

13. Walk past the Peterscourt building on your right then cross the road and walk through the new Laxton Square gardens with the two large blocks of flats on your left. These gardens were recently formed when the flats were built on the site of the old market place.



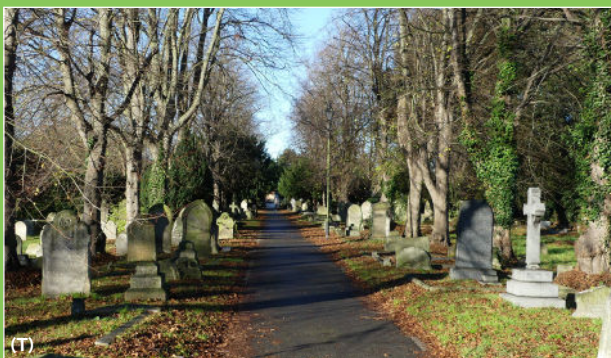
14. Cross Northminster by the zebra crossing immediately ahead of you then take the New Road almost in front of the crossing. After 100 metres turn left into Brook Street just past a car park edged with shrubs and trees. Walk past the City College on your right and enter Stanley Park. (R) Stanley Park was known as Stanley Recreation Ground until it was recently upgraded with tree planting, new lighting and recreation facilities.

15. Walk straight along the path across the middle of the park and leave the park onto Stanley Road. Follow Stanley Road to the busy junction with traffic lights. Cross the road ahead at the traffic lights towards, and then past the house with a turret on the corner.



This takes you into Broadway. (S) Broadway is a tree-lined avenue dating back to Victorian/Edwardian times, with many original houses remaining.

16. Walk down Broadway for 200 metres to the entrance to Broadway Cemetery (T) on your right. The cemetery is well worth a visit if you have time. It is no longer used for burials but is an attractive green space and is a designated wildlife area.



17. Continue down Broadway for another 300 metres to the stone arch entrance to Central Park on your left. Central Park (U, V) is the city centre's oldest park. Although more recent cost cutting has ended the annual planting of formal flower beds there is a splendid variety of trees, some planted in the early 1900s when the park was set up, shrubs and perennials. In addition to recreational areas there are paths around the perimeter (about 800 metres) as well as avenues crossing the park. There is a café and toilets in the centre and plenty of benches to rest on.

18. Leave the park at the southern entrance onto Princes Gate and turn right. After 50 metres turn left into Park Road at the junction and walk 200 metres towards the city centre until you arrive at a mini-roundabout. Park Road is another tree lined road leading out of the city centre almost parallel to Broadway. Before you reach the mini-roundabout you will pass King's Cathedral School, founded by Henry VIII and originally in the Cathedral precincts, on your right. The mini-roundabout is on the corner of Burghley Square, a tree lined square now diagonally bisected by a busy road.

19. Walk diagonally across the square to the traffic/pedestrian lights at the junction with Broadway. Cross the road to your right and continue 400 metres down the not-so-green part of Broadway back to Cathedral Square, where the walk ends.



City Centre Green Walk

A figure of 8 walk going south and then north from Cathedral Square and linking several green spaces.

Description: This short walk takes you on a southern loop through the historic Cathedral precincts, the open spaces of the Embankment, along the River Nene and back to the Cathedral through formal gardens. It then continues in a northern loop to two parks and an old cemetery that is now a designated wildlife area, all linked by tree-lined roads, before returning to Cathedral Square.

Distance: About 2.3 km on the southern loop and another 4.5 km (2¾ miles) on the northern loop.

Time: 45 minutes for southern loop and 90 minutes for northern loop (at a leisurely pace).

Starting & finishing point: Cathedral Square

Access: The walk is on tarmac paths except the 400 metres across the rough grass of the Embankment.

Facilities: There are multiple cafes and restaurants in the city centre. In addition, there is the Key theatre café on the Embankment and the Willow café in Central Park.



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Directions

1. From Cathedral Square go through the gate into the Cathedral precincts. (A) The green in front of the magnificent west front of the Cathedral is a popular spot for picnics.

2. Follow the path through the narrow gateway to the right of the Cathedral and enter the cloisters. (B) A peaceful lawned area surrounded by historic Cathedral buildings. Note the excellent interpretation boards here and elsewhere in the precincts.



3. Cross the cloisters diagonally and follow the narrow road (Minster Precincts) straight ahead, curving sharply to the left past the Almoners' hall to the gateway exit.

4. Turn right and walk the short distance up to the busy Bishop's Road. Cross the road at the pedestrian lights just to your right and enter the garden straight ahead. Almost immediately veer to the left, keeping the Lido close on your right, and follow the path onto the grassy Embankment. (C, D) The Embankment is the largest green open space close to the city centre. It is mostly a grassed area surrounded by many trees, with the river to the south. This area is used for a variety of events as well as being an important recreational space.



5. Walk slightly to your right across the middle of the Embankment. Look back occasionally for great views of the Cathedral. (E)



6. After about 400m you should arrive at the river Nene close to a modern road bridge crossing the river. Do not go under the bridge but turn sharp right and walk along the riverside. As you walk under the attractive line of willow trees (F, G) close to the water's edge enjoy the views across the river to your left (H, I) and across the embankment towards the Cathedral on your right. (J, K)



7. After about 400m turn right in front of the Key Theatre. (L) You can stop here for refreshments in the theatre café.

8. From the theatre entrance, turn right and walk 100m up the path to the left of the Lido. The Lido is a popular swimming pool in the summer and is fronted by formal gardens. (M)



9. Continue past the Lido and cross back over Bishop's Road at the crossing with pedestrian lights. Turn left and after 40 m right into Bishop's Road Gardens. This is a small formal garden area with seating close to the Cathedral precincts. (N)

10. Continue the short distance through the garden and at the exit turn sharp left to re-enter the Cathedral precincts at the gate you left earlier. Retrace your way along Minster Precincts, past the Almoners Hall on your left and the sharp bend to the right towards the Cathedral. (O)



11. Just before the entrance to the cloisters follow the road to the right then walk around the east end of the Cathedral. The gardens around this side of the Cathedral encompass the old graveyard. (P)

12. You will arrive back at the green in front of the Cathedral. (Q) You can finish the walk here or continue to visit parks and green spaces just to the north of the city centre. To continue, walk along the road to the right of the Cathedral green and turn right through the roadway gate with a barrier into Wheel Yard. Follow Wheel Yard for 50m to the T junction then turn right into City Road.

