

Middleton Hall
© Chris Harris

Explore the landscape, history and wildlife of the Tame Valley Wetlands. Stretching between Birmingham and Tamworth is an extraordinary, hidden landscape on the doorstep of over one million people.



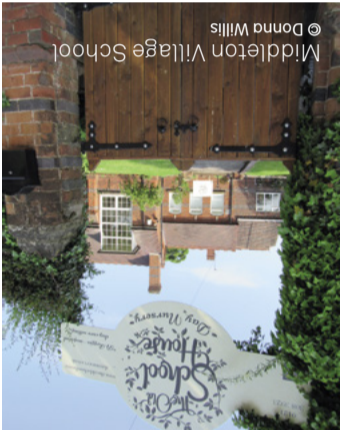
Middleton: school children received a loaf each year, given in a special Whitsuntide school service. Residents of the hall include Sir Francis Lawley, MP for Warwickshire, reportedly instrumental in the development of the Tamworth breed of pig. A short distance away from Middleton village are Middleton Hall and RSPB Middleton Lakes, an important part of the Tame Valley Wetlands countryside. The Domesday Book of 1086 describes residents of the manor as Saxons named Pallin and Thurgot.

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Previously gravel extraction land and now an important site for overwintering wildfowl such as pochards, smew and tufted ducks. There is a variety of habitat including lakes, reed beds, woodland and meadows.

Middleton Hall

The Domesday Book of 1086 describes residents of the manor as Saxons named Pallin and Thurgot.



Middleton Village School
© Donna Willis

Middleton. In the census of 2011, Middleton had a population of 631.

Church of St. John the Baptist

Dating from Anglo Saxon times and mentioned in the Domesday Book. Unfortunately today none of the original Anglo Saxon church remains as it was rebuilt in the Norman style, probably towards the end of the 12th Century. There is a sculpture of two half-brothers, Benjamin and Samuel White, whose father Samuel White was a great benefactor of

Walk highlights



Brown Hawker
© Dafydd Jones

At the time of the Domesday Book, Middleton was controlled by a Norman Overlord, Hugh de Grandmesnil, given to him by William the Conqueror for his services at the Battle of Hastings. After his death in 1098, it was passed to the Marmonions of Tamworth. The title of Baron Middleton was created by Queen Anne in 1711 as a hereditary baron. It is currently held by Michael Charles James Willoughby, 13th Baron

Middleton Village



Getting here

Middleton is located four miles from Junction 9 of the M42 from the south and two miles from the A38/A453 roundabout to the west. Middleton has no official car parks.

This walk is serviced by a regular bus service (75/75a) running Monday to Saturday between Birmingham Airport and Sutton Coldfield. More information can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses then search for 'Middleton'.

This guide is available to download from the website. For more information visit:

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

✉ enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

Facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands

@thetamevalley

This walk has been created with assistance from Middleton Parish Council and:

Funding raised by
The National Lottery
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Cover image, Church of St John the Baptist © Donna Willis. Content © Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



Recycle after use

FSC

Middleton Village Circular Walk

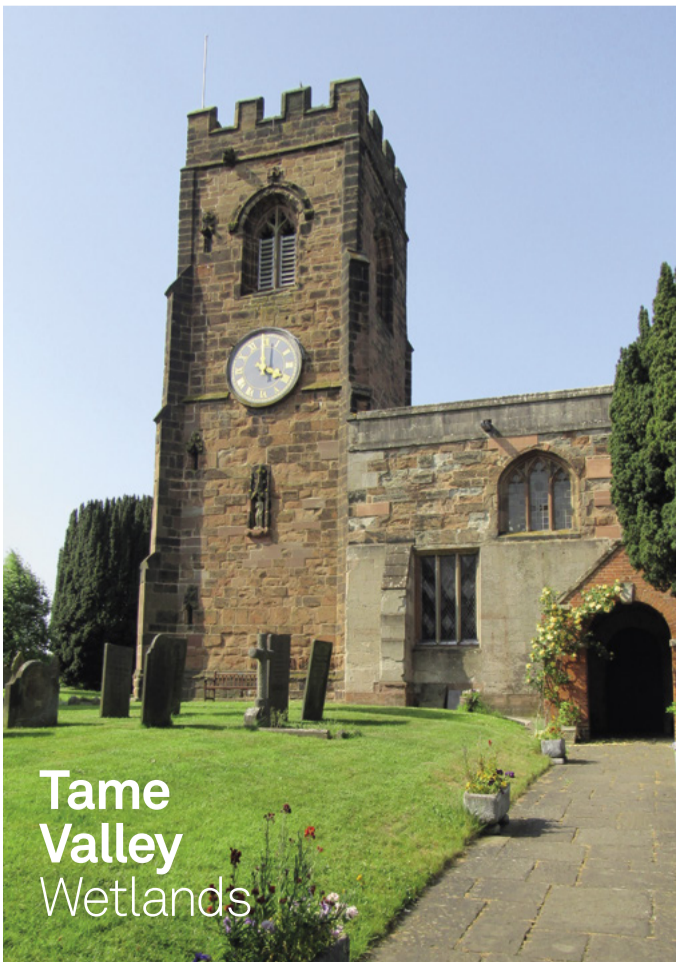
Medium: 6km / 4 miles



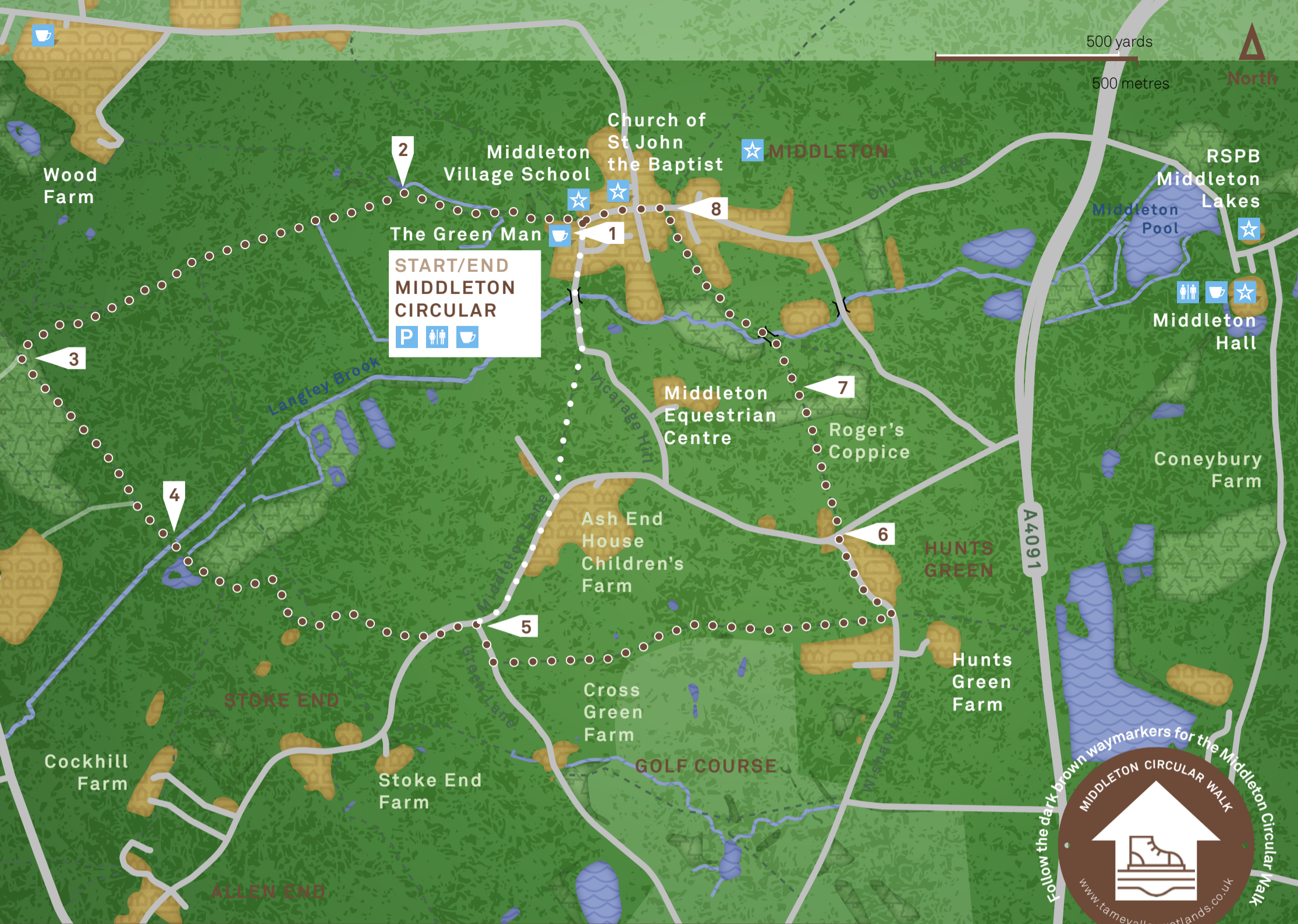
Follow the Countryside Code

Sections of this circular walk travel through wildlife friendly areas. Please be aware of this and know your Countryside Code:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs.



Tame Valley Wetlands



Middleton Village Circular walk

Distance: 6 Km (4 miles) full loop

Allow: 3-3.5 hours

Landscape and path type:

The route uses unsurfaced footpaths through arable fields, muddy farm tracks, tarmacked pavements and roads. There are footbridges, slopes, pedestrian and kissing gates and a stile during this walk. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

Sections of this footpath pass through areas where shooting takes place. More information can be found at suttongc.co.uk/events.html

Map: OS 220 Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull & Redditch.

NOTICE: Please be aware that this walk takes you across the PGA course at The Belfry, please be mindful of golfers and obey all warnings and signs

Key

- Walk highlight
- Refreshments
- Parking
- Toilets
- Middleton Village Circular (full route)
- Shortcut back to start
- Route point
- Road
- Footpath
- Track
- Buildings
- Open water

Directions:

1 From the Green Man pub, walk to the left (east) down the slope, passing the Olde Smithy on your left and through a kissing gate. Walk along the road ahead for 700m through the area used by Sutton Gun Club (check the website for shoot dates).

2 Follow the way marking posts ahead onto arable fields, crossing over a short ditch to your right then following the path to your left again. Walk up the slope, keeping to the southern boundary of the field then turn left upon entering the woodland.

3 Keep following the meandering path until you reach the edge of the

wood again. CAUTION: This area is also used by the gun club – take note of the signs if the Club is shooting. Continue to follow the path through the joining field towards a foot bridge 350m in the distance.

4 Cross the Langley Brook and follow the track ahead and uphill towards Hill Farm, reaching Middleton Lane in 800m, turning left towards a three way junction.

5^a For a shorter walk, bear left here along Middleton Lane and follow the way marking posts onto a short footpath through a field in 400m. After exiting the field, walk

up Vicarage Hill, eventually coming back to the Green Man pub on your left.

5^b For the full loop, turn right onto Green Lane and look for a waymarking post 115m down on your left. Follow the waymarkers to the other side of the field, then pass into the Belfry golf course and follow the hedge line for 220m, cross over the ditch and turn right along the edge of the field until you reach Wishaw Lane. Turn left and walk along Wishaw lane for approximately 260m to a T-junction.

6 Cross the lane and continue ahead bearing slightly right through a gate

into an arable field. Take the path ahead towards Roger's Coppice in the distance. (CAUTION: Horses freely roam the next field and path is bounded by electric fencing.)

7 Walk through the gate into the next field towards the bridge over Langley Brook, which has two small step-over barriers and then follow the path to the left.

8 Exit onto Church Lane after 400m. Turn left and walk along the pavement back to the Green Man, passing the Church of St. John the Baptist and Middleton Village School on the right hand side.



Sedgework warbler
© Chris Harris