

STEPPING OUT: AUBOURN COUNTRY TRAIL



Easy Terrain



**4.5 Miles
Circular
2 hours**

200519



Access Notes



1. The majority of this walk is on permissive pathways where access has been granted to walkers by kind permission of the landowner. The pathways are **CLOSED** for a few days per year when game shooting is taking place – a noticeboard alongside the kissing gate near the start of the route will tell you if the paths are closed. The permission is for walkers (and dogs on leads) only, and does not extend to horses or cyclists.
2. The walk is almost entirely flat and follows a mixture of village pavements, stone farm tracks and grass tracks, some of which can get very muddy after rain and in winter.
3. There are no stiles or steps on route, but you will need to negotiate a kissing gate (twice). There is no livestock on route, but you are likely to come across plenty of gamebirds and you will also pass through the yard of Keeper's Cottage where gundogs may be present at times. 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.
4. OS Map Explorer 272.

A 4.5 mile (7km) circular walk from the village of Aubourn in Lincolnshire.

The walk takes you through open countryside and along good farm tracks to the south of the village, passing through arable fields and pretty strips of woodland. 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 walk starts and finishes outside The Royal Oak in Aubourn. Nearby attractions include Hill Holt Wood, Whisby Nature Park and Aubourn Hall Gardens.

Getting there

Aubourn is a small village just east of the A46, between Lincoln and Newark. This walk starts and finishes outside the Royal Oak on Royal Oak Lane. The pub has its own car park but this is for patrons only.

Approximate post code LN5 9DT.

If you are coming by bus, there is a bus stop on Royal Oak Lane, close to the walk starting point, or there are stops on Bridge Road just a 10-minute walk away. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk Sections



Start to Kissing Gate



Leave the Royal Oak car park and turn left along the roadside pavement, passing the front of the pub on your



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left. Follow this pavement beyond the one-way system, leading you out of the village. Along the way on your left, you will pass the entrances for Aubourn Hall and St Peter's Church. The hall has been the residence of the Neville family for more than 350 years. A separate Stepping Out walk, Aubourn's Two Churches, is available gives you details of the hall and church.

Follow the road as it bears left, ignore the kissing gate into a horse paddock on your right, and continue towards the national speed limit signs. Immediately before these signs, cross over the road to turn right through the wooden kissing gate (to the right of a pair of farm gates). Remember, these permissive paths are closed to members of the public for gamebird shooting for a few days per year – a notice will be displayed here if you are attempting to walk on one of these days.

1 → 2 Kissing Gate to Woodland Belt



Follow the farm track ahead with a hedgerow on your right and open fields on your left. Further along, just after a hedgerow begins on your left, you will pass a belt of woodland on your right. Just after this, with a hardstanding area on your left, you will notice a track to your right. This is the track along which you will return at the end of the walk. For this outward leg, simply keep ahead with a hedgerow on your right.

Continue just until the next waymarker post (just before the track crosses a ditch), which marks a grass track to your left. NOTE: The stone track leading ahead from this point is private. Turn left to join the grass track, with a ditch running on your right. Follow the track as it swings left (with woodland on your right) and then, at the fork, turn right to pass through the woodland belt.

2 → 3 Woodland Belt to Raised Bank



As you emerge from the trees, keep ahead along the grass

track for one field length, to reach a junction with a stone farm track. Turn right to join this. At the end of the first straight stretch, stay with the main track as it swings left and then right to pass a woodland and plantation on your right. When the trees on your right end, you will come to a crossroads of tracks. Go straight ahead and continue just until the track crosses a raised bank (this is immediately before the main track swings sharp left).

3 → 4 Raised Bank to Marlborough Farm Junction



Turn right to follow the grass track along the top of the raised bank. The raised path gives a good vantage point for bird of prey spotting. Stay on this grass track for some distance, passing a small woodland on your right and then continuing ahead with just a single ditch now on your left. You will pass a single red brick house on your right, Keeper's Cottage (which may be home to some gundogs) and then the grass track ends.

From this point, dog-leg right and then left to pass between the outbuildings then join the tarmac access lane ahead, which soon swings right. The lane leads you to a T-junction with another access lane and if you glance to your right, you will see the buildings of Marlborough Farm.

4 → 5 Marlborough Farm Junction to Lane Exit



Turn left to follow the access lane away from the farm. Follow this access lane, known as Moor Lane, as it leads you around two right-hand bends to reach a sharp left-hand bend within the lane. You will see a fingerpost on your right and a stone farm track ahead. This is the point at which we leave the access lane, so go straight ahead to join the stone farm track.



5 → 6 Lane Exit to End



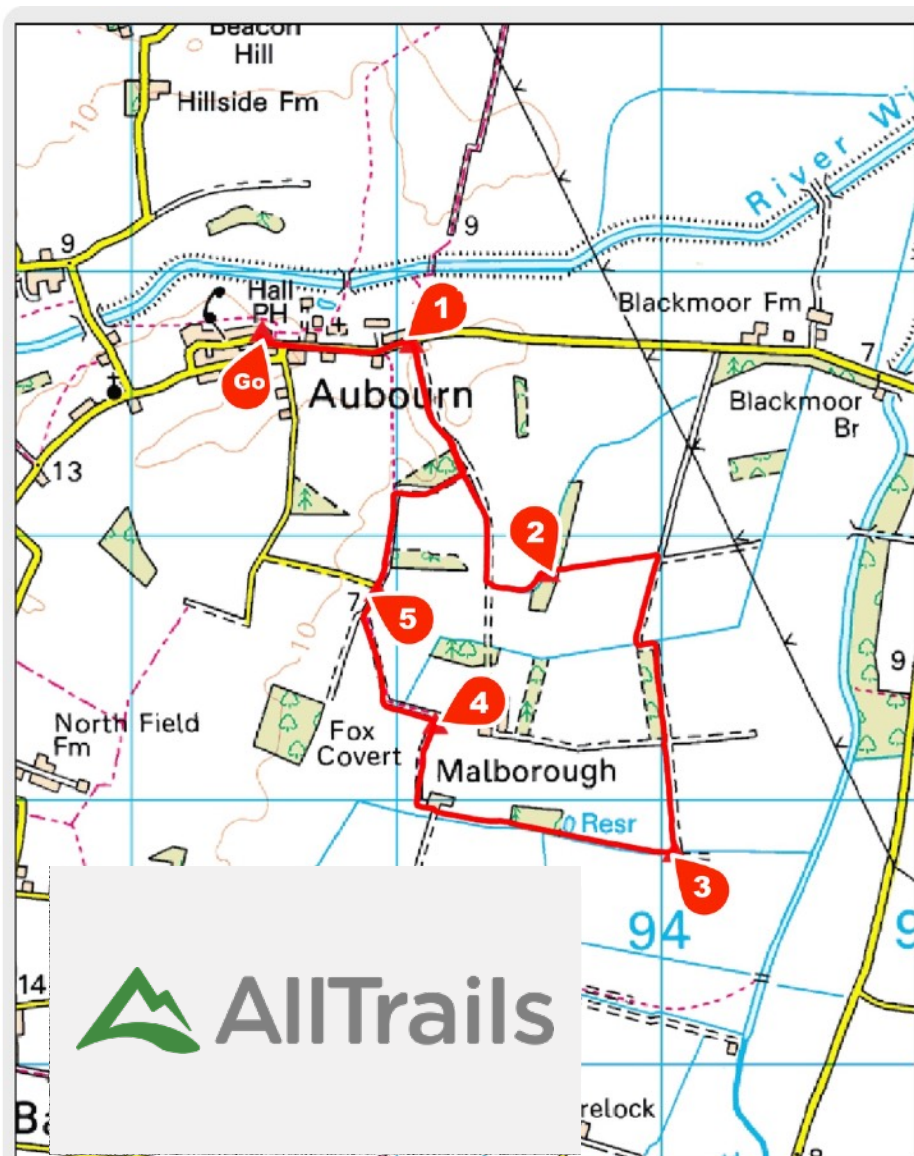
Follow the main stone track leading you ahead and then bending right to pass a woodland belt on your left. You will come to a T-junction with a hardstanding area directly ahead (which you should recognise from the outward leg of the walk). From this point, we will be retracing our steps back to the start. Turn left and follow the farm track all the way back to the kissing gate which leads to the road. Cross over to the far pavement, turn left along this and it will lead you directly back to the pub and car park on your right 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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