

## WALGRAVE HISTORY TRAIL

THE TRAIL HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE HISTORY OF OUR VILLAGE

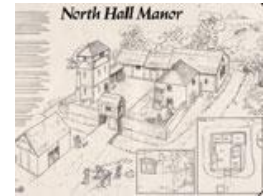


Start at the County Heritage Site near the Village Hall on Newland Road (NN6 9PZ).

Enter the site by the wooden gate at the far side of the playing field.

### 1. North Hall Manor

This is the site of the medieval manor of North Hall and is one of the County Heritage sites in Northamptonshire. A panel gives an artist's 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.



### Fishponds

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.

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.

Return to the playing field. Turn left and 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 and you will reach a T-junction with "The Ditch"



### 2. The Ditch

The "Ditch" runs between the rears of Amber Drive and Walkers Acre and is thought to mark an early village boundary.

Follow the Ditch towards the Old School on the corner of the Ditch and Gold Street.



### 3. The Old School and School House

The National School (now named 'The Old School') and adjoining Headmaster's house (now 'The Old School House') were built in 1828 following 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 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, when the building was considered unsuitable and it 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 House' has always been a private residence.

[Continue past the Old School down Gold Street to the Baptist Chapel](#)



**4. The Baptist Chapel and Gold Street**

The first Baptist Church was built in Walgrave in 1717 and had 100 members. The present Chapel was built in 1786 and includes a schoolroom and a small cemetery at the rear.



[Return up Gold Street turning right towards Zion Hill and to the cross roads where Northall, Zion Hill and Silver Street meet.](#)






**5. The Spout and Spion Kop Cottages**

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.







Off to your left you will see **Spion Kop Cottages (now the Woodbine Cottages, Northall)**. This "terraced" row was built in 1902, a time of great expansion in the boot/shoe industry in Walgrave and each cottage had a workshop at the rear. The cottages name commemorates the battle of Spion Kop in South Africa (23 January 1900). Many of the men lost at Spion Kop came from northern towns and hence a number of football stands were named after the battle - the most famous being Liverpool's Kop.

[Continue up Zion Hill.](#)

	<p><b>6. Zion Chapel</b>                  In the early 1830's, a difference of opinion arose in the Baptist community; this 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 and is now a private dwelling.</p>	
	<p>Proceed into the open area in front of The Royal Oak public house.</p>	
	<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 terraced 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.</p> <p>Also, note the first cottage next to the Royal Oak. At the time of the first war, this was a cobblers shop belonging to Mr Clay, who later developed his hobby of repairing bicycles and motorcycles into a business.</p>	
	<p><b>9. Travellers Rest</b>                  The village had at one time 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 is the last surviving public house in Walgrave.</p>	
	<p>There is now a choice of routes.</p>	
	<p><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 (see below). 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, over the stile and turn left into the field.</p>	

	<p><b>Road Route:</b></p> <p><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. However, when Moulton School opened, the children transferred from Walgrave at the age of eleven years.</p>	
	<p><b>Field Route:</b></p> <p>As you walk from the road to the back of the houses, you are following a stone wall, probably seventeenth century in origin, which marks the boundary of Manor Farm.</p> <p>The field walk runs parallel to the road. Please follow the markers. Enter Red Springs reserve at the stile.</p>	
  	<p><b>11. Red Springs Nature Reserve</b></p> <p>The Pocket Park gets its name from the reddish looking spring water and is maintained and planted by volunteers, under Parish Council guidance. The Pocket Park was donated to the parish by The Frank Knight Settlement Trust in 1991. The area with the large pond was donated in 2002 in memory of David Harrison, who did so much to plant the first area.</p> <p>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. Looking up the slope ahead (no public access) there is a good view of some of the remains of the medieval field system including strips of ridge and furrow; the “heads” (where soil accumulated at the end of each strip after ploughing) and the boundary of the two furlongs (where one group of ridge and furrow strips are at right angles to another group).</p> <p>The medieval fishponds in that vicinity are larger and more complex than those at North Hall Manor and were probably built later - they would have served Walgrave Manor.</p>	
	<p><b>12. Hall Farm/Walgrave Hall</b></p> <p>Two smaller ponds near the farmhouse are probably part of the medieval fishpond complex, but were later incorporated into the gardens of Walgrave Hall. The present Hall Farm House is one remaining wing of Walgrave Hall, a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century county house. The Malesoures family held Walgrave manor from around 1066 until 1284, when ownership passed to the de Waldegrave or Walgrave family. We do not know exactly where the medieval manor house stood, but it was probably near Walgrave Hall.</p> <p>John Fitz de Waldegrave, who ruled as Lord of the Manor, held Walgrave Hall in 1315, and this family continued to hold the manor until the reign of Henry VII. Around 1500, the Hall passed into the Lane family; they in turn sold it to William Sanders, after which it was bought by Thomas Paget. It was purchased, together with adjoining lands, in 1655 by John Langham Esq., for the sum of £8,630. The Langham family laid out gardens surrounding the Hall around 1671-4 and earthwork remains of them still survive. Through the years, the Hall passed down to members of that family until 1911 when the Langham Estates were sold by public auction.</p>	

	<p>A print shows the Hall in its former glory but little evidence is available as to when it ceased to be a large country mansion and became, as now, a farmhouse. The arms of the Langham family are still visible over a fireplace and are repeated on a communion plate in St Peter's church, given in 1674 at the same time Sir William received his Baronetcy.</p>	
  	<p><b>Farming and Medieval Walgrave</b></p> <p>Walgrave has been a farming community for more than a thousand years and is recorded in the Domesday book (1086). But the farming landscape you see around you today is a relatively recent creation, dating from Parliamentary Enclosure of 1776/7, which created consolidated holdings of land with hedged boundaries and new hedged roads.</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>As you leave the fishponds behind, cross the stile and veer over to the gap in the hedge on your right.</p>	
	<p><b>13. The stone bridge</b></p> <p>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>Do not cross the bridge but follow the field boundary ahead to the Hannington Road. Cross the stile and then cross the road, continue straight ahead over the next stile and on until you come to a footbridge on your right: cross the stream.</p>	
	<p><b>14. Atterbury's Field</b></p> <p>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>Follow the ridge and furrow up the hill and you come to a boundary bank at right angles to</p>	

	<p><a href="#">the strips.</a></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</b></p> <p><a href="#">Cross the stile in the corner of the field into Rectory Lane.</a></p>	
	<p><b>16. Crispin Cottages/Malting House Row/ Bakers Lane</b></p> <p>If you look straight ahead as you cross the stile, up Bakers Lane you will see a row of Victorian cottages. These cottages were built by the owner of the shoe factory, Stephen Walker, for his extended family.</p> <p>On the corner of Bakers Lane just across from Crispin Cottages, a bungalow stands on the site of a thatch and stone row of houses known as Malting House Row. It is thought that it was originally a malting house - it may have provided brewing for the Five Bells pub, just up Bakers Lane where Church View now stands. The Malt House was divided at some stage into cottages and was occupied until the 1940's. It was demolished in the late 40's early 50's.</p>	
	<p><a href="#">Turn right and walk along Rectory Lane taking a left turn up a small alleyway called Church Lane.</a></p>	
	<p><b>17. Church Lane</b></p> <p>The sharp double bend in this winding path, known locally as the "jetty" is due to a diversion to avoid an old <b>Cruck Cottage</b>. The cottage, which was of a very old stone and thatch construction, was demolished in the 1940's, but the path still follows the winding route. An old village story relates that the path that now diverts around the external wall of the cottage used to go under it as a passageway – this would make sense, as one dictionary description of jetty is "a part of a building which juts beyond the ground-plan"</p> <p>As the "jetty" opens out by the church, you will see <b>The Chestnuts</b> to your right and next to it <b>Five Bells</b>. The Chestnuts was Stephen Walker's first house in the village and shoes were made in the upstairs rooms. In 1887, Walker built a small factory next to the Chestnuts, which is now named Five Bells.</p>	



**18. St Peter's Church**

In medieval Walgrave the village lay at the centre of three fields; it was clustered around the village Greens, and at its heart stood the Church of St Peter. Daily life in a medieval village revolved around the Church and the Lord of the Manor.

There was a church here as early as October 1217, when the first rector was installed. At this time, the Malesoures family, lords of the manor of Walgrave, held the advowson, or the right to appoint the Rector – a right later granted to St Augustine's priory in Daventry. The ground plan of the church, with the exception of the vestry, is of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Major restoration took place in 1867 when the spire was re-built. The Langham chapel was probably added in the latter half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

By the south door to the church is the socket stone and stump of an old cross. Local tradition suggests that this is part of the village cross which once stood at "The Cross" at the cross roads of Old Road/ Baker's Lane/Holcot Road/High Street.



Follow the narrow path from the door of the Church towards the Old Rectory and down the steps towards Lower Green and the War Memorial. Be careful of the traffic.



**19. Old Rectory**

This listed building was built in 1687, probably to replace or enlarge a previous building. The eastern wing is mid-Victorian (abt. 1860's) The façade facing the church has been little altered over the years and the banded stonework, known as galletting, is especially noteworthy.



**20. War Memorial and Jubilee Tree**

The dedication of the War memorial took place in 1920; the Reverend Samuel Wathen Wigg (founder of Northampton Saints Rugby Team) conducted the ceremony. The memorial is engraved with the names of 25 parishioners who gave their lives during the 1914-18 War; the list contains three pairs of brothers. Six further names were added after the 1939-45 War.

In 1887, villagers planted the tree on Lower Green to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



Return along the High Street, on the opposite side of the road to the Church, in the direction of Holcot.









**21. The Langham Arms and The Stock**

**22. The Robin Hood**










On each corner of Gold Street stand two of Walgrave's original five Public Houses. The first is the Robin Hood and on the opposite corner stood the Langham Arms.




The area at the junction of Gold Street and High



	<p>Street used to be known as “The Stocks”. It is thought that the stocks stood on the corner of the Langham Arms. There was a petrol pump on the site in the 1920’s/30’s. The old pub sign for the Langham Arms is on the wall inside the church.</p> <p>The Langham Arms was also the “stop” for the Walgrave Carters. Horace Knight started a horse and cart carrier service in the early 1920’s. Motorised transport took over in the mid 20’s offering a service to markets in Kettering and Northampton. The Langham was the main centre in the 1950’s being home to Amber FC and the skittles club. There was even a barber in residence upstairs. Even earlier evidence of The Langham’s importance as a social centre is found in the Golden Jubilee celebrations for King George III in 1809. The reason that the celebration was held a year early (49 years into his reign) may have been due to fears for his health. The celebrations included the presentation of a Jubilee loaf to every inhabitant. A fat sheep was roasted. After a church service, the congregation processed to the green singing “God Save the King”. After a dinner at the Langham Arms upwards of 300 people drank tea on the green. Several men with firelocks marched through the village and fired several volleys in honour of the day. There was then a Ball until midnight.</p>	
	<p><b>23. The Cross Stone</b></p> <p>In the wall of the house opposite the end of Church Lane there is a carved stone thought to be a consecration stone from an earlier church. It was found buried under or near ash pits behind a cottage on High Street that was demolished in the mid 20th century.</p>	
	<p><b>24. The Cross Roads - “The Cross”</b></p> <p>The crossroads of High Street/Holcot Road/Old Road/Bakers Lane is known as “The Cross” locally. It is assumed that this is where the stone village cross once stood. A base of a stone cross is now in the churchyard.</p>	
 	<p><b>25. Co-op building and The Ferns</b></p> <p>At the cross roads with the Old Road you will see the newly converted Co-op building on your right. In the 1910’s-20, the main village bakery was in a building at the back of the Co-op. There was also a baker’s oven in the second building on the right going down Bakers Lane. The oven was used as a reserve and back up to the Co-op oven, but it is thought that it pre-dates the Co-op. There is a record of a fire in 1805, which started in the house of a baker called Richard Dunmore. Within four hours, the fire had destroyed five houses. No location for the house is given but the likelihood is that it was in Bakers Lane.</p> <p>Next door to the Co-op is The Ferns, reputedly one of the oldest houses in the village, being built in 1568.</p>	 



	<p>The Co-op was one of many stores in Walgrave in the early and mid 1900's</p> <p><b>26. Holly House</b>          On the opposite corner, Holly House was once Mr Claydon's Tailors and just further up past the Green on the Holcot Road there was a butchers shop. The first house on the corner of Bakers Lane was a general store called "Boyes" and, until it was demolished in the 1950's, it still displayed the old enamel signs.</p>	 
	<p>Walking along the Holcot Road you will see the Dial house on your right.</p>	
	<p><b>27. The Dial House</b>          The sundial on the south wall of the Dial House is recorded by the British Sundial Society as a vertical declining 1700's dial. The inscription on the dial reads, "We shall die all" "Hours fly, Flowers die, New days, Old ways, Pass by, Love stays".</p>	
	<p>At the corner of the Holcot Road on the right hand side, just before leaving the village, you will see a farm gate. The walk along the side of this field will take you to the rear of the Parish Cemetery and avoids the necessity of walking on the main road.</p>	
	<p>Return to the village by retracing your steps along the Holcot Road, head to the crossroads and turn left into the Old Road.</p>	
 	<p><b>28. The Old Shoe Factory</b>  <b>29. The Laurels</b>          The Old Road illustrates the progress of Stephen Walker's business with the large Victorian Factory on your right. The factory was built in 1899 to house the growing boot manufacturing business. Next door is the Blacksmith's Forge known as Gladstone House and directly behind the factory stands Walker's own house, The Laurels, also built in 1899. This area of the village has seen many changes but the main Victorian buildings have been saved. The factory remained in operation, under various owners, until the late 1980's. At one stage, the original brick factory stood side by side with a large "modern" metal unit, which covered the area of Walkers Acre; at this time The Laurels was used as offices. In the early eighties, the larger factory units were demolished and the houses on Walkers Acre were built as "starter" homes for villagers. The factory was converted into three "town houses" in 2003.</p>	 
	<p>On the way back to the Village Hall stop to look at the terraced houses on New Row.</p>	

	<p><b>30. New Row</b> The houses on New Row once again show the impact of the shoe industry and the growth of Walgrave.</p>	
	<p><b>31. Klondike Cottages</b> Further along on the other side of Old Road stand the Klondike Cottages, of a similar style to the Spion Kop cottages, with workshops at the rear. These cottages were named after the Klondike gold rush of 1897 in the Yukon Territory of Canada.</p>	
	<p>As you walk back to the Village Hall, you pass <i>Amber Drive</i> - named after the highly successful Walgrave Amber FC.</p>	
	<p>The walk finishes back at the Village Hall on Newland Road.</p>	
<p><i>We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to Walgrave</i></p>		