

3 Stoney Stanton

➤ In Stoney Stanton turn left on the main road and continue to the second roundabout. Turn right and then immediate left onto Carey Hill Road. Take the footpath to Sapcote that runs to the left of the sports ground. On reaching the main road, follow the pavement onto Sapcote Road to the centre of the village.

4 Sapcote

The first house on your left on Sapcote Road is Compton Lodge, bought in 1976 by organist Paul Kirner who installed a Wurlitzer cinema organ from the Odeon in Wealdstone. For many years, there were regular Sunday concerts along with private performances for coach parties. In the mid-nineties, Paul acquired a four manual Wurlitzer from the Ritz in Belfast. Many guest organists joined Paul at the keyboard until it closed in 2021.

➤ 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.

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. With warm and cold baths to aid those with "nervous, rheumatic and scrofulous complaints", the spa was visited by the Duke of Wellington and Prime Minister George Canning. However the spa was not a success, probably due to a report from a local doctor, Thomas Bishopp, that identified defects in the Sapcote warm water baths. Dr Bishopp was related to Frewen and had established a Sick Club in 1799, an early kind of health insurance.

Frewen was a great benefactor to the village, having endowed the school and paid for a schoolhouse for the master, a granary, a well and a House of Industry, the latter being a type of workhouse. Not all its residents were that industrious by all accounts. In August 1810, there is mention of two paupers being sent to the local prison for idleness and hypocrisy. Whilst three others were found to be fit enough to eat well, drink well and get drunk, but apparently too sick to work. 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.

The village was home to the actor, radio presenter and stand-up comedian Bill Maynard. He starred in a number of television programmes in the 1970s and 80s as well as appearing in five Carry On films. He once stood for parliament in Tony Benn's seat with the sole purpose of keeping Tony Benn out of parliament.

➤ At the village centre, cross the road and continue down Church Street.

The playing fields on the right of Church Street are on the site of Sapcote Castle, one of three post conquest Norman Castles in the area, the others being at Hinckley and Earl Shilton. The motte and bailey castle would have consisted of a structure on top of a mound of earth, the motte, and a fortified enclosure, the bailey. The bailey would have extended northwards across what is now the Hinckley Road. Raised banks and moats survived into the 20th century.

The castle was used by the Bassett family, powerful nobles in Medieval times. William Basset moved to Sapcote during the reign of Henry II and was the sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire as well as a member of the judiciary. His grandson, Ralph was Governor of Northampton and sided with Simon De Montfort

against Henry III, fighting alongside him at the Battle of Evesham in 1265. His grandson, another Ralph Bassett, took part in several campaigns during the Hundred Years War, most notably at the Battle of Crecy in 1346. Five years later, he founded a chantry chapel which now forms the north aisle of All Saints Church. He left money to pay for three chaplains to take masses in order to speed his time in purgatory.

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. The site disappeared when the quarry was dug, although a Roman rubbish pit was found in 1923. It contained substantial amounts of building materials including molten lead, charred wood and twisted iron workings which suggests the villas had burnt down after the Romans had left the area.

➤ When you reach the school turn right and then take the first left down Donkey Lane which becomes a footpath that will take you back to Sharnford. Turn right at the main road and stay on the righthand side when the road splits to bring you back to your starting point.

With Thanks to...

Our thanks to Eddie Smallwood and Michael Dix for creating the walking routes and uncovering the heritage stories. And to Graham Luker for the illustrations.

This series of heritage walks have been designed to inspire walking across the District – we hope that you enjoy them. We welcome feedback and you can get in touch with us by emailing leisure@blaby.gov.uk. The walk uses footpaths, bridleways, permissive paths and some roads. Please respect the landowner's property and stay on the indicated paths. Please follow the countryside code. Take care when walking on roads and follow the Highway Code for pedestrians. You are advised to use the route in conjunction with the OS map for the area. This guide has been created with funds from the European Regional Development Fund and HM Government.



Find this walk, all 12 heritage trails and more on the **GoJauntly app**. Simple photo guides help you navigate while nifty tips point out things of interest and places to eat.



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Let's go!
Blaby
District

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Heritage Walks

Route Two

10 miles
16.1 km

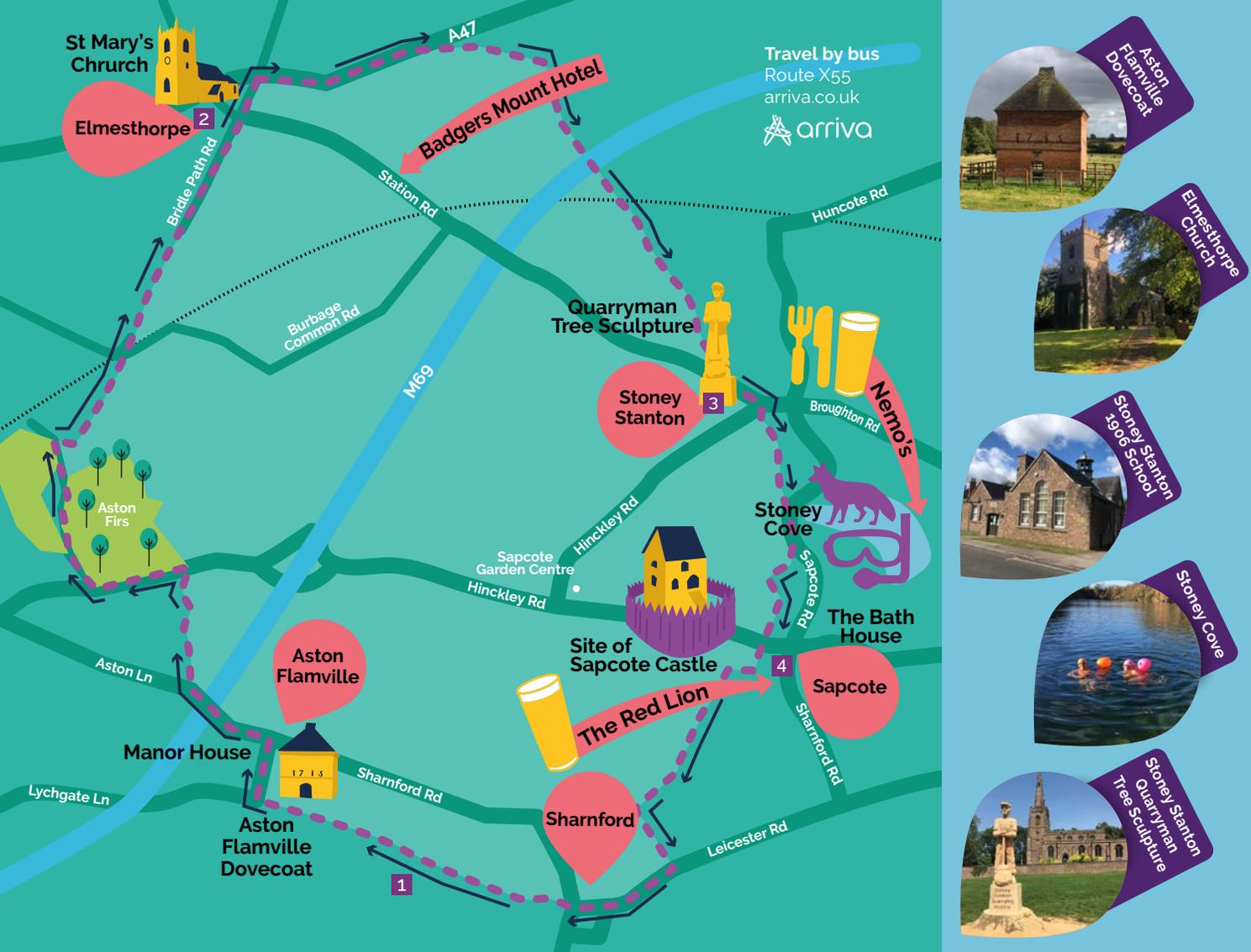
This walk is one of a series of 12 heritage trails plus a long distance perimeter route around the whole District, see the website visitblaby.org.uk for more information.

- Aston Flamville
- Elmesthorpe
- Stoney Stanton
- Sapcote
- Sharnford



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county committee were: George Turville who claimed for twelve strikes of oats and three strikes of peas worth 16s 6d that were taken by forces from Coventry. William Turville claimed that troops under Colonel Barker that were also from the Coventry garrison took two horses with bridles and saddles worth £13. Mr Hill was another claimant who claimed that troops from the garrison of Astley in Warwickshire took a horse and other items worth £12.

Aston Flamville Hall

➤ Turn left at the junction near the church and, after crossing the M69, turn right on a track across fields. On reaching the main road, cross and turn left until you reach Smithy Lane. Turn right and follow the lane to a small bridge on your right about 50 metres past a barrier. Cross the bridge and follow a footpath to a minor road. Turn left, cross the railway and immediately take the footpath on your right. Go through Bridge Farm and then to the right of the hedge, onto a path that becomes a road.

2 Elmesthorpe

In 1935, Elmesthorpe became one of 20 national settlements of cottage homesteads established by the Land Settlement Association; a government agency that resettled unemployed workers from depressed industrial areas. In total, 43 small holdings were created, each with a cottage and five acres of land to grow crops and raise livestock. 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 although most have been modified.

➤ Cross the main road and divert left to see the church. Then retrace your steps and turn left onto Wilkinson Lane.

The part-ruined 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. The church lay in ruins for many years before the chancel was repaired in 1868 as the population began to increase again. It is thought that some of Richard III's army used the church as shelter prior to the Battle of Bosworth.

The village is rather spread out along about a mile of the B581, with 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. A row of three distinctive workers' cottages survives on the main road. The Earl of Lovelace was married to Ada Lovelace, considered to be the first computer programmer, who was the daughter of the poet Lord Byron and his wife, Lady Wentworth.

➤ At the end of Wilkinson Lane, take the bridlepath to your right and continue straight ahead when it joins Breach Lane. When the lane takes a left turn, pass between the gate and hedge and continue with the hedge on your left. Then take the footpath to your right and continue to Stoney Stanton. Take care when crossing the railway.

➤ **P** Begin your walk in Sharnford at the junction of Leicester Road and Aston Lane. Head along Aston Lane for a few metres and then take the footpath on your left. Follow the footpath signs, skirting to the left of a barn when you reach it. At the end of long field turn right onto the main road into Aston Flamville.

1 Aston Flamville

Just before you reach the village, you will encounter two fields with ridges and furrows. In medieval times, the peasants would each farm a strip of land in each of the three fields surrounding the village, repeatedly drawing up earth to create the ridge and furrow landscape. The village takes its name from the De Flamville family who held the village in Norman times. Both the pigeoncote in a field on your right, constructed in 1715 and the K6 telephone box are listed buildings.

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 called Father Matthew Thomas Norton arrived in Aston Flamville in 1759 to establish the first community, and the number of Catholics in an area spanning Leicester and Coventry rose considerably. Sometimes he had to disguise himself as a greengrocer and once he had to flee for fear of arrest but by the time of his death in 1800, the ban had been repealed. He is buried in the churchyard with the epitaph 'A much respected Catholic priest', quite a generous description for the times. Also buried in the churchyard is Mary Elizabeth Gilbert who reached the impressive age of 105 years. During the Civil War, in around 1646, Aston Flamville was occasionally visited by troops from the parliamentary garrisons in North Warwickshire. Among a list of claims for losses submitted to the