



Ramble 'round the Rye

DISCOVER 100S OF
YEARS OF HISTORY ON
THE RYE



Bring your completed trail
to the museum to claim a
free drink with any piece
of cake bought



CHILTERNS
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



Dedicated to *Frances Alexander*, who was an inspiration to so many
in High Wycombe and provided invaluable input for this trail

FOLLOW ALONG AND COMPLETE THE CHALLENGES!

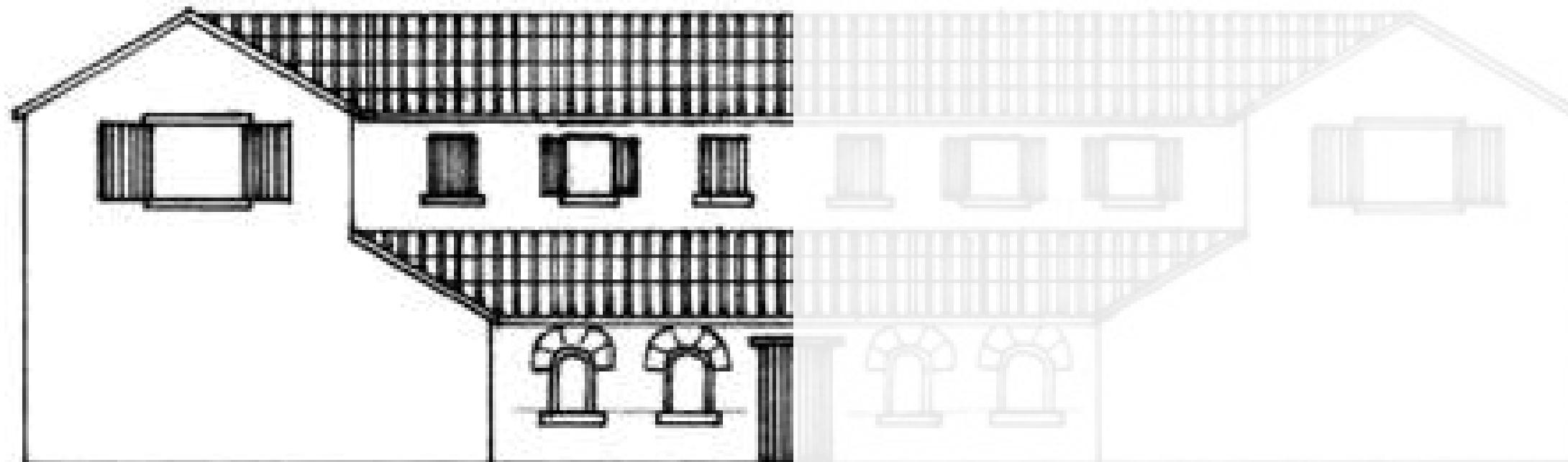
1

Roman Villa

Go to the east corner of the Lido

DID YOU KNOW?

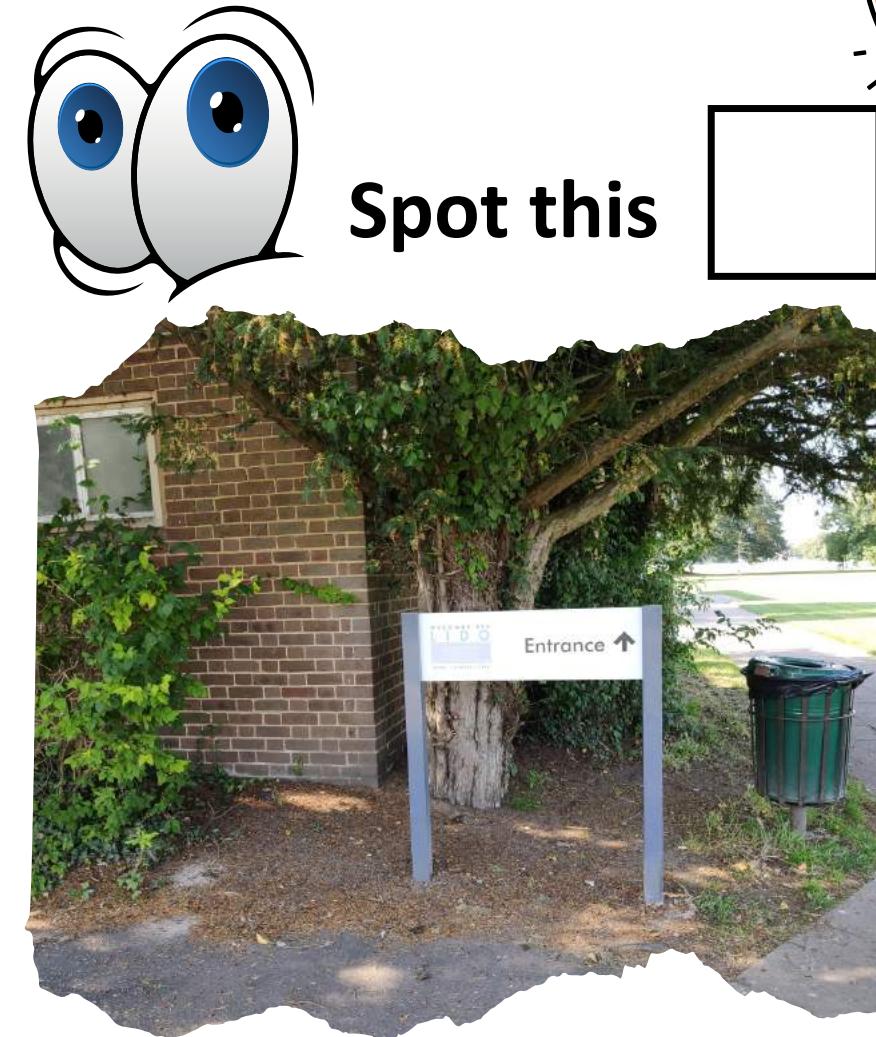
Almost 2000 years ago a Roman villa was built here. It had mosaics and underfloor heating as well as a **HUGE** separate bath house. Its entrance was a few metres to the left of the entrance sign to the Lido today.



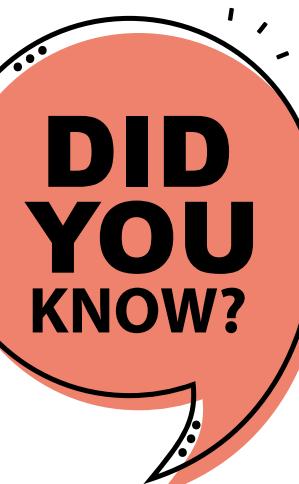
It was a symmetrical building. Complete the drawing above of the villa.

Why was this a good place to locate a large bath house?

(HINT: What do you need in a bath?)



Spot this



The Dyke was built on the old road that led to Windsor. Throughout history all kinds of people would have travelled along here, from Kings and Queens to highwaymen!

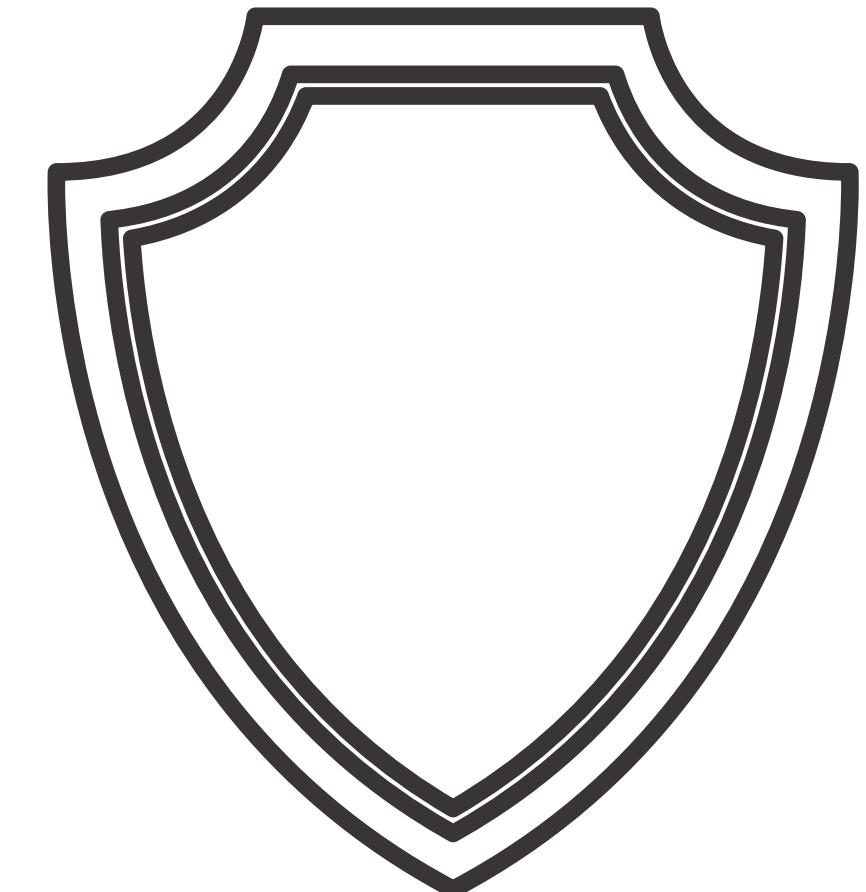
The Dyke was later given to the town to remember Viscount Wendover who died in 1915 in World War I.

How many swans can you spot on the Dyke?
Keep a tally here:

.....

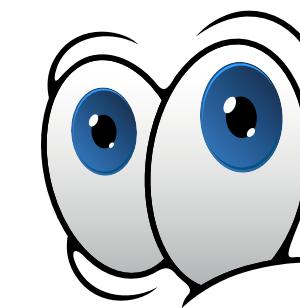
The High Wycombe Coat of Arms is a swan with the beak and claws of an eagle?

Draw a swan in the shield

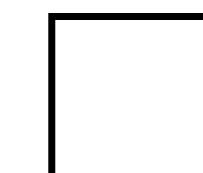


3

Take the path to the bottom of the waterfall and follow the stream



Spot this



Why does this old wall suddenly stop here?

.....



2

The Dyke

Cross the car park carefully and walk up the path/ steps to the raised lake. Turn left and walk to the waterfall

4

The Mills of High Wycombe

Head north across the grassed area towards Bassetsbury Manor. Look across to your right.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

There were once over 30 mills on the River Wye!
The area to the east of Keep Hill Road used to be a huge pond for Marsh Green Mill, originally a paper mill. This picture shows what it looked like in about 1905. Bassetsbury Lane is on the left of the picture.

This ancient saying helps us understand how important the mills were to the town's development:



The stream made the

the made the

and the made the town.

Fill in the gaps with the words:

mills

market

mills

market

5

Bassetsbury Manor

Cross the driveway to the car park and follow the formal Yew hedge that is the boundary of the manor. Continue along the path and you will meet the River Wye as it prepares to enter Bassetsbury Mill.

At the beginning of the 1900s, Bassetsbury Manor was owned by a man called Fred Skull. What was the Skull family well-known for making in Wycombe?

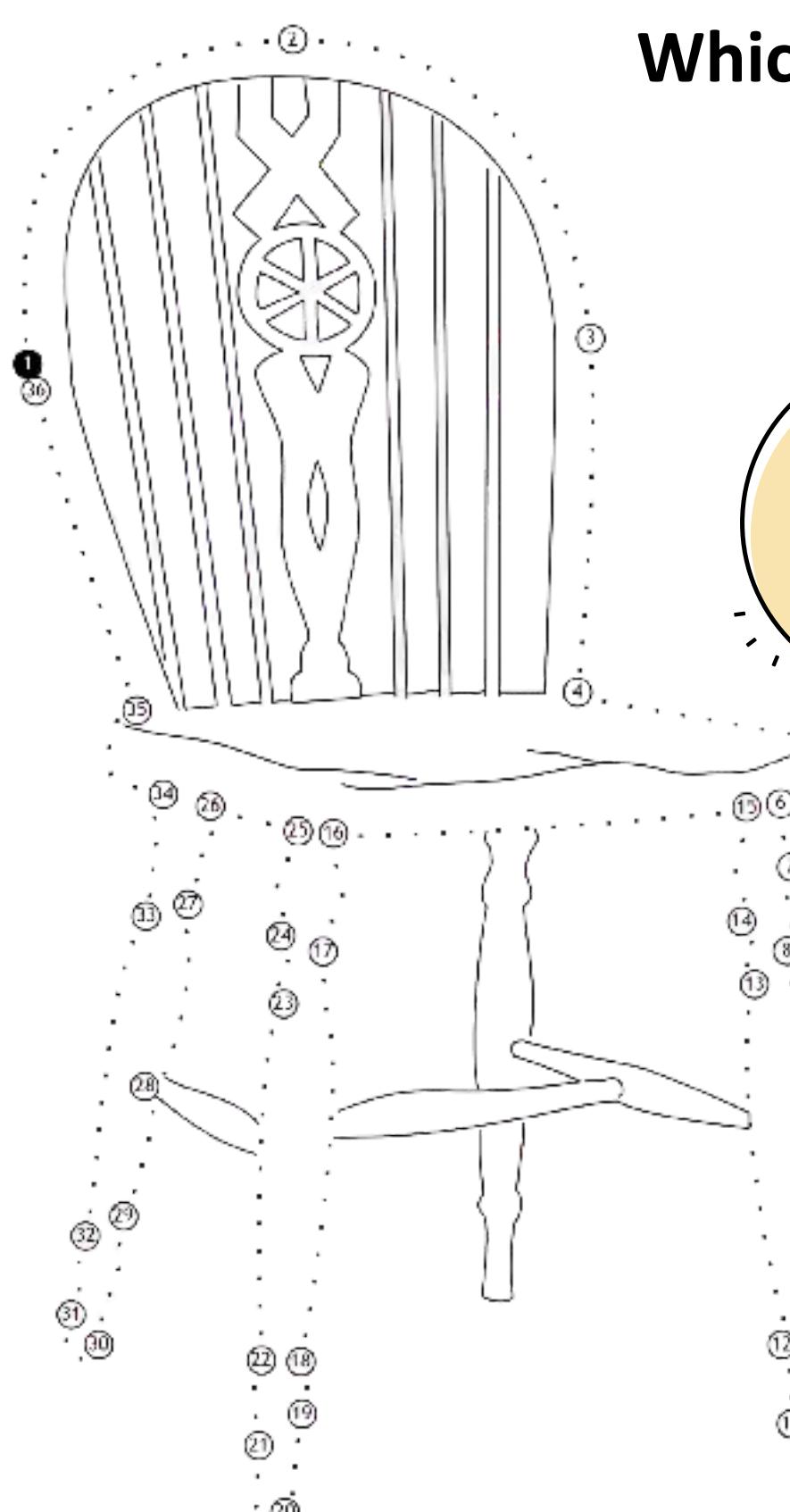
HINT:

These things have a back and legs

But don't have hairs

They are something on which you sit

Which means they are



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

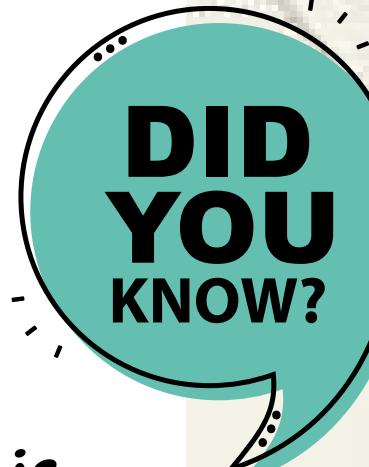
Around 150 years ago the factories of High Wycombe were making nearly 5000 of these a day!

6

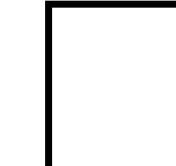
Holywell Mead and its Holy Well

Turn left and follow the path along the River Wye. When you get to the tarmac path that crosses from the Lido, stop and look back. This area is known as Holywell Mead and in the centre, is the site of the ancient Holy well. There was a spring here in the 'Round Basin' until the 1950s, when it was filled in. You can still see puddles here today.

The tradition of throwing a coin into a wishing well or fountain comes from the Celtic belief- 2000 years ago- that natural springs were sacred and could bring good luck. Anglo Saxons continued this belief.



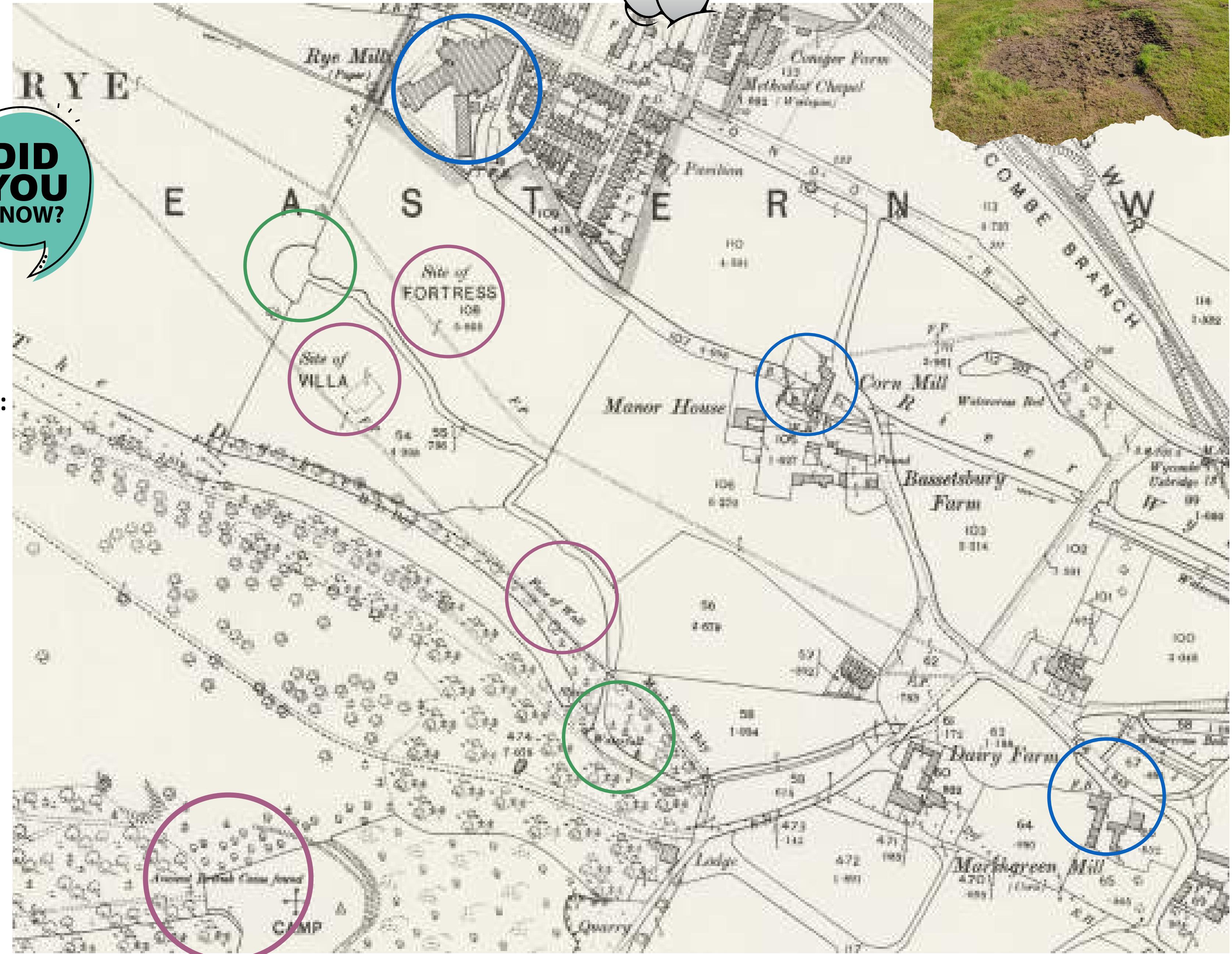
Spot this



On the map draw a line to label the:

- 'Round Basin' Spring
- Waterfall
- Site of Villa
- Site of Fortress
- Site Ancient Coins were found
- Wall of the Wycombe Abbey Estate
- Rye Mill
- Bassettbury Corn Mill
- Marsh Green Mill

Colour in the River Wye, Dyke and 'Back Stream' in blue.



7

The Rye

Follow the path towards the children's play area

DID YOU KNOW?

The name 'Rye' is thought to mean 'island'.

Can you think why it got this name? HINT: look at the map.

The playground was given to the Rye by Mr H J in 1933.

What animal would you have seen on the Rye until 1927?

HINT: They live in a field, milk is what they make, they help give us leather, and a juicy steak!



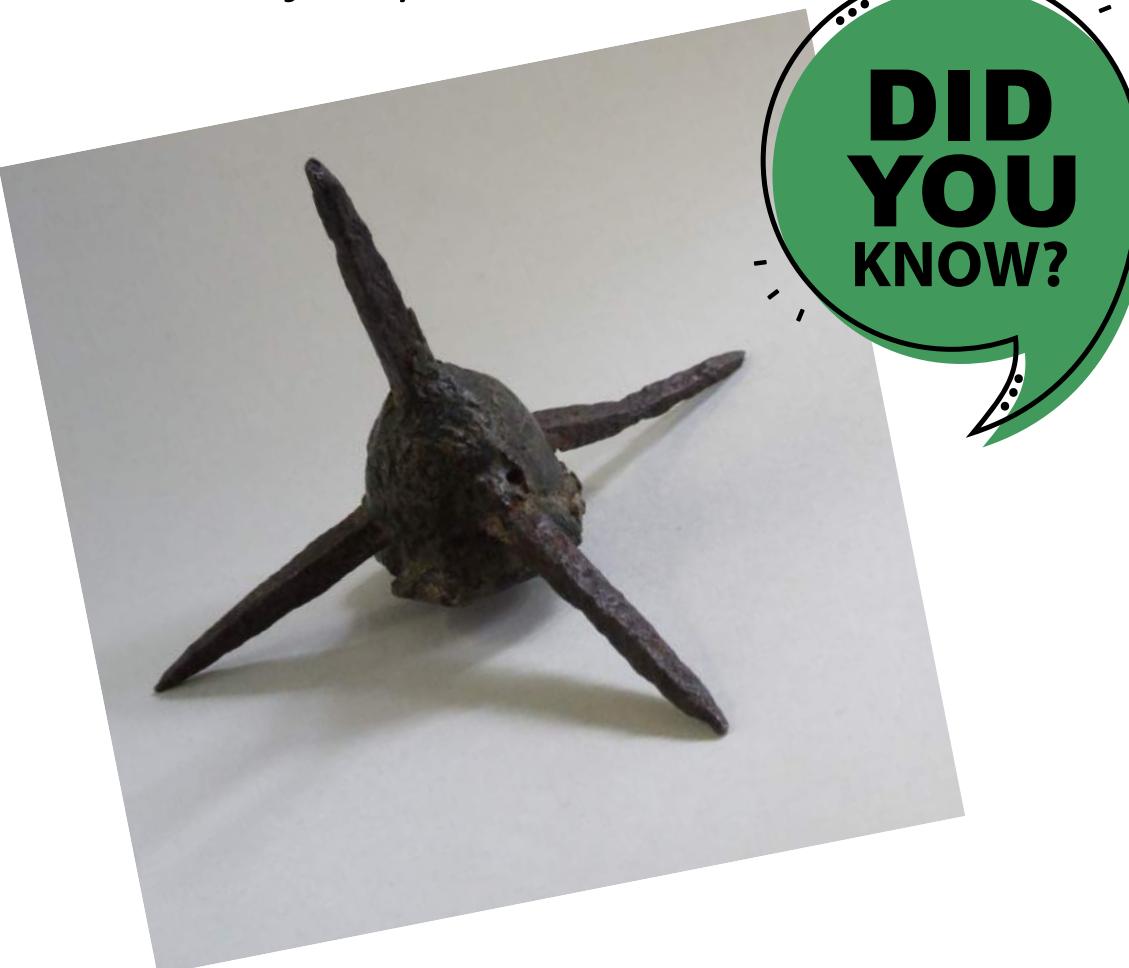
Spot this

DID YOU KNOW?

This artefact, called a caltrop, was found on the Rye and is thought to date from 1642.

What war could it be from?

T H E E _ G L _ _ H
C _ _ _ L W A R



Can you think how this might have been used in battle?

HINT: It is very spiky and would hurt if stepped on!

Can you find this in Wycombe Museum?

8

Pann Mill

Continue to walk across the Rye towards Pann Mill

DID YOU KNOW?

The river Wye has powered corn mills here for over 900 years. Pann Mill is the only mill on the Rye still working today.

Fill in the gaps with the words below.

Then draw an arrow from each mill to show what each was used for.

HINT: Some mills were used for more than one thing. You might find a clue on the old map.

paper wood cloth corn

Marsh Green Mill grind.....

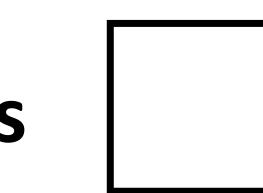
Bassettbury Mill full (thicken) cloth

Rye Mill make.....

Pann Mill saw.....



Spot this



This is known as a quern stone or millstone. The waterwheel turns it to grind the corn into