

Be a Bampton Detective!

BAMPTON FAMILY TOWN TRAIL QUIZ

Welcome detectives! Search for answers to the questions
- you will find them all on your trail route, but you must search for them...

Start sleuthing - and good luck!



Your sleuthing works starts in Station Road by the Library and Resource Centre – the LARC (see map on rear)



This building was once a school. Look nearby.

Q1.

Where did the teacher live?

.....

Children would have walked to school along roads that were used mostly by people on foot, riding on horses or by tradespeople using a horse and cart to move goods. The roads would have been very muddy, especially in the winter.

Q2.

What can you see outside the LARC that would have helped children get the mud off their boots before they went into school?

.....



Now carefully cross the road to the main car park opposite – and be careful of cars moving in and out of the car park.

You are now standing on top of what was the railway station and tracks. A few metres below you are the old tracks and platforms, covered over after the railway closed in 1963. Look at this picture and you can see how the station and railway line looked back in the 1920's.



Walk to the end of the car park by the public toilets.

Here you can see a model of the Great Western Railway Tivvy Bumper engine. This was the main engine that ran on these tracks, taking passengers to and from work or sheep to market or stone from the local quarries to building sites. You can see the actual engine in the Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life. As you walk around town look out for pieces of the old railway that have been used for other purposes.

Q3.

Look at the railway engine model and plinth. For how many years did the Bumper run through Tiverton and Bampton on the Exe Valley Line?

.....



Now cross the road carefully to The Bridge House Hotel and walk downhill until you get to the Spar shop.

Imagine that the space in front of you was once an open square with no buildings. This would have been where markets and fairs were held. Bit by bit, as traders began to want to settle and stay in one place to set up their business, market stalls became buildings and shops.

Look up the steps of the building in the middle of the road. The Manor Room was the toll booth where the Lord of the Manor collected tolls from traders on market and fair days.

Q4.

What was the name of the company which built the Manor Room and when was it built?

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Look at the picture below. Until 1900, two cottages stood beside what is now the Spar store. The owner of one of the cottages decided to set fire to his house so he could claim on the insurance. However, in the cottage next door lived the man who did the blasting at the quarries and who had stored some dynamite at home. When the fire spread, the dynamite ignited, and the explosion destroyed both cottages and part of the adjacent shop. Apparently, no-one was injured but instead of an insurance pay-out the man who started the fire received a jail sentence!



Q5.

Look at the walls of the buildings under the Manor Room – what can you see that was part of the old railway and what are they used for here?

.....



Now, walk to the end of the road and turn left to go up Frog Street. Stop when you get to the old gate and wall on the left, before the road rises to go up the hill.

Over the wall, or through the gate, you can see the Shuttern Brook. You will see it again later in your trail.

The Shuttern Brook was very important to Bampton. People got their water for washing and cooking and gardens from the brook. There were also four taps in town where people could get drinking water. Imagine what it might have been like to have no taps in your house!

Q6.

***What is used to measure the level of the water here in the Shuttern Brook?
What is highest level shown?***

.....



Now walk back to the beginning of Frog Street and carefully cross the road to Silver Street opposite.

In the middle of Silver Street, you can see cobbles. The main roads in Bampton would all have been cobbled long ago – that might not have been very comfortable when you were in a cart or walking.



At the end of Silver Street, at Lucy Lou's corner shop, turn left and walk along Brook Street.

The Shuttern Brook used to run right down the middle of the road here. In 1860 the brook was diverted to run along both sides of the road, as you see it today.



Keep on the same side of the road and walk to Court Grove – the house just after Costcutter.

Court Grove used to be a farm. The double doors were big enough to let carts through to the farm behind. Cows were walked through the town to get to the fields and then back again to be milked in the barns at the back of the farmhouse. Can you see the cows in the picture below?




The name also tells you that courts might have been held there to try criminal cases – such as horse thefts or burglary.

Look at the three cottages opposite. Can you see how tall their chimneys are compared with others on neighbouring buildings? This probably meant they used to be thatched. The chimneys would have been taller to pass through the thatch and stand well above it so that sparks did not set fire to the thatch.

While you are walking, look at the different houses and see how many chimney pots you can count on each house. Houses with more chimneys meant that there were more rooms with fireplaces. Coal was expensive and more chimneys might have shown that the original owners of the houses were quite rich if they could afford to heat more than one room.

Next to Court Grove are 1 and 2 National Terrace. These two houses used to be the National School, founded by a charity in 1821.



 **Keep on the same side of the road and walk towards the bridge.**

Can you see where the Shuttern Brook goes under the road?

Q7.

**Look carefully for a sign in a flowerbed by the car park.
What was the name of the milkman remembered in Bampton and
for how many years did he deliver milk here?**

.....



Carefully cross the road and look over the bridge to the River Bathern below.

Look to your right over the bridge. Can you see where the Shuttern Brook flows into the river? You saw this go under the road in Frog Street, flow along the sides of Brook Street and then go under the road again to come out into the river here.

Just down Bridge Terrace next to the bridge, you can see the old lock up or gaol. People who had broken the law were held here overnight – can you imagine how it might have felt being in the cold and dark for the night? The 19th century Police Station was nearby.



Now return along Brook Street on this side of the road.

You will pass Well House and you can see the board covered well in front of the house. It was once thought that Bampton could become a grand spa town where people could drink the water and make themselves feel healthy, but the water is dark orange and full of iron and tastes even worse than it looks!



Keep walking along Brook Street on this side of the road. Pause at the three tall chimneyed cottages on your left.

Q8.

***What tells you how far it is from Bampton to Minehead?
How many miles is it to Minehead?***

.....



Continue a short distance and then turn left onto Mary Lane.

Mary Lane leads to the church which was originally named St Mary's, which is why the lane has its name. The church is now called St Michael and All Angels but that would make a very long street name plate!

Look at the wall on the left as you walk up Mary Lane. Can you spot the wooden door lintel? This shows that there was once a door here which was bricked up as use of the house changed. The lintel isn't very high – perhaps people were shorter in those days.

The houses opposite this wall were once a chapel.

Q9.

Look up - what was the Chapel originally called?

.....

A little further on, can you find the old tap on the right-hand side of the lane? This is one of the four taps that people could use for drinking water before water was piped into houses. Imagine if you lived by the bridge and had to come all this way to get a drink.



Keep going up the lane and then turn right to go to the church.



The two stone covered yew trees by the church porch are thought to be over 500 years old. At that time, the churchyard would have been used to graze animals. The bark, needles and seeds of all yews are highly poisonous to animals so the trees had to be covered in stone to keep them safe.

Look along the wall to the right of the church porch. Can you see the sun dial? It dates from 1586 and is one of the oldest sun dials in the country.

Q10.

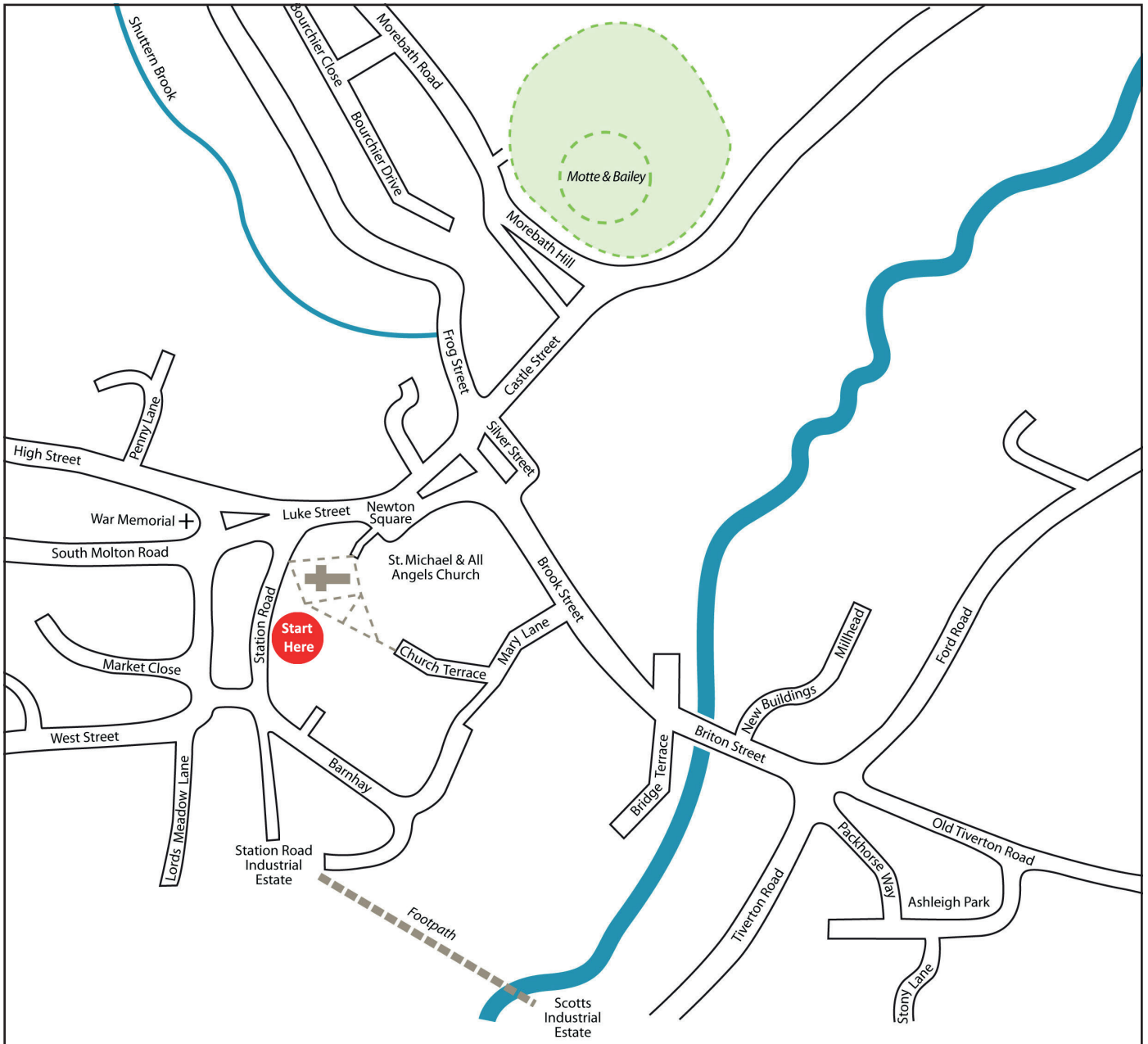
Look very carefully at the sun dial. What is missing?

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**Well done detectives, you have reached the end of your town trail!
Collect your e-certificate and Bampton badge - details below**

If you visit the Heritage Centre, inside the church, with your completed quiz sheet you'll receive a free 'I love Bampton' badge! You'll find lots of fun activities inside the centre too. The centre opening hours can be found on the website www.bampton.org.uk/heritage-centre

You can also visit this website to check your answers to the quiz questions and click on the link to get your e-certificate.



Our thanks to the
National Lottery Heritage Fund
for supporting 'Our Buildings' project.

If you would like to find out more about Bampton, our Guided Town Trails
or the Self-guided Family Town Trail please visit the centre,
email bamptonheritage@btinternet.com or visit www.bampton.org.uk/heritage-centre
where you will also find our opening hours.