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## The Chequers

Holbeach  
Discovery  
Trail

In 1351 the Hospital of All Saints was founded by John De Kirton and was situated on the site of the present Chequers hotel. By 1545 it had ceased to exist as a hospital and was taken down by the father of William Stukeley between 1685 and 1700. The Chequers hotel was built and was in the same family for more than a century. A rebuild took place in 1783 and the building took on the appearance we see today.

In the late 1700's the legend of the card players is reputed to have taken place. There are many versions of this story but consistent with all is that the revellers followed up a drinking session in the Chequers by breaking into the church and played cards on the altar in the company of a corpse awaiting burial. Some versions suggest the corpse was a friend of the men and they carried the body over to the church in order to have one last card game with him. Whatever the truth it makes for a good story and poetess Eliza Cook composed some verses about it having been inspired by the story.

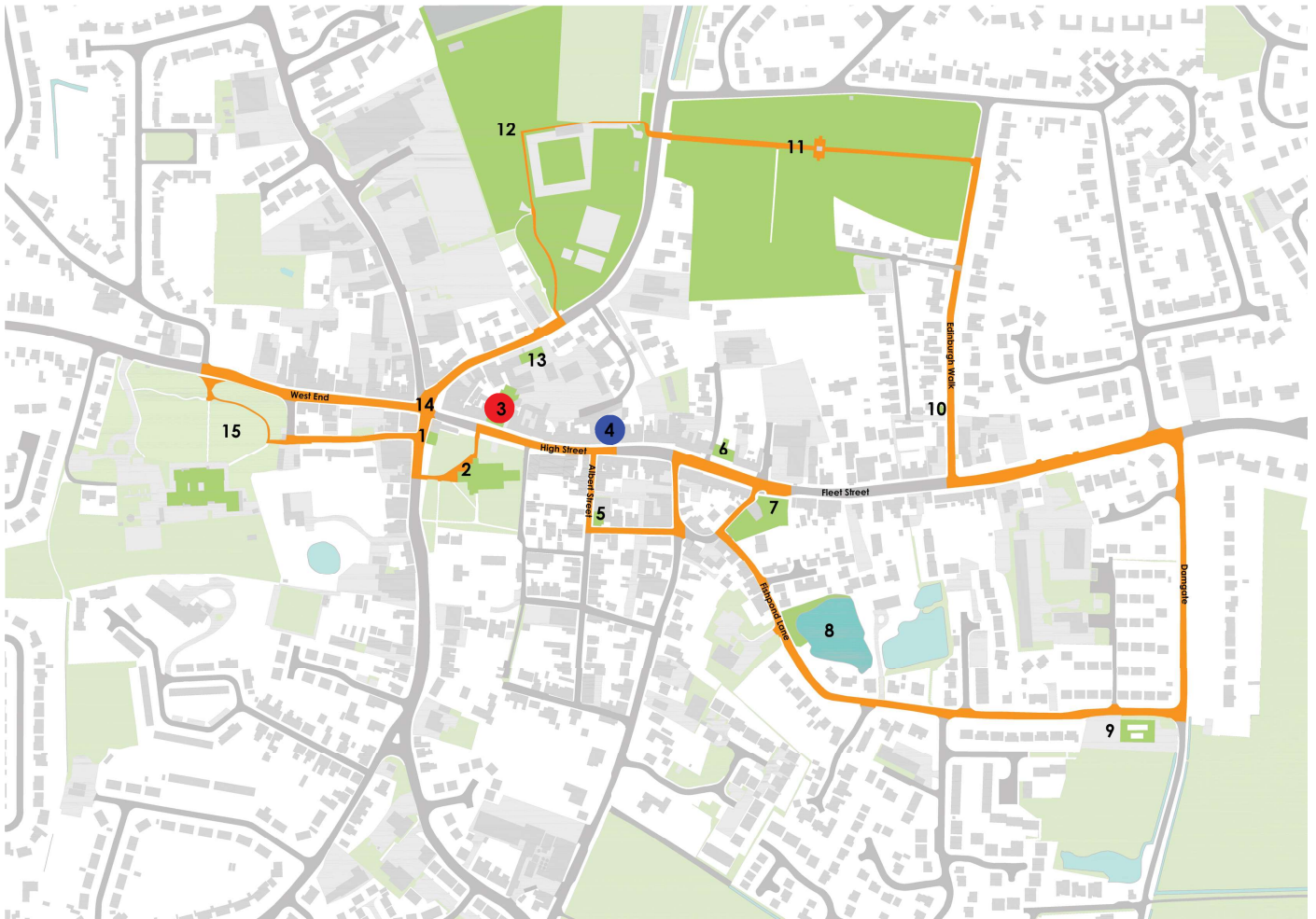


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