

STEPPING OUT:

SOUTH RAUCEBY AND RAUCEBY HALL



Moderate Terrain



4 Miles
Circular
2 hours

200519



Access Notes



1. The walk has a few gentle gradients throughout but there is nothing too steep.
2. It follows a mixture of roadside pavements and stone or grass farm tracks, plus one path across an arable field.
3. Some of the tracks are uneven, rutted and can be muddy in winter or after periods of rain.
4. There are no gates, stiles or steps on route 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. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
6. OS Map Explorer 272.

A 4 mile (6.5km) circular walk from the village of South Rauceby in Lincolnshire.

The walking route performs a simple route around the edge of Rauceby Park and through peaceful arable farmland, providing a wonderful escape and reminders of the past. 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 Bustard Inn is at the start and the end of the walk in South Rauceby. Nearby attractions include Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre.

Getting there

South Rauceby village is located about 3 miles west of Sleaford. The walk starts and finishes on Main Street, outside the Bustard Inn. If you are coming by car, there is roadside parking along the length of Main Street.

Approximate post code **NG34 8QG**.

If you are coming by public transport, there are bus stops on Main Street very close to the start point. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk Sections



Start to Pinfold Lane



The walk starts on Main Street in South Rauceby, outside the Bustard Inn. This village pub was constructed in 1860,



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replacing the older pub that was demolished to accommodate the south gate of Rauceby Park. It is thought that its name commemorates the last Great Bustard shot in Lincolnshire.

Standing with your back to the front entrance for the Bustard Inn, turn left along the pavement, leaving the pub behind to your left. Follow the pavement as it swings right and then leads you ahead to reach one of the parkland entrance gates for Rauceby Park on your left. Do NOT enter these gates, instead turn left immediately afterwards into the side road called Pinfold Lane.

1 → 2 Pinfold Lane to Hall Farm



Follow the pavement along Pinfold Lane, with the sheep-grazed parkland of Rauceby Hall across to your left. Just before the end of the houses on your right, ignore the continuation of Pinfold Lane which turns right, instead keep straight ahead to join the tarmac access track, a permissive route within the Rauceby estate.

Ignore the footpath signed right into woodland, instead stay with the main tarmac access track which swings left and then right to reach the buildings of Hall Farm ahead. At the fork in the track here, take the right-hand branch which leads you past Hall Farm on your left.

2 → 3 Hall Farm to Summer Plantation



Beyond the farm buildings, keep straight ahead on the stone farm track with a hedgerow on your left and open crop fields to your right. After only about 100 metres, stay with the main stone track as it turns left, leading you gently uphill to pass through a copse of trees. As you emerge from the trees, follow the track which turns immediately right, passing the copse on your right and then passing a second copse on your left. At the end of this second copse, glance to your left and you will see a sculptural bench, Boggart's Bench, depicting a shepherd sitting with his

sheep.

Ignore the side turn at this bench, instead keep ahead on the farm track with far-reaching views all around. After about 900 metres, you will come to a junction with a tall metal fingerpost on your left (this is just after passing the buildings of Field Farm which are visible across to your right, and as you draw level with the end of Summer Plantation which is visible across to your left). Turn left at this junction and follow the grass track which leads you uphill to pass the end of Summer Plantation on your left.

3 → 4 Summer Plantation to Cross Field Path



After passing the plantation, keep ahead on the farm grass track which passes through a dip to cross a small stream, called Field Beck. Continue ahead on the track to reach a small waymarker post where the track bends left. Follow the track around this left-hand bend and keep ahead to reach the next tall metal fingerpost, marking a T-junction with a bridleway.

Turn left here to join the public bridleway, a grass track which soon swings right, passes another fingerpost and then narrows to become a grass path along the field edge. About 80 metres before the end of the field, you will come to a yellow-topped waymarker post which marks the start of a cross-field path.

4 → 5 Cross Field Path to Drove Lane



The official route follows the public footpath across the field at this point so, if you can, turn left here and follow the path across the crop field to reach the next waymarker post visible in the tree line at the far side. However, if the field is impassable due to ploughing or crops, it is an easy detour to follow the field edge (ahead, left and left again) to reach this waymarker post instead.



Re-cross the stream, Field Beck, to reach this second waymarker post. Turn immediately right for a few paces to reach the field corner and then turn left to continue along the field edge. Part way along this field boundary, turn right at a fingerpost to join a wider grass track between hedgerows, an ancient thoroughfare known as Drove Lane.

5 → 6 Drove Lane to End



Follow Drove Lane for 1.7km, ignoring any footpaths signed off to the sides. Limestone loving plants once common to old-fashioned meadows can still be found on the verges of Drove Lane. You will emerge out to a T-junction with Tom Lane. Turn left to join the pavement, passing the village school on your right and then the main entrance gates and lodge of Raucedby Hall on your left.

Raucedby Hall was built by Anthony Peacock and was completed in 1846. During the Second World War the hall was requisitioned by the Royal Air Force, but today remains in the hands of the family that built it. Immediately after the hall gates, you will see the next sculptural bench on your left. If you look closely, you will see that this one depicts a sleeping shepherd, surrounded by his sheep and other animals.

Continue on the pavement alongside Tom Lane, with the beautiful parkland of Raucedby Hall and glimpses of the hall itself on your left. This pavement leads you directly back to the T-junction with Main Street, alongside the Bustard Inn where the walk began.

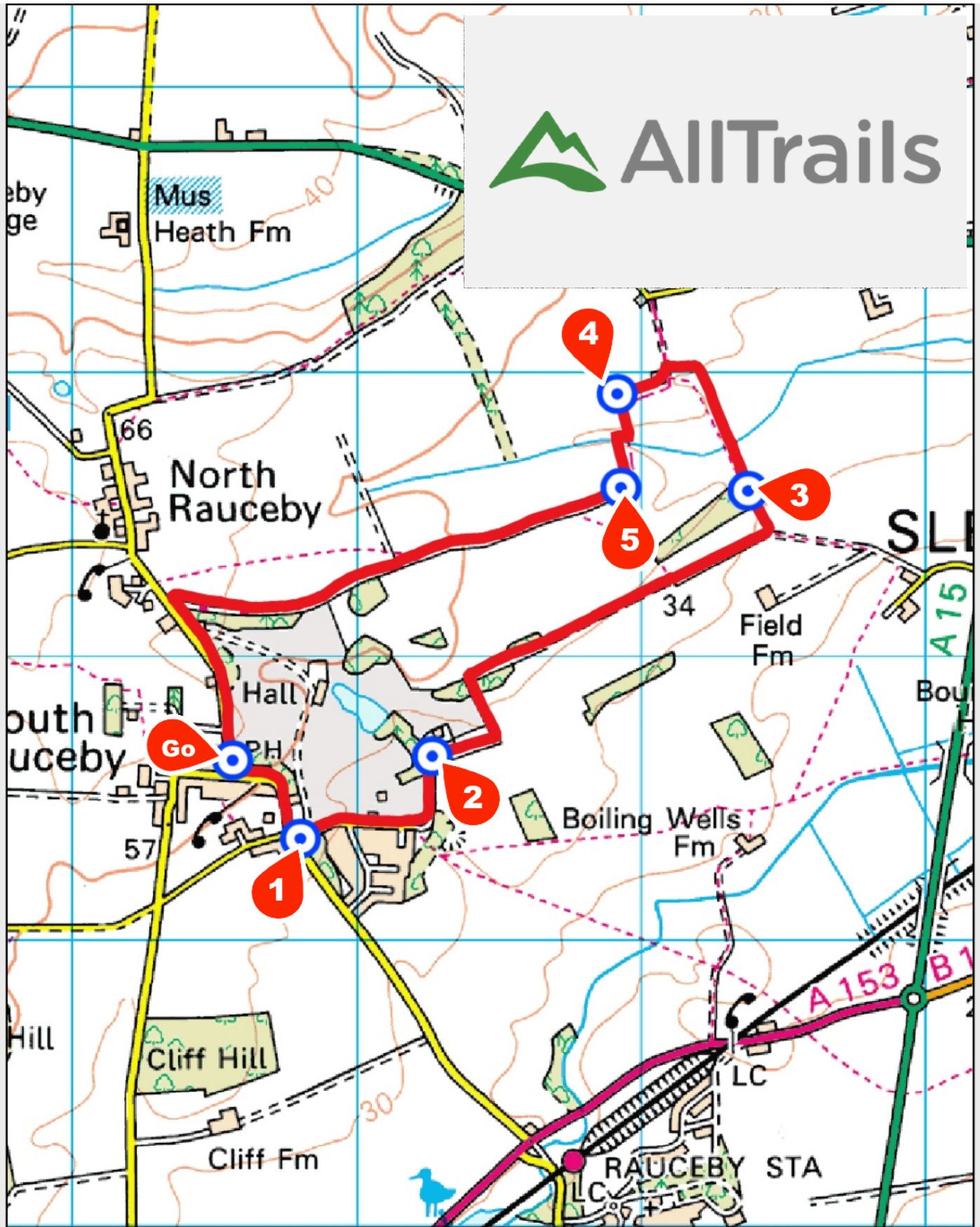
Disclaimer

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 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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