

STEPPING OUT: NOCTON AND CAR DYKE



Easy Terrain



**4 Miles
Circular
2 hours**

210519



Access Notes



1. The walk is relatively flat and follows a mixture of village pavements, tarmac access tracks, grass footpaths and stone farm tracks.
2. The paths are all well-made but can be muddy in winter and after periods of rain.
3. You will not be sharing any of the paths with livestock and there are no stiles, gates, steps or other obstacles on route. With this in mind, the route would be suitable for rugged pushchairs or rugged disability buggies when the paths are dry.
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 4 mile (6.5km) circular easy-access walk from the village of Nocton in Lincolnshire.

The route takes you past the highlights of the village itself, including artwork, the cricket ground and church, as well as exploring a wide stretch of countryside to the east, with patches of pretty woodland, open fields and a section of the historic Car Dyke. 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, Nocton has a small Post Office whilst The Red Lion is located in the nearby village of Dunston.

Getting there

Nocton village is located on the B1202 road, about 7 miles south-east of Lincoln. The walk starts and finishes from Nocton Village Hall and Social Club on Main Street. If you are coming by car, please park responsibly within the village.

Approximate post code **LN4 2BH**.

If you are coming by public transport, there are bus stops directly outside the village hall on Main Street. For information on bus transport, call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk Sections



Start to Nocton Cow



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The walk begins in the car park of Nocton Village Hall and Social Club. Leave the car park via the vehicle entrance and turn right along the pavement. Follow this pavement as it swings right to pass the Post Office on your right. Immediately after this bend, you will see a bridle road signed off to the left and our route will continue along this tarmac track shortly. Before you take this, keep ahead for a further 20 paces along the road to see a sculptural carved bench (set on a mosaic in front of the terraced cottages) on your right. This marks the site of the former village well. The bench was created by several villagers and includes a wren, a bird's nest and a cat.

When you have finished at the bench, cross to the opposite pavement and turn left to head back on yourself. Take the first right turn into the bridle road signed towards Dunston. After the first property (Wheelwright Barn) on your left, look on the stone wall on your left to see the Nocton Cow sculpture. This was created by Nocton school children with artsNK, from old scrap farm tools which had been ploughed up in the surrounding fields.

1 → 2 Nocton Cow to Burton Plantation



Keep ahead on the tarmac bridle road. When you reach a crossroads, turn left onto the restricted byway, passing the village cricket ground across to your right. Note the fine examples of ridge and furrow cultivation in the fields each side of you. Follow the tarmac track ahead and, just before you reach the bend at a stone property, pause to look through a gap in the hedgerow on your left for a view of the village church. This grand church is a reminder of Nocton's history, including the hall which no longer exists.

Nocton is known to have had a hall since around 1530, and Henry VIII is known to have stayed there in 1541. The hall passed through many hands, eventually passing to ownership of the Earls of Ripon. The hall they built burned down in 1841 and its replacement suffered the same fate in 2004. Nocton owes its current magnificent church to the Ripons, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and completed in 1862. The spire is 130 feet high and the interior brims with carving, wall paintings, mosaics, alabaster and glass (you can visit on return to the village should you wish).

As you reach the single stone property, follow the tarmac track as it bends right, continues ahead (with fenced sheep pastures on your right) and then swings left to head into a stretch of woodland. Follow the tarmac track passing through Burton Plantation, which is home to many spring flowers.

2 → 3 Burton Plantation to Green Lane



Continue ahead on the tarmac track through the woodland. Part way along, ignore the footpath signed off to the left, instead keep ahead on the main tarmac track. Further along, the track merges with another tarmac roadway (coming in from the right). Simply keep ahead on the main tarmac roadway (taking care of any farm traffic), passing the pretty round stone gateposts for the estate office on your right.

Continue past the estate buildings (which are across to your right) and then a small, pretty plantation (which is surrounded by a beautiful woven hedge) also on your right. Immediately after this small plantation, you will see a fingerpost on your right. Turn right here to join the restricted byway known as Green Lane.

3 → 4 Green Lane to Wasps Nest



Follow this unmade track ahead to reach the next fingerpost. Turn left here to follow the signed public bridleway, a grass path which passes a barn on your right. The path continues ahead with a ditch on your right and the fenced grounds of a modern farm facilities building on your left. As you reach a fenced field ahead, stay with the grass bridleway which turns left to continue between fences and an avenue of trees.

At the end of the grass avenue, you will emerge out to a T-junction with the tarmac access road. Turn right to follow this tarmac road (taking care of any traffic) and continue down the hill. Towards the bottom of the slope, follow the road bending right to cross over the large ditch, Car Dyke. Immediately after the dyke crossing, you will see a fingerpost on your right. Turn left here to join the quiet lane, with the dyke running on your left and a few houses (part of the small settlement of Wasps Nest) beyond this.



4 ➔ 5 Wasps Nest to Village Edge



Follow the lane as it leaves the village, staying alongside Car Dyke. Car Dyke runs for 76 miles from the River Witham near Washingborough to Waterbeach in Cambridge. Archaeologists believe that the dyke was constructed by Romans at the beginning of the second Century. Beyond the dyke and trees to your left, is a grass mound within the field (although this is only visible at this point in winter, when the trees are not in leaf). This mound marks the site of a Priory dating from the 1100s, which was demolished in 1536 as part of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Follow the lane as it swings steadily left and then leads you over Car Dyke via a bridge. Keep ahead on the lane, now with a smaller ditch running on your left and with a clearer view of the Priory grass mound to your left. Where the lane bends right, go straight ahead (passing alongside wide metal gates) to join a stone farm track. Simply keep ahead on this stone farm track with a pretty stream running in the ditch to your left.

Where the stone track bends right, keep ahead on the grass path (still following the line of the stream). Ignore the footpath over a footbridge to your left, instead continue ahead on the grass bridleway. As you reach the houses ahead, fork left to follow the bridleway on a paved path between houses.

road and continuing on a paved walkway between houses. After passing a pretty woodland on your left, you will emerge to a T-junction with the pavement of the main road.

Cross to the far pavement with care and turn left along this. Follow this pavement, passing a bus shelter and then bending right along Main Street. Just before the road bends left, you will notice the beautiful old village post office dating from 1833 on your right, now a private home. Follow the road as it bends left, crossing over Wellhead Lane, and keep ahead for a short distance to reach the car park on your right where the walk begins.

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.

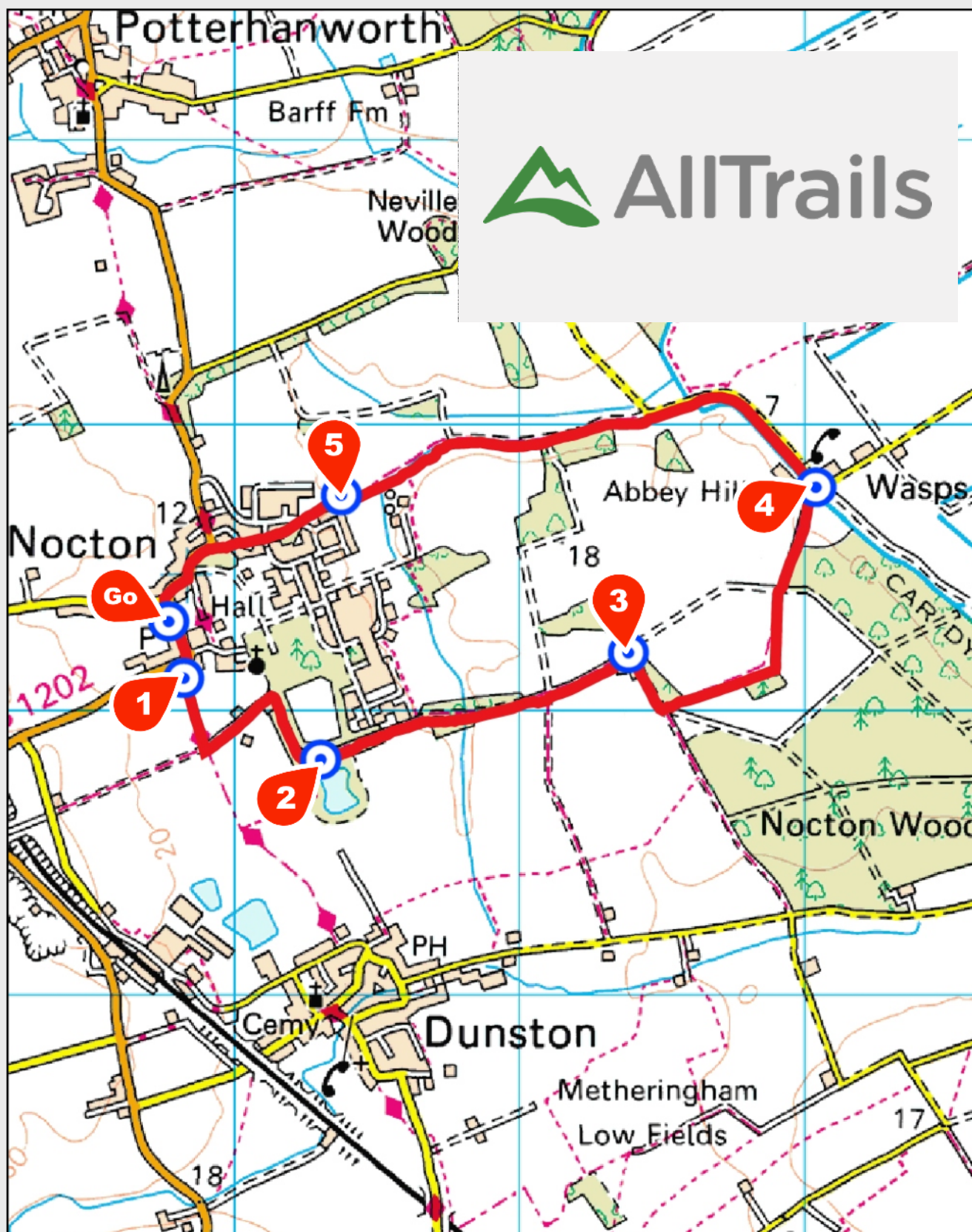
5 ➔ 6 Village Edge to End



The next stretch of your route passes through this area of housing, but the general rule is to stay in a straight line ahead. Walk directly ahead, crossing a residential road and then picking up the pavement at the far side. Where the roadside pavement bends right, keep ahead on the paved footpath between houses. You will reach a crossroads with a tarmac track.

Go ahead to continue on a tarmac footpath between fences and again maintain your straight line, crossing over a residential





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