening culminated in a **fire work display**.

Source: Kent Times newspaper

Next door to the Johnson home was a house where a **family of 11 Belgian refugees** were living. They had only recently **fled from Ostend** and had lost all their possessions and also lost contact with the father of the family who was serving with the **Belgian Army** and also the fiancé of one of the girls who had been called up 2 days before they **were due to be married**. Luckily 2 of the family spoke English and the children were **attending the village school** where they were picking up the language. How long the family remained in the village we do not know, but the **hospitality** shown to the refugees was **replicated all around the country**.



Also living in Court Lodge Road were the parents (Albert and Sarah) of **Frederick Fowle**, born 1893, who was a farm labourer aged 18 in the 1911 census. **Frederick became Private G/23226** in the 18th (Pioneers) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment which was formed in **February 1915**. We don't know when Frederick enlisted but it would have been during 1915 as the Battalion was training during this time, some of the time **at Clipstone** and **on Salisbury Plain**. The Battalion sailed for the Western Front; probably from **Southampton**; landing in **Le Havre in France** in November 1915.

The Pioneers had a very important and sometimes **very dangerous** role to perform as they were the men who dug **communication trenches**, laid rails to keep the railway running, tunnelled - all very much front line activity. Frederick **was killed on the 16th April 1918 aged 25** and, having no grave, is commemorated on the Ploegstreet Memorial Panel 8.

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/1615/middlesex-regiment/>

<http://www.1914-1918.net/msex.htm>

http://www.faversham.org/history/More_History/Goal_Running.aspx

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/3b84ae0d-1fe8-428b-93a1-bf6643217fce>

We do not recommend that those with children or large parties walk down to the canal as there is no footpath, the road is narrow and cars approach the bridge at speed.

An alternative way to the Canal and Bridge would be to walk down Old Way Lane (near The Swan), where a short footpath continues to the Canal bank. You can then turn right and walk along the Canal Bank to the Bridge.

8. The Royal Military Canal

Follow B2080; turn left before you cross the Royal Military Canal.



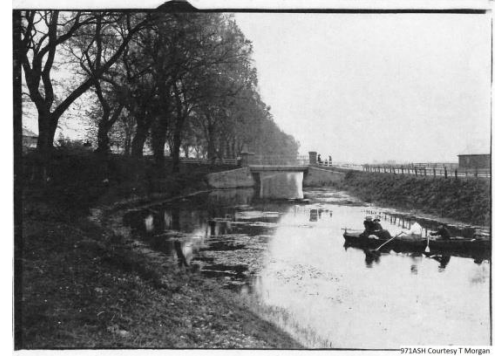
Although the canal had been **in private hands** before the War it was back under the jurisdiction of **the War Office** during the First World War. The area controlled by the War Office and therefore **guarded**, included the **towpath**, the back drain alongside the towpath and the road alongside the canal which ran **from Appledore to Rye**. Special Constables like Mr Johnson were stopping vehicles **to check** that passengers had

a **legitimate reason** for being in the area. Guns were redeployed in the **defensive positions** and the bends of the canal. These positions had been **previously used** in the Napoleonic Wars.

Although there is no evidence nowadays of **the trench and associated work** being done by the **Royal Lancashire** we can assume that the men were working close to the bridge or road, as Ben Carbis's letter refers to people stopping **to see what they were doing**. He also relates that the men were working **from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** with an hour for lunch and **how strange** it was to work fixed hours when serving in the Army.

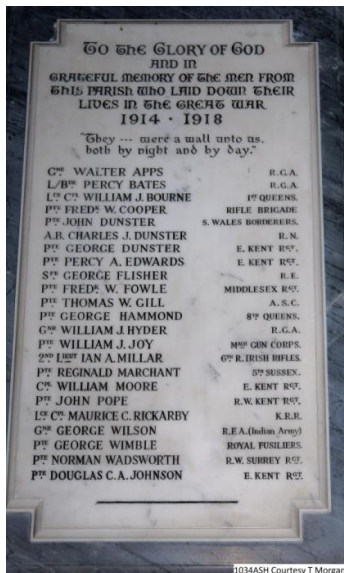
Interestingly the fishing rights for the Appledore stretch in the canal **were being advertised** in 1917, so it is possible that some of the canal was **back in civilian hands** by then.

When you look towards the Church there is a **raised slip where boats could land** passengers and goods. Local history suggests that **wounded soldiers** were transported on **the canal** but there are no official records of this.



9. St Peter's and St Paul's Church

Walk back along the Street until you reach a turn to Court Lodge Road. On your right you will see St Peter's and St Paul's Church, go to the Churchyard.



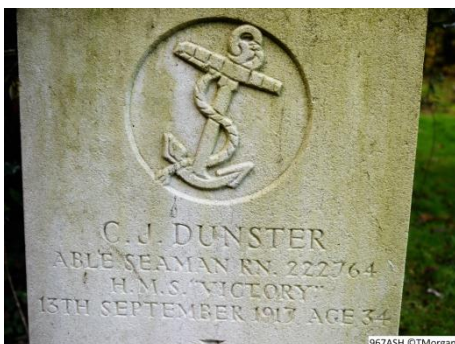
An important focal point for village life - inside the Church you will discover the Roll of Honour and; on display; an embroidered timeline of the village which features a First World War panel.

In the graveyard there are **6 gravestones of men** from the village who **died in the First World War** which is a mixture of Commonwealth War Graves in Portland stone and family memorials.



Dunster Brothers

Charles John Dunster; (13/9/1917) - war grave, Row 13, No 14



Able Seaman Charles John Dunster was born in 1883 and the second son of Frederick and Elizabeth of **1 New Rents, Kenardington**. He joined **the Royal Navy** in Portsmouth in 1905 when he was 12 and his occupation at the time was **Milk Boy** - he was **5 feet 8 inches tall** (which was tall at the time and for his age) and had gray eyes. During the War he served on **HMS 'Minotaur'**, an armoured cruiser which was stationed in the Far East in 1914 on the **China Station** conducting **patrols from Hong Kong** and Singapore. The ship also visited Australia and New Zealand. In January 1915 the Minotaur

sailed from **Sierra Leone to Portsmouth** and thence to Scapa Flow as the flagship for the 7th Cruiser Squadron. Charles was posted to **HMS Victory** which was the shore based establishment in Portsmouth in September 1915 and he married a Miss White in Hoo district between July and September 1915. On his Navy record it indicates that he was ill with tuberculosis and he died on the 13th of September 1917 aged 34.

George Dunster, (7/3/1917), added at the bottom of the same war grave

He was the eldest son of Frederick and Elizabeth of 1 New Rents, Kenardington Road. He was **born in 1879** and by the time he was 12 years of age he had left school and was a **farm labourer**. In the 1911 census George was still living at home with his parents and working as a rough carpenter with his father.

George enlisted in the **7th Battalion The East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)** as a Private. George was 38 when he died of wounds received in battle on 7.3.1917 and is buried at **Etaples Cemetery** and remembered on his brother's Commonwealth War Graves stone in the Churchyard.



Sources http://www.naval-history.net/OWShips-WW1-05-HMS_Minotaur.htm
<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>
<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Kent/Appledore.html>

Private Douglas Claude Allen Johnson, (13/10/1915), on family gravestone, Row 15 No 2

Douglas Johnson, service number G/691, was born 1894 in Appledore and lived **with his parents** in the Street. His father George was a **builder**, his mother Eleanor was a **dressmaker** and his brother Ewart was a **house painter**. Douglas was also a **bell ringer** at the Church before he enlisted.

Both Douglas and Ewart had **volunteered to serve** by February 1915, Ewart served with the **Australian Royal Army Medical Corps** as a driver and Douglas enlisted in Ashford in **the Buffs** (East Kent Regiment 6th Battalion)



Douglas was **killed in action** at the age of 21 on the 13 of October 1915. His death occurred on the very last day of the **battle of Loos** that his regiment took part in. The fight lasted from the 25th of September to the 13th of October. It was **the largest battle** the British took part in **during 1915** and the British suffered very heavy casualties.

Douglas is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Sources:
<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/732929/JOHNSON,%20DOUGLAS%20CLAUDE%20ALLEN>
<http://kcacr.org.uk/association/world-war-1-records/roll-of-honour/>

Simeon Percy Bates (6/5/1918) - war grave, Row 22, No 15

When Simeon was born in 1881 the family home was on the High Street and his father was a **butcher** possibly established behind **Briar Cottage** (the white weather boarded house in The Street). Simeon is known to have joined **the Royal Garrison Artillery at Lydd** but we do not have a record of the date, however he is not listed on **the census in 1901** so we are assuming that he joined before. His father appears to have **died before 1901** as his **mother Ellen** is listed as **Head of the household** and her occupation as Butcher and Greengrocer. Simeon was a **Lance Bombardier** serving in the 1st Reserve Battalion Royal which was a home based battalion **manning the coastal defences** and we believe based in Shoreham. He died of wounds received in an accident **on 6th May 1919**.



William Joy, (10/12/1919) - war grave, Row 22, No 24

He was born in Appledore in 1899 to Ernest and Edith who were living at **Round About Cottages, Appledore, Kent**. By the 1911 census the family have moved to **Snargate** and his father was a plate layer on the railway.

William served with the **1st Battalion the Machine Gun Corps**, the Machine Gun Corps was not formed until 1915 as specialised unit and saw **action on all the Front lines**. William's records indicate he had been gassed and finally succumbed on **the 10th December 1919** and is buried in the Churchyard. He is also remembered in Rye which is where his parents were living in 1919 - his father being a **native of Rye**.



<http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk>

Corporal William Moore, (3/5/1917) mentioned on his parents' grave, Row 24, No 25,



1033ASH Courtesy Brian Knight

service number G/115 was born 1891 in Appledore and died at the age of 27 on the 3rd of May 1917 and served in the **Bufs (East Kent Regiment) 6th battalion**.

His parents Albert and Jane lived in **Victoria Cottage, The Heath**; his father was employed as an agricultural labourer. William was the youngest of the family, having a brother, Archie and a sister, Caroline.

William's death occurred during the last few days of **the battle of the Scarpe** in 1917 during the Arras offensive. The battle was inside **Nord-pas-de-Calais**

area of France. He has no known grave and his name is on the Arras War Memorial.



963ASH ©TMorgan

Photo below is of William Moore's parents our thanks to Brian Knight for sharing this family story.



1032ASH Courtesy Brian Knight

Sources <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/781665/MOORE,%20WILLIE>
<https://search.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/record?id=qbc%2f1901%2f0006618327>
<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Kent/Appledore.html>

Private Joseph John Pope, (18/4/1915) private gravestone, Row 27, No 4,

service number G/4784 was born 1895 in Appledore and died (killed in action) at the age of 20 on the 18 of April 1915 in France & Flanders. He enlisted at **Whitstable, Kent** and was a member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent 1st Battalion.

On the 1911 census Joseph lived with his **grandmother Dorothy Frances Annie**, who was 77 and his father Joseph Pope (a boot maker) was 40; who were both born in Hamstreet. Joseph John was employed as grocers assistant and might have been known locally as John to distinguish him from his father.

Joseph Pope's name is inscribed on the Menin Gate, Ypres.



Sources: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1624571/POPE,%20JOSEPH%20JOHN>
<https://search.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/record?id=qbc%2f1911%2frq14%2f04224%2f0097%2f2>
<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Kent/Appledore.html>

The Church is open from 9 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. earlier in the winter at 'dusk'.

10. The Swan

Walk back to The Street and follow it until you reach a turn to Old Way. On the corner on the right you will see The Swan Inn.

Once a coaching inn, **The Swan** was subject to new licensing laws brought in early in the War. Pubs were only allowed to sell intoxicating liquor **between 12-2.30p.m. and 6p.m.-8p.m.** and were **not allowed to sell spirits** for consumption off the premises at the week end. There were also **restrictions** on orders which were delivered to private houses.

Pubs could still open from 5.30 a.m. **to provide food and non alcoholic beverages.**

The main impact on the customers was that they were **not allowed** credit or to buy a round of drinks **'treating'** as it was known. The penalty for breaking the regulations was **a fine (up to £100) or imprisonment.** Customers were also not allowed to stand and drink at the bar - they would **have to be seated** and be served at their seats.



Walk a little further up The Street and this is where The Lancashire men were marching in 1914. This is the final stop of your trail.

The **letter from Ben Carbis** provides an insight into village life at the time and has brought to the fore some things such as the **construction of the trench** by the Canal and the presence of **Belgian refugees** in the village which had been forgotten.

The annotated picture shows how little the village sky line has altered.



Other points of interest

➤ **Appledore Railway station** is situated just over a mile and a half outside of the village, it was very important during the First World War as it was where the branch line to Lydd and Lydd Camp joined the main line. Although Appledore was very rural, the railway gave good transport links to Ashford and onto London and meant that the village received mail speedily unlike other villages where the mail would have been delivered by wagon.

➤ **Appledore School**

The school was located at the first junction out of Appledore along the road that goes to Tenterden, on the right hand side. This was the school attended by all the **local children** and by the **Belgian refugee children**. The wooden Roll of Honour, now in the Methodist Church, was originally in the school.

School children were allowed by the **Kent Council Education** department to miss school from May to October to help with **summer crop sowing and getting the harvest in**. Their contribution was vital to food production which was necessary as the country had **relied heavily on food imports** before the War and the German U-boats were **sinking merchant shipping**. School children were also involved in **collecting conkers** to extract the starch used to make acetone which was used in munitions and previously sourced from Germany. They would also **collect salvage** and the girls would **knit items** for the troops such as **mittens and scarves**.

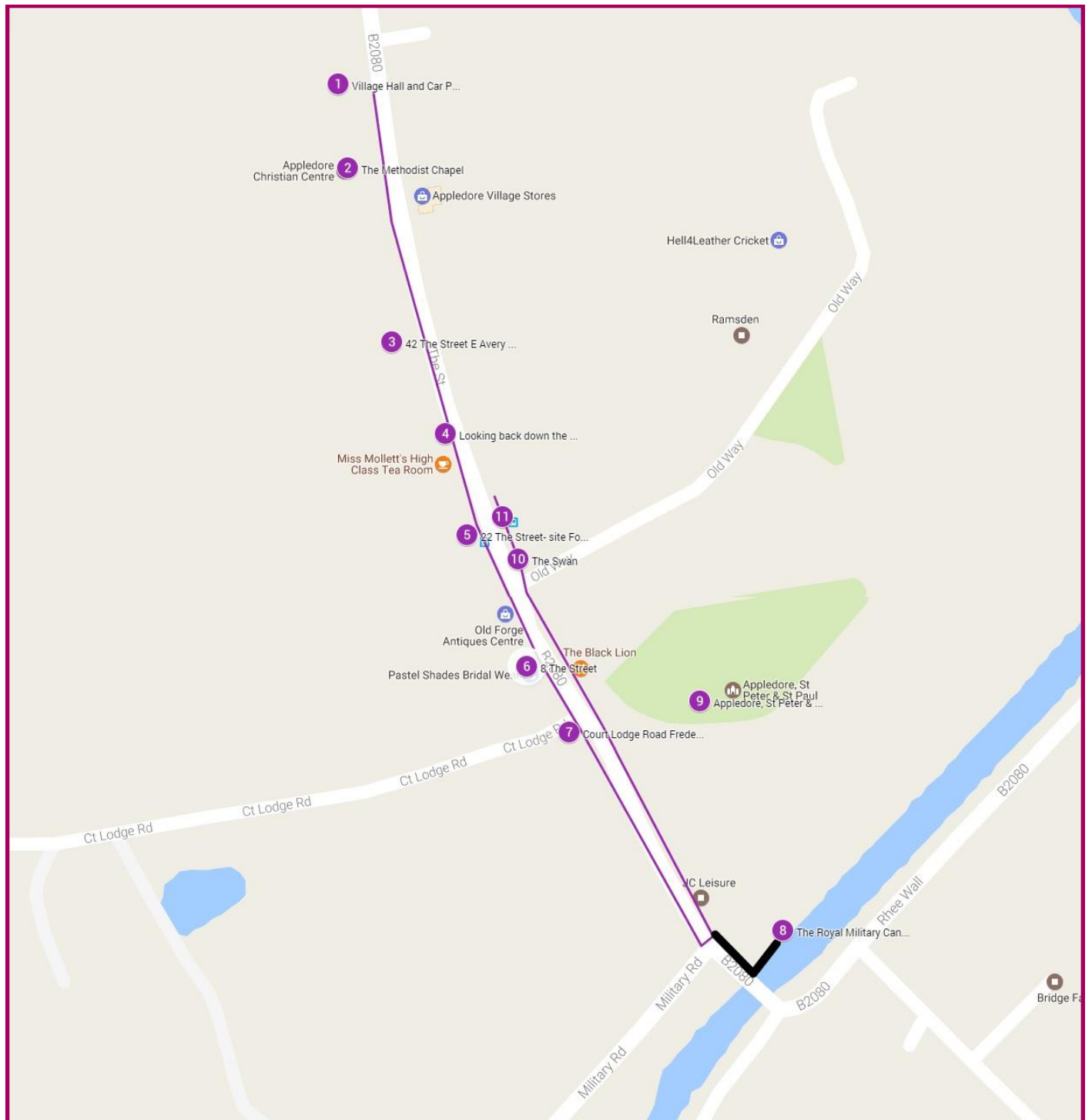


Appledore Trail Quiz

1. There is a 15 inch Howitzer Shell outside the Village Hall.	True/False
2. The memorial tablet in the Methodist Chapel includes names of 16 people who fell during WW1.	True/False
3. E Avery and Son was the largest concert hall in the village.	True/False
4. In 1914 The 4 th Battalion The South Lancashire Regiment were stationed in Appledore and were billeted with Appledore families.	True/False
5. Ian A Millar lived at London Hall in Appledore.	True/False
6. Ian A Millar also served in the 6 th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.	True/False
7. Ben Carbis was billeted with the Johnson family in Huphington Cottage.	True/False
8. The Lancashire Regiment were digging a trench near the Bridge across the Royal Military Canal in November 1914.	True/False
9. Mr Johnson of Lushington Cottages was a church warden and head bell ringer at the Church.	True/False
10. You could buy food and non-alcoholic drinks in a pub as early as 5.30am.	True/False

When you have completed the quiz don't forget to send your answers to info@kentww1.com to receive your certificate.

Appledore Trail Map



Please note: Burgundy numbers correspond with the points in the description
 The black line on the map indicates that we do not recommend that those with children or large parties walk down to the canal as there is no footpath, the road is narrow and cars approach the bridge at speed.