






















	<p><b>1. North Hall Manor</b></p> <p><b>Start at the County Heritage Site near the Village Hall on Newlands Road. Enter the site by the wooden gate at the far side of the playing field.</b></p> <p>This is the site of the medieval manor of North Hall. The site is one of the County Heritage sites in Northampton. A panel gives an artists impression of the manor as it may have looked around 1300AD. Look out for the two small rectangular fishponds, one on either side of the moat; they were probably stew ponds where fish were stored until required by the manor. North Hall Manor was probably not the principal residence in the village. By 1657, North Hall Manor had been sold to John Langham, also owner of the larger Walgrave Manor, for £760.</p> <p><b>Fishponds</b>  One particular feature of life on a medieval manor has left its mark on Walgrave today; the village contains some excellent examples of medieval fishponds. These ponds were not garden features, but were built to breed or store fish for food. The cost of building and maintaining them was high and only the wealthy could afford them.</p> <p>Fishponds are often associated with manors or monastic sites and can be seen today at North Hall Manor and at Hall Farm. Ponds were often built close to a manor house for security, since poaching of fresh fish was common in medieval times.</p>	
	<p><b>Return to the playing field. Turn left. Follow the path to the corner of the playing field by the fence, where you will find an alleyway. Continue down the footpath across the bottom of Amber Drive. You will reach a T-junction with "The Ditch"</b></p>	
	<p><b>2. The Ditch</b>  The "Ditch" which runs at the rear of Amber Drive and Walkers Acre is thought to mark an early village boundary..</p>	
	<p><b>Follow the Ditch towards the Old School on the corner of the Ditch and Gold Street.</b></p>	
	<p><b>3. The Old School and School House</b>  The National School (now 'The Old School') and adjoining Headmaster's house (now 'The Old School House') were built in 1828 as a result of representations by the curate at the time who was concerned about the influence of 'dissenters' in the village. The building was paid for by Sir James Langham and the stone was carried free of charge by the local farmers. It originally had a thatched roof, which was replaced by slate after 1910. An extension to house indoor toilets and a new staircase was added in the late 1870s - this is the lower part of the building closest to the front gate. Where it joins the main building you can see the position of earlier windows and/or doors. This school was established before compulsory education was introduced and children had to pay to attend. The building housed junior and infant classes on two storeys and at its peak had over 170 pupils attending the day school and Sunday school. It was the village school until 1910, by which time the building was considered unsuitable and was replaced by the current school on the Kettering Road. From 1910 until the early 1970s 'The Old School' was used as Church Rooms while 'The Old School</p>	

	House' has always been a private residence	
	<b>Continue past the Old School down Gold Street to the Baptist Chapel</b>	
	<p><b>4. The Baptist Chapel and Gold Street</b>  The first Baptist Church was built in Walgrave in 1717 and had 100 members. The present Chapel was built in 1786. It has a schoolroom and a small cemetery at the rear.</p>  	 
	<b>Return up Gold Street turning right towards Zion Hill to the cross roads where Northall, Zion Hill and Silver Street meet.</b>	
	<p><b>5. The Spout and Spionkop Cottages.</b>  At the crossroads, look for the parapet on your right where the brook emerges from beneath the road. The water running from a pipe into the brook is spring water. A stone step let into the bank here used to give people access to a trough where the water collected. Known locally as "the Spout", such springs were a source of water for villagers until mains water was installed in 1947.</p> <p>Off to your left you will see <b>Spionkop Cottages (now Northall)</b>. This "terraced" row was built at a time of great expansion in the boot/shoe industry in Walgrave and each cottage has a workshop at the rear. The cottages name commemorates the battle of Spionkop South Africa (23 January 1900). Many of the men lost at Spionkop came from northern towns and hence a number of football stands were named after the battle- the most famous being Liverpool's Kop.</p>	
	<b>Continue up Zion Hill</b>	
	<p><b>6. Zion Chapel.</b>  In the early 1830's a difference of opinion arose in the Baptist community. It may have been due to a "liberalising" of worship at the chapel in Gold Street. A small group broke away and formed a new congregation. A small chapel was built in 1838 on Zion Hill, which has always been recorded as "strict Baptist". The chapel has not been used since 1990.</p>	
	<b>Proceed into the open area in front of The Royal Oak</b>	
	<p><b>7. Top Green.</b>  This area is known as Top Green and was once part of the village green. Another area of the Green remains by the Church. Walgrave may have developed as a series of tenement rows tacked onto several greens.</p>	

	<p><b>8.The Royal Oak.</b>        In the car park of The Royal Oak you will see a small two-storey shoe workshop. Traditionally, the ground floor was used for storage and the upper floor, where the light was better, was used for working on such tasks as hand stitching. This workshop is believed to be the last of its type in the village. Also note the Four Villages Garage next to the Royal Oak. At the time of the first war, the office for the garage was a cobblers shop belonging to Mr Clay. Mr Clay later developed his hobby of repairing bicycles and motorcycles into a business.</p>	
	<p><b>9.Travellers Rest.</b>        The village had four and at one period five public houses – the Langham Arms, Robin Hood, Royal Oak, Travellers Rest and the Five Bells, plus one out-door beer house. The Royal Oak remains as the last surviving public house in Walgrave.</p>	
	<p><b>There is now a choice of routes.</b>  <b>The Road Route:</b> Continue along the Kettering Road out of the village, until just past the last house. Cross the road to enter Red Springs Nature Reserve, Walgrave's Pocket Park. To avoid the field routes return to the village along the Kettering Road and continue your walk from point 20.The Lower Green.</p>	
	<p><b>The Field Route:</b> Look for the footpath sign on the opposite side of the Kettering Road from the Royal Oak, go along the side of the house and over the stile. Turn left into the field.</p>	
	<p><b>Road Route:</b>  <b>10.Walgrave Primary School.</b> Built in 1912 the school was originally an “all-age” school for children from 5 years old up to school leaving age. When Moulton School opened the children transferred from Walgrave aged eleven years.</p>	
	<p><b>Field Route:</b>        As you walk from the road to the back of the houses, you are following a stone wall, probably seventeenth century in origin, that marks the boundary of Manor Farm.   <b>The field walk runs parallel to the road. Please follow the markers. Enter Red Springs reserve at the stile.</b></p>	
	<p><b>11. Red Springs Nature Reserve.</b> The Pocket Park is maintained and planted by volunteers. It gets its name from the reddish looking spring water. The Pocket Park was donated to the parish by The Frank Knight Settlement Trust in 1992. The area with the large pond was donated in 1992 in memory of David Harrison who did so much to plant the first area.   <b>Continue through the park making sure you visit the large pond area off to the left of the site. As you leave the pond area follow the stream to the bridge. Cross the footbridge into the field. (This area can be boggy in wet weather).</b></p>	



	<p>Before enclosure, and throughout the medieval period, the land around Walgrave was divided into three huge open fields (south, middle and north fields), meadows and common land. Traces of these medieval fields and the system of farming can still be seen today.</p> <p>The open fields were divided into numerous narrow strips, which were allocated to individual farmers. A farmer would expect to hold strips in each great field, some on good land, some on poor land.</p> <p>The strips were ploughed by team of oxen in a clockwise direction, so that the earth fell towards the centre and built up over time. This formed the rides of “ridge and furrow” which we can see today. The dips or furrows between the ridges were drainage channels and marked boundaries between strips.</p> <p>Important farming decisions, about which crop to sow or when to begin harvest, were made communally by the villagers..</p>	
	<p><b>As you leave the fishponds behind, cross the stile and veer over to the gap in the hedge on your right.</b></p>	
	<p><b>13.The stone bridge.</b> The stone bridge (now topped with concrete), is on the route between the manor house and the church and is thought to be medieval in origin.</p>	
	<p><b>Do not cross the bridge but follow the field boundary ahead to the Hannington Road. Cross the stile. Cross the road and continue straight ahead over the next stile and on until you come to a footbridge on your right: cross the stream.</b></p>	
	<p><b>14. Atterbury’s Field.</b> This field is known as Atterbury’s and contains ridge and furrow as well as the remains of earlier village buildings and part of a hollow way. The strips of ridge and furrow begin a little way up the hill, probably because the land closest to the stream was not ploughed but kept as pasture.</p>	
	<p><b>Follow the ridge and furrow up the hill and you come to a boundary bank at right angles to the strips.</b></p>	
	<p>This ridge marks the end of the village earthwork remains and the southernmost extent of the medieval village of Walgrave. This corner of the field contains some small banks (property boundaries) and low rectangular features, which represent the remains of buildings. We do not know when the buildings were built or why they were abandoned.</p> <p>You can trace the line of a hollow way, which is a roadway eroded through many centuries of use. The hollow way is an extension to the line of Rectory Lane and runs parallel to the village High Street.</p>	
	<p><b>15.Stile to Rectory Lane. Cross the stile in the corner of the field into Rectory Lane.</b></p>	