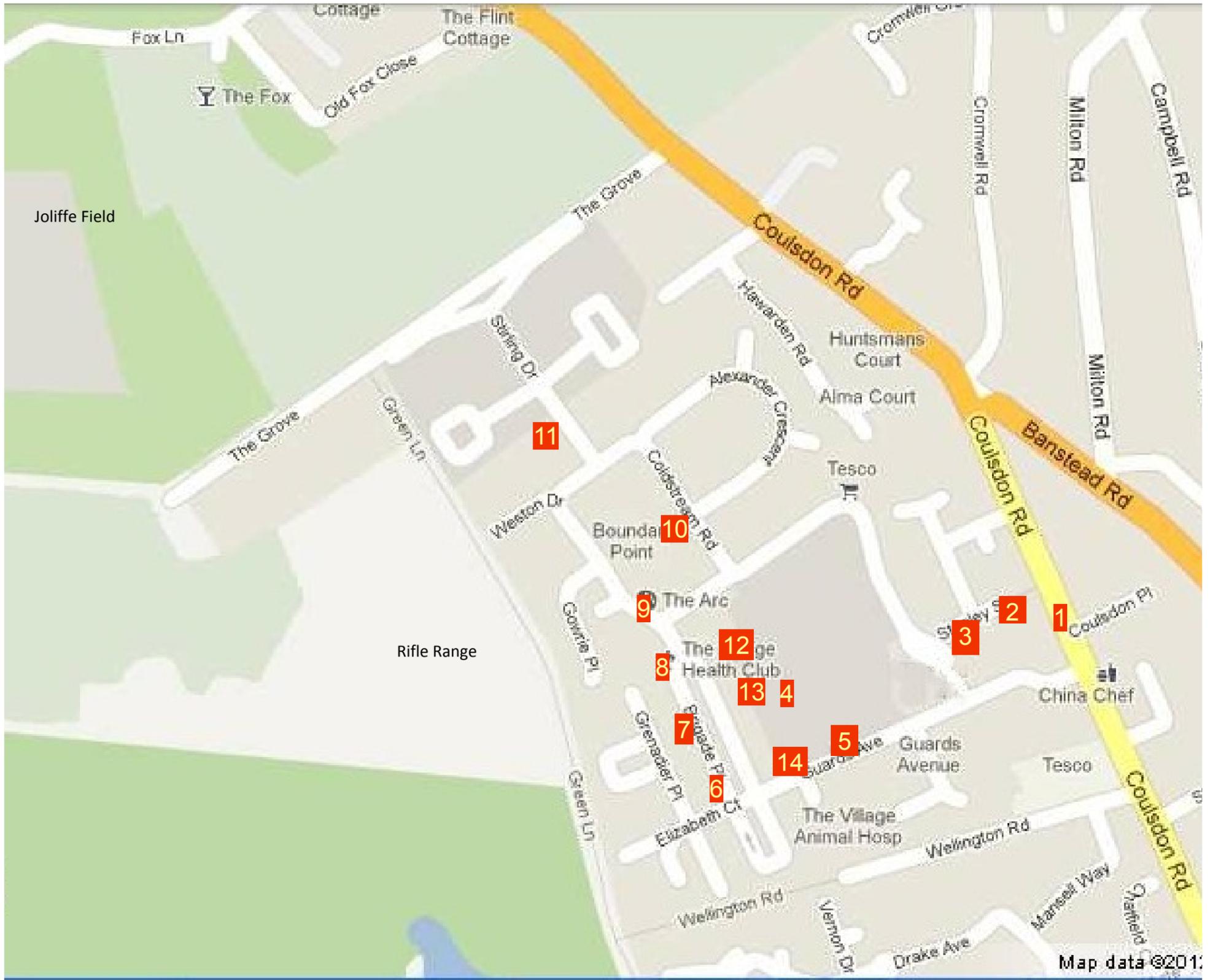


## The Heritage Trail



### Reviewing or Stopping Points on the Trail.

- 1. COMMEMORATIVE COLUMN & PLAQUE** was unveiled on Friday, December 1st 2000. This column was designed and executed by Paula Haughey. The calligraphy was undertaken by Matthew Caines. The project was financed by Linden Homes at a cost of approximately £35,000.
- 2. DEPOT CHAPEL.** Dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels. It was designed by William Butterfield and incorporates his style which used tile mosaics. Keble College, Oxford includes some of his designs. These designs include the mosaic tiling, which can be seen on the Depot Chapel. It is currently in use as 'Skaterham' a facility for young people and the pillars and mosaics have been covered to protect them.
- 3. OFFICERS' MESS.** This building was converted to offices by Linden Homes and is now owned by Caterham Barracks Community Trust, the development trust responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the community facilities within the site. Some modifications have removed 'out of character' additions to the original building. The adjoining squash court was probably the scene of many private battles between members of the Depot Staff (It has now been demolished and sat where the Ladybird Car Park is). No records have survived! In front of the Officer's Mess was the Depot Flag Pole and for many years a pair of captured German Cannons. At some time it was decided that these cannons deserved honourable burial. Just that happened, but their burial spot was not recorded.
- 4. The Pavilion.** At various times the field was used as a 'tented village' to house more recruits, particularly in time of war. It reverted to its sporting use after WW2
- 5. THE SERGEANTS' MESS.** Like all Sergeants' Messes throughout the British Army, this mess was the core of the Depot Community. As the basic task of the Depot was training most of the Non-commissioned Officers were teachers; the Mess, therefore, can be likened to the Staff Common Room of a school or college. After "business" hours it became the social centre of the Depot Community. Many of the concerts organised by the staff - both commissioned and non-commissioned took place in the Sergeants' Mess, part of which had been adapted with a small stage. The mess has been converted to a veterinary clinic. Its appearance is largely unaltered.

We now come to the main barrack blocks. The names of the blocks had been changed several times during the life of the barracks. The following names are those that are generally accepted. Only the name "Codrington" can be seen on what was generally accepted as "Victoria" Block. We expect that many visitors will remember different applications of the same names. Fuller details of the "names" are given later in this pamphlet. The six original blocks were initially built to two stories high. They were subsequently raised to three stories and included separate rooms for supervisory staff, namely the "trained soldier".

6. ELIZABETH BLOCK was named after our present Queen. She was a regular visitor to the barracks and had been photographed many times with recruits during their period of basic training at the barracks.

7. YORK BLOCK was named after the "Noble Duke of York".

8. EDWARD BLOCK was named after Edward VIII.

On your left after the last barracks block there is The QUARTERMASTER'S STORE now The Village Health Centre. This building housed a theatre on its first floor and you will see at the end of the building nearest the ARC the doorway to nowhere (once there may have been another building attached)

9. The NAAFI is an abbreviation of the "Naval Army and Air Force Institute". It was a subsidised canteen. Most recruits claimed that they were too busy carrying out their "normal" barrack room and parade duties to have time to visit the NAAFI. However, there were other staff, below the rank of sergeant who would have used the NAAFI. These would include the "trained soldiers", a rank peculiar to the Guards Depot.

10. The GYMNASIUMS (The ARC) There were two separate gymnasiums with a communal changing room and shower block between.

11. VICTORIA BLOCK was named after Queen Victoria. You may notice that the label "Codrington" is still sign-written on the block wall. This block differs from the original six blocks; in that it is still only two stories high.

12. MONCK BLOCK was named after General Monck, the Duke of Albemarle

13. CAMBRIDGE BLOCK was named after the Duke of Cambridge.

14. CODRINGTON BLOCK was named after General Codrington.