

Sheep graze in the fields along the path all year round so please ensure you close all gates behind you and keep dogs on a lead (if dogs are seen off the lead paths may be closed).

Walk length: 3 miles

Walking time: 1½ hours

Difficulty: After the initial ascent and a stile, the walk is gentle with gates and no more stiles. Walkers participate at their own risk.

In the late 13th century the Manor of Harringworth passed from William de Cantelope to the La Zouche family who made Harringworth one of their principal residences. Francis Foxley bought the Harringworth and Bulwick Estates in 1616 from Edward La Zouche, 11th Baron of Harringworth who had no male heir. He died a year later and the estates were divided between his nine children. Moses Tyron, a London Merchant of Flemish origin, bought the majority of this property in 1619 and took up residence in Harringworth in 1620. After his death in 1652 Harringworth ceased to be seat of a land-owning family and the medieval manor was largely demolished in 1719. Tim Conant inherited the estates from his grandmother Eva Tryon of Bulwick Park in 1952. Rupert Conant subsequently inherited the estates on the death of his father in 2016. Today, all that remains of the manor house is the fishpond and a small fragment of the house which is incorporated into the Old Manor Cottage.

Rupert Conant of Bulwick Estates writes:

We are delighted to add Percy's Path to the extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and Permitted Paths already existing on the estate. Percy Tyers was the shepherd on our farm for c.25 years and lived in Harringworth from c.1960 until his death in March 2016.



Inspired by and produced using information provided by **The Rockingham Forest Trust** in their series of talks and guided walks in Harringworth Parish following their detailed survey of the wildlife and ancient landscape of the Forest.

Produced with funding from the **Harringworth Appeals Fund**.

The walk route incorporates a Public Footpath but mainly follows Permitted Paths kindly made available by **Bulwick Estates**.



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Percy's Path was officially opened on 1st May 2006 by the Walk Committee for the enjoyment of Harringworth & Shotley residents and their friends and family.

PERCY'S PATH

A walk around Harringworth & Shotley for the enjoyment of residents and their friends and families.



Harringworth & Shotley

www.harringworthvillage.org

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- 1** The walk starts at Harringworth's large medieval church of **St John the Baptist** which dates back to the 13th Century. The site of the church is an indication of the importance of Harringworth at that time.

Immediately behind the churchyard eastward is the site of the medieval house of the Zouche family.

- 2** **Ancient Cemetery.** Over the road, west, from the church gate, is a small walled paddock. In 2000 it was found to contain burials from the 5th to the 11th centuries AD and is thought to contain 2500 burials.
- 3** The thatched building adjacent is the remains of a **13th century chapel** long since converted to a cottage which was the family home of the late Percy Tyers, a long time resident in whose memory this path has been named.
- 4** The walk takes you past the White Swan and west (right) along Grettow Road before turning left up a path on the right of way almost opposite the Village Hall.

- 7** Cross over the Laxton/Harringworth road, enter the field opposite and continue with the hedge on your right and parallel with the road. Watch for the waymark where the path turns left down a good solid track in the direction of Shotley. At the end of this path you turn to your right and pass through a field gate. However, before moving on its worthwhile pausing to take in the splendid views over Harringworth and the Welland Valley.

Moving on down this new field keeping the fence to your left, you are heading south east towards Wakerley Woods before turning left through another gate.

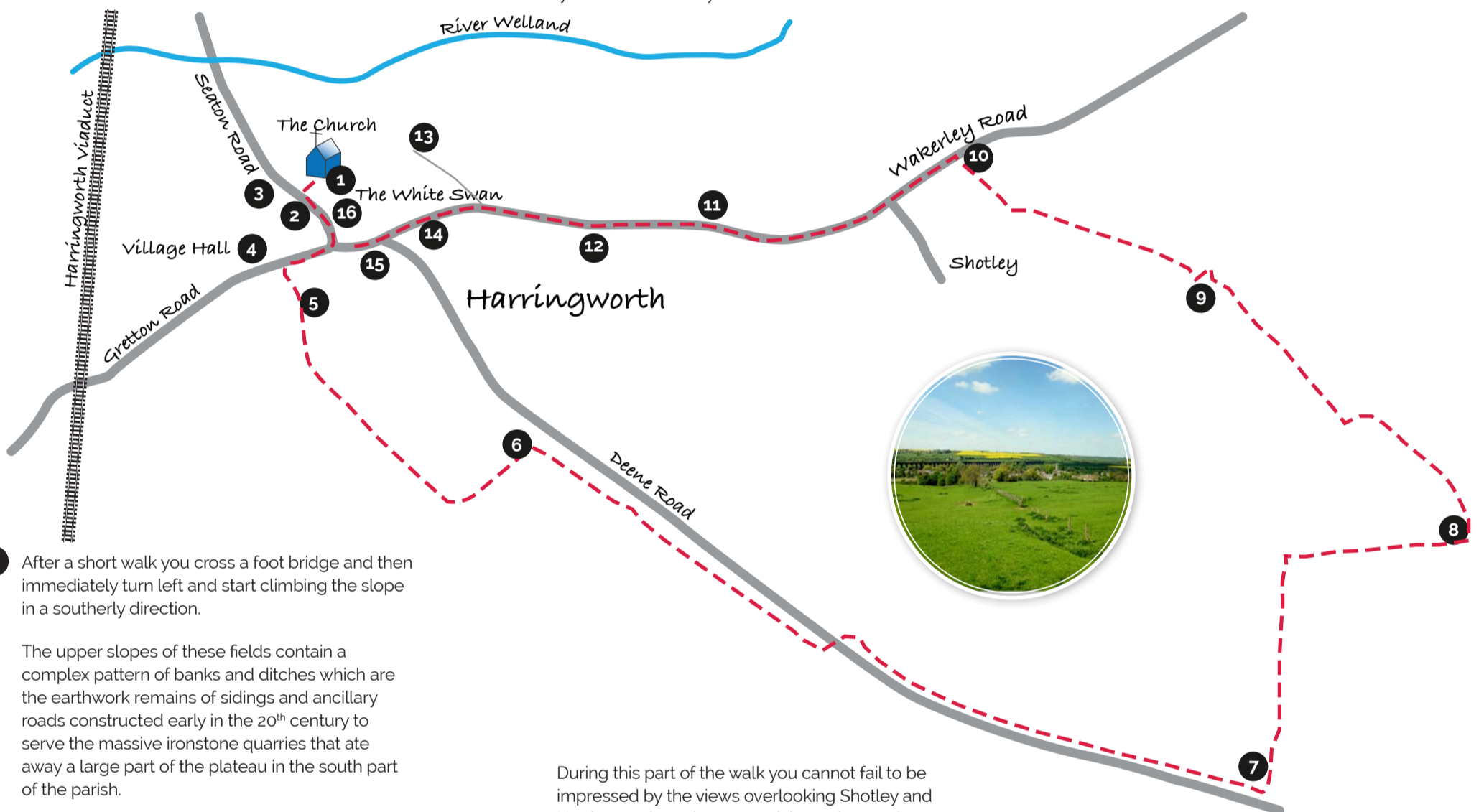
- 8** **Top of the ridge hedge.** Once through the gate you are at the very top of the ridge and overlooking both Shotley and Harringworth and you can really appreciate the scale of the viaduct. From this point walkers can enjoy some of the best views of Harringworth and Shotley.
- 9** **On to the Wakerley Road.** Follow the top of the ridge and pass through the waymarked field gate. The route runs parallel with the fence on your left. It passes a wide metal gate shortly after which you pass through a waymarked field gate. Now proceed along the ridge parallel with the hedge on your right through yet another field gate. Ahead you will see the final field gate of the walk taking you to the Wakerley Road.

- 13** Opposite Limes Farm a track runs north to **Manor Cottages**. A small fragment of the **Old Great Manor House** of the Zouche family still stands in the south west corner of Manor Cottages, the decorated medieval windows being similar to some in the church.

- 14** You have now reached the **Village Cross** erected in 1387 when the Lord of the Manor obtained a charter to allow a market to be held in the village. The choice of Harringworth for a market was undoubtedly due to the political influence of the Zouche family. The Cross is right at the heart of the village where all four roads meet. You have almost completed your walk, but not quite!



- 15** On the south west side of the junction is the **Old Smithy**. On top of this small building is a replica of a very elaborate chimney, the original of which was almost certainly salvaged from the Manor House when it fell into disuse in the 17th century. The original is now in storage.



- 5** After a short walk you cross a foot bridge and then immediately turn left and start climbing the slope in a southerly direction.

The upper slopes of these fields contain a complex pattern of banks and ditches which are the earthwork remains of sidings and ancillary roads constructed early in the 20th century to serve the massive ironstone quarries that ate away a large part of the plateau in the south part of the parish.

The sidings connected up to the main railway, which still crosses the Welland Valley on the giant viaduct, the 82 arches of which have overshadowed the village since 1879.



- 6** **Medieval Road.** At the top of this field you turn sharp left following the fence before turning south again and continue climbing. Looking down it is possible to see the course of a medieval road. It is parallel to the deeply hollowed way of the ancient Laxton Road that runs down to the village cross. Laxton Road has been in use for well over 1000 years and was recorded in 1675 in John Ogilby's Road Map of England as a main route from London to Oakham and Nottingham.

During this part of the walk you cannot fail to be impressed by the views overlooking Shotley and Harringworth, and you can pick out the starting point of the church in the distance.

It is worth noting that **Shotley** was a separate hamlet within the parish in the medieval period when it was somewhat larger than it is today. The dead end road in Shotley used to run further south and there were more houses as late as the 17th century.

Please note that sheep graze these slopes all year round so take care to close all the gates behind you. Take care during the descent as it can be tricky if the ground is wet.

- 10** **Wakerley Road Seat.** The walk exits from Shotley fields onto Wakerley Road to the welcome sight of a bench seat provided by the Harringworth Appeals Fund. This is another splendid opportunity not only to have a break but also to look down in a northerly direction towards the River Welland.
- 11** Descending the hill on Wakerley Road you re-enter Harringworth passing, on the right, a thatched cottage that used to be the post office.
- 12** A bit further down the road, on your left, there used to be a village butcher and abattoir.

- 16** **The White Swan.** This is the only pub in Harringworth and is known to many locals as **'the mucky duck'** for reasons lost in time. As you complete your walk, you have a choice to make: to pop into the pub for some much needed refreshment or walk a few more yards to the church from where the walk began.

