

## Introduction

The villages of Pattishall, Eastcote, Astcote and Dalscote lie in Pattishall parish. It is unlikely that they began like this, but rather as separate settlements. They are listed in Domesday Book in 1086 and each had their own field systems. The current single parish probably occurred in the century following the Norman Conquest. The villages lie on the spring lines with limestone outcrops, and are part of the so-called Northamptonshire Heights.

A church stood in Pattishall before the Conquest; the Knights Templar had a lodge in Astcote, and Dalscote village was a once a much larger settlement. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, non-Conformity established itself in the villages which retained a distinctly radical and independent outlook as 'open parishes'. In 1900 there were eight pubs in the area; today there are two. Fosters Booth grew up to cater for the drovers and coaches, as well as colliers using the Watling Street.

The walks described here offer a wide range of habitats for plants and birds. The furniture of the countryside such as stiles, bridges, hedge-layering, boundary marks, dykes and ditches, survive in small numbers - look out for them. There are interesting examples of local building styles using local stone and although most of the

thatching has gone, the steep roof pitch survives as a clue to its former presence

## 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 damage. Please report the obstruction to the Highway Authority.
2. Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage and spread disease, and carelessness may lead to tragedy.
3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wild life, please keep dogs on a lead.
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.
8. If you are travelling to the village by car, please park with due care and consideration.

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 NN1 2HZ.

Leaflet drawn and compiled by local villagers. 1992.

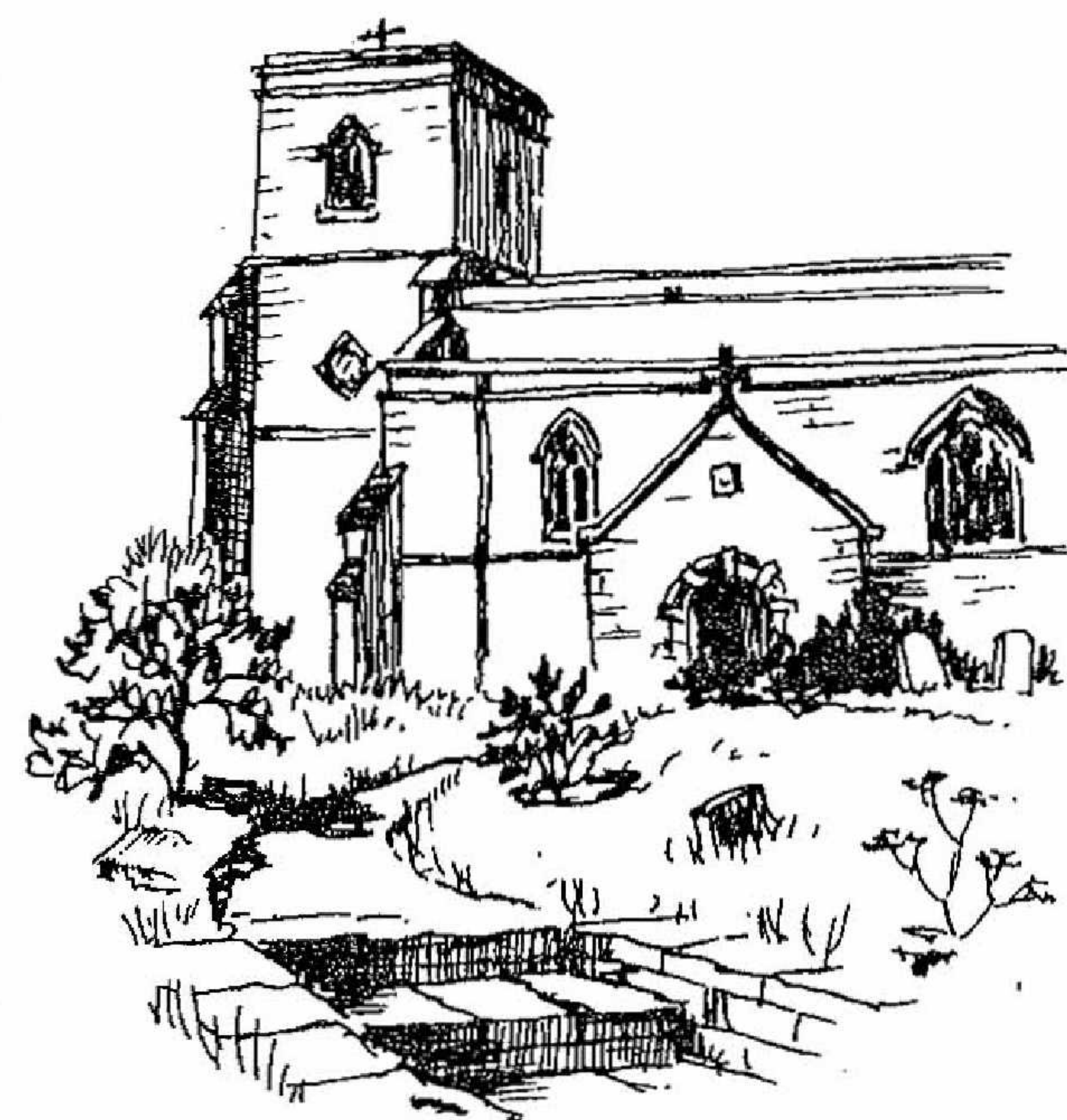
Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 38



Northamptonshire  
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# Countryside Walks Pattishall



Holy Cross Church, Pattishall



Northamptonshire  
Countryside Services



### Walk One: Village Loop - Astcote, Eastcote and Pattishall.

Distance: c. 2¼ miles.

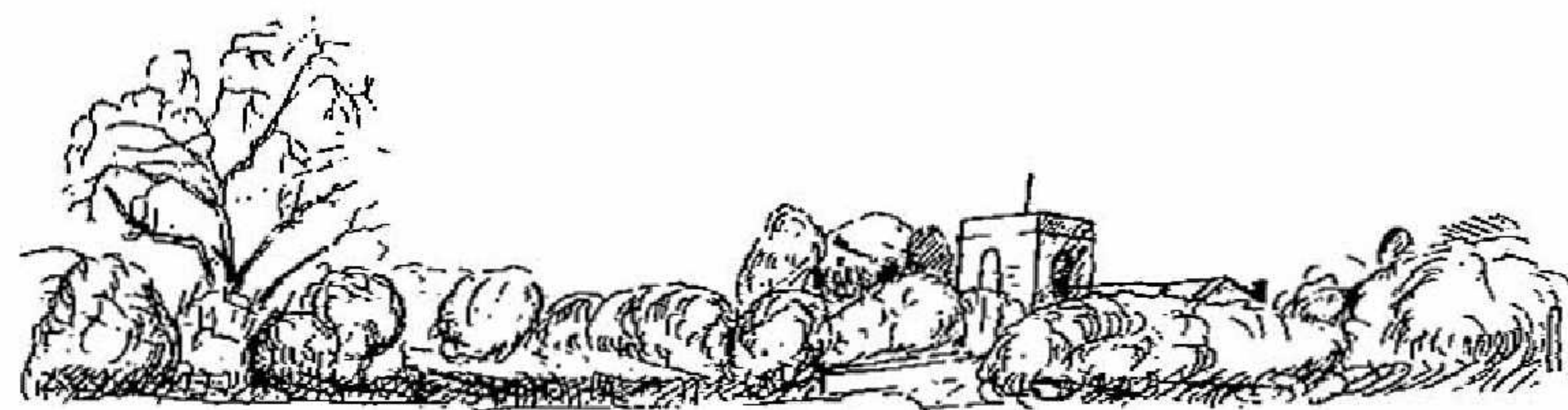
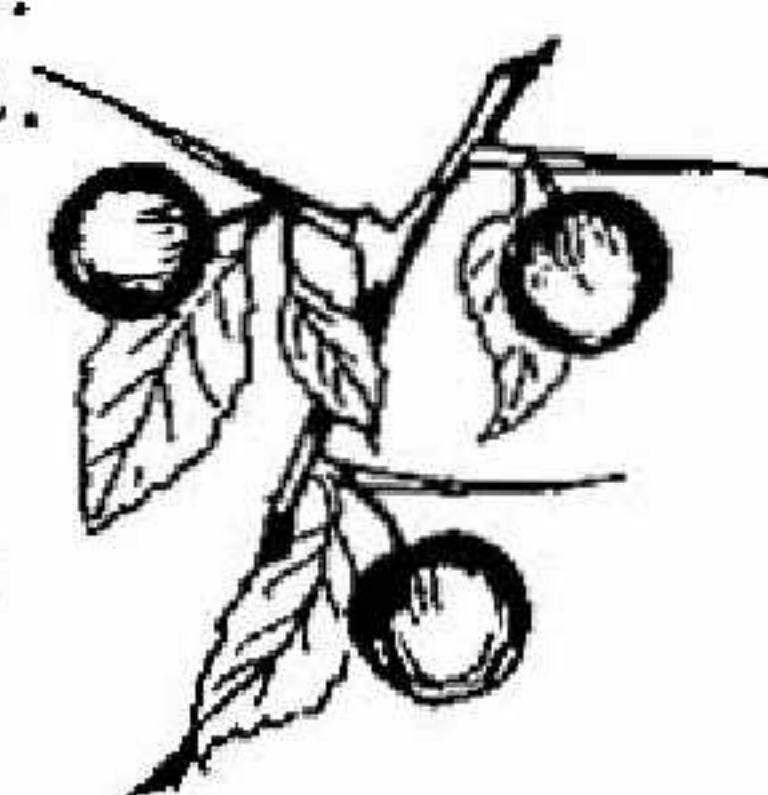
1. Start at the Green in Astcote. Shoe Factory, an outworkers' site for Manfields, 1891.
2. Path flanks gardens at rear of Suttons Walk; traces of medieval crofts; continues between trees which include oak, ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, sycamore and hazel.
3. Cross at stile and footbridge over old water-course. On the way, look out for large poplar and willow trees, and a field maple.
4. A major intersect of village paths. Fine views all round. Medieval hedgeline with hawthorn, elder, ash, sycamore, bryony and briar rose. Good winter habitat for finches.
5. Stile: cross Butcher's Lane, part of old cattle drovers' road. Take path on other side, passing hedge and steep bank of former quarries.
6. Good view of church tower, old barn and roof lines of village houses. To left is waste ground, site of former Smithy.
7. Holy Cross Church: Anglo-Norman. Churchyard is relict meadowland; c. 60 plant species in high summer.
8. At crossroads look left for rare hornbeam, and horse chestnut trees with Preservation Orders.
9. School Lane: after last house on left, note ridge and furrow of medieval open field strips.
10. This field is site of World War 1 Prisoner of War Camp. Good for wintering flocks of thrushes, including fieldfare and redwing.
11. Barton Mead: an Elizabethan House with former dovecote in Grayton Road side.
12. The Boot: at intersection of village paths between settlements.
13. 'Kissing' gate at Astcote. Fields over to this have good butterfly counts in summer months.



### Walk Two: The Flitton Hills and Folly Farm with the Charity Lands.

Distance: c. 2¾ miles.

14. Start at Astcote Green. Note the village shop with 19th century shop windows and the stove enamel advertisements.
15. Take path by former Queen's Head pub, now a private house.
16. Crossing field, look back at Astcote. The small outbuildings are former workshops for shoe-makers.
17. Turn right at The Boot; to your right lies Eastcote South Field and beyond, on rising ground, Eastcote Windmill Field. At 'T' junction, note the wide verges. These are 'agistments', grazing spaces granted to villagers in lieu of their rights of common at the time of the Pattishall enclosure 1772.
18. At bend take path to right. Excellent views of the Northamptonshire Heights, outliers of the Cotswolds with similar rock strata.
19. Follow path parallel with grid pylons in a south-easterly direction. The Flitton Hills, fields with stone scatters often picked up as part of field work. Old hedgelines are margin of Eastcote Old Enclosure; medieval, not 18th century intakes.
20. Folly Farm in Astcote Holdings. An 18th century enclosure farm. Here is a network of footpaths and bridleways in 'deepest Midlands'.
21. Take right-hand turn into lane and take bridleway through gate on right, following close to hedgerow.
22. Continue into 'green lane'. Tall hedgerows on either side are rich with autumn fruits; hips, haws, blackberries, elderberries and sloes. Also a fine sight in the Spring.
23. Return to Astcote at the southern end of the village High Street.



### Walk Three: Pattishall to the Grand Union Canal.

Distance: c. 4¼ miles

24. Start at Pattishall Green; passing the Upper Vicarage, take footpath to left before church.
25. Cross stile and head towards corner of first field from where there are excellent views, north, northeast to Bugbrooke over the 'downs'.
26. Tree-lined brook for warblers and kingfishers; ash, hawthorn, oak, willow and sycamore.
27. Cross parish boundary following avenue of willow trees and stream, and head towards railway. Pass underneath this and canal tunnels.
28. Keep north towards packhorse bridge and turn right, south easterly, across field to canal bridge.
29. Cross canal bridge and railway line, following path south, south-easterly to Littliff Farm.
30. Bear left at stile; excellent views from hill top.
31. Cross footbridge and continue alongside stream.
32. Look for a stile and footbridge, to the left taking you over the stream.
33. Cross up Pound Lane to Eastcote, over Birds Hill, passing the Eastcote Arms.
34. Turn right, passing The Old Bakery to Waites Farm, and from here, across to Pattishall village and Green.



### Walk Four: Across the Watling Street to Cold Higham.

Distance: c. 2½ miles.

35. Begin at the Green in Astcote, and follow road towards A5 on west side of village.
36. Note the ridge and furrow on right before crossing the A5 to join bridleway opposite. Ahead to the left, notice the Wireless Mast. At 162m. it is the highest point in the area.
37. Look out for the reverse 'S' line of ancient hedge; an old boundary mark between Pattishall and Cold Higham, still in use today.
38. Excellent viewpoint commanding Pattishall and Cold Higham churches, Sands Farm, Dalscote Heights, and Astcote.
39. Take road through Cold Higham, turning right to follow footpath back toward A5, passing old pond on your left.
40. Cross A5 opposite Sands Farm, and take path back to Astcote village.



