



# RIGHTS OF WAY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## Badby



Fawsley Hall



Badby Woods



VISIT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

[www.rightsofwaynorthamptonshire.org.uk](http://www.rightsofwaynorthamptonshire.org.uk)



Badby Village

### WALK 1 - Northern Circular

Parking is available at the picnic area on the A361, north of Badby. From here a footpath runs south to the village, crossing the River Nene and joining the Nene Way (NW). Continue south to the start of the NW ④, passing the site of Badby Grange ③ until you reach the village itself, emerging on Chapel Lane.

From here you can explore the village with its picturesque stone and thatch cottages, its 14th century church and maybe enjoy some refreshment at one of the village's two pubs.

Walk distance 1.9 miles. Approx 1 hour. Steep hill from picnic area and to church.



Horse Pond

### WALK 2 - Southern Circular

Parking near Fawsley Hall ⑫ take the footpath leading north from close by to the Horse Pond and head across the open fields that were once part of Fawsley Hall's great landscape park. As you approach the south-west edge of Badby Wood you join the Knightley Way which skirts the wood and leads to the village itself, emerging opposite St. Mary the Virgin's Church ⑨.

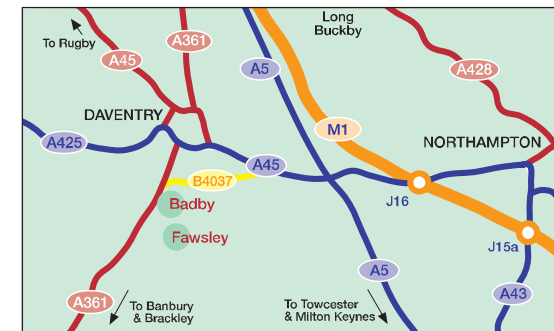
To return to Fawsley, retrace your steps to the point where you joined the Knightley Way at the SW edge of Badby Wood - from here the Knightley Way continues across the open parkland to reach Fawsley at the eastern end of the Horse Pool. You may wish to take a slight detour to view Fawsley's isolated church of St. Mary ⑬.

Walk distance 2.3 miles. Approx 1 hour 15 minutes.

# BADBY

With its ironstone cottages, thatch roofs and village greens - the lovely village of Badby is said to be one of the prettiest in the county.

South of the village is Badby Wood; famous for its bluebells and then a little further is Fawsley Park, with its beautiful lakes, isolated church and Elizabethan house.



Badby lies in the south-west of the county, about 3 miles south of Daventry.

For information about public transport to Badby please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

Parking in Badby is extremely limited, particularly at weekends. Visitors are requested to park at the picnic area ① on the A361 north of the village, from where a path leads into Badby or at Fawsley from which paths lead north to Badby. If parking in the village, please do not park on any of the greens and show consideration for residents.

If you wish to report any problems with the routes shown in this leaflet, please contact Rights of Way, Northamptonshire County Council, Riverside House, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX. Tel: 01604 654465.

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



# BADBY



*The Old House, Badby*

The pretty stone village of Badby lies nestled among hills in a small valley - a collection of ironstone and thatch houses alongside the famous bluebell woods. The village has a long history with the first known reference to it dating from 944 AD, when 'Badden Byrig' was recorded in a Saxon land charter. By the time of Domesday, the manor had

become 'Badebi' and belonged to the church. A possible Iron Age hillfort at Arbury and finds of Roman pottery suggest that Badby may have even older origins.

## Badby Grange 3

In medieval times the manor of Badby belonged to Evesham Abbey. To the east of the village stood a monastic grange or manor house. Excavations in the 1960s revealed a moated site containing a series of buildings including a stone hall, chapel, kitchens and stables. Nearby Badby Wood was a deerpark - providing hunting for visitors to the Grange.

## Church of St. Mary the Virgin 9

The mainly 14th century church is reached via a steep climb from the green. The church was heavily restored in the 1880s. Interesting features include the clerestory windows, Victorian stained glass and the early 18th century altar rails.



*St. Mary the Virgin Church*

## Badby Youth Hostel 8

The only Youth Hostel in Northamptonshire, and the only thatched Youth Hostel in England, the stone and thatch building on Church Green was originally 3 separate 17th century cottages lived in by the Fawsley estate workers.



*Badby Wood Walk*

## Badby Wood 11

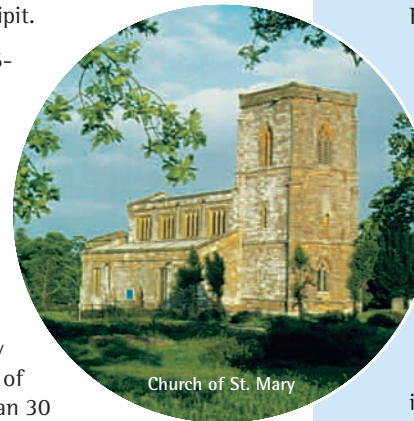
Badby Wood is ancient woodland - it has been growing here for over 700 years. It was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1985. It consists mainly of native hazel and oak trees with ash in wetter areas as well as a mixture of birch, elder, honeysuckle, holly and rowan. Within the wood there are bracken glades, ancient earthworks and a stream.

Bluebells carpet the woodland floor in May and June. Bluebell cream teas are an annual event in the village, served every 1st Sunday in May in the village hall. Other woodland plants to be found include wood anemones while wildlife inhabitants include badgers, foxes, pipistrelle bats and birds such as the nuthatch, wood warbler and tree pipit.

Badby Wood was imparked in 1245-6, creating a deerpark for the abbot of Evesham who had a Grange at Badby. The park pale (the boundary created to keep the deer in) still exists in the form of woodland banks around much of the wood.

## Garden of Eden

Badby once contained many orchards although only remnants of them now remain. In 1992 more than 30 species of apple tree were recorded in the village, including 'catshead' - a very old variety - as well as pear, cherry, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, figs, peaches and apricots.



*Church of St. Mary*

## The River Nene

The River Nene has two sources, one of which is a mile west of Badby at Arbury hill. The Nene is a fairly small stream until it reaches Northampton where it joins the Brampton arm of the River Nene - it flows eastwards through many towns and villages for over 70 miles until it reaches the sea at The Wash in Lincolnshire.

A sculpture, Source, carved from a piece of local fallen walnut was created by artist Mike Ivens as part of the Spirit of the Valley project and has been installed in the orchard gardens of Badby Youth Hostel.

The Nene Way, a long distance recreational footpath begins at the edge of the village on Chapel Lane.

# FAWSLEY

Fawsley Hall and Landscape Park was created by the Knightley family. The Knightleys bought the manor of Fawsley in 1416 (and Badby after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539) and lived here for over 500 years.

## Fawsley Hall 12

The Elizabethan hall, now a hotel and restaurant, was commissioned by Sir Edmund Knightley and was visited by Elizabeth I in 1575. More rooms, a new north wing and a fine red brick stable block were added in the early 18th century. The south-west corner of the house was rebuilt in the 1870s.

## Landscape Park

Fawsley's landscaped park contains over 330 hectares of wood, parkland, lakes and ornamental gardens to the north and south of the hall. The origins of the park lie in the 13th century deerpark created by Evesham Abbey. The main period of landscaping took place in the 18th century and is still clearly visible today. Capability Brown was involved with the design of the double lakes, which cover the site of the former village.

## Church of St. Mary 13

Standing isolated on a grassy knoll and surrounded by a ha-ha, the church contains the Knightley family tombs including the 16th century effigies of Sir Richard Knightley and his wife Jane. Dating from the early 13th century, the church has many fine features such as carved poppy heads and stained glass thought to be from Sulgrave Manor.



### FINDING YOUR WAY

A number of Rights of Way (footpaths) are shown in this Leaflet. These Rights of Way are marked with sign posts, waymark discs and markers.

Northamptonshire Cycletour No.7 - The Bluebell Line runs through Badby.

The Nene Way, a 70 mile footpath, begins in Badby and runs eastwards to The Wash in Lincolnshire.

The Knightley Way (a 12 mile county footpath) also starts at Badby running southward to Greens Norton.

For more detailed information about the surrounding countryside or other possible walks you could use Ordnance Survey maps - Landranger 207 and Explorer 152 maps cover the Badby area.



Big Waters



Badby Village

KEY	
	Footpath/Right of Way
	Nene Way
	Knightley Way
	Suggested Walk Routes
	Cycle Tour (The Bluebell Line)
	Bus Stop
	Parking
	View Point
	Public House
	Refreshments
	Seat/Resting Place
	Picnic Table
	There are frequent stiles on all footpaths except in the Fawsley Hall area

### 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).

Unless you have special permission please keep strictly to the line of the path.

### PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Picnic Area off A361
- 2 Meadows Farm B&B
- 3 Badby Grange (earthworks)
- 4 Start of Nene Way
- 5 Maltsters Arms Public House
- 6 Post Office & Shop
- 7 The Windmill Public House
- 8 Badby Youth Hostel
- 9 Church of St. Mary the Virgin
- 10 Saxon Site
- 11 Badby Wood
- 12 Fawsley Hall Hotel
- 13 St. Mary's Church (Fawsley)
- 14 The Dower House



The Dower House



Scale  
1 : 10,000