

Collyweston Slate

Collyweston has always been a centre for the slating industry. Its slates can be found throughout the land and have even been exported to America to roof a mansion in New York.

In the 17th Century these slates were used in Stamford to lessen the spread of fire and many villages in the area owe their rustic charm to the combination of Northamptonshire limestone and Collyweston slate roofs.

At one time every farmer had his own pit from which he produced slate when farm work was slack. Slates came in 28 different sizes ranging from 6 to 24 inches and had names such as Outrills, Mopes, Mumford, Batchelor, Job, Wibbet, In-bow and Out-bow. They were split by hand with a cliving hammer, after freezing during the winter months.

Farmer-slaters also used to make mortar, in which to bed the slates on the roof, by burning lime from their pits. This home-made mortar was 'elastic' and as can be seen, a Collyweston slate roof assumes a graceful curve with age.

By the 1920's the industry was on the decline and there were only six slating pits remaining. This was due to economic factors and mild winters preventing the splitting of slates. In 1982 a Stone Slaters' Trust was set up to research splitting slate by artificial methods and a prototype process was successful in 1983. A new quarry to be operated by this trust has been recently approved.

Phyllochi Bentleyi is a rare fossil shell found only where Collyweston slate occurs. Known to the quarrymen as 'water spider' it was named after John Flowers Bentley, a local fossil collector, whose 3 specimen fossils are in Peterborough Museum.

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:-

Northamptonshire: Principal Rights of Way Officer, Area 1 Office, 73 London Road, Kettering. Tel. 524100.

Cambridgeshire: Dept of Property, Rural Management Section, Shire Hall, Cambridge. Tel. 317445.

Leicestershire: The Director, Dept. of Planning and Transportation, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester. LE3 8RJ.

Lincolnshire: Countryside Access Development Officer, N.D.F.S. Building, Newland, Lincoln. LN1 1YL.

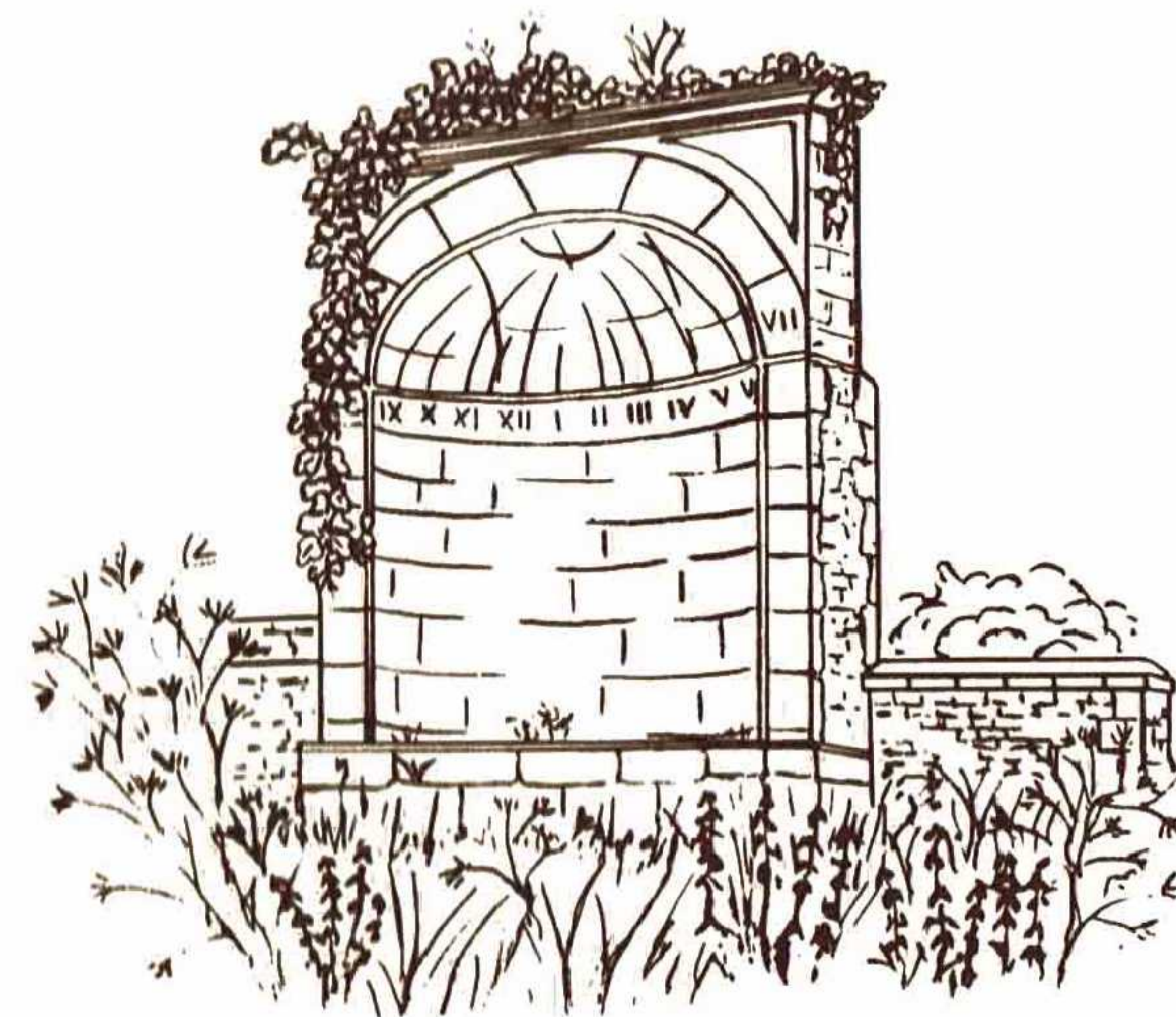
Compiled and Drawn by Sue Payne (1989)
Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 28

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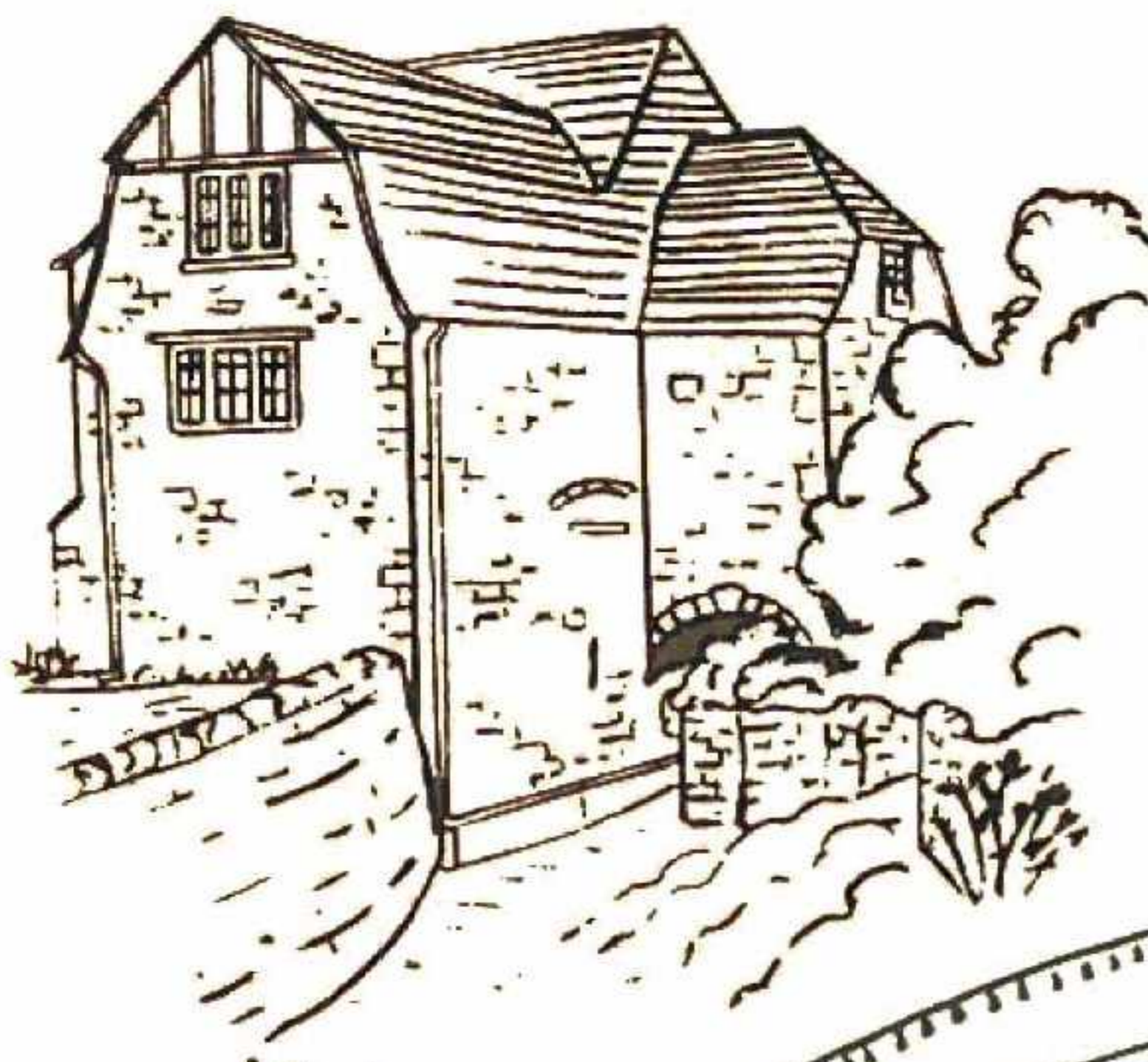
Countryside Walks

Easton-on-the-Hill Collyweston & Duddington



Sundial - Collyweston.

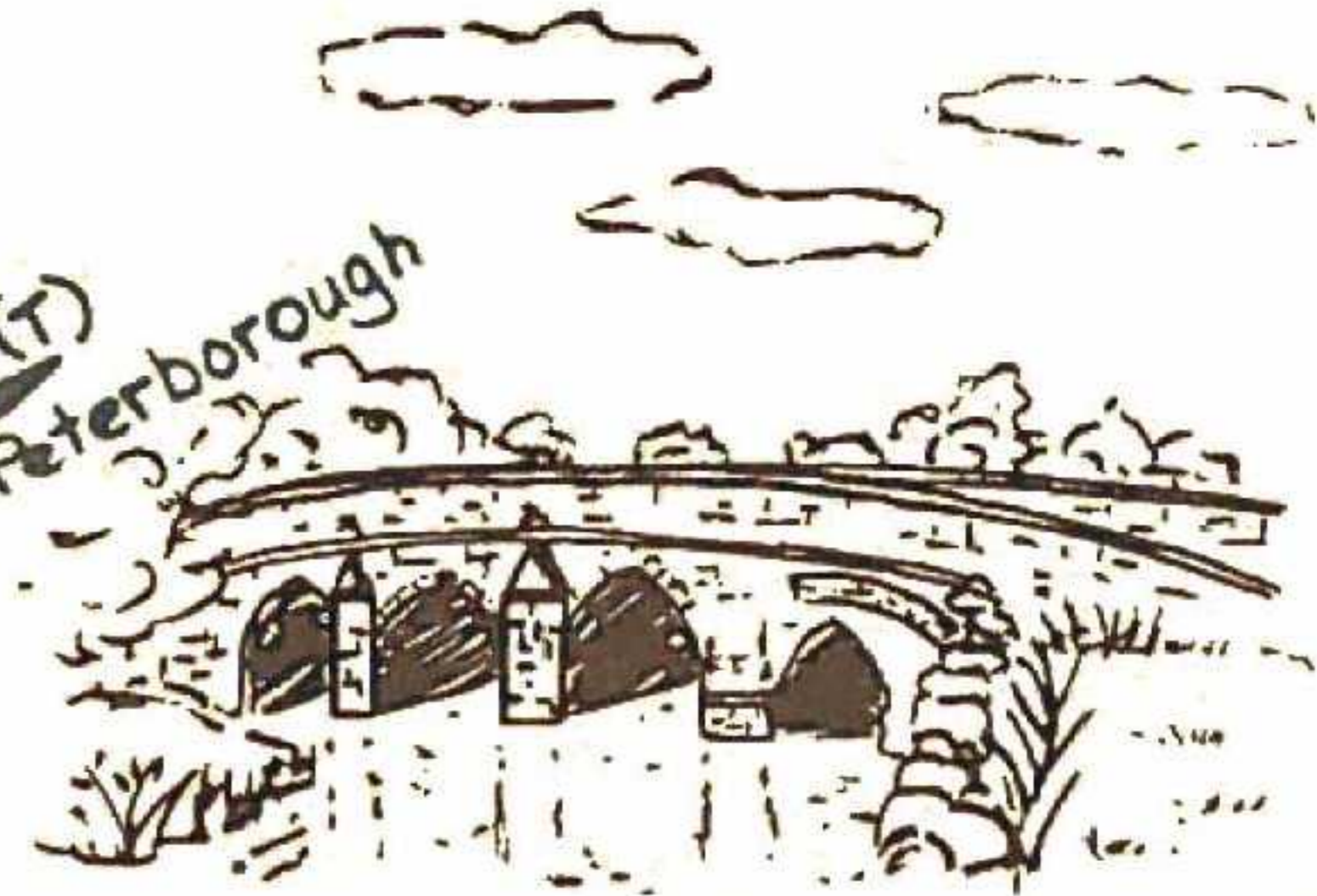
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The picturesque watermill which stands by Duddington Bridge was built in 1664. Originally it was a two storey, L-shaped building which was considerably altered in the 17th and 19th centuries. Its present, less romantic use is as an office.

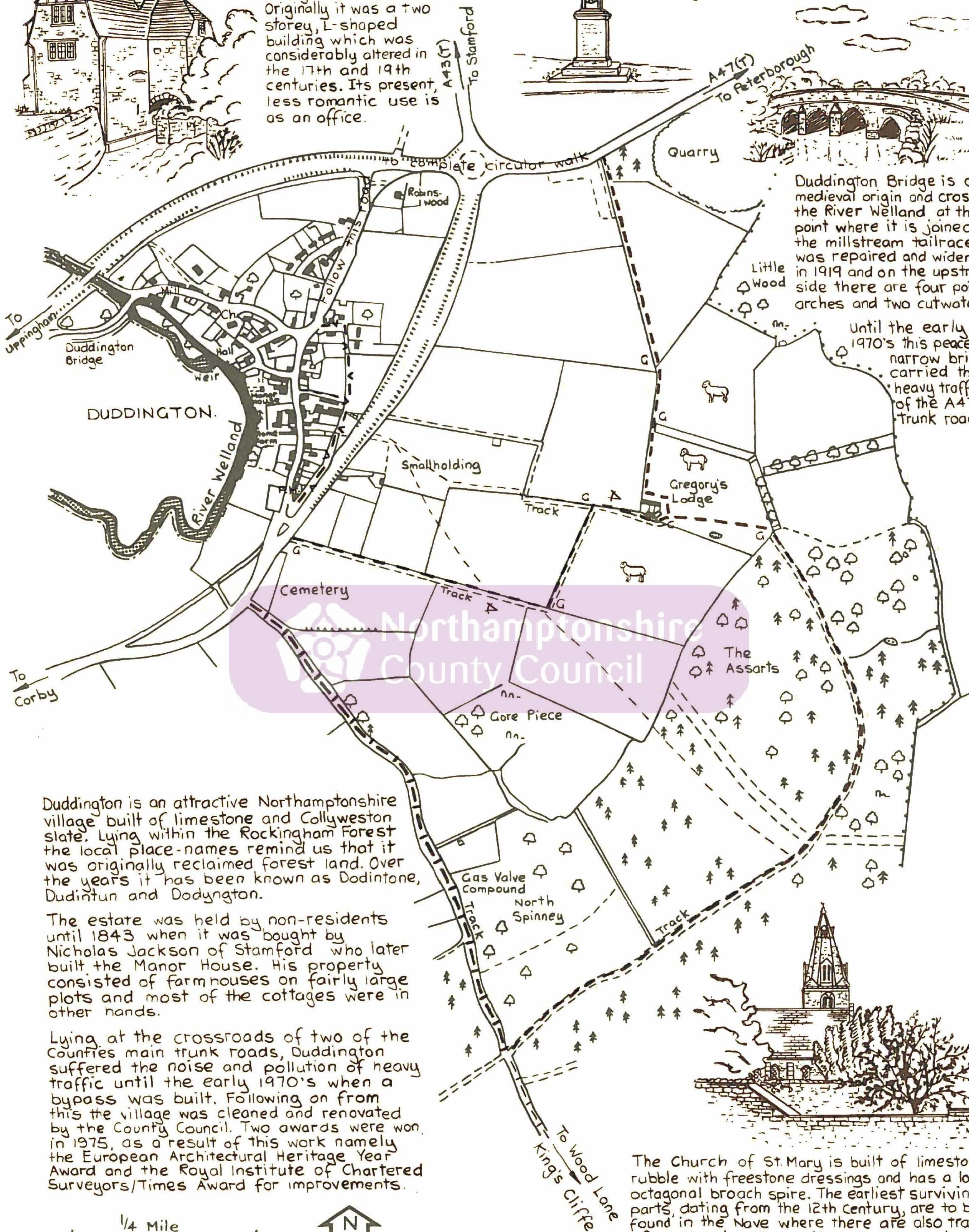


War Memorial-
St. Mary's Church.



Duddington Bridge is of medieval origin and crosses the River Welland at the point where it is joined by the millstream tailrace. It was repaired and widened in 1919 and on the upstream side there are four pointed arches and two cutwaters.

Until the early 1970's this peaceful narrow bridge carried the heavy traffic of the A47 trunk road.



Duddington is an attractive Northamptonshire village built of limestone and Collyweston slate. Lying within the Rockingham Forest the local place-names remind us that it was originally reclaimed forest land. Over the years it has been known as Dodintone, Dudintun and Dodyngton.

The estate was held by non-residents until 1843 when it was bought by Nicholas Jackson of Stamford who later built the Manor House. His property consisted of farmhouses on fairly large plots and most of the cottages were in other hands.

Lying at the crossroads of two of the Counties main trunk roads, Duddington suffered the noise and pollution of heavy traffic until the early 1970's when a bypass was built. Following on from this the village was cleaned and renovated by the County Council. Two awards were won, in 1975, as a result of this work namely the European Architectural Heritage Year Award and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors/Times Award for improvements.

The Church of St. Mary is built of limestone rubble with freestone dressings and has a low, octagonal broach spire. The earliest surviving parts, dating from the 12th century, are to be found in the Nave where there are also traces of medieval wall painting. A major restoration was carried out in Victorian times (1844) when the chancel was added. The abnormal position of the tower, south of the chancel, is probably due to the ground on the south-west falling steeply to the River Welland.

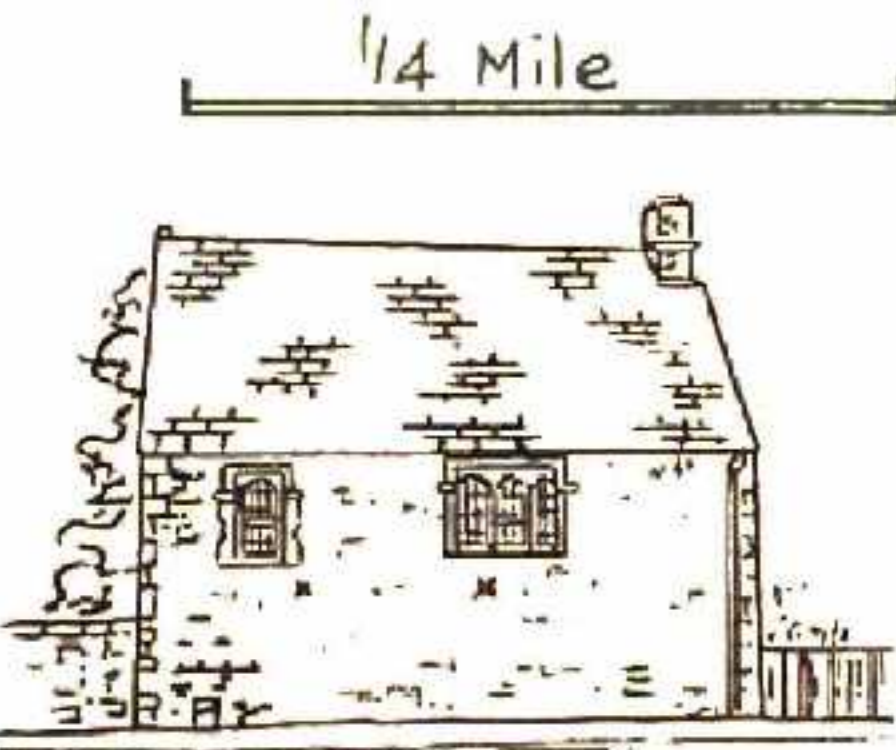


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- key
- Footpaths on suggested walks
 - |-|-| Bridleways on suggested walks
 - >->-> Byway on suggested walk
 - - - - Other footpaths
 - S Stile
 - G Gate
 - F.B. Footbridge
 - S.P. Signpost
 - Viewpoint
 - County Boundary
 - Parish Boundary
 - P.H. Public House
 - Ch. Church
 - Sheep! Dogs on leads

All Saints - Easton.
 The Church of All Saints Grantham stands within a tree lined churchyard and dates from the 12th century. It has an embattled tower with tall pinnacles. Its mid 14th century G.M. Holdich organ has a carved tracery case and was originally designed so that a barrel could operate the keys.

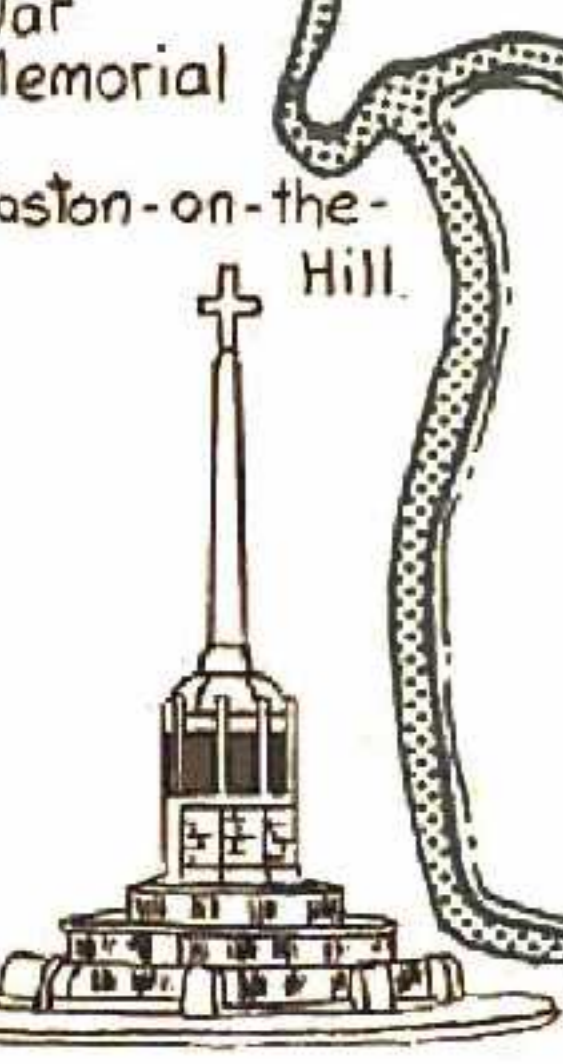
The 17 hectares of woodland known as Wothorpe Groves was turned into a deer park by Alan Lindon who was granted a Royal Licence in 1229. The wood, then called La Loude, was surrounded on all sides by a large bank which has been destroyed in places by road works and stone quarrying.



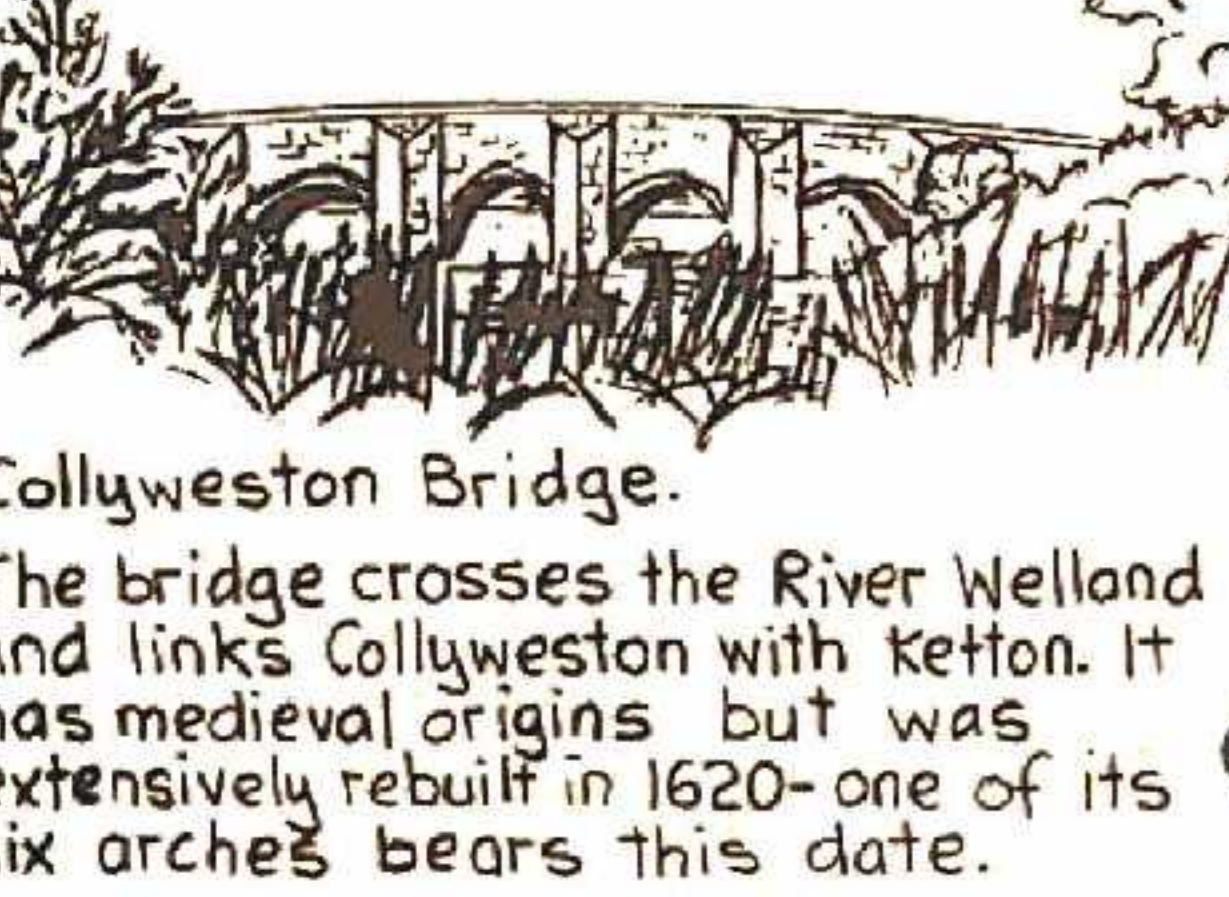
Priest's House (Easton)
 The Priest's House was once the rectory built to high architectural standards in the late 15th century. The two storey building has always been its present size and must have been very scant accommodation for a priest and his family. After being used as a stable it was extensively restored in 1867 and is now a museum owned by the National Trust.



Keeper's Lodge (Easton)
 The picturesque Jacobean game keepers house was built by the Marquess of Exeter. The gable bears the inscription 1845 and a carving of the coronet of the Marquess.



Glebe House - Easton.
 Glebe House was built as a rectory in the 18th century and at one time Captain Skinner of the ship Lutine lived there. The Lutine Bell is kept at Lloyds in London and rung before important announcements - especially the loss of a vessel.



Collyweston Bridge.
 The bridge crosses the River Welland and links Collyweston with Ketton. It has medieval origins but was extensively rebuilt in 1620 - one of its six arches bears this date.

Collyweston Quarries is a Nature Reserve leased to the Northants Wildlife Trust by Burghley Estates and Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council. Known locally as 'The Deeps' the quarrying of stone for roofing, building and lime burning goes back as far as the 18th century and probably before. Spoil heaps became covered with grassland which was periodically grazed and now two hundred species of plants have been recorded on this unimproved limestone grassland.

The golden flowers of Dyer's Greenwood carpet lie reserve in June and July and the Autumn Gentian flowers later in the year. Several species of orchid and notable lime loving plants are present along with Knapweed Broomrape and Dodder, which are parasitic plants.

This rich flora attracts twenty four species of butterfly and the reserve is scheduled as a S.S.I. (Site of Special Scientific Interest).



Wothorpe Towers
 Wothorpe Towers was built early in the 17th century for Lord Burghleys eldest son, Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter. In close proximity to Burghley House its main function was as a refuge for the Earl when the great house was being spring cleaned. It was also used for the reception of visitors and the Duke of Buckingham, with his family, lived there for some years after the Restoration.

The large mansion with a walled park stood on the site of an ancient nunnery attached to Crowland Abbey but in the 18th century the majority of the building was dismantled and used to build the stables at Burghley House.

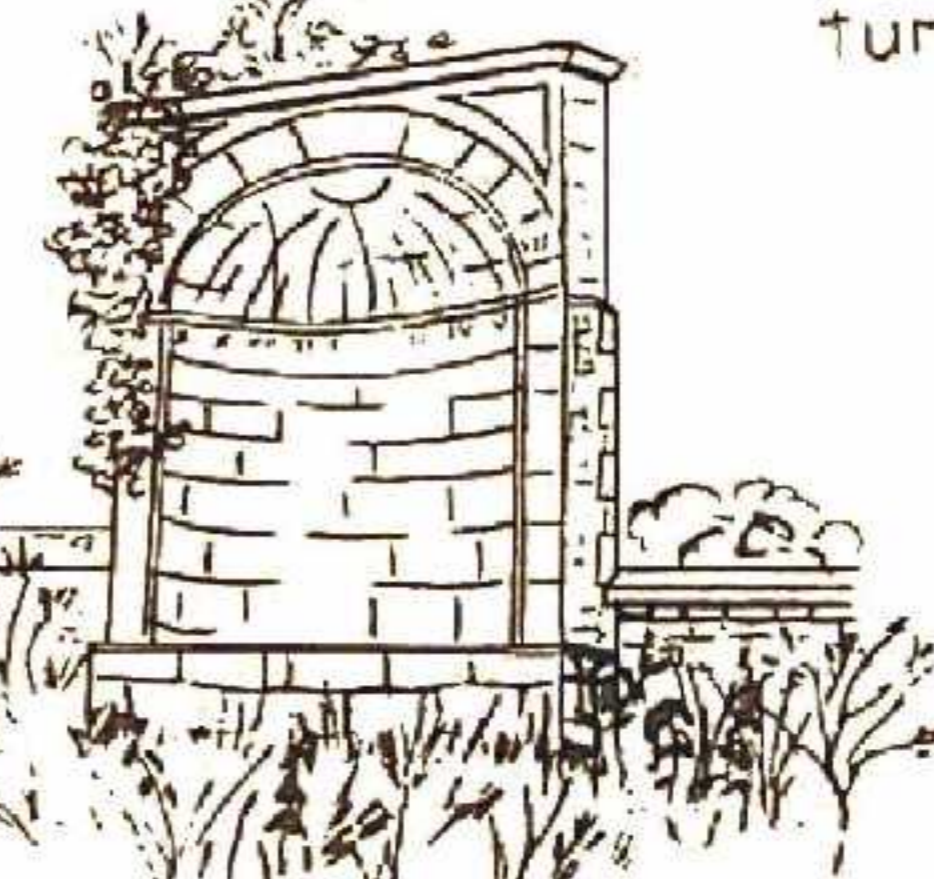
Easton-on-the-Hill is an attractive hill village built of limestone with Collyweston slate roofs. At least 40 of its buildings are listed and a variety of date stones can be seen.



St. Andrew - Collyweston
 The church of St. Andrew stands surrounded by trees occupying a prominent position in the village. Its tall perpendicular west tower is ashlar and the embattled parapet is topped by four 22 feet high pinnacles. The clock is recorded as being made by Thomas Rayment of Stamford in 1779 and bears this date but tradition says it is from the turret of the Palace Stables and was only repaired at the turn of the 19th century.



Situated in the wall on the North Boundary of the Palace site is a large interesting 18th century sundial. Standing 13 feet high and 10 feet wide it is built of limestone in the form of an elliptical alcove. Due to the stationary arm or gnomon being missing its pointing shadow no longer falls on the curved arch of Roman Numerals.



Collyweston Palace or Mansion was, in 1486, the property of Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and mother of King Henry VII. She enlarged and altered the building and also improved the park and gardens. Many prominent members of the Royal Family visited the Palace during the 16th century. In 1640 the house was demolished and ten years later Peter Tryon built another house on the same site. In 1778 the new house was also demolished and then in 1873 the Earl of Exeter levelled the ground and converted it into paddocks.

