

## 2 LOW GREEN

### PART OF THE CAPTAIN COOK SERIES

Great Ayton grew up as a village around Low Green, with its Church, Manor House and Corn Mill, three key buildings of an early settlement. The Domesday survey includes 'Aytun' and All Saints' Church. The young James Cook would have seen the view of the village as drawn by George Cuit about 1788.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Many aspects of the view are little changed since Cook's time. This cannot be said of All Saint's Church where the 15th century tower was replaced by a simpler structure in 1788 which was then demolished in 1880 with the stone being used to build a wall around the graveyard. At the same time the length of the nave was reduced by half; this was at the time Christ Church was completed on Guisborough Road.

Captain Cook's mother and some of his siblings are buried in the churchyard. The inscription on the headstone claims that Cook was killed at Owhyhee on 14 December 1779, but should read 14 February 1779.

Ayton Hall, which can be seen from the churchyard, is a handsome Georgian building. William Wilson, a celebrated Commodore of the East India Company, retired here in 1762. The present Manor House, outwardly also Georgian, is believed to have been built around a much-earlier house.

Marwood School was opened in 1851, as a Grammar School with tuition fees of two pennies a week.

The stone bridge, a characteristic feature of the village, was built in 1777 with two arches. Increasing traffic resulted in its replacement by the present bridge in 1909. The inscription on the parapet originally had the words 'Great Ayton' but these were removed in the Second World War in an attempt to confuse any enemy troops arriving in the village!



The path on either side of the footbridge at the bottom end of Low Green is paved with whinstone setts. The extraction of whinstone, a hard volcanic rock, was an important industry in the village for centuries. Further down Yarm Lane, the wooden-slatted drying shed of Jackson's Tannery can be seen. It is all that remains of Great Ayton's once-extensive leather tanning industry.



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The interpretation Panel is located alongside the River Leven near the entrance to the Low Green. The Low Green was at one time the primary location of the fledgling village. The River crossing, all Saints Church and Manor house provided the focus for the farming community. Today the picturesque Low Green is a good starting point for exploring the many nearby attractions including the site of the Cook Family cottage in Easby Lane. There is ample car parking alongside the Green.

### CAPTAIN COOK'S PANEL LOCATIONS



- 1** COOK'S FAMILY MEMORIAL GARDEN
  - COOK'S COTTAGE
  - THE OBELISK
  - THE MILL RACE

- 2** LOW GREEN
- 3** WATERFALL PARK
- 4** HIGH GREEN
- 5** GRIBDALE GATE