

## Local snippets:

### APETHORPE HALL - A BRIEF HISTORY

Like many old country houses the hall has a chequered history from its inception by Sir Guy Wolston who acquired Apethorpe in about 1480, to Sir Walter Mildmay in 1550, and on to Sir Francis Fane in 1617. In 1904 it was acquired by Lord Brassey.

Sir Walter Mildmay was a distinguished servant of the crown under Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth I.

Sir Frances Fane was created Earl of Westmorland and the house stayed in the Fane's estate until 1904.

In 1949 it was turned into a school for problem children and then passed into private ownership in 1982 and now sadly lies empty.

The extensive gardens were created in 16th to 17th Century but were landscaped in 1908 when the present lake was designed.

Apethorpe was a popular royal hunting ground being endowed by Henry III to his wife. Edward I and Edward II both leased the land. James I stayed at the hall in 1612 and 1614.

The hall Deer Park was created before 1543 and enlarged in 1620 being surrounded by wall and pale. Cheeseman's Lodge was built in mid 1700's probably as the Park Keepers residence. The park declined after James I last visit.

When walking these footpaths watch out for the tracks of the secretive deer. Look out for the majestic kestrel, the patient heron and the ever busy bluetit.

## A Walkers' Code



1. Always keep to the path to avoid trespass. If the path is obstructed you are allowed to seek a reasonable way round the obstruction, taking care to avoid causing damage. Please report the obstruction to the highway authority.
2. Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease and carelessness may lead to tragedy.
3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wildlife it is best to leave dogs at home. If you have to bring them they should be kept on a leash.
4. If your route takes you onto a road keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic and use the verge if one exists.
5. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season and remember to allow plenty of time to complete your chosen walk.
6. Remember that every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and other walkers will be made welcome.

If you experience any difficulty on your walk such as barbed wire, locked gates or damaged stiles and footbridges, please report them to the Principal Rights of Way Officer, Area 1 Office, 73 London Road, Kettering. Tel. 524100.

Compiled and drawn by Sue Payne. With thanks to Ken Payne and Jim Peacock for their assistance.

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Northamptonshire Countryside Services  
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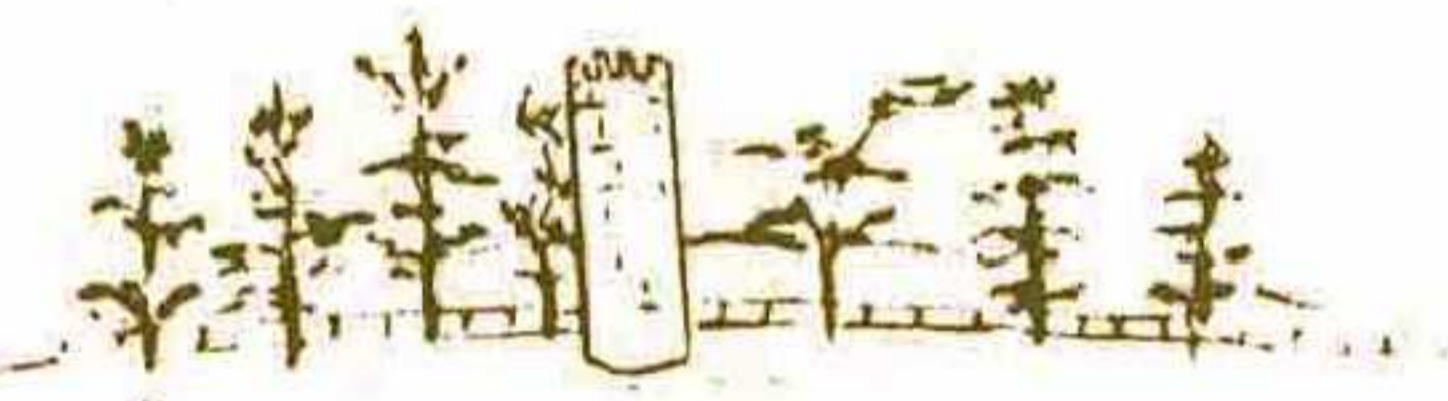
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# Countryside Walks Apethorpe



Northamptonshire  
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The circular water tower situated to the north of Apethorpe Hall was originally built as a Dovecote and only pressed into its present service in this century. It is built of coarse rubble with brick nesting boxes.



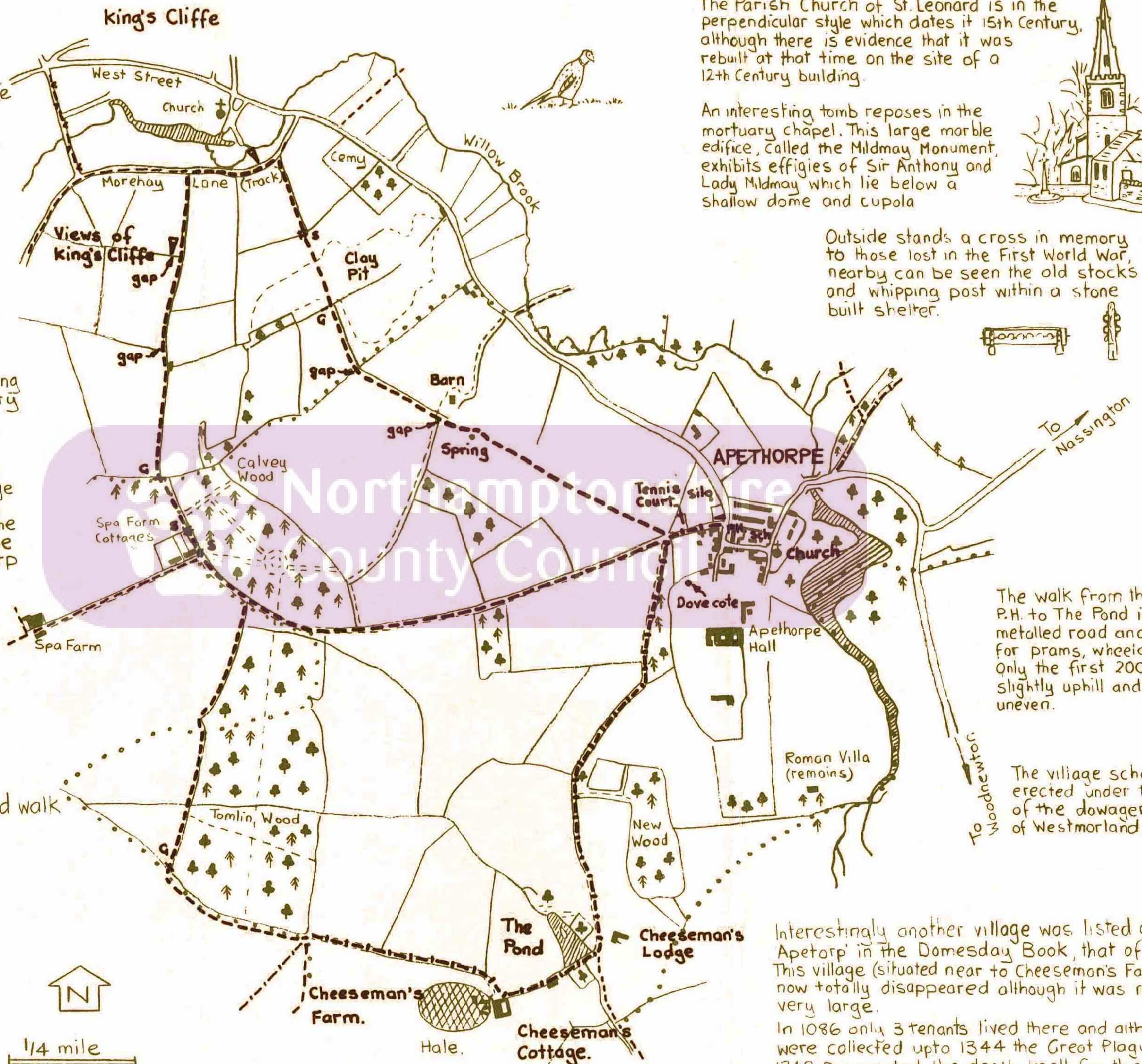
Apethorpe lies snugly in undulating countryside on a fold in the country road between King's Cliffe and Woodnewton.

It is comprised mainly of old stone cottages with thatched roofs. The age of the village is underlined by its listing under the name Fatorp in the Domesday Book of 1086. It became Apetorp in 1162 and then Appellthorp in 1222.

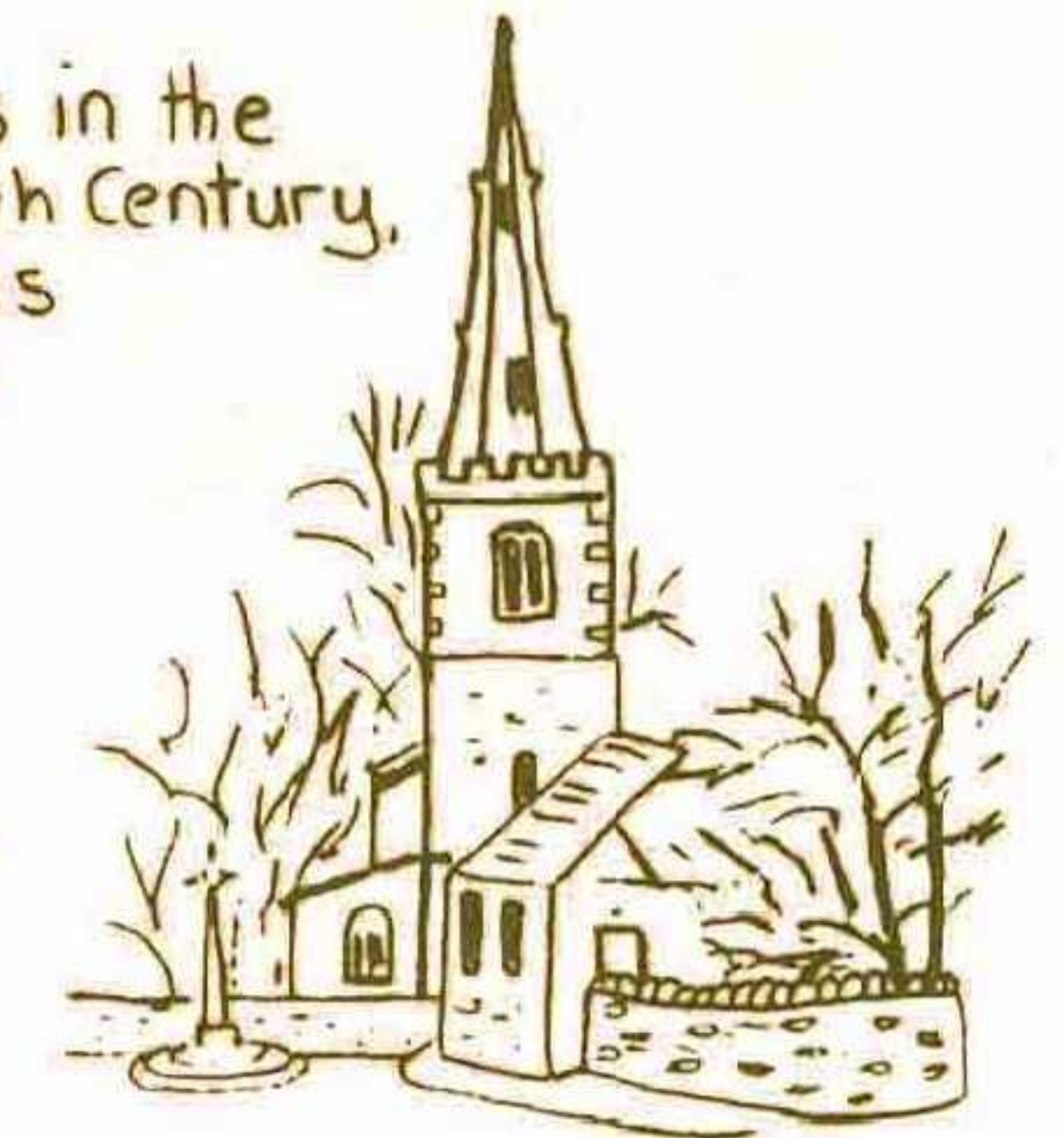
The first part of the name is thought to have derived from an old Danish name 'Api'.

**Key**

- Footpaths on suggested walk
- Other footpaths
- |-|-| Bridleway
- |-|-| Byway
- ..... Parish Boundary
- #s Stile
- G Gate
- ▼ Signpost
- ▼ Viewpoint

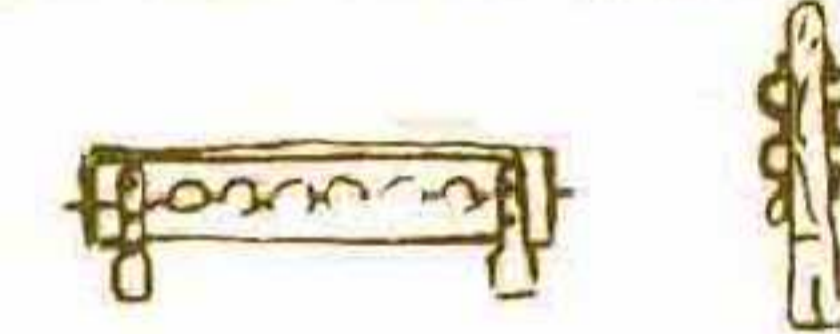


The Parish Church of St. Leonard is in the perpendicular style which dates it 15th Century, although there is evidence that it was rebuilt at that time on the site of a 12th Century building.



An interesting tomb reposes in the mortuary chapel. This large marble edifice, called the Mildmay Monument, exhibits effigies of Sir Anthony and Lady Mildmay which lie below a shallow dome and cupola

Outside stands a cross in memory to those lost in the First World War, nearby can be seen the old stocks and whipping post within a stone built shelter.



The walk from the King's Head P.H. to The Pond is along a metalled road and suitable for prams, wheelchairs etc. Only the first 200 yards is slightly uphill and somewhat uneven.

The village school was erected under the auspices of the dowager Countess of Westmorland in 1846.

Interestingly another village was listed alongside 'Apetorp' in the Domesday Book, that of Hale. This village (situated near to Cheeseman's Farm) has now totally disappeared although it was never very large.

In 1086 only 3 tenants lived there and although rents were collected up to 1344 the Great Plague of 1348-9 sounded the death knell for the village which was abandoned and later ploughed out although fragments of medieval pottery can still be found.