

Local Snippets:

The village of Piddington lies just south of the old coaching route to London, on rising ground. It has no centre, but consists of a series of branched housing developments off the main road through the village, which itself peters out into a green lane on approaching the vast expanse of Salcey Forest, making Piddington a true 'cul-de-sac'.

On the western outskirts of Piddington lies St. John's Church. The church was built in the 13th. But the village and local settlements are much older.

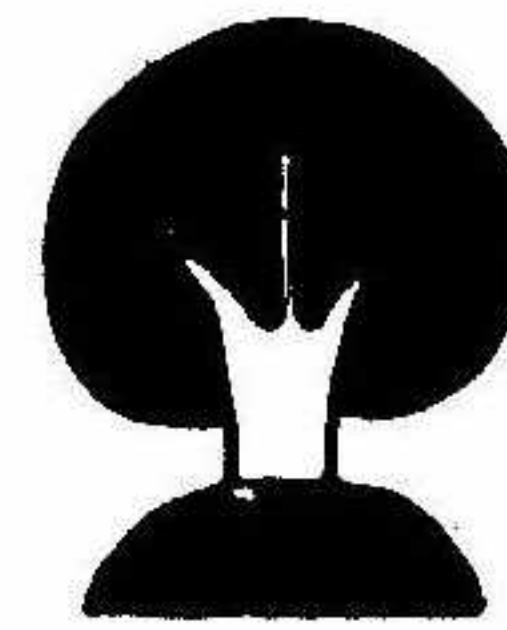
A Roman Villa to the Southwest was first excavated in 1781, and has recently been explored again. Finds of pottery, tessellated pavement, coins and skeletons have been made. The original villa dates from the first century.

Piddington, the main settlement hereabouts, for Hackleton is a relative new development, was rich in footpaths and contains the majority in the parish. The "Old Deer Park Trail" is made up of a series of footpaths making a roughly circular trail of 2 1/4 miles. Its name is derived from the suggestion that the path bounds what was once a deer park.

The extended footpath is approximately five miles long, and takes in half of the "Old Deer Park Trail" on its route via Quinton Green and Salcey Forest. In Salcey Forest the path partly follows the School Nature Trail, before returning to Piddington via Forest Road.

The origins of many footpaths and bridleways can be traced from Ordnance Survey maps. Paths cluster most thickly around the heart of a village, where they provide short cuts to church, school or public house. The paths thin out as they radiate from the centre, usually taking the shortest route to farms and other villages. Paths that wind for no reason today may have skirted property boundaries or fields that no longer exist. From the late 19th bicycles and then buses, motorcycles and cars became common; countryfolk

A Walkers' Code:



Respect the life of the countryside

- 1 Guard against fire.
- 2 Fasten all gates.
- 3 Keep dogs on leads.
- 4 Keep to the footpaths.
- 5 Take your litter home.
- 6 Avoid damage to hedges, fences, walls and gates.

begin to forsake the paths and took to the roads. Gradually the public footpaths declined. The revival began shortly after World War II, and has been encouraged by the increased use of the countryside for leisure. HACKLETON PARISH COUNCIL are opening up the local countryside by the circular trails, such as the "Old Deer Park Trail."

Thanks are due to the landowners whose co-operation helped to make this walk possible.

Mr. J. Chambers, Church Farm,
Piddington,
Mr. I. R. Wilson, The Rookery,
Preston Deanery,
Mr. P. Turney, Quinton Green.

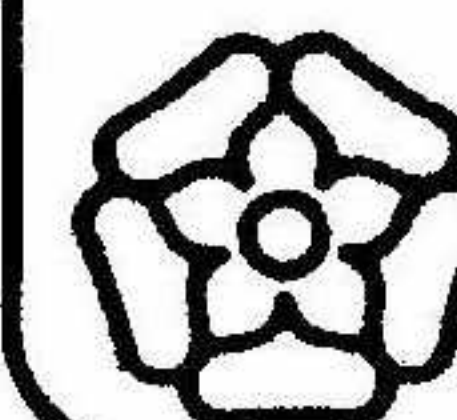
Thanks are also due to Jane Hall of Piddington for the design of this leaflet.

Lastly, thanks are due to the efforts of Mr. E. Dolby, Mr. J. Gould, Mr. H. D. Richards, Mr. B. Roberts of Piddington and Mr. N. Parker, of Hackleton, for the preparation of the walk.

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Countryside Walks

Old Deer Park Trail Piddington



Northamptonshire
Leisure and Libraries

The park was founded in 1228 by Walter De Preston, who obtained a grant to stock it from Salcey Forest. Although the park was still in existence in 1660 no trace of the park remains today and there are only a few reminders such as Park Farm which allude to this past parkland. Today deer are back again but only in Preston Wood. The deer however are not of the type hunted here, but are the relative newcomers the Muntjac. These deer have found their way to the sanctuary of Preston Wood from Salcey Forest. Their ancestors escaped from Woburn Abbey many years ago.

