

Welcome to the Brampton Valley Way, a 14 mile linear park based on the former railway line between Northampton and Market Harborough.

The railway line was closed in 1981 and the 13 mile Northamptonshire section was purchased by Northamptonshire County Council with grant aid from the Countryside Commission, in 1987, when work began on developing it as a linear park. The 1 mile section over the county boundary is owned by Leicestershire County Council although Northamptonshire County Council undertake the management of the complete route.

The Brampton Valley Way, from Boughton Crossing in Northampton to Little Bowden Crossing in Market Harborough, was opened in the Spring of 1993 and provides recreational access for cyclists and walkers and along some sections horseriders. Further developments to enhance access continue alongside everyday management of the site.

Stream sides and other damp places

The 'Way' has been named after the tributary of the River Nene – the Brampton Arm, the valley of which it follows for much of its length. The damper areas alongside the streams favour species of willow, and wildflowers such as marsh marigolds and ragged robin.

During late spring and summer, colourful dragonflies and damselflies can be seen patrolling areas of water in search of their insect prey.

The Railway

The Northampton and Lamport Railway Society maintain and operate a short section of line along the 'Way'. Their headquarters are at the former Pitsford and Brampton Station, next to the car park.



Brixworth Country Park

An idyllic place for a picnic with glorious views of the surrounding countryside and Pitsford Water.

Enjoy a meadow or waterside stroll, or 'let off steam' in the wide open spaces.

Shoveler ducks and goosanders may be seen on the reservoir amongst many other species of waterfowl.

KEY:

- Brampton Valley Way Linear Park / Route 6 National Cycle Route
- Public footpaths
- Public bridleways
- Byways and other tracks suitable for cycling on circular routes
- Car park and access point

Railway embankments

A fine array of wildflowers flourish on the sunny embankments including the sky blue harebells with areas of white oxeye daisies delighting in June and the yellow St. John's wort and purple cornflowers. This succession of wildflowers provides a continual nectar supply over the summer months. Look out for the green woodpeckers as they come down to feed on ants and other insects along the embankments.