

# Rutland Local History & Record Society

Registered Charity No. 700273



## Glaston Village Walk

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(updated 2021)

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### INTRODUCTION

Glaston is derived from Glathr's *tun* (settlement). It is included in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is referred to as Gladeston. It stands on high ground about 400 ft above sea level, between two unnamed streams which form the northern and southern boundaries of the parish.

The village is bisected by the very busy A47 trunk road, and the Manton to Kettering railway line, built in the 1870s, passes under the parish, to the east of the village, through Glaston tunnel.

Details of the early history of Glaston are given in the *Victoria County History* where it is recorded that the lords of the manor included the Bohun, Stafford, Paunton, Harrington and Coly families. In 1786 the manor was purchased by John Cutler, a London merchant. He in turn sold it, together with the manor house, in 1795 to John Stranger, a grazier of Glaston for £4850. On his death in 1820, the manor was inherited by the Watsons, Lords Sondes of Rockingham Castle who held it until the middle of the 19th century. It was then acquired by the Monckton family of Fineshade Abbey who held it until their estate was broken up in 1928.

[A priory existed at Fineshade, (between Wakerley and Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire) until its dissolution in 1536. Sir Robert Kirkham purchased the priory in 1546 and turned it into his family seat and residence. William Payne King demolished the house and surviving monastic remains in 1749 and built a Georgian mansion on the site. The estate was purchased by the Moncktons in 1769 and it remained with the family until 1928, when it was sold to Charles d'Anyers Willis. The mansion was demolished in 1956].

### THE VILLAGE MAP

The map attached to this guided walk is based on the 25 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1886. Consequently, later buildings, extensions and demolitions are not shown. Numbers in the text, [12] for example, refer to locations shown on the map.

**Please:**

**Respect private property.**

**Use pavements and footpaths where available.**

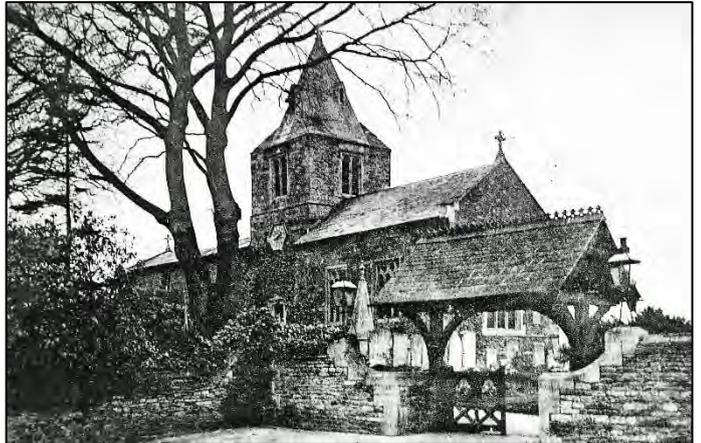
**Take great care when crossing roads, particularly the busy A47.**

**Remember that you are responsible for your own safety.**

### THE WALK

The walk starts at the **Village Hall**, known as the **Church Rooms** [1] when they were built for the benefit of the parish about 1901 by the Rev Richard Walton. Walk down the footpath to Church Lane and turn right. On the left is the former **Rectory** [2] which was built in 1861 at a cost of £2000 by the Rev Barnard Smith, formerly Senior Bursar of Peterhouse, Cambridge and Rector at Glaston from 1861 to 1876. He retained the cellars and three walls of the earlier rectory and incorporated a 17th century staircase said to be from Cambridge. In this rebuild the house was reversed to face Church Lane instead of Wing Road, and an adjoining farmyard was added to the garden and planted with specimen trees, including the surviving Wellingtonia. Orchard Close [3], the land on the opposite side of Church Lane and now occupied by bungalows, was originally an orchard belonging to the Rectory. Barnard Smith was also responsible for the restoration of the church chancel in 1862 to 1864.

Enter the churchyard via the **lychgate** [4] which was erected to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Note the bronze plaque above the gate. Aubrey Woods, a retired farmer, remembers having to polish this as a boy. Thomas Shelton, the churchwarden named on the plaque, was his grandfather.



*The church and Jubilee lychgate in 1910. (Jack Hart Collection)*

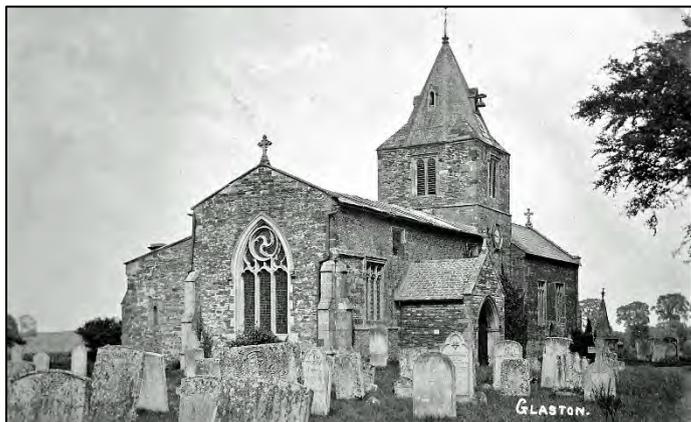
The **churchyard** has several interesting memorials and headstones. A full list and location plan of the surviving headstones can be seen in the church. The following are of particular interest and can be seen before entering the church:

- A cross to the north-east of the church to the memory of **The Rev Richard Waltham**, rector from 1890 to 1917, and Catherine his wife.
- A slate tablet on the east wall of the chancel to the memory of **The Revs Henry Robinson**, father and son. Like most curates of Glaston, they were men of standing in Rutland.
- A memorial on a plot at the east end of the churchyard to the memory of the **Evans-Freke, Carbery, and Boyle** families.
- A stone plaque on the south wall of the chancel, near the chancel door, to the memory of **Lady Carbery**. She entered the church via this door in her later years when she had to use an invalid carriage. Note the turning circle for the carriage.

- A table tomb to the east of the chancel door to the memory of the **Ridlington family**. This Grade II listed tomb was originally topped with a pyramid, but this was removed when it became unsafe.

Standing outside the porch, note the sundial in the gable. This is shown in a *circa* 1793 drawing of the church by John Feilding. On the twelfth century south-facing south-east corner of the nave there is a very weathered scratch dial, or medieval sundial, about 1.25 metres above ground level. The clock dial on the south face of the central tower has corbels which show that it was installed in 1739. The clock was made by Thomas Eayre of Kettering and the Churchwardens' Accounts show that the parish paid 14s for the hire of a horse and cart and a man's time to collect the clock from Kettering. It was installed by Robert Fox, a clockmaker of Uppingham. The hemispherical clock bell hung outside a south light of the spire until it was removed in 1931.

The Eayre clock was replaced by a movement made by John Smith & Sons of Derby. It was set going at 8pm on 13 September 1905.



*Glaston Church in 1925. Note the hemispherical clock bell hanging outside the spire. (Jack Hart Collection)*

In the tower there are six bells: the tenor by John Taylor & Co, dated 1937, was donated by Eric and Imogen Gore Browne; the second by the same founder, dated 1931, was donated by Victoria Carbery; the third, of the same date and again by the same founder, was donated by the Rev Richard Waltham; the fourth is dated 1622 and was cast by Toby Norris of Stamford, and the fifth is by the same founder and dated 1616. The sixth bell is the present clock bell. It was cast in 1598, probably by the Leicester foundry of Newcombe and Watts. It was donated by Anthony Coly, the Lord of the Manor, and is inscribed (in Latin) '*O Christ, King of Heaven, may this sound be pleasing to Thee*'.

If time allows, walk into the church [5], which is normally open, for more parish and church history.

On leaving the church, turn right to see the following memorials:

- A table tomb just to the west of the south porch to the memory of **Abel Bunning**. He was a Senior Fellow at Emanuel College and Rector of Aller, Somerset. He died in 1717 and was a nephew of a Glaston churchwarden.
- A stone cross to the right of the south path to Wing Road to the memory of **David Juett** who died in 1879 at the age of 78. He was a navvy who worked

on the construction of the Manton to Kettering railway line. A note in the burial register states that he also worked on the first Thames tunnel which was opened in 1825. There are five more navvies and four infants of navvy families buried in this churchyard, but none have headstones.

- A granite cross facing across the Wing Road to the memory of **The Rev Barnard Smith**, Rector from 1861 to 1876. Erected by his wife Clara.
- A headstone immediately to the south of the above cross to the memory of **Thomas and Sarah Leggett**. They were butler and housekeeper to the Rev Barnard Smith. After the death of their master, they moved to 'The Hollies' (see below), owned by Clara Smith, and took up market gardening.

Walk across the churchyard to Wing Road. Cross the road near the north entrance to the churchyard and look across the field [10] to the west. The **estate cottages** seen in the distance [6, 7, 8 and 9] (inset on the map) were built in the 1850s and the 1860s to his own design by the future Lord Carbery of **Bisbrooke Hall**. He also built similar properties in Laxton and in Castle Freke, Northern Ireland, as well as a school for Glaston and Bisbrooke children (see below).

Sand was excavated from this field and transported to Sheffield during World War II for use in casting component parts for munitions. Villagers remember large bones being unearthed during the excavation work, and in 1949 archaeologists discovered a 6th century pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery here. Before World War II the village tennis courts were in this field.

Look to the north along Wing Road. The stone wall on the right [11], beyond the churchyard, and bordering Coppice Farm, was the perimeter wall of the original **Glaston Manor House** [12]. The house stood immediately to the north of the church as shown on the map and originally consisted of a main block and two wings. It was demolished in 1891. AS can be seen, the site is now occupied by farm buildings.

Turn left and walk along Wing Road towards Main Road. On the left is the former pedestrian entrance to the **Rectory** [13], abandoned when the house was rebuilt in 1861. This late 17th century wall, together with the south wall of the churchyard, is Grade II listed.



*The Early Upper Palaeolithic archaeological investigation site in Wing Road in 2000. (www.researchgate.net)*

Opposite is Denfield Close [14] which was built on the site of a 2000 archaeological investigation during which a hyaena den and woolly rhinoceros, spotted hyena, reindeer, and wolverine bones were discovered.

The excavation was the subject of many national newspaper stories and was featured in 'Meet the Ancestors' and 'Time Team' television programmes. Over 600 people visited the site on the two public open days.

Continue to the junction with Main Road. On your left is the former **Monckton Arms** [15], now **The Old Pheasant**, a mid-18th century Grade II listed ironstone and limestone public house which was much altered in the 20th century. It was named after the Monckton family of Fineshade, lords of the manor of Glaston. Originally it was known as the **Sondes Arms** after a previous lord of the manor (see above).

On the opposite side of Wing Road is **Grange Farm** [16], a Grade II listed farmhouse which was re-built in 1706 by Dennis Taylor as indicated by the datestone on the east elevation. At some time, it was a public house known as the Swan, or White Swan. It was purchased about 1745 by the Heathcotes of Normanton, later Earls of Ancaster, and sold to Percy Evans-Freke in 1905. The red tile roof is typical feature of restored Ancaster properties.

Carefully cross Main Road into Seaton Road. Seaton Road and Wing Road were once on a major route

through Rutland, being part of the road from London to Nottingham via St Neots and Oakham. This is shown on several early maps, particularly the John Senex and Owen and Bowen strip maps of *circa* 1720. Main Road is part of the former Leicester and Peterborough turnpike which was established by Act of Parliament in 1753/4.

Until recently there were garage workshop and office buildings on the north-east corner of Seaton Road [17]. These buildings were a slaughterhouse until the 1940s. Today, there are three new houses on the site, known as **Glaston Gardens**.



*Glaston Garage site in 2008. (RO)*

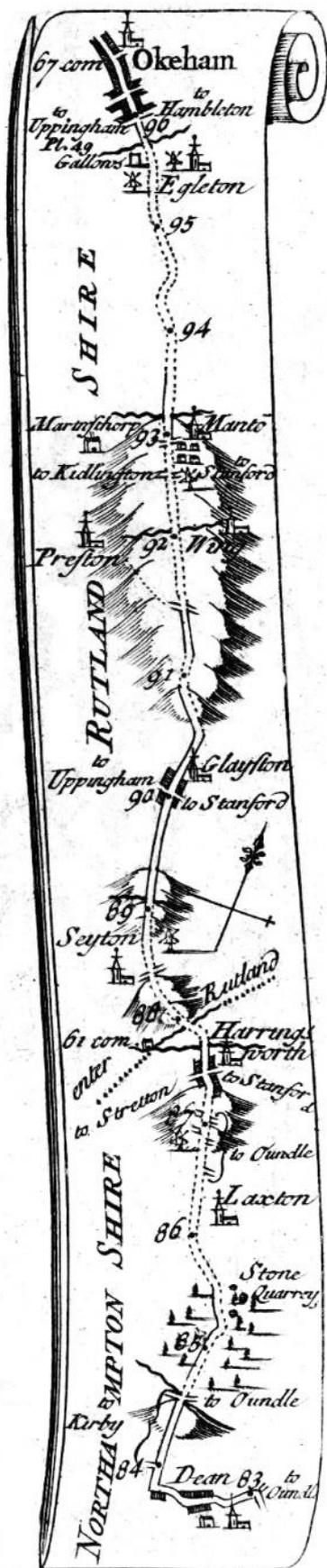
Further down Seaton Road, where there are more modern houses [18], there used to be four lock-up garages. These were former **navy huts** used during the building of the Manton to Kettering railway in the 1870s. One of these huts was the village **Reading Room** until the First World War. Beyond is a walled garden [19], formerly the garden to **Glaston Hall**. Another navy hut still survives opposite this walled garden [20] and this is said to be a former **Mission Hut**.

On the north-west corner of Seaton Road is the former **pinfold** or pound [21] which was used to hold stray animals. In more recent years it was an allotment.

To the west of Seaton Road, behind the pinfold is **Glebe Field** [22]. This was set up as the village allotment gardens about 1841 by the then Rector, Dr Cookson, master of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. The allotment rules which still survive, were very strict. For example, only particular crops could be grown on fixed proportions of the land, the land could only be cultivated by spade, and a tenant could lose his allotment if found to be working on a Sunday or leading a 'grossly immoral life'.

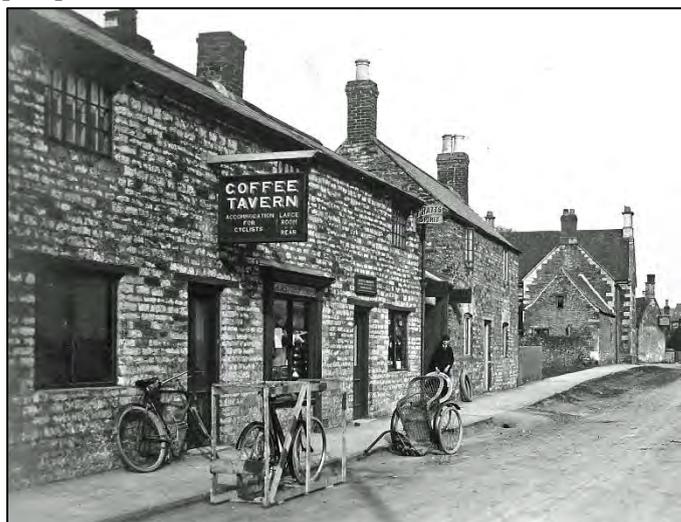
From Seaton Road, turn left into Main Road and walk along the footpath (towards Uppingham). Along here were the village shop, a smithy's house and workshop and the **Three Horseshoes** public house, all long since closed. The shop [23] was also originally a **Coffee Tavern**, set up by Lady Carbery because she did not like her workers drinking alcohol. It was also possible to hire bicycles here. and in 1910 Mr Jennings was charging 6d an hour for riding tuition. There was a pool table at the rear where magic lantern shows were also on offer.

The **Coffee Tavern** eventually became part of the **village shop and post office**, but it is now a private



*Part of the John Senex London to Nottingham map of circa 1720.*

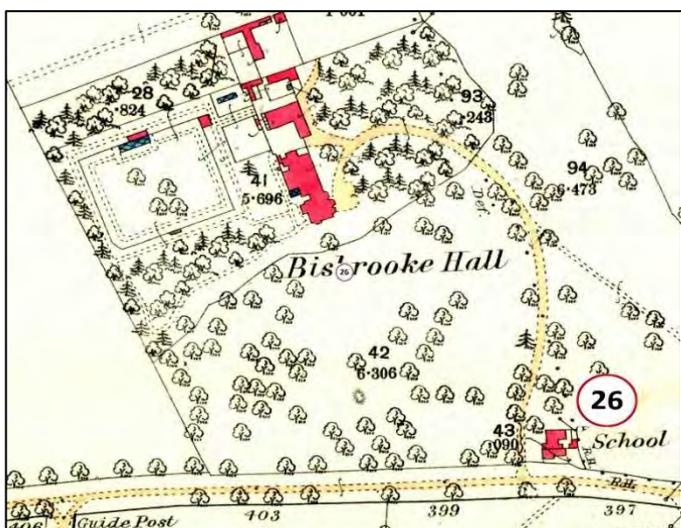
dwelling. Until 1880, John Gambrell was the blacksmith at the smithy [24]. His son Samuel was the church organist before he moved to South Witham. A Mr Garrett was the last blacksmith here until he retired in the 1930s. A surviving picture postcard postmarked 1927 shows a petrol pump at this location.



Lady Carbery's coffee tavern in 1905. (Jack Hart Collection)



Main Road in 1927. (Jack Hart Collection)



The location of Bisbrooke Hall and Lord Carbery's village school. (OS Series 1 25" map of 1886)

The **Three Horseshoes** [25] closed as a public house in the 1970s. Its name was changed to 'The Trooper' just before it closed, probably in recognition of the soldiers

who were billeted at **Bisbrooke Hall** in World War II. The innkeeper in 1861 was John Warren who was also a shoemaker according to the Census returns.

If time allows, walk a little further along the road to the entrance to the drive to **Bisbrooke Hall** on the right. The building here is the former **school** [26] built by Lord Carbery of Bisbrooke Hall for the children of Glaston and Bisbrooke. This is, in fact, in the parish of Bisbrooke. He gave the school to his stepmother, Mrs Evans-Freke, who also lived at the Hall. She devoted her widowhood to the children and taught scripture at the school, which is now a private dwelling.

Walk back along Main Road to the **Old Pheasant** and continue straight ahead towards Church Lane. On the left is No 17, formerly known as **The Hollies** [27]. It consists of a house, an attached cottage, and a range of outbuildings including a brewhouse at the rear. It was much rebuilt and adapted in the early to mid-1800s and has been occupied by an apothecary, a woolcomber, a shopkeeper, a wheelwright and a market gardener. In 1880 it was sold to Susannah Hodson, a retired housekeeper from Bisbrooke Hall, after which it became a domestic property.

On the south side of Main Road is **Lonsdale Farmhouse** [28], a Grade II listed building dated 1660 on a concealed date stone in the east gable end. A wing was added at right angles to the east end to form an L-plan building early in the 19th century. The mid-19th century limestone ashlar gate piers are also listed. Beyond the house, across the paddock, the wall to the **Glaston Hall gardens** can be seen [29].

Turn left into Church Lane. On the left, note the sundial on the Grade II listed **Sundial Cottage** [30], a 17th century cottage with 19th and 20th century alterations. The canted bay window is similar in construction to the Bisbrooke Hall Cottages mentioned earlier.

A little further along, 1 Church Lane [31] on the left is a red brick cottage said to have been built from bricks left over from the building of the **Welland Viaduct**. Continue along Church Lane passing the **Church Rooms** and following it round to the right. Note the churchyard wall [32] which was restored in the 1990s. On the right is a garage with a filled-in window [33], and beyond is 12 Church Lane [34], the home in 1861 of William Stafford, a butcher. Meat was sold from the now filled-in window.

Beyond the churchyard wall there used to be a lane to the left [35] with cottages which led down to the fields. The site is now occupied by modern dwellings.

Walk along to the cross-roads. Turn left into Wier Lane and stop at the Grade II listed **cart wash pond** [36] on the right. Note that one end of the pond has no retaining wall. This was to allow carts to reverse into the water. Soaking cart wheels prevented the wood from shrinking away from the iron rims. The pond was also used for soaking horses' feet in dry weather to prevent the hooves from cracking. The Overseer of Highways Accounts for 1743 record the purchase of stone to repair the side walls of this pond:

*For work done at Glaston Wyre.*

*For 52 foot of Parper Ashlar and Coping, and for mending the sluices £1-8s.*

On the left is a **spring-fed trough** [37] which has never been known to run dry. Even today, people bottle water

from this spring. There used to be many springs in this area and before mains water was available a ram pump was used to pump water to **Glaston House**. Further down the lane, but obscured by foliage, is another **stone edged pond [38]**, formerly belonging to Glaston House, and referred to on older maps as a fishpond.

Walk back to the cross-roads and turn left into Manor Lane. At the end on the left is a former farmhouse, now known as **Coppice House [39]**. The date stone in the west gable end with RCE 1696 possibly refers to Richard and Elizabeth Chiseldine. Richard was churchwarden, overseer of the poor, and member of a jury at the inquisition into charities at Oakham Castle in 1688. Note also the filled-in windows, possibly as a result of the Window Tax introduced in 1696. Beyond the gates at the end of Manor Lane, the garage [40] was formerly a 17th century **dovecote** in the crew yard of Coppice Farm.

On the right is **Manor Farmhouse [41]**. It is Grade II listed with the rear wing being possibly as early as late 15th century. It was altered in the 17th and 20th centuries. The front wing is a late 17th century addition with later extensions. The large barn across the courtyard [42] is again listed and has a date stone with TR 1743 on the south gable. This possibly refers to Thomas Ridlington.

Return along Manor Lane and turn left into Spring Lane. On the west side note the Grade II listed former **bakehouse [43]** dated to the early 19th century. Opposite is the late 17th century **Thatch Farm [44]**, the only remaining thatched property in Glaston.

Next on the left is **Glaston Park [45]** which was formerly farm buildings attached to **Glaston House**. On the right are former gardens and gardener's cottages [46].

**Glaston House** on the left [47] is now called **Glaston Hall** by Smithers Pursloe, the owners. For some time, it was a hotel and restaurant known as **Glaston Park Hotel**. Originally an 18th century red brick house, it was rebuilt by Lady Carbery when she returned to Glaston as a widow in 1894. Some of the stone, notably the stone porch, was re-used from the **Glaston Hall** which stood on the opposite side of Main Road. Note in particular, the bay window at first floor level.

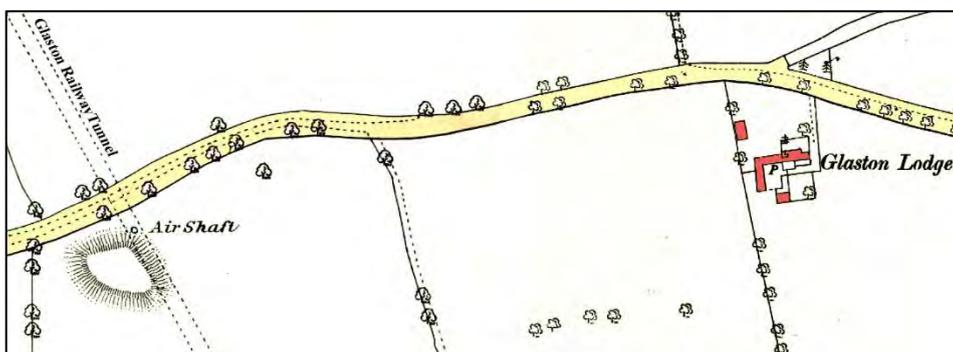


*Glaston house in 1925. (Jack Hart Collection)*

Continue to Main Road. Turn left and walk a short distance along the grass verge to see an early **milestone [48]**. It has 'TO WANSFORD 12 MILES. UPPINGHAM 2 MILES. LEICESTER (illegible).

On the south side of the road, beneath the trees, is the site of **Glaston Hall [49]**. Although shown on the 1886 map, it has since been demolished. Only one small structure remains, said to be the servant's smoking room. The **walled garden** stretches through to Seaton Road.

Further along the A47 to the east, beyond the ventilation shaft for **Glaston railway tunnel**, but not part of this walk, is **Glaston Lodge**, formerly **Church Farm**. This is thought to be where the Rev Daniel Barrett lived when he was in charge of the navvies Railway Mission during the building of the **Manton to Kettering railway** in the 1870s. He was also author of *Life and Work Among the Navvies* (1880). Some of the navy huts and a **Mission Hut** were in the field below the ventilation shaft.



*The location of Glaston Lodge. (OS Series 1 25" map of 1886)*

This is the end of the walk. Return to the Church Rooms via Spring Lane and Church Lane.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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Robert Ovens

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