



**A bit of history...** the footpath going through Midshires Covert is thought to date back over 750 years, having been part of *Bedford Weye*, a path from Market Harborough to Bedford, recorded in a Rockingham Forest document of 1228, according to John Steane's book *The Northamptonshire Landscape*. It also referred to 'a cross which stands on the bounds of Harrington and Kelmarsh', which is no longer there, but is commemorated by an information board.

### Going out and about on foot...

Midshires Covert has a small (and free) parking area, which is grass to the left as you enter the land. Please don't block the gated access to the next field, or the bridleway.

- It can also be used as a base for exploring nearby countryside, including
- The Brampton Valley Way – including a half hour circular walk that takes in the Kelmarsh tunnel
  - Bluebells – visible in the Spring from the Brampton Valley Way as a vast blue carpet in nearby ancient woodland (Johnson's Covert)

### Only slightly further afield...

- Kelmarsh Hall (one mile to the west)
  - The Warner Edwards Gin Distillery (one mile to the east)
- Harrington Aviation Museum (one mile to the east)
- A Grade II listed former nuclear missile site (one mile to the east)
  - Waterloo Farm Café, Great Oxendon (two miles to the north)
- Three picturesque Northamptonshire villages within about a mile – Harrington, Arthingworth, Kelmarsh, & plenty of rolling countryside

Midshires Covert is a registered site with **Nearly Wild Camping** <https://nearlywildcamping.org>



It also has a group on **Facebook** ('Midshires Covert aka Andy P's land') (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/250829575354/>).



**For more information**, please contact Andrew Presland at 58 Harborough Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0IP; or by ringing 01933 316927 or 07943 307873; or e-mailing [andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com).

## Welcome to Midshires Covert...

...a patch of Northamptonshire countryside for anyone to enjoy

### Where is it?

It's a hectare of land (2.5 acres) offering a unique insight to nature, situated along the road between Kelmarsh and Harrington (almost opposite the lane to Arthingworth) – postcode NN6 9ND.



### What is it?

- It started as a personal project in 2008, to help meet an ambition of mine to create some new woodland and a small nature reserve that anyone is welcome to visit and enjoy. The land was originally a pasture field before I began by planting around 400 young trees and then slowly developing it into what you see today.
- Everyone is welcome to visit and use the facilities (parking, toilet, picnic table etc) but camping overnight is by prior appointment only, while the campfire is for use by campers and booked events only.
- A bridleway (and footpath) – part of the Midshires Way - runs down the length of the land on one side. It also forms part of the Brampton Valley Way and is the alternative route to avoid the Kelmarsh Tunnel.

- **A haven for wildlife** – we are trying to encourage biodiversity, through leaving some areas to go wild plus selective planting (e.g. bushes & flowers to encourage butterflies & bees, 100's of trees, in their infancy, and fruit trees), creating some insect hotels and a small pond. These are a few of the things we have done and will continue to develop over the years.
- There's also potential for greater use, perhaps within some of the current areas of public interest:
  - to promote **health and wellbeing**, given the research evidence of the positive impact of being in the open air.
  - as an **educational** resource for schools to use as a base for exploring nature – whether informally or through more structured **'forest school'** activities – e.g. studying mini-beasts, exploring the many pathways that have been designed with fun and access in mind.
  - for other **community development** and **social cohesion** activities, such as social events to bring together people of different ages or backgrounds together – e.g. sitting around the camp fire, particularly during the warmer months; or 'forest church' activities
- Any ideas that you may have, comments you'd like to add, or pictures you've taken are always most welcome.
- In summary, there's nothing exceptional about the land in terms of its size, or the wildlife that it contains, but it can hopefully act as a haven for people, away from the busyness of everyday life.

**And finally, please enjoy and respect this wonderful, unique patch of Northamptonshire.**



**Getting there**

Take the westbound A14 from Kettering to Junction 2, south of Kelmarsh, and join the A508, turning right towards Market Harborough. Then turn right in the middle of Kelmarsh village, towards Harrington, and the entrance to my land is a farm gate marked 'Midshires Covert' on the right, about a mile from Kelmarsh, just before a lane from Arthingworth comes on from the left. The postcode is NN6 9ND.

