

Suggested Walks.

Long Walk: Take footpath from Lamport Hall to Scaldwell, continue to Old and then on to the site of the deserted village of Faxton. Return along the byway to Shortwood House and back to Lamport Hall.

Medium Walk: Take bridleway from Lamport Hall to Shortwood House and continue along the byway to Faxton. Return along the footpath to Faxton Grange or the byway to Oak Spinney on the Old Road.

Short Walk: From Brampton Valley Way go along the unclassified Road to Hanging Houghton. Continue along the main road to the bridleway leading back to the Brampton Valley Way. Lamport village is well worth a visit. or choose your own walk.

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

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 Now trains have been replaced by walkers and cyclists and in some places horse riders.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.

Countryside 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 706081.

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

The Brampton Valley Way Countryside Ranger Service operates from the Old Station House, Lamport. Tel. 060128 327 and Brixworth Country Park Tel. Northampton 882322

Leaflet drawn and compiled by Sue Payne (1992)

Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 34



Northamptonshire
County Council

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COMMISSION

Countryside Walks

Lamport

Brampton Valley



Monument -
Faxton

All Saints'
Lamport.



Lamport Hall



Local Snippets

The name Lamport means Long Town.

The Isham family lived at Lamport from 1560, when John Isham bought the manor, until the death of the 12th Baronet Sir. Gyles Isham in 1976. The Hall was rebuilt between 1654 and 1657 by John Webb who was the son-in-law of Inigo Jones, but since it has been altered and extended. In Victorian times Sir. Charles Isham imported possibly the first garden gnomes into Britain from Germany to display in his famous rock garden. The Isham family Chapel is in the nearby All Saints Church.

Lamport Hall and grounds are open to the public for special events such as musical concerts, craft fairs, antique exhibitions, country fairs and seminars.

Denys J. Watkins-Pitchford is the 20th century's famous son of Lamport. A countryside writer of great sensitivity he wrote under the nom-de-plume of 'BB' because he thought it easier to remember than his real name. In 1938 his first two books "The Sportsmans Bedside Book" and "Wild Lone" were published, illustrated with scraperboard pictures bearing his real name. Much of the action of "Wild Lone", which is the story of a Pytchley fox, takes place in the vicinity of Lamport. 1985 saw the publication of "The Best of 'BB' An Anthology" to celebrate the authors 80th birthday.

The village of Faxton no longer exists but the reasons for its final demise are, strangely enough, obaked by the sheer amount of information available as opposed to the more normal, 'lost in the mists of time, situation.'

Faxton has a complex and fascinating history with records of the village in Nomina Villarum, local Poll Tax papers and Tythe Maps as well as eye witness accounts by the likes of the historian, Bridges.

In 1086, 20 households existed and over the following centuries this fluctuated slightly, reaching a peak of 103 residents in 1831, but a steady decline meant that by 1921 only 37 villagers remained and 46 years thereafter the village was completely empty.

At its height the village had accrued all the usual rural charms of the times including Almshouses, Crofts, fishponds as well as a Green and a Manor House.

The Manor House was thought to have been built by the Nicolls family who bought the Manor of Faxton in 1606 and held it until the early 18th Century.

A strange tale surrounds the demise of Augustine Nicolls.

A circuit Judge, Augustine was presiding over a murder trial at Kendal, in the Lake District, in 1616, when relatives of the accused who did not like the way things were shaping up for their kin, decided to poison the Judge in the mistaken belief it would help their cause and save the culprit from the rope.

The Manor House was taken over by the Danvers and Rainsfords of Brixworth just after the turn of the 18th Century and thence onto the Ishams, who having a capacious residence of their own, had it demolished.

The Church of St. Denis once occupied the south-west corner of the old Village Green and was mainly of 13th Century origin although some 12th Century stonework existed.

Falling into increasing disrepair it was finally pulled down in 1958 although a stone still marks the position of the altar.

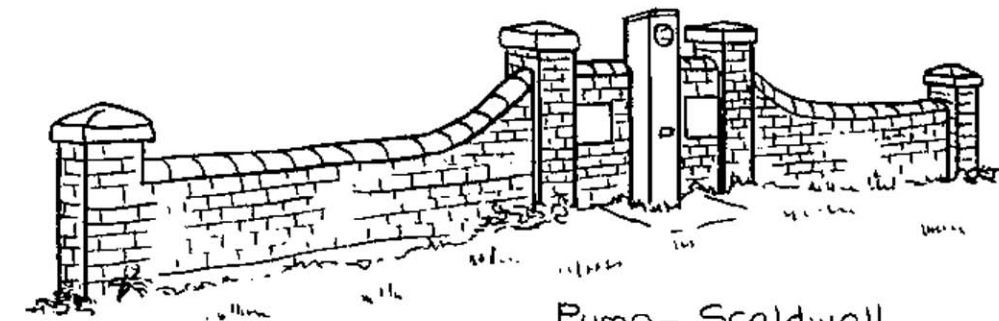
Remnants of its existance comprising the font, plate and monuments are still to be found in the kettering, Lamport and the Victoria and Albert Museums.

Prior to the final destruction of the village in 1967 three seasons of excavations were carried out within Faxton and its environs and it is these that have provided the surviving artefacts.

The bulldozer then moved in and this historical site was finally ploughed, the last signs of habitation being obliterated apart from the church altar stone.

Scaldwell means 'shallow welling out of water.' There were once many wells in the area of the village, one of which was a healing well.

The centrepiece of the enchanting village green is an old pump set in a blue-brick pump housing which bears tablets showing when restoration took place. Once fed by a local pond the pump was used to fill a series of horse troughs but none of these have survived.



Pump - Scaldwell.

Many years ago Old had a cricket team of tremendous repute that found local village elevens such easy meat that they took on the best of Rothwell and Desborough town teams combined.

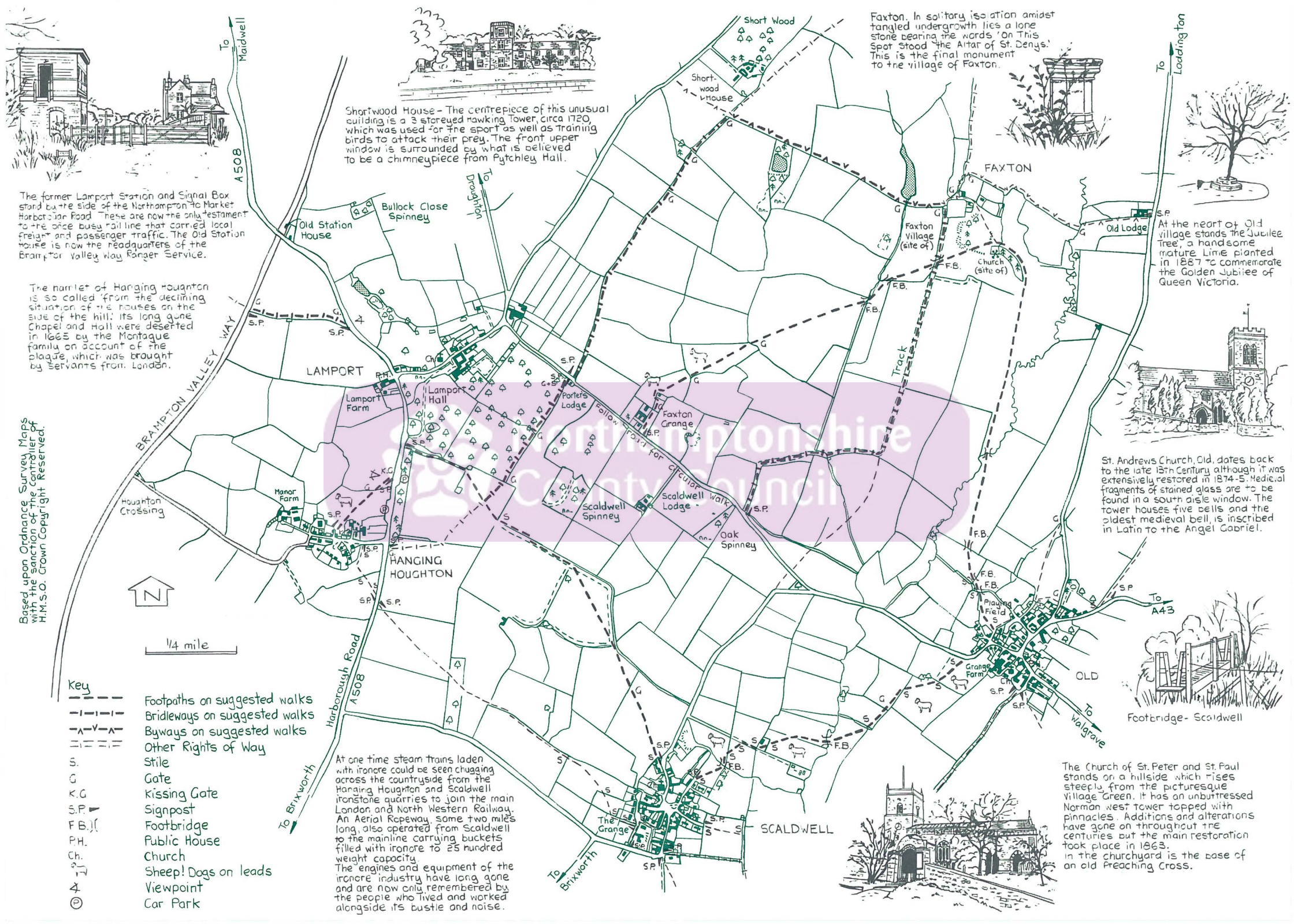
Their form and abilities continued to improve to such an extent that a challenge was issued to the Northampton County team, a challenge that was accepted.

Old's eleven set off to Northampton in a Carriers Cart, not the best means of transport to arrive full of life ready for a game of cricket!

Despite this the Old team members acquitted themselves well, bowling out the County for 159 runs but Old themselves only achieved 111 a loosing margin of 48.

By great misfortune the 100 year old plus score book was destroyed by damp and the fine details of this glorious chapter of cricketing history have been lost forever.

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The former Lamport Station and Signal Box stand by the side of the Northampton to Market Harborough Road. These are now the only testament to the once busy rail line that carried local freight and passenger traffic. The Old Station House is now the headquarters of the Brampton Valley Way Ranger Service.

The hamlet of Hanging Houghton is so called from the declining situation of the houses on the side of the hill; its long gone Chapel and Hall were deserted in 1665 by the Montague family on account of the plague, which was brought by servants from London.

Shortwood House - The centrepiece of this unusual building is a 3 storeyed mawking Tower, circa 1720, which was used for the sport as well as training birds to attack their prey. The front upper window is surrounded by what is believed to be a chimneypiece from Pritchley Hall.

Faxton. In solitary isolation amidst tangled undergrowth lies a lone stone bearing the words 'On This Spot Stood the Altar of St. Denys.' This is the final monument to the village of Faxton.

At the heart of Old village stands the Jubilee Tree, a handsome mature Lime planted in 1867 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

St. Andrew's Church, Old, dates back to the late 13th Century although it was extensively restored in 1874-5. Medieval fragments of stained glass are to be found in a south aisle window. The tower houses five bells and the oldest medieval bell, is inscribed in Latin to the Angel Gabriel.

At one time steam trains laden with ironore could be seen chugging across the countryside from the Hanging Houghton and Scaldwell ironstone quarries to join the main London and North Western Railway. An Aerial Ropeway, some two miles long, also operated from Scaldwell to the mainline carrying buckets filled with ironore to 25 hundred weight capacity. The engines and equipment of the ironore industry have long gone and are now only remembered by the people who lived and worked alongside its bustle and noise.

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul stands on a hillside which rises steeply from the picturesque Village Green. It has an unbattered Norman west tower topped with pinnacles. Additions and alterations have gone on throughout the centuries but the main restoration took place in 1863. In the churchyard is the base of an old Preaching Cross.

- Key**
- Footpaths on suggested walks
 - - - Bridleways on suggested walks
 - A - V - A - Byways on suggested walks
 - - - - - Other Rights of Way
 - S. Stile
 - G. Gate
 - K.C. Kissing Gate
 - S.P. Signpost
 - F.B. Footbridge
 - P.H. Public House
 - Ch. Church
 - Sheep! Dogs on leads
 - Viewpoint
 - Car Park

1/4 mile

