Heygates Mill: the first mill was established on the site in 850 A.D. By the time of the Domesday Book (1086 A.D.), Bugbrooke Mill was the third highest rated mill in England, the rates being paid in eels and corn. Numerous disasters over the centuries in the form of fires and floods have overtaken the mill. Today, it is the headquarters of England's largest independent millers.

A Walkers' 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 authorities.
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, and 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 walk.
6. 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. Tel: 336791

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

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The Church: The 13th-century church, with many later additions, has grown from a small chapel & 8th-century church. Inside note the very fine 1500-year-old rood screen carved in oak. The churchyard has a magnificent selection of mature trees.

Knibworth: In 1648, the burial is recorded of Richard Taylor (also Knibworth) who, suspected of poisoning, poisoned himself. Being a suicide he was buried as far as possible from the village: “on the left hand of Northampton Way in a baulk that parts the fields of Bugbrooke and Kelsey.” Local people still call the area “Knibworth’s Grave.”

The Chapel: Built in 1368 it flourished as a Baptist Chapel for a century and a half. An early minister, John Wheeler, ran a soap factory next to the present TG Stores and baptised his first converts in the brook; hence the nickname “John the Dipper.”

Hastrith's Brook: Each winter the brook used to flood the west end of the village. In 1970 it was cleaned out, deepened and widened. The packhorse bridge dates from the 16th century, when wool was used to be carried over the brook by packhorses. When the stream was widened the bridge was partly rebuilt, but the pillars are mostly original.

The Canal: Bugbrooke has always lain on or near important communication routes. Banbury Lane was once an important prehistoric trackway. Then the Romans built Watling Street, now the A14. Later came the canal (1796), the railway (1832) and the motorway (1969). Today the canal has lost its original purpose, and is now used mainly by pleasure boats. The towing path, once used by horses, is now a public footpath throughout the parish.