

Walk 4: Country Park & Odell (wet weather route)

1. Walk down the drive from 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). You will see the spire of St Peter's Church in Harrold on the left ahead of you.



Route map not to scale

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 Harrold-Odell Country Park on the opposite side of the road.

3. Enter the Park and follow the track straight in front of you. You will pass the Visitor's Centre & Café on the left and the main car park on the right. At the gateway you can either proceed along the track or follow the lakeside path on the other side of the hedge to your left. This rejoins the track after a short distance but provides better views of the lake and its wildlife. Having rejoined the stony track and follow it to the bird hide on the left. This overlooks the lake. Enter it quietly and you may get some fine views of the birdlife on and around the lake
4. Return to the track and follow it left passed the coppiced (cut & harvested) woodland, marsh and reed beds on the right. Continue to walk through the park and enter Odell village. Walk up to "The Bell" (right) and round to the left passed houses and the post box.

Follow the main road back towards Harrold. After about a mile you will reach a T junction. Turn left towards Harrold, passed the fire station. This will take you back to the entrance to the park. You can then walk back to Carlton and then up to Chellington. All this section you will be walking on a good pathway alongside the road.