

# To Legsby & Linwood and back again



Three circular walks; one of 3½ miles, one of 4½ miles and the other of 5¾ miles from Market Rasen through surrounding farmland



## INTRODUCTION

All three walks start from Market Rasen and head through fields over the Coversands; soils which are very deep but which dry out quickly and are subject to wind erosion. The second route follows the National Cycle Route for a distance, whilst the third route gives you the opportunity to explore a heathland nature reserve.



Bell heather is a common plant of drier heaths. Care should be taken not to mistake it for cross-leave heath which grows in more boggy areas



Gorse

## LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

For train times to Market Rasen, phone 08457 48 49 50  
 For bus services and Call Connect services to Market Rasen contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Market Rasen was known throughout the county for its clay pipe making industry in the early to mid 1800s. Clay for the pipes came from Devon and was brought to Gainsborough by river and canal and from there by road and later rail. The clay pipe makers in Serpentine Street closed in the late 1800s following the introduction of wooden pipes.



Clay pipe

The name Legsby originates from the old nordic meaning of Legg's farmstead or village, probably a notable chieftain of the area, whilst the name Linwood originates from the old English meaning of the common native woodland tree of this area, the small leaved lime or linden tree. The lime tree has been used for centuries as a decorative street tree as it was also believed to ward off evil. The soft, even grained wood does not warp and as such is ideal for carving and for making piano keys.



Lime leaves and flowers

Linwood Warren, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserve, is an important heathland site. The area has been used extensively throughout the centuries, with flint implements, Roman kilns, medieval field systems and First World War practice trenches all playing a part in the rich history of the site. All three heathers can be found on site - bell heather, cross leaved heath and ling (the original heather); the other wildlife taking advantage of the site include butterflies, reptiles and birds, most notably the green woodpecker or Yaffle.



Green woodpecker

1 Start in the free car park in John Street, Market Rasen. Leave the car park by the John Street entrance and turn left.

Turn left again into Chapel Street, pass the magnificent Ionic column frontage of the Methodist Church and go under the railway bridge.

2 Cross over Linwood Road into Serpentine Street and turn right into a narrow passage immediately after Maltings Court.

3 Go straight on at the end of a cul-de-sac into a footpath passage opposite. Cross over the street to the next waymarker, into the footpath opposite, keep straight on.

4 Continue straight on, keeping the cemetery on your left, until you reach Legsby Road. Turn right at the road, walking out of the town.

5 Just past 'The Ridings' housing estate on the right-hand side, take the footpath between the bungalows at the waymarker.

6 At the end of the gardens, cross diagonally left over two fields then go left to a gate.

7 Follow the hedge line, before following the arrow sign on the post, diagonally right across the field to Woodhill Farm.

8 At the farm entrance, go through a gate and follow the direction arrows. At the corner go diagonally right and aim for the marker post near a tree at the end of a hedge.

9 Continue on the same direction, crossing the next field to the hedge. At the four-way marker post on Willingham Lane byway you have three options.

**ROUTE A**  
3½ MILES OR 5½ KM

A1 Turn left here and follow the byway. Turn left again at the T junction into Crab Apple Lane.

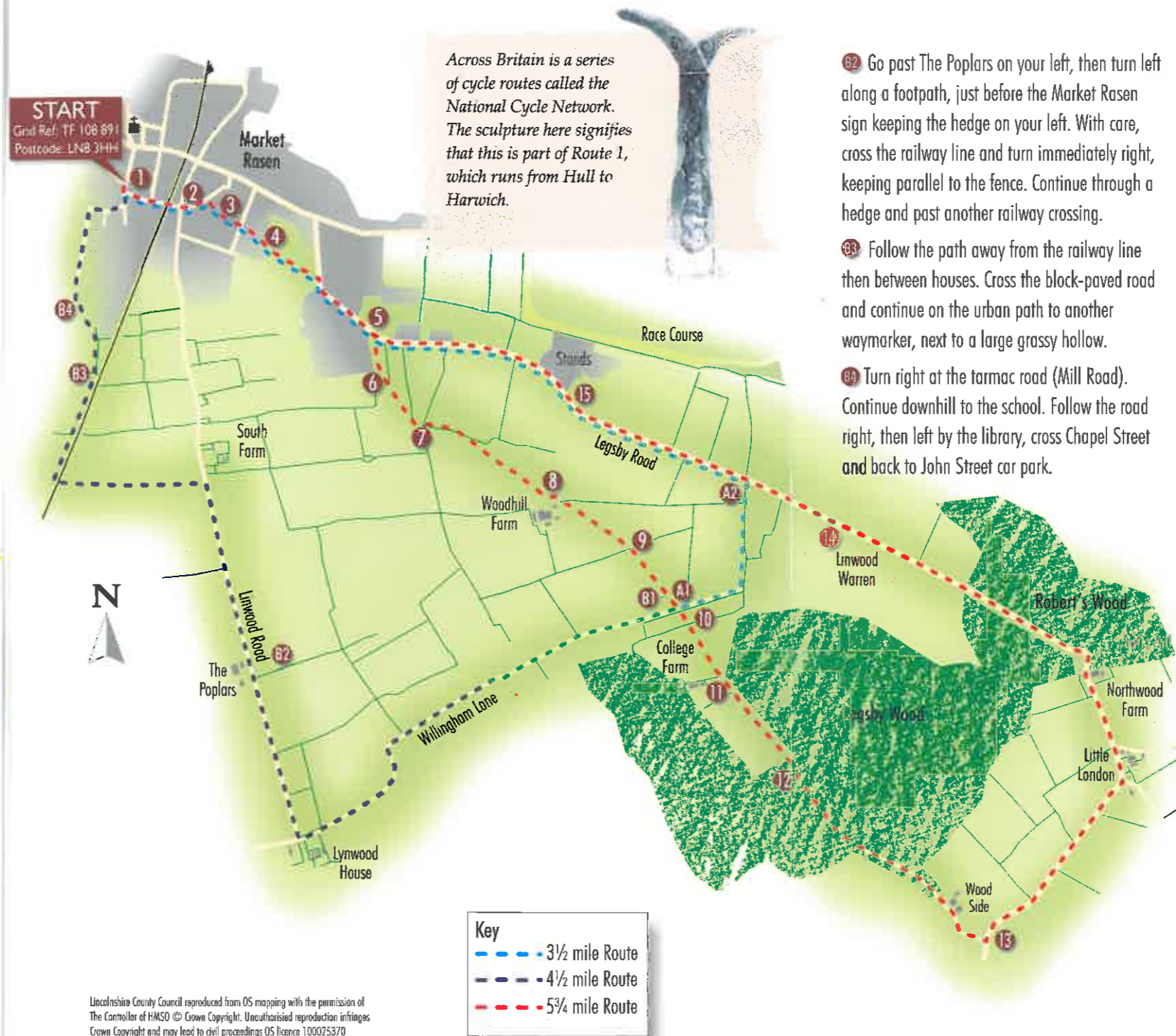
A2 Turn left onto Legsby Road, opposite Market Rasen Golf Course. Return to Market Rasen keeping to the grass verge and footway.

*Gorse can be seen along Willingham Lane and this dense, prickly shrub can flower throughout the year, which explains an old country saying "When the gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of fashion". The yellow flowers have a warm, sweet smell - reminiscence of coconut - but beware getting too close, the prickles are sharp and its nectar a favourite of bees.*



**ROUTE B**  
4½ MILES OR 7KM

B1 Turn right and follow the Willingham Lane byway all the way to the main road at Linwood, turning right along the foot/cycle path beside the road, past the National Cycle Network sculpture.



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B2 Go past The Poplars on your left, then turn left along a footpath, just before the Market Rasen sign keeping the hedge on your left. With care, cross the railway line and turn immediately right, keeping parallel to the fence. Continue through a hedge and past another railway crossing.

B3 Follow the path away from the railway line then between houses. Cross the block-paved road and continue on the urban path to another waymarker, next to a large grassy hollow.

B4 Turn right at the tarmac road (Mill Road). Continue downhill to the school. Follow the road right, then left by the library, cross Chapel Street and back to John Street car park.

**ROUTE C**  
5¾ MILES OR 9KM

C10 Cross over the Willingham Lane byway and continue ahead across the next field. Aim for the edge of the woodland, to the left of the driveway of College Farm.

C11 Go through a gate and continue ahead, crossing stiles and gates keeping the woodland on your left until you enter Legsby Wood. Follow the main path until you arrive at a gravelled track.

C12 Continue straight over, on the footpath through the broadleaf woodland. Continue through the trees with both sides opening to fields. Follow the track past the house, Wood Side to reach the road.

C13 Turn left, walking towards the hamlet of Little London and continue to the road bend at Bella Hill. Go left round the bend to Legsby Road, keeping to the grass verges.

C14 As you walk by on the left is Linwood Warren Nature Reserve which is managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. If you would like to explore the reserve, there are two circular waymarked routes, one of 0.6 miles and one of 0.75 miles.

C15 You pass Market Rasen Golf Course and the Racecourse to return to Market Rasen. This is the town's 5th racecourse, and has occupied this present site since the 1920's.

## ROUTE INFORMATION

**Distance:** 5¼ miles, 9 km; 4½ miles, 7 km; 3½ miles, 5½ km

**Time:** Approx. 3 - 3½ hours at a leisurely pace for the longest route  
 Approx. 2½ - 3 hours at a leisurely pace for the second route  
 Approx. 2 hours at a leisurely pace for the shortest route

**Maps:** OS Landranger 113 OS Pathfinder 747  
 OS Explorer 282

**Parking:** Car park in John Street, Market Rasen - Grid ref: TF 108 89  
 Postcode LN8 3HH

**Terrain:** Footpaths, byways and fields can be very muddy at times.  
 Some verge walking on all routes. All on level ground.

**Refreshments:** Cafes and pubs in Market Rasen

**Toilets:** John Street, Market Rasen

**Stiles:** Numerous



Tourist Information - Tel: 01427 676666

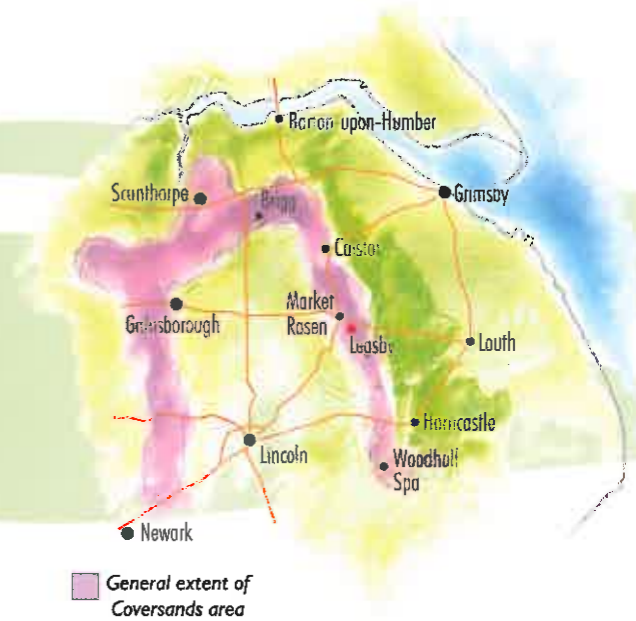


## COVERSANDS HEATHLANDS RESTORING THE COVER

Lowland heathland is rarer than tropical rainforest, with the UK still having 20% of the world's resource, despite massive decline over the last 200 years. The heathland found in the northern half of historic Lincolnshire and the eastern edge of Nottinghamshire is even more special, having a wider variety of plants than typical southern heaths, as well as characteristic short-cropped grasslands, lichen-rich heath and sand dunes. This area, known as the Coversands, has gradually lost its important wildlife to farming, forestry and development.

The £1.5 million Coversands Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage Project has worked to restore this precious habitat. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, this 5 year project restored 700 hectares and re-created 250 hectares of this internationally important heathland. The project was not just about wildlife; it also developed strong community participation and school links by working with local organisations and Coversands partners whilst boosting the economic prosperity of the area through grazing projects.

For further information or to request a DVD about the Coversands Heathland Project, contact the Environment Team, North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN15 6XQ - Telephone 01724 297390



If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format please contact us