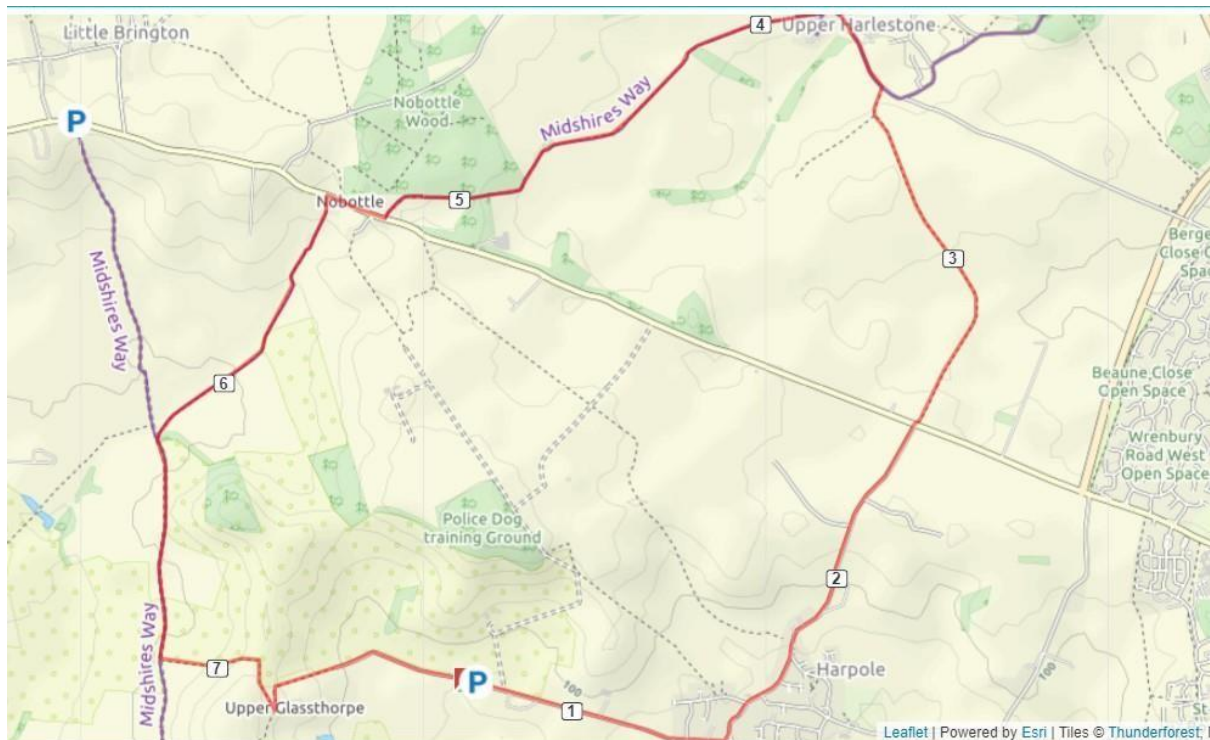


Harpole, Harlestone, Glassthorpe Hill (BR2)

WNBG 10TH MAY 2021



Directions

Parking is available at a layby near Little Brington on the road between Duston and Whilton Locks. **GR. SP660634**
 Parking is also possible on verges of Glassthorpe Lane (NB: can be busy with farm machinery sometimes) **GR. SP685607** and sometimes in the village e.g., alongside wall near to church **GR. SP691609**

Following the byway down the hill and then turn left through a gate. Follow the track across the field with hedge on your right.

At the end of the field, you will meet the junction of the bridleway coming from Nobottle.



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RIDE through a gate up a stony track and over three fields.

At the far boundary of the third field turn left. (**GR. SP665611**). You should now be climbing Glassthorpe Hill. Go straight to the top, reaching a stony track and then go right down towards Glassthorpe Lane.

Left turn towards Glassthorpe Hill. Lovely views from top of hill



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From Glassthorpe lane follow the lane (pic opposite) into the village.

At end of lane, turn left and pass the church. Follow road out of village, uphill until you come to T-junction (**GR. SP698622**).

Cross road onto bridleway and ride straight across three fields to go left through a hand gate



Go straight over the middle of an arable field and then follow the grass track up the side of fields until you come to junction of two bridleways (**GR.SP596635**). Go right here and down a stony track to the road and then turn left down into Upper Harlestone village.

After turning left you will eventually come to a triangle grass island with a large horse chestnut tree on your left hand side. Turn left up the narrow lane and there's a bridleway gate to the right through a stone wall (**GR.SP594639**). This route forms part of Midshires way.



After turning left you will eventually come to a triangle grass island with a large horse chestnut tree on your left hand side. Turn left up the narrow lane and there's a bridleway gate to the right through a stone wall (**GR.SP594639**). This route forms part of Midshires way. Ride through another gate, turning left and then right up a track to the side of Yew Tree Spinney (**GR.SP691639**)

Harlestone is a picturesque village containing thatched cottages made from ironstone. The village was once part of Lord Spencer's Estate.

As its name suggests Harlestone is noted for its stone that was quarried from the area for generations. In this field old quarrying workings can be made out by the hills and deep hollows that were left after abstraction of the stone.

Turn left then go straight on over an arable field riding towards a stone barn. Go around the side of the barn and across the next field. Then, go through the gateway up the side of Nobottle Wood with the grain store on your left, through the gateway into a Short Wood (**GR. SP679632**). Continue straight on until you come to a grass field, then go out onto the Nobottle Road (**GR. SP675630**) and turn right up the road into the village. Take care when crossing this road.

Nobottle gave its name to the Anglo-Saxon administration area 'the Nobottle Grove Hundred'. Hundred Courts met monthly to adjudicate on legal and religious matters. Such gatherings were often in the open air; Harrow Hill immediately west of Nobottle Wood is believed to have been the Court's 'chamber'. In the 19th century, like Harlestone, the hamlet was part of Althorp Estate.

The road you have just crossed is following the course of a Roman road which Linked Northampton to Watling Street (A5).

Follow the road into the village past the telephone box, take the second turning on the left down past Townsend Farm (pic opposite)

The road becomes a track, and you are still following Midshires Way. Follow the bridleway markers across four grass fields, passing over a disused rifle range.



You will eventually end up at the point where you joined the route from the Byway. Turn right and go through the gate then follow byway up to top of hill where you started.

Most wording taken from BHS book, "Northamptonshire on Horseback" pub.1995, ISBN 1-899016-07-4