

STEPPING OUT

MORTON AND TUNMAN WOOD



Easy Terrain



**4 Miles
Circular
2 hours**

090918



Access Notes

1. The walk is relatively flat, with very little gradient.
2. It follows a mixture of stone access tracks, farm tracks and woodland paths.
3. The surfaces are generally very good, but a few stretches can be muddy after rain and in the winter months.
4. There are no stiles, steps or gates on route, but you will need to negotiate one narrow squeeze gap.
5. There is no livestock on route, but you are likely to see plenty of gamebirds. Between October and January there may be shooting activity in and around Tunman Wood.
6. Please remember the Countryside Code. Some paths are provided by kind permission of the landowner, please only use the waymarked paths. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
7. OS Map Explorer 271



A circular walk of around 4 miles (6km), just outside Thorpe on the Hill in Lincolnshire.

The route takes you on a peaceful journey, through open countryside and beautiful woodland. Tunman Wood is a Local Nature Reserve, is recognised as being ancient woodland (an area where specific plant species are found) and supports diverse plant, bird and insect populations. 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 pub at the start of the walk is currently closed (correct 2017), but there are alternative pubs and cafes a short drive away in Thorpe on the Hill, Eagle or Swinderby. Nearby attractions include Doddington Hall and Gardens and Whisby Nature Park.

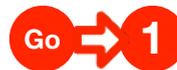
Getting there

The walk starts and finishes alongside The Dovecote pub (currently closed), just off the A46 about 8 miles south-west of Lincoln.

The post code **LN6 9HN** will take you towards the Halfway House roundabout on the A46.

From this roundabout, take the exit signed to Swinderby and then turn immediately right into a small access road. This road leads you directly to the pub. Please do NOT use the pub car park, instead park along the access road itself.

Walk Sections



Start to Tunman Wood

Walk to the end of the access road (past The Dovecote on your left) and follow the road as it bends left, to join the stone track bridleway, leading you directly away from the A46. After 680 metres, you will pass a low waymarker post on your left. The path to your right is the one along which we will return later. For this outward leg, keep straight ahead along the main track which leads you into the hamlet of Morton.

Ignore the restricted byway signed to the left, instead keep ahead on the main track which leads you between the cottages, farm buildings and Morton Grange, all in the hamlet of Morton. This north-western corner of North

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Kesteven was once dominated by the Knights Templar at Eagle Hall and there were Templar granges (tied farms) here at Morton and also in Swinethorpe and Eagle Woodhouse.

Beyond the hamlet, stay with the track as it leads you ahead between open fields. The track leads you directly to the corner of Tunman Wood, with an overgrown vehicle barrier ahead.

1 → 2 Tunman Wood to Stocking Wood Junction



Pass through the gap to the left of the vehicle barrier to join the narrow footpath which runs through the left-hand edge of the woodland. As you emerge from the trees, you will see a small group of brick cottages ahead. Look to your right and you will see a wooden gate, marked as the entrance for Tunman Wood local nature reserve.

Turn right to pass through the squeeze gap alongside this gate and follow the grass and stone track directly ahead through the woodland. Tunman Wood was bought by a partnership (comprising Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust) in 2009, to ensure continued access, to safeguard the walking route and for conservation. Please stick to the footpaths to protect the woodland. Although Tunman Wood was planted with coniferous trees from the 1940s, there are still areas dominated by native species including ash, beech, birch and oak. Wildflowers thrive in the open rides, margins and woodbanks. In the spring months, walkers can enjoy primrose, bluebell, water avens, dogs mercury, wild arum, red campion and celandine.

Keep ahead, ignoring any side paths and tracks each side. At the far end, you will reach a junction of paths (with a footbridge into a field ahead, and paths both left and right). Do NOT take the footbridge, instead turn right to continue around the woodland boundary. Further along, the woodland edge path reaches a junction with a grass track. Bear right to join this grass track and, about 100 metres later, you will come to a

fingerpost on your right marking the next footpath junction. The woodland belt running away to your left is known as Stocking Wood.

2 → 3 Stocking Wood Junction to Hardstanding Area



Do NOT take the footpath left into Stocking Wood, instead keep straight ahead on the grass track with woodland to your right and open fields to your left. Shortly, where the path splits, stay on the right side of the ditch and follow the woodland edge path. The path swings left before emerging to the corner of a meadow, with a single house visible at the far side.

Turn right here, to continue with the woodland on your right and the meadow on your left. At the end of the meadow, turn right through the hedge gap to reach a junction with a stone farm track. Turn right to join the track, still following the woodland edge on your right. Follow the track as it bears right twice and then turns left, leading you directly away from the woodland. The track leads you between open fields to reach an area of hardstanding on your left.

3 → 4 Hardstanding Area to End



Immediately after the hardstanding area, follow the track left and then right to reach the corner of a smaller area of trees. Follow the track as it swings left, passing this small woodland on your right. At the end of the woodland, the track swings right and then continues ahead, finally emerging to a T-junction with the bridleway track that you followed on the outward leg. Turn left at this junction and follow the stone track all the way back to the access road 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

