

Beningbrough Circular Walk – A Riverside and Woodland Loop

Distance: Approx. 3.7 miles / 6 km

Duration: 1.5–2 hours at a gentle pace

Terrain: Well-defined woodland paths, field edges, riverside trail, mostly flat

Start/End Point: Beningbrough Hall Lodge Car Park

Route Instructions:

1. **Start from the car park outside Beningbrough Lodge.** Walk along the main entrance road, keeping an eye out for a **metal gate on your left** just before the woods begin.
2. **Head through the gate and into the woodland**, following the winding path downhill. On your right, you'll spot views across the fields towards **Home Farm**, part of the original Beningbrough estate.
3. As you walk, look out for **bundles of deadwood** placed along the trail. These natural habitats are brilliant shelters for hedgehogs and nesting birds, as well as a food source for beetles and other insects.
4. At the bottom of the slope, you'll come to **two gates close together**—go straight through and join the river path.
5. **Follow the River Ouse**, with open views across the water and occasional glimpses of **Beningbrough Hall** through the trees. This stretch is the only part of the route not fenced off from cattle—so take care if walking with dogs.
6. You'll eventually reach a **sandy spot where the River Nidd meets the Ouse**—a peaceful place to pause and take in the sweeping views back towards the hall.
7. Continue on the path as it curves gently right, passing the **Victorian Water Tower**, which once supplied water to the hall and its old skating pond.
8. As the tree line diverts away from the river towards the right, the path splits, **take the right-hand path uphill** across open grassland towards Newton village. Ignore the left riverbank route for now.
9. Before entering the village via the farm gate, look out for a **small gate on your right**. Cross the entrance drive to **Newton Lodge**, and enter the woods opposite via a bark-mulched trail.
10. **Keep to the right within the woodland**, and follow the winding path through the trees, with the lane parallel to you on the left over the fence. There are loads of beautifully hand-crafted seats and benches made from tree trunks along the way.
11. Bearing right, you'll emerge alongside the fields. Follow this **edge path**, and keep an eye out for a **picture frame installation**—perfectly positioned to capture views back to Beningbrough Hall.
12. Carry on until you pass a **small pond on your left**, quickly followed by a **picnic area**—a great spot for a rest or snack break.
13. Head through the gate just beyond the picnic area towards a **concrete track**. Take a left through another smaller gate leading into **bluebell woods**, stunning in springtime.
14. Walk through this final patch of woodland until you reach a **metal gate on the estate's entrance road**, directly across from where you began. **Turn left up the road** to return to the car park.