

Empingham lies in the Gwash Valley, very near the eastern end of Rutland Water. When the dam was under construction in the early 1970s archaeological excavations confirmed that this area had been occupied for many centuries. Discoveries included traces of an Iron Age settlement, two Romano-British farming settlements and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries.

The most enduring legacy the Saxons left to Empingham was its name. The ending 'ingham' denotes one of the earlier settlements, older than those with 'ham' and 'ton' endings. So Empingham was the home of the 'ing' or clan of Empa. From then on it was known as Epingham (11th century), Emingeham (12th century), Hempingham, and Ampingeham, before finally becoming Empingham.

The village lies at the intersection of the road from Exton to Ketton and the road from Oakham to Stamford [formerly a toll road], but a great part is built along both sides of the road from Empingham to the Great North Road. The River Gwash runs from west to east through the middle of the parish and passes to the south of the village. The North Brook now marks the end of the village to the east. It is traditionally supposed that the village extended southward as far as the river and eastward as far as Chapel Hill, where in Chapel Spiney, on the north side, records suggest that there was once a chapel of St. Botolph.

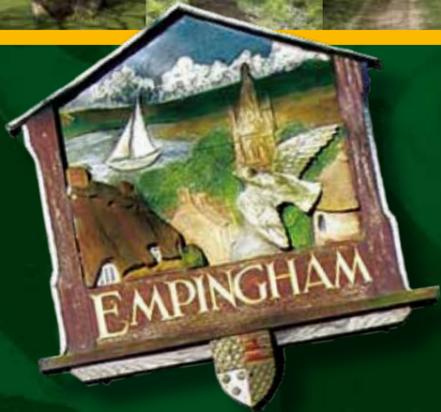
Introduction



Empingham



Empingham



Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer - 0800 130 3630

The appearance of the village today is largely the legacy of the Heathcotes, who were the main landowners from 1729 to 1924. When Gilbert Henry the 6th Baronet inherited the Normanton estate in 1867 Empingham was far from being a 'model village', in the Post Office Directory of 1876 it is described as "being in a dilapidated state, many of the houses are in ruins". However, it was not to stay that way and by the end of the nineteenth century Gilbert Henry was justifiably called 'The Building Earl'. In 1860 the Poor Law Commission had investigated rural housing and like other landowners Gilbert Henry took note of their reports. The family owned 13,600 acres in Rutland in 15 different parishes and he set about modernising properties all over the estate.

A Model Village



There was a great restoration in 1894-5 and a new clock installed. The old one is in Stamford Museum and dates from 1686. It had neither hands nor face but struck the hour.

The church stands in the south part of the village with the Rectory to the south-west of it. It has an impressive 14th century tower with a small but richly ornamented spire and very tall pinnacles. Otherwise the exterior has a mostly fifteenth-century appearance, with striking perpendicular windows, though the lancet windows in the south transept and chancel are thirteenth century as is most of the fabric.

St Peters Church



Travel

Road: Empingham is situated roughly half way between Stamford and Oakham on the A606.

Bus: Service 19 from Stamford or Oakham.
T: 0871 2002233 **E:** www.traveline.info

Rail: The nearest railway stations are Stamford and Oakham.

Ordnance Survey Maps

Landranger 130, 141 Explorer 234

If you require further information regarding this leaflet or require it in an alternative format please contact Rutland County Council at the address below:

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Normanton Works, to the south-east of Normanton Hall, was established by 1871 and employed every type of craftsman required to repair, renovate and build the properties and other assets on the Heathcote estates both in Lincolnshire and Rutland. Brickyards at Luffenham and Pilton provided the bricks and tiles. Old farms were repaired and acquired red tiled roofs instead of thatch, brick extensions were added and small properties like gained tall brick chimneys with decorative banding. All the Estate houses built in and around Empingham after about 1870 carry the family coat of arms. These are surmounted by two styles of crown. A Baron's crown was used until Gilbert Henry Heathcote-Drummond-Willoughby (6th Baronet) became the 1st Earl of Ancaster in 1892, and from then on it became an Earl's crown. Both can be seen in the village.



The Entire Model Village of Empingham is how the village was described in the sale advertisement when the Normanton Estate was sold in 1924 by the 2nd Earl of Ancaster (the 7th Baronet). Included in the 149 lots were eighteen tenanted farms, so it was clearly anticipated that the estate would be dispersed, bringing to an end a long era in the life of the village. The Heathcote family of Normanton Hall had owned Empingham for 200 years, and the village we see today is largely a legacy of that dynasty.

Rutland Water

Rutland Water was built in the 1970's to supply water to the growing populations and industry in the East Midlands. Planning and consultation took ten years culminating with the 'Empingham Reservoir Act 1979.' In 1976 the projects name was changed from Empingham Reservoir to Rutland Water in response to local views.

Normanton Church on the reservoir shore is one of Rutland's most famous landmarks. Originally a medieval church to St Matthew, it was partly rebuilt in the 18th Century. The church was saved from the reservoir by raising the floor by three metres, waterproofing the walls and building a stone embankment in the early 1970s with funds raised largely by the Normanton Tower Trust.

Acknowledged by Sir David Attenborough as one of the finest examples of creative conservation in Great Britain, Rutland Water has also gained an internationally respected reputation for sailing, trout fishing and bird watching.



Empingham Walk Number 1

Start from the White Horse Inn.

- 1 Standing with your back to the White Horse Inn, turn left and follow Main Street to the cross roads. Turn right at the crossroads to head in the direction of Stamford and Ketton. Walk down the hill past St Peter's Church and Barbara's Store, continuing out of the village to join the footway alongside the A606.
- 2 Shortly after crossing Church Bridge turn left on to the driveway of a bungalow (Woodlands) where you will see a sign post indicating a public footpath. Go through the gate at the end of the driveway and continue along the edge of an arable field and cross a stile.
- 3 Continue in the same direction across two more arable fields, but as you near the far side of the second field turn left on to a track around the field's edge rather than crossing the stile in front of you.

4 After a short distance you will find a green bridge that will take you back over the River Gwash. After crossing the bridge immediately ahead you will see a farmhouse, aim for the right of this where you will join Mill Lane.

5 Follow Mill Lane, which runs parallel to the North Brook, all the way to its junction with Main Street. Turn left at the junction and proceed up the hill and back into the village.

6 On your right you will soon find a sign post indicating a public footpath known as Gunnel Lane. Continue down the lane, past a small stream, to a field gate with a stile alongside it. Pass over the stile and enter in to a large grass field that is a little marshy in places.

7 Follow a well worn track through to a stile in the far corner of the field. Climb over the stile and cross an arable field to a stile at the junction with Loves Lane. Turn left and start walking up the hill.

8 After five minutes or so you will find sign posts on your right indicating the presence of both a footpath and a bridleway. Pass through the bridle gate and follow the bridleway around the left side of the field.

9 Continue on the bridleway until it joins the Exton road. Turn left and after a short distance you will find yourself back at the crossroads with Main Street. Turn right and retrace your steps back to the White Horse Inn.



Empingham Walk Number 2

Start from the White Horse Inn.

- 1 Standing with your back to the White Horse Inn, take care crossing the busy A606 to your right and then join Nook Lane. Follow the lane until you see a sign post marked Hereward Way / Rutland Water on your right. Turn right and follow the path between two houses.
- 2 Pass through a bridle gate into a pasture field and make your way towards a stile in the opposite corner. Cross the stile, turn right, and cross a second stile that is straight ahead. A track now leads you up some steps and through a small spinney to a stile.
- 3 Climb the stile and enter a pasture field. Directly ahead is another stile. Cross this, turn right and follow the edge of the field until you reach a metal hand gate alongside a field gate. Pass through the gate and turn left on to the road.
- 4 Following the Rutland Water perimeter track, now look for signs for Whitwell. Stay on the perimeter track

for 20 minutes or so, until you reach Whitwell Sailing Centre. At the entrance to the Sailing Centre, where it joins Bull Brig Lane, take a right.

5 Follow Bull Brig Lane in to Whitwell village, and to the A606. Cross the road with care, turn right and head towards the Noel Arms Inn. Turn left in to the driveway of the Noel Arms. Stay left and follow a footpath running down the side of the garden.

6 In the far corner of the garden on the left is a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and turn right. Immediately ahead is another gate. Go through this and then continue straight ahead to the corner of the field. Climb another stile that leads you to a wide grassy track around the edge of an arable field. Stay on the track until you reach a kissing gate under a large maple tree.

7 Proceed through the kissing gate and the small plantation beyond, turning right as you exit through a second gate. Continue to follow the footpath around the edge of the next few fields and at the junction with Oxwell Road cross straight over and head toward Exton.

8 Just before you cross the bridge and enter the village turn right on to a footpath. Stay to the right as the track opens up, and follow the course of the stream. After 15 minutes or so cross the bridge on your left and follow the footpath up the slope and around to the right.

9 Continue on this track until you reach a stile on your right. Climb the stile and proceed up the hill. On reaching the road turn left, walking along the wide grass verge. Just past the entrance to Horn Mill there is a footpath on your right. Climb the ladder stile and head straight across the field to Horn Mill Spinney.

10 Follow the path through the spinney and then across the arable field beyond that. Continue in this direction until the path reaches Warren Spinney. Make your way around the spinney and turn left on to Exton Road. Walk down the hill and turn right at the cross roads. The White Horse Inn is now just ahead on your right.