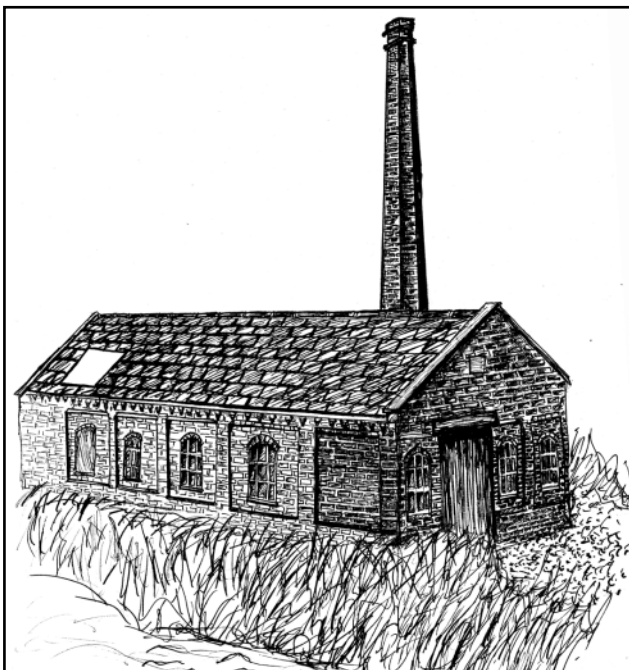


yard where coal and raw flax were delivered and from which finished linen goods were taken away to Teesside to be exported round the world. An important day for the village was the annual Sunday School Outing when there was a mass exodus, by train, to Redcar.

**9 Wilfords' Mill.** Over the bridge, on your left, are the few remaining buildings of a linen mill. In 2003 the last mill chimney was demolished from here and is still missed as a local landmark. Brompton Heritage group salvaged many of the chimney bricks to use as bases for three information boards and a memorial seat to the linen workers (No 18). The shape of the chimney is echoed in the linen mill information board plinth and the memorial seat.



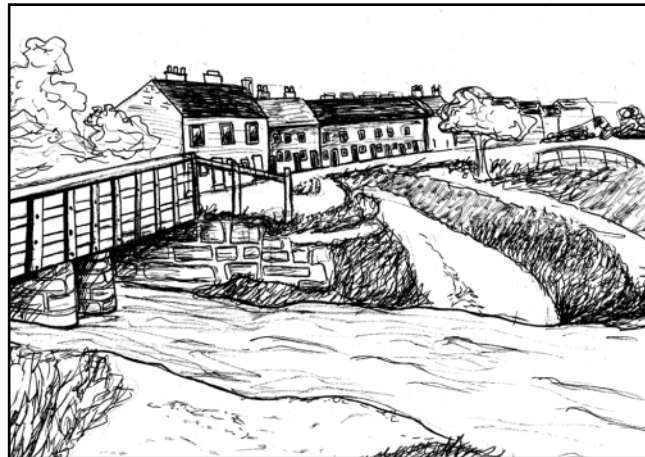
**10 The Village Hall.** Turn left when you reach the crossroads and walk over Cockpit Hill (where once cock fighting took place) and proceed to Water End Green. On your way you pass the Village Hall, originally a Temperance Hall. Notice the inscription above the main door and its date, 1876.

**11 The Primitive Methodist Chapel,** (house number 21A) now converted into a home, was once one of three Methodist chapels in the village, all of which played an important part in the social and cultural life of the local population.

**12 The Old Steam Powered Flour Mill.** Before Cockpit Hill opens into Water End, you come to an ordinary looking dwelling, house number 57, which juts out at right angles to the rest of the terrace. This was once a steam-powered flour mill which had replaced the windmill in 1870 (No 15) and was operational until 1896 when an interior fire caused it to close.

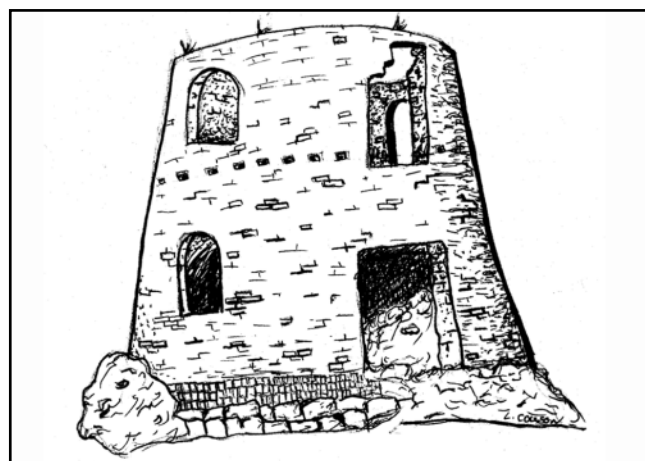


**13 Site of the Old Water Splash or Ford.** Take the left fork to a bridge over the beck. On the right of the bridge there was once a water splash which was the only way for wagons to get over the beck until Claude Wilford, one of the mill owners and the first person in Brompton to possess a motor car, built the present bridge to replace the wooden footbridge. He didn't want his car to be driven through the water!!!



**14 Cedar Mount.** After you have moved on from the bridge, the imposing house, Cedar Mount, can be seen on the left, set well back from the road. This was the home of Claude Wilford.

**15 The Old Windmill.** The driveway on the left of Cedar Mount is a public right of way, so if you wish, you can walk up here to view the old mill, beautifully restored in 2006 from what had become a roofless circle of bricks with a tree growing in it.



**16 Willow Beck Cottage.** Back on the road, turn left. As you walk along you will come to a detached house on your left, built in the early to mid-eighteenth century, long before the linen mills arrived. Notice the newly restored water pump on the right of it.

Now you can either backtrack to cross the green and the beck via a footbridge and then turn left or continue along the road to another footbridge with a water splash beside it. Cross the beck here and turn right. You are heading for the Village Inn.

**17 The Village Inn.** Once called The Black Swan, the original inn was that section you can see beside the road. There were once six public houses in Brompton and now there are only three.

**18 The Linen Workers Memorial Seat.** Perhaps you will have spotted this in the middle of the green outside The Village Inn. From the seat, looking up the green, you can see clearly the way in which the spaces between older properties have been in-filled with workers' cottages.

**19 The Victorian Post Box.** As you walk back towards Cockpit Hill, notice the post box set into the wall of house number 16.

**20 Byerley House.** After going back over Cockpit Hill, turn left when you reach the crossroads and walk a short way up Lead Lane to Byerley House, former home of Sir John Scott Byerley, F.R.S.L., 1780 to 1837. He left Brompton to become a self-made man and in 1814 he became a Knight of the Russian Order of St Vladimir and was a recipient of an annual pension from the Prince Regent, later George IV.

**21 Mechanics Institute or Reading Room.** This three-storey building, now converted into dwellings, was provided by the mill owners in 1852 as a place for the self-improvement of the workers.

**22 Number 4, The Green.** Turn back to the crossroads and turn immediately left alongside the green, looking at the buildings on your left. Number 4, with its stylish, pillared porch-way and half tile-clad walls, was once several cottages made into one handsome building as a home for the Yeoman family, mill owners.

**23 Former Wesleyan Chapel.** This is the next building, converted into three dwellings. It was built in 1803 and rebuilt mid-century to accommodate more worshippers.

**24 The Cobbles.** A handsome, partly ivy-clad house, once belonging to mill owners, as you probably have guessed.

**25 Crawford's Yard.** Moving in the same direction you come to a gap, which leads into Crawford's Yard, containing a group of cottages at right angles to those facing the road. There are similar yards in other parts of the village. The cobbled surface of the yard is original and protected. You can see cobbles were also used as wall building material in the cottage on the right of the entrance.

**26 The Present Methodist Chapel.** Facing you at the end of the green stands the present Methodist Chapel, the only chapel in the village still in use as a place of worship. It was originally built as a Sunday School for the Wesleyans.

**27 Houses numbered 26 & 27, The Green.** Walk round the little green and turn left. This bit of road used to be called The Pinfold, to mark the site of the place where stray animals could be penned until claimed by their owners. Standing apart on the main green are numbers 26 and 27, originally one house with several interesting features – a dovecote set into the nearby gable wall and 'cheese windows' in both gables dating from the time when the loft would have been used for storing cheese, with small louvered windows to allow fresh air to pass through. The oldest part of the original house is at the rear, dating back to the early seventeenth century. The front facing the road is more recent.

**28 The Village Corner Shop.** Your final destination, the village Corner Shop, is the only shop remaining in Brompton and a treasured resource.

**Thank you for participating in the Brompton Trail and for taking an interest in the village's heritage.**

**Brompton is an ancient settlement recorded in the Domesday Book as "Brunton", listed under the lands of the Bishop of Durham. A church has stood on the village green for well over 1,000 years. Three fine examples of stone crosses, believed to be from the 9th/10th century, were found in the chancel foundations of the present church during major restoration in 1867, along with eleven pre-conquest Saxon/Viking hog back gravestones, the best of which remain in the nave today. In 1138 the Battle of the Standard was fought in Brompton parish to the north of the village. This conflict between King David of Scotland and King Stephen of England resulted in an overwhelming victory for the English forces.**

**Early records show that linen weaving was a cottage industry as early as 1728. After the opening of the Leeds to Middlesbrough Railway in 1852, when Brompton had its own station, two linen mills were built alongside the railway line. The village became a self-sufficient, thriving community with over 20 shops and 6 public houses. The mill owners built fine houses for themselves and cottages for the mill hands. The last mill closed in 1959. Methodism also thrived in the village, for which three chapels were built. Two of the original chapels were converted into dwellings and the third is now a storehouse. The old Wesley Sunday School was modernised in 1970 and now houses the only remaining Methodist chapel in the village.**

**The evidence of much of Brompton's rich heritage can still be seen and this walk takes you to the interesting features in the original, and therefore older, areas.**

**4 Linnen Way.** As you walk round Church View towards the crossroads it is worth having a look at this small development built in 2000 on land where one of the linen mills once stood. Notice the different heights, styles and materials of these properties, which are meant to be in keeping with the vernacular architecture. If you walk as far as the intersection and look right you can see a high brick wall built of older bricks. This is all that remains of the original mill complex.

**5 The Manor House.** Back on Church View you pass on your left an imposing house with an archway. This house dates back to 1800 before the mills were built and became the home of the owner of the mill on Station Road (No. 9). The house and former outbuildings are now divided into separate dwellings. 'The Manor House' is a misnomer. Brompton never had a Lord of the Manor but came under the jurisdiction of The Prince Bishops of Durham

Before you reach the Crown Inn on the crossroads notice a house with its original shop windows and further along, three three-storey taller houses still with the traditional cobbled frontage. The top floors were specifically for use by handloom weavers, because of the better light for their work.

**6 The Three Horses.** An old inn, now converted into dwellings, faces you across the road. It is thought to be one of the oldest domestic buildings in Brompton and dates back to the seventeenth century.

**7 Bow Bridge.** Turn left and walk along Station Road past the Primary School to the oldest bridge in the village crossing Brompton Beck. It was built in the 1770's by John Carr of York.

**8 Two Information Boards.** Beside you, on the edge of the car park, are two information panels, one on the Linnen Industry and the other on the Battle of the Standard, which was fought in 1138 on land further up the road from where you are standing. Before turning back to the crossroads, you can see further along the road to a level crossing. To the right side of this once stood Brompton Station with, on the left side, the goods needs of the villagers.

**Village Trail**

You can see from the map (overleaf) that there are basically two parts, High End, surrounding the church and green and Water End, where Brompton Beck flows across another green. These are linked by Cockpit Hill.

**1 The information board on Church Green** beside the lych gate leading to Saint Thomas' Church. This is one of three information boards produced by the Brompton Heritage Lottery Fund, and the co-operation from the Heritage Lottery Fund. You will find the other two (no 8) on your way round the Village Trail. With your back to the board you can see the general layout – a green, once used for animal grazing, surrounded by cottages, some pre-dating the linen mills, but many of which were built by the linen mill owners in the nineteenth century to house their employees. The more substantial dwellings were homes for the mill owners themselves. (Numbers 5, 22, and 24 on the map) The green is still used for activities on Carnival Day, held each year on the late May Bank Holiday Monday. Read the board then enter the churchyard via the lych gate, which serves as Brompton's war memorial.

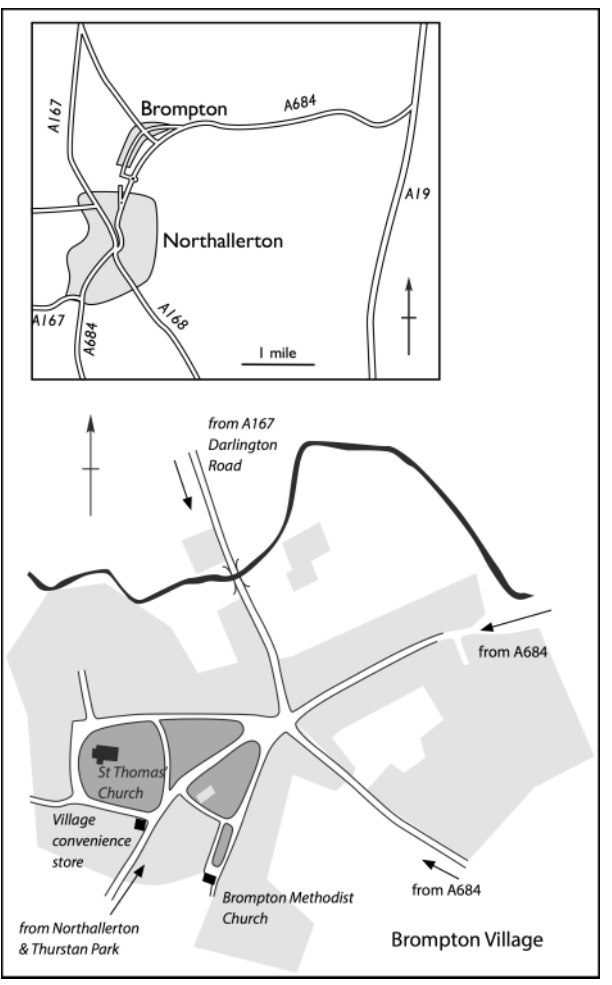
**2 Saint Thomas' Church.** This fine Grade 1 listed building dominates the centre of the village. As you can read on the information board (No 1) it is well worth a visit, with artefacts ranging in date from Anglo Saxon stone carvings to the twentieth century aluminium reredos behind the altar depicting the Last Supper. The hogback stones, in particular, bring in visitors from around the world because there are so few still in existence, and these are among the finest examples. You can gain access to the church by phoning any of the three people named on a list on the board by the main door.

**3 Number 37 Church View.** Turn right at the far end of the churchyard. This house was a former drapers shop providing outfits for men and women. Above the door there are faint traces of the outline of an advertisement. Brompton has only one shop now as twenty-one shops providing for almost all the needs of the villagers.

For more information about St Thomas church, there are booklets on sale at the church which can be accessed by contacting a keyholder.

For more information about Brompton and the Heritage Group visit

[www.bromptonmatters.co.uk](http://www.bromptonmatters.co.uk)



**Brompton Convenience Store**

*Your local village shop*

- Hot pies
- Sandwiches
- Newspapers/magazines
- Hot drinks
- Groceries
- Ice Creams

The village trail has been produced by the Brompton Heritage Group who also thank the following:

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**Brompton Village Trail**

**Brompton Heritage Group**