

Walk 2: Harrold-Odell Country Park

1. Walk down the drive from the front door of the Centre a short way until you reach a small gap in the hedge on the right. Turn down here and follow the well-marked path (The Coffin Route) passed the sewage works (right) and on to the concrete path. Follow this to the first cattle grid (metal bars set in the road). On the left is a “kissing gate” – go through this and cross the field diagonally to a small pond. Pass to the left of this until you reach another kissing gate leading to the main Carlton – Harrold Road.
2. Cross the main road with care and walk across the front of a pair of houses. Turn right into a narrow footpath between the houses and a garden on the left. Follow this path round so that you are above the main road. Continue along this ‘causeway’ towards Harrold Bridge. (The causeway enables people to walk from village to village well above the water when the river floods).



Route map not to scale

You will see the spire of St Peter’s Church in Harrold on the left ahead of you). Take care with the traffic as you walk across Harrold Bridge which crosses the Great Ouse. (There’s a large refuge in the centre of the bridge if you encounter a lorry or bus while crossing). Once across the bridge, proceed along the footpath on the left, crossing Hall Close until you reach the sign for HarroldOdell Country Park on the opposite side of the road.

3. Cross the road and enter the Park. Follow the path straight ahead passing the Visitor’s Centre (left) and main car park (right). Just passed the car park you can either take the stony track straight ahead or follow the more attractive path to the left of the hedge. This follows the lake edge and rejoins the stony track after a short distance. Having rejoined the stony track keep following it through the Park. There’s a bird hide on the left and it’s worth entering this quietly and look over the lake at some of the interesting birds that inhabit the Park.
4. Leaving the hide, continue left along the main track. The land to the right is a mixture of coppiced (cut & harvested) woodland, marsh and lakes. It is not advisable to stray into this area with a group unless you know where you are going. When you see a stone cottage come into view ahead of you, look out for a signpost saying “public footpath/bridleway”. Follow this to the left as it winds its way around the edge of the lake back to the Visitor’s Centre and café.
5. Return to Chellington the same way you came.