

WADDINGTON TO WHISBY

PART 4

SLEAFORD TO CRANWELL



Moderate Terrain

7 Miles
Linear
3.5 hours

220618



A linear walk of just over 7 miles (11km) from Waddington to Whisby Nature Reserve, forming the fourth and final part of the Ridges and Furrows Trail in Lincolnshire.

Setting out along Lincoln Edge, the walk provides beautiful views with glimpses of Lincoln Cathedral in the distance. The route then descends to cross the River Witham before exploring the lakeside paths of Millennium Lakes and Whisby Nature Reserve, with plenty of birdlife to enjoy.

ABOUT: Ridges and Furrows is a 30-mile (48km) arts and heritage trail, launched in 2018 and linking The National Centre for Craft and Design in Sleaford with Whisby Nature Park via the Lincoln Edge. With beautiful countryside, panoramic views, traditional villages, bustling towns and contemporary art venues, there's plenty to see and do. This guide is published through a collaboration between iFootpath and North Kesteven District Council.

LOGISTICS: As a linear walk, you will need to make arrangements for your return journey. If you are walking the whole 30-mile trail in one go, it is possible to catch a train from Hykeham rail station (near the trail end) back to Sleaford rail station. There is some accommodation along the route, including The Joiners Arms in Welbourn (14 miles along), The Marquis of Granby in Wellingore (16 miles along), The Bell in Coleby (20 miles along) and The Horse and Jockey in Waddington (22 miles along). For individual trail parts, there are some useful bus routes, although connections and regularity do vary, so check the details carefully if you intend to rely on public transport. Check details via Traveline on 0871 2002233 or at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel. It may be better to use two cars, leaving one car at the end of the trail part ready for the return journey.

FACILITIES: Refreshments on this part of the trail are available in Waddington at the start of the trail (with a couple of options), in North Hykeham (4 miles into the walk) and at the cafe within the Natural Word Centre in Whisby Nature Reserve (at the end of the walk).

Getting there

The walk starts on Waddington High Street, directly outside St Michael's Church and opposite Church Lane. If you are coming by public transport, there are bus stops on the nearby A607. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel. If you are coming by car, there is roadside parking available throughout the village of Waddington, but please park with respect for

Access Notes

1. The walk includes a few steady gradients, but there is nothing too steep.
2. The walk includes a mixture of village pavements, enclosed footpaths (which can become a little overgrown at times), field edge and woodland paths (which can get muddy) and compacted lakeside paths.
3. You will need to negotiate several gates and kissing gates plus a river footbridge (with squeeze gaps each end), but there are no stiles on route.
4. You will not be sharing any of the paths with livestock.
5. Dogs are welcome on the nature reserve paths included on this trail, but they will need to be on leads for these stretches.
6. OS Map Explorer 272.
7. Please remember the Countryside Code.

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residents.

Approximate post code **LN5 9RF**.

Walk Sections



Start to Woodland



The walk begins on the High Street, directly outside St Michael's Church. Waddington is well known for its association with RAF Waddington. The original church (which dated to the 1100s) was destroyed in a World War II air raid in May 1941. It was replaced by the modern stone church you see today, which was consecrated in 1954. The churchyard is home to Commonwealth War Graves.

Standing on the High Street with the church on your right, walk ahead to follow the High Street heading north. Just after passing the Horse and Jockey pub on your left and the Wesley Chapel on your right, the High Street bears right. Do NOT follow this, instead take the road at about 11 o'clock, Moxons Lane. Continue to the T-junction and turn left onto Far Lane. Follow the lane ahead and beginning to descend then, where it bends sharp left, turn right through the gate to join the signed footpath.

Follow this stretch of enclosed footpath (which can be a little overgrown at times) and at the end you will emerge to the corner of a crop field. Keep straight ahead on the footpath, with a hedgerow on your left and an open crop field on your right. Ahead in the distance, you may be able to see the towers of Lincoln Cathedral.

At the end of the first field, go ahead to continue along the left-hand edge of a second crop field (taking time to enjoy the views that have temporarily opened up on your left). At the end of this second field, follow the boundary path as it swings right to pass a fenced section of woodland on your left. Before the end of this woodland, follow the path which turns left to enter the woodland via a wooden gate.



Woodland to Hollywell Road

Follow the obvious path leading you through the pretty woodland, passing a large pond which is visible through the trees to your left. Exit the woodland via another gate and go straight ahead to cross a narrow grass field. Take the kissing gate at the far side and continue on the enclosed path between hedgerows. You will emerge to the corner of a crop field.

Go straight ahead on the signed public bridleway, with a hedgerow on your left and a crop field on your right. Continue for about 200m into a shallow dip within the field boundary path, to reach a fingerpost on your left. Turn left here onto the signed



public bridleway. Follow the grass path leading you steadily downhill through the rough grass hillside, with the remains of a fence on your right.

At the bottom of the slope, keep ahead on the bridleway, now with a ditch running on your right and crop fields each side. At the end of this bridleway, you will emerge out to a junction with a residential road, Hollywell Road.



Hollywell Road to River Witham



Turn left and then take the first right turn into Rowan Road. Take the second left turn into Redwood Drive and then the second right turn into Valley Road. At the end of Valley Road, you will reach a T-junction with the main road, Brant Road. Cross over to the far pavement with care and turn left along this.

Follow the pavement alongside Brant Road for some distance. Immediately after the last house on the right, turn right onto a grass track (signed as a restricted byway). At the end of this byway, you will come to a junction with the River Witham directly ahead. Cross the river via the concrete footbridge (with squeeze gaps each end).



River Witham to Water Lane

At the far side of the footbridge, turn right and immediately fork left onto the track leading you down the grass bank. At the bottom of this short slope, turn left through a small metal gate to join a field-edge footpath (with a hedgerow running on your right). Keep ahead along the edge of two crop fields to reach a crop field ahead.

Cross this field at about 1 o'clock (heading for the fingerpost visible on the far side). At the far side of the field, cross the ditch ahead and then keep ahead on the footpath. You will emerge





out to a junction with a residential road, Belton Park Road. Cross over and take the tarmac footpath directly ahead, which leads you to a second residential road, Water Lane.

4 → 5 Water Lane to Recreation Ground



Walk directly ahead along Water Lane, go straight on at the first crossroads (still following Water Lane) and at the next road junction you will see the start of a section of parkland with green railings on your left. Do NOT enter the park here, instead continue ahead along the road for about 30 metres and then turn left to enter the park at this next gate entrance. Follow the tarmac path leading you ahead through the parkland passing a children's playground on your right and the bandstand on your left. Keep ahead at the path junction and you will emerge via another gate onto the pavement of Lincoln Road.

Turn left for a few metres and then use the pedestrian crossing to cross over to the far pavement. Turn left along this pavement and follow it as it swings right into Moor Lane, passing All Saints Church on your left. Follow Moor Lane for half a mile, swapping to the left-hand pavement when you can. After half a mile you will reach the crossroads with the A1434 Newark Road, with traffic lights.

Use the pedestrian crossing directly ahead to cross over Newark Road and then turn immediately left to join the pavement running along Newark Road (with the road on your left). Follow this pavement for about 320 metres (crossing over one side road along the way) to reach North Hykeham Memorial Hall (home to the Town Council) and Playing Fields on your right.

5 → 6 Recreation Ground to A46 Underpass



Turn right to onto the paved pedestrian entrance and follow the path between the hall on your right and the car park on your left. As you enter the rear car park, head diagonally left to enter the playing fields. Bear left along the left-hand edge of the playing field, passing an adventure playground on your left. In the field corner, turn right and walk the length of the playing fields, with the boundary fence on your left.

At the far end go straight ahead, passing through a wooden gate to enter a section of woodland. At the path junction, turn left to continue on the (compacted stone) path, with the lake across to your right. The lake is the centrepiece of this small reserve known as Millennium Green. Follow the main surfaced path as it swings right to follow the edge of the lake. Near the end of the lake (and just before the path swings right again), turn left onto the side path alongside a litter bin.

You will emerge into a stone lay-by. Turn right along this and then keep ahead on the tarmac access lane, with a large lake visible on your left and a deep ditch (known as Pike Drain) on your right. Stay with this access lane for about half a mile, to pass Hykeham Sailing Club on your left. Continue ahead, now on a stone track, for a further half mile to reach a junction of paths (where the main track swings left).

Turn right, passing through or alongside a metal kissing gate, to enter the start of Whisby Nature Park. Follow the compacted stone path, swinging right with a hedgerow on your left and Teal Lake on your right. The path leads you past a bird viewing screen and continues to reach a T-junction with the railway line ahead. Turn left to follow the path under the bridge which carries the A46 overhead.

6 → 7 A46 Underpass to End



After passing under the bridge, keep ahead on the path for



about 200 metres to reach the next path junction. Turn left to join a side path with a hedge running on your left and a fenced conservation area (Little Heath) on your right. Further along, stay with the path as it swings right to lead you along the southern edge of Grebe Lake. Along this stretch there are a couple of bird hides on your right, should you wish to pause and enjoy the lake views.

After about 800 metres, you will come to a path junction (with a bridge over the ditch on your left). Turn left over the bridge, then turn immediately right and follow the main path as it bends left, with Thorpe Lake on your right. Now simply keep straight ahead, passing through the arch, to reach The Natural World Centre at Whisby, where the Ridges and Furrows Trail ends.

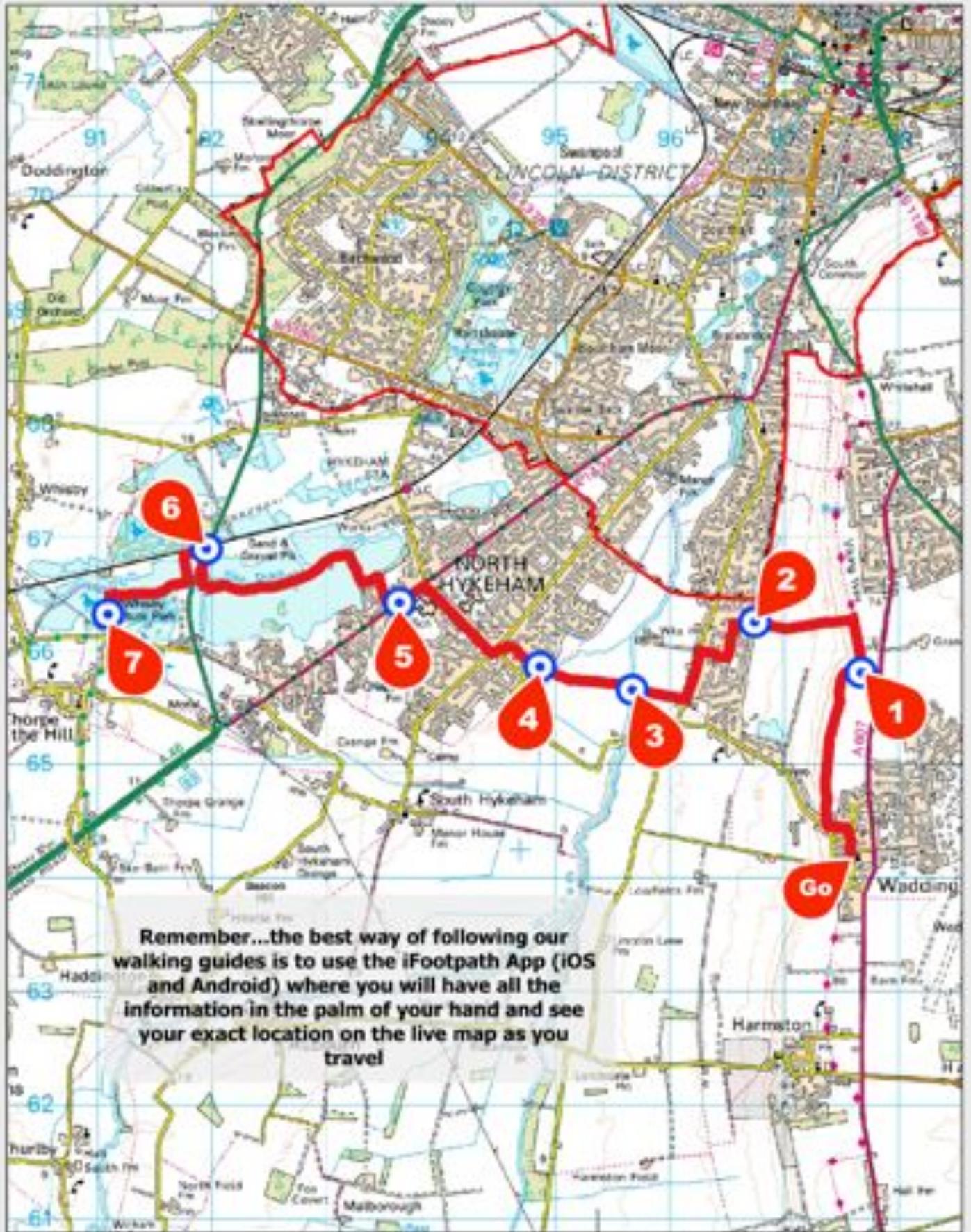
Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.





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