

12km/7.5 miles

3.5 hrs

## Fotheringhay

A perfect way to explore three hidden gems of the East Midlands. Fotheringhay is steeped in royal history, its ruined castle being the birthplace of Richard III and the doom of Mary, Queen of Scots. The neighbouring villages of Nassington and Elton offer their own delights, with quiet streets, rustic shops and a picturesque village green. The route includes gentle, rolling hills and is accompanied by the River Nene and its tributaries.

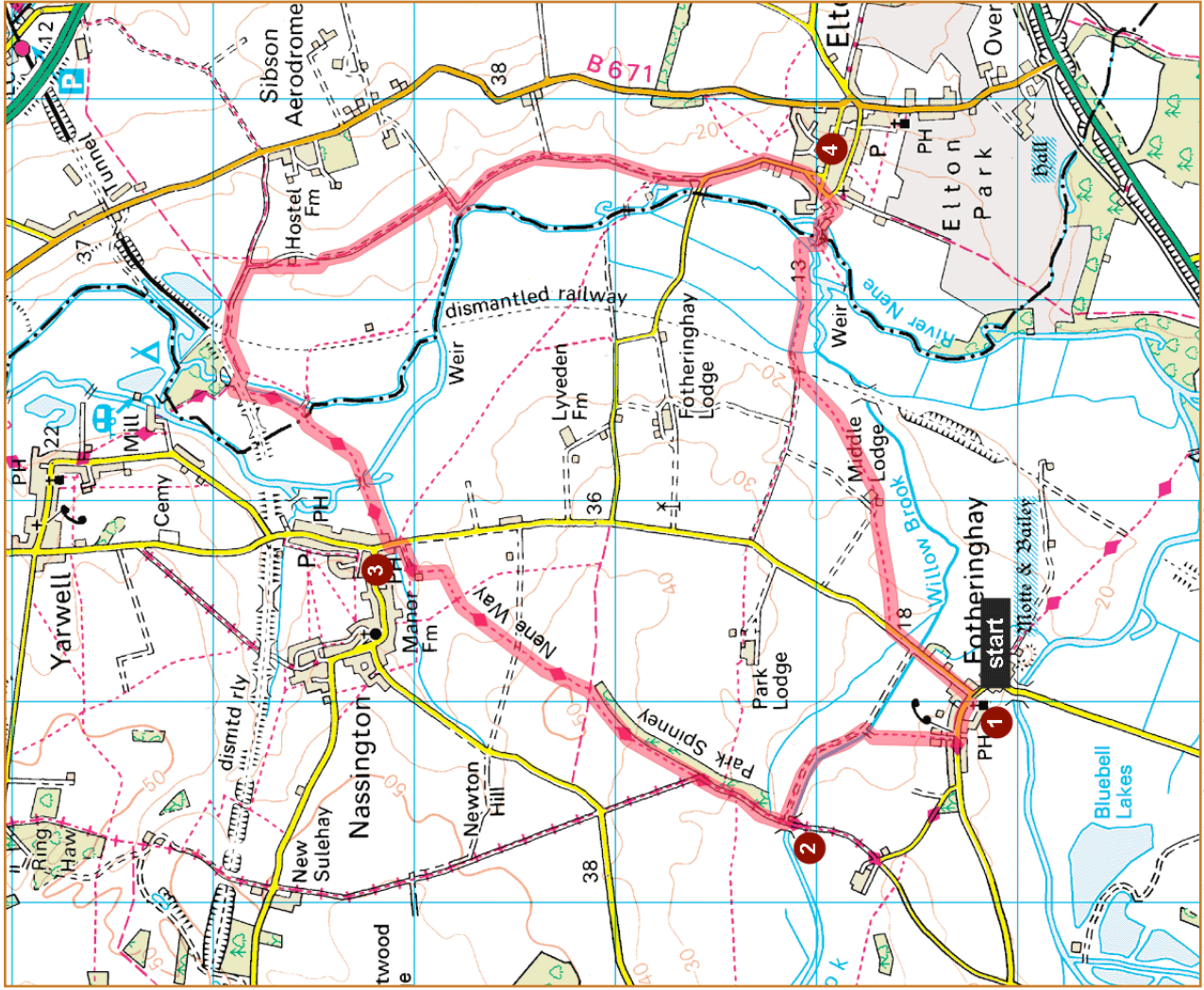
### The walk

- Head west along main street, passing church on L. Just after Falcon pub, a signposted path to R leads north out of village through a kissing-gate. Follow path, keeping hedge L. Where hedge veers away to L, continue ahead on path. Cross brook at wooden bridge, turn L and follow edge of field by brook.
- Turn R on to Nene Way by stone bridge. Follow path uphill into woodland. Path branches in two, keep L for Nene Way, keeping spinney on R. At top of hill, turn sharp L across drainage ditch. After 100m, turn R, following Nene Way sign, keeping hedge on L as you cross next field. Cross farm track. Where hedge veers away to L, strike out across field, making for distant finger post. Through gate in hedge into Nassington village playing fields. Skirt R of cricket pitch and join access track leading to main road into village.
- Cross road and take second footpath on R. Where path forks, keep L to

pass coppice. Through gate and cross bridge over Nene. Cross next field to join riverside path, with river on R. Path reaches T-junction, turn R and cross bridge. Follow path into next field, keeping woods L. Cross disused railway line and continue on to join farm track up hill. After 300m, turn R on to clearly marked path and continue across meadows. Pass old quarry pit on L. At junction of paths near concrete hut, turn R, heading downhill. At coppice, turn L and proceed across fields. After half-a-mile, path joins main road. Turn L and follow road into Elton.

- Pass Crown Inn, cross road and keep R of first village green. Make for gate with signpost beyond second green. Through gate, cross bridge over dry riverbed. Pass R of derelict mill and cross river at lock bridge. Turn R immediately after bridge and follow river to next bridge. Continue on clear path leading to disused railway line. Immediately after crossing embankment, take L-hand fork and head diagonally across field. Fotheringhay church appears on horizon. Through gap in hedge, cross brook at wooden bridge. Continue across fields and pass through farm buildings, with barn on L. Leave farm track, turning L on to path over field. Through gap in hedge, cross plank bridge and traverse next field on diagonal path. Turn L on to main road into Fotheringhay.

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