

Spratton Heritage Trail

Your Guide to the History and Heritage of Spratton

Spratton Heritage Trail

Spratton is a typically English country village in the heart of Northamptonshire. Thatched cottages, honey coloured sandstone houses and a picturesque mediaeval church can be found clustered together in the historic centre of the village. Start and finish your walk at the King's Head, now housed in a 17th century building, but built on ancient foundations. Car parking and good food is available here.



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1. The Kings Head. Housed in a 17th century stone building, this modern pub is thought to stand on the site of a mediaeval hostelry. It had its own well, which has been preserved and can be seen inside the bar.

From the King's Head car park turn right into Manor Road



2. Manor Road. Some of the thatched, stone or cob cottages that once were to be found throughout the village remain in Manor Road. No 7 is Grade II listed, as is No.12 Northbank.



3. The Chequers. Dating back to at least 1630, this house became a thriving public house, very popular during the Second World War. It closed in 1959 and is now a private house.

Turn right past Northbank and into School Road. The primary school building dates from 1911 and the wooden Village Hall next to it was built in 1928. Continue along School Road and stop at the Brixworth Road to look across at



4. The Stone House. A fine thatched, stone house built in 1684 according to the date-stone high on the wall at the side of the house. It has a Grade II listing.

Cross the Brixworth Road and walk in front of the Stone House up the steep path into the churchyard.



5. Churchyard. A typically English country churchyard with 18th and 19th century slate and sandstone tombstones. The War Memorial names 24 young men who died in the two World Wars, including Lt William Rhodes-Moorhouse VC, RFC, the first airman to be awarded the Victoria Cross.





6. St Andrew's Church. Founded in 1120, Spratton Church contains a fine alabaster effigy of Sir John Swinford, a follower of John of Gaunt, who died in 1371. Next to the 13th century font is a plaque to Amphilis Twigden, the great-great grandmother of George Washington, first President of the USA. She was baptised here in 1602.

Retrace your steps across the churchyard and back down to the Stone House. Turn right into Yew Tree Lane.

Turn right into Holdenby Road and walk to the end of the cob wall.



12. Cob Wall and Cottages. Cob (a mixture of mud and straw) is one of the distinctive building materials of Northamptonshire. The long cob wall dates from about 1800 and enclosed the Spratton House estate. Opposite the wall stands an 18th century thatched cottage made completely of cob. The white cottage on the opposite corner is all that remains of a row of lace-makers' cottages, demolished in the 1950s.

Turn right into Church Road.



13 Spratton House. Built in 1793 by William Butlin, a member of the wealthy Butlin family whose main business was wool. William's son, Thomas developed and financed the family's expansion into the iron industry.

Carry on walking along Church Road, past the church and return to the King's Head car park, passing on the way.



14 The Manor House. Wooden beams inside this house date it back to the early 17th century. The original thatched roof was blown off in a terrible storm in 1905.

Three more large houses are located on the outskirts of the village: Spratton Hall, Spratton Grange and Broomhill. They are all privately owned.

Other places of interest Visit nearby Brixworth Country Park for wildlife, fine walks and views across Pitsford Water. Althorp, the country home of the Spencer family, and Cottesbrooke Hall are close by as are the lovely gardens of Coton Manor. The site of the Battle of Naseby 1645 is only a few miles away.

For further information Visit www.sprattonhistory.org or email slhs@spratton.com Group guided tours available.



DID YOU KNOW?

The great-great grandmother of George Washington, first President of the United States of America, was baptised in Spratton Church in 1602. Her name was Amphilis Twigden and she married Lawrence Washington from Sulgrave Manor. Their sons left England for the American colonies in 1657. The 13th century font is still used for baptisms today.



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