



1. St Andrew's Church [Grade I listed]

The church is a Grade One listed building because of its architectural merit and historical interest, with earliest parts dating from the 14th century. (A full guide is available from the Church.)

The Grade II listed building to the left of the church was the Hearse House and the former Tarvin Grammar School, founded in 1600 by John Pickering, where later, John Thomasen, "transcriber for Queen Anne" and "the finest penman in England", was the schoolmaster. He died in 1740. The Grammar School finally closed in 1939 and formal schooling in the building eventually ended shortly after the Second World War. The building was repaired and refurbished in 1997 for use as the St Andrew's Parish Rooms.



2. Church House and Church Cottage [Grade II listed]

These buildings date from the 16th century and are two of the oldest in Tarvin. They survived the fire of 30th April 1752, which destroyed most of the village buildings. Church House is of timber frame construction with wattle and daub infill and was once thatched. Inside are stone fireplaces with carved coats of arms. The building is thought to have been the vicarage until 1790. The house was restored by the Chester Historic Buildings Preservation Trust in 1991.

3. The Flaggs and Hamilton House [Grade II* listed]

These houses are Georgian with a date of 1756 visible behind the rainwater head. It is believed that some of the charred timbers from houses damaged in the 1752 fire were used in their construction. The houses have pediments of different styles above the doorways. The Flaggs was used as a girls' school early in the 20th century.

4. 54 High Street - King Louis Fish and Chip Shop [Grade II listed]

At one time, this building was a third public house in Tarvin, called the Bull's Head. The date stone on the gable end is just readable with 'I SADLER 1753' carved upon it. Later, a Mrs Bull used the building as Tea Rooms. The public water pump, known as Middle Pump, was located in the centre of the road junction.

5. Arden House [No 58 Lower High St]

Built in 1890 and formerly occupied by a small business where the Misses Arden sold cotton and ribbons. From 1941 until 1990, the premises housed a printing shop.

6. Former National School [approached along path between Nos 68 and 72]

The school was built in 1859, at a cost of £1,077, of which £679.10s.5d was raised by public subscription. The architect was James Harrison of Chester. The school closed in 1985 and is now a private residence.

7. Cottage [No 76] [Grade II]

This cottage was built in 1601 of rendered rubble stone and stands on solid Bunter sandstone. The building was restored and the roof re-thatched in 2006.



8. Cottages [78 - 86A]

The narrow track between the houses, Nos 76 and 82, leads to an alley or courtyard, which contains a former smithy noted on the 1874 map and two late 18th century Grade II listed cottages [Nos 78 & 80].

Back on High Street, Sandstone Cottage and the residential conversion of its attached shippon, Nos 86 & 86A, are both Grade II listed and were constructed in the late 17th/early 18th century, high on the outcrop of underlying Bunter sandstone.

9. Zion Primitive Methodist Chapel

The chapel was built in 1865 where open-air meetings had been held on "The Rock". It was closed in 1985 and has been converted into two dwellings.

10. Rimmer's Row Terrace [Nos 92 - 106]

These Victorian cottages, named after their constructor, James Rimmer, were renovated in 1975/76 as a result of a campaign by Tarvin Civic Trust.

11. Pool Bank Park

This land was the site of a dairy from the 1920s, when the well known Tarvin resident, "G B" Radcliffe, obtained the first licence in Cheshire for the pasteurisation of milk and built his Pool Bank Dairy, which he sold to the Express Dairy Company in 1947. The dairy finally closed in 1995 and is now a business park.

The village's Lower Water Pump was sited on the right hand side of the driveway leading to the premises.

12. Mill and By-pass

The mill was built in the early 18th century on the site of a 13th century mill. The large area between the building and the A54 main road was once the millpond. The sandstone wall along the road shows marks where Isaac Woodcock (1843 – 1937), the "pig killer", sharpened his tools. This by-pass was opened in 1932.

13. Cottages [Nos 121 - 139]

Various enterprises, including a bakery at No 123 and a fish and chip shop, were once housed in these cottages around the beginning of the 20th century.

14. Laurel House [No 105] [Grade II listed]

Laurel House is a three-storey 18th century farmhouse with what may have been a parlour wing of an earlier farmhouse, now a separate dwelling [No 103 also Grade II listed]. The timber frame and internal beams are said to be made of timbers recovered from properties damaged in the fire of 1752. The adjoining cottages, Nos 111 to 115, are probably early residential conversions of the farm shippons

15. Annette Hairdresser's [No 101]

This building is early 20th century and originally housed the shoe shop and shoe repair business of the Jackson family. The business had moved from across the road, where a turn of the century photograph shows members of the family. The room was warmed by a central stove and provided an informal local meeting place.

16. Well House [No 95]

This was the local police station until 1979. It had two cells. The Cheshire coat of arms can still be seen above the door.

17. Barracks Yard [between Nos 87 & 89]

This area, now under redevelopment, used to accommodate four cottages, a shippon, a pigsty, a store and cart shed, an outside toilet block and the New Connexion Methodist Chapel. The chapel later housed the Salvation Army barracks, hence the present name.

18. The Laurels [No 85]

This Victorian house was the home of Mr James Rimmer (see 10 above).

Ridgeway (sic)

This is a modern development named after Canon Ridgway, Vicar of Tarvin, 1924 -1940. The village Post Office once stood on this site until it was relocated to the Manor House (see 35 below) and subsequently to its present location in High Street in 1977. Isaac Woodcock (see 12 above) lived in a house on this site, which has since been demolished.

19. The Gunnery [Nos 71–77] [Grade II listed]

From Victorian times, the Gunnery family ran a grocery and corn merchants from this early 19th century shop and warehouse complex. The award winning redevelopment of the whole site in 2009 has preserved and enhanced many of the original features. The appearance of the present bistro has changed little since the 1900s, with its brass rails, wooden shelves and "barley sugar" verticals still in place.



20. George and Dragon Inn

The building was constructed in 1788. The right hand side of the frontage was, at some time, the coaching entrance and a domestic residence. A butcher's shop and general store once stood on the site of the pub car park.



21. Well Cottages

These cottages were once the outbuildings of Top Farm, an 18th century farmhouse on this site, which was demolished in the 1970s. The restored well in the courtyard is visible from the road.

22. Nelson's and Smithy

This site, awaiting redevelopment, was formerly owned by an old Tarvin family, the Langfords, mentioned in the Trade Directory of 1850. Their activities included coach building, joinery, sign writing, general building, making and repairing wheels and blacksmithing.

23. Apple Bathrooms [No 61]

This building was constructed as a public hall in 1889 at a cost of £600. Bricks were sold at 3d or 6d per unit to help raise the money. The building still has the foundation stones bearing the names of Mr George Lea, Mrs Tomkinson and WHA (WH Ankers) the principal subscribers. Title passed from these Trustees to the Parish Council in 1901. The hall was used as a public meeting place and library until 1974. The award winning restoration of the building was completed in 2009.

24. Woodyear Cottage [Nos 57 and 59]

These cottages were originally one farmhouse built by a Mr Woodyear but divided into two cottages by George Gunnery in 1930. Note the Flemish Bond brickwork and the mounting steps to the front doors.

25. Rode House [Grade II listed]

This 19th century house has been sympathetically restored, still retaining its original cast iron honeysuckle decoration around the porch. It was formerly the residence and surgery of Dr J E Moreton, succeeded by his son, Dr T W E Moreton. The bricked up door to the surgery, on the right hand side of the house façade, may still be discerned.

26. Bull Cottage [No 51] [Grade II]

This 17th century cottage survived the village fire of 1752. The adjoining Fortune Cottage [No 49] was occupied by Kitty Bull, who, according to local legend, was a gifted fortuneteller.

27. Cottage [No 43]

Thatched cottages once occupied this site. They were replaced early in the 20th century by a wooden structure, which housed the various businesses of the Woodfin family. These included an early bus service, an agency for Raleigh and Humber cycles, a motor engineering concern and latterly, a hardware shop. The present cottage was built in 1996.

28. Kingsley House and Lynwood

These buildings were originally a Chapel and Manse built on land acquired by a Mr Littler in 1799. It was the earliest non-conformist church in Tarvin. It was sold in 1864. In May 1984 a Littler gravestone dated July 1831 was found inside the house in what was a blocked up doorway between the Chapel and the Manse. The village's top water pump was located at the junction of Hockenhull Lane and High Street.

29. Tarvin Hall [Grade II listed]

The present hall is mid 18th century and was built on the site of a timber framed hall which was destroyed in the fire of 1752. During the 19th century the hall housed various schools. James Brindley opened a school for boys in 1851, which employed "liberal principles". The initials "MB" set in the wrought iron gates refer to Thomas Marshall Brooks, who lived here in the 1920s.



30. The Cobbles [Nos 24-30]

The cobbled area is reputedly the site of Tarvin's annual fairs and markets dating from the reign of Elizabeth the First. The fairs were held on 20th April and 2nd December each year until the 19th century. Fairs and markets, in some form, continued to be held in Tarvin until early in the 20th century.

31. Shops

The shops between the Cobbles and the Chapel formerly housed a saddler, a tailor, a builder and latterly a general hardware store. An annual rent of one shilling was once charged for the use of the passage between the shop and the Chapel.

32. Methodist Chapel

First built in 1875 by John Langford, a local builder (see 22 above), to the design of John Wills of Derby, at a cost of £700. It was rebuilt over a century later, in 1984, at a cost of £120,000.

33. Parade of Shops

This row of 18th and 19th century buildings lies at the heart of the village. The newsagent/sub post office was formerly a shop selling the unlikely combination of shoes, sweets and paraffin. Another of the shops housed a bakery and grocery business run by the Broster family, who kept cows in the yard at the rear and were said to have hoarded their savings in gold sovereigns, hidden beneath the stair treads. The Brosters' bakery was renowned for its shilling Tarvin Bun Loaf. James Broster, baker, was mentioned in Slater's Trade Directory of 1890 and, later, James and Alfred Broster, bakers, were referred to in Kelly's 1928 Directory. No 44 was occupied by a bank from the early 1900s until the recent round of branch closures.



34. The Red Lion [Grade II listed]

This Georgian inn, built in 1756, was an important stop on stagecoach routes. By 1780, daily coaches ran from Holyhead to London calling at this inn. Coach services to Manchester and Birmingham and some to London continued to stop here until the middle of the 19th century.

35. The Manor House [formerly Lower Hall]

This building was constructed in the middle of the 19th century by James Brindley to house the preparatory department of the boys' school at Tarvin Hall (see 29 above). Public meetings were held outside the Manor House up to the end of the 19th century when the Public Hall in High Street was built (see 23 above). Ground floor rooms of the Manor House were later occupied by the Telephone Exchange and Village Post Office, until 1977, when the sub Post Office was opened in High Street.

36. Church View Cottages [Nos 1-4]

No. 3 was possibly stables in an earlier existence. Note the steps from the pavement to the front doors, which are so typical of old Tarvin cottages

37. Ducker's Well

The Ordnance Survey map of 1874 shows Ducker's Well inside the sandstone walls of a pinfold for stray animals. Nearby, it shows a Round House for the detention of criminals. The pinfold and well are currently under archaeological excavation by Tarvin Parish Council, Tarvin Civic Trust and Tarvin Local History Group.



TARVIN TRAIL

The name Tarvin probably derives from the Welsh word "terfyn", meaning a boundary. It has been suggested that the boundary was an early one dividing the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia from the Welsh kingdom of Powis.

This leaflet is intended only as a brief guide to Tarvin Village Centre, which was designated as a Conservation Area in 1973.

Revised May 2010 by Tarvin Local History Group and Tarvin Civic Trust.

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A fuller history of the village, "Tarvin; The History of a Cheshire Village", edited by F.A.Latham, and two books of historical photographs, "Reflections of Tarvin" and "Further Reflections of Tarvin" have been published by the Tarvin Local History Group.

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