Suggested Walks.

Long Walk: Take footpath from Lamport Hall to Scaldwell, continue to Old and then on to the site of the deserted village of Faxon. Return along the byway to Shortwood House and back to Lamport Hall.

Medium Walk: Take bridleway from Lamport Hall to Shortwood House and continue along the byway to Faxon. Return along the footpath to Faxon Grange or the byway to Oak Spinney on the Old Road.

Short Walk: From Brampton Valley Way go along the unclassified Road to Hanging Houghton. Continue along the main road to the bridleway leading back to the Brampton Valley Way. Lamport village is well worth a visit, or choose your own walk.

There is a regular bus service between Market Harborough and Northampton with frequent stops at Lamport. Please check bus services and times before travelling.

The Brampton Valley Way was once a busy rural branch line run by the London and North Western Railway. It served the towns of Northampton and Market Harborough and numerous villages between for nearly a century. Now trains have been replaced by walkers and cyclists and in some places horse riders.

Since 1987 the County Council has been developing the route by providing facilities such as car parks, picnic sites and a path suitable for wheelchairs and walkers alike. Passing open fields, wooded areas and alongside dense thickets and hedgerows, the route provides access to the Northamptonshire countryside by linking with existing footpaths and bridleways.

Countryside 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 route.

6. Remember that every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and others 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. West Office, Annex House, London Road, Daventry, Tel. Daventry. T0G081.

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

The Brampton Valley Way Countryside Ranger Service operates from the Old Station House, Lamport. Tel. 0600 827 and Brixworth Country Park Tel. Northampton 882322.

Leaflet drawn and compiled by Sue Payne (1992)

Countryside Walks Leaflet No. 34

Northamptonshire Council

Northamptonshire Countryside Services
Local Snippets

The name Lamport means Long Town.

The Isham family lived at Lampport from 1560, when John Isham bought the manor, until the death of the 12th Baronet Sir Gyles Isham in 1776. The Hall was rebuilt between 1654 and 1657 by John Webb who was the son-in-law of Inigo Jones, but since it has been altered and extended. In Victorian times Sir Charles Isham imported possibly the first garden gnomes into Britain from Germany to display in his famous rock garden. The Isham family Chapel is in the nearby All Saints Church.

Lampport Hall and grounds are open to the public for special events such as musical concerts, craft fairs, antique exhibitions, country fairs and seminars.

Denys J. Watkins-Fitchford is the 20th century’s famous son of Lampport. A countryside writer of great sensitivity he wrote under the nom-de-plume of ‘BB’ because he thought it easier to remember than his real name. In 1938 his first two books “The Sportsman’s Bedside Book” and “Wild Lone” were published, illustrated with scrapboard pictures bearing his real name. Much of the action of ‘Wild Lone’, which is the story of a Patchley fox, takes place in the vicinity of Lampport. 1985 saw the publication of “The Best of ‘BB’ An Anthology” to celebrate the authors 80th birthday.

The village of Foxton no longer exists but the reasons for its final demise are strong enough, shrouded by the sheer amount of information available as opposed to the more normal, lost in the mists of time, situation.

Foxton has a complex and fascinating history with records of the village in Nuna Ingilis and Tilton Maps as well as eye witness accounts by the likes of the historian, Bridges.

In 1086, 37 households existed and over the following centuries this fluctuated slightly reaching a peak of 103 residents in 1831, but a steady decline meant that by 1821 only 57 villagers remained and 46 years thereafter the village was completely empty.

At its height the village had accrued all the usual rural charms of the times including a windmill, a post office, a school and a church.

A strange tale surrounds the demise of Augustine Nicolls.
A circuit Judge, Augustinus was presiding over a murder trial at Baldock in the Lake District in the 18th century when relatives of the accused who did not like the way things were shaping up for their kin, decided to poison the judge in the mistaken belief it would help their cause and save the culprit from the hangman.

The Manor House was taken over by the Danvers and Rainsfords of Brixworth just after the turn of the 18th Century and thence onto the Ishams, who having a capacious residence of their own, had it demolished.

The Church of St. Denis once occupied the south west corner of the old village Green and was mainly of 13th Century origin although some 12th Century stonework existed.

Falling into increasing disrepair it was finally pulled down in 1859 although a stone still marks the position of the altar.

Remnants of its existence comprising the font, plate and monuments are still to be found in the Ketton, Lamport and the Victoria and Albert Museums.

Prior to the final destruction of Foxton in 1867 three seasons of excavations were carried out within Foxton and its environs and it is these that have provided the surviving artefacts.

The bulldozer then moved in and this historical site was finally ploughed under, the last signs of habitation being obliterated apart from the Church altar stone.

Scoldwell means ‘shallow welling out of water.’ There were once many wells in the area of the village, one of which was a healing well.

The centrepiece of the enchanting village green is an old pump set in a blue-brick pump housing which bears tablets showing when restoration took place. Once fed by a local pond the pump was used to fill a series of horse troughs but none of these have survived.

Many years ago Old had a cricket team of tremendous repute that found local village elevens such easy meat that they took on the best of Rothwell and Desborough town teams combined.

Their form and abilities continued to improve to such an extent that a Challenge was issued to the Northampton County team, a challenge that was accepted.

Old’s eleven set off to Northampton in a ‘Corrie’ Cart, not the best means of transport to arrive full of life ready for a game of cricket.

Despite this the Old team members acquitted themselves well, bowling out the County for 159 runs but Old themselves only achieved 111 a losing margin of 48.

By great misfortune the 100 year old plus score book was destroyed by damp and the fine details of this glorious chapter of cricketing history have been lost forever.