

Welland vantage points

This is a superb winter walk, with glorious views and a few decent hilly bits, with six hostleries to sustain you en route if your energy levels flag at any point.

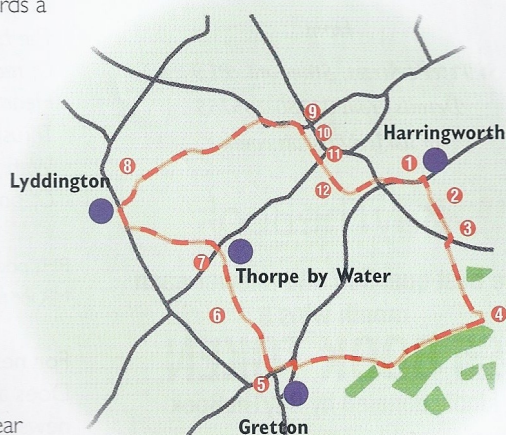
Directions

1. Park on the road outside Harringworth church. Enter the church yard and follow the path on the south side. Exit by another gate, turn right through riding school, and turn left when you reach the road. Follow the footpath 0.5 miles to Shotley.
2. Here the path turns right (south), through a farmyard at the end of this tiny hamlet; the path then climbs straight up the hillside, until you reach the high point at about 110ms; turn round for a stunning view of the viaduct and valley
3. The path then crosses a field diagonally until it reaches the road; go straight across, and the path continues almost due south for about a mile, until you approach Harringworth Lodge; at this point the path veers left and then right around a disused quarry.
4. Once immediately past the Lodge, the path goes along the east end of a lake; shortly after reaching the other side, the path then heads right (west) along a series of woods and coppices. After 1.25 miles the path turns to the right, and this will then take you down to Gretton.
5. Walk through Gretton; the path out takes off just to the left of the church; on entering the field before the railway line, bear diagonally right and you will reach a gate and a pedestrian railway crossing; from here, continue taking a diagonal line, until you reach the next field boundary, skirt round the right hand side of this, down towards a barn and the river.
6. The path now goes across meadows towards Thorpe by Water. After about 0.5 miles, you will find a footbridge, and then the path leads up to the road junction to Lyddington.
7. Take the road to Lyddington; on entering the village turn right up to the Bede House, go under the arch through the building follow the path up to the green, take the right turn past the mediaeval fish ponds, then bear left to rejoin the main track
8. This is now a lovely path all the way to

9. Turn right by the church and head down this road about 20 yards, to where a path leads back onto the fields. Cross a stile and head down SE across the fields towards a disused railway embankment that rises visibly ahead of you.
10. Look out for the steps up the embankment – these are now rotten, so take care. Descend the steps on the other side, cross a road and follow a track leading to a former mill-house.
11. Just before the front of the house, skirt round to the left of the mill pond, then veer right to cross a little foot-bridge. Immediately after the bridge, turn left and cross a stile. The path then continues SE over the fields.
12. Head towards the viaduct, which you will pass under. At the end of the field just beyond the viaduct, climb a stile onto a pavement. Follow it left back into the village.

Points of interest

Many of Lyddington's buildings are constructed of distinctive red sandstone, quarried at the nearby Stoke Dry. The Bede House was a medieval palace of the Bishops of Lincoln, and was converted into almshouses in 1600. It is now managed by English Heritage.



The **Harringworth Viaduct** was opened in 1878. To construct it, three thousand navies dug clay from the Welland Valley floor; made twenty million bricks and built the 82-arch three-quarter mile viaduct in little more than two years. This task was done to clip fifteen minutes off the journey time from Nottingham to Saint Pancras. And we think we're time-obsessed!



factfile

Distance	10 miles
Typical time	3.5-4 hours
OS map	Explorer (1:25 000) 234 7 224 or Landranger (1:50 000) 141 (always walk with an OS map)
Start & finish	The church, Harringworth, Rutland
Terrain	Pleasant ascents from and descents into the valley
Stiles	Many, and several gates
Getting there	Harringworth is 2.5 ms S of the A47, 4 ms E of Uppingham
Refreshments	White Swan, Harringworth (01572 747543) Gretton: The Talbot & Blue Bell Lyddington: the Old White Hart (01572 821703), Marquess of Exeter (01572 822477) Seaton: George & Dragon (01572 747773)