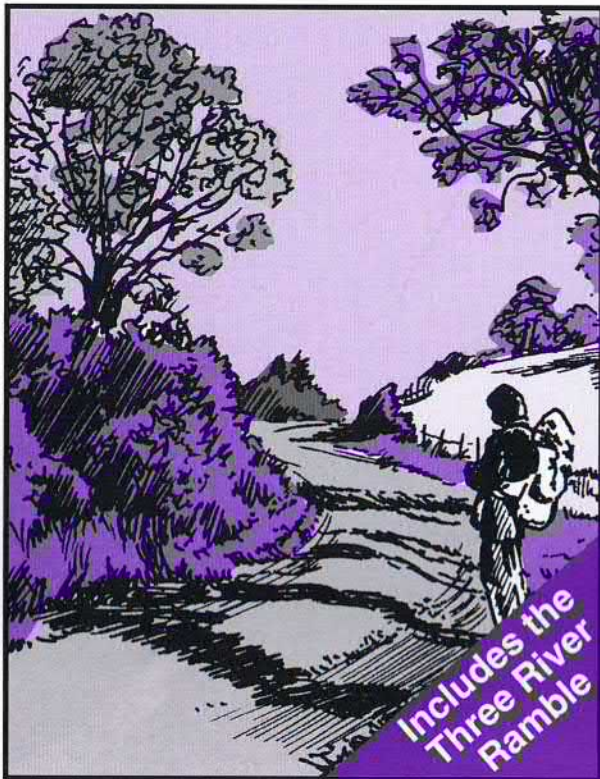


Jurassic Way

A Northamptonshire County Path

SOUTHERN SECTION BANBURY to ASHBY ST. LEDGERS



Warkworth Bridleway

'River and Railway'



Northamptonshire
County Council

The Jurassic Way

The Jurassic Way is a long distance, recreational walking route which travels the length of Northamptonshire, and more. The termini are Banbury in Oxfordshire and Stamford in Lincolnshire, two historic market towns separated by beautiful undulating countryside lying over rocks from the Jurassic age (c. 140-195 million years old). The whole route is 88 miles in length, described by a set of three guides.

Finding your Way

The Jurassic Way guides illustrate the route in map form and describe, within the text, your passage through the villages en route (from south to north). This is supported on the ground by fingerposts, waymarkers, stiles and gates which bear distinctive Jurassic Way logo discs. These discs have a directional arrow and within it the form of *Kallirhynchia sharpi*.

Kallirhynchia sharpi

This brachiopod was first named in 1938 in honour of one Samuel Sharp (1814-1882). He was an inspirational figure; archaeologist, numismatist as well as a geologist. "His wide and varied stores of knowledge were always placed at the service of those who sought his aid... many a young collector and student of science was indebted to him for useful and friendly advice". From 1857 Samuel Sharp lived at Dallington Hall, Northampton. He was an enthusiastic collector of fossils across the county. He discovered the very limited time range of this fossil and, its abundance in rock beds in the middle of the Jurassic system. These attributes make *Kallirhynchia sharpi* extremely important as it can be used to date rocks very accurately. *Kallirhynchia sharpi* is normally 15mm long, 18mm wide and 11mm thick. Its pointed 'umbo' carried the pedicle which acted as its anchor to the shallow seas which covered Northamptonshire 165 million years ago.



Samuel Sharp in 1868



Banbury to Ashby St. Ledgers - 28 1/2 miles

The Jurassic Way enters Northamptonshire at the crossing of the River Cherwell and gently rises to arrive at its source in Charwelton. Along the way it meets then shares the alignment of another linear feature, this time man-made, the line of the Great Central Railway.

It is an area of quite dense settlement pattern; village names are testimony to the time when England was a country of ancient tribes. Chacombe and Hellidon have Celtic origins; Ceawa's 'comb' or deep valley and, 'halig don' the holy hill.

Following Anglo-Saxon invasion came new or altered names, as at Warkworth and Middleton Cheney; middle 'ton' - enclosed farm or village, 'Cheney' added after the Norman Conquest from the local lord Simon de Chenduit.

It was the Anglo-Saxons who really began to shape the landscape here, clearing the thinner forests of the area to cultivate the land for crops and grazing. The concentration of settlements in this part of the county was actually greater in the Middle Ages than it is today. The upland spine of the Northamptonshire Heights has along it one of the largest clusters of deserted villages in the country.

Much of this desertion was as a result of enclosure of the earlier cleared land for more intensive livestock farming or to create great parks. This section of the route passes through a number of such examples, Edgcote, Charwelton and Catesby. This process too, began the shaping of the field pattern which we see today.

The beautiful villages are characterised by stone-built cottages and houses made from the browns of ironstone and ferruginous limestone.

**Jurassic Way
(88 miles)
Southern
Section
(28 1/2 miles)**



FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE:

- Keep to the line of the path
- Shut gates behind you
- Keep dogs under close control
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected by law, respect them and all archeological sites
- Respect and care for the countryside so that everyone will be welcome to enjoy it

Northamptonshire County Council are interested in your views on this route and leaflet. Any comments should be sent to:
Northamptonshire County Council
Countryside Services
PO Box 221
John Dryden House
Bedford Road
Northampton NN4 7DE

The contributions received towards the development of the Jurassic Way from: Dennis Boyce, Cormac Higgs, Kirsten Bennett, Dr Hugh Torrens (Keele University), local communities and individuals, landowners, neighbouring local authorities, Northamptonshire Heritage and Countryside Services' colleagues, are gratefully acknowledged. Leaflet written and project managed by Andy Johnson.

Illustrations by Colin Tidbury
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Marketing, Northampton.

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Banbury

The southern terminus of the Jurassic Way is the market town of Banbury. The route begins from Banbury Lock close to the town centre (behind the bus station). Head out of the town on the towpath of the Oxford Canal, following the direction of the lock fall.

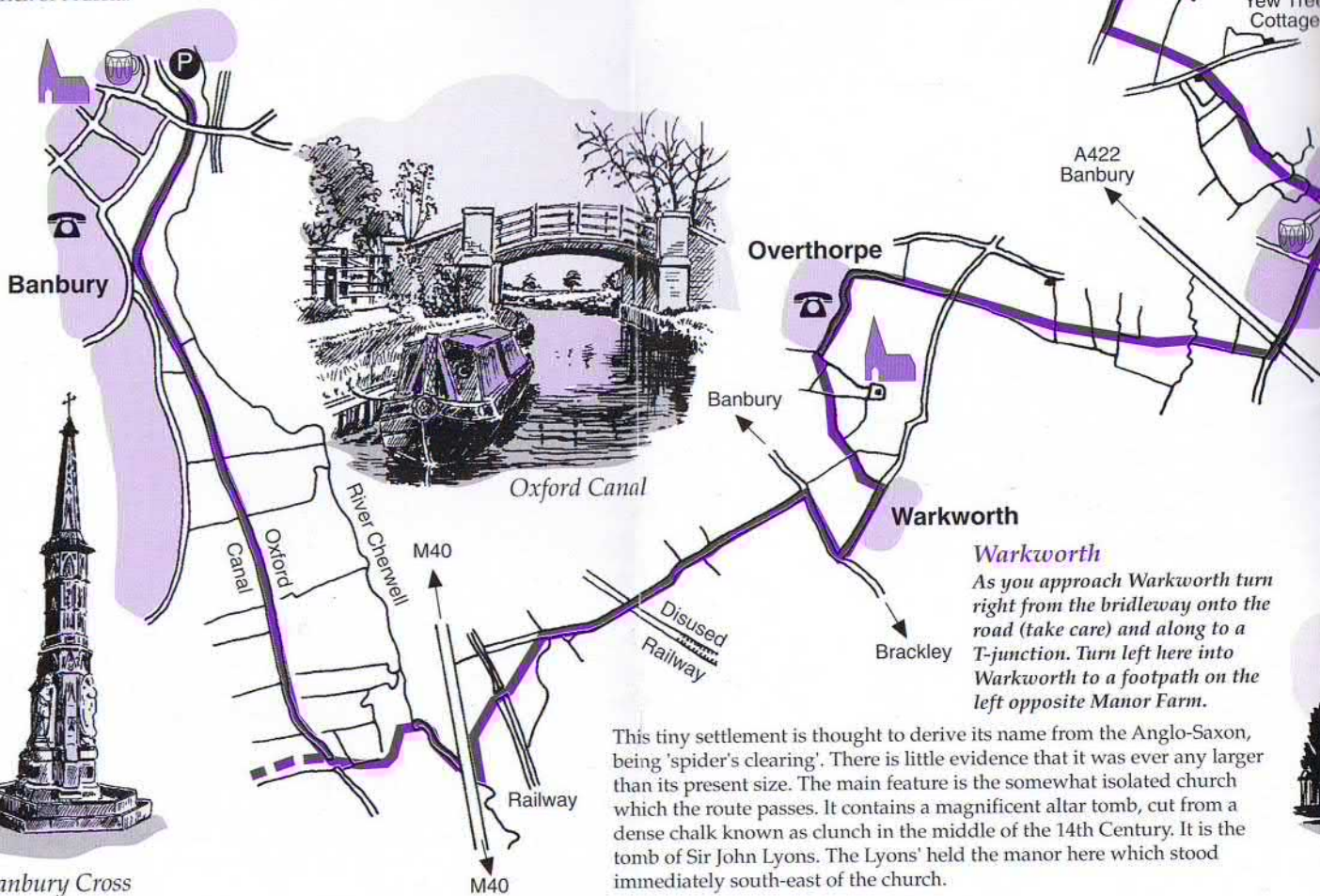
This market town was first recorded as a fortified settlement in Saxon times. Its name may come from Banna, a local Saxon chief, who built his 'burh' or stockade here c 500 AD. The town is perhaps best known now through the nursery rhyme 'Ride-a-cock-horse to Banbury Cross'. In the Middle Ages there were three crosses; 'White', 'Market' and 'High' or 'Bread Cross'. High Cross was the main architectural feature of the town but the crosses were destroyed at the turn of the 17th Century by Puritans. The popularity and spread of the nursery rhyme is due to the Rushes family of Banbury who were early publishers of small verse books for children. They were called Chapbooks and were sold throughout the countryside by 'Chapmen', known locally as the 'Walking Stationers'. The present Banbury Cross was erected in 1859 to celebrate the wedding of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, the Princess Royal, to Prince Frederick of Prussia.



Banbury Cross



Chacombe Priory Site



Warkworth

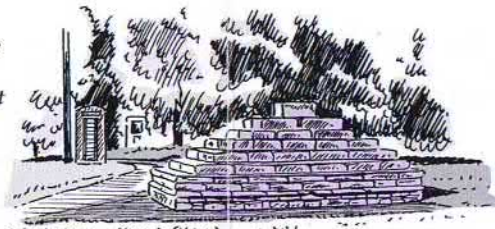
As you approach Warkworth turn right from the bridleway onto the road (take care) and along to a T-junction. Turn left here into Warkworth to a footpath on the left opposite Manor Farm.

This tiny settlement is thought to derive its name from the Anglo-Saxon, being 'spider's clearing'. There is little evidence that it was ever any larger than its present size. The main feature is the somewhat isolated church which the route passes. It contains a magnificent altar tomb, cut from a dense chalk known as clunch in the middle of the 14th Century. It is the tomb of Sir John Lyons. The Lyons' held the manor here which stood immediately south-east of the church.

Chipping Warden

Arriving in the village, turn right and follow the lane, passing right of the market cross, to the A361. At the road junction turn right to head out of the village on the Culworth Road to a left-hand path after 1/4 mile.

The attractive stone built village of Chipping Warden was once a very prosperous market town. The testimony to this is the base of the medieval market cross on the village green, sitting in the shadow of the 14th Century Church of St Peter and St Paul.



Chipping Warden Cross



Wardington Manor

Lower Wardington



Upper Wardington



Chacombe

Emerging from the wooded approach to Chacombe, turn left at the road then immediately right into Thorpe Road. By the pub turn left into Silver Street until reaching the footpath which leaves the village from the junction with Silver Street North.

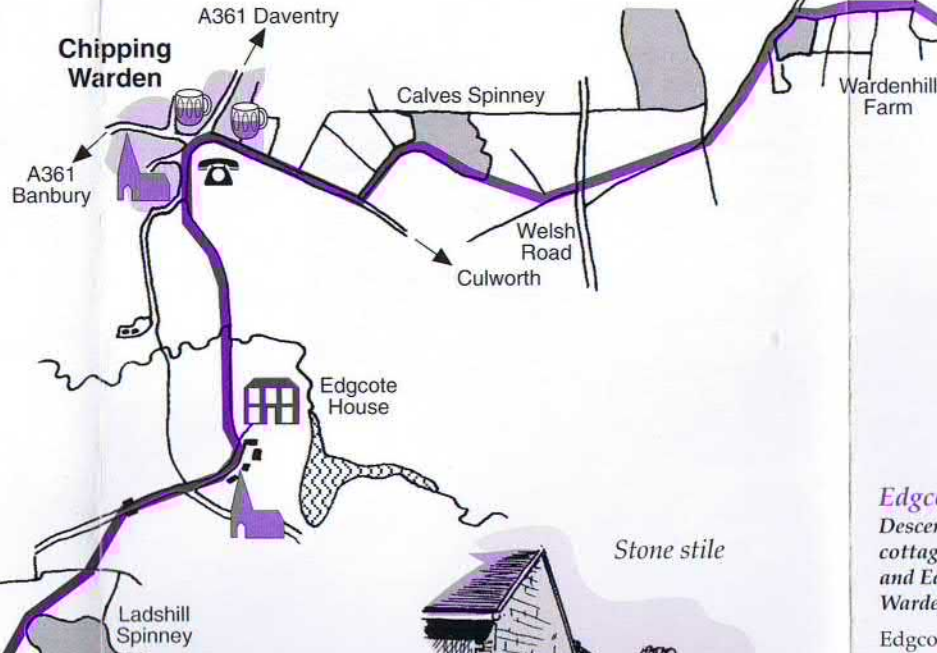
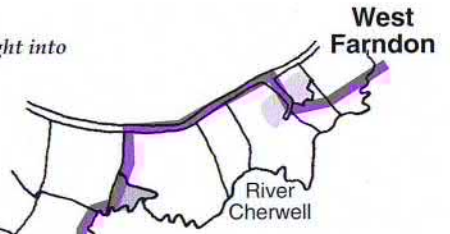


Stone stile

West Farndon

Reaching a road, turn right to find the hamlet of West Farndon. Turn right into West Farndon for a path starting by a row of stone cottages.

Lying to the west of the River Cherwell is the hamlet of West Farndon. Now only a few dwellings, it is the site of a once much larger village which occupied the land between here and the river. You cross some earthwork remains as you head towards Woodford Halse.



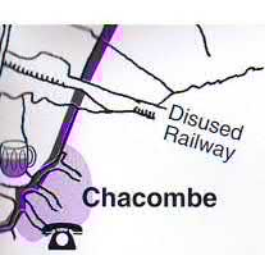
Edgcote House

Edgcote

Descending towards Edgcote, turn right along the road by the cottages then, left at the T-junction to pass in front of the church and Edgcote House. From here turn left onto the track to Chipping Warden.

Edgcote was first mentioned in the Domesday Book as a two-hide manor, with a recorded population of 25. The village grew through the next few centuries, 95 people paid the Poll Tax in 1377. Sharp changes in the surrounding landscape began with the enclosure of 240 acres of arable and pasture land in 1502 and, the destruction of 9 houses. By 1547, 500 sheep grazed over the manor and, before 1720 the surrounding lands had been wholly enclosed.

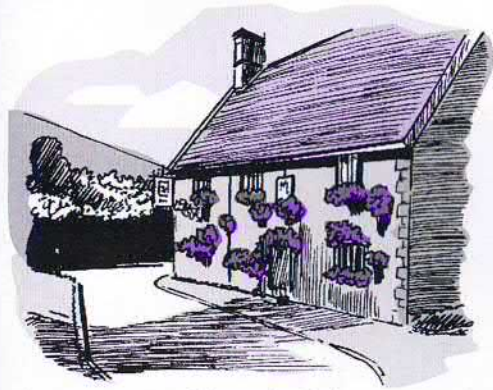
The Edgcote House you see was built between 1747-52, on the site of an older house. The manor was held by the Chauncy family. In the older house Charles Stuart slept the night before the Battle of Edgehill as guest of Sir William Chauncy in 1642. Between 1761-88 The Lord of the Manor demolished the village to the west of the house to create his landscaped park. Walking the route between Edgcote and Chipping Warden, you pass through the centre of this village site. Two new farms and seven cottages were rebuilt outside the park but within the parish, leaving the church and rectory isolated.



Chacombe

Approaching Chacombe from the south, the view is of a grand country house, built in the 16th Century with additions and alterations in the 18th Century. Its greater importance in the history of the village is that it was built on the site of an Augustinian Priory, founded by Hugh de Chacombe during the reign of Henry II (1154-89). The priory was dissolved in 1536 though some signs remain of water channels and fishponds. The beautiful, early 14th Century Church of St Peter and St Paul, was probably all one build. It lies on the north edge of the village, seen from the path before crossing the stream into Oxfordshire once again.

Chacombe House



Chacombe Pub



Middleton Cheney Church

Middleton Cheney

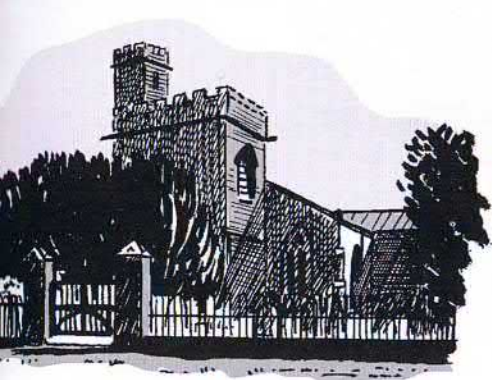
Turn left onto Astrop Road which carries you over the by-pass towards the village crossroads. Go straight over into High Street then first left and quick right into Church Lane. The route now turns left down a path between houses, before the church is reached.

Middleton Cheney, after the Chenuit Norman lords, was the site of one of the first battles of the Civil War. It was fought in May 1643, the Parliamentary forces were defeated and 46 of their soldiers buried in the churchyard. Of course their day was yet to come, with the decisive battle of the war fought further north in the county at Naseby in 1645.

The church itself holds a great treasure of stained glass. It contains some of the finest work from the 19th Century in one church collection. The east window was the collaborative work of Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown, Solomon J Solomon, William Morris and Philip Webb. The great west window is Burne-Jones' original masterpiece, 'The Six Days of Creation', exhibited in 1877.

Middleton Cheney

A422 Crackley



Warkworth Church



Banbury to Warkworth	3 1/4
Warkworth to Middleton Cheney	1 3/4
Middleton Cheney to Chacombe	1 3/4
Chacombe to Wardington	1 3/4
Wardington to Chipping Warden	2 1/2
Chipping Warden to West Farndon	3
TOTAL	14



SCALE
1 1/2 MILE

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KEY

- Jurassic Way
- Other routes
- Church
- Public House
- Historic House
- Telephone Box
- Woodland
- Water
- Parking

The Other Jurassic Way?

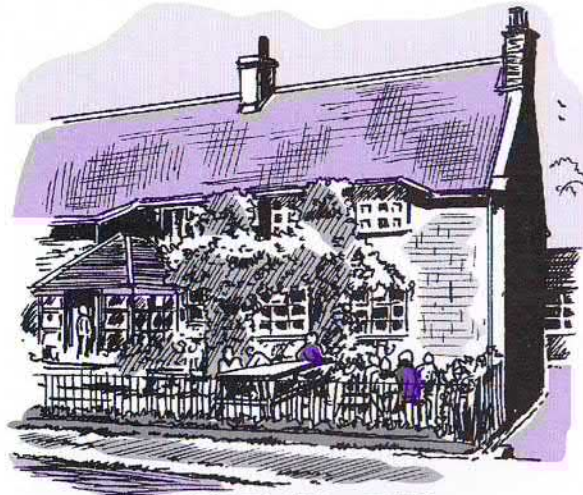
In the 1930's and 40's archaeologists believed they had found evidence of a prehistoric trackway which stretched across Middle England between the Humber and Severn estuaries. It was thought to follow the great watershed created by Jurassic limestone escarpments, and so, the 'Jurassic Way' came into being.

The theory was that the well drained limestone could only have supported light woodland, not the dense coverage which was thought to have existed over much of prehistoric England. Their suggested alignment linked many known prehistoric sites, particularly those from the Iron Age.

Two possible routes were suggested for a trackway across Northamptonshire; one following the Banbury Lane to Northampton then north to where the Welland rises, the second north and west of Daventry to reach the Welland. From there the consensus was that it took a course along the south-east slopes of the Welland Valley to Stamford.

However, since the 1940's numerous additional prehistoric sites have been discovered. Iron Age England is now known to have been more densely populated than previously thought, with much of the land already cleared of trees.

While it is no longer possible to argue for a single trackway from Bristol to the Humber, the imagery is still appealing. The Jurassic Way long distance path follows most closely the second of their suggested routes.



Red Lion, Hellidon

Hellidon

After dropping gently down to the village, turn left in front of the pub then, immediately right along Stockwell Lane signed 'Village Only'. Follow this lane through Hellidon to Catesby End and take the gated road to Lower Catesby.

The birthplace of the River Leam. It rises from Leam House at the eastern edge of the village and flows into Warwickshire to join with the Avon. Though Hellidon did not appear in the Domesday Book, it had developed by the 13th Century into a parish with two manors, Baskervilles and Giffords. The 14th Century church is at the hub of the village pattern of two conjoined loops.

When the church bells rang out for victory in North Africa it was discovered that during their W.W. II silence, bees had set up home in the belfry and laid over a hundredweight of honey in the workings of the clock.



Lower Catesby

At the junction by the priory site, go straight ahead to the path which starts from the gates just beyond the lime avenue which draws the eye to Catesby House.

Lower Catesby is reached along the gated road from Hellidon. A Catesby was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. In c. 1175 Robert de Esseyby founded a house for Cistercian nuns at Lower Catesby; it was endowed with the chapel of Hellidon and, in 1229, the King granted wood for the building of the priory church.

As with previous estates encountered along the Jurassic Way, it seems that the Priory too practised sheep-farming. In 1495 the Prioress apparently destroyed 14 houses and, in 1517-8 some sixty people were reported as being evicted. At the Dissolution in 1536, the lands were sold to John Onley whose family converted part of the priory buildings into a mansion house and apparently demolished the rest to make way for an elaborate garden. Earthwork remains of the village, priory and, house and gardens lie to the west of the road.

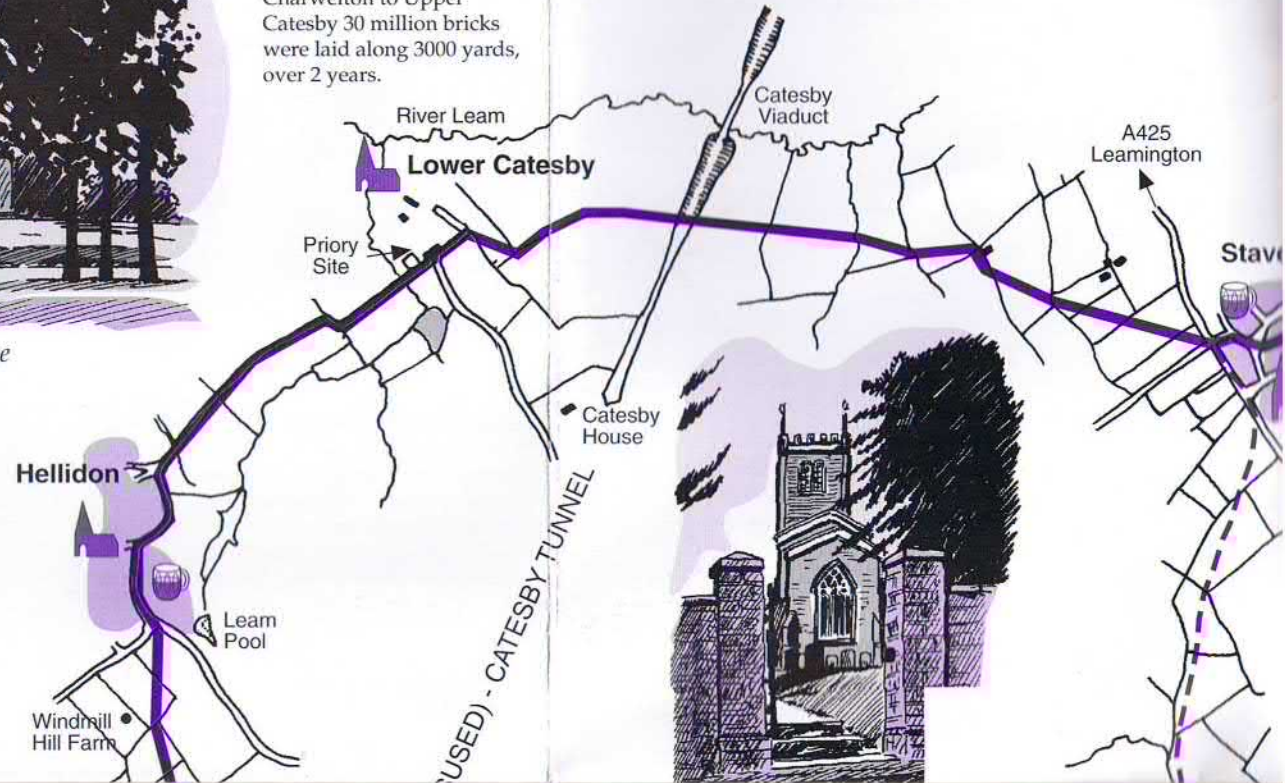
The 16th Century house was finally demolished in 1863 and, materials from it were used in the construction of the present Catesby House on the hillside to the east. The small mid-Victorian Church of St Mary (surrounded by the earthworks) was built at the same time.



Catesby House

Catesby Viaduct and Tunnel

Catesby Viaduct spans the River Leam at the northern end of the tunnel which brought the Great Central Railway underground from Charwelton to Upper Catesby 30 million bricks were laid along 3000 yards, over 2 years.



Staverton Path

Staverton

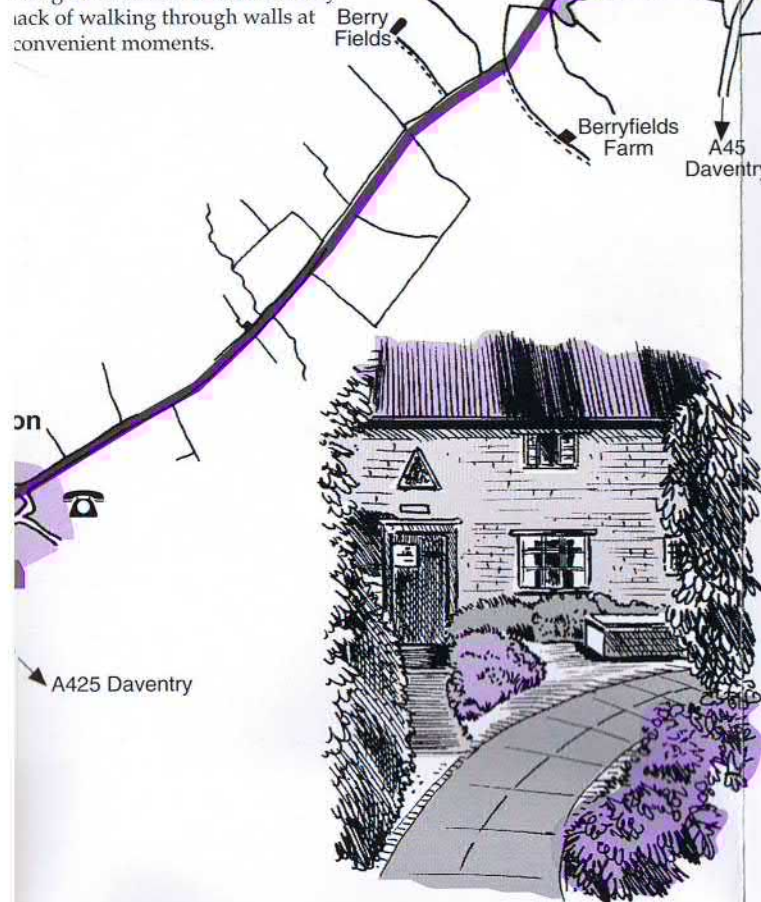
On reaching Staverton, cross over the A425 with care and head along the street passing to the right of the pub. Follow this street to pass The Green and into Oakham Lane. At the end turn right then left into Braunston Lane, which becomes a bridleway.

Braunston

After passing through Jetty Field Pocket Park cross the main village street and then, turn right at The Green heading along Ashby Road and out of the village.

Braunston first appears in a Royal Charter of 956 AD when land was granted to 'Brant' or 'Brand' an Anglo-Saxon Lord. Braunston was a very important village on the Midland's waterways system. In 1788, it was a stopping point on the Oxford Canal and, in 1800 it was joined by the Grand Junction Canal. From this important canal intersection sprang new employment for carpenters, blacksmiths, saddlers and pipe makers. It resulted in a village which could boast inns. Canal traffic declined with the coming of the Great Central Railway and station which was opened in 1899.

The Admiral Nelson in Little Braunston provides our welcome to the village. Built in 1730, this popular boating inn is said to be haunted by a figure in black with an uncanny knack of walking through walls at convenient moments.

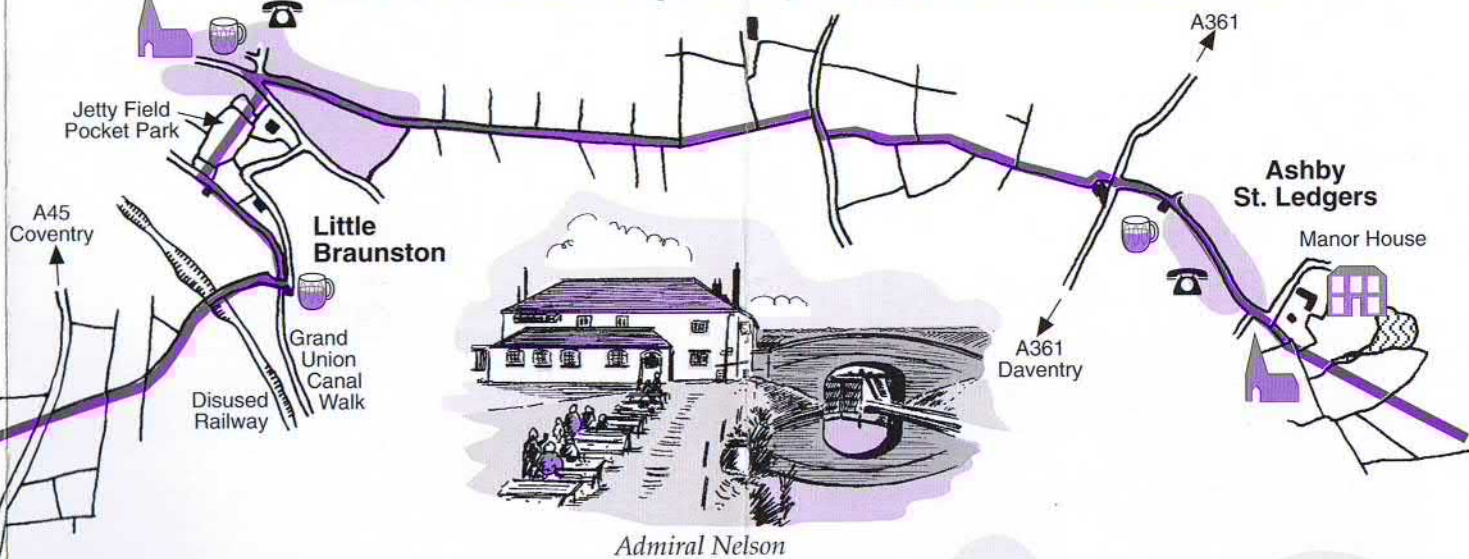


Badby Youth Hostel

Braunston

Jetty Field Pocket Park

The Jurassic Way passes through Jetty Field which runs from the village down to the Grand Union Canal. It provides an attractive route to the water's edge, with an adjacent area planted with trees and woodland flowers.



Admiral Nelson

Ashby St Ledgers

Cross the A361 with care and follow the main street for the length of the village to a left-hand bend just before the church and Manor House. The Jurassic Way continues straight ahead from the road bend.

In 1086 it was 'Ascebi' - the ash settlement. The outstanding feature of this superb conservation village is the Manor House. The manor passed to the Catesby family by marriage, in the 14th Century. The present building was established between 15th and 17th Centuries then, to be remodelled and enlarged during the first third of the 20th Century by renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.

William Catesby, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Richard III was born and buried here. When Richard died on Bosworth Field in 1485, his loyal supporter was captured and beheaded. Five generations later another Catesby was to achieve even greater fame or infamy.

Robert Catesby had thrown his lot in with the Roman Catholics and suffered financially for this at the hands of the corrupt Chancellor Francis Bacon. He was forced to sell his own estates and move to Ashby to live with his mother. Standing by his principles he allied himself with the Gunpowder Plotters.

The timber framed gatehouse was the meeting place for the conspirators. Through this entrance at dusk on 5th November 1605 rode Robert Catesby and his companions, after travelling the 80 miles from London in seven hours, to bring news that the Gunpowder Plot had been discovered. He was finally tracked down on 8th November and shot dead after refusing to surrender.

The house passed through a number of hands from this time on. From 1904-38 much work was done for Ivor Guest, 2nd Lord Wimbourne, under the direction of Sir Edwin Lutyens. He was also responsible for many changes throughout the village, notably The Cottage built for Lord Wimbourne's agent - coursed limestone and ironstone rubble plinth, pebbledashed brick, two storeys, five bays and two storey central porch with hipped roof.



Ashby Gate House

DISTANCES	MILES
West Farndon to Woodford Halse	1 1/4
Woodford Halse to Charwelton	2 1/2
Charwelton to Hellidon	1 3/4
Hellidon to Staverton	2 3/4
Staverton to Braunston	3 3/4
Braunston to Ashby St Ledgers	2 1/2
TOTAL	14 1/2

Approach to Hellidon

Church Charwelton

Church Charwelton was so called to distinguish it from Upper Charwelton just along the Cherwell. The villages were recorded together in the Domesday Book. Reports through history warned of the danger of the depopulation of the site; by John Rous in 1491 and by Bridges in the early 19th Century.

At the turn of the 15th Century Thomas Andrews acquired an estate here from Thorney Abbey. By 1547, the third Thomas Andrews was grazing 1200 sheep in the parish, the Knightleys of Fawsley 500 and a further 300 others. The deserted village lies to the south-east of Holy Trinity Church; the main feature being a shallow, hollow-way (its course almost followed by the Jurassic Way) from the river up to and passed the church. There are many remains of fishponds, one of the later ponds cuts the hollow way near the Cherwell, the oldest probably those in the complex west of the church and, adjacent to the river. A fine square pond structure can be seen immediately north west of the church.

Walking from the church towards Charwelton you cross some fine ridge and furrow and see the huge spoil heaps deposited when the railway was constructed.

Woodford Halse

Turn right up Station Road, under the railway bridges, going almost to the end of this road. Before reaching the church, turn left down Castle Road to its very end where you cross over a stream via a footbridge. Continue along the subsequent path to its end. Now turn left for a bridleway on your right opposite the road junction.

Woodford, West Farndon and Hinton were mentioned separately in the Domesday Book but today, they come under the wonderful parish title of Woodford-cum-Membris.

Woodford was probably a relatively quiet and typical Northamptonshire village but in the 19th Century it was to be 'all change', with the coming of the railway. With the building of the lines came an influx of itinerant workers and the village expanded rapidly. New houses, shops and churches sprung up and a small town developed.

The railway held its active influence over Woodford until the 1960's when the Beeching axe fell and, the station and Great Central Railway were lost.

Woodford Halse Pocket Park

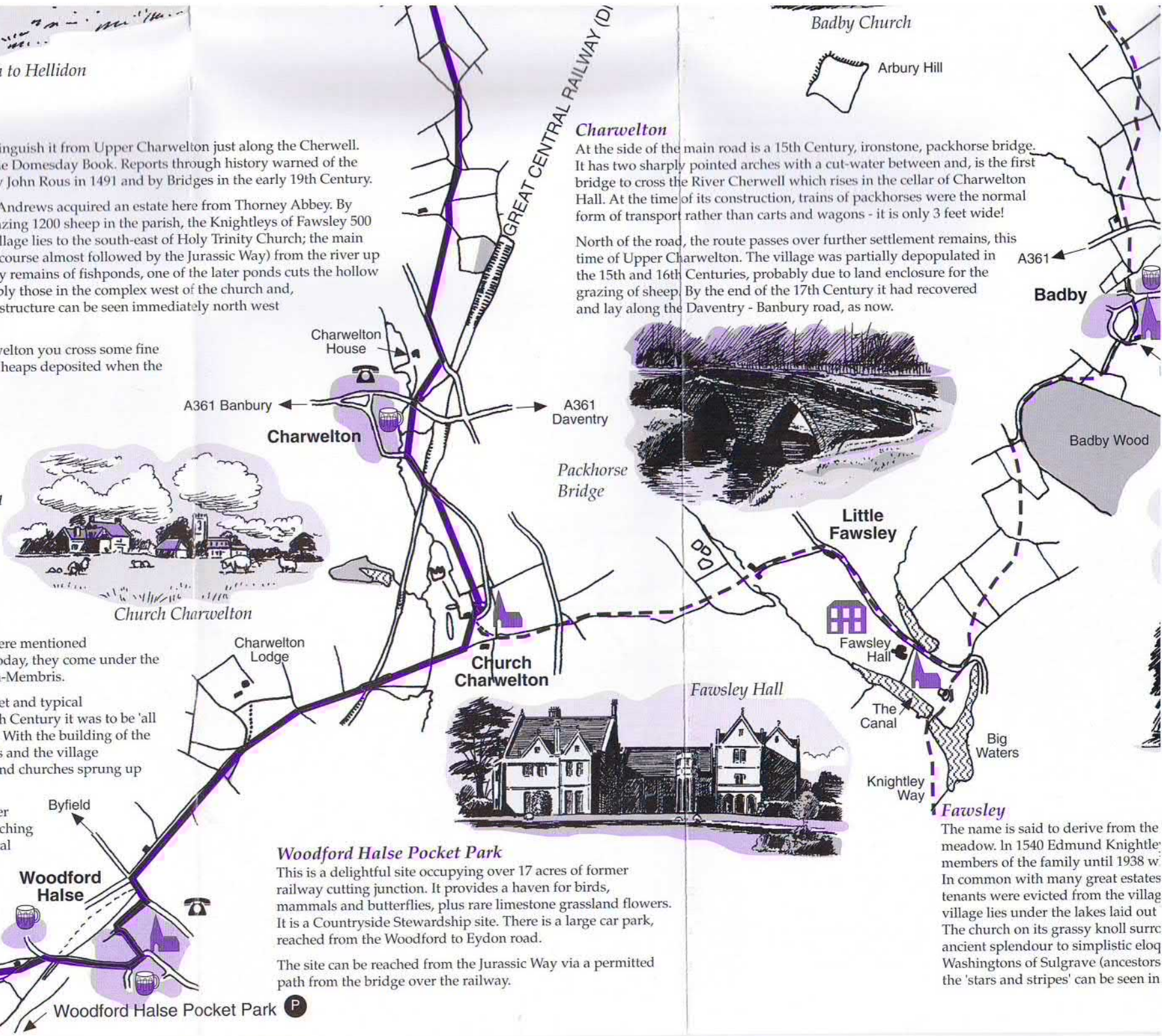
This is a delightful site occupying over 17 acres of former railway cutting junction. It provides a haven for birds, mammals and butterflies, plus rare limestone grassland flowers. It is a Countryside Stewardship site. There is a large car park, reached from the Woodford to Eydon road.

The site can be reached from the Jurassic Way via a permitted path from the bridge over the railway.

Charwelton

At the side of the main road is a 15th Century, ironstone, packhorse bridge. It has two sharply pointed arches with a cut-water between and, is the first bridge to cross the River Cherwell which rises in the cellar of Charwelton Hall. At the time of its construction, trains of packhorses were the normal form of transport rather than carts and wagons - it is only 3 feet wide!

North of the road, the route passes over further settlement remains, this time of Upper Charwelton. The village was partially depopulated in the 15th and 16th Centuries, probably due to land enclosure for the grazing of sheep. By the end of the 17th Century it had recovered and lay along the Daventry - Banbury road, as now.



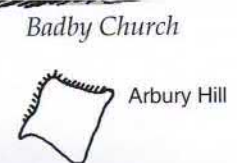
Church Charwelton



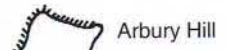
Fawsley Hall



Packhorse Bridge



Badby Church



Arbury Hill

Badby

Badby Wood

Little Fawsley

Fawsley Hall

The Canal

Big Waters

Knightley Way

Fawsley

The name is said to derive from the meadow. In 1540 Edmund Knightley members of the family until 1938 w In common with many great estates tenants were evicted from the village village lies under the lakes laid out The church on its grassy knoll surr ancient splendour to simplistic eloq Washingtons of Sulgrave (ancestors the 'stars and stripes' can be seen in

West Farndon

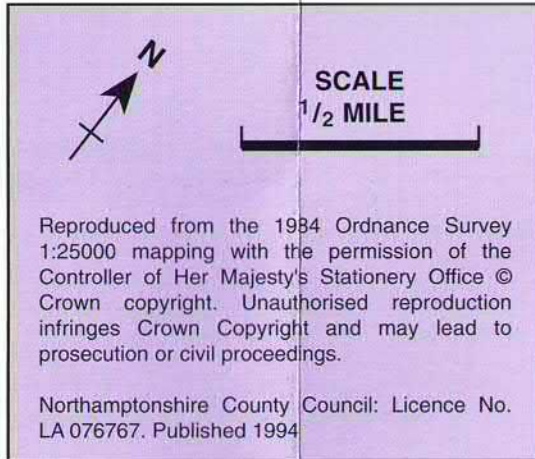
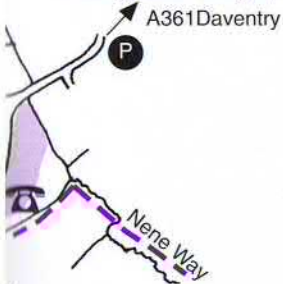
Woodford Halse

Woodford Halse Pocket Park P

Badby

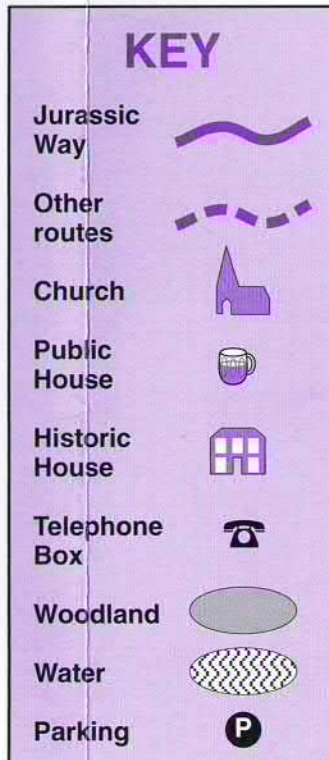
To the south of the village lies an ancient wood of 180 acres, covering the area of a medieval Deer Park created in 1245-6. The owners of the manor, the Abbey of Evesham, enclosed the wood as a park, the remains of its boundary pale can still be seen today and, are amongst the best preserved in the county. Badby Wood is famed locally for its carpet of bluebells in the spring months of April and May.

Badby has been the home of a Youth Hostel since 1931. Now at its third location within the village, the present hostel came into being in 1946. It is housed in a row of three mid-17th Century stone cottages, on the green below the church. (Tel 0327 703883).



Fawsley Church

on words 'Falepe', the colour of a fallow deer and 'ley' meaning the great hall which was to be occupied by successive the last Baronet died. is time, sheep pastures replaced arable fields and reluctant the Church of St Mary stands alone as the site of the deserted capability Brown in the 18th Century landscaping of the park. ed by a ha-ha, contains the Knightleys' tombs which range from e. Some of the stained glass commemorates family ties with the eorge Washington, the first American President). The origins of family crest.



The Three River Ramble

This eleven mile circular route skirts widely around the ancient hillfort site of Arbury Hill. At 225m the flat-topped summit of Northampton Sand is the highest point in Northamptonshire. Three separate rivers rise within this walk's circuit, The Nene, Cherwell and Leam. All flow on radiating courses to the Wash, Thames and Avon respectively. The hill was once believed to be the highest point in England after employing the logic that it was near the centre of the country with rivers running from it to all coasts.

The route was originally described from Badby as a walk from the Youth Hostel. It now fulfils the important role of connecting the Jurassic Way with the Knightley and Nene Ways, so integrating it with the established network of County Paths.

The Knightley Way from Badby to Greens Norton (12 miles) leads into the Grafton Way which links with the North Bucks Way at the County boundary near Cosgrove (12 miles). These two walks pass through attractive undulating countryside formerly owned by the Knightley family and the Dukes of Grafton.

The Nene Way was the County's first long distance walking route. It follows the river valley for 70 miles from Badby to Wansford through historic towns and villages. The route has now been extended to The Wash, 110 miles in total.

Further Information

A Jurassic Way Factsheet will be available from Spring 1995. This will be a regularly updated directory of facilities along the route; pubs, shops, accommodation, camping, public transport links and information on any changes to the route. Please send a stamped S.A.E. with your request to:
The Countryside Centre
9 Guildhall Road
Northampton NN1 1DP
Telephone: (0604) 237220

The Jurassic Way is an integral part of Northamptonshire's recreation route network with many links to other walking routes; Nene Way, Knightley Way, Midshires Way, Grand Union Canal Walk and connections with neighbouring counties via the Oxford Canal and the Hereward Way. There are also many village based walks leaflets which share parts of the Jurassic Way. For more details contact the Countryside Centre for a publications price list.

Pocket Parks are small areas of countryside which are 'owned', managed and cherished by a local community for its own enjoyment and for the protection of wildlife. Guidance and financial help is available to those who might like to establish a pocket park in their own neighbourhood. For more information contact the Pocket Parks Officer - Telephone: (0604) 237222.

Countryside Stewardship. This Countryside Commission management scheme gives farmers and land managers incentives to enhance and conserve important features of the English landscape. In Northamptonshire the scheme targets waterside, limestone grassland and historic landscapes through ten year management agreements. Additional payments are made where sites give open access to the public for quiet, informal recreation.