

Be a responsible walker

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council's Natural Environment Team to help you explore and enjoy the county's countryside.

If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected.

We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact us.

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Walk Information

Walk location: Fiskerton is situated 6½ km (4 miles) east of Lincoln.

Starting point: Village Hall, Ferry Road, Fiskerton.
Grid reference: TF 052 721.

Parking: Village Hall car park, as above.

Public Transport: There is a regular bus service from Lincoln. For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 272 Lincoln. Landranger 121 Lincoln & Newark.



Public Footpath

Walk length: 12 or 9 km (7½ or 5½ miles).

At a leisurely pace the longer walk will take approximately 4 hours to complete and the shorter walk 2½ hours.

Type of walk: The walk uses village paths, field paths and quiet lanes, which may be muddy and uneven in places.

Refreshments: The Carpenters Arms and Wishing Well Stores, Fiskerton.

The Limewoods Project aims to protect, enhance and promote the Lincolnshire Limewoods area through the Limewoods Partnership.

www.limewoods.co.uk

email: limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk

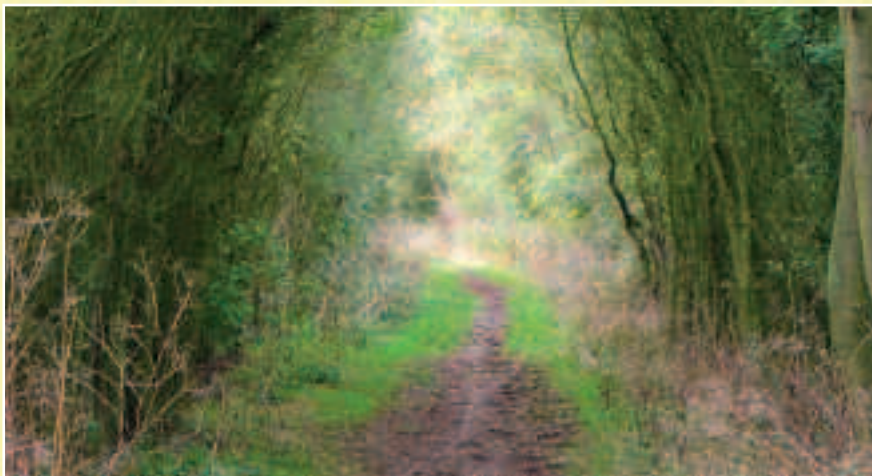


Fiskerton



A circular walk of 12 or 9 km (7½ or 5½ miles)

Introduction



The Lincolnshire Limewoods area, between Wragby, Bardney and Woodhall Spa, is a great place to explore with ancient woodlands, medieval abbey ruins, and a wealth of wildlife and history. This walk is one in a series where you can experience all this and more!

The Lincolnshire Limewoods are the most important examples of small-leaved lime woodland remaining in Britain and as such have been designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). These woodlands date back to prehistoric times and are believed to be one of the few remaining examples of wildwood with continuous woodland cover for the last 8000 years. They provide a range

of habitats for a variety of wildlife.

The Witham valley has one of the largest concentrations of abbeys and priories in the country. These medieval religious houses were located close to the river following a tradition of ritual use in the prehistoric period, and because it was an important link to Lincoln and the port at Boston. In medieval times some of the woodlands would have been owned by the abbeys and have played a vital role in the local economy.

This walk visits the remains of Barlings Abbey and offers the opportunity to experience the Limewoods landscape.

The Walk

The walk

- 1 With your back to the Village Hall cross the road, turn right and follow the road past the village green and pub and turn left along Nelson Road.

Fiskerton village dates back to at least the medieval period, its name originating from Old English meaning 'the farmstead, village of the fisherman'.

- 2 As the road bends to the left, turn right along the public footpath, between two houses, to emerge into a field.

Turn right towards the river Witham and admire the views to the Cathedral on the right.

- 3 Cross the bridge and turn left along the public footpath beside the river Witham.

You are now walking over the site of an Iron Age causeway dating back to 600 BC. Excavations in 1981 found posts set vertically into soft ground forming two parallel lines, 4m apart and at right angles to the river. Between the posts were horizontal timbers which formed a walkway over boggy ground. Finds included bone needles, pottery, domestic and military metalwork, axes, and a file with a decorated bone handle. Four iron swords, two in scabbards, were also recovered. Some of these items may have been deliberately deposited as offerings. In 2001 further excavations revealed more finds including an almost complete spear and two wooden log-boats, deliberately pegged into place. One of the Iron Age log-boats can be seen on display at The Collection in Lincoln.

- 4 At the footbridge over the river, turn left and follow the lane to a T-junction.
- 5 Turn left and take the first right along Hall Lane, a public bridleway.

Map and Walk



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Continue along the lane ignoring first a public footpath and then a public bridleway on the left.

- 6 At the end of the surfaced lane, after approximately 1½ km (1 mile) from the start of Hall Lane, turn left along the public bridleway.

Many of the limewoods are now small islands in an arable landscape where once they would have been larger and linked together. Current projects are trying to overcome some of this fragmentation by planting new areas of woodland and new hedges that link woodlands and form corridors for the movement of wildlife.

The Walk

Walk along the track ignoring a public bridleway on the left by the woodland, past a house and along the edge of a field to the field corner. Go through the gap in the hedge and turn left and follow the field edge to the corner where a path and bridleway meet.

During the Second World War the woodland area was one of a number of temporary Nissen Hut sites around Fiskerton and used to house personnel. After the war they were used for a number of years to house local residents.

7 For the **SHORTER WALK** turn left and rejoin the directions at **9**

For the **LONGER WALK** turn right and walk across the field by bearing right towards the white cottages and bridge. You are now walking on the Viking Way, Lincolnshire's 147 mile long distance footpath that links the Humber to Rutland Water:

Cross the bridge and bear slightly left and walk alongside the hedge to the road.

8 At the road turn right. After approximately 100m turn left onto a public bridleway towards Ferry House Farm. Turn right in front of the houses and through a gate to the remains of Barlings Abbey.

All that remains of Barlings Abbey today are earthworks and a single standing wall, the eastern arch of the north arcade of the church nave and part of the west pillar of the tower base. Close inspection will reveal the detailed decoration, similar to that in Southwell Minster Chapter House. Other pieces of medieval masonry can be seen in the walls of the nearby cottage and out buildings. The Abbey was founded by the Premonstratensian Order in 1154. It became one the richest and most influential of their houses in England, with most of Barlings income coming from wool production. The Abbey was dissolved in 1537 and the Abbot and four canons were hanged for treason, for taking part in the Lincolnshire rising.

Retrace your steps back to the road. Turn right and then left to return on the same footpath, over the bridge and across the field to the junction of paths and bridleway in the field corner.

The Walk

- 9 Continue on in the same direction along the Viking Way (waymarked with a Viking helmet), through the gap in the hedge and then along a field edge and grass track.

Go over a bridge and through a small copse. Continue on in the same direction along a hedge-lined path, ignoring a bridleway on the left, two on the right and a footpath on the left to emerge onto Hall Lane.

- 10 Turn right and after approximately 150m turn right onto the public footpath. Walk straight across the field to a gate in the hedge.

Bear left across the next field heading towards the right hand side of the row of houses.

Go through the gap in the hedge and follow the path between the house and hedge to a road.

- 11 Turn left and at the T-junction turn right and follow the road back to the Village Hall.

