

Local Snippets

Brixworth was mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086 A.D.) when it was known as Briclesworde meaning 'Bricel's Clearing'. Over the years the name has been spelt Bricklesuurtha, Brihteswrde, Bryxworth and Bruskelworth.

Brixworth Hall which stood in extensive grounds at the centre of the village was the home of the Saunders family. It was probably built towards the end of the 18th Century, although it incorporated parts of an older house. For sometime it was the headquarters of the Pytchley Hunt Club. Unfortunately, it was demolished, but the stables still survive having been converted into a private dwelling known as Lake House.

There is a regular bus service between Market Harborough and Northampton with frequent stops at Brixworth. Please check bus services and times before travelling.

Brampton Valley Way.

The Brampton Valley Way was once a busy rural branch line run by the London and North Western Railway. It served the towns of Northampton and Market Harborough and numerous villages between for nearly a century. Now trains have been replaced by walkers and cyclists and in some places horse riders.

Since 1987 the County Council has been developing the route by providing facilities such as car parks, picnic sites and a path suitable for wheelchairs and walkers alike. Passing open fields, wooded areas and alongside dense thickets and hedgerows, the route provides access to the Northamptonshire countryside, by linking with existing footpaths and bridleways.

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 route.
6. Remember that every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and others will be made welcome.
7. Remember that Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected by law in order to ensure their survival. Please respect them and other archaeological sites.

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, West Office, Arnex House, London Road, Daventry. Tel. Daventry 301001.

Your general comments on this leaflet and the routes will be welcomed by the Director of Planning and Transportation, Northampton House, Northampton. NN1 2HZ.

The Brampton Valley Way Countryside Ranger Service operates from the Old Station House, Lamport. Tel. 060128 327 and Brixworth Country Park Tel. Nipton. 882322
Leaflet drawn by Sue Payne (1992).

Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 33



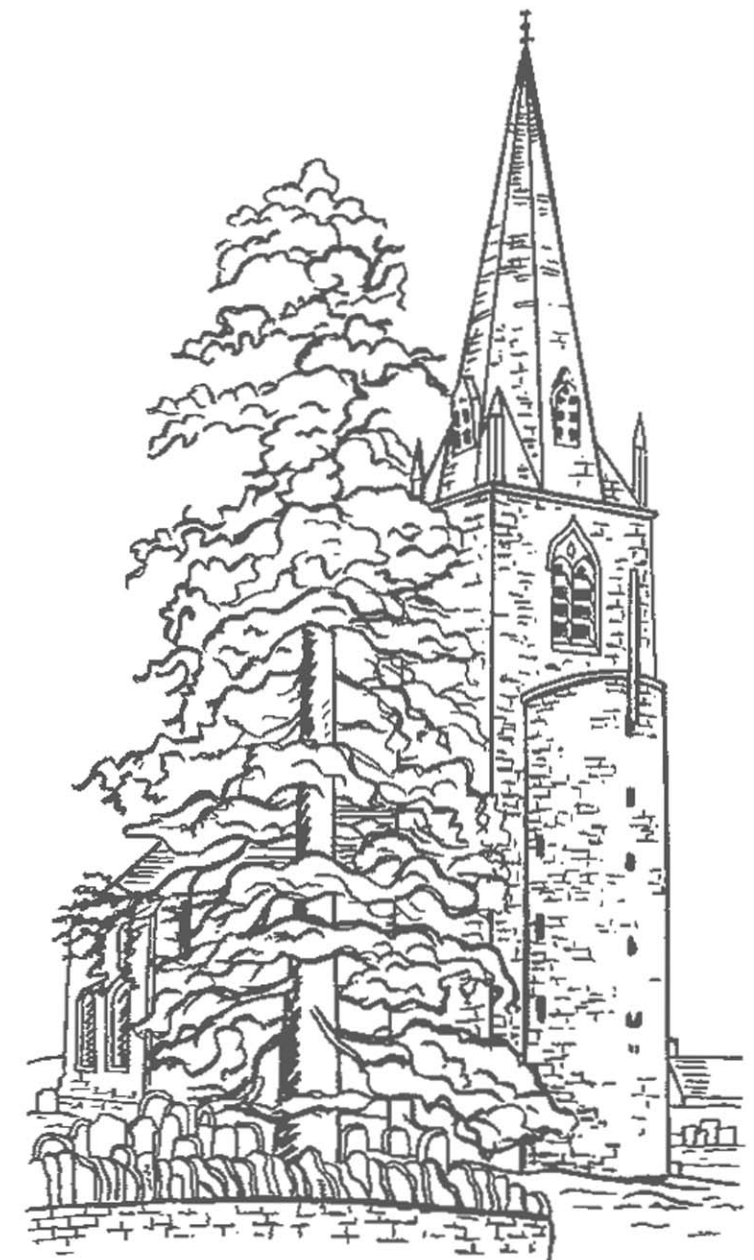
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Countryside Walks

Brixworth

Brampton Valley

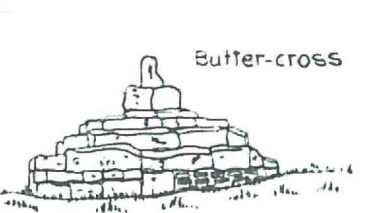


All Saints', Brixworth

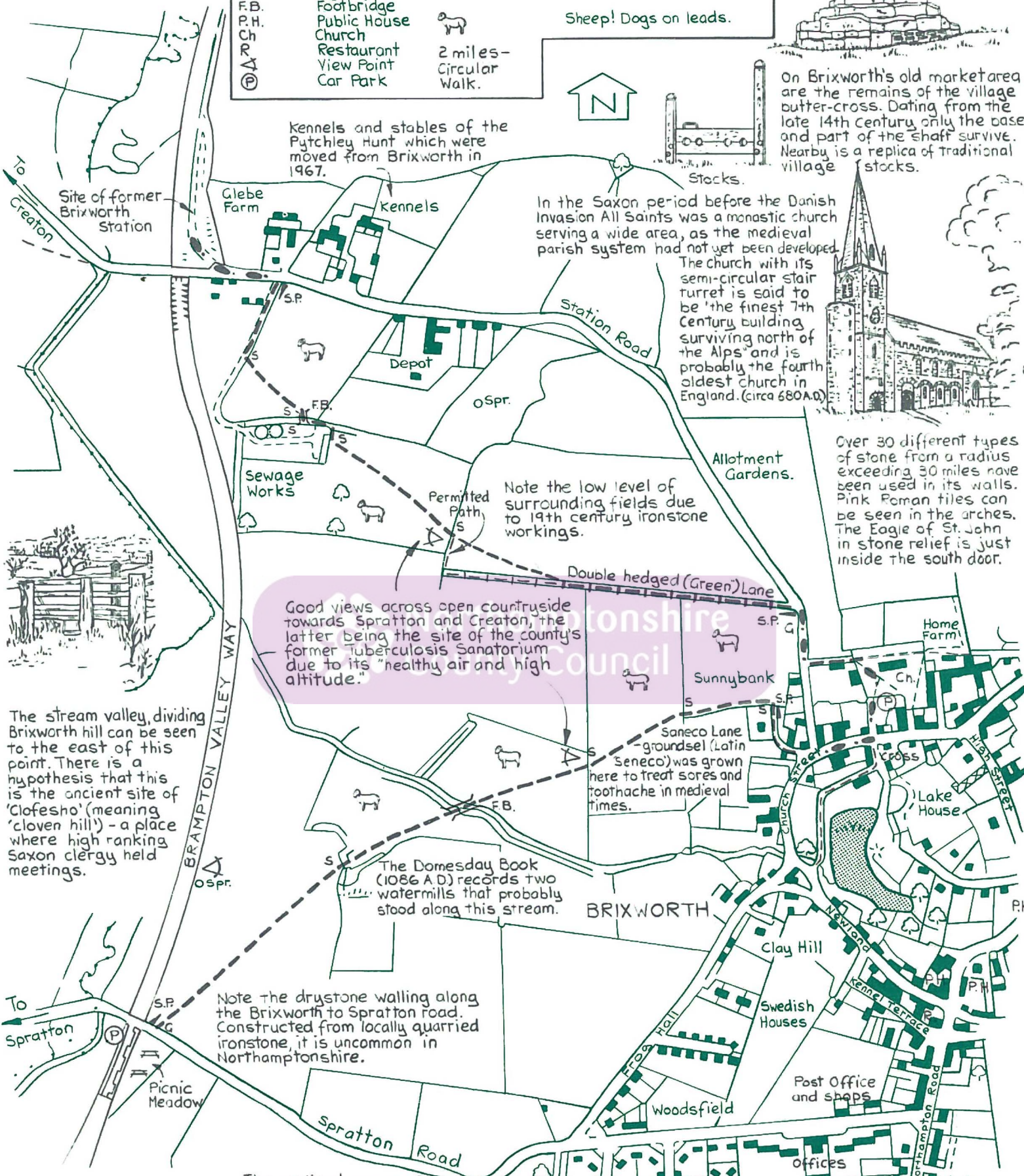


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Key			
G	Gate	---	Footpaths suggested walk
S	Stile	- - -	Bridleway suggested walk
S.P.	Signpost	- - -	Other footpaths
F.B.	Footbridge		
P.H.	Public House		
Ch	Church		
R	Restaurant		
▲	View Point		
Ⓟ	Car Park		
		🐕	Sheep! Dogs on leads.
		2 miles - Circular Walk.	



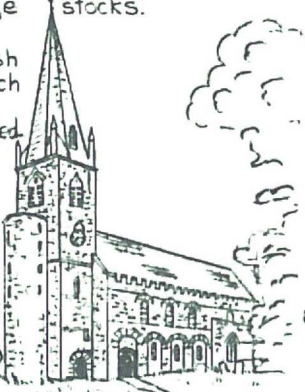
On Brixworth's old market area are the remains of the village butter-cross. Dating from the late 14th Century only the base and part of the shaft survive. Nearby is a replica of traditional village stocks.



Kennels and stables of the Pytchley Hunt which were moved from Brixworth in 1967.

In the Saxon period before the Danish invasion All Saints was a monastic church serving a wide area, as the medieval parish system had not yet been developed.

The church with its semi-circular stair turret is said to be 'the finest 7th Century building surviving north of the Alps' and is probably the fourth oldest church in England. (circa 680 A.D.)



Over 30 different types of stone from a radius exceeding 30 miles have been used in its walls. Pink Roman tiles can be seen in the arches. The Eagle of St. John in stone relief is just inside the south door.

Note the low level of surrounding fields due to 19th century ironstone workings.

Good views across open countryside towards Spratton and Creaton, the latter being the site of the county's former Tuberculosis Sanatorium due to its "healthy air and high altitude."

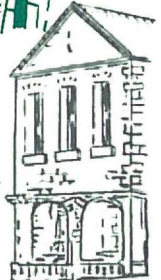
Saneco Lane - groundsel (Latin 'Seneco') was grown here to treat sores and toothache in medieval times.

The Domesday Book (1086 A.D.) records two watermills that probably stood along this stream.

Note the drystone walling along the Brixworth to Spratton road. Constructed from locally quarried ironstone, it is uncommon in Northamptonshire.

The medieval manor of 'Wolfage' stood in this area. The name originally meant a hedge, or enclosure, to guard against wolves. There are earthworks of buildings and a fishpond on the site.

Brixworth Workhouse was built in 1836 to house the destitute of the parish. This unusual, attractive building was later converted into offices for the Brixworth Rural District Council.



The stream valley, dividing Brixworth hill can be seen to the east of this point. There is a hypothesis that this is the ancient site of 'Clofesho' (meaning 'cloven hill') - a place where high ranking Saxon clergy held meetings.

The Spratton Crossing Car Park is on the site of the former Spratton station.



Brampton Valley Way from the Spratton Road Car Park.