A beautiful walk from Brigstock, through Wadenhoe, incorporating the historic Lyveden New Bield.

Lyveden Way

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Countryside Code

The countryside is a living, working environment, so please follow the Countryside Code:

• Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
• Leave gates and property as you find them
• Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
• Keep dogs under close control
• Consider other people

The Lyveden Way is a walk through part of the ancient Rockingham Forest, beginning at Fermyn Woods Country Park. The area is steeped in local and natural history, with a landscape that may have changed little over the past 2000 years. The Country Park is known to be a large extent water - four small lakes create a network of ponds and marshes, making for a most enjoyable walk. The route passes through the expanses of the woods. The route follows the path and leads you among the numerous forestry blocks, heathland and moorland foliage.

Lyveden Way follows the perimeter of the country park, leaving the park and heads east along the perimeter of Fermyn Woods. It continues across open countryside to Lady Wood Head and follows the perimeter of the wood towards Lyveden New Bield.

Lyveden New Bield dominates the local landscape. It was designed by Sir Thomas Tresham, to express his devout Catholic faith during the reign of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I. It was his son, Frances Tresham, who later became embroiled in the Gunpowder Plot. The New Bield was incomplete when Sir Thomas died in 1605 and remains a haunting survival of the Elizabethan age together with extensive remains of the original garden, which restoration work is beginning to reveal. Lyveden is owned and managed by the National Trust and is open daily from 1st April to 31st October, except Monday and Tuesday. It is open every day in August and weekends throughout February. 

Leaving Lyveden New Bield, the route turns south-east through Lilford Wood towards Wadenhoe village. Wadenhoe dates back to at least Saxon times and is regarded as one of the prettiest villages in Northamptonshire. It is home to the St Michaels and All Angels Church which stands alone at the edge of the village. The Church contains many interesting memorials, dedicated to members of local families. The path begins to turn north-west crossing pasture fields and passes斯顿grange homestead and Lyveden Wood Head.
Finding Your Way
The walk begins at Fermyn Woods Country Park which is open all day, everyday. Admission is free although there is a small charge for the use of the car park. The walk can also be accessed from Lyveden New Bield (National Trust) or Wadenhoe village. The Lyveden Way leaflet shows the route in map form. This is supported on the ground by fingerposts, waymark posts, bridges and gates. These bear distinctive Lyveden Way markers and directional arrows as shown in this picture.

Ordnance Survey Map
When walking the Lyveden Way it may be useful to carry a Ordnance Survey Map. These could either be the Landranger Series at a scale of 1:50,000 or the Explorer Series at a scale of 1:25,000. These maps are available from Tourist Information Centres, Fermyn Woods Country Park and most bookshops. For this walk you will need Landranger Series 141 or Explorer 224.

Safe Walking
Be prepared – always wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear, take refreshments and directions. Take care when crossing or walking on roadways (walk facing oncoming traffic).

Public Transport
For information about public transport to any of these villages, please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

If you wish to report any problems with any of the routes shown on this leaflet, please contact Rights of Way at the address below:
Rights of Way, Northamptonshire County Council, Riverside House, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX. Telephone: 01604 654465. Website: www.rightsofwaynorthamptonshire.org.uk

This information can be made available in other languages and for mats upon request, such as large print, Braille, audio cassette and floppy disk.

Walk distance: 9.5 miles / 15.2 km