

Carlton Parish Walks

Carlton is a small village and Parish in an excellent area for walking, just over 1 km north of Market Bosworth, and easily accessible from the A444, A447 and Ashby Canal.

Parking is easiest in Main Street, to the west of St. Andrew's Church. Please do not obstruct access drives or gateways.

Both walks start at the village history board in Shackerstone Walk, next to Carlton Green, at the western end of the village.

Old School Cottage, on the corner of Main St and Shackerstone Walk is now a private house, but was the village school until 1969. The plaque above the front door records that it was erected "...for the education of poor children of the Parish AD 1847".

Walk 1:

6.3km (4 miles) allow 1.5 hours, undulating countryside, mostly through fields

Parking: Main Street

Starting from the village history board in Shackerstone Walk, take the footpath along Little Lane. At the bottom, turn left to pass behind some farm buildings and then right where two paths cross.

A. The path runs across rolling countryside to Shackerstone Station. Cross the station bridge and turn right along the road outside the station to Turn Bridge.

□ Carlton Stone was once quarried from this field and can still be seen in many buildings and walls in the area. Locally, the most obvious is The Stone House, 24 Main Street which is partly late 17th century and built wholly of Carlton Stone.

(Directions for Walk 2 begin at this point)

B. On approach to Turn Bridge turn sharp right along a tarmac road under the railway, signposted "Leicestershire Round". Pass straight through the yard of Shackerstone Barn Farm to join a bridleway to Barton in the Beans. This bridleway gets trampled and very muddy in wet weather.

C. Approx. 100m along Main Street turn right through a small-holding and then across fields back to Carlton, heading for the Church Tower.

Walk 2:

8 km (5 miles) allow 2 hours, across undulating countryside and surfaced towpath

Parking: Main Street

Follow directions for Walk 1 until Point B

Cross Turn Bridge, join the canal towpath, and pass under the bridge, back towards Shackerstone Station.

This towpath offers a level, surfaced route to Carlton Bridge (No.44). The Ashby Canal opened for traffic in 1804, and meanders along the 300' contour. Commercial use declined following the opening of the railway in 1873, but did not cease until 1966. The quiet waterway contains many species of pondweed and marginal water plants, which in turn support many insects and invertebrates. The 10km length between Carlton Bridge and Snarestone was designated a SSSI in 1989.

1. Leave the towpath and cross Carlton Bridge on the road, keep left along Congerstone Road, and then turn right on a footpath over the railway back to Carlton.

Useful Information:

Bus: Arriva Service 153 Leicester - Mkt Bosworth (7 day service) stops at the east end of Carlton village. Please confirm with Traveline (0870 608 2 608) before you travel.

Refreshments & toilets: The Gate Hangs Well Public House at the east end of Carlton; Station buffet at Shackerstone Station; Rising Sun Public House in Shackerstone village.

It is advisable to wear suitable footwear when walking. Stout shoes or walking boots are recommended.

Some stretches of the route follow minor country roads. Beware of traffic approaching from both directions. If possible stay on the verge, if not walk in single file on the right hand side of the road.

Enjoy the walks, whilst observing the Countryside Code.

Walking - Be fit and well

The benefits of walking regularly include; reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, bowel cancer, breast cancer, osteoporosis and obesity. In addition, many people feel better in themselves. Regular exercise is thought to help ease stress, anxiety and mild depression.