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FREE
MAP

Bishops, Bombs and Bonfires



RUTLAND HERITAGE TRAIL SERIES

View the Heritage
Trail Map Series

Discover Rutland is the official Destination Management Organisation for the county, aiming to promote and support tourism in the area to echo our county motto, "Multum in Parvo" (Much in Little).

Make sure to visit the Discover Rutland website and pick up our seasonal visitor guide for more inspiration.

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Front cover image - Lyddington Bede House

Funded by UK Government Rutland County Council

HERITAGE PLACES OF INTEREST

1 St. Andrew's Church, Stoke Dry

Stoke Dry Church dates at least from the Norman period and was largely rebuilt during the 13th (west tower) and 15th centuries. Although small, the church has many interesting features - a carved Norman arch, a 15th-century oak rood screen, and tombs belonging to the Digby family, who once lived in Stoke Dry. Of special note are the splendid medieval wall paintings, which show the martyrdom of St. Edmund.



Above the north porch is the priest's room or parvise. Reached by a narrow staircase from the north aisle of the church, it is said to have been a meeting place for the Gunpowder Plotters in the early 1600s. (There is little truth in this tale, however. Although Sir Everard Digby was one of the plotters, he did not live at Stoke Dry at that time.)

An information leaflet about the church is available inside.

2 Eyebrook Reservoir

Eyebrook Reservoir was built between 1937 and 1940 by Stewart & Lloyds Steel to supply Corby Steelworks. Now owned by British Steel, the reservoir has operated as a trout fishery since 1942.



The reservoir was also used by Avro Lancasters flying from RAF Scampton as the final practice run for Guy Gibson's No.617 Squadron RAF prior to Operation Chastise - famously otherwise known as the Dambusters raid on the Ruhr valley dams on the night of the 16/17 May 1943. It is estimated that the breached dam poured around 330 million tons of water into the Ruhr region, reducing German steel production to a quarter of its original output and disrupting their energy production.



Deserted Medieval Village of Snelston

The fields to the right contain the earthwork remains of Snelston, with a sunken lane and rectangular house platforms still visible. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the village was last referred to as a settlement in 1548.

3 Caldecott Village Hall

Just before the Plough Inn in Caldecott, you may spot a large wooden building on the village green to your left. This building was one of several "barracks" used to house the men building the Eyebrook Reservoir in the late 1930s. Later, it was converted into houses for the reservoir employees. In the late 1950s, one of these buildings was donated to Caldecott village and moved there to serve as the village hall.



4 Bishops Eye

A walled garden to the north contains an octagonal watchtower (the Bishop's Eye), which juts out onto the village street.



5 St. Andrew's Church, Lyddington

The church of St. Andrew dates from the early 14th or 15th centuries, though documents show that a church existed at Lyddington as early as 1163 A.D.



The church was closely associated with the Bishop's Palace and has many interesting features - traces of medieval wall paintings showing what is thought to be Edward the Confessor and the Last Judgement, fragments of 15th-century stained glass showing the heads of a king and a bishop, and a painted rood screen.

Six earthenware jars are also set high up in the chancel walls. Positioned with open mouths flush with the wall, they are thought to have been installed in the 15th century to help amplify the priest's voice during services. The acoustics can be enjoyed by attending Music in Lyddington concerts.

A colour guidebook about the church is available in the church and from the Bede House.

6 Lyddington Bede House

Lyddington Bede House is the remains of a 14th-century hall, part of the medieval palace of the Bishops of Lincoln, which was later converted into an almshouse.



On the first floor are the ceremonial apartments - a great chamber for church officials to receive guests and conduct church business. The rooms contain original medieval stained glass and fine-panelled ceilings.

In the early 1600s, Lyddington's ownership passed on to the Cecil family. Thomas Burghley founded a Jesus Hospital for twelve poor men, two women and a warden.

The name "Bede House" comes from biddan meaning to pray - men and women receiving alms were expected to pray for their benefactors.

The Lyddington Bede House was an almshouse until the early 1900s but is now cared for by English Heritage. It is throughout the year - daily during peak season with guidebooks and audio tours available.

Admission charges apply

RUTLAND HERITAGE TRAIL No. 1

Lyddington | Stoke Dry | Great Easton | Caldecott

LENGTH



Approximately 4 miles. Allow 2 to 3 hours, longer if you wish to visit the Bede House in Lyddington.



10 miles

START AND FINISH



The Green, Main Street, Lyddington, LE15 9LW

TERRAIN



Mostly footpaths and bridleways through fields. Short stretches of road and/or pavement in villages and along the A6003. Some steep hills and high stiles.



Along metalled roads, some hills. One short stretch of a busy main road.

REFRESHMENTS



Lyddington - The Old White Hart
Lyddington - Marquess of Exeter
Caldecott - The Plough
Great Easton - Sun Inn



The pretty ironstone villages of Stoke Dry and Lyddington are linked by more than just their south Rutland location. Today's quiet village streets hide an eventful past - a tale of righteous bishops, innovative bombs and celebratory bonfires.

Nearly 1000 years ago, the estates of Lyddington, Stoke Dry, and Caldecott belonged to the great bishops of Lincoln. Their officials enjoyed visits to the Bishop's Palace built at Lyddington and hunting in the deer park to the northeast of Stoke Dry.

During the 16th century, Henry VIII dismantled the great church estates and gave or sold them to new owners. In 1602, the Bishop's Palace in Lyddington became an almshouse, providing shelter for twelve poor men, two women and a warden, while Stoke Dry became renowned as the home of the Digby family, whose infamous "son," Sir Everard Digby, was executed for his role in the 1605 Gunpowder Plot.

More than 400 years later, the Lyddington and Stoke Dry skies were temporarily home to 617 Squadron of Lancaster Bombers, practising night-time bombing raids over the newly built Eyebrook Reservoir.

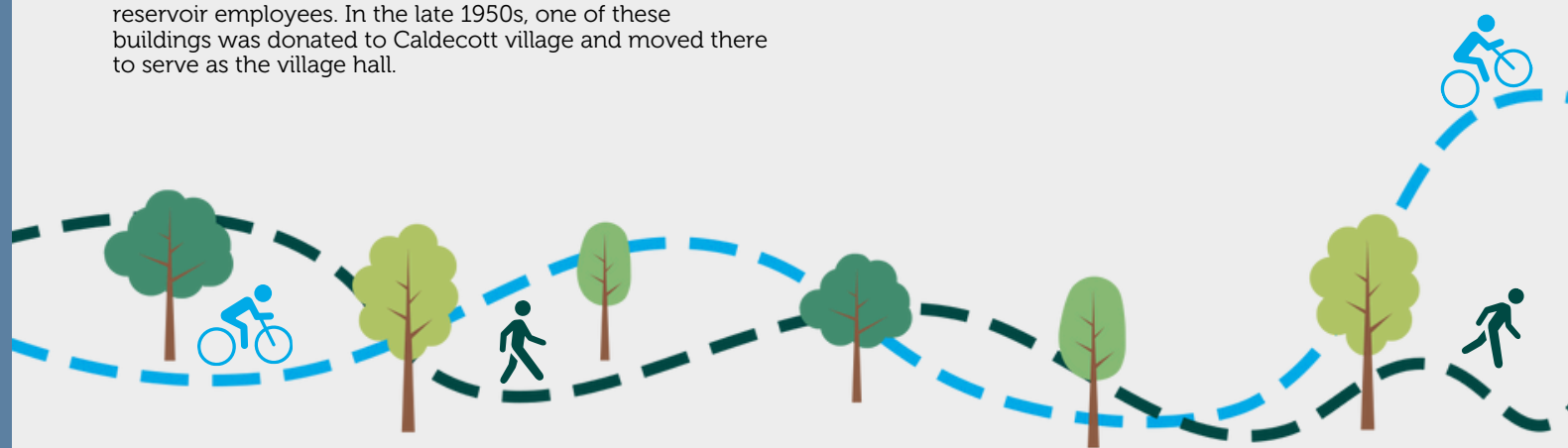
Please park considerably, and remember to respect our beautiful countryside. Follow the Highway & Country codes, and take care when crossing busy roads.

BIKE HIRE

A range of bikes, e-bikes, child seats and even dog buggy attachments can be hired from Specialized at Rutland Cycling, Whitwell, LE15 8BL

There are several venues around the county that participate in our e-bike scheme, more information can be found online at

www.discover-rutland.co.uk/e-bikes



The Walk

Start your walk at Lyddinton's Green. From Main Street, take Stoke Road out of the village until you come across a footpath on your right. Cross the stile and head across the fields. Keep going until you reach the A6003.

Cross the road carefully, following the sign for Stoke Dry. Walk through the village, firstly passing the church on your left, which will likely be open.

Continue until you come to a bridleway marked on your left - or take a quick detour to the water's edge and read the information board, before returning to the start of the bridleway. Leave the road here and keep to the right-hand edge of the fields. Glimpses of the reservoir are visible between the trees. ②

The bridleway then veers away from the water, climbing upward through fields and gateways to a summit. You should then head downhill again, rejoining the A6003.

After 500 yards, a gas pumping station will appear on the left. Taking care, cross the A6003 and follow the footpath sign. A stile takes you into the first field, and you should then head straight towards another stile, crossing into the next field, then making sure to carry on diagonally to the next.

Now, head to your right, skirting the field with its interesting earthwork bumps. After a short distance, there will be a stile in the hedge line. Cut across the corner of the next field, looking out or the large circular Priestly and Bee hills ahead of you.

Soon another stile will be visible on your left. Head diagonally across this final field, with its prominent ridge and furrow, looking for the farm buildings ahead on your left.

As you reach the farm buildings, veer left with the farmyard on your right and follow the footpath onto the road to emerge next to the village sign. Continue to walk into Lyddington, passing ④ ⑤ ⑥, finishing where you began.

The Cycle Ride

Starting at The Green in Lyddington, take Stoke Road out of the village. Leading to the A6003 and Stoke Dry crossroads, this road climbs steadily uphill for nearly 2 miles.

Once you reach the crossroads, carry straight on (take care crossing the A6003) and head downhill to Stoke Dry. The bridleway on your right leads to Stoke Dry Wood and maybe the original boundary of the Bishop of Lincoln's medieval deer park. You may wish to spend some time exploring the village and church. ①

Continue out of the village, downhill towards Eyebrook Reservoir. ② The road curves to the right, following the edge of the water. Pass over a stone bridge, crossing as you do so into Leicestershire, and continue until you reach a T junction. Turn left towards Great Easton, keeping the water on your left.

Eventually, the road veers away from the Reservoir and begins to climb steeply, with a bench located halfway up this hill for a great stop-off point. Once you have reached the top, you can enjoy a downhill stretch to another T junction. Again, take the left-hand turn towards Great Easton.

Cycle through Great Easton, exploring if you wish, and keep to the main road until you reach the A6003, returning as you do so back into Rutland.

Turn left onto the A6003 and cycle over the River Welland, past traffic lights, into Caldecott.

Going past Caldecott's pub, The Plough, turn right onto the B672. ③ Follow this road, taking the left-hand turn towards Lyddington.

Once you enter the village, you are nearly back at your starting point. Carry on to reach The Green and see ④ ⑤ ⑥ for yourself if you wish, or enjoy refreshments at the White Horse or Marquess of Exeter.

Trail No.1 - BISHOPS, BOMBS AND BONFIRES

