



Flora and Fauna on the Northampton Arm



This section of the canal has a wide variety of natural history interest mainly due to the low number of boats. Some of the more interesting species include: The narrow-leaved water plantain which grows in the margins and is present in small numbers. It is a Two rare varieties of pondweed can be found; Grass-wrack pondweed and Long-stalked pondweed. They are found in small patches in the county and are also an indicator of good water quality. There are seven species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded. The White-legged damselfly is an important species and is vulnerable to levels of pollution. Three large hawkers dragonflies breed here, the largest being the Brown Hawker. This large dragonfly can spend up to 2 years as larvae underwater and are voracious predators, eating small fish and other larvae. The native white clawed crayfish has been found here although there are also Signal crayfish which are not native (American), they are more aggressive and are a threat to our native crayfish. Fish in the canal include bream, eel, pike, perch, roach and tench. Birds that can be seen include warblers, who visit and nest in the reedbeds in the spring and summer, and kingfishers.

The Berry is the site of a ringwork which stood at the centre of the medieval village of Rothersthorpe. The site is an irregularly shaped enclosure. On the north and west sides there is a wide ditch and here partly surrounded by a substantial ditch and bank usually topped with timber palisades. Occasionally a more lightly defended embanked enclosure, the daily, adjoining the ringwork. They are rare nationally and are of particular significance to our understanding of the period.

The Berry Ringwork, Rothersthorpe

Walk 1 - Long Circuit 1

Start at St Peter and St Paul Church in 1 Rothersthorpe, follow the footpath heading south to the canal. On reaching the canal, turn east and follow the towpath to the Gayton Junction. 3 From here head north still following the towpath just before Gayton Marina you will need to cross the bridge and follow the towpath north on the opposite side. Continue on under two

bridges past the locks until you reach a footpath that heads west and east, cross the canal and follow the footpath west taking you back to Rothersthorpe village. Enter the village on North Street, turn right then immediately left into Church Street and follow back to the church. **Approx 3.7 miles.**
1 Hour 15 mins.
Terrain - Easy.

Walk 2 - Western Circuit 2

Start at the Church in Rothersthorpe, follow walk one until you reach the first road. Leave the towpath and head east along the road towards the marina, at the first footpath on your left turn north and head

back to Rothersthorpe. You will arrive on Church Street, turn left and return to the Church. **Approx 2.4 miles.**
45 mins.
Terrain - Easy.

Walk 3 - Short Circuit 3

From the Turnover Bridge 2 walk south east along the towpath at the first bridge leave the towpath and turn right on to the road, walk along the country lane and at the next bridge return to the canal and continue north west back to the turnover

bridge. Steep slopes on all bridges and turnover bridge has a cobbled surface. **Approx 0.6 miles.**
15 mins.
Terrain - Easy, with slopes on bridges and cobbled surface on one.

The medieval village of Rothersthorpe has at its heart The Berry Ringwork and it lies within a stone's throw of the Grand Union Canal. This picturesque walk leads you through the historical village and along the tranquil canal with its multitude of flora and fauna including some rare plants, dragonflies and waterfowl.

Northamptonshire County Council is committed to encouraging sustainable travel to become a cleaner, greener and more prosperous county.

Plan ahead - it may be easier to cycle or catch a bus to the start of your walk than to drive. Consider car sharing if you can - fewer cars means fewer queues. If you need to drive please consider the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and local access by parking considerately in the villages.



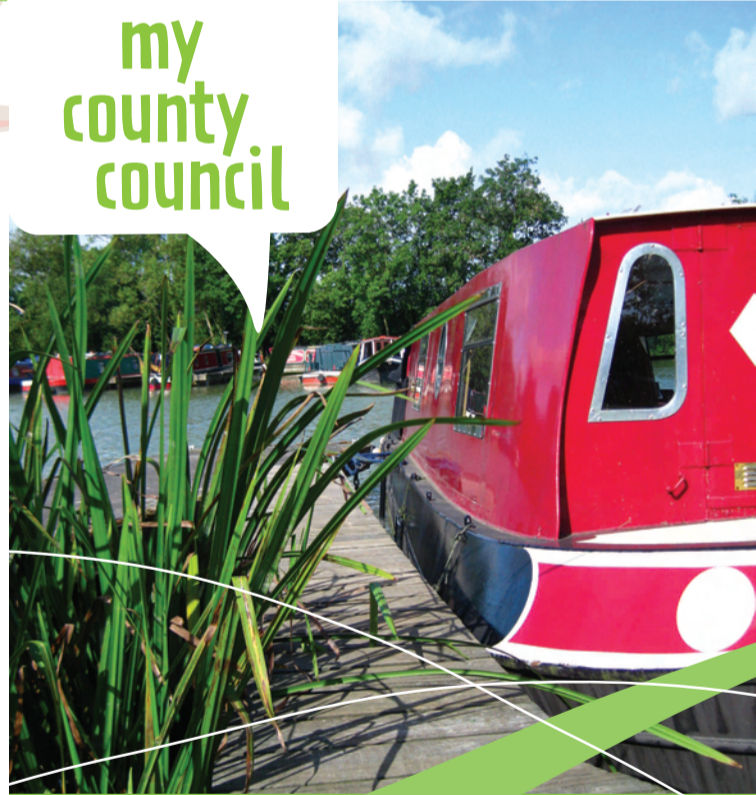
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www.county-connect.co.uk Tel: 0845 456 4474
Email: **countyconnect@northamptonshire.gov.uk**
Text 'CountyConnect' and your message to 82727 and they will call you back.

This information can be provided in other languages and formats upon request, such as large print, Braille and CD. Contact 0300 126 1000.

Northamptonshire County Council
Highways, Transportation & Infrastructure
Riverside House, Riverside Way, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX
Telephone: 0300 126 1000.
Email: rowip@northamptonshire.gov.uk
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk



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Rothersthorpe Grand Union Canal Walks

The Midshires Way starts from Pulpit Hill, near Little Kimble in Buckinghamshire and runs to Stockport for 230 miles, with 46 miles in Northamptonshire. The route was opened in 1994 as a collaboration between numerous Local Authorities and user groups. It is intended as a multi user trail but there are places where the recommended route for walkers differs from the route for horse riders and cyclists.

The Grand Junction first opened in 1805 and linked the River Thames with the Oxford Canal at Braunston. It was later connected with another canal from Birmingham towards Warwick. The whole system including various arms and branches was renamed the Grand Union Canal in 1929, and the walking route in the early 1990s.

Grand Union Canal & Grand Union Canal Walk



Places Of Interest

- 1 Church of St Peter and St Paul
- 2 Turnover Bridge
- 3 Gayton Junction
- 4 Rothersthorpe Locks
- 5 Berry Mount
- 6 The Chequers Public House



Rothersthorpe Locks

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KEY

- Suggested Walks Route
- Midshires Way/ Grand Union Canal Walk
- Footpath
- Bus Stop
- Stile
- Kissing Gate
- Footbridge
- Toilets
- Viewpoint
- Seating/Resting Place
- Public House/Inn
- Parking



Church of St Peter and St Paul



Turnover Bridge

Following the Countryside Code

Remember that the countryside is a living working place and the improvements made to these routes could not be made without the support of the landowners, so please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

www.naturalengland.org.uk

If you wish to report a problem or fault please contact Street Doctor
Tel: 0845 601 1113* (charged at local rate).
Email: streetdoctor@northamptonshire.gov.uk
or go to our website.



The Marina



The minimum recommended level of physical activity for adults is 30 minutes of moderate activity 5 days or more times a week. For more information on local walking schemes visit www.whi.org.uk

Why not make walking an enjoyable active hobby combining exercise and exploring the countryside.



The Grand Union Canal & Grand Union Canal Walk

The Grand Union remains popular today with marinas, boat yards and hire companies catering for those using its waters. The Grand Union Canal Walk starts at Little Venice near Paddington, with an alternative start at Brentford on the River Thames.

Finding your way

All the paths described in this leaflet are marked by distinctive waymarkers along the route. The map in this leaflet should enable you to follow any of the marked routes. More detailed information about the surrounding countryside and other walks may be found on Ordnance Survey Explorer map 207 and Landranger map 152, covering the Rothersthorpe area.



The Grand Union Canal & Grand Union Canal Walk

The canal ends at Salford but the walk itself continues to central Birmingham where it connects with the dense canal network of the West Midlands. It has a total length of 145 miles with 39 miles in Northamptonshire.