

Paths of Old

Walk 12 – Cottesbrooke from Draughton Crossing

Distance: 10.00 miles

Grade: Easy

Start / Finish: Car Park at Draughton Crossing on the Brampton Valley Way (Grid Ref: SP755773)

Map: OS Explorer 223 Northampton & Market Harborough

Things to see: Brown Hare, Heron, Buzzard.

Summary: This excellent circuit is about as easy as a 10-mile walk gets. A well-graded route with easy navigation, clear paths, quiet lanes and some superb, far-reaching views on the return section, and the lovely honey-coloured village of Cottesbrooke.



Point	Description
1	The walk begins from the car park at Draughton Crossing on the Brampton Valley Way (Grid Ref: SP755773). From the car park, head back to the road, cross it, and pick up the Brampton Valley Way (BVW) signposted Lamport Crossing. Follow the trail for approx. 300 metres to a dilapidated metal footbridge that spans the trail (Grid Ref: 755769).
2	Turn right here, through a wooden gate. Cross the narrow field to a plank bridge and head up the next field on a faint path keeping the hedge on your right and roughly following the line of telegraph poles. At the top, go through a gate to the right of a red brick house and follow the track up to the road. Keep ahead, passing the church on your left and primary school on your right, until you reach the main A508 (Grid Ref: SP747769).
3	Cross the A508 and take the lane opposite, following it for approximately 3 miles and ignoring any side paths (this stretch is part of the Macmillan Way). It begins as a metalled surface, becoming a track beyond Blueberry Lodge before the tarmac surface returns and you eventually reach a T-junction at the end (Grid Ref: SP719734).

Did You Know?	<i>The Macmillan Way is a long-distance footpath originally devised as a charity walking challenge for Macmillan Cancer Support. There is now a series of interlinked coast-to-coast routes crossing England and Wales. For further information please visit their website at www.macmillanway.org.</i>
----------------------	---



Near Blueberry Lodge

4	Turn right and follow the road into Cottesbrooke village, ignoring any side roads until you reach a T-junction (Grid Ref: SP711735). Turn right and keep on all the way through the village passing the church on your left.
---	--

<i>Did You Know?</i>	<i>Built in the early 18th Century, Cottesbrooke Hall is located in a large parkland setting and regarded as a near-perfect example of Queen Anne architecture. You can visit the house and grounds at certain times of the year - see their website for more details www.cottesbrooke.co.uk.</i>
----------------------	--

5	As you leave the village, cross a small bridge and keep ahead along the road as it heads out across parkland towards Haselbech, ignoring two left turns on the way. After approx. 1 mile, the road goes up a steep hill before levelling out again.
6	Just before the road starts to dip downhill, look out for a fingerpost on the left and take the bridleway on the RIGHT between two thatched red brick cottages (Grid Ref: SP711766). Follow the cinder track for about 600 metres until you go through a stand of trees and come to a low cottage on your right. Just after the cottage, go through a small wooden gate on your right, head diagonally across the field to another small wooden gate. Go through this and into a large field. Follow the path ahead along the field edge with the hedge on your left and good views across the Brampton Valley to your right.
7	At the end of the field, reach a cinder track and turn right. Keep on the track and follow it as it turns left, keeping the hedge on your left. At a fingerpost (Grid Ref: SP723763) bear left (signed "Bridleway to Maidwell") keeping on along the cinder track for approx. 700 metres until it skirts the edge of Maidwell Lodge. Stay on the cinder track until it is crossed by a metalled drive, then turn left along the drive as it goes downhill between fences (Grid Ref: SP734763).
8	At the bottom of the hill, go through (or round) the gate and bear left along the lane at the junction. Follow this for about half a mile until you reach the A508 in Maidwell (Grid Ref: SP747769). Cross it and take the road opposite as it winds through the village. Keep on the road as you pass the church and primary school, eventually leaving the village at a sharp right corner. Follow the road down the hill for approx. 500 metres to reach the Draughton Crossing car park on your left and the end of the walk.

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.