

Middleton Walks

West Walk:

Main Route ▲

This walk starts at the Green Man Public House (A), where Church Lane ends and a cart-track (1) continues past the stool to a stile (2). Walk straight ahead with the hedgerow on your left, across the Clay Pigeon Shooting Range, towards the break in the hedge. Proceed along the path and into the next field. After 100 yards, cross the ditch (3) and walk with the hedge now on your left. Continue to the entrance of the wood and turn sharp left. Proceed through the wood until you reach the sign warning walkers if Clay Pigeon Shooting is in progress. Continue with caution, notifying the marshals of your presence when the range is in use.

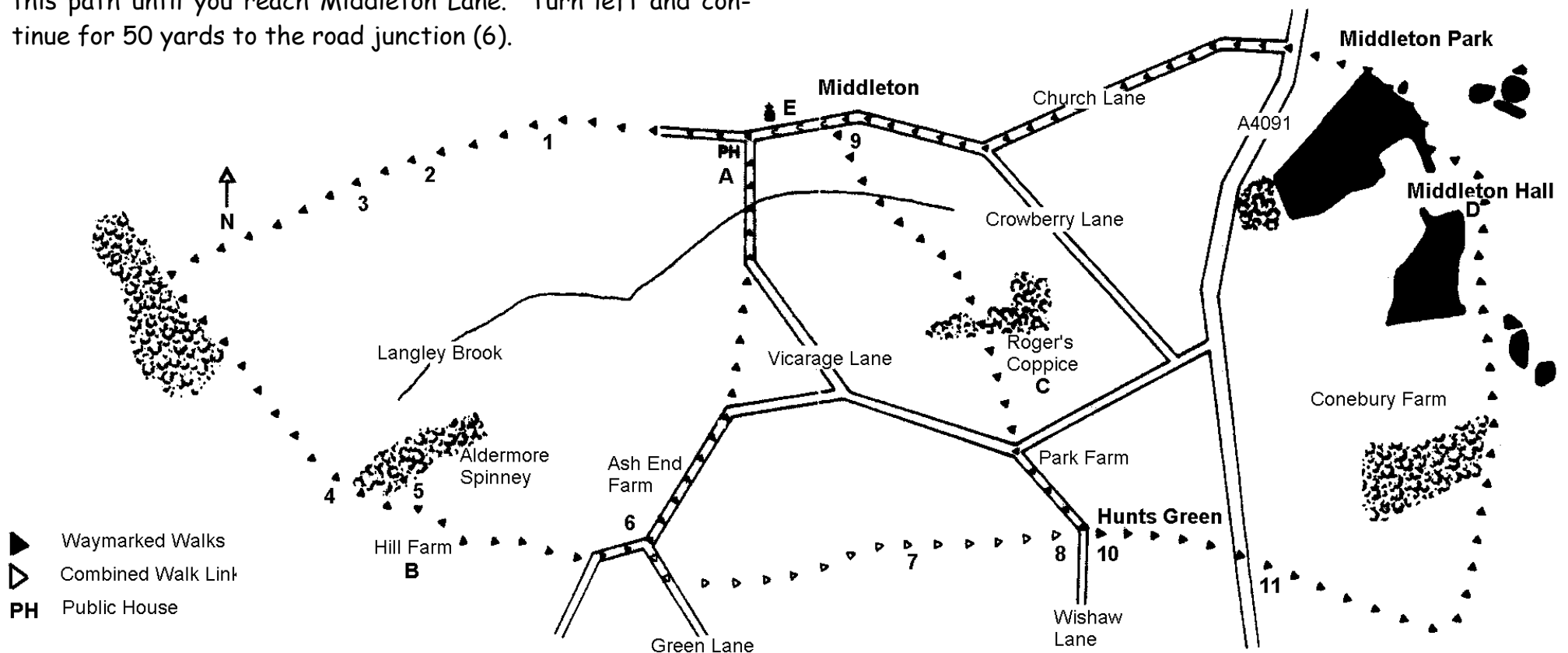
Walking through open countryside, head for the bridge over Langley Brook and cross the stile (4). Keeping to the cart-track along Aldermore Spinney, you climb gently to the stile (5) at Hill Farm (B). Taking in the panoramic views, continue on this path until you reach Middleton Lane. Turn left and continue for 50 yards to the road junction (6).

East Walk (cont):

Cross the main road with care and proceed along Church Lane to the Parish Church of St John the Baptist (E) with its medieval tower and, to the rear of the churchyard, Anglo-Saxon settlement remains. The Green Man is straight ahead.

Combined Walks:

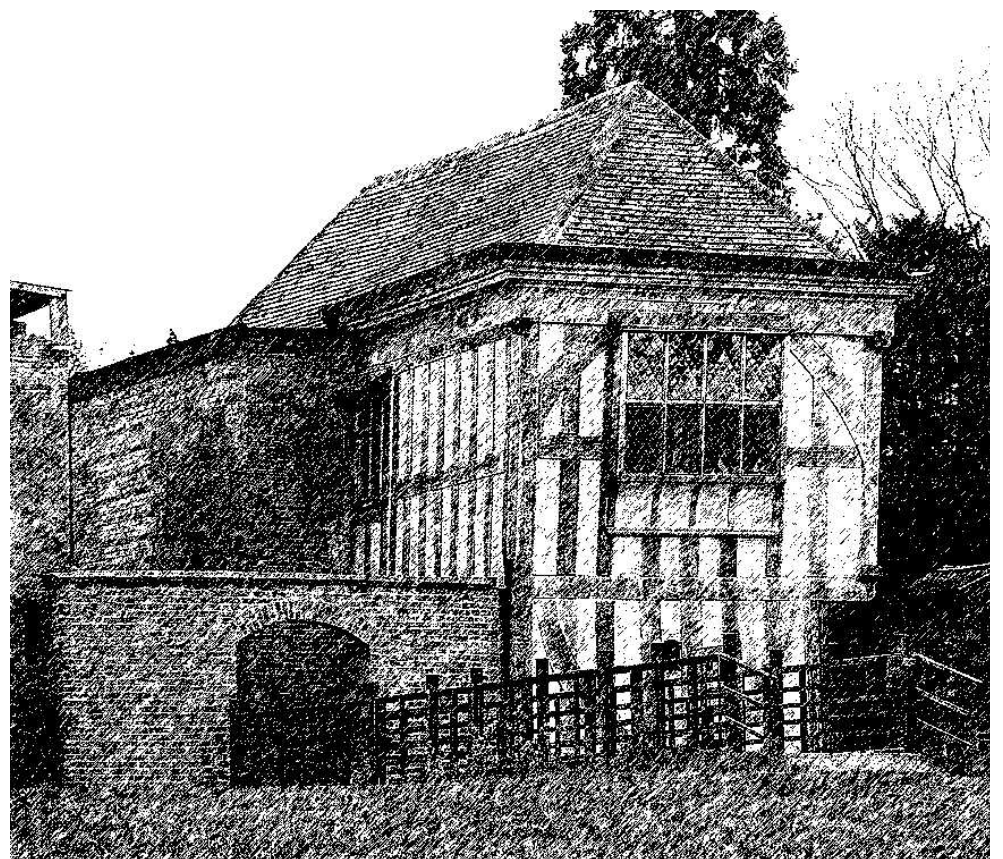
The West and East walks can be combined to form an enjoyable half-day route. Follow the West walk to the road junction marked (6). Turn right into Green lane. Twenty yards past the Corner House, take the clearing in the hedge to your left. Cross the field and walk along the hedge line until you reach a stile underneath the power cables (7). Turn right and follow the line of the hedge to Wishaw Lane (8). Take the clearing in the hedge, cross the stile (10) and follow the remainder of the East Walk from this point.



Proceed straight ahead and walk for 300 yards until you reach a track and proceed diagonally across the field. Leave the field at Vicarage Hill and continue straight ahead to Middleton.

East Walk:

From the Green Man Public House (A), follow Church Lane in an easterly direction with the school and church on your left. After 200 yards, turn right onto the path beside the bungalows. Cross the stiles (9) and meadow and follow the path across Langley Brook. With the hedge on your right, walk through the field to Roger's Coppice (C), now known as Bluebell Wood. Keep to the path through and out of the wood until you reach a road junction with a house on your right. Proceed straight on, up Wishaw Lane and through Hunts Green. After 300 yards, turn left through the clearing in the hedge, cross the stile (10) and continue on the path to the A4091. Cross the road with care by the electricity sub-station. The field gate and stile (11) slightly to the right lead to a wood in the right hand corner of the field. After walking through the wood, turn left onto the permissive route of the road leading through the gravel workings. Continue past Conebury Farm, noting the many varieties of water plants on the edge of the extraction area on your right. On your left, before Middleton Hall, can be found a small Nature Reserve maintained by Atherstone Natural History Society. Walk towards and to the right of historic Middleton Hall (D) and follow the driveway past a lake (a SSSI and wildlife haven).



Above, the jettied building c. 1500, Middleton Hall. Considerable renovation work has been undertaken by Middleton Hall Trust with much of this work still ongoing. The Hall is open to the general public (admission charges apply) most Bank Holidays and Sundays from March until October. A detailed programme can be obtained by ringing 01827 283095.

Atherstone Natural History Society, for more information contact Sue Naylor on 01827 713726.