

Paths of Old

Walk 13 – Loddington, Thorpe Malsor & Great Cransley

- Distance: 11.25 miles
- Grade: Easy
- Start / Finish: The White Horse, Old (Grid Ref: SP786732)
- Map: OS Explorer 223 Northampton & Market Harborough and OS Explorer 224 Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough
- Things to see: Brown Hare, Red Kite, Buzzard, Fox, Wildfowl.
- Summary: A longer circuit of around 4.5 hours taking in Loddington, Thorpe Malsor, Cransley Reservoir, Great Cransley and Mawsley, which is in essence an extension of Walk 4 for those who want a good half-day outing. There's plenty of scenic variety and in the main this is an easy-going route on well-defined paths.

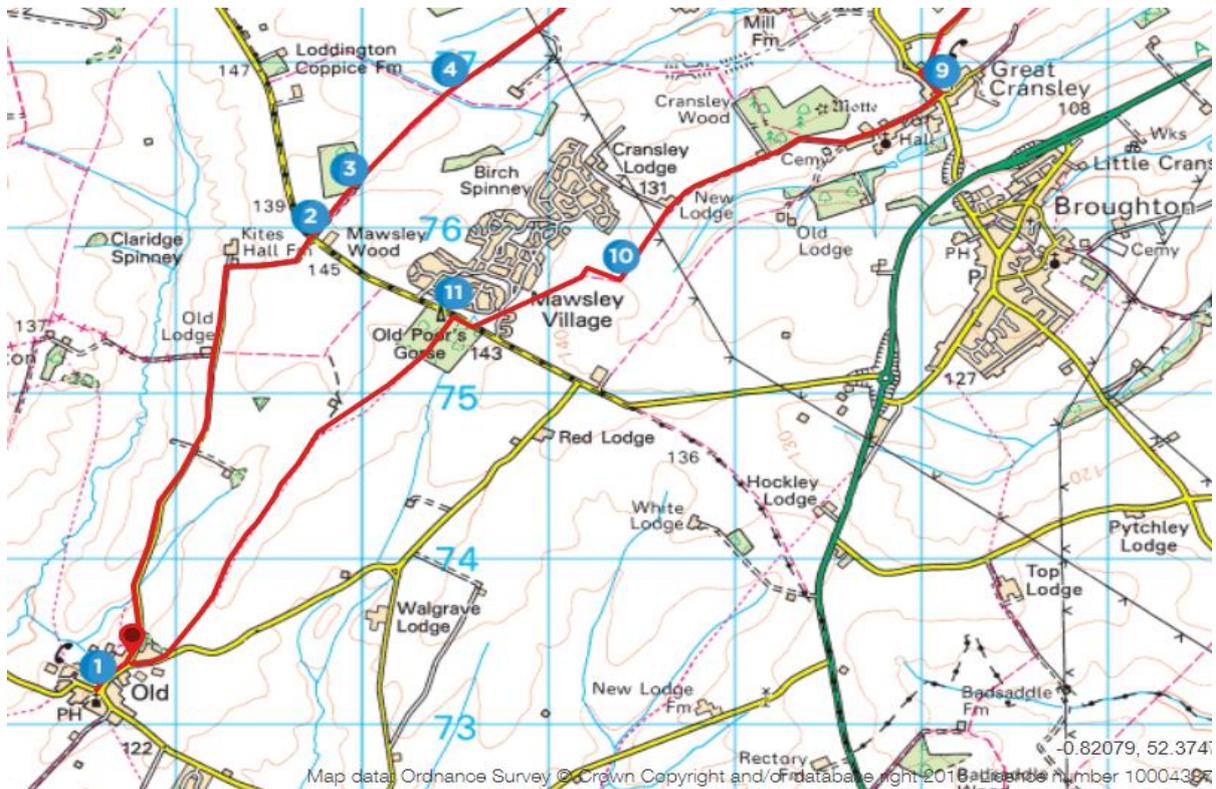
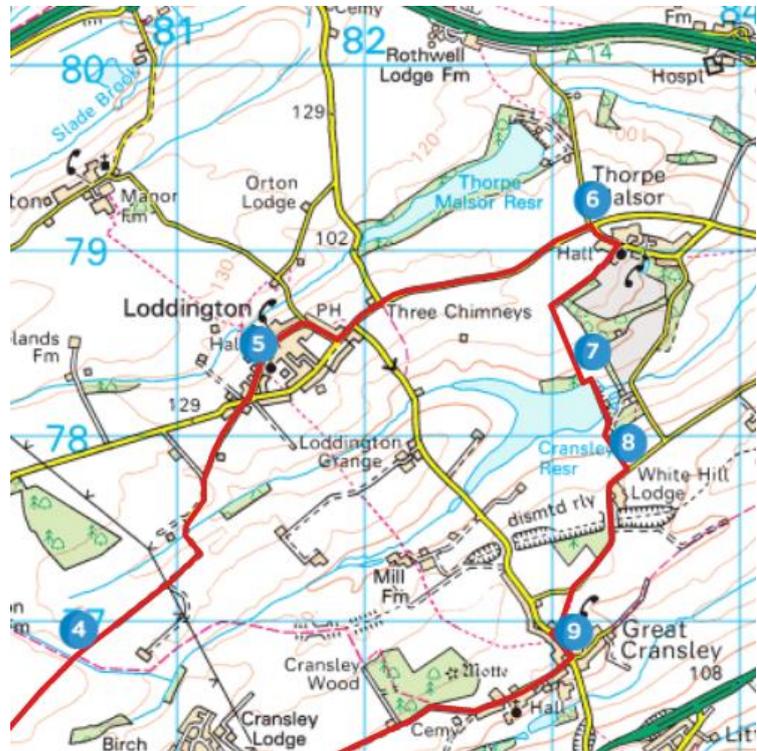
Point	Description
1	From outside the White Horse, follow Harrington Road out of the village, past Faxton End to Mill Lane on your left. Follow Mill Lane all the way to the end (Grid Ref: SP797759).
2	Directly opposite the end of Mill Lane, take the path down the drive between brick gateposts (signposted "Bridleway"). Go between two houses and pick up the track going straight ahead beyond a gate. Soon, the track bears left to a large barn (Grid Ref: SP800763).
3	At the metal gate, follow the signs and turn right beside a wooden fence. Follow the path round into a field, then take the obvious path diagonally to the right to a double gate in the far hedge. Go through these gates and continue straight ahead to a second set of double gates (Grid Ref: SP805768).
4	Again, go through both gates, ignoring the paths off to the side, and cross the field in the same general direction to meet a hedge in front of you. Keep ahead with the hedge on your right. As you pass beneath the power lines, go through another gate, and join the obvious track. Keep ahead and pass a gateway / cattle grid via a small gate to the side. Soon you will reach a metalled road. Follow the road into Loddington. At the road junction (Grid Ref: SP814782) go straight ahead into Main Street to reach the church.
5	Continue to the end of Main Street and bear right into Richardson's Lane. At the T-junction, cross over and turn left along the pavement. Pass the houses and cross Cransley Road, then continue on the pavement for approx. 1 mile until you reach a road on the right into Thorpe Malsor (Grid Ref: SP832792).

6	Head into the village. Just before the church, turn right into a lane and carry on as this becomes a dirt track with a high wall to your left. Keep on the track through the edge of a wood and into a field. In approx. 40 metres, a fingerpost indicates a left turn in front of the hedge. Keep the hedge on your right as you descend to the reservoir (Grid Ref: SP832783).
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Did You Know?

Cransley Reservoir was constructed in the 1880's and has been providing clean water to Kettering and Desborough for over 125 years.

As well as having an abundance of wildlife and plentiful bird species, you can also learn to sail here. Visit www.cransley.org.uk for more details.





7	Go left, then turn right on to a path between railings across the reservoir dam. Keep on this path as it bends right, passing Cransley Sailing Club, and goes through a kissing gate into a field. Follow the path uphill with the hedge on your left to reach a road.
8	Turn right and follow the road for approx. 600 metres, crossing a dismantled railway line on the way. At the second right-hand bend (Grid Ref: SP831772) with the edge of Great Cransley clearly visible approx. 300 metres ahead, take the signposted path on the left and aim for a small gate beneath trees in gap between the houses. Go through this and on to reach the road. Cross over and turn left to reach The Three Cranes pub.
9	Turn right into Church Lane. At the edge of the village (Grid Ref: SP826765) keep right along the metalled track and pass the edge of Cransley Wood. At New Lodge Farm the lane becomes a dirt track. Keep on this as it jinks past the farm and continue in the same general direction (don't turn right) across two fields to a T-junction. The houses of Mawsley are now clearly visible.
10	Turn right, follow the track round to the left then take the path on the right that cuts diagonally across two fields (aiming to the left of the telecoms mast ahead of you) to reach the road into Mawsley via a gate and stile. Cross the road to another small gate and keep ahead in the same general direction across the field to reach a plank bridge and another road. Turn right for approx. 100 metres and look out for a fingerpost beside the telecoms mast compound (Grid Ref: SP805755).

<i>Did You Know?</i>	<i>The current village of Mawsley has only existed for around 20 years. It takes its name from a lost mediaeval village of the same name that was recorded in the Domesday book, but which was abandoned as long ago as the 1600's.</i>
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11	Go into the wood and, ignoring any side paths, keep ahead through the dense woodland of Old Poor's Gorse until you exit into a field. Keep ahead across two large fields until the path bears left through a gap into another field with the hedge now on your right (Grid Ref: SP798748). Keep alongside this for approx. 1 mile (passing several small ponds on the way) until you go through a stand of trees and reach the road. Turn right and head into Old – the White Horse pub and Jubilee Tree are ahead of you.
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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.