

Paths of Old

Walk 6 – Old to Walgrave & Hannington

Distance: 5.30 miles

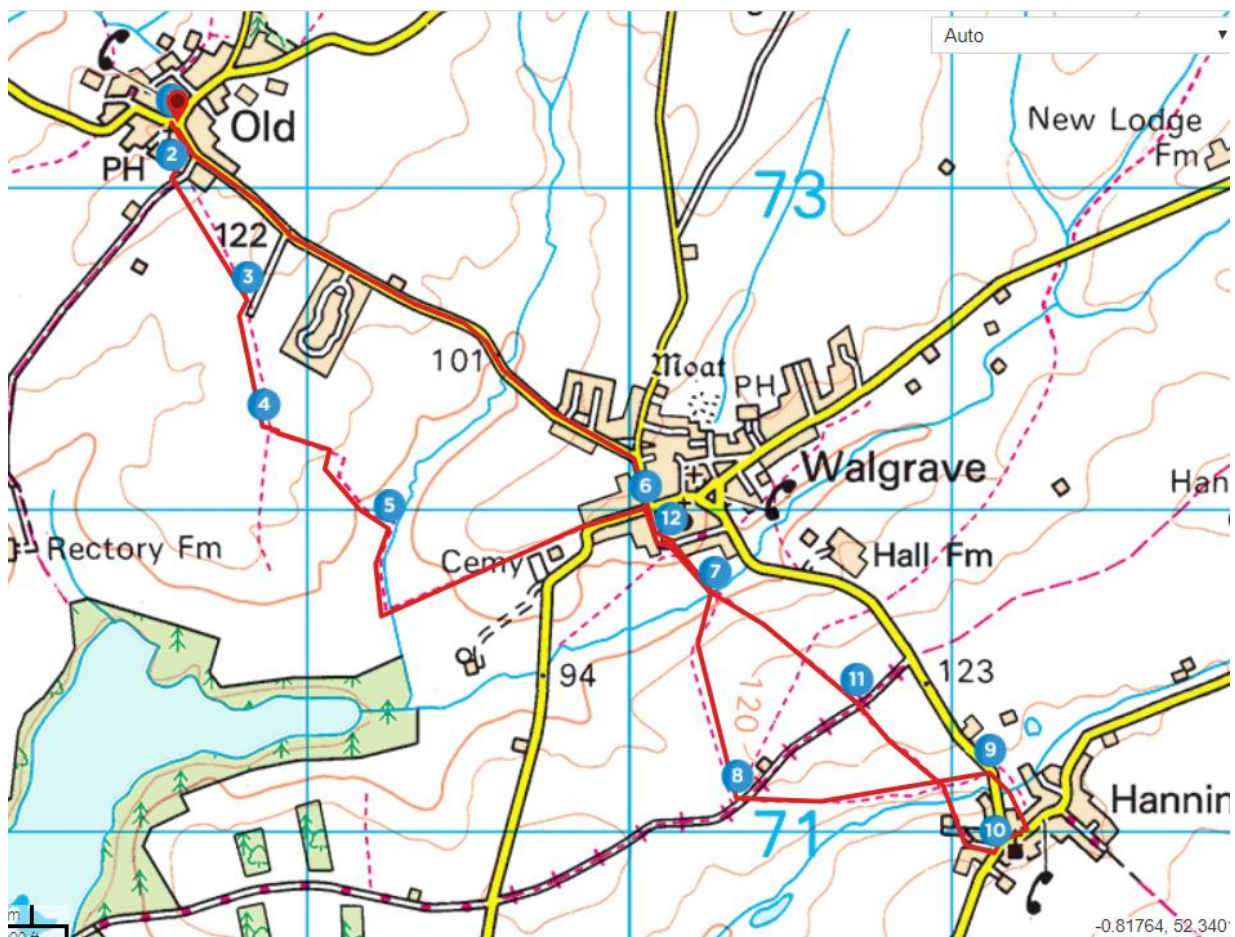
Grade: Easy

Start / Finish: The White Horse, Old (Grid Ref: SP786732)

Map: OS Explorer 223 Northampton & Market Harborough

Things to see: Skylark, Lords-And-Ladies, Forget-Me-Nots.

Summary: This route links two of our nearest neighbouring villages in an easy circuit and explores in part the area once occupied by the Mediaeval village of Walgrave.



Point	Description
1	From outside the White Horse, follow the road a short way towards Walgrave and turn right into Bridle Road.
2	Cross the stile into the field after the last house on the left (Grid Ref: SP786730) and cross two fields in more-or-less a straight line to reach a track (Grid Ref: SP787726).
3	Turn right along the track and follow it across a large field to a tall hedge.
4	Turn left in front of the hedge, walk approx. 30 yards then go through the gateway on the right. Turn left, keeping the hedge on your left, and go through a gap in the hedge in front of you into a large field. Turn right and, keeping the hedge on your right, follow the edge of the field downhill.
5	At the bottom of the hill (Grid Ref: SP793719), turn right into another field and go forwards with a stream and hedge on your left. Soon, take a clear track on the left going uphill. Pass a cemetery on your right, reach the road and carry on in the same direction along Holcot Road to reach a crossroads – there is a bench on the corner suitable for a quick rest (Grid Ref: SP801700).
6	Turn right into Bakers Lane and follow this round to the left where it becomes Rectory Lane. Take the path just before the first house on the right. This field contains traces of the ridge and furrow farming system used in mediaeval times. Take the path ahead alongside the wall and head for a wooden footbridge at the far left-hand corner of the field (Grid Ref: SP803718).
7	Cross the bridge and take the well-signed path uphill to the right to reach a stile in the right-hand field boundary (Grid Ref: SP802716). Go over this stile and turn diagonally left, aiming for another stile in the next hedge beside the right hand of two large trees (Grid Ref: SP802715). Keep ahead in the same general direction – there is usually a very obvious path through the crop clearly indicating the way – to reach a stile on to a Bridleway (Grid Ref: SP803711).
8	Cross straight over the Bridleway through an obvious opening and immediately turn left into another field. The path heads diagonally across this field towards a stile by a group of large trees in the far hedge (Grid Ref: SP806711). Go over the stile and follow the path keeping to the right-hand side of the field. The next stile is in the far right-hand corner (Grid Ref: SP808711). Keep straight ahead along the field edge. Just before the corner of the field, cross a stile leading to a path running between a low wooden fence on your left and a high wire fence on your right. Continue on this path to reach the road at (Grid Ref: SP811712).
9	Cross the road, go up the wooden steps opposite and turn right, following the fence as it curves to the left. Then go over a stile on the right and head down to a little footbridge spanning a small ditch (Grid Ref: SP812711). The path then follows the line of telegraph poles to access a track (via gate or stile) and soon meets the road in Hannington village (Grid Ref: SP812710). Turn right along the road to go past the church.
10	The second road on the right is School Lane (signposted “Village Hall” on a green sign). Take this as far as a gateway to the left-hand side of the village hall. A fingerpost indicates the way: through metal gates into a garden (Grid

	Ref: SP810710). Go straight ahead under a large Weeping Willow tree and up the bank beyond to reach a second metal gate in a tall hedge (Grid Ref: SP810712). Cross the track, go over the stile, and follow the hedge on your right. This hedge soon disappears but keep straight ahead to a stile in the far hedge and continue in the same direction on a clear path that soon brings you to the Bridleway that you crossed earlier (Grid Ref: SP807714).
11	Directly opposite, another clear path leads in the same general direction across a large field, aiming just to the left of Walgrave Church spire. At the far side, cross the stile (Grid Ref: SP804717), bear left to a gate and stile. Cross this and bear right downhill to the wooden footbridge crossed on the outward journey and follow the field edge to Rectory Lane (Grid Ref: SP802718).
12	Turn left and follow the road round to the crossroads. Go straight over into Old Road, and follow this out of the village, over a small footbridge at the bottom of the hill (Grid Ref: SP796724), and up into Old past Cherry Hill.

Remember: for the benefit of all please keep to the path, close all gates behind you and keep dogs on a lead, especially around livestock.