

Both walks are circular and start at the centre of Barkway Village by the pond and the Parish Map Board

Rokey Wood Walk
4.9km/3 miles

Starting at the pond.

Head northwards up the High Street, then left into Church Lane. Pass the wagon wash pond, open originally at each end for cart access. A tributary of the River Quin enters the pond under the road, and exits through a grill at the eastern end.

Follow the lane around the churchyard. It's well worth having a look inside the church, dedicated to St Mary Magdalene.

Continue along the lane, which becomes a rough track. You will come to a crossing of paths by an old oak tree. Beneath the tree is a bench, one of several erected in the parish as part of the Parish Paths Partnership.

Turn right following the bridleway towards Rokey Wood. This is an ancient mostly ash and maple woodland, carpeted with bluebells in the spring. At the bench, you can enjoy views to the south and east towards Wyddial and back at Barkway church and village. Some remains from the Roman period were discovered near the wood, including a bronze figure of the god Mars, now in the British Museum. Look out for fallow deer tracks, often seen in this area.

Continue across an open field, and then skirt around Bush Wood. Just inside the wood is the remains of an old moat.

Continue along the track, veering right across the corner of a crop field, and rejoining another farm track. Reed church comes into view. Keeping on the track head to a stile in the corner of a hedge, cross a grass field into Reed Village.. Our route then goes almost immediately right up a broad byway. However a stop at the Cabinet PH, visible just up the lane, could be made. The Cabinet began life as a tiny weather-boarded house and was once used as a meeting house by exiled French Huguenots.

Head straight ahead along the byway past Rokey Wood again. There is a very slight depression in the field on your left. This is the site of Periwinkle Hill, an ancient motte and bailey castle.

The byway descends gradually back into the village. Just before the main road, turn right down a footpath, through a pair of kissing gates. Here you can see pollarded willows and a small reed bed - a rare habitat in this area.

Cross a grass field and rejoin Church Lane. Follow the route you came along back to the village pond.

Earl's Wood Walk
4.3km/2.7miles

Leaving the pond again, walk southwards down the High Street. You will pass the thatched hall house of Wealden type - unusual in the area. **Shortly after this, turn left down a narrow path.** This emerges on a lane leading to Rushing Wells, over the River Quin.

Turn right, then head left up a broad track towards Earls Wood. Follow this along the southern edge of the wood. This is an ancient woodland with oak, ash, and maple predominating. In one corner you can see beech and hornbeam together, this is unusual as they prefer different soil types. Fallow deer are commonly seen in and around the wood. Buzzards have nested here also. In the warmer months you can see wild flowers including field scabious, self-heal, horseshoe vetch, and pineapple mayweed.

Follow the footpaths along the eastern and northern edges of the woodland. From here you can see Cokenach house across the fields.

At the corner of the wood there is a choice of paths. Take the concrete track towards Earl's Wood Cottage, and then through its parkland. On the right is a large pond which never dries up. This area of the county, although relatively high, also has a high water table.

Proceed over the River Quin across a rough plank bridge, veer around to the left through an area of scrub and spinney. Here is a site of common spotted orchids.

Cross the recreation ground to the far left corner, through trees to the High Street, turn left back down to the pond and school. As you emerge on to the street, you will pass the medieval hall house on the corner. At the far southern end of the village is Barkway's one remaining public house, the Tally Ho.

Parish History

The village of Barkway lies in the eastern extension of the chalky Chiltern Hills. In earlier times it was the site of a major crossroads, the east west trading route taking advantage of the dry highlands of the scarp, and the north south track linking London with Cambridge. There is much evidence of man's early existence close to the crossroads, and slightly to the east on the banks of the River Quin. Discoveries here suggest a sophisticated settlement and trading station.

Barkway appears in the Domesday survey. Barkway was granted a market, and became an important trading point. Despite being ravaged by fires in the 15th and 18th centuries, it became a main stopping point for coaches.



Exploring the Parish

Further interesting walks may be made to Newsells hamlet, a wooded dell with thatched estate cottages.

Paths also exist to take you across the golf course, and on to Nuthampstead with the Woodman Inn and airfield.

To explore further use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 194.

Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained from:

- Royston & Buntingford libraries
- Parish Church
- Tally Ho Pub
- CMS 01462 459395

Public Rights of Way are marked as:



Footpath - walkers only



Bridleway - walkers, cyclists and horseriders



Byway - open to all traffic



Restricted Byway - walkers, cyclists, horseriders and horsedrawn carriage vehicles

Permissive Paths



Not a right of way but a path which the landowner has given permission for walkers to use. You may come across these while walking in Barkway, they have not been marked on the map as permission may be removed at any time.

This leaflet has been produced by the Barkway Parish Council using a grant from the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. The Parish Paths Partnership is administered by the Countryside Management Service under the direction of Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils.

Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer Creative - 01634 711771

BARKWAY PARISH

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAP



Including details of two circular walks :

- Rokey Wood Walk - 4.9km/3miles
- Earl's Wood Walk - 4.3km/2.7miles











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1:18000



-  Pub
-  View point
- Public Rights of Way**
-  Byway (open to all traffic)
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Restricted Byway
-  Short circular walks
-  Parish boundary
- 15 Path number

