

## Walker's Heaven

There are now many circular stile-free country walks around Carlton, following a 15-year programme of stile replacement - see map. Guides to local walks can be downloaded from [www.carltonpc.co.uk/walking](http://www.carltonpc.co.uk/walking). The project has been spearheaded by Carlton Parish Council and the Carlton Footpath Group, with strong support from local landowners, Market Bosworth, Shackerstone and Nailstone Parish Councils, and the Borough and County Councils.

Many older residents are fit and can walk for miles, but find it difficult to climb stiles, particularly if they are high or have wobbly footstools. Kissing gates remove this problem and encourage exercise and access to the countryside. From the landowners' point of view, kissing gates are stockproof, easily spotted from across a field, and require much less maintenance.

The Ashby Canal towpath offers a stile-free route through our area, and other footpaths leading from Market Bosworth are now at least partly stile free. I hope that other local councils will recognise the benefits of stile replacement and review the public



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rights of way in their areas with a view to creating more stile-free links between settlements as well as circular stile-free routes.

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