

Barrowden Circular Walk
Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)
Typical time: 3 hours

1. Park on the green in Barrowden and take the Morcott Road west out of the village. At the first junction turn left towards Harringworth, and after a few yards you will see the path taking off down a drive to the left.
2. After 10 yards cross the stile in the fence on the right, leading diagonally across a field towards the disused railway line. Just before coming to the line, follow the path right up the field edge, until you reach a track which takes you across the disused line. Turn immediately right and you have great views of the Harringworth Viaduct as you head west towards it for 0.75 miles.
3. On reaching a stile and a metalled track, turn left and cross the bridge over the Welland; then turn immediately right and follow the riverbank for two fields. At the start of the third field, cut across it due south towards the tiny hamlet of Shotley
4. Proceed up this tiny road, past a few houses and then along a track between fences. Go through two field gates and then you will begin your ascent up the valley edge.
5. As you reach the field boundary at the top of the hill, go left on the south side along the field boundary. This is not marked as a right of way, but it is a permissive path, NB32; pass through a gate in front of you and continue to follow the path, now between fences, until you reach a gate leading into the disused quarry
6. On reaching the quarry, turn left along the track along the quarry bottom, and you will soon see the track snaking out of the quarry to your right and heading up towards a coppice. You have now re-joined the public right of way.
7. Follow the well-marked grassy track east, over a concrete strip (the old World War II Spanhoe Airfield) and you will reach a field. The path goes straight across this field, aim for the more established coniferous trees, where you join a very solid forestry track.
8. Stay on this metalled track as it heads east and north. After 1.3 miles, as you are heading north, you will see a wide grassy track straight in front of you heading up slightly, with an interpretation panel on your left, whilst the metalled track continues to the right.

9. Take this grassy track ahead and follow it for about 300 yards before bearing right (due east) for a further 400 yards; on reaching a more defined track with a small white sign with red strip, turn left, and stay on this path due north (do not take the path as it swings right) until you exit the wood onto the Wakerley Rd
10. Turn left on the road, go past the new Wakerley quarry on your left and after a few yards the path takes off up some steps to the left behind Wakerley Church and down to Wakerley.
11. Take the road through Wakerley village in a westerly direction, until you see a footpath sign directing you right, back to Barrowden; you pass under the disused railway bridge, cross the Welland on a footbridge and the rest is plain sailing!

