

How to get there: From Leicester, follow the A47 westwards towards Hinckley. Turn right on the B582 to Desford and Newbold Verdon and then left on the B585 to cross the A447 and on into Market Bosworth. Carlton (centre – CV13 0BZ) is two miles north of Market Bosworth.

Car parking: Street parking only in the village. Use discretion.

Public transport: see www.traveline.info

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 232 Nuneaton and Tamworth.

Route: Easy walking in gently undulating countryside. Pleasant villages en route.

Refreshments: Carlton's pub, 'The Gate Hangs Well', is at the eastern end of the village. Shackerstone's pub, 'The Rising Sun' is on Church Road. When trains are running on the Battlefield Line, there is a tea room at Shackerstone Station.



Items of interest

Carlton village has a little church (1764) – with an unusual 'saddleback'-topped bell tower – and some pretty village houses.

Shackerstone has a castle site mound. The Battlefield Line has a station in Shackerstone, with railway museum and tearoom. See www.battlefieldline.co.uk for train/opening times.

Abbreviations in the text: Metal kissing gate – MKG; Metal gate – MG; Foot bridge – FB.

The walk

From the centre of Carlton village, pass the church on your left and walk west along Main Street.



Pass the Victorian village school (now converted to a house) on your right and turn right along Shackerstone Walk.

Pass the Green and enter the enclosed path to the left of Glebe Farm signed 'Leicestershire Round Public Footpath to Shackerstone'. When the path ends at a kissing gate, turn sharp left to pass between the hedge on your left and big barns on your right. Keep on in the same direction until you reach the end of the field containing the barns.

Here, at a yellow waymark post, turn sharp right and walk close to the hedge on your left down to a metal kissing gate (MKG) – leading to a footbridge (FB) over a stream and further metal gate (MG).

Walk uphill with the hedge still on your left. *In this field, you may be able to see the 'ridge and furrow' remnants of the medieval farming system.* The MKG in the field's top corner leads to a small, hedged enclosure. Keep on in the same direction, with the hedge now on your right.

A MKG leads to a footbridge. You now have a series of 3 very wide fields, usually arable. Keep on in a straight line through the waymarked gaps across the middle of these wide fields, ignoring any side turnings, to reach a footbridge and MKG. In the next smaller, squarer field, cross to the MKG and footbridge in the top left hand corner.

The next, wide, field is bordered by a long stretch of woodland, opposite. You need to reach the far right corner of this wood. Aim for the isolated house, Keepers Cottage, to arrive at a stile to the right of wide gates. Cross the road to another stile to the left of Keepers Cottage, signed 'Leicestershire Round Public Footpath to Shackerstone'.

Continue in the same direction, going diagonally left across the field, making for the right corner of Orange Hill Plantation (the wood that borders the railway line). Go through the MKG and turn sharp left for a few paces to another MKG. With the wood on your left and views over Shackerstone Railway Station ahead, follow the path down to a footbridge over the railway, accessed by a MKG.

Cross the railway footbridge, with the old station (now a museum and tea rooms) down on your left. Turn right and follow the station approach track, beside the canal on your left, down to the road junction.



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With Turn Bridge to your left, cross the road to a wooden gate leading onto the canal towpath. (Shackerstone village centre, with church and pub, lies to your left.)

From Turn Bridge, walk with the canal on your left until you are opposite the old castle mound on the far side of the canal. Turn right through a MKG (with Leicestershire Round waymarks) in the hedge on your right.

Cross the field to a footbridge and metal gate. Go up the steps and over the disused railway line to descend more steps (with care) on the other side. Cross the concrete footbridge over the stream and go straight ahead to reach a stile. Pass under the bridge of the second railway line to another stile.

Now bear left to a MKG, 100m to the right of the corner of the field. Emerge on the field road and turn right. Continue on this winding track (which may be muddy in places) for about three quarters of a mile. *From the top of the rise you have fine views.*



The track levels out and you eventually reach Odstone Hall, on the edge of the village.

Pass Odstone Hall on your left and now look for a finger post and yellow-topped post on your left. The Leicestershire Round is signed straight on, but the yellow footpath arrow shows a right turn. Here we leave the Leicestershire Round.

Turn sharp right off the track to go downhill, passing to the left of a large tree-fringed pond, to a FB over a stream at the bottom of the field.

From the bridge, turn right to a stile and immediately left to follow a hedge on the left uphill through two fields, crossing a stile to the left of barns. After a MKG, the next field has a fenced path leading onto a track at a yellow-topped waymark post. Here, take the left option (signed with a blue bridleway arrow) along the track to step over a low barrier to the right of metal gates. Turn right on the road to reach Barton in the Beans crossroads.



At Barton crossroads there are two imposing, late 18th century Grade II listed buildings: Manor Farmhouse is on the right and Yew Tree House on the left.

Turn right again down Main Street. Ignore the first footpath on the left up Yew Tree Close and keep ahead to pass the impressive Baptist chapel (1841) on your right.



Ignore the second footpath left through the Sycamore Farm development. Keep ahead and take the third footpath, signed left up a drive between house numbers 49A and 51. (The finger post may be submerged in the hedge on your left, but you will see a yellow-topped waymark post a little further up the drive.)

Cross the grassed area to a pair of MGs and FB in the hedge ahead. You emerge onto a track. Cross the track to go through a MKG and bear left to cross the field corner diagonally to another MG by farm buildings. Turn right to immediately go through a metal farm gate.

Go ahead, past farm buildings on your right, to a MKG left of a farm gate. Now follow the hedge on your left to arrive at another MKG in the field corner. Cross the next field to a FB with yellow waymark post at the edge of a track. Guided by the direction of the arrow on the post, go straight over the track to follow the footpath at the field edge, close to the hedge on your left.



Carlton church can soon be seen on the skyline ahead.

A MKG leads to the next field. Go straight ahead to a footbridge and MKG to enter horse paddocks. Continue in the same direction to another MKG. Go ahead to join a track. Where this bends round left to enter a yard, keep ahead in the same direction to a MG.

After a narrow, enclosed path between houses, you emerge on Main Street, Carlton – opposite the church, where the walk began.

