

STEPPING OUT: HILL HOLT WOOD



Easy Terrain



0.5 Mile
Circular
30 minutes

180918



A 0.5 mile (0.8km) circular walk around Hill Holt Wood, a 34-acre deciduous woodland situated 10 miles south-west of Lincoln, on the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire border.

The wood is managed as a social enterprise, using traditional methods with lots of sculptures and fascinating areas to explore. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and North Kesteven District Council to inspire more people to enjoy the district's landscapes, ancient woodland, historic buildings and charming villages.

If you are looking for refreshments, the woodland has its own cafe, Hive Cafe, which is open on Sundays. Alternatively, there are pubs a short drive away in Norton Disney and Carlton-le-Moorland. Nearby attractions include Doddington Hall and Gardens and Whisby Nature Park.

Getting there

Hill Holt Wood is located about 10 miles south-west of Lincoln and is ONLY accessible from the A46 southbound.

The post code for the woodland is LN6 9JP, but please do NOT use this for your Sat Nav as it will take you to nearby villages from where there is no access to the woodland.

Take the A46 southbound from Lincoln (towards Newark). At the Swinderby roundabout, take the 2nd exit (A46 to Newark). Do NOT turn off at the next Norton Disney/Swinderby turn-off. When you see the next road sign (for Norton Disney/Collingham), start to indicate left and slow down. The turning for Hill Holt Wood is immediately behind the road sign. Please note: it is not a road junction – the woodland entrance is directly off the dual-carriageway. The single-track entrance drive (with passing places) leads you to the Visitor Car Park directly ahead. Car parking is free, but there is a donation box should you wish to make a small contribution to help with the woodland management and charitable activities.

Access Notes

1. The walk is almost entirely flat with no gradients to speak of.
2. It follows unmade woodland paths that can get very muddy, so good boots are a must (or wellingtons in the wettest months).
3. There are no stiles, steps or gates on route, you will just need to negotiate a couple of gaps alongside vehicle barriers.
4. Dogs are welcome in the woodland but must be kept on leads.
5. The route would be suitable for a rugged pushchair when the ground is dry. Please remember the Countryside Code.
6. These paths are provided by kind permission of Hill Holt Wood. Hill Holt Wood is a working wood and, whilst the woodland is open 7 days per week from dawn 'til dusk, use is recommended at weekends and during school holidays. Please take time to read the rules of access when you arrive to ensure your safety and enjoyment whilst in the wood.
7. OS Map Explorer 271.



Walk Sections

Go 1 **Start to Stane Street**

The walk begins in the Hill Holt Wood visitor car park. There is a donation box here if you wish to make a

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contribution. Hill Holt Wood is a social enterprise and registered charity, working with the local community to enhance the natural environment, to provide employment and to reach out to those in need.

Standing with your back to the vehicle entrance, walk at about 11 o'clock across the car park, passing immediately to the right of the timber visitor information hut. Keep ahead over the bridge and note the Stepping Out green and white waymarker arrow on your left – these arrows will guide you around the full loop.

After just a few metres you will reach the first path junction, with a sculpture of a man ahead. Turn left and follow the path as it passes a traditional thatched hut on your left. Stay with the waymarked path as it swings right, left and then sharp left again to enter Stane Street. On the right here is a sculpture called Germinate.

1 → 2 Stane Street to Watling Street



Keep ahead along Stane Street, passing the circular fencing of the war memorial on your left. Beyond this you will reach a wooden viewing platform at Pike Pond. Turn left to reach a T-junction with a vehicle track and turn right along this track. Where the track swings left, go ahead alongside a vehicle barrier and then turn immediately right into Watling Street.

2 → 3 Watling Street to Roman Villa Clearing

Follow this woodland path ahead, soon passing a rustic two-way fingerpost on your left. Keep ahead here, signed to the Roman Villa, the name of a clearing that will be our next stopping point. Towards the end of Watling Street, look out for the giant bug hotel which is set back from the path on your right.



This is worth a quick detour to see up close. When you are finished, continue along the Watling Street path. Just before the clearing ahead, you will see a waymarker post on your left (pointing to the right). This is the path we will take shortly, but first keep ahead into the clearing known as the Roman Villa Clearing.

3 → 4 Roman Villa Clearing to Wood Hall



This clearing is part of the working hub of Hill Holt Wood. It is home to a number of structures including cooking facilities, small workshops and transient structures such as tree houses and educational buildings. The clearing is used for a range of activities including team building events, community gatherings, educational workshops and camping.

When you are ready to continue, head back to the waymarker post and turn left to rejoin the waymarked route. The path leads you behind the clearing before swinging right and left to reach a two-way waymarker. Turn left here (towards the edge of the wood) and turn right to join the vehicle track which leads you past a vehicle barrier. The track leads you directly into the main complex of buildings known as the village. The tall building on the right is Wood Hall.

4 → 5 Wood Hall to End

This is the perfect place to pause and understand a bit more about your surroundings. Hill Holt Wood was established in 1995 and operates as an environmental social enterprise. The team provides a wide range of different services, including education and training for 14-19 year olds, adult education courses in the woodland, countryside and forestry management, and support for those suffering from mental health issues. The Wood Hall, a magnificent building at the heart of the woodland, is also available to hire for weddings, parties, corporate events





and social functions.

Turn right immediately after Wood Hall (as directed by the fingerpost), passing the front of Wood Hall on your right. Simply keep ahead on this track, passing the Organic Garden on your right, and you will emerge into the car park where the walk began.

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.

