Barnwell to Wansford

23 kms / 14miles

To Wansford Station in Peterborough
26kms/16miles

Barnwell Country Park (01832 273435) is the ideal starting point for route five, the final one of this series, to take in the market town of Oundle along the Nene and sharing part of the Oundle Riverside Walk.

The Nene then takes you through the peaceful water meadows and into Ashton, which is well known as the location for the World Conker Championships, held at New Lodge Fields between Ashton and Polebrook every year. The Chequered Skipper public house is in a superb location amongst chestnut trees while peacocks wander its delightful garden.

Head towards the village of Oundle, an ancient Northamptonshire market town, situated alongside the River Nene. This section of the walk is increasingly popular with walkers, artists and anglers, as it attracts a variety of wildlife which dwell in the water meadows. For a relaxing place to stay, The Talbot in Oundle is the perfect choice with its historical connections. The building contains the staircase from Fotheringhay Castle and the ghost of Mary Queen of Scots is thought to haunt this Elizabethan 16th Century hotel. Oundle Farmers Market occurs every 2nd Saturday of the month and the town is spoilt for choice of eateries and watering holes.

Continue to follow the route through Roman remains and the Saxon village of Nassington and towards Yarwell.

Nassington hosts the Prebendal Manor Medieval Centre, which is the oldest inhabited building in the county dating from 1230 and perfect for families to visit. This is also the site of a royal manor belonging to King Canute where he probably bought his first wife Queen Elfgifu who was born in Northamptonshire. The Black Horse dates from 1627. The Swallow Brook tributary crosses the Nene way here. Between Nassington and Yarwell you will briefly cross the borders into Peterborough to pass Yarwell Junction Station. Here you can enjoy the rebuilt station and steam trains at the Nene Valley railway, home of Thomas the Tank engine.

Yarwell is a pretty village with lovely local stone cottages with roofs lined with Collyweston slate and it lies within half a mile from the Nene and has fine views of the river. The walk here takes you through water meadows beside the riverside, on its way to the county boundary at Wansford. Take the path through Old Sulhey Forest, where the ancient woodland is renowned for its abundant wildflowers and finish your walk in Wansford.

Historically, the Northamptonshire Sand has been an important source of iron ore, with workable beds being present at locations such as Kettering, Northampton and Corby. Resting upon the Northamptonshire Sand is the Lincolnshire Limestone, which in places can be thinly split and has been used extensively for roofing (e.g. Collyweston, near Stamford). This Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust Reserve is located between Easton-on-the-Hill and Collyweston on the A43, travelling north, cross the busy road and follow the track alongside the houses. Grid Reference: TF 004 038

Old Sulhey, Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve is a fragment of the ancient Rockingham Forest and one of the Trust’s largest reserves in Northamptonshire. Old Sulhey is a picturesque mosaic of limestone quarries, grassland, woodland and wetland. The disused quarries provide a diverse habitat in themselves – from scrub, through grass to bare ground. The woodlands are abandoned ash, oak and field maple coppice and have a diverse ground flora particularly in Old Sulhey Forest. Great and lesser spotted woodpeckers live here, along with nuthatch and tree creeper. Limestone grasslands are important habitats due to the rich diversity of plants and associated invertebrates they support. www.wildlifenecn.org

If you enjoyed this section why not download our other popular local circular routes for Oundle Riverside Walk, Warmingham, Fotheringhay & woodnewton and Nassington & Yarwell.
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**Countryside Code**

The Countryside is a living, working environment, so please respect, protect and enjoy the countryside by:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

www.naturalengland.org.uk for more information

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