

Paths of Old

Walk 8 – Lamport, Hanging Houghton & Maidwell

Distance: 7.50 miles

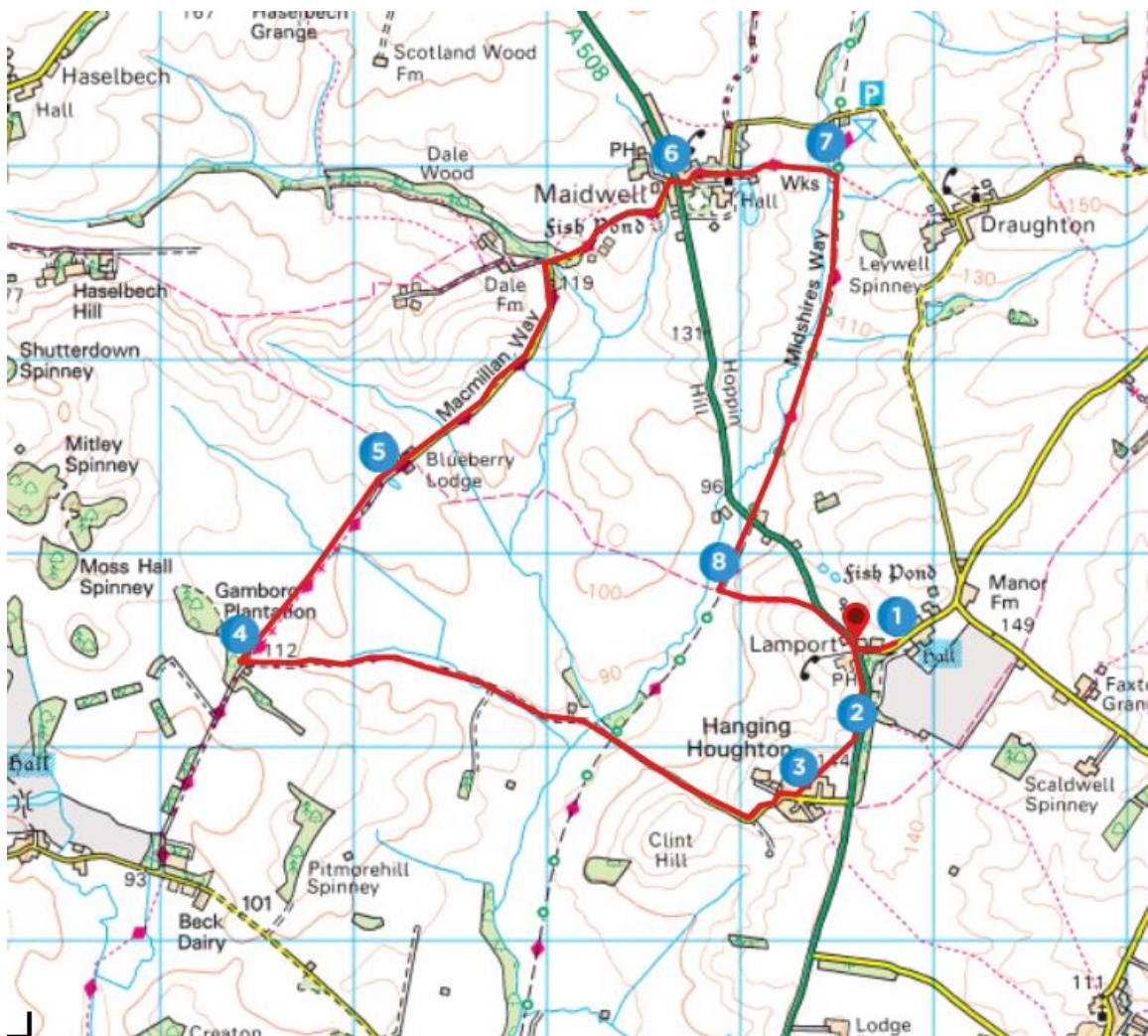
Grade: Moderate

Start / Finish: Lamport Church (Grid Ref: SP758746)

Map: OS Explorer 223 Northampton & Market Harborough

Things to see: Autumn colours, owls and wildfowl.

Summary: A longer route getting a little deeper into the surrounding countryside, and an excellent circuit on a winter's day. In the main this route follows good tracks, paths and lanes over even ground, with no stiles to negotiate. The route takes around 3¼ hours to complete and, although not difficult. I have rated it as Moderate due to the distance.



| Point | Description |
|-------|---|
| 1 | There is plenty of parking on Lamport main street, so leave your car there and begin the walk from outside the church (Grid Ref: SP758746), first heading in a westerly direction towards the Lamport Swan pub. At the main road (A508), carefully cross over and turn left, keeping to the obvious pavement. After a few minutes look out for a footpath on the right signed for Hanging Houghton (Grid Ref: SP756740). |
| 2 | Go through the kissing gate and head diagonally left across the field to a second kissing gate. Beyond this, keep in the same direction to a third kissing gate that exits on to a drive. A short way beyond you will reach the road through Hanging Houghton (Grid Ref: SP753738). |
| 3 | Turn right and follow the lane out of the village, gradually descending to meet the Brampton Valley Way at Houghton Crossing (Grid Ref: SP743740). Cross straight over and follow a clear gravel track for about 1.25 miles to reach a T-junction of paths beside a wood. This point is marked as Blueberry Grange on the map (Grid Ref: SP724744). |
| 4 | Turn right, signposted "Byway". Soon, the lane gives way to a grassy track and passes through a metal gate. To the right, a number of Permissive Footpaths have been established allowing access a small area of land specifically managed to encourage birds, particularly various Owl species. These paths are not shown on the map and we don't explore them today. |
| 5 | Continuing along the track you will soon join a metalled lane by Blueberry Lodge (Grid Ref: SP732754). At the crossroads of paths, keep straight ahead signposted Maidwell. The lane winds to and fro, but eventually brings you to Maidwell village and the main A508 (Grid Ref: SP747769). |
| 6 | Cross straight over and take a lane signposted "Primary School". Follow this to reach a sharp left-hand bend with the Primary School on your left and the church on your right. Keep ahead on a stony track signed "Maidwell Trail" and go through a kissing gate into a field. Bear left to meet the left-hand edge of the field and follow this to a gated wooden footbridge in the far corner (Grid Ref: SP754770). |
| 7 | Beyond the bridge, go ahead to reach the Brampton Valley Way beneath the obvious metal footbridge over the track. Turn right and follow the trail towards Lamport Crossing. |
| 8 | After about 1 mile, carefully cross the A508 again and keep going a short way to reach a crossroads of paths (Grid Ref: SP749748). Turn left through the gate and into a field signed "Bridleway Lamport Hall & Village", making your way uphill along the right-hand edge. At the top, go through the gate, carefully cross the road, and turn right up the hill. Opposite the Lamport Swan, turn left to reach the church and the end of the walk (Grid Ref: SP758746). |

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.