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 Everdon.

Everdon Hall was formerly the Manor House of Everdon. It was purchased in 1809, together with the estate by Gabriel Dowton, 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 the French in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

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 River Nene, was constructed during the 13th Century. During which time efforts were made to improve the river crossings of the medieval era, the bridge has two very unusual arches, each with three stone ribs. It became a registered ancient monument on May 19th, 1955.

A fire destroyed nearly forty houses in Everdon on the 13th April, 1856. It was caused by some sparks from a number of fires in the belfry, which were blown out of the window by the wind onto a thatched roof.

**DISTANCES (MILES)**

- From Upper Weedon to Everdon
- From Everdon to Castle Dyke
- From Castle Dyke to Weedon Hill Farm
- From Weedon Hill Farm to Upper Weedon

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 Office, 27 Guildhall Road, Northampton. Tel. Northampton 20262.

An "Out and About in Northamptonshire" Publication.

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 Hellion" in Normandy, who owned the manor at Weedon.

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 on 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 other destinations.

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

The Ordinance 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 Ordinance Depot, and also a centre for the mustering and training of infantrymen. It has also provided an important source of local civilian employment.

Castle Dykes

Positioned on top of a hill north of Farthington is an ancient earthwork 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 century to build a house, fell through the floor whence there arose a smell like rotting carbuncles.

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.
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.