

STEPPING OUT: NOCTON WOOD

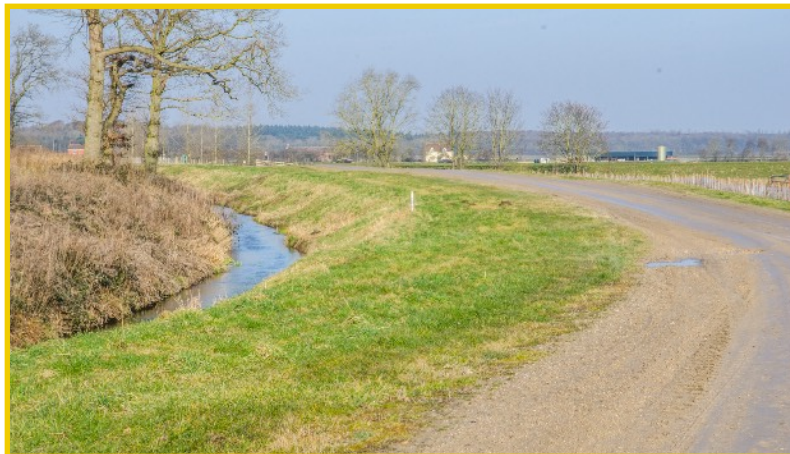


Easy Terrain



**3 Miles
Circular
1.5 hour**

210519



Access Notes



1. The walk includes a few steady gradients and follows a mixture of quiet country roads, grass farm tracks and chalk farm tracks.
2. There is a 1.5km stretch along a country road, so take care of traffic on this part.
3. The tracks can get muddy after rain and are uneven in parts, but in dry periods the surfaces should be suitable for rugged disability buggies or rugged pushchairs.
4. There are no obstacles (kissing gates, stiles or steps) and you will not be sharing any of the paths with livestock.
5. Please remember the Countryside Code. Some paths are provided by kind permission of the landowner, please only use the waymarked paths.
6. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
7. OS Map Explorer 272.

A 3 mile (6.5km) easy-access circular walk from the Dunston Fen picnic site, close to the village of Dunston in Lincolnshire

The walking route heads north to follow a simple circuit around the edge of Nocton Wood, following a stretch of the historic Roman Car Dyke, and enjoying far-reaching views across the fens. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration with 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 White Horse is located at the eastern end of Dunston Fen Lane (alongside the River Witham) or The Red Lion is located in Dunston village.

Getting there

The walk starts and finishes at the dedicated Dunston Fen Stepping Out car park and picnic site, about 1.5 miles east of Dunston village. Being a remote site, the car park does not have public transport access, nor does it have a dedicated post code.

Use the post code **LN4 2HB** to reach Fen Lane in the village of Dunston. From this point, drive east along this lane (which becomes Dunston Fen Lane) for 1.5 miles. Stay with the lane as it swings left (with Nocton Wood on your left) and, where the lane swings right, fork left into the parking area (signed with a brown Stepping Out tourism sign).

Walk Sections



Start to Wasps Nest

Standing in the car park with your back to the vehicle entrance, turn right and exit the car park via the arch in the trees, between two wooden benches. You will emerge into a small picnic area. Cross this diagonally right, exit via the fence gap and bear left to join the stone and chalk vehicle track, passing through the wide gateway.

You will notice a wide ditch running on your left, part of the 76-mile long Car Dyke which was constructed by the Romans. This impressive engineering feat controlled freshwater and tidal flows, allowing the fens to be drained. On your right is open fenland. Within North Kesteven, Car Dyke is the dividing line between the limestone uplands of



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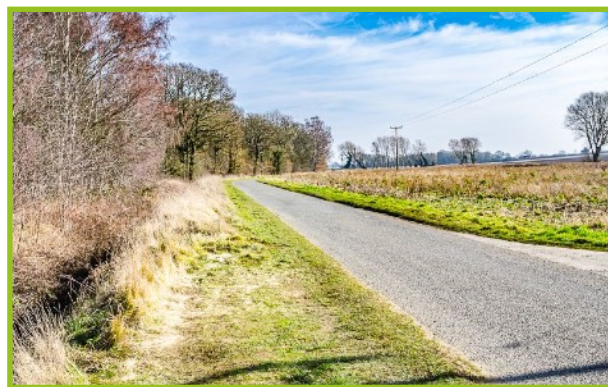




the west and the fenlands of the east. Marsh Harriers can often be seen swooping across the fen skies or dipping in and out of the woodland. They have successfully adapted to breed in the farmed landscape.

Just before you reach the bridge over Nocton Delph, you will see a partially decayed log on your right. If you look carefully you will see that this was once a sculptural carved bench. It once depicted a pheasant, coot, moorhen, heron, barn owl, fox and stoat all waiting for the green lady to kiss the frog and turn it into a prince.

Continue on the vehicle track passing over Nocton Delph and eventually emerging through a gateway to reach a road junction with a farm on your right, within the hamlet of Wasps Nest.



junction, the track continues with open fields (and far-reaching views) to your right and Nocton Wood to your left.

The small-leaved lime woods near Potterhanworth, Nocton and across the Witham at Bardney are remnants of the great post glacial wildwood, where lime was the dominant tree. The Anglo-Saxon word for lime is linden. Lime wood was particularly favoured for use in shield making.

At the end of the track, you will emerge out to a junction with Dunston Fen Lane. NOTE: The final stretch of your walk follows this lane, so take care of any traffic. Turn left along the lane and follow it for 1500 metres, ignoring a side road on your right and eventually bending steadily left around the edge of Nocton Wood. You will come to the car park on your left where the walk began.

1 → 2 Wasps Nest to T Junction



Turn left to cross Car Dyke via the road bridge and, 30 metres later, you will come to a fork in the road. Take the left-hand branch, a tarmac access road which leads you steadily uphill. At the top of the rise, continue ahead to pass a section of woodland on your left. Just a few paces later, where the access road bends right, you will see a fingerpost on your left.

Turn left here to join the signed public bridleway, a grass avenue lined with trees and fences. At the end of the avenue, stay with the grass path as it bends right, now with a fenced large farm building across to your right and a drainage ditch running on your left. At the end of this path, you will emerge out to a T-junction with a vehicle track, with a fingerpost ahead.

2 → 3 T Junction to End

Turn left to join the vehicle track, with a drainage ditch and minor power lines running on your left. Continue ahead on the track, ignoring a footpath signed off to the right. Beyond this

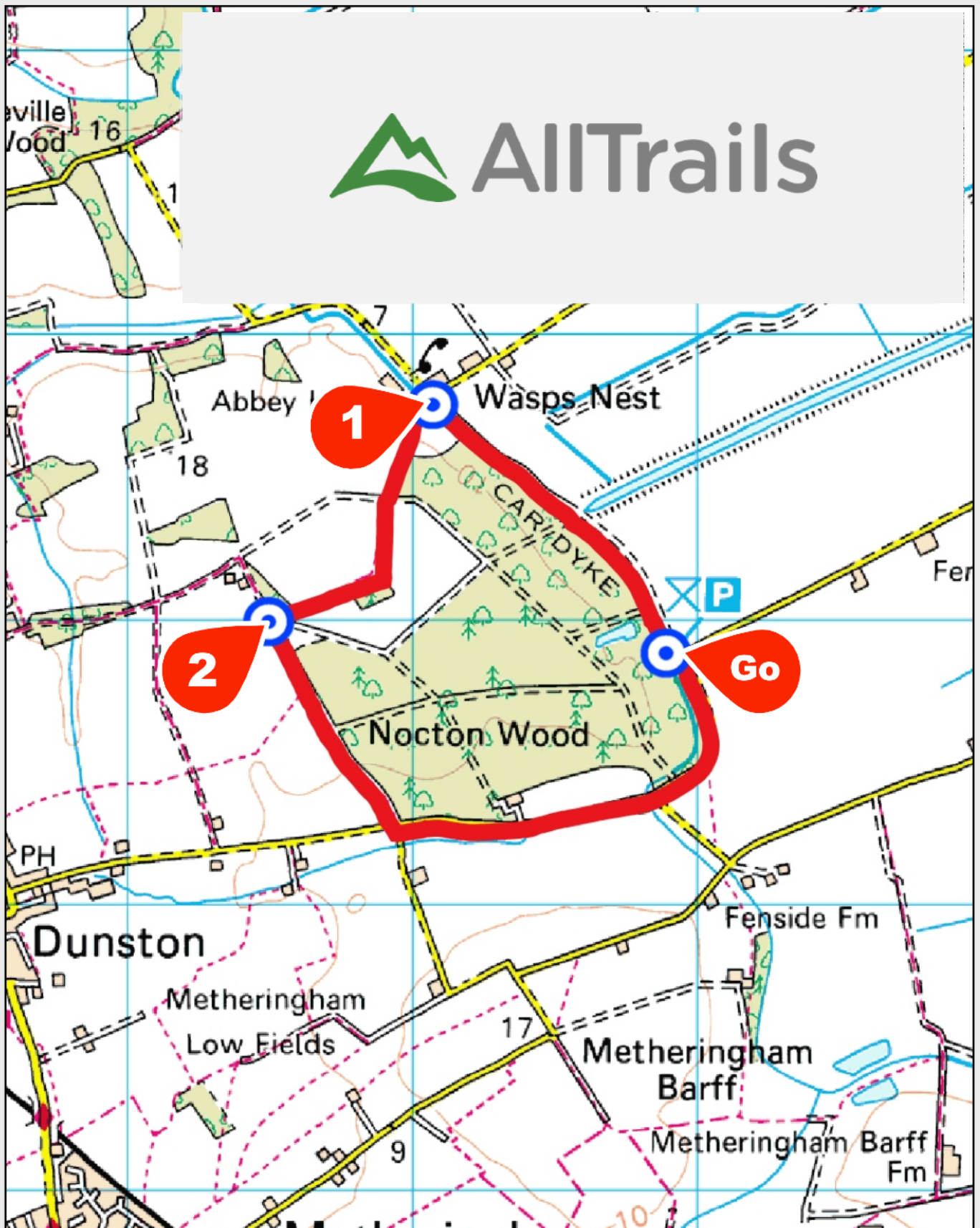
Disclaimer

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 a 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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