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Walking Map

2. Fotheringhay to Woodnewton



River Nene at Fotheringhay

Route Info:

Duration: 2 Hours

Difficulty: ★☆☆☆☆

For use alongside Ordnance Survey: OS Landranger 141 / OS Explorer 224



Fotheringhay to Woodnewton

Head north out of **Fotheringhay** on the **Nene Way**, but before you reach **Walcot Lodge**, look for a footpath to the west.

Following this, cross the road and then west across the fields to **Woodnewton village**. After visiting the village, take another more northerly footpath on **Nassington Road** which will return eastwards across the fields to reach Park Spinney.

Here you can join the **Nene Way** to return to **Fotheringhay**.

Time: Approx 90 minutes.
Distance: 3.4 miles.

Fotheringhay Castle

A castle was probably first built at **Fotheringhay** by Simon de Senlis, Earl of Northampton in around 1100 A.D. This would have been a motte and bailey castle, built out of earth and timber. It was probably rebuilt in stone during the mid 1300's - a large multi-sided keep called 'The Fetterlock' was built on the motte.

Defensive walls, a gatehouse and internal buildings were also built in stone at around this time. In 1377 the castle was granted to the Duke of York and became an important administrative centre. Richard III was born there in 1452.

Following Richard's death at Bosworth in 1485, Fotheringhay continued to be a royal castle. It was granted to each of Henry VIII's wives in succession. Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII, also made use of Fotheringhay.

It became a royal prison with its most famous inmate being Mary, Queen of Scots, who was tried and executed there in 1587. The castle quickly fell into disrepair and was finally dismantled in 1622. Parts of it are said to have been used to build the Talbot Inn in Oundle.

Church of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints

Fotheringhay's parish church, with its unusual octagonal lantern tower, is a local landmark. During medieval times, it was twice the size it is today.

To the south of the present church was a lavish Chantry College where the priests, clerks and choir of the college prayed for the souls of the college's founders and benefactors.

The college was closed down in 1548 and its fixtures and fittings were reused in Northamptonshire. Look for the grassy platform south of



the church where the college stood and the blocked doorway and windows in the south wall that show where the church was once joined to the college. Inside the church (usually open), there is an extensive display about the castle, the Chantry college and Fotheringhay's royal connections.

Woodnewton

Woodnewton has retained much of its historic character. The many houses of limestone, thatch and Collyweston slate have led to its designation as a conservation area.

The village is located in the heart of the **Rockingham Forest**, which was once one of the great royal forests of England.

Now the most significant sections of remaining woodland all lie in the northern part of the former forest.

St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church dates from the 12th century but has been much altered over the centuries.

The graveyard houses the grave of Nicolai Polakovs, better known as 'Coco the clown', who retired to Woodnewton in 1973 and died there shortly afterwards.

The priest's door on the south wall of the chancel may be attributed to the Norman Age as it has a low



semi-circular arch displaying a single ornamented zig-zag moulding.

Wildlife

When you explore the banks, woods and hedgerows along the River Nene, there is a wealth of wildlife for you to discover. Grey herons are often seen standing motionless or quietly stalking their prey (including frogs, slugs and fish) along the water's edge.

Most often seen in the early morning or at dusk, otters are making a welcome return to the English countryside. They eat crayfish, frogs and even voles but when they catch a fish they bring it to the bank to eat. Young otters, known as cubs, spend all their time with their mother; the male otter known as a "dog" lives alone.

The Broad-bodied Chaser is one of many dragonflies you may see on warmer days. There are about 40 species of dragonfly and 16 species of damselfly in Britain. You can tell the difference between them in three ways, dragonflies are usually bigger, fly much faster and when at rest keep their wings outstretched. Damselflies are small and slender, with a light, floating flight. When resting most fold their wings close to their bodies.

Images: (L-R)

Walkers near Fotheringhay, St Mary's Church, The Falcon Inn at Fotheringhay, Fotheringhay Castle.

Key Sites along The Way!



St. Mary's Church

The church is of interest for its abnormal plan and development, and for the early 13th-century window forms. St Mary's also features a notable 15th-century painted pulpit, donated by Edward IV, carrying the royal arms.



The Falcon Inn

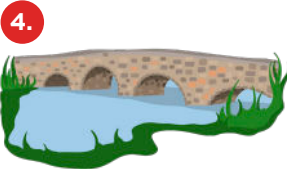
Whether you're dining out for a special occasion, or simply just stopping to enjoy a quick beverage, you are guaranteed the warmest of welcomes from the friendly team! Location marked for illustrative purposes.

01832 226254 | thefalcon-inn.co.uk



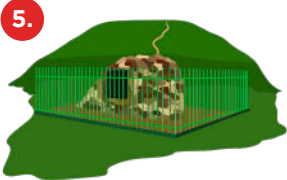
Church of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints

The great nave of this Yorkist church survives with it's beautiful well-proportioned fenestration and flying buttresses. The tower was rebuilt in the 17th century and renovated in 1910.



Fotheringhay Bridge

The earliest bridge over the Nene at Fotheringhay was a timber one. It was rebuilt using stone from the demolished quire of the church in 1573, on the orders of Elizabeth I. The present stone bridge dates from 1722 and uses King's Cliffe stone.



Fotheringhay Castle

Dismantled in the 1630's, all that is visible above ground are the earthworks of the castle motte and ditches and a block of limestone rubble wall by the river as a memorial to Mary, Queen of Scots.

Other Points of Interest:

- Pub
- Church
- Public Toilets
- Shopping
- Camping
- Accommodation

More Information:

This leaflet is to be used with an **Ordnance Survey Map 224** as not all rights of way are included.

Please be sure to check weather and travel arrangements before beginning walks. In the event of an emergency please be sure to make note of the following numbers:

- Emergency Services: **999**
- Northants Police Non-emergency: **101**
- Northants Fire & Rescue Non-emergency Service: **01604 797000**





Respect Everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.



Protect the Environment

- Take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home.
- Care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance.



Enjoy the Outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do.
- **Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory!**



Report a Problem

If you wish to report a problem or fault on this route, please scan the QR code or visit the Street Doctor portal at northnorthants.gov.uk/streetdoctor where you can pin point the issue and receive a case reference ID.



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1. Aldwincle, Wadenhoe & Lyveden
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3. Rushden to Thrapston
4. Oundle Riverside Walks
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