The Swan. A public house since 1849, when it was known as the White Swan. The building dates from the eighteenth century, when it was the home of Richard Lindup, later becoming a boarding house. The date ‘1938’ above the entrance lintel refers to rebuilding work carried out in that year.

The Holies, now offices, was originally a private house of some distinction, being constructed of the much sought-after Worthing ‘yellow brick’. These bricks were fired from clay extracted from Worthing seashore. This particular seam was excavated between c.1800 and c.1830. Later bricks were more orange in hue rather than the yellow/cream colour found in the bricks at the Holies.

The Sidney Walter Centre is situated within the Little High Street Conservation area. It was built as Sussex Road School in 1902 and retains many original features. The school closed in 1964 and two years later was re-opened as the Sidney Walter Centre, being named after the founding chairman of the Worthing Youth Council.

The footpath or ‘twitten’ that runs down the eastern side of the Sidney Walter Centre can be followed to Broadwater Street East, a mile to the north. There has been speculation that this footpath, known as the Quashtettts’, once linked the medieval chapel of Worthing with St Mary’s at Broadwater, although a walker today will see it connects the Swan with the Old House at Home! At one time the path, which may be medieval or earlier, probably continued on to the Downs and Cissbury Ring.

The Old Village, a farmhouse dating from at least the mid-eighteenth century, and Alma Cottage, named after the famous battle in the Crimean War, once stood here. Although listed as buildings of historic and architectural interest, they were demolished in 1959. Many other historic buildings dating back to the time when Worthing was an agricultural village, were lost at this time.

Fancy Coffee (still known to many older residents as the ‘Toby jug’) has for many decades now served as a tea shop or café. It is probably the oldest surviving building from the old village, dating back to the late seventeenth century.

This collection of buildings (until recently, ‘Guitar junction’) date from the eighteenth century. Although altered and modified over the years, they still represent a precious survival from the old village. Worthing’s first known butcher’s shop was situated here.

Warwick Street was built in the early nineteenth century to accommodate the town’s growing middle-class population, only later in the century were the properties converted into shops. Some of the buildings on the south side of the street date back to the eighteenth century and represent the earliest phase in the development of Worthing as a seaside resort.

Stanford Square is a modern development, but Stanford Cottage, now a restaurant, is an eighteenth century building. Jane Austen stayed here in 1805.

Bedford Row was built between 1803 and 1806 and is a grade II listed building. The bow-fronted architecture, is in its earliest form here. The style allowed the maximum light into the rooms, and reached the height of its popularity in the 1820s when it was replicated across much of Brighton. No.7 Bedford Row, originally Bliss’s Boarding House, was refurbished in Victorian times, breaking the continuity of the Regency terrace. The naturalist, W.H. Hudson, was believed to have stayed at no.8 towards the end of his life.

Bedford Cottage was saved from demolition in 1888. It is now a grade II listed building. Flint cobbles and yellow brick feature in its design. The building dates from c.1800. It is similar to Threadpaper House which stands behind it to the south. Local tradition claims it as a ‘fisherman’s cottage’, although its situation in what was, in the early nineteenth century, a highly fashionable quarter of town, suggests this was unlikely.

The Worthing Heritage Trails are a project created by the Worthing Heritage Alliance (www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

General visitor information about Worthing can be found at www.VisitWorthing.co.uk

More information about the history of Worthing can be found at www.oldworthingstreet.com www.worthingcommunityplay.org.uk www.worthingsoctogy.org.uk