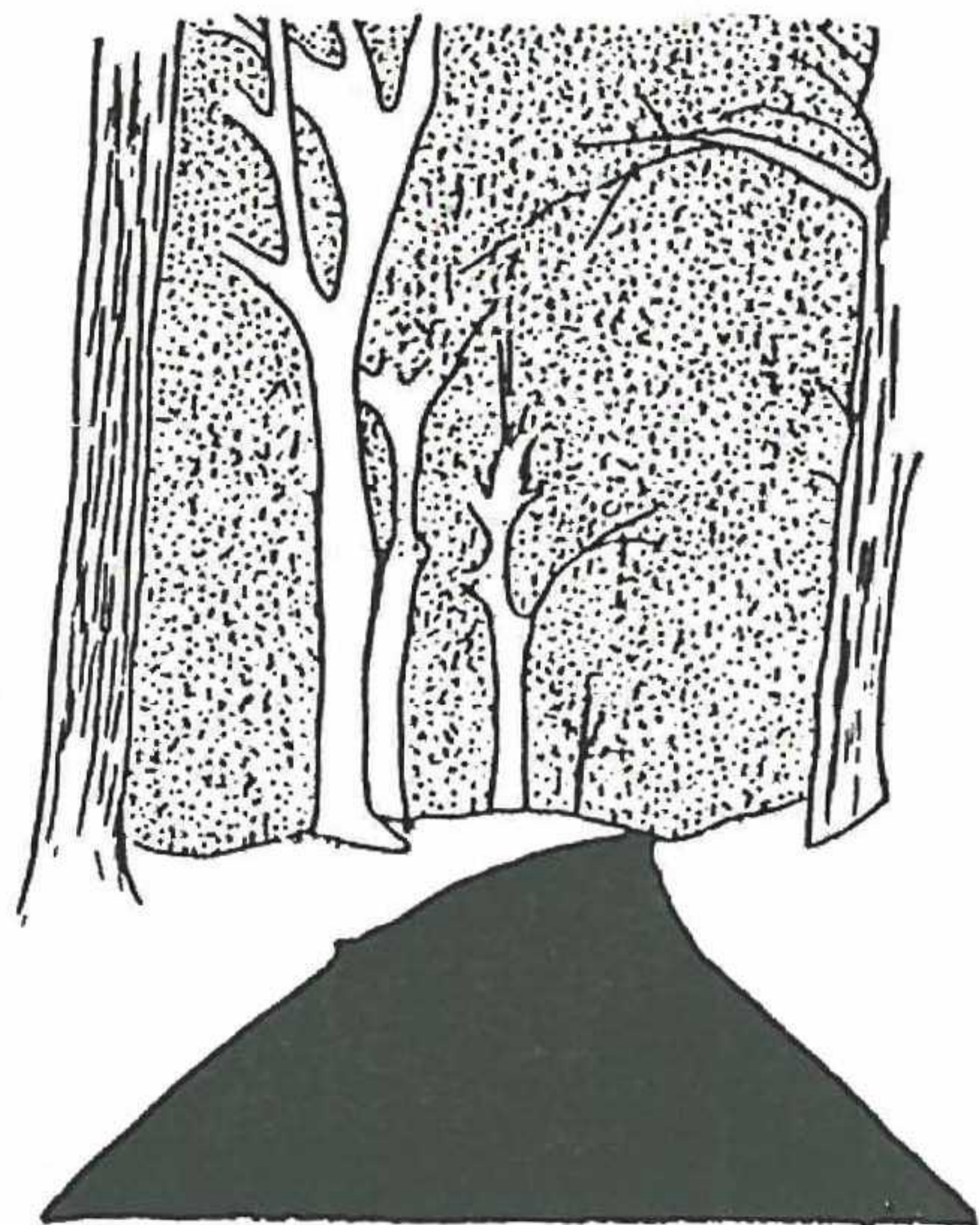


Local snippets: Everdon

Everdon is derived from the word "Eofer", the wild boar. Many centuries ago the village would be known amongst people living in the district by some such name as Eoferden.



Everdon Stubbs

Everdon Stubbs is a deciduous woodland covering an area of about 100 acres. The Stubbs was once a famous hunting covert. In the spring the Stubbs is covered with a carpet of Bluebells. The Stubbs is also a quiet corner in which to watch wildlife.

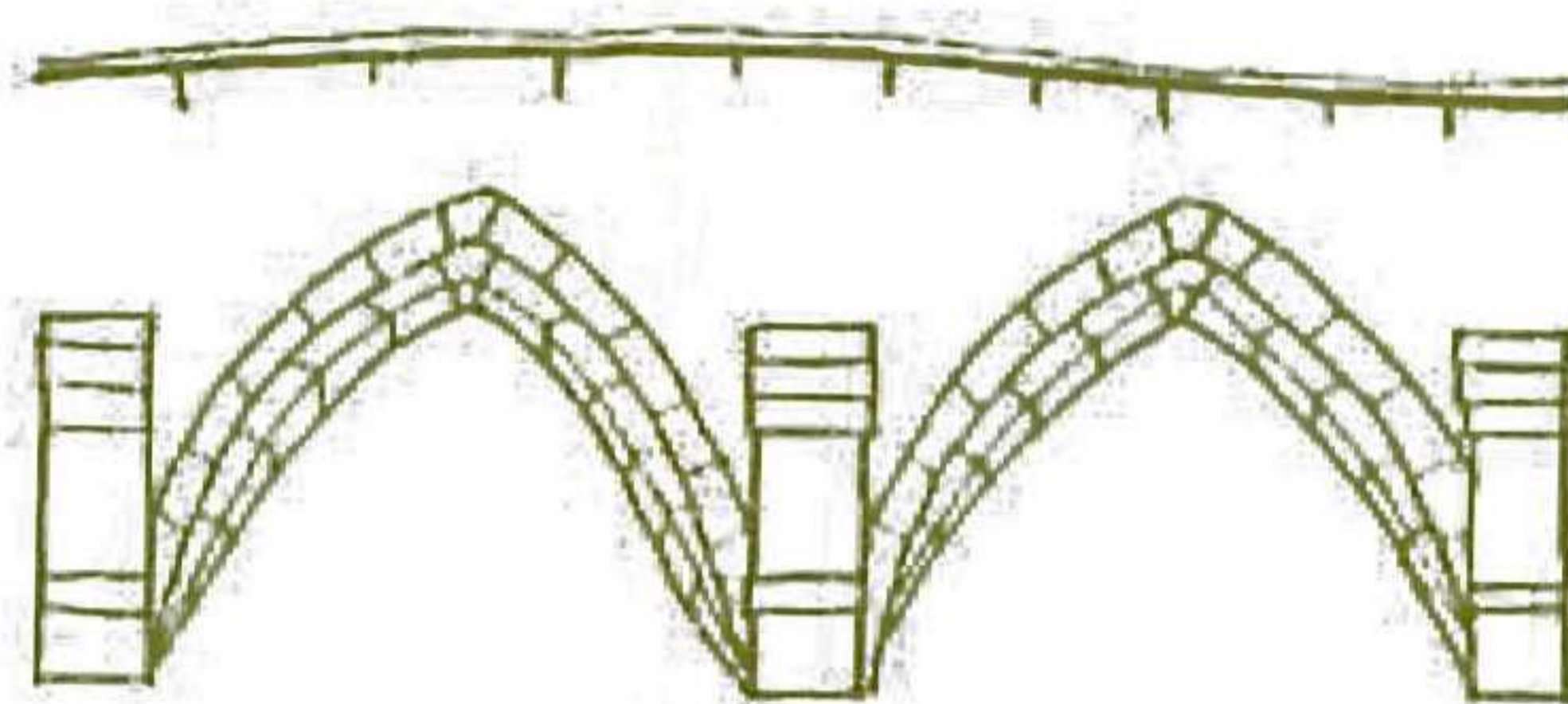
Please remember that the Stubbs is not an official leisure area but PRIVATE PROPERTY, so please treat it with the upmost respect.

Several Roman coins, particularly of Constantine, Constantius and Magnentius, were discovered in a field called Longsmill, in Everdon Parish. It is thought that this field lies in the line of the Roman road from Banaventā, through Preston Capes and Woodford, to the station of Brenavis at Chipping Warden.

Everdon Hall was formerly the Manor House of Little Everdon. It was purchased in 1809, together with the estate by Gabriel Doveton, Esq. M.P., a general in the East India service, who converted the house into a good residence.

In Everdon there was once a local shoe manufacturing industry. Forty shoemakers once lived in the village, working for middlemen.

Four Everdon shoemakers started in business themselves, in the village, making large quantities of army boots for use by the French in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.



The medieval bridge at Everdon, which crosses a tributary of the R. Nene, was constructed during the 13th Cent., during which time efforts were made to improve river crossings to cope with heavier traffic and fords were replaced with bridges. The bridge has two very unusual ashlar gothic arches, each with three stone ribs. It became a registered ancient monument on Dec. 5th 1928.

A fire destroyed nearly forty houses in Everdon on the 13th April 1786. It was caused by some sparks from a plumbers fire in the belfry, which were blown out of the window by the wind onto a thatched roof.

DISTANCES (MILES)

The complete circuit covers a distance of 6 1/2 miles. The distances below are given to help you in planning your walk

Upper Weedon to Everdon	2 1/4
Everdon to Castle Dykes	1 1/2
Castle Dykes to Weedon Hill Farm	1 1/4
Weedon Hill Farm to Upper Weedon	1/2
(as above, but via Farthingstone Rd.)	1 1/2



Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.

Take your litter home.

Help to keep all water clean.

Protect wildlife, plants and trees.

Take special care on country roads.

Make no unnecessary noise.

Enjoy the countryside and respect it's life and work.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Fasten all gates.

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

If you encounter any problems whilst on your walk, e.g. locked gates, barbed wire, damaged stiles and footbridges, please report them to the Principal Rights of Way Officer, Northamptonshire County Council, Area 2 Office, 55 Brackley Road, Towcester, Northants. Tel. Towcester 50531. Your general comments on this leaflet will be welcomed by the County Leisure and Libraries Officer, 27 Guildhall Road, Northampton. Tel. Northampton 20262.

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Countryside Walks leaflet number 12.
Designed and Compiled by Paul Boans.
November 1985

Countryside Walks

Weedon Bec and Everdon



Great Everdon.



Northamptonshire
Leisure and Libraries

Local snippets: Weedon

The name "Weedon" means "Hill with the Temple or Sacred Place."

"Bec" is derived from the monks of the abbey of "Bec Hellonin" in Normandy, who owned the manor at Weedon

The palace at Weedon owned by the Mercian Kings was converted into a nunnery by King Elthered. King Elthered placed his niece, St. Werburgh in charge of the nunnery, who miraculously sent away the wild geese that were raiding the cornfields surrounding the village, by forbidding them the parish.

Ever since then it has been a local belief that no wild geese have ever been seen to settle or graze in Weedon field.

St. Werburgh is buried at Chester Cathedral.

The Church wind vane provides a visual reference to this amusing legend being not in the form of a weather cock, but in the form of a weather goose.

One gravestone in the churchyard is one of a few that has such tales to tell. Alice Old lived in the reign of six sovereigns, born in the time of Elizabeth I and died during the reign of William and Mary.

The Railway which passes through Weedon is the main Euston to Birmingham New Street line.

Like many other villages Weedon once had its own railway station, situated to the northern side of the road bridge over the railway on the A45.

Passengers could board at Weedon and travel along the now dismantled branch line to Daventry and Leamington Spa and travel to Northampton via Blisworth. Services provided passengers with two journeys per day, Monday to Friday, and three journeys per day, Saturday, to either destination.

The branch line from Weedon to Leamington Spa was closed in 1958, and the closure of Weedon Station later followed in 1963.



The Pavilions

The Pavilions were built as accommodation for officers stationed at Weedon. They were also intended as a possible retreat for George III and his family, if the French landed in England. Today The Pavilions have been demolished and replaced by modern housing.

The Grand Union Canal, built during the 1790s, is no longer used for the business purposes it was intentionally built for. Today, the canal is used mainly for leisure and recreational purposes.

During the middle of October, 1939, the Midlands suffered from torrential rains and thunderstorms, causing the level of the canal to rise. On Wed. 18th Oct, the canal embankment gave way, causing flooding in the lower part of the village.



View of Depot from Upper Weedon Service Reservoir.

The Ordnance Depot at Weedon was one of many throughout the country that opened, due to a Parliamentary Bill of 1803, which gave leave for the erection of powder magazines, as fears rose of a Napoleonic invasion. During the Napoleonic wars, Weedon was a busy Ordnance Depot, and also a centre for the mustering and training of infantrymen. It has also provided an important source of local civilian employment.

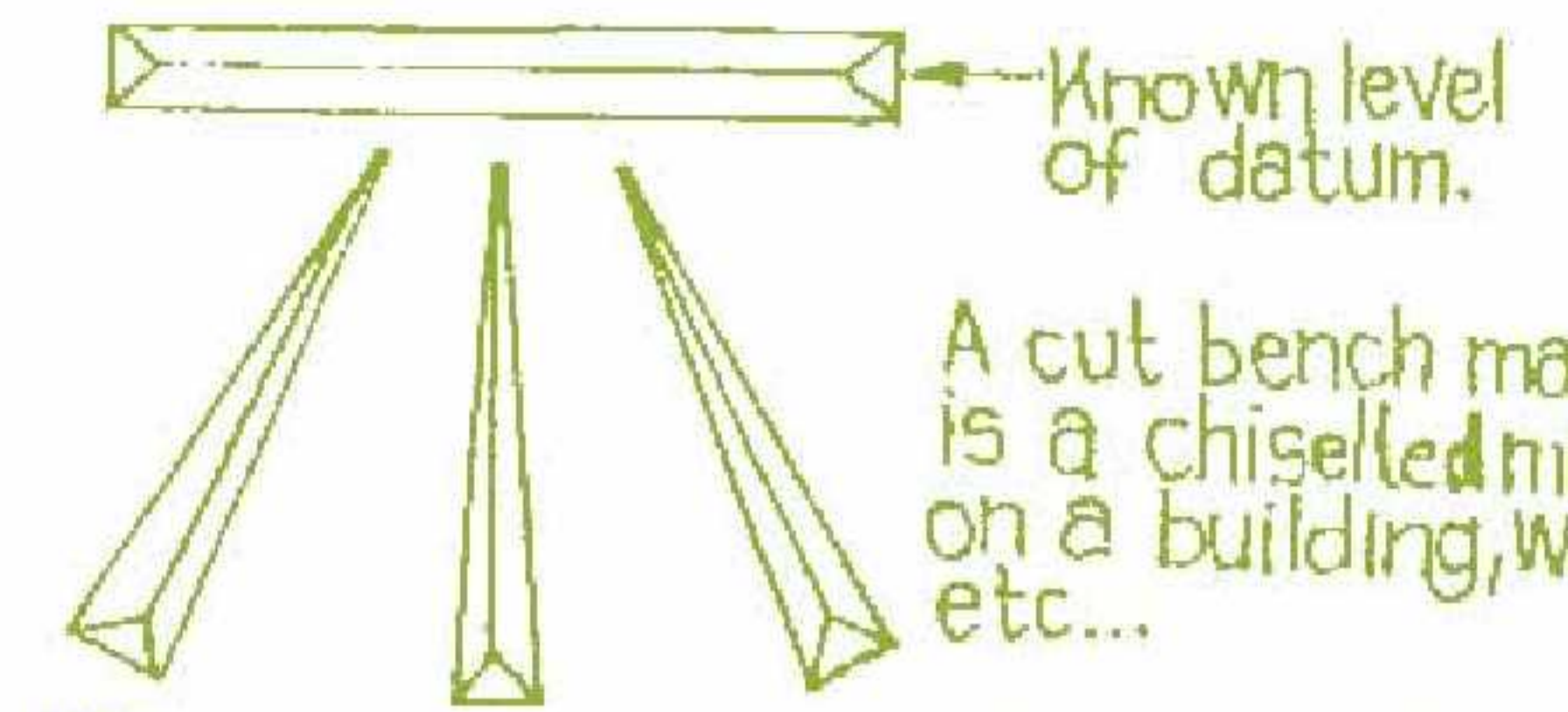


The former Crown public house situated on The Green, Upper Weedon.

Weedon was once a village with a disproportionately high number of Public Houses and Inns. Names included The Horseshoe, The Garden Gate and The Black Horse. One of them, The Admiral Nelson was known as "Dirty Dick's", but shortly after the first world war became known as "The Blood Tub".

Today, some of the former Public Houses and Inns have been converted into private residences.

Ordnance Bench Marks (O.B.M.) are points established by Ordnance Survey and can be found at several locations along the route. The heights of these marks above Ordnance Datum (O.D.) are shown on O.S. Plans and in Bench Mark lists. Ordnance Datum is Mean Sea Level at Newlyn, Cornwall, during the period, 1915 - 1921.



A cut bench mark is a chiselled mark on a building, wall etc...

Where no suitable object exists to position a cut bench, i.e. a grass verge alongside a metalled road, a bolt positioned in the ground will be used or if a building etc. has an architectural or historical feature, a pivot bench mark may be used. This is a groove large enough to accommodate a 16mm dia. steel ball.

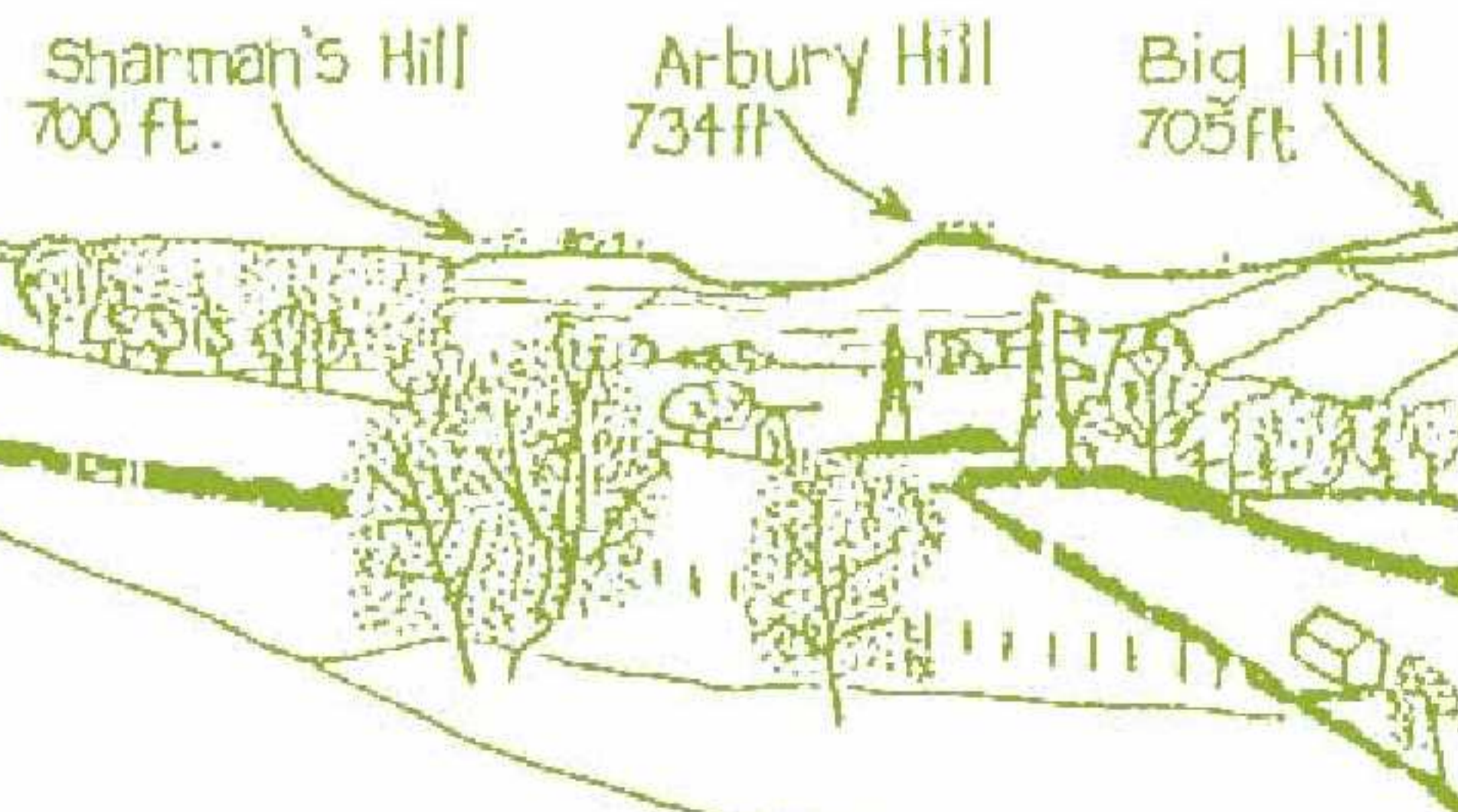
Castle Dykes

Positioned on top of a hill north of Farthingstone is an ancient earth-work known as Castle Dykes, probably once a Roman Castle. It is of irregular shape and covers an area of 13 acres. It is surrounded by a single ditch and outer bank. A man digging for stone in the 17th cent. to build a house, fell through the floor whence there arose a smell like rotting carcasses.

THE ROUTE

Some of the route crosses arable farmland so be prepared for ploughed fields or wet crops according to the season. Suitable clothing and footwear is recommended.

Some sections of the route follow stretches of road. Take care when walking along roads, walk on the right in single file facing oncoming traffic.

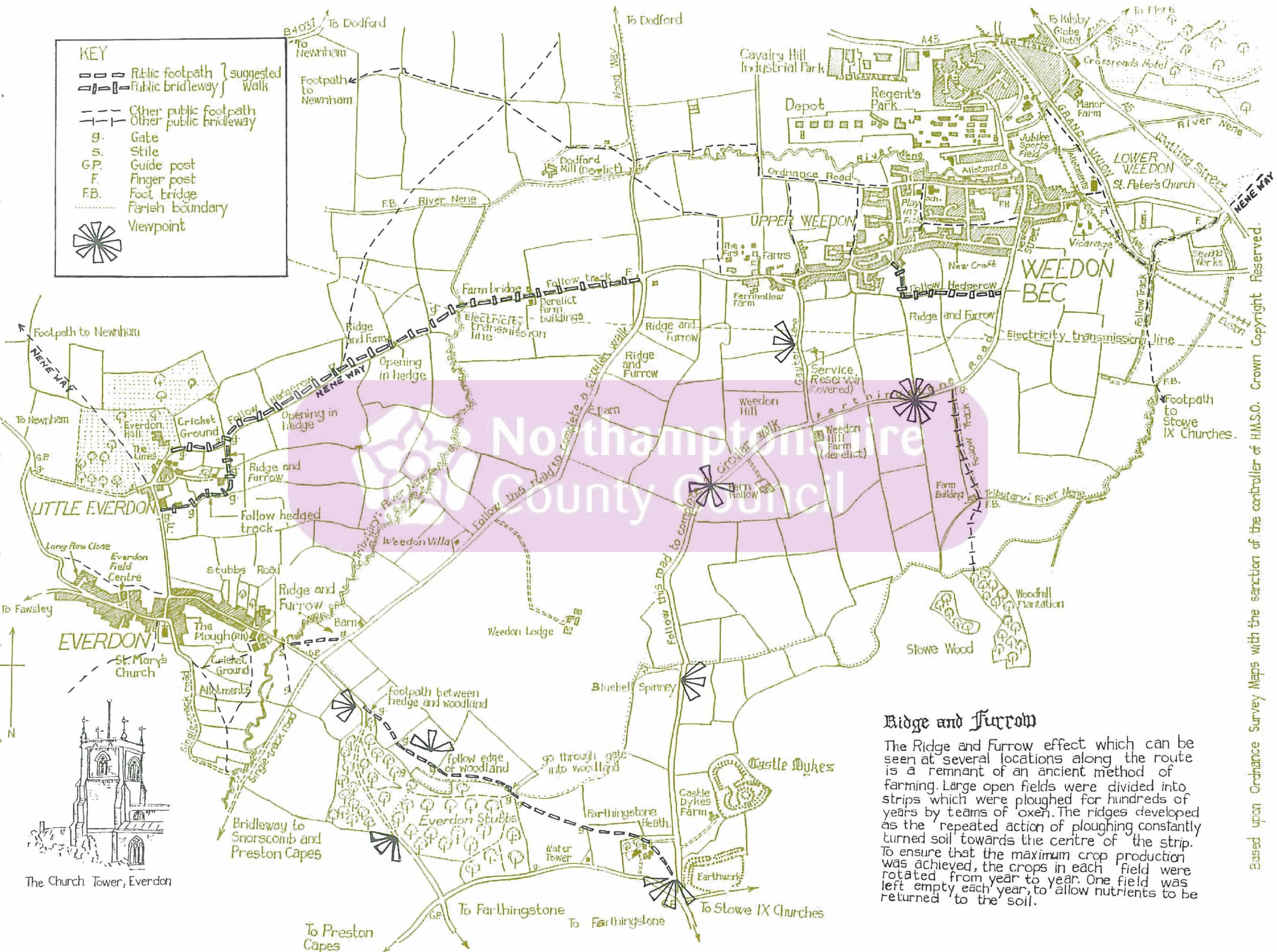


View of Northamptonshire Heights.

SCALE: MILES
 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1

KEY

- Public footpath } suggested Walk
- Public bridleway }
- Other public footpath
- Other public bridleway
- Gate
- Stile
- G.P. Guide post
- F. Finger post
- F.B. Foot bridge
- Parish boundary
- Viewpoint



The Church Tower, Everdon

Ridge and Furrow

The Ridge and Furrow effect which can be seen at several locations along the route is a remnant of an ancient method of farming. Large open fields were divided into strips which were ploughed for hundreds of years by teams of oxen. The ridges developed as the repeated action of ploughing constantly turned soil towards the centre of the strip. To ensure that the maximum crop production was achieved, the crops in each field were rotated from year to year. One field was left empty each year, to allow nutrients to be returned to the soil.

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