

A Walk on the Wild Side



A circular walk of 7 miles from Ludford, taking in the views and history of Wykeham, Great Tows and the 101 Squadron



INTRODUCTION

Starting from Ludford, this dog friendly walk joins the Viking Way long distance footpath and leaves the village past the old 101 Squadron airfield, skirting the edge of the Deserted Medieval Village at Wykeham and leaving the Viking Way. Onwards and upwards to Great Tows, the highest point of the walk where there are fine views of the Wolds top and often a brisk breeze blowing.



Ludford Playing Fields Association and volunteers are grateful to the Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund in helping to fund this leaflet.

POINTS OF INTEREST

101 Squadron

The village has had a long association with the RAF 101 Squadron who were based at Ludford during the 2nd World War. In 1978 the 101 Squadron Association erected a memorial in the village dedicated to the memory of the 1,196 airmen who lost their lives – this being the highest number of casualties of any RAF Bomber Command Squadron during the war. Every year since then, on the first

weekend in September, veterans, family and friends gather together to pay their respects to fallen comrades at a moving remembrance service on the Magna Mile. Weather permitting, the highlight of the day is still the flypass over the village by one of the few remaining Avro Lancaster Bombers.

In the White Hart Public House a corner has been dedicated to some wonderful 101 Squadron memorabilia – well worth a visit as the pub is also renowned for its extensive range of local real ales!



Lancaster Bomber



Twinning

Ludford is twinned with the village of Voué in Northern France. This association came about as a result of a 101 Squadron Lancaster Bomber being shot down over Voué with the loss of all its crew. The villagers were able to bury the crew's remains and to this day they still tend their graves. Once the link with Ludford came to light the villages twinned up and still enjoy regular visits to each other.



THE ROUTE



1 Starting your walk from Ludford Village Hall, where there is ample parking and picnic tables, walk to the main road A631 and carefully cross the road, turn right and head through the village. Continue past the White Hart Pub and the church on your left and the old village school on the right. Look for the waymarked footpath on your right at a break in the hedge, carefully cross the road and follow the path across the field as it bears diagonally left.

2 When you reach Girsby Lane, turn right and follow the road past the edge of the airfield until you reach Wykeham Lane, on your left. This is a tarmac farm track, with a tall stand of trees on the right. Take this track and walk towards Wykeham Park, crossing the River Bain as you do so.

3 As you walk up to the Park, you will see the remains of East Wykeham medieval village on your left as you walk past farm buildings and cottages. Continue straight ahead onto the tarmac farm track and at the junction of Wykeham Lane with the A631 carefully cross the road and turn left.

4 Take the first right turn signed for Great Tows. At the next junction take the left fork and head towards Tows Farm, keeping the farm buildings on your right.

Fanny Hands Lane

This lane towards the west end of the village was voted amongst the top ten 'smuttiest' street names in the country by a national newspaper a few years ago. Fanny was Frances, wife of a local farmer, John Hand, who named the lane after her in the early 1900's. Their milking parlour, where Fanny worked, has now been converted into a holiday cottage at the bottom of the lane.

East Wykeham

The remains of the deserted medieval village of East Wykeham are on your left as you walk past the Wykeham Hall farm buildings. During the early part of the 14th century the impact of famine and climate changes as well as the move to sheep farming caused a decline in the local population. The Black Death in 1348-9 decimated what remained of the village community.



5 Continue along the road as it bears left and, as the road bears right, go straight ahead, following the field track with the hedge on your right as it dips then rises again. You are now at one of the highest points of the walk, with fantastic views for miles.

6 At the top of the field, follow the waymarker and turn sharp right, again keeping the hedge on your right. Follow the track around the perimeter of the field as it turns left and eventually comes out onto the Binbrook Road.

7 Turn left onto the Binbrook Road, follow it round the left hand bend and continue up the hill. At the waymarked gap in the hedge on the right, take the footpath across the field, heading towards the edge of the village with the remaining stump of the windmill to your right.

The windmill
The windmill stump has the distinction of being the remains of the last newly built windmill in Lincolnshire. It was built in 1889 by Saunderson but ceased to be operational by 1930. The sails were taken down in 1932 and the tower was reduced to its current height after the war.



8 Walk down Sledge Hill, by kind permission of the landowners. Go past Sledge Hill cottage on your left, turning left at Horseshoe Cottage onto Stock's Hill, noting the stocks on the green. Emerge onto Magna Mile at the Church.



9 Keeping to the right hand pavement walk through the village, passing the 101 Squadron Memorial at Lime Villas and eventually returning to the Village Hall.



ROUTE INFORMATION

Distance:	7 miles or 11.5 km
Time:	Approx: 3½ hours at a leisurely pace
Maps:	OS Landranger 113 OS Explorer 282
Parking:	Please park in the village hall car park, Playing Fields Lane, Ludford, signposted off the A631 Map Ref: TF 197 888 Postcode LN8 6AJ
Terrain:	A mixture of footpaths over grass and arable fields, with some roadside walking and crossing A631
Refreshments:	White Hart Inn (dog friendly), Magna Mile, Ludford
Stiles:	No stiles on the route.
Public Transport	For bus services to Ludford contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or www.traveline.info

Tourist information - Tel: 01507 601111
Email: louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Website: www.visitlincolnshire.com



THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape. Most of it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973. Covering an area of 558 square kilometres or 216 square miles, the AONB contains the highest ground in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent, rising to over 150m along its western edge. Rolling chalk hills and areas of sandstone and clay underlie this attractive landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.

A Countryside Service helps to protect and enhance the landscape through partnership projects with local landowners, farmers, parish councils, businesses and residents of the Wolds.



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