

Paths of Old

Walk A – Northamptonshire Round

Distance:	52 miles
Grade:	Easy
Start / Finish:	Brixworth Country Park
Map:	OS Explorer: 223 Northampton & Market Harborough, 207 Newport Pagnell & Northampton South, 224 Corby & Kettering
Summary:	More accurately a circuit of Northampton itself, rather than the whole county, this route links some pretty villages, attractions and quiet countryside.
Nearest Point to Old	Holcot
Highlights	Brixworth Country Park, Pitsford Water, Stoke Bruerne, Salcey Forest, Yardley Chase, the estate of Castle Ashby and many lovely villages.
Useful Links	For LDWA Northamptonshire Round page click HERE For Northamptonshire CC leaflet click HERE and follow the Northamptonshire Round link

Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waymarking generally good• Easy going• Connects some pretty villages and interesting attractions• Surprisingly rural in places• Splits into manageable sections
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some waymarks small or faded• One or two scruffy sections near roads



Perhaps better considered a circuit of Northampton rather than the county itself, the Northamptonshire Round still manages to pack in plenty of interest over it's 50-odd miles.

The going is usually easy, with few, if any, steep sections, and by-and-large is simple enough to follow. Some of the waymarks are a bit small, and one or two are quite faded, so it's always best to have the appropriate map with you to ensure you stay on track. Having said that, though, navigation should present few problems.

As with many LDPs, a shortage of public transport does mean that the logistics work better with two cars (or a willing driver) to deliver you to your start and end points, but, on the plus side, this walk has many points at which to hop on and off the trail.

Itineraries

We walked it over three-and-a-half days of the Easter weekend, but the route splits nicely into whatever day-lengths you prefer. Here are some possible itineraries:

<p>4-day itinerary (+/- 14 miles/day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brixworth CP to Bugbrooke • Bugbrooke to Hartwell (just off route) • Hartwell to Cogenhoe • Cogenhoe to Brixworth CP
<p>5-day itinerary (+/- 11 miles/day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brixworth CP to Harpole • Harpole to Stoke Bruerne • Stoke Bruerne to Horton • Horton to Ecton • Ecton to Brixworth CP
<p>7-day itinerary (+/- 7.5 miles/day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brixworth CP to Harlestone • Harlestone to Bugbrooke • Bugbrooke to Stoke Bruerne • Stoke Bruerne to Salcey Forest • Salcey Forest to Yardley Hastings • Yardley Hastings to Mears Ashby • Mears Ashby to Brixworth CP

<p><i>Did You Know?</i></p>	<p><i>The Northamptonshire Round was created in 2003 by the Ten Foot Club, a group of walking enthusiasts looking to inspire local people in discovering more about the countryside around Northampton whilst benefitting from more exercise.</i></p>
-----------------------------	---

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.