

STEPPING OUT

HIGH WOOD AND NORTH RAUCEBY



Moderate Terrain



**5 Miles
Circular
2.5 hours**

200519



Access Notes

1. The walk has a few gentle gradients throughout but there is nothing too steep. It follows a mixture of quiet roads, farm tracks, grass paths and unmade woodland paths, some of which can be muddy in winter and after rain.
2. There are no gates or steps on route, but you will need to negotiate two staggered barriers and two stiles (which have gaps alongside suitable for dogs up to Labrador size). The vast majority of the route is on tracks and lanes away from the fields, but there is one short stretch across a small grass field (this was free from livestock, or any signs of recent livestock, when we walked).
3. You are likely to come across lots of gamebirds and the landowner requests that you keep dogs on leads.
4. 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.
5. OS Map Explorer 272.



A circular walk of just over 5 miles (8km), close to the village of North Rauceby in Lincolnshire.

North Rauceby lies on the Southern Lincolnshire Edge, at one of North Kesteven's highest points, meaning there are some lovely far reaching views. The route leads you through open countryside, passing arable fields and sheep pastures, to reach the village with its beautiful church and stone cross. At the end of the walk, you will follow the paths through the mixed woodland of High Wood. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration with 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, there are none on route, but you will find La Royale Indian restaurant and Cheerio Cafe both on the A17 just north of the walk, or the Bustard Inn in nearby South Rauceby. Nearby attractions include Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre.

Getting there

North Rauceby village is located about 3 miles west of Sleaford. The walk starts and finishes at the free Woodland Trust car park for High Wood which has parking for about six cars. The car park is located on Church Lane, 0.8 miles west of the village, directly alongside the entrance for Woodside Farm.

Approximate post code **NG34 8QU**.

If you are coming by public transport you can adjust the walk to start at the bus stops on Main Road in the village. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk Sections



Start to Hardstanding Area

Leave the car park via the vehicle entrance and turn right along Church Lane, taking care of occasional traffic and using the wide grass verges as much as possible. Church Lane is an example of an ancient trackway and drove road, which still provides a wildlife corridor for barn owls, buzzards, hares and even glow worms. Limestone loving plants, once common to old-fashioned meadows and pastures, can still be found on the wide roadside verges. North Rauceby lies on the Southern Lincolnshire Edge and you will be able to enjoy far-reaching views to your



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left on a clear day.

After 1.2km you will pass the end of a narrow strip of woodland on your left. About 100 metres later, turn right, passing through a gap to the left of farm gates, to join a farm track with a hedgerow running on your right. Keep ahead for 400 metres to reach an area of hardstanding ahead, with a copse of trees behind this.



now on your left.

At the top of the slope, turn right to join the farm track running along the top edge of the copse. Now stay on this farm track for some distance, leading you through several bends (right, left and finally left again). After this second left-hand bend, you will see the buildings of Rauceby Grange ahead. Do NOT follow the track towards them, instead look for a stile on your right.

1 → 2 Hardstanding Area to Stone Wall



Turn left to continue on the main farm track which soon swings right, passing the copse on your right. At the end of the copse, follow the track as it swings left and later swings right, now heading directly for the white farmhouse of Ermine Street Farm visible in the distance.

Continue for the length of one field, pass the end of a hedgerow on your right and then turn immediately right, leaving the farm track and joining the signed footpath which runs along a grass track (with the hedgerow on your right). At the end of the field you will come to a low stone wall ahead.

2 → 3 Stone Wall to Rauceby Grange Stile

Turn left to continue on the grass track footpath, with the stone wall running on your right. The track leads you downhill passing a woodland copse on your right. At the bottom of the slope, follow the path as it dog-legs right (through a gap in the stone wall) and then immediately left to continue uphill with the wall

3 → 4 Rauceby Grange Stile to Stone Cross



Turn right over the stile to enter a small grass field. With your back to the stile, walk diagonally left and exit via a second stile at the far side. Beyond this, turn right to rejoin the farm track. You will be following this track for about 1km, into the village of North Rauceby. You will pass a single cottage on your right, before the track continues between fenced sheep pastures. Within these pastures you will notice the wave-like undulations that signify a historic cultivation method known as Ridge and Furrow. Tap the listen button (App only) below for more information about this.

As you reach the second stretch of pasture on your left, you will notice more defined grass mounds along with an old noticeboard, marking for the site of an old medieval village. A nearby spring provided the village's water supply and North Rauceby was much larger during the Middle Ages. It gradually shrank leaving only grass mounds where dwellings once sat.

You will emerge to a T-junction with Main Road in North Rauceby. Cross over to the far pavement and turn right along this. Continue through the village until you reach the stone village cross on your right.



4 → 5 Stone Cross to High Wood



Cross over to turn right into Church Lane, which leads you past the stone Church of St Peter on your right. Beyond this point the pavement ends, so remember to use the wide grass verges as much as possible and take care of occasional traffic. Soon after passing the entrance for Church Lodge on your left, you will see a stone sculpture on the left-hand grass verge. This is carved from Ancaster Stone, was created by Anne Alldread, is named Fieldstone and depicts a pheasant hiding within a hedgerow.

Now simply follow Church Lane for a further 800 metres, passing Glebe Farm on your left to reach High Wood Cottage also on your left. A few metres later, you will see the near edge of High Wood on your right.

5 → 6 High Wood to End



Before returning to the car park, our walk will take us around the perimeter of High Wood, so turn right through the staggered barrier to enter High Wood. Follow the woodland path leading you directly away from the road. This pocket of broadleaf woodland is managed by the Woodland Trust and is home to plenty of plants and wildlife. It is ablaze with violets in the spring months and covers an area of around 13 hectares (32 acres).

Ignoring any side paths to the left, continue ahead to reach the woodland corner. Turn left here to continue along the woodland edge path, with views of the farmland you crossed earlier to your right. At the next woodland corner, alongside a circular brick shaft, turn left again and this path will lead you directly back to the car park where the walk began.

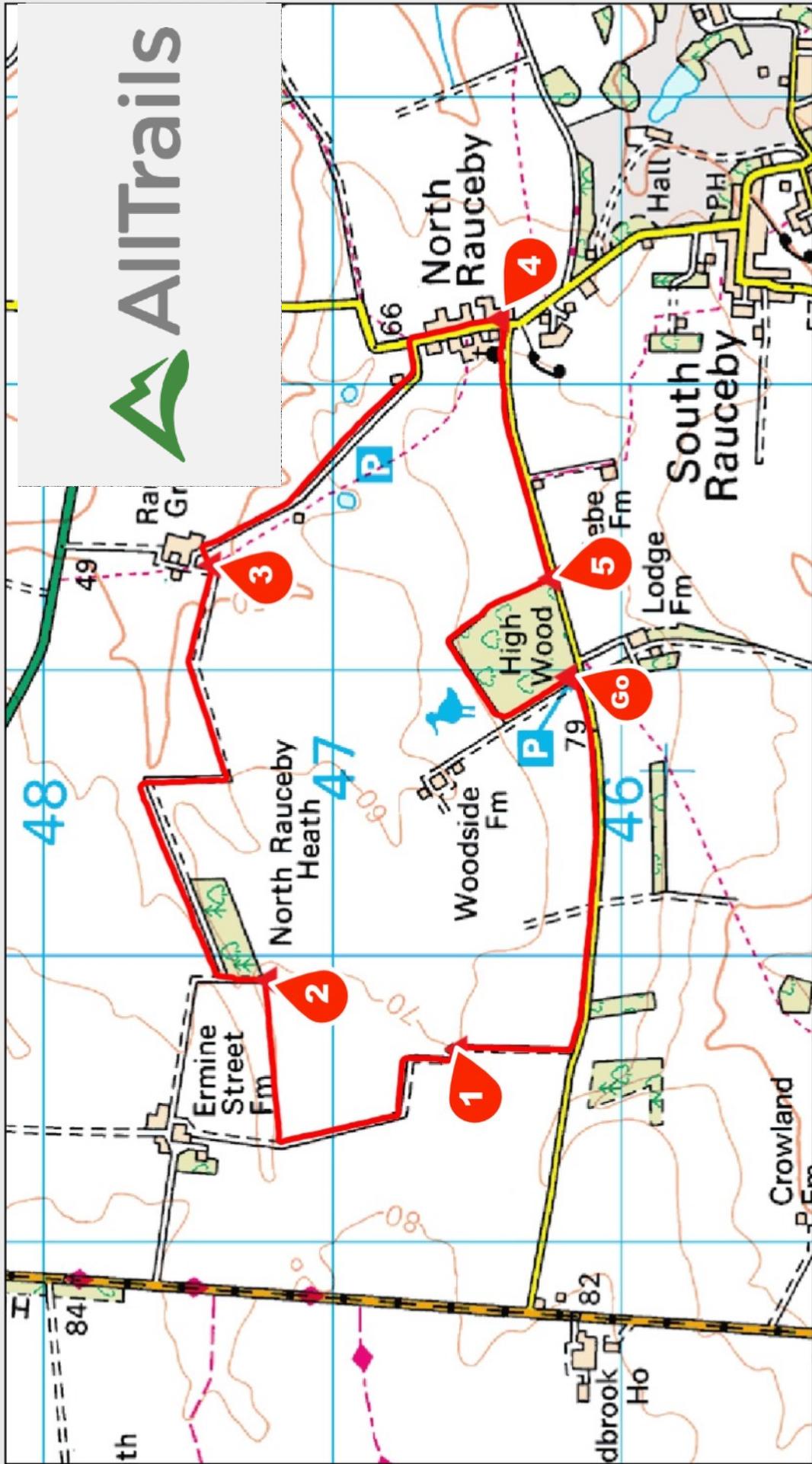
Disclaimer

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 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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