



Lincolnshire
Limewoods

Faldingworth



A circular walk of 8 or 6 km (5 or 3¾ 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.

This walk starts in Faldingworth, which dates back to the Saxon period and derives its name from its Old English name meaning 'to make sheep folds'. The walk then passes through Buslingthorpe, a small village which was once much larger in size, and on into Wickenby Wood, part of the NNR.



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 require this leaflet in another format please contact us.

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The Walk

- 1 With your back to the Memorial Hall turn right.

Faldingworth was a substantial settlement throughout the medieval and later period. The population declined from the end of the fourteenth century before expanding again in the nineteenth century.

Look out for what remains of an old windmill on your left towards the end of the village. Known as Stamp's Mill it was built around 1822 and used wind power until 1938. It was then powered by an engine for several years.

- 2 After approximately 250m leave the main road and follow Buslingthorpe Road straight ahead.



The village became known as Buslingthorpe in the twelfth century during the tenancy of Buselinus. Before then it was known as Esethorp. During the medieval period the village was much larger in size. Buried remains of the medieval village can be seen as lumps and bumps in the fields surrounding the present village. Part of the medieval moated site can still be seen next to the church.

Take a few minutes to visit St Michael's church which is now cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. All of the church, except the tower, was rebuilt in 1835. It contains two fourteenth century monuments to the Buslingthorpe family.

Follow the road through Buslingthorpe.

- 3 Where the road bends sharp left walk straight ahead along a public footpath.

Listen out for skylarks and lapwings as you walk through this arable landscape. The distinctive pee-weet call of the lapwing is often the give away sign that they are in the area. Once heard look out for their broad rounded wings in flight and their colourful iridescent green plumage and long crest.

Map and Walk



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-  Walk
-  Other public rights of way
-  Woodland open to the public

400m
¼ mile
Map Scale:

The Walk

- 4 At the top of the slope, and at a waymarker post, turn left into the field then bear right and walk towards the lone cottage.
- 5 At the road turn right.
Follow the road for approximately 1½ km (1 mile) to a junction.
- 6 For the **SHORTER** walk turn right and join the directions at 9.

For the **LONGER** walk turn left.

In several places along this walk you will see recently planted hedges alongside roads. The hedges will contain native species such as hawthorn, dogrose, field maple, hazel, blackthorn and spindle. These hedges provide a valuable habitat for a variety of birds, mammals and insects and also form corridors between the woods for the movement of wildlife. The Limewoods Project plays an active role in creating new hedges and areas of woodland to expand and link together mature habitats.



- 7 After approximately 400m (½ mile) turn left into Wickenby Wood. This is a working woodland owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. Please follow any temporary signs and keep to the main forest tracks.

Wickenby is one of the woods that make up the Bardney Limewoods NNR which contains the finest examples of ancient lime woodland in Britain. A variety of trees can be found in the woodland apart from small-leaved lime. Look out for willow, oak, ash, silver birch and field maple. One management technique still used in the wood is coppicing. Look out for the many coppice stools of hazel, ash and lime throughout the wood. Coppicing is a traditional technique where stems are regularly cut down to ground level and harvested for poles and firewood. This means there is usually a wide age range of trees within the wood which in turn encourages a variety of wildlife.



The Walk

In early spring the woodland floor is carpeted in white and yellow as the first plants come into flower. Look out for wood anemones, lesser celandines and primroses followed a few weeks later by bluebells. In the wetter areas of the wood purple loose-strife and ragged robin can be found. The wood is also home to six species of orchid.

Follow the forest track for approximately 600m ($\frac{1}{3}$ mile) to a crossroads of tracks. Turn left and follow this track back to the road.

- 8 Turn left along the road and follow it as it bends to the left and passes a road on the right.
- 9 Approximately 150m after the junction turn right onto a public footpath.

Follow the path ahead beside the ditch to a hedge and bridge.

Cross the bridge and bear slightly right across the next field to the corner of the woodland.

- 10 Bear slightly left across the field heading to the waymarker post next to a gap in the hedge at the top of the field.
- 11 Bear slightly left across the next field to a waymarker post and gap in the hedge.

Continue in the same direction across the next field to the right hand corner of the sewage works compound.

- 12 Cross the bridge and follow the track for approximately 50m before turning right over a small bridge. Bear left across the field to the road.
- 13 Turn right and follow the roadside path into Faldingworth.



Walk Information

Walk location: Faldingworth is situated 17½ km (11 miles) north-east of Lincoln on the A46.

Starting point: Memorial Hall, High Street, Faldingworth. Grid reference: TF 067 847. Post code: LN8 3SE.

Parking: Please park responsibly in the village.

Public Transport: The Interconnect 3 bus service runs regularly between Lincoln and Grimsby and stops in Faldingworth. For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

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



Public Footpath

Walk length: 8 or 6 km (5 or 3 ¾ miles).

At a leisurely pace the longer walk will take approximately 2½ hours to complete and the shorter walk 2 hours.

Type of walk: The walk uses village paths, quiet lanes, field paths and woodland rides, which may be muddy and uneven in places. The walk is mostly level and there are no stiles.

Refreshments: Coach & Horses, Faldingworth.

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

www.limewoods.co.uk

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The Limewoods Project is funded by:

