

# WELCOME TO HONEYBOURNE

*Enjoy a circular walk around our village and discover  
its rich history surrounded by beautiful countryside*



WALK


DISTANCE

TIME

NO. 1

2.5 MILES

1 HOUR

FRIENDS OF  
**HONEYBOURNE**  
STATION 

# A circular walk around Honeybourne village

This circular walk is approximately 2.5 miles and follows mostly good footpaths, although sections may be muddy after wet weather. It takes about 1 hour to complete on flat terrain, with no stiles. Please take care when crossing roads.

- 1 Start the walk from the station sign and head towards the shops and All Things Wild along Station Road.
- 2 Continue past the entrance to The Ranch and carefully cross Station Road, part of the historic route known as **Buckle Street**. Turn left into Sycamore Drive and continue beyond the Co-op on your right. Follow the footpath into the field, passing the children's play area on your left.
 

*Look out for the medieval ridge and furrow patterns in the field—remains of the open field farming system.*
- 3 By the park bench at the top of the field, head towards the gap in the hedgerow which leads into another field, part of the Owl Housing estate. Walk along the path until you reach the main road and turn right onto Stratford Road.

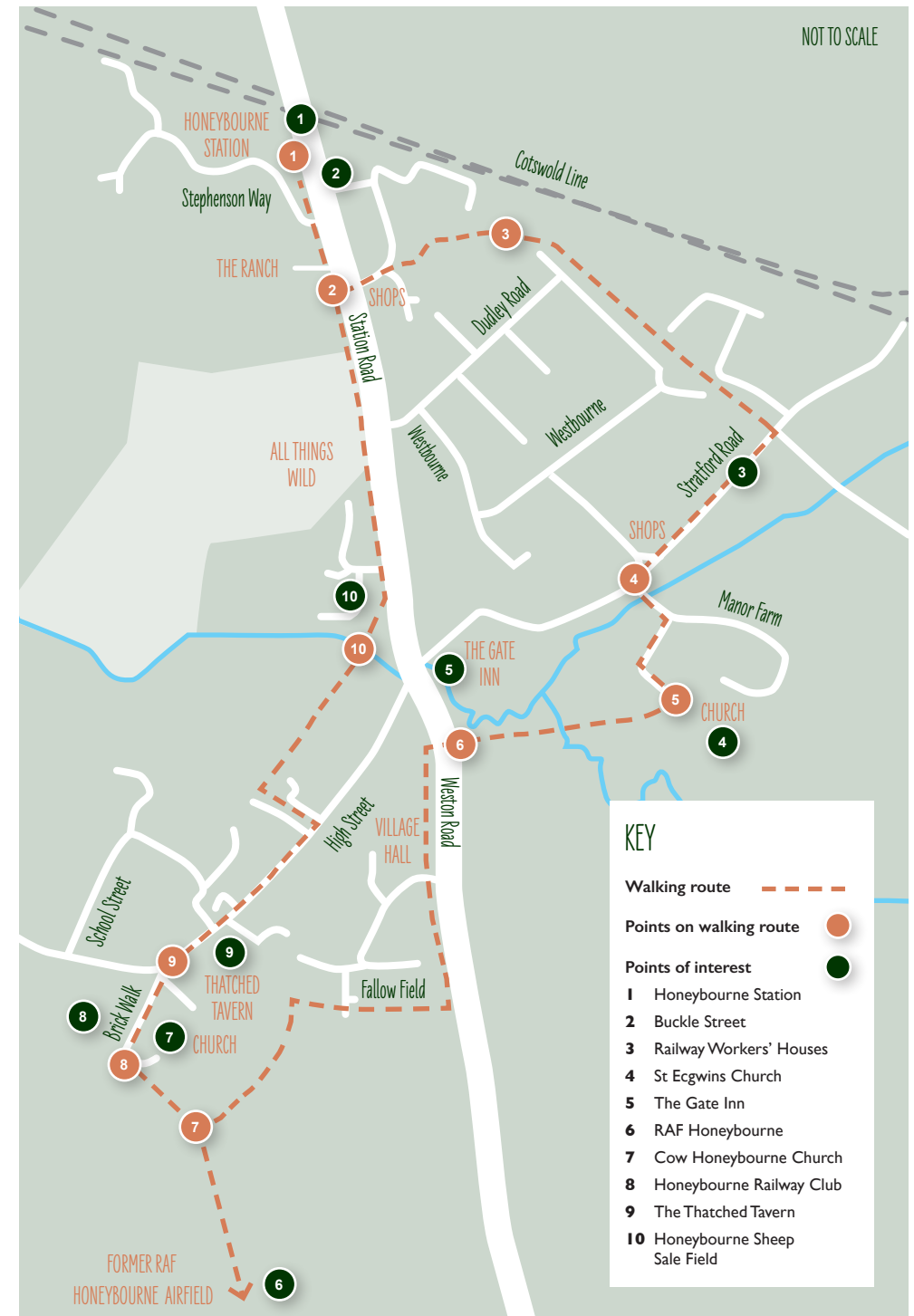
*Notice the houses on the right-hand side. These were built for the Railway workers who lived in the village when it was once an important junction.*
- 4 Continue past the One Stop Shop / Post Office and cross over Grove Avenue. You will see a noticeboard and signpost for **St Egwins Church**. Follow the sign, crossing Stratford Road with care towards the Church. The road bends around to the right past the Old Vicarage, and then to the left to the church entrance.

*St Egwins Church was consecrated in 1265 and is on a site of a possible Saxon church.*
- 5 At the entrance, go through the kissing gate and turn right onto the footpath. Pass the old gravestones on your left and continue into the field.
 

Follow the path across a small footbridge and through the next gate, then continue downhill towards the main road. Go through the final gate onto Weston Road, where **The Gate Inn** is on your right.
- 6 Cross over Weston Road with care, then turn left and head towards Honeybourne Village Hall. Next cross over Grange Farm Drive and walk along the verge in between the road, and to the left of the hedge until you see a public footpath signpost. Go to the right of the sign and walk

- 7 along the path to the left of the low fence and turn right along the path running alongside the fencing with the horse paddocks on your left. At the end of the field turn left and walk along the footbridge and through a gate. Go down this path, through another gate onto the Leys field.
  - 7 At this point you can either walk around the field to your left with views over the former **RAF Honeybourne** airfield which was active during WWII; some of the original buildings and runways still exist. There are footpaths running over the farm if you want to take a closer look. Alternatively, walk past the play park and head down towards the exit of the Leys field onto Brick Walk.
  - 8 Continue along Brick Walk past **Cow Honeybourne Church**, recognised by its distinctive 15th-century tower. Although the church was never consecrated, the building survives today as private homes.
- On the left-hand side, opposite the church you will pass the **Honeybourne Railway Club**. Built in 1954, this was the longest running railway social club until it closed in April 2026.
- 9 Continue onto the High Street, passing the **Thatched Tavern** on your right. This Grade II listed building has origins dating back to the 13th century. Cross the road with care and look for a five-bar gate on the left between Maple Close and Meadow Walk. Go through the gate and follow the footpath alongside the housing fence. When the fencing ends, turn right and continue down the field path.
  - 10 Cross the footbridge into the housing estate. These homes were built on the former site of the **Honeybourne Sheep Sale**. This was once an important annual agricultural event that handled millions of sheep sales over its 150-year history. Continue past the children's play area and head through the opening in the hedge on your right, returning onto Station Road. Turn left, passing All Things Wild, and continue back to the station entrance.

*We hope you enjoyed this circular walk of our village.*



# Points of interest

## 1 Honeybourne Railway Station (Start Point)

Honeybourne station opened in 1853 and became an important junction within the Great Western Railway network. At its peak, it connected routes across the Midlands and South West, playing a key role in both passenger travel and the transport of goods, including produce from the Vale of Evesham.

The station closed in 1969 as part of the Beeching cuts, before reopening in 1981 following local campaigning. Today, it serves commuters and visitors exploring the Cotswolds with services between London and Malvern.



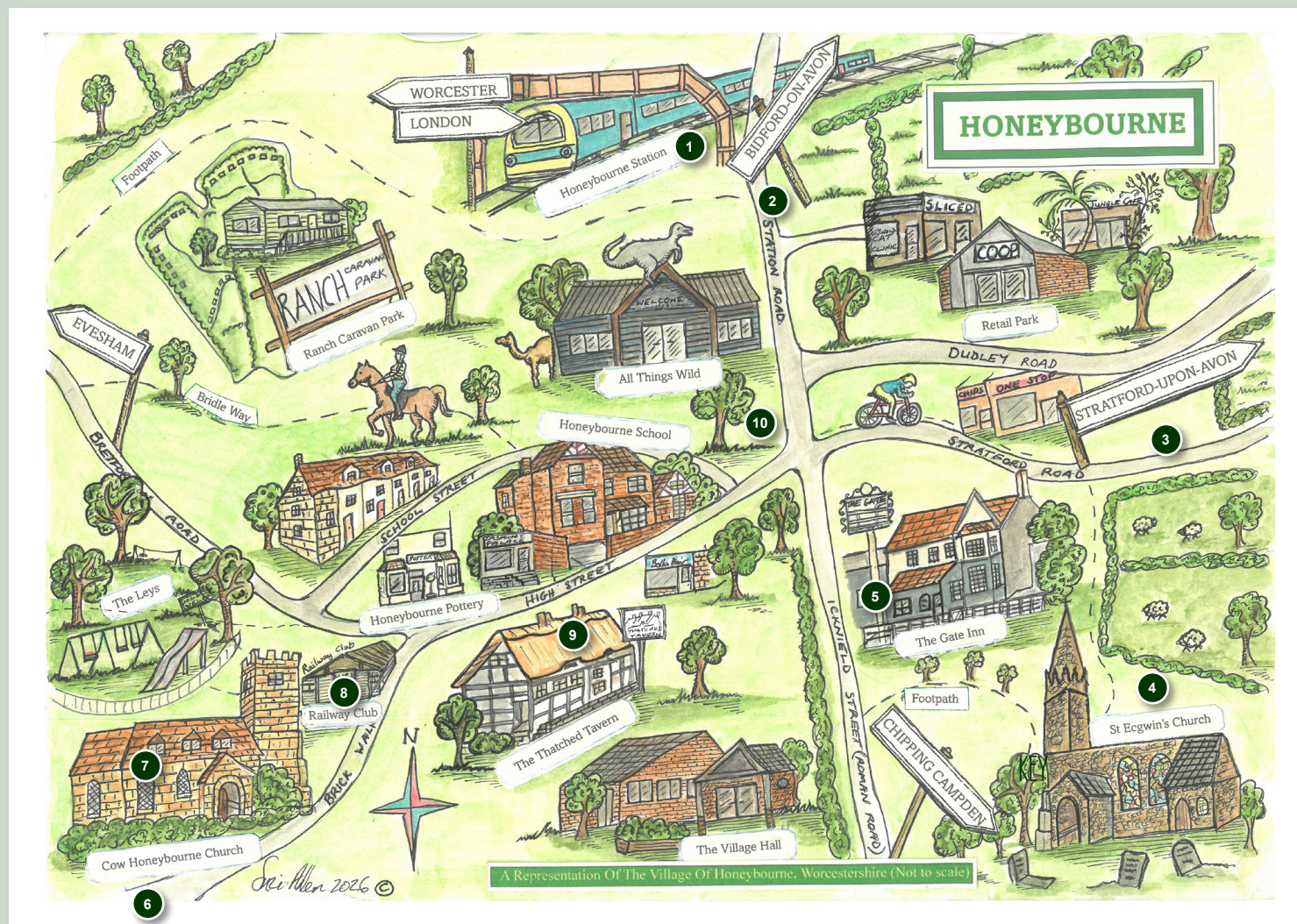
A view of the main station seen from the station drive, about 1960. Photo credit M.J. Lewis

## 2 Buckle Street

Buckle Street is generally accepted as a Roman Road, forming part of the major Roman route known as Ryknild Street or sometimes referred to as Icknield Street, running between Alcester and Weston-sub-Edge. While Roman in origin, the name "Buckle Street" is believed to be derived from a Saxon name, and is acknowledged in Anglo-Saxon charters, indicating it remained in use during the Saxon period.

## 3 Railway Workers' Houses

The row of houses along Stratford Road were built when Honeybourne was a major railway junction. They provided homes for railway workers such as signalmen and maintenance staff, forming a close-knit community centred on railway life.



A Representation Of The Village Of Honeybourne, Worcestershire (Not to scale)

## KEY

### Points of interest

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Honeybourne Station     | 6 RAF Honeybourne               |
| 2 Buckle Street           | 7 Cow Honeybourne Church        |
| 3 Railway Workers' Houses | 8 Honeybourne Railway Club      |
| 4 St Egwin's Church       | 9 The Thatched Tavern           |
| 5 The Gate Inn            | 10 Honeybourne Sheep Sale Field |

# Points of interest

## 4 St Egwin's Church

St Egwin's Church dates back in part to the 12th century, long before the railway arrived. The church is named after Egwin, a 7th-century bishop who founded Evesham Abbey — once one of the most powerful monasteries in England.

The churchyard contains generations of local residents, including those who lived and worked during the railway era, reflecting the close ties between the village, church and railway community.



Photo credit: Tudor Barlow

## 5 The Gate Inn

The Gate Inn has long been a focal point for village life. Originally known as The Bridge Inn, it became The Gate Inn in the mid-19th century and served travellers with food, drink and accommodation. Today the pub continues to serve both locals and visitors, offering a welcoming place within the community to socialise.

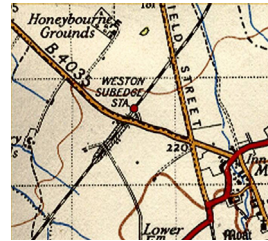


Photo credit: Brian Smith. Source: Honeybourne, 'Then and Now' – A Millennium Album.

## 6 RAF Honeybourne

RAF Honeybourne opened in 1940 as part of Britain's wartime airfield network, primarily training bomber crews during the Second World War using the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley. At its peak, over 2,000 personnel were based here.

The nearby railway played a vital role in supporting the airfield, transporting personnel, equipment and supplies. After the war, the site was used for aircraft storage and disposal, and closed in 1947. The land gradually returned to farmland, with parts later developed into a trading estate.



1930 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of Weston Subedge Station. The RAF Airbase was North of the Station shown as 'Honeybourne Grounds'. Source: Air Gunner Bob Gill DFM

## 7 The Railway Club

The Railway Club was built in the 1940s for Honeybourne's railway workers, when the station was a major local employer. It provided a place for workers and their families to relax, socialise and take part in community events, helping to build strong local ties.

After serving the village for over 80 years, the club closed in 2026, marking the end of an important chapter in Honeybourne's railway heritage.

## 8 Cow Honeybourne Church

When Honeybourne was divided into two settlements — Church Honeybourne in Gloucestershire and Cow Honeybourne in Worcestershire — this church served the Cow Honeybourne community until the villages were united in 1958. The west tower dates from the 15th century, while the rest of the building was rebuilt around 1860 by W. J. Hopkins. The church has since been converted into private homes, with the tower still standing as a prominent local landmark.



Photo credit: Tim Bridges  
Source: Churches of Worcestershire, 2005.

## 9 The Thatched Tavern

The Thatched Tavern is a historic 13th-century building located at the heart of 'old' Honeybourne, known locally as Cow Honeybourne. Originally a row of three dwellings, it was converted into a public house in the late 16th or early 17th century.

Today it offers a comfortable and friendly space for regulars and visitors, serving delicious food, a good range of local cask ales and carefully selected wines.



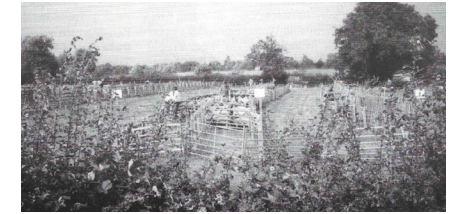
Photo believed to be taken in 1913.  
Source: <https://thatchedtavern.co.uk/about/>

## 10 Honeybourne Sheep Sale Field

From the 1880s, this site hosted Honeybourne's renowned annual sheep sale, drawing farmers and traders from across the country in August. The railway played a vital role in supporting this trade, transporting livestock to the village. Sheep and cattle were unloaded at the station and driven along the road to the auction site. At its peak, as many as 26,000 lambs were offered for sale, with buyers travelling from as far as Cornwall and northern England. In 2010, the field was sold for housing and the sheep sale relocated, continuing its long tradition in a new setting.



The sale underway with the auctioneer on his stand.  
Photo credit: Mrs E Sears



The sheep in the pens on the morning of the sale 1997.  
Photo credit: P A Boocock

Source: Honeybourne Then & Now 2000, A Millennium Album

