

Local snippets:

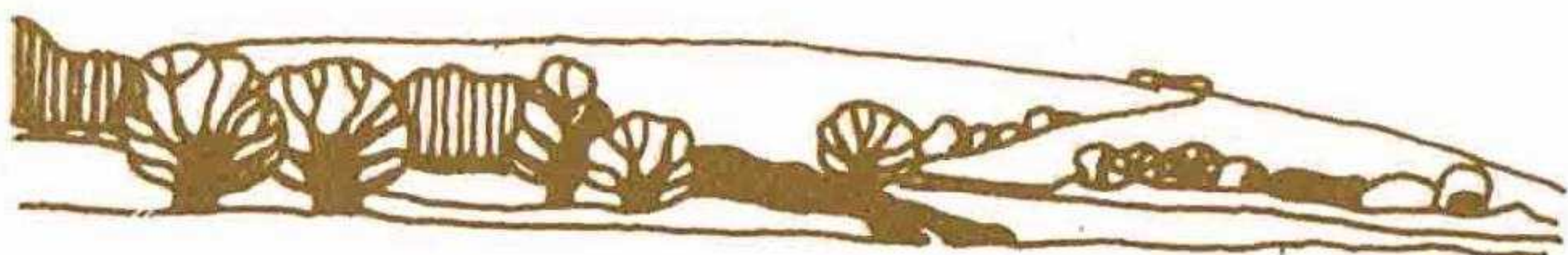
An old local legend maintains that there is a secret underground passage running from Hyde Farm to Aston Manor, another former religious house, one and a quarter miles away.

The name "Roade" is derived from an old term meaning "the cleared land."

One of the last drivers on the old Towcester to Ravenstone Wood railway used to keep a shotgun in his cab to catch rabbits for his supper en route.

Roade cutting on the main London railway line was excavated in 1834. The project, supervised by Robert Stephenson, employed 800 men and boys and 3000 barrels of gunpowder were used to blast out the one and a half mile long cutting. Steam engines had to be run continuously for eighteen months during excavations to pump out water from loose beds of shale at the bottom of the cutting.

It was an old village custom for villagers to take their Sunday joints to the bakehouse for cooking as their own ovens were small and inadequate. It was a matter of pride for the young boys who collected the steaming joints to have them on the kitchen table with the gravy still bubbling.



A Walkers' Code:



- * Always try to 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.
- * Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease and carelessness may lead to tragedy.
- * 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.
- * If your route takes you onto a road keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic, and use the verge if one exists.
- * Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season and remember to allow plenty of time to complete your chosen walk.
- * 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.

If you experience any difficulty on your walk, such as barbed wire, locked gates or damaged stiles and footbridges, please report them to the County Surveyor, Northampton House, Northampton. Telephone: 236701

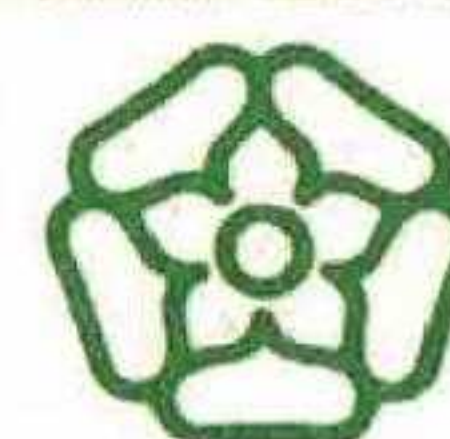
Your general comments on this leaflet and the route will be welcomed by the County Leisure and Libraries Officer, 27, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Telephone: 20262

This publication is in the "Out and About in Northamptonshire" series. Walks leaflet number 2.



Compiled and designed by Job Creation Programme, Northamptonshire Leisure Services. 1979.
- Updated September 1985.

Countryside Walks Roade



Northamptonshire
Leisure and Libraries



Blisworth Hill Railway

A primitive railway, the county's first, was built in 1800 to link the two completed sections of canal, at Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth, prior to the opening of the Blisworth Tunnel.

For five years horse drawn trains of open and flat wagons rumbled over Blisworth Hill. When the tunnel was opened the railway was dismantled. The map shows where the modern footpath and towpath now follow its old course.

