

Local Snippets

Polebrook is an ancient settlement which at the time of the Domesday Survey (1086 A.D.) was known as Pochebroc, meaning Goblin Brook. Lying to the north of its brook this charming village, built of stone with Collyweston slate and thatched roofs, lies virtually unspoilt in pleasant countryside.

The deserted village of Kingsthorpe lies to the south east of Polebrook and was probably only a small settlement when listed in the Domesday Book. By 1720 it was completely deserted. A length of hollow track and the remains of sunken house-platforms can be recognised in Three Acre Spinney. A small square moat is still in evidence and medieval pottery and building materials have been found. Unfortunately, many other remains have been destroyed by arable farming.

Armston occupies a picturesque position between the villages of Polebrook and Barnwell and is approached from a tree clad road lined with neat hedges brimming with birdlife. An open space between two farms is known as "The Green." Ridge and furrow is very much in evidence in the area. Neither of these two farms existed before 1716 as this is the site of the deserted village of Armston. The village remains are in poor condition and the original layout is obscure but large quantities of medieval pottery, including St. Neots ware have been discovered.

The 351st Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Force was stationed at Polebrook. Among these servicemen was Clark Gable, the famous film star. Between 1943 and 1945, 311 Group combat missions were flown over occupied Europe with a loss of 175 B17 Flying Fortresses. 303 enemy aircraft were destroyed in aerial combat.

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.
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, East Office, 73 London Road, Kettering. Tel. 524100.

Your general comments on this leaflet and the routes will be welcomed by the Director of Planning and Transportation, Northampton House, Northampton. NN1 2HZ.

Drawn and compiled by Sue Payne, 1990.

Countryside Walks Leaflet No.10.



Northamptonshire
County Council

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Countryside Walks

Polebrook



Polebrook Hall.



Key

- S Stile
- G Gate
- F.B. Footbridge
- S.P. Signpost
- P.H. Public House
- Ch Church
- Parish Boundary

- v-a-v- Byways on suggested walks
- |-|-| Bridleways on suggested walks
- - - - Footpaths on suggested walks
- - - - Other footpaths

Sheep! Dogs on leads.

1/4 mile



Polebrook Hall stands in the centre of the village behind 18th Century wrought iron gates supported by stone pillars topped with statues. The building is Jacobean and was considerably remodelled and restored

in the late 19th Century. The modern porch bears the coat of arms of J.F. Ferguson. The great-grandparents of H.R.H. The Duchess of York, Brigadier-General Ferguson and his wife Margaret lived at the hall for over fifty years.



The Church of All Saints is mainly Early English with some Norman work remaining. Although most of the building was completed between 1175 and 1250 it is probably an extension of a smaller cruciform shaped church and such a development would explain the present position of the tower.

The church contains many interesting relics from the past and several stained glass windows. The east window, of modern glass, is in memory of Lifeguardsman Victor Ferguson who fell in the first world war and a roll of honour lists the American servicemen killed flying from Polebrook Airbase.

The brother-in-law of Oliver Cromwell and founder member of the Royal Society Dr. John Wilkins, was Polebrooks most famous vicar.

War Memorial in village centre.

A Nature Reserve lies to the north of the former Polebrook Airfield.

War Memorial-Polebrook Airfield. Sited on a section of the original runway to the west

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