

Elton Lock & The Birthplace of Richard III

Distance: 11.10 km

Difficulty: Moderate

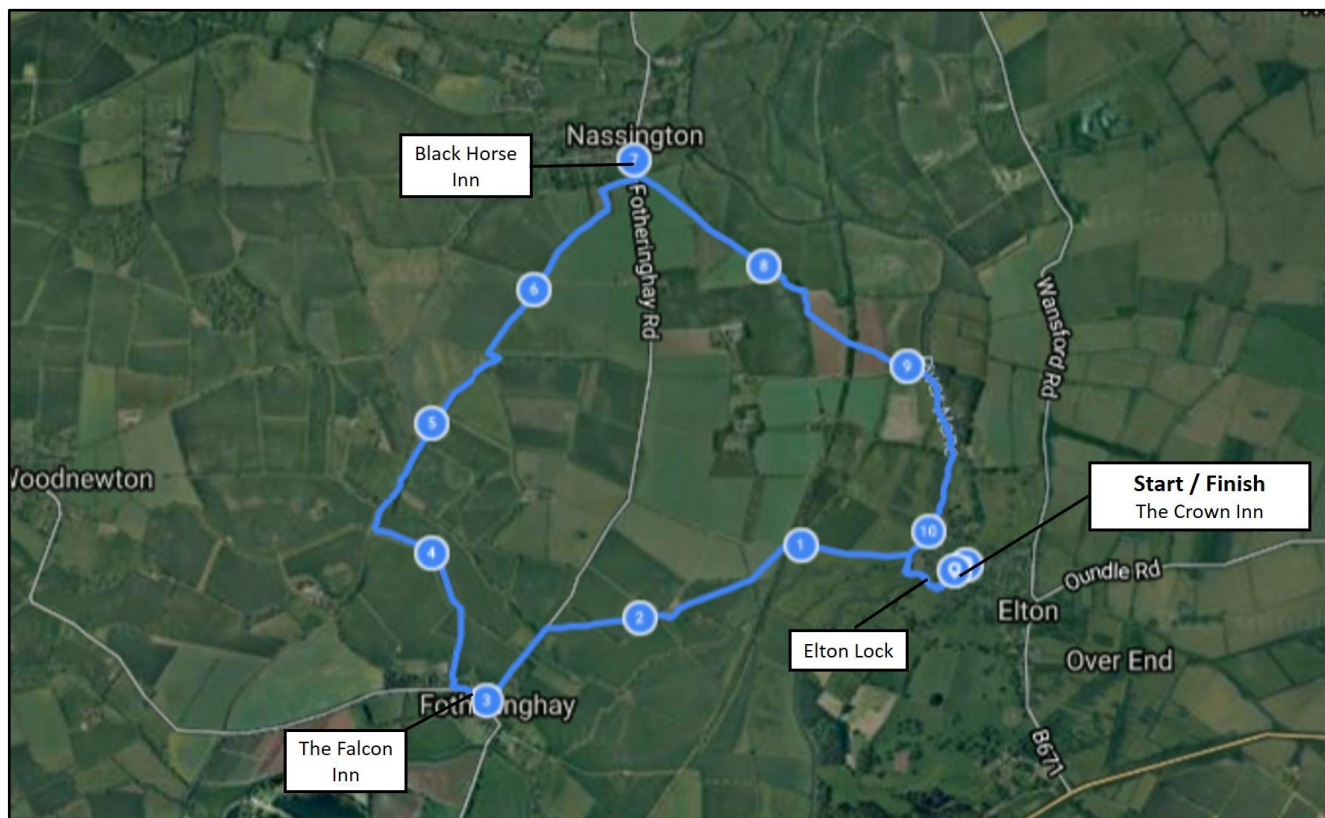
Dog Friendly: Yes (some fields with livestock)

Ascent/Descent: Easy (+/- 59 metres)

Toilets: At the pubs only

Wildlife: Nothing of note

Endomondo GPS track: [View/Download here](#)



The Elton Lock and Black Horse Inn circular walking route (Google Maps)

Starting location: plenty of on-street parking can be found in Elton village. For ease, we recommend parking on Duck Street (satnav: PE8 6RQ), near to the Crown Inn.

1. With your back to the entrance of the Crown Inn, go left along Duck Street, passing by a triangular village green area. Continue straight ahead to a smaller triangular green area; ahead should be a signposted footpath (pictured right). Take this path.



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2. After going through the gate, follow the path, passing to the right of a building and then crossing a bridge over Elton Lock (pictured left) and the River Nene. Immediately after crossing, turn right. Cross another bridge and follow the path left across the middle of the field, following the obvious path until you reach a crossroad



of tracks. Here, you need to leave the tracks and take the path indicated (pictured right) that goes ahead-and-left, across the field. At the other side of the field, join a track that goes to the left



of the red brick building. Follow the track around to the right, passing between the bar and the red brick building, then bears left at the end of the building. Where the track bears right once more, footpath signs are absent; take the indicated path across the field (pictured left). Follow the path across a second field, before coming to a road; go left and walk along the road into Fotheringhay village. At the T-junction in front of

the church, go right and follow the signs to visit the site of Fotheringhay Castle.

Fotheringhay Castle no longer stands here in its full glory; Only the earthworks and the conical motte remain. However, the site is of historical significance. Here, on 2nd October 1452, Richard III was born. Richard only lived here for six years until he was moved for safety to



Ludlow Castle. After Richard lost his life at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 the castle was allowed to decay. Henry VIII granted Fotheringhay to Catherine of Aragon, and Catherine lavished money returning the castle to its former glory. Unfortunately, her tenure as queen did not last, and Henry granted the castle in turn to each of his subsequent wives. It was used primarily as a prison, and it is in this role that it saw its most famous moment in

history. In 1586 Mary, Queen of Scots was brought to Fotheringhay from Chartley in Staffordshire to stand trial for treason. Mary was tried at the castle on 14 and 15 October 1587 in a show trial and predictably found guilty on 25 October - a foregone conclusion. She was not executed immediately, for Elizabeth I was reluctant to sign the death warrant, but finally on 8 February 1588 Mary was executed in the great hall. She carefully dressed for the occasion in black with a scarlet bodice and petticoat; colours chosen because they represented martyrdom. After Mary's execution, the castle was left to decay completely.

3. Leave the castle and return to the T-junction. Continue on along the road and you will come to our first pub, the Falcon Inn. Carry on along the road. After around 50 metres, turn right, taking the signposted narrow footpath that runs along the side of a house. As you emerge into a field, keep going straight ahead along the field boundary. Cross the bridge over Willow Brook and go left along



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the field boundary and following Willow Brook. At a crossroads, turn right to join the Nene Way and take the path into a wooded area. Follow the Nene Way path, ignoring multiple paths off to your left and right. After you start to go uphill, you will emerge out into a field. When you near the crest, you will come to a ditch; here, go left and then, after 20 metres, turn right, walking along the field boundary with the hedgerow on your left (some of the Nene Way signs have been knocked down here). The path crosses a track and heads gradually downhill.

4. The Nene Way then continues on, leaving the hedgerow. Follow it through a gap in the hedge ahead, bringing you into a cricket ground. Walk around the edge of the cricket pitch, then exiting the field through the car park area to the left of the cricket pavilion. The track brings you out onto a road. Walk left along the road until you come to our second pub, the Black Horse Inn, where we recommend lunch. Exit the pub and retrace your steps. Pass by the signposted Nene Way on your left and take the next signposted path on the left (pictured left) immediately before the access road to the cricket ground. Follow the path diagonally across the field and then along the boundary of two more fields. You will come to a covered farming area. Keep left, going through the large gap in the hedge, then turn right, keeping the hedge on your right. After a short way, the path bears left across the field, and then passes through the strip of trees (which is an old railway line) and out into another field. Cross straight over this field, going right when you reach the far side of the field, and joining the River Nene.

5. Follow the riverside path along, passing by a bridge that was closed off at the time of writing. Keep following the path and you will return to Elton Lock. Retrace your steps back into Elton village and enjoy a well-earned drink at the third and final pub, the Crown Inn.

Pub 1: The Falcon Inn

The Falcon Inn is a restaurant, bar and function room in the village of Fotheringhay. It offers log fires, fresh flowers, ever-changing menus, a stunning garden and an orangery overlooking the church in which to enjoy refreshment. Dogs are also welcome in the tap room and garden. The Falcon Inn also won the 2016 Northamptonshire County dining 'Pub of the Year' award, but is in the higher price range. View their website [here](#).



Pub 2: The Black Horse Inn

The Black Horse Inn at Nassington village is a classic British inn serving locally-sourced food, good quality wines and a variety of real ales, including a traditional pale ale from the Butcombe Brewery. The pub also welcomes families and well-behaved dogs. The pub offers a fantastic beer garden, perfect for savouring a pint of real ale or for some al-fresco dining. We stopped for lunch at this



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pub; the BBQ pulled pork sandwich (£7.25) was generously filled and came with homemade coleslaw and homemade seasoned tortilla chips. You can view their website [here](#).

Pub 3: The Crown Inn

The Crown Inn at Elton is a country pub with five-star accommodation and a beautiful beer garden in the rear and some sun-drenched seating out the front. The bar area is cosy and atmospheric, particularly in the winter when the log fire is roaring. The pub has recently been working with the King's Cliffe Brewery to develop its very own ale, so it's unique and a great reason to visit this pub while on the walking route. View their own website [here](#).



Tips

One of the fields early in the walk warns that there is a bull present within the field. We were able to pass through the field without any problems, but walkers should exercise caution.

