



Wragby & Goltho



A circular walk of 9½ or 7 km (6 or 4½ 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 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.

This walk will take you from Wragby through a typical Limewoods landscape, through both established and new woodlands to the site of a deserted medieval village and an isolated chapel.



The Walk

- 1 Leave the Market Place along Bardney Road, towards the old windmill.

- 2 Turn left along Mill View Road.

At the end of the road continue straight on along a public footpath to the edge of the old cemetery.

The earthworks visible as you cross this field form part of the site of a medieval manor. There were two moated sites, one of which enclosed the manor. To find out more about this fascinating site take a look at the panel on your left produced by Wragby Heritage Group.

- 3 Turn right and follow the footpath across the field to a hedge. Cross the bridge and continue along the footpath, ignoring a footpath on the left, to walk beside a hedge and drain to a road.

- 4 Turn left. Take care around the bends on this stretch of road (the verge on the right hand side of the road is wider).



- 5 After 400m turn right along a public footpath and follow the edge of the field straight ahead.

At the end of the hedge turn left beside some trees and after approx. 80m turn right across the field to the corner of the woodland.

Continue straight ahead alongside the woodland to a drive.

- 6 Walk across the drive and bear slightly left heading towards the hedge to the left of the telegraph pole ahead.

Take a minute to turn around and look at the surrounding landscape. This well-wooded area is typical of much of the Limewoods area where woodland is interspersed with agricultural land.

Go through the gap in the hedge and bear left, cutting across the corner of the field, to the hedge. Follow the hedge and drain on the left. Where the drain bends left at a telegraph pole continue straight on across the field to a bridge over a drain.

- 7 Cross the bridge, turn left and walk beside the drain for approximately 150m. As the drain bends left walk ahead across the field bearing left to a **finger** post on the edge of an area of planted trees. Bear left to a bridge.

Map



Map Scale:
North

400m

¼ mile



Walk



Shorter Walk



Other public rights of way



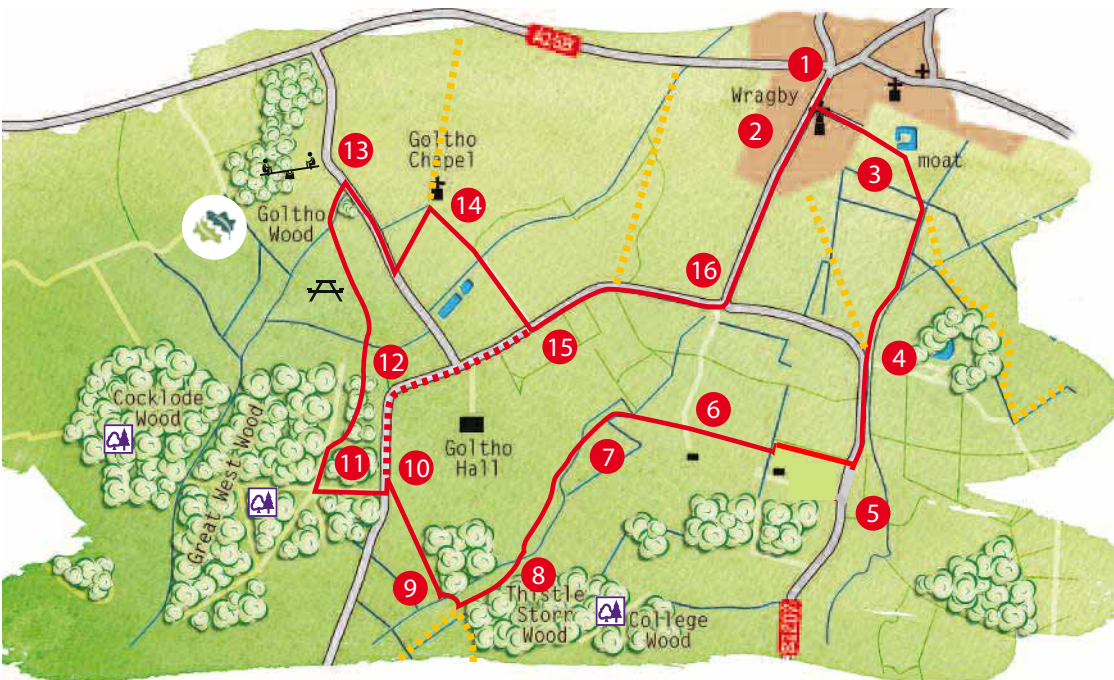
Woodland open to the public



Wild play area



Picnic area



The Walk

This area of planting forms a link between two established woodlands on either side, Thistle Storr Wood and Black Plantation. The trees planted include oak, ash and silver birch.

Cross the bridge and bear right towards the woodland edge and footpath sign, walking through another area of tree planting.

8 At the finger post turn right.

At the bridge and junction of footpaths turn right over a second bridge and follow the field edge straight on to a bridge into the woodland.

Cross the bridge and bear left through the corner of the woodland.

9 At the woodland edge bear right through an area of tree planting and across the field heading to the right hand edge of the wooded area on the opposite side of the field. Walk through the trees to the road.

10 For the **SHORTER** route turn right and follow the road, ignoring a road on the left, to rejoin the directions at point 15, at a public footpath sign on the left.

For the **LONGER** route turn left and then right into Cocklode and Great West Wood. This is a working woodland so please follow any signs or requests.

Owned and managed by the Forestry Commission, Cocklode and Great West Woods are part of the Bardney Limewoods NNR and are examples of the best small-leaved lime woodland in Britain. Made up of mixed broadleaved trees look out for oak, silver birch, yew, small-leaved lime and hazel.

Follow the main track into the woodland for 250m until you reach a path on your right – turn right.

11 Follow the path through the wood and then some young trees onto the Woodland Trust site, then **continue straight on (middle path)** through the area of planted trees to a hand gate, with bridge beyond, that will come into view.

You are walking through Goltho Wood, a major habitat creation scheme by the Woodland Trust. New native woodlands, meadows, ponds and wetlands have been created, helping to extend adjacent woodlands and provide additional habitats for wildlife. Paths, picnic benches and a wild play area have also been provided.



The Walk

- 12** Walk through the gate and over the bridge, straight ahead to another gate. Go through the gate and follow the path up the hill. At the fence line turn left and follow it past the sculpture.

Follow the path straight ahead, between two field gates until a bridge on your left. Cross the bridge and turn right to follow the hedgerow to a kissing gate and road.

- 13** Turn right and walk along the road for approximately 400m. Turn left along a public footpath heading towards the chapel amongst the trees in the field. Enter the church yard.

St. George's chapel is the only surviving building on the site of the deserted medieval village known as Goltho, meaning 'the enclosure where marigolds grow'. Evidence suggests that the area was first occupied during the Roman period and then again in the Anglo-Saxon period and by the 12th century there was a thriving village. By the beginning of the 15th century much of the village was abandoned after harsh winters resulted in poor harvests.

An earlier stone church stood on the site of St. George's and remains of tombstones set in the chapel floor indicate that there was a chapel on the site by the 13th century.

St. George's probably dates from the 16th century, with an 18th century chancel and Victorian bellcote. It is looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust. Sadly, in 2013 a fire destroyed the interior and roof of the chapel.

Look out for an information panel at the churchyard, giving more information about the history of this area.

- 14** Follow the footpath out of the churchyard through the hedge on the right. Walk straight across the field to a bridge in the corner. Cross the bridge and follow the track straight onto a road and turn left.
- 15** Follow the road to a junction.
- 16** Turn left to return to the Market Place in Wragby.



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 Countryside Access 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 would like this leaflet in an alternative format or language please contact us.

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Useful information

Walk location: Wragby lies 16 km (10 miles) north-east of Lincoln.

Starting point: Market Place, Wragby LN8 5QU

Grid Reference: TF 132 780.

Parking: Please park responsibly in Wragby village

Public Transport: The Interconnect 6 bus runs regularly between Lincoln and Skegness and stops in Wragby.

For information call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 273 Lincolnshire Wolds South, and Landranger 121 Lincoln & Newark.

Walk length: 9½ or 7km (6 or 4½ miles) and will take approximately 3 or 2¼ hours to complete at a leisurely pace.

Type of walk: Mostly easy level walking using field paths, some quiet roads and woodland rides. There are no stiles on this walk. It can be uneven and muddy in places especially through the woodlands. You may encounter livestock on this walk.

Refreshments: There are a selection of shops, cafes and pubs in Wragby.

Public Toilets: Market Place, Wragby.



This route has been put together with assistance from the Woodland Trust.

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

The Limewoods Project is funded by :

