



RIGHTS OF WAY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Delapre & Hardingstone



Queen Eleanor's Cross



Delapre Abbey and Park



Northamptonshire
County Council

VISIT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

www.rightsofwaynorthamptonshire.org.uk



Delapre Lake


DELAPRE

Lying on the southern boundary of Northampton, Delapre, with its 550 acres of parkland and gardens, has a long and eventful history.

From its beginnings as a Cluniac nunnery, Delapre was destined to become the temporary resting place of an English Queen, a War of the Roses battlefield, an 18th century country house and park, a 20th century home for Northamptonshire records ... until finally it became an attractive public park and home to Delapre Golf Complex.

HARDINGSTONE

Lying on the outskirts of Northampton, Hardingstone's ironstone and brick buildings are typical of many Northamptonshire villages. Many of the brick terraced houses in the High Street were built by the Bouverie family (owners of Delapre Abbey from 1764 to 1946).

Also in the High Street is the parish church of St. Edmund . Its oldest part is probably the early 13th century tower although the church is mentioned in documents dating from 1107 AD. It was restored in the 1860s and the chancel contains several 19th century Bouverie family plaques.

For information about places to visit in Northampton and the surrounding area, please contact Northampton Visitor Centre in the Guildhall, Northampton. Tel: 01604 838800.

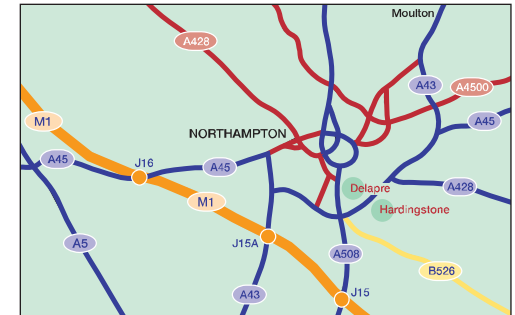


Hardingstone High Street

DELAPRE

From medieval nunnery to modern public park, Delapre has a rich and varied history.

Lying within a stone's throw of Northampton's busy town centre, the varied paths and trails detailed in this leaflet will lead you via parkland and woods, village streets and ancient buildings, back in time to a medieval world of royalty, religion and war.



Delapre Park is approximately one mile, and Hardingstone less than three miles from Northampton town centre.

For information about public transport to Delapre and Hardingstone, please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

Car parking is available at Delapre Abbey (approach via the driveway from London Road) and south of Delapre Lake (via the Delapre Golf Complex turnoff from the A45).

If you wish to report any problems with any of 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.



DELAPRE



Delapre Abbey

Delapre Abbey 1

The Abbey of St. Mary-de-le-Pre (St. Mary in the meadow) was founded by Simon de Senlis, Earl of Northampton in 1145 AD. It was a small establishment and there are few records of the Abbey's everyday life.

On two occasions however, the Abbey played a small role in national events - first when Queen Eleanor of Castile's body rested there on its journey to London in 1290 and then nearly 200 years later when the battle of Northampton was fought '...in... the meadows beside the nunnery'.

Soon after Henry VIII closed the monasteries and abbeys in England in 1539, Delapre and its lands were bought by the Tate family. Over the next two centuries they transformed the former nunnery into a comfortable country house and estate.

In 1764 the estate was bought by the Bouverie family, in whose hands it remained until 1946 when Delapre was sold to the Northampton Corporation (now Northampton Borough Council). The Abbey housed Northamptonshire Record Office until its move to Wooton Hall in 1991 - since then the Abbey buildings have stood empty.

Although clues to its religious beginnings may still be concealed in the Abbey's walls, the buildings visible today date mostly to the 17th and 18th centuries - the result of extensive alterations carried out by the Tate and Bouverie families.



Delapre Gardens

Delapre Gardens 2

To the east of the Abbey buildings, a formal Elizabethan garden was constructed by the Tate family. This was remodelled in the 18th century, along with the rest of the estate and its parkland, in the style of Capability Brown. The last Bouverie to live at Delapre was also an enthusiastic gardener and today the enclosed gardens include a game larder, Victorian glasshouses, topiary, a rose garden, herbaceous borders, and statues. The gardens are open to the public when the gardeners are on site (Monday to Friday). *This may be subject to change in the future.*



Queen Eleanor's Cross 9

On the 28th November 1290, Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I, died at Harby in Lincolnshire. Following her death, her body was conveyed in a solemn procession to Westminster in London. One of the stops along the way was Delapre, where the Queen's body remained at the Abbey while the King lodged at nearby Northampton Castle.

The procession then continued south to London, halting at the top of the hill so that a place could be set aside for the location of a magnificent stone monument - one of twelve crosses commissioned by Edward to commemorate Queen Eleanor and her final journey.

Battle of Northampton

On the 10th July 1460 a Yorkist army led by the Earl of Warwick approached the southern side of Northampton. Waiting for them was the Lancastrian King Henry VI and his army encampment. Watched by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London from the safety of the 'headless cross' (Queen Eleanor's Cross), the battle took place during the afternoon and was swift. Thanks to

the treachery of Lord Grey, King Henry was captured. Many Lancastrian soldiers were killed or drowned in the River Nene trying to flee and their bodies were buried in the Abbey church or churchyard (the site of which was discovered in the late 19th century).

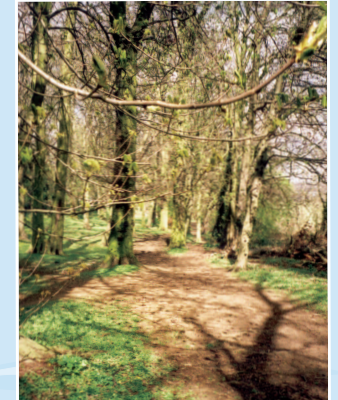
Charter Wood 3 / Delapre Wood 7

A plantation of 800 oak trees was created to the east of the Abbey and its gardens in 1989, as part of the commemorations of the 800th anniversary of the Borough Charter granted to Northampton by Richard I in 1189.

Lying to the south is Delapre Woods, planted at the same time as the Abbey gardens. Oak, beech, sweet chestnut and conifers create a mixed woodland with good walks and fine views of the town and Abbey.

Delapre Lake 5

Created from old gravel workings, the Lake is used for water skiing and fishing. It has an important wildlife role as one of the network of lakes in the Nene Valley, providing a refuge for over-wintering wildfowl such as Canada Geese and the Great Crested Grebe.



Delapre Woods

Delapre Golf Complex 8

Opened in 1976, Delapre Golf Complex is set in 260 acres of parkland with facilities to suit all levels of golfing ability. The Complex is operated on a pay-as-you-play basis and the restaurant and bar are open to the public throughout the day. Tel: 01604 764036 for more information.

Northampton Society of Model Engineers 4

The north-west corner of Delapre Park contains two miniature railway lines. Public running days featuring steam, petrol and battery powered model locomotives are held on the first Sunday of each month from June to October. Tel: 01234 708501 for more information.

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).
- The countryside is a living, working environment, so please follow the Country Code.
 - ❖ Keep to the line of the paths
 - ❖ Leave gates as you find them
 - ❖ Respect the countryside - leave wildlife, livestock, crops and machinery alone
 - ❖ Take your dogs under control

When walking in the Delapre Park, please be aware that some of the Rights of Way marked on the map lead directly across Delapre Golf Course. Extra care should be taken to ensure your safety.



Delapre Abbey Stables



FINDING YOUR WAY

A number of paths and trails are shown on this map, some of which are Rights of Way. These Rights of Way are marked with sign posts, waymark discs and markers.

For more detailed information about the surrounding countryside or other possible walks you could use Ordnance Survey maps - the Landranger 152 and Explorer 223 maps cover the Delapre / Hardingstone area.

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Delapre Abbey
- 2 Delapre Abbey Gardens
- 3 Charter Wood
- 4 Miniature Railway
- 5 Delapre Lake
- 6 Delapre Park
- 7 Delapre Wood
- 8 Delapre Golf Complex
- 9 Queen Eleanor's Cross
- 10 St. Edmund's Church

KEY

- Footpath/Right of Way
- Path/Trail
- Suggested Walk Routes
- Cycle Route
- Bus Stop
- Parking
- View Point
- Public House
- Refreshments (Bar & Restaurant)
- Subway
- Footbridge

NORTHAMPTON
TOWN CENTRE



Queen Eleanor's Cross



Delapre Abbey Guest Hall

