



Blaby District Heritage Walk 2

Take a walk through Roman and Medieval history on this circular walk around Sharnford. Pubs, churches and good views all en-route.

Distance 14.5 kilometers / 9 miles

Duration 3 hours and 40 minutes



Wildlife



Great views



Refreshments



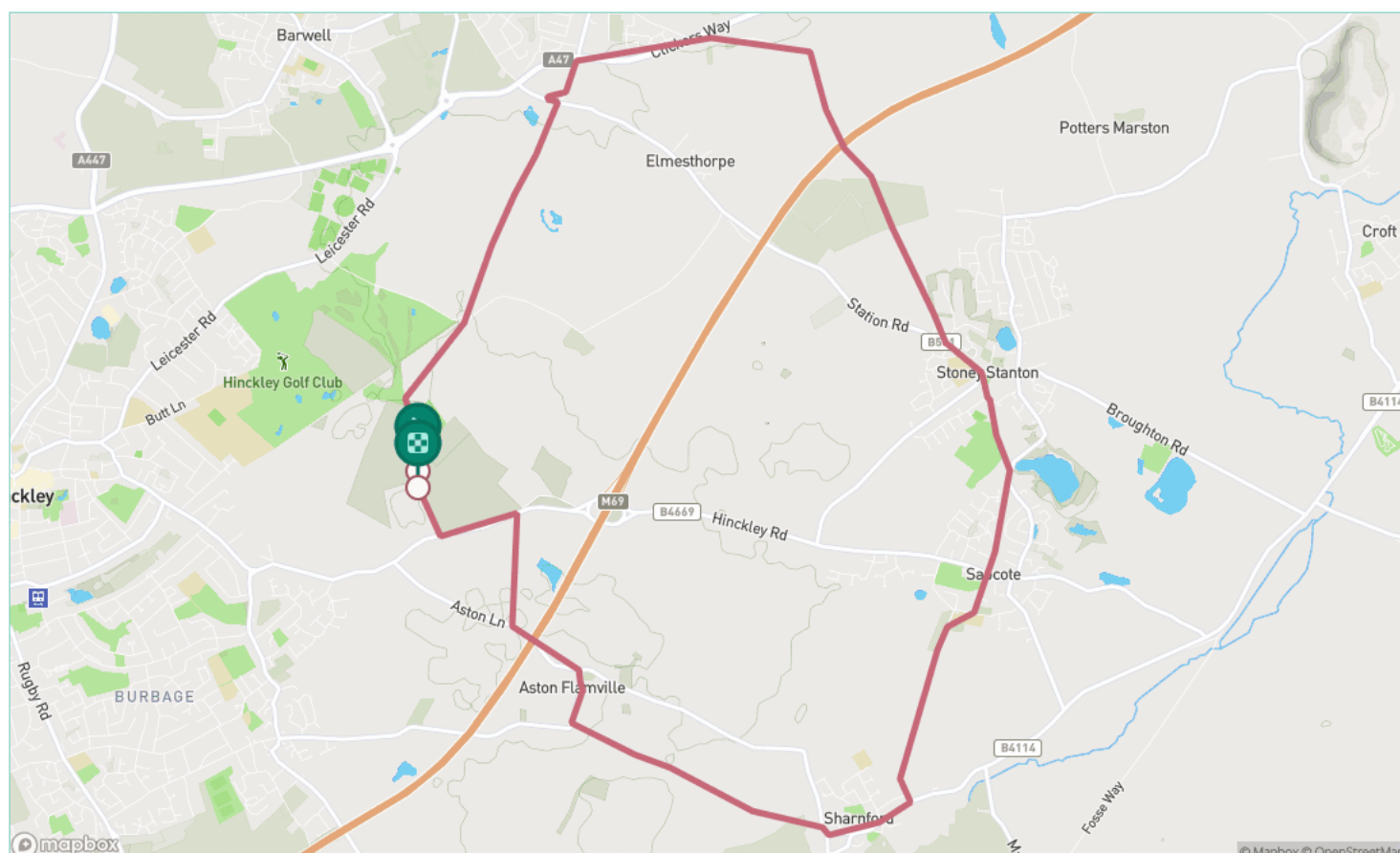
Picnic spot



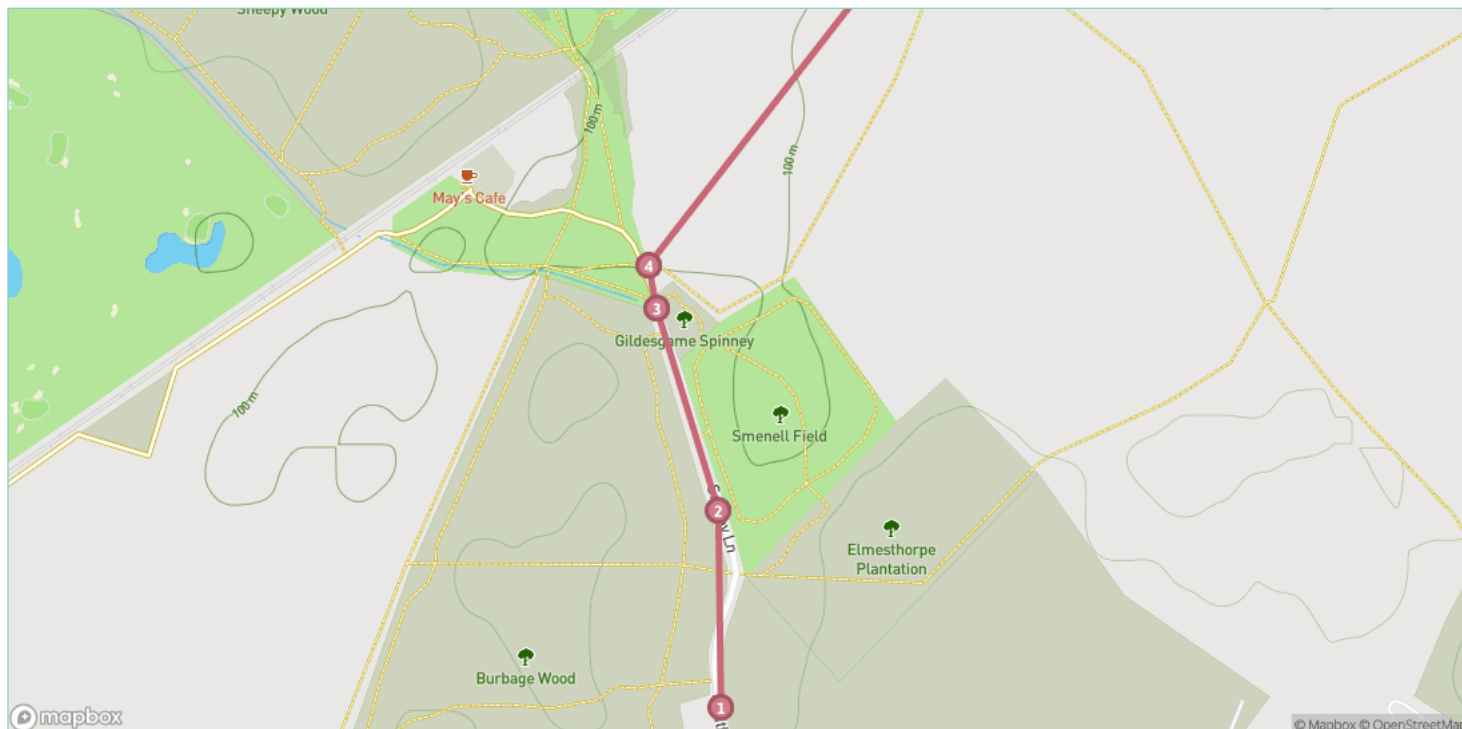
Parking



History



Disclaimer: Directions are provided as guidance only. Weather, construction, closures or other factors may affect routes. Please take care when crossing roads and avoid private land. Always follow local signage and use common sense. Created by Go Jauntly Ltd © 2024. Last Updated: 26 May 2022.

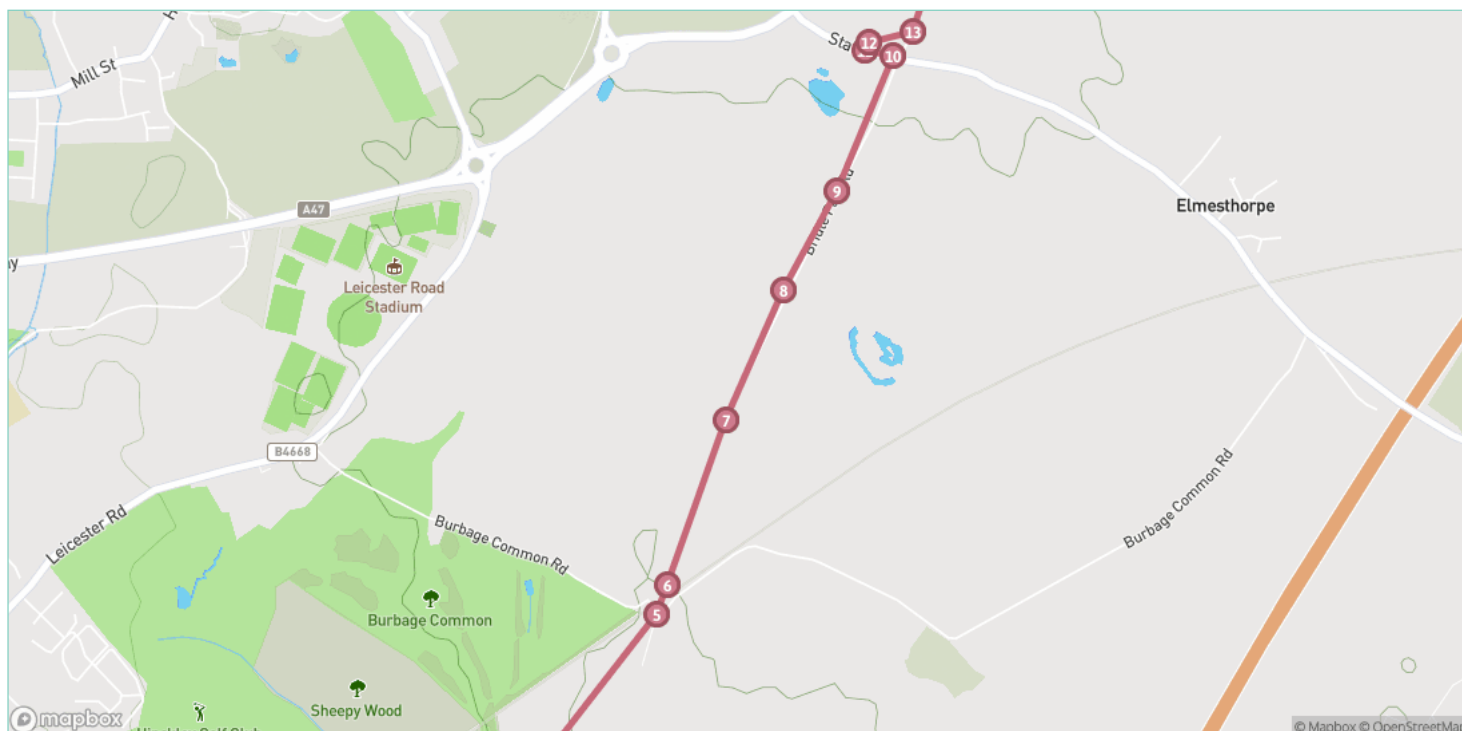


Step 1: Your walk begins here at Burbage Common and Woods.

Step 2: Start your walk by continuing down Smithy Lane. It'll be the road you were just on if you parked in the woods car park.

Step 3: Walk past the barrier and take the footpath on your right over a small bridge.

Step 4: Follow the path until you reach a bridge.



Step 5: Pass through the metal gate. Then cross over the bridge and take the footpath on your right.

Step 6: This leads straight past Bridge Farm and eventually becomes a road into Elmesthorpe.

Step 7: In 1935, Elmesthorpe became one of 20 national settlements of cottage homesteads established by the Land Settlement Association. In total, 43 small holdings were created, each with a cottage and 5 acres of land.

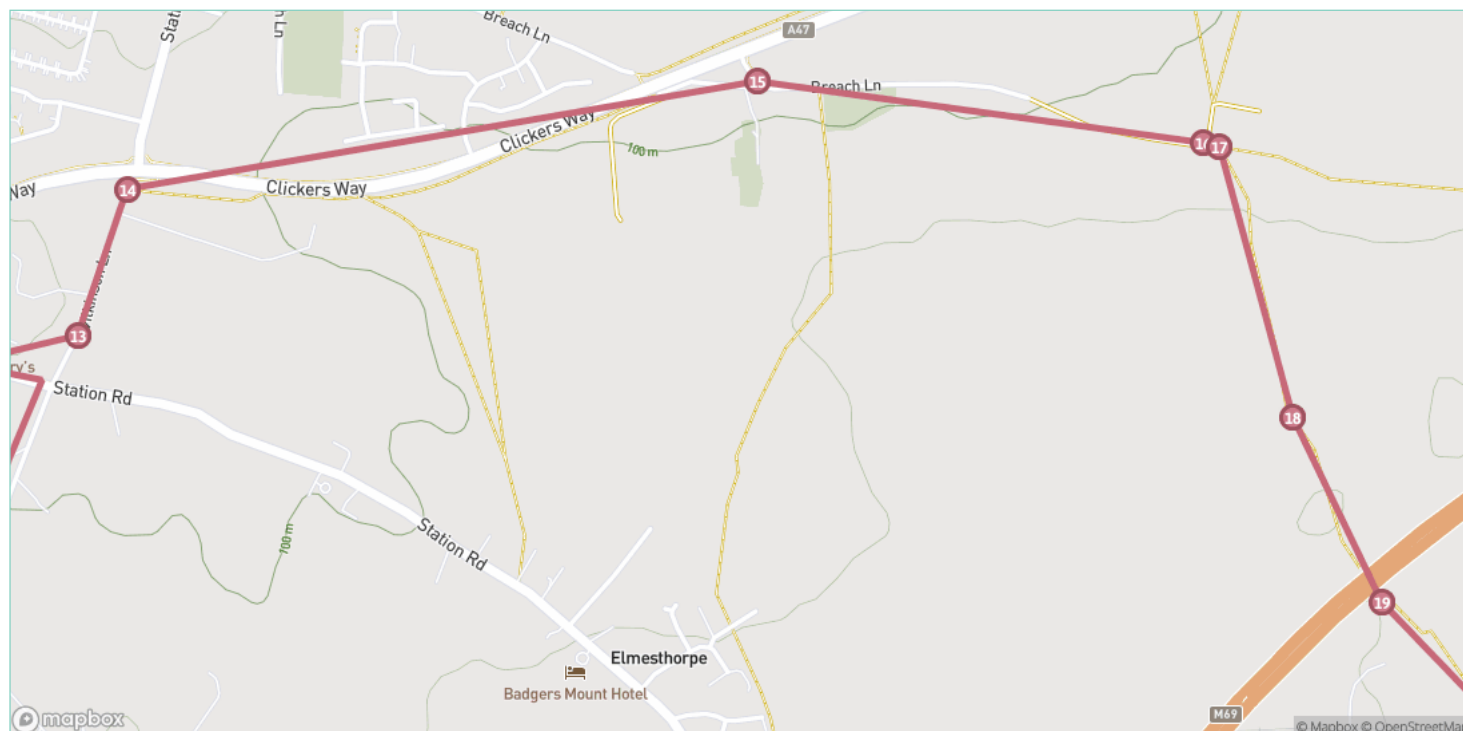
Step 8: The tenants worked together as a co-operative, but the scheme ended at the outbreak of World War II and the settlements were dissolved and privatised in 1983. Many of these cottages are evident on the road into Elmesthorpe.

Step 9: Continue straight making sure you don't turn down the private roads.

Step 10: Cross the Station Road onto Wilkinson Lane. If you wish to visit the church turn left along the main road to the front entrance and then retrace your steps back to Wilkinson Lane.

Step 11: The church of St. Mary symbolises the history of this village, once a thriving farming community but deserted in medieval times due to plague and poor economic conditions.

Step 12: The church lay in ruins for many years before it was repaired in 1868 as the population began to increase. It is thought that some of Richard III's army used the church as shelter prior to the Battle of Bosworth.



Step 13: The village has the church at one end and the 'new village', created by the Earl of Lovelace of nearby Kirkby Mallory, around the now closed railway station and Wentworth Arms public house.

Step 19: After passing under the motorway, head over the stile and follow the yellow way markers to the railway line.

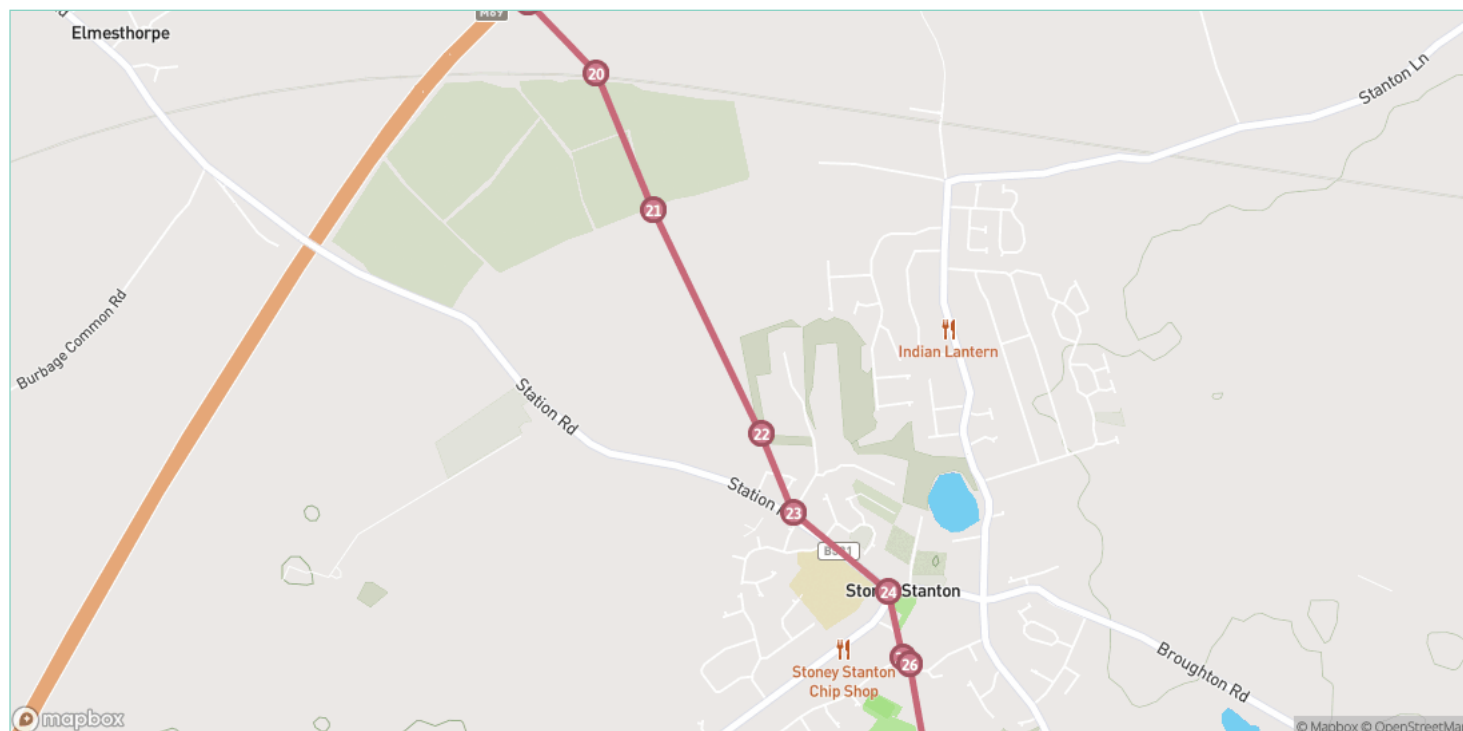
Step 14: At the end of Wilkinson Lane take the bridleway to your right and continue straight ahead when it joins Breach Lane (past Stanmaur Farm).

Step 15: Turn right at the junction to stay on Breach Lane. Continue on this road for about 800 metres.

Step 16: When the lane bends to the left pass between the gate and hedge and continue with the hedge on your left.

Step 17: Then take the footpath to your right and continue to Stoney Stanton.

Step 18: Head across the field aiming for the tunnel going under the motorway.



Step 20: Take care when crossing the railway here.

Step 21: Follow the yellow way markers heading for Stoney Stanton Church.

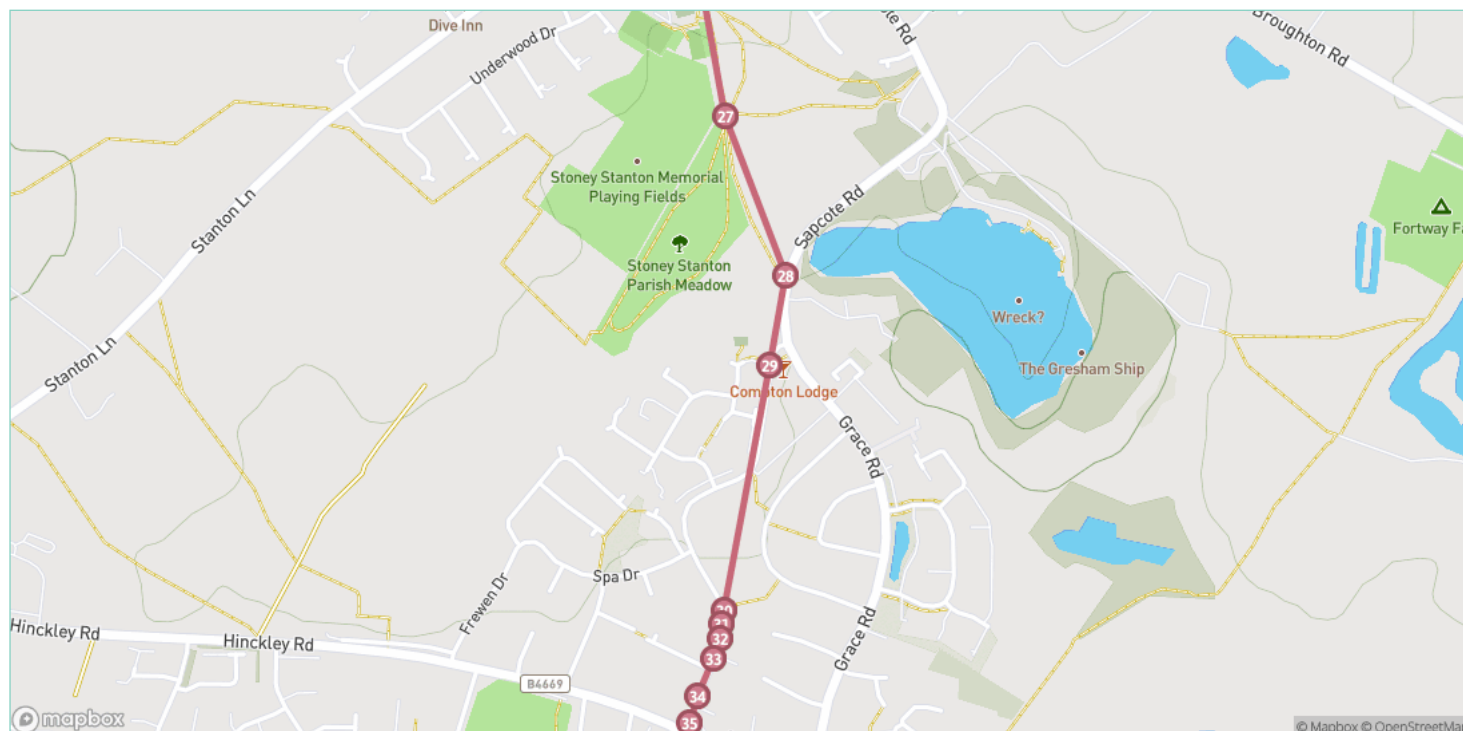
Step 22: Cross the bridge and follow the footpath left into the new housing estate.

Step 23: In Stoney Stanton turn left on Station Road and continue to the second mini roundabout.

Step 24: At the second mini roundabout turn right then left onto Carey Hill Road.

Step 25: Head left again to stay on Carey Hill Road.

Step 26: Take the footpath on your right to Sapcote that runs to the left of the sports ground. Pass between the skateboarding and basketball court.



Step 27: Continue straight on the main footpath.

Step 28: Now turn right to follow Sapcote Road to the centre of the village.

Step 29: The 1st house on your left is Compton Lodge, bought in 1976 by organist Paul Kirner who installed a Wurlitzer cinema organ. For many years, there were regular Sunday concerts along with private performances for coach parties.

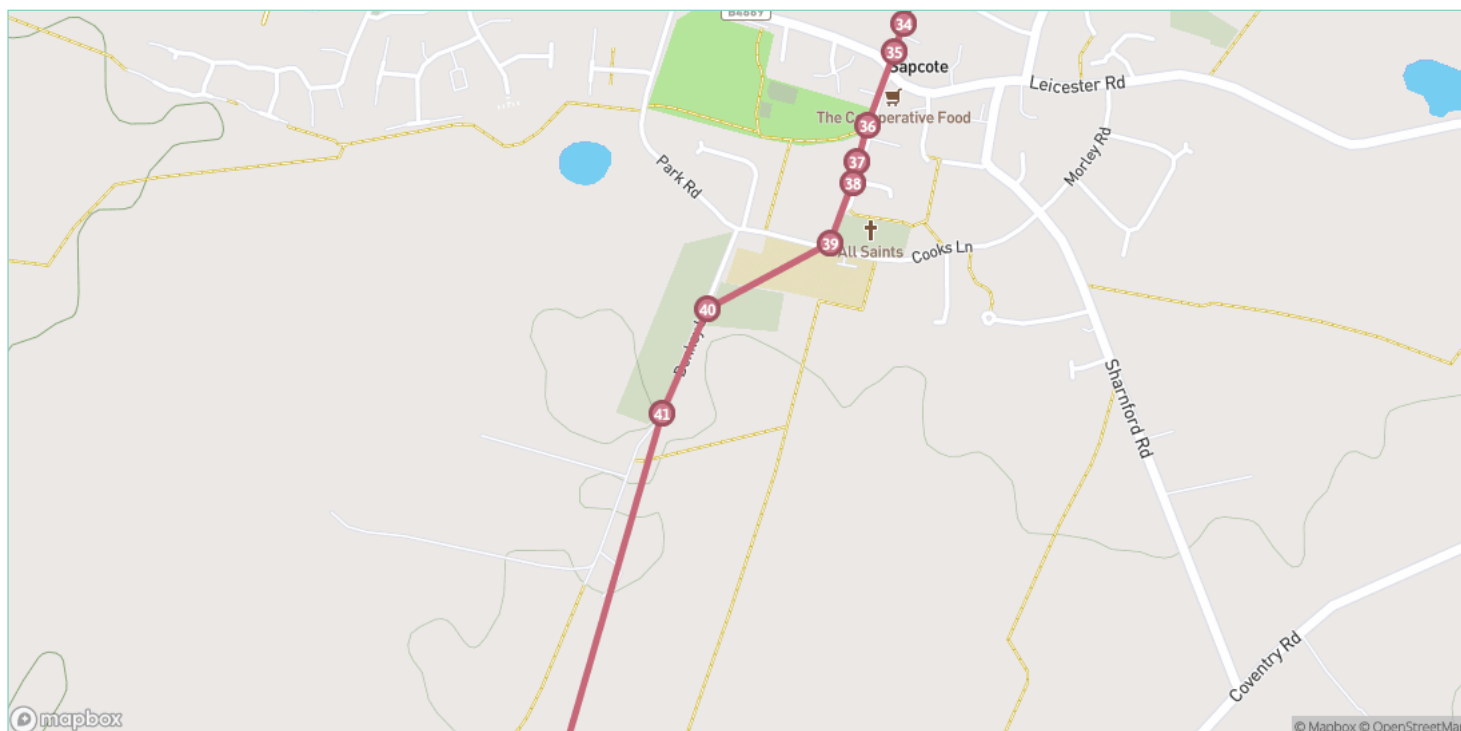
Step 30: Look out for a white building on the left hand side of the road named Bath House. This is all that remains of a spa complex.

Step 31: Sapcote once had designs to join the likes of Bath, Harrogate and Leamington as a spa town when, in 1806, John Frewen Turner built a bath house over the Golden Well off the Stanton Road.

Step 32: With warm and cold baths the spa was visited by the Duke of Wellington and Prime Minister George Canning. But it was not a success, probably due to a report from a local doctor. Doctor Thomas Bishop.

Step 33: Dr Bishop had established a Sick Club in 1799, an early kind of health insurance. In addition to the Golden Well, there was a Sope Well where one could wash without the need for soap, it being very soft water.

Step 34: The village was home to the actor, radio presenter and stand-up comedian Bill Maynard. He starred in a number of tv programmes in the 1970s and 80s as well as appearing in 5 Carry On films.



Step 35: At the centre of the village cross Leicester Road and continue down Church Street.

Step 36: The playing fields on the right of Church Street are on the site of Sapcote Castle, 1 of 3 post conquest Norman Castles in the area, the others being at Hinckley and Earl Shilton. Banks and moats survived into the 20th century.

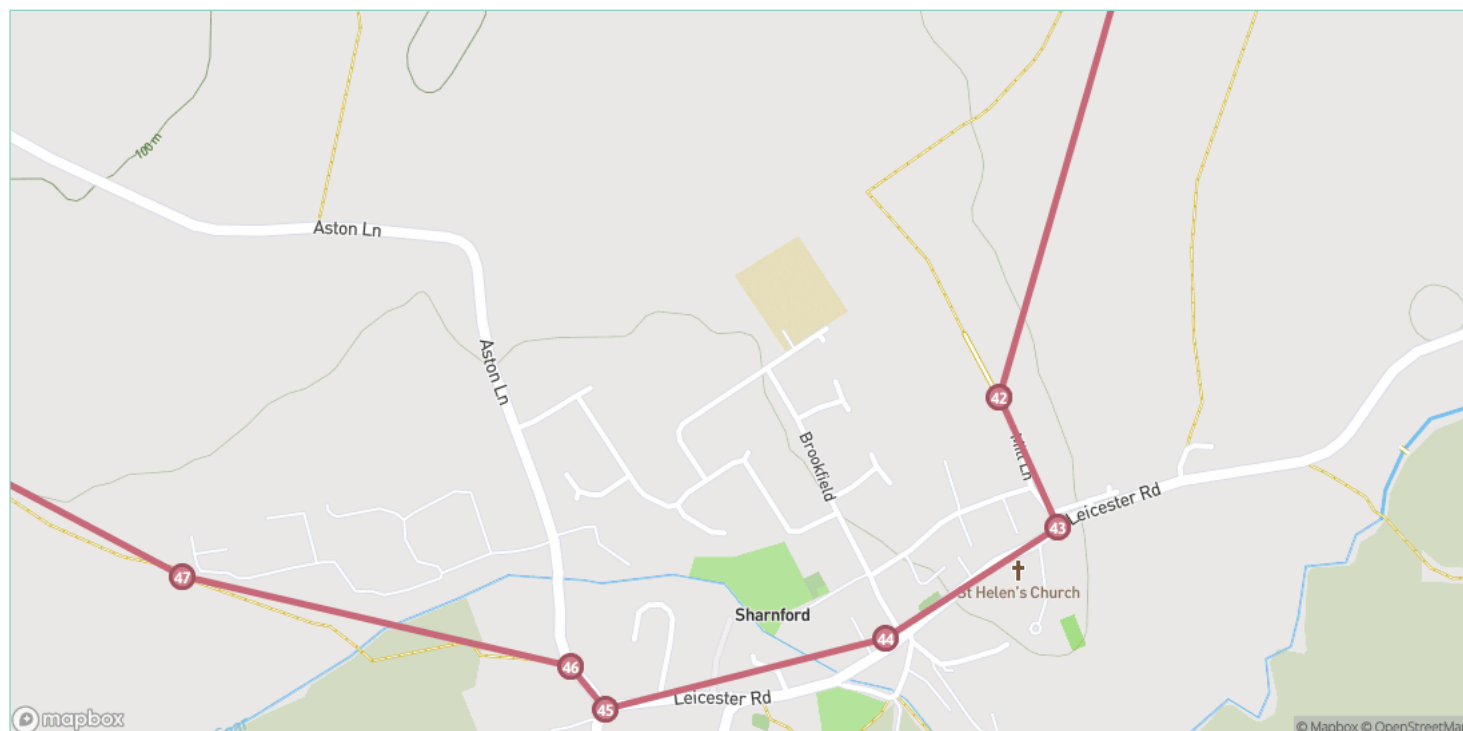
Step 37: The castle was used by the Bassett family. William Bassett moved to Sapcote during the reign of Henry II and was the sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire. His grandson, Ralph was Governor of Northampton.

Step 38: He sided with Simon De Montfort against Henry III, fighting alongside him at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

Step 39: When you reach the school turn right and then take the first left down Donkey Lane.

Step 40: After 100 metres the road becomes a track. After a further 800 metres this turns into a footpath, follow this until you reach Sharnford.

Step 41: The now filled in Calver Hill quarry, to the east of the village, was the site of a Roman villa. In 1770, a tessellated pavement was discovered there along with Roman coins, pottery and slates.



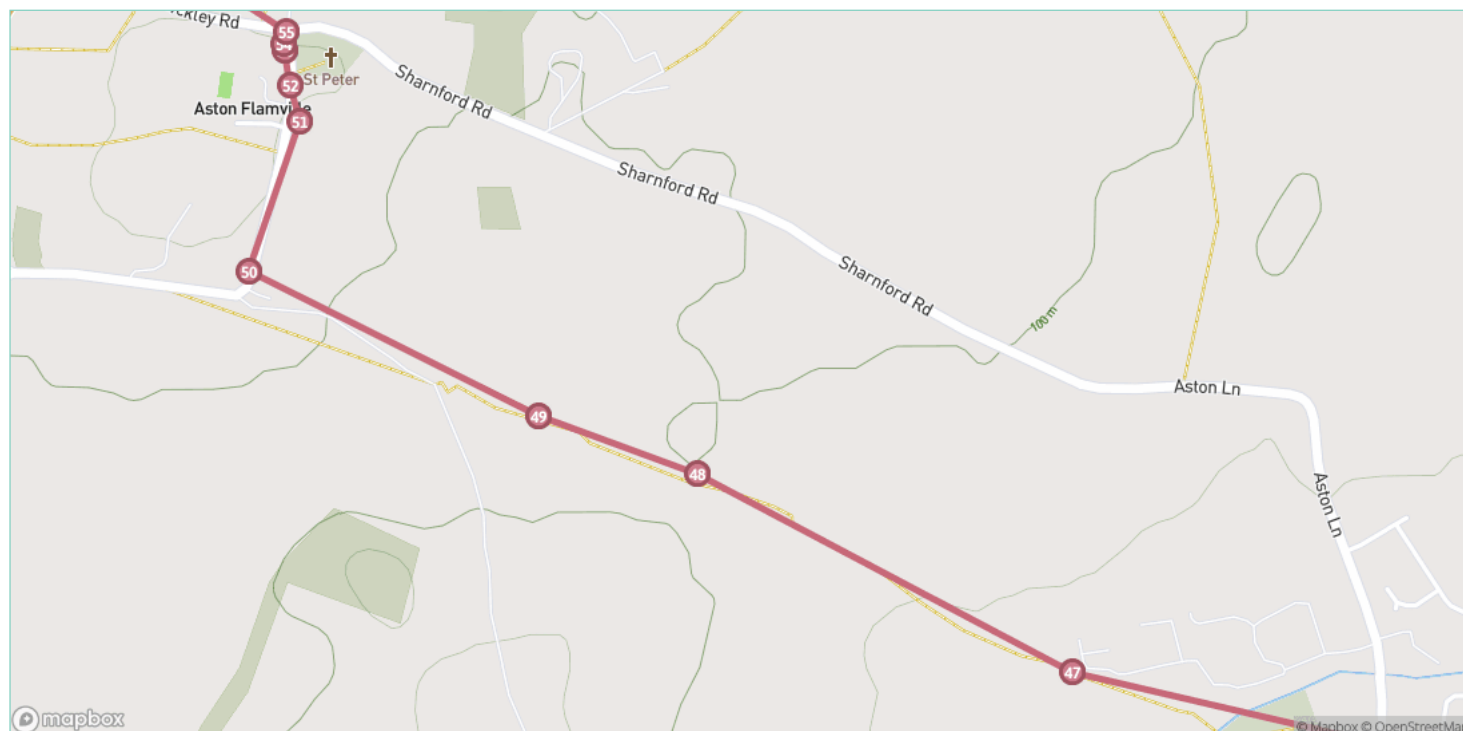
Step 42: When you reach Mill Lane continue straight before turning right on to main Leicester Road.

Step 43: Then turn right onto Leicester Road.

Step 44: If you need a break feel free to stop at The Sharnford Arms or The Bricklayers. If not, continue straight ahead.

Step 45: Turn right down Aston Lane.

Step 46: Take the footpath on your left, this is part of the Leicestershire Round.



Step 47: Continue through the gate then turn left along the track which will turn back into a footpath.

Step 48: Continue through the gate heading for Aston Flamville.

Step 49: Before you reach the village you will encounter fields with ridges and furrow. Medieval peasants would each farm a strip of land in each of the 3 fields surrounding the village repeatedly drawing up earth creating the wave pattern

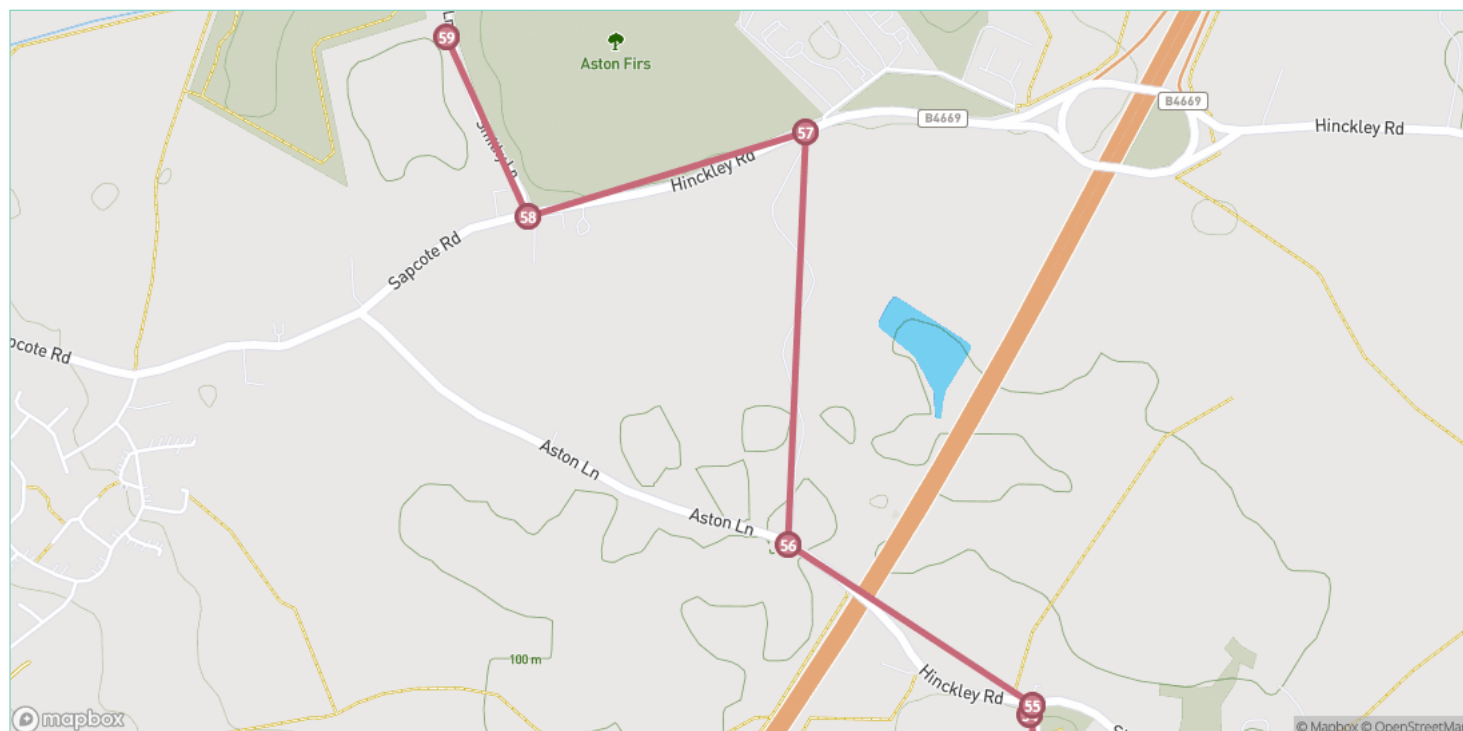
Step 50: When you exit Mickle Hill Farm turn right on the road.

Step 51: The village takes its name from the De Flamville family, the Norman Lords of the area. Both the 1715 pigeoncote and the K6 box are listed.

Step 52: In the mid-18th century, celebrating the Catholic mass was still illegal in Britain after Henry VIII's break with the Catholic Church. A Dominican preacher, Father Matthew Thomas Norton arrived in 1759 to establish a community.

Step 53: He sometimes had to disguise himself as a greengrocer and once had to flee for fear of arrest but by the time of his death in 1800, the ban had been repealed.

Step 54: During the Civil War, in around 1646, Aston Flamville was occasionally visited by troops from the parliamentary garrisons in North Warwickshire. A long list of claims for losses were submitted by residents during this time.



Step 55: Turn left at the road junction onto Hinckley Road.

Step 56: After going over the M69 take the first right onto the track.

Step 57: On reaching the Hinckley Road cross and turn left, walking until you reach Smithy Lane.

Step 58: Turn right down Smithy Lane which is opposite Woodside Garage.

Step 59: Congratulations 🎉 and thank you for completing Route 2 of the Blaby District Heritage Walks. All other routes can be found in-app for you to enjoy too.
