



RIGHTS OF WAY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Fotheringhay & Woodnewton



Fotheringhay Church



The Mill, Woodnewton



Northamptonshire
County Council

VISIT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

www.rightsofwaynorthamptonshire.org.uk



Fotheringhay Guest House

WALK 1 - Fotheringhay Stroll

Parking at the Woodnewton end of the village, the Nene Way (NW) leads north out of the village towards Walcot Lodge. Continue to follow the trackway of the NW until you reach Willow Brook. If you wish to carry on north you will shortly reach Park Spinney. To return to Fotheringhay take the east footpath at the Willow Brook crossing, following the stream most of the way back to the village. Before returning to your starting point you may wish to explore Fotheringhay church and castle.

Distance 1.5 miles. Approx 45 minutes.

WALK 2 - Fotheringhay & Woodnewton Circular



Fotheringhay High Street

Head north out of Fotheringhay on the Nene Way, but before you reach Walcot Lodge look for a footpath to the west. Following this, cross the road and then west across the fields to Woodnewton village. After visiting the village, take another more northerly footpath on Nassington road which will return eastwards across the fields to reach Park Spinney. Here you can join the Nene Way to return to Fotheringhay.

Level, easy terrain. Distance 3.4 miles. Approx 90 minutes.

FOTHERINGHAY & WOODNEWTON

Set amongst rolling Northamptonshire countryside and alongside the River Nene, the attractive stone villages of Fotheringhay and Woodnewton are a quiet haven.

A visit to this peaceful area reveals a more eventful past - a location of national importance with famous royal connections.



Fotheringhay and Woodnewton lie in the north-east of the county, approx. 7 miles north of Oundle.

For information about public transport to Fotheringhay and Woodnewton please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

Car parking within both villages is limited. When parking please take into consideration local access needs.

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.





FOTHERINGHAY

It is hard to believe that the quiet one-street village of Fotheringhay was once a place of national importance – the birthplace of an English king and the execution spot of a Scottish Queen. The royal castle that stood here now survives only as grass covered mounds whilst the magnificent medieval church is now half its original size. Information panels about the village, church and castle can be found at the castle site and in the graveyard of the church.



Castle Site, Fotheringhay

Fotheringhay Castle 6

A castle was probably first built at Fotheringhay by Simon de Senlis, Earl of Northampton in around 1100 A.D. This would have been a motte and bailey castle, built out of earth and timber. It was probably rebuilt in stone during the mid 1300s – a large multi-sided keep called “the Fetterlock” was built on the motte. Defensive walls, a gatehouse and internal buildings were also built in stone at around this time.

In 1377 the castle was granted to the Duke of York and became an important family / administrative centre – Richard III was born there in 1452. Following Richard’s death at Bosworth in 1485, Fotheringhay continued to be a royal castle. It was granted to each of Henry VIII’s wives in succession.

Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII, also made use of Fotheringhay. It became a royal prison with its most famous inmate being Mary, Queen of Scots, who was tried and executed there in 1587.

The castle quickly fell into disrepair and was finally dismantled in 1622. Parts of it are said to have been used to build the Talbot Inn in Oundle.

Today, all that is visible above ground are the earthworks of the castle motte and ditches and a block of limestone-rubble wall by the river as a memorial to Mary, Queen of Scots.

New Inn, Old Inn 3

Garden Farm (once called New Inn) was built in the 1460s – 70s by Edward IV to provide accommodation for visitors to the castle. The heraldic shields carved around the gateway are badly worn, but are the emblems of the House of York.

Opposite Garden Farm, the row of eight stone and thatch cottages was once called Old Inn. This building also provided accommodation for the castle – and the name suggests it is older than Garden Farm. If you look closely you may be able to spot the original gateway opening (now blocked up).



New Inn, Fotheringhay

Church of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints 2

Fotheringhay’s parish church with its unusual octagonal lantern tower is a local landmark. During medieval times, it was twice the size it is today. To the south of the present church was a lavish Chantry College where the priests, clerks and choir of the college prayed for the souls of the college’s founders and benefactors.

The college was closed down in 1548 and its fixtures and fittings were reused all over Northamptonshire. Look for the grassy platform south of the church where the college stood and the blocked doorway and windows in the south wall that show where the church was once joined to the college.

Inside the church (usually open) there is an extensive display about the castle, the Chantry college and Fotheringhay’s royal connections.

Fotheringhay Bridge 5

The earliest bridge over the Nene at Fotheringhay was a timber one.

It was rebuilt, using stone from the demolished quire of the church, in 1573 on the orders of Elizabeth I. The present stone bridge dates from 1722 and uses Kings Cliffe stone.



Fotheringhay Bridge

Park Spinney 7

Park Spinney was once part of a medieval deerpark created at Fotheringhay in around 1230 AD. Park Lodge, now a farm, was once, as its name suggests, a Hunting Lodge for the deerpark.



WOODNEWTON

Being somewhat off the beaten track, Woodnewton has retained much of its historic character. The many houses of limestone, thatch and Collyweston slate in Main Street have led to its designation as a Conservation area.

St. Mary’s Church 2

St. Mary’s church dates from the 12th century but has been much altered over the centuries, although a delightful 15th century door and Chancel windows survive on the south side.

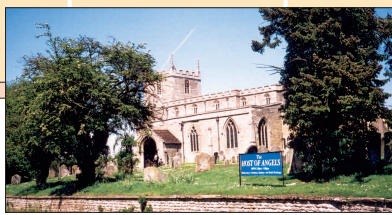
The graveyard is an area of grassland being managed to support attractive grasses and meadow flowers. It also houses the grave of Nicolai Polakovs, better known as “Coco the Clown” who retired to Woodnewton in 1973 and died there shortly afterward.

Woodnewton Craft Studios 4

The Craft Studios were opened in 1989 in the former 19th century Methodist Chapel. Visitors can see colourful pottery being hand-made and there is a show room of work for sale. As well as occasional exhibitions from other artists, the Studios also run courses for people of all ages and abilities.



St. Mary's, Woodnewton



PLACES OF INTEREST

- Woodnewton**
- 1 Mill and Mill Race
 - 2 St. Mary's Church
 - 3 The White Swan (Public House)
 - 4 Woodnewton Craft Studios

- Fotheringhay**
- 1 The Falcon Inn (Public House)
 - 2 Church of St. Mary the Virgin & All Saints
 - 3 Garden Farm (the 'Old Inn' and 'New Inn')
 - 4 Castle Farm Guest House
 - 5 Fotheringhay Bridge
 - 6 Fotheringhay Castle (site)
 - 7 Park Spinney

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
- ❖ Keep your dogs under control
- ❖ Take your litter home.



The White Swan, Woodnewton



Fotheringhay Village

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.

The Nene Way passes through Fotheringhay on its 70 mile long journey from Badby in South Northamptonshire to The Wash in Lincolnshire.

Northamptonshire Cyletour No.9 - Nene Valley, Oundle to Wansford runs through Fotheringhay.

Interpretation panels can be found in Fotheringhay church graveyard and at the castle site.

Leaflets and details of cycle and walking routes are available from Tourist Information Centres - nearest one located at Tourist Information Centre, 14 West Street, Oundle, Northants, PE8 4EF. Tel: 01832 274333.

For more detailed information about the surrounding countryside or other possible walks you could use Ordnance Survey maps - Landranger 227 and Explorer 141 maps cover the Fotheringhay area.

KEY	
	Footpath/Right of Way
	Nene Way
	Suggested Walk Routes
	Northamptonshire Cycle Tour
	Bus Stop
	Parking
	View Point
	Public House
	Refreshments
	Seat/Resting Place
	Stile



Church of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Fotheringhay

Guided tours of the Church and walks of the village are available. Telephone Mrs Wilson on 01832 226243.