









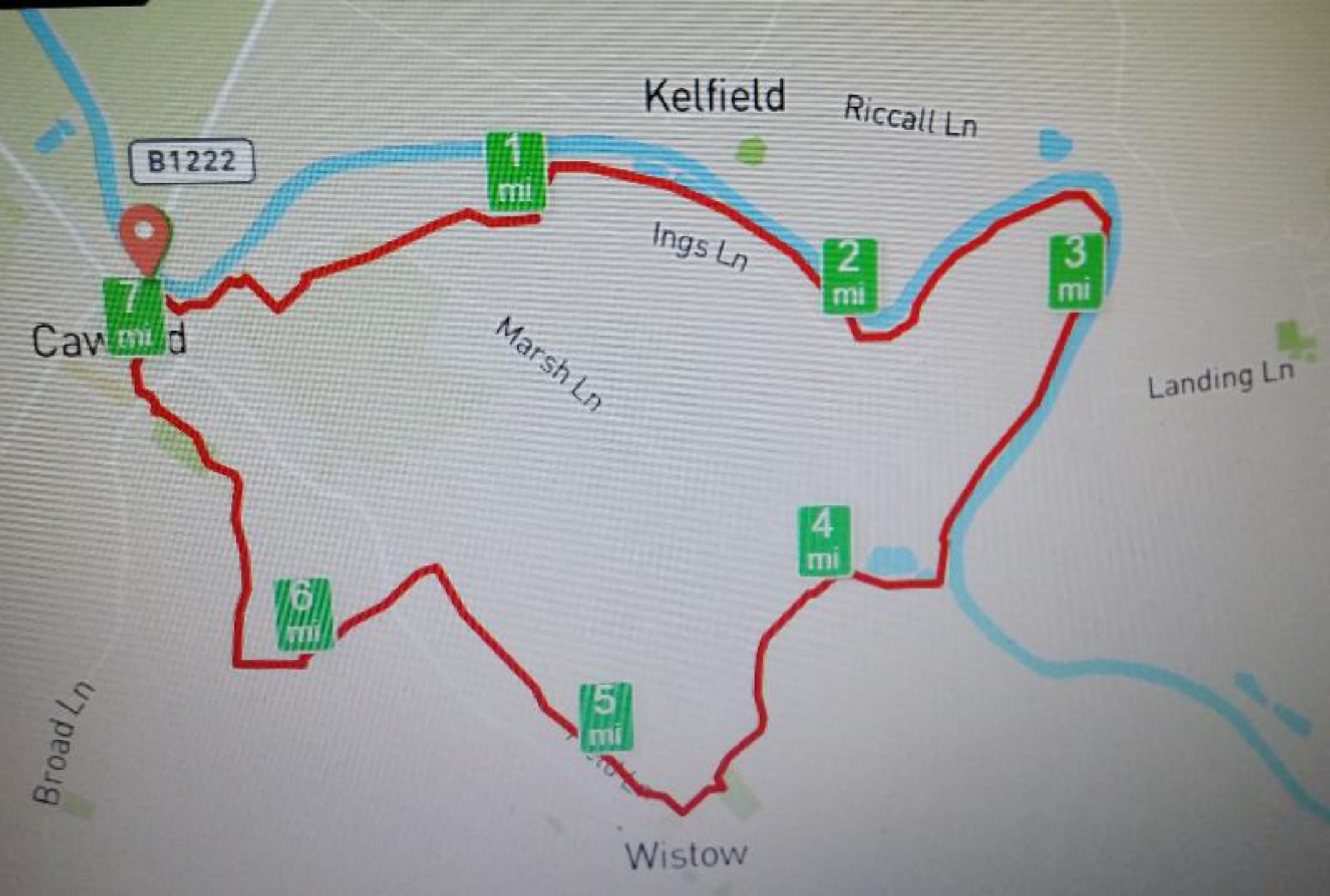












THE BATTLE OF TOWTON PALM SUNDAY 1461



In 1996, a mass grave of battle-dead was unearthed during building work at Towton Hall. Archaeologists recovered the remains of 38 individuals, all stripped before burial and very carefully laid to use all the available space in the grave-pit. Between 2002 and 2005, four more graves were discovered and archaeologically excavated; three were single burials and the fourth grave contained three skeletons. Again, all showed evidence of having died in battle. Other excavations in the cellar and across the front lawn of Towton Hall found disarticulated human remains, suggesting that yet more skeletons have been disturbed during previous building work, probably in the 19th century.

Excavations have also taken place across Chapel Hill, behind the Hall. These found no evidence of the chapel rebuilt by Richard III - although a few tantalising fragments of worked stone hint that the building, which was never finished and subsequently demolished in the late 16th century, may be located close by.



Archaeologists working off planks so that they do not have to walk of the thousands of human bones.



Archaeologists excavate the lower-most skeletons from the mass grave and bag up the bones from each individual. Back in the lab each skeleton was analysed and the wounds they had received recorded. The results were published in the best-selling book 'Blood Red Roses - the excavation of a mass grave from the Battle of Towton'.



The skull of Towton 9 from the 1996 mass grave excavation clearly showed the wound that killed him on that fateful day. Almost all of the skeletons exhibited skull trauma, some of which could be seen to have been inflicted in previous conflicts.



The reconstruction of the face of Towton 18 clearly shows a healed wound found on his jaw. He probably received it some years before, possibly in another battle fought during the Wars of the Roses.

Please respect the fact that the Hall and surrounding land is privately owned and not open to the public. The landowner has voluntarily permitted access so that the Battlefield Trail can exist and in return we hope that you will respect their privacy and stick to the path at all times.

THANK YOU.

The Village 10



- A Medieval strip fields
- B Towton Hall and Chapel Garth
- C Medieval house platforms
- D Chapel Hill

ROYAL ARMOURIES

ENGLAND















