

## Places of interest to visit nearby

### Picks Butchers

89 Main Street  
Dorrington LN4 3QA  
Telephone: 01526 830831

### RAF Digby Sector Operations Room Museum

RAF Digby  
Lincolnshire LN4 3LH  
Telephone: 01526 327619  
www.airops.freeserve.co.uk

### North Ings Farm Museum

Fen Road, Dorrington  
Lincoln LN4 3QB  
Telephone: 01526 833100  
www.northingsfarmmuseum.co.uk

### Refreshments

### Digby Post Office and Stores

27 Beck Street  
Digby LN4 3NE  
Telephone: 01526 320223

### The Musicians Arms

Main Street, Dorrington  
Lincolnshire LN4 3PX  
Telephone: 01526 832310

### The Red Lion

3 North Street, Digby  
Lincolnshire LN4 3LY  
Telephone: 01526 320490

### Accommodation

### The Lodge

Bloxholm  
Lincolnshire LN4 3QF  
Telephone: 01526 860347

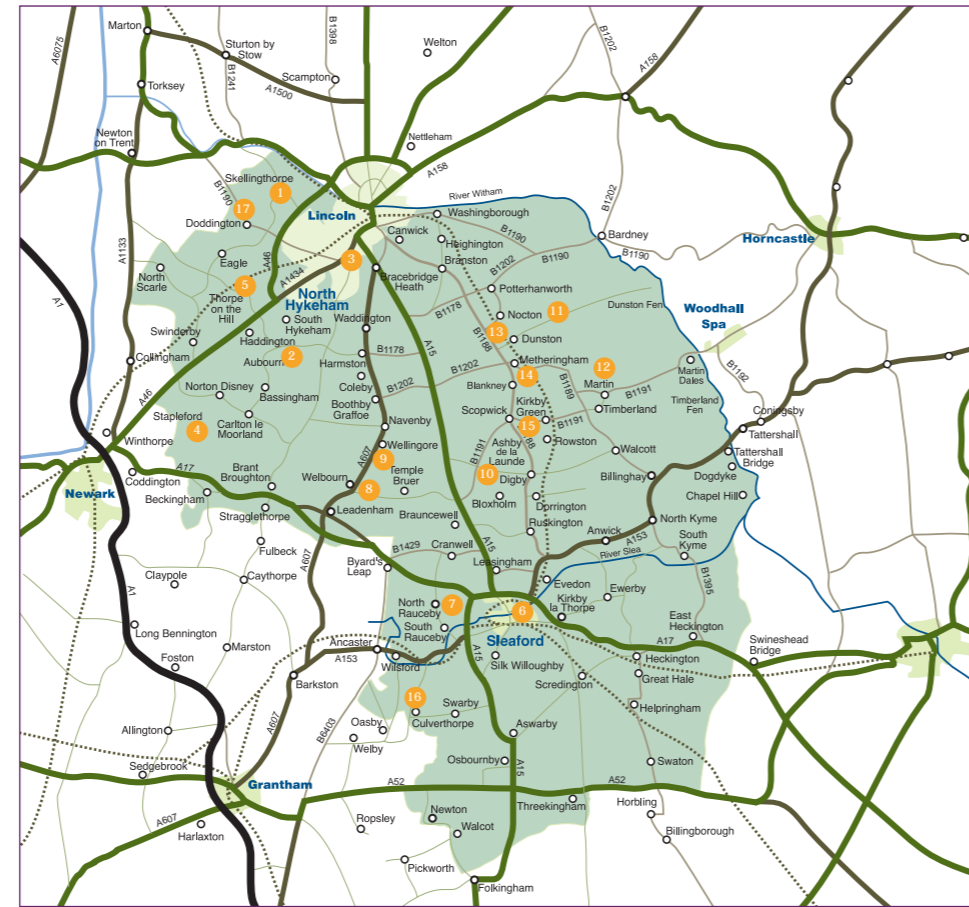
### Digby Manor B&B

The Manor, North Street  
Digby, Lincolnshire LN4 3LY  
Telephone: 01526 860347  
www.digbymanor.com

### Sunnyside Farm B&B

Leasingham Lane  
Ruskington, Lincolnshire NG34 9AH  
Telephone: 01526 833010  
www.sunnysidefarm.co.uk

## Go Stepping Out!



For more Stepping Out walks, further information on local attractions or accommodation, please call or visit:

**Sleaford Tourist Information Centre, Money's Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7TW Telephone: 01529 414294**

**Email: tic@n-kesteven.gov.uk www.heartoflincs.com**

**Download all the Stepping Out walks by visiting www.countrysidenk.co.uk**

**www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk**

**www.visitlincolnshire.com**

**www.spireandsteeple.com**



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## Stepping Out

# Bloxholm and Braucewell



**districtnk**  
100 flourishing communities

North Kesteven District Council Heart of Lincolnshire

Distance 3.4 miles/5.5km



[www.countrysidenk.co.uk](http://www.countrysidenk.co.uk)

## Introduction

You will find Bloxholm and Braucewell at the edge of the limestone dip slope of Lincoln Heath as it meets a narrow zone of clays and gravels (never more than five or six miles wide) that disappears eastwards beneath the fens.

This distinctive area, sandwiched between the B1188 and Car Dyke is more sheltered than the heath, with its straight-sided Enclosure Act fields, crumbling dry-stone walls and isolated farmsteads. Here smaller fields have hedges stocked with timber trees; there are coppices and plantations, while lanes and droves are clustered with settlements, all features typical of medieval enclosure.

Tucked away to the southwest of Bloxholm is the site of the deserted medieval village of Braucewell. Only the tiny All Saints Church remains standing, but the paddocks east of Manor Farm still bear the faint scars of forgotten streets. The abandonment of the site has been attributed to many things, including climate change and the coming of the Mini-Ice Age in approximately 1300.



## Walk facts

### Walk Location

A delightful circular walk through woodland and park land.

### Starting Point

Stepping Out Car Park at Peacock Lodge, signposted to Mount Farm off the B1191. (Grid Ref: TF 0429 5368)

### Parking

Stepping Out Car Park at Peacock Lodge

### Public Transport

For information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel)

### Walk Length

3.4miles/5.5km in length and should take 1½ to 2 hours at a leisurely pace.

### Type of Walk

A mix of footpaths and farm tracks. There are stiles on this walk and some of the woodland paths can be muddy in wet weather.

### Ordnance Survey maps

Explorer 272 and Landranger 121



Whilst great care has been taken in compiling this information into this leaflet, North Kesteven District Council cannot be held responsible for any errors, omissions or alterations contained within it. The inclusion of an establishment within this leaflet does not imply any official recommendations by North Kesteven District Council.

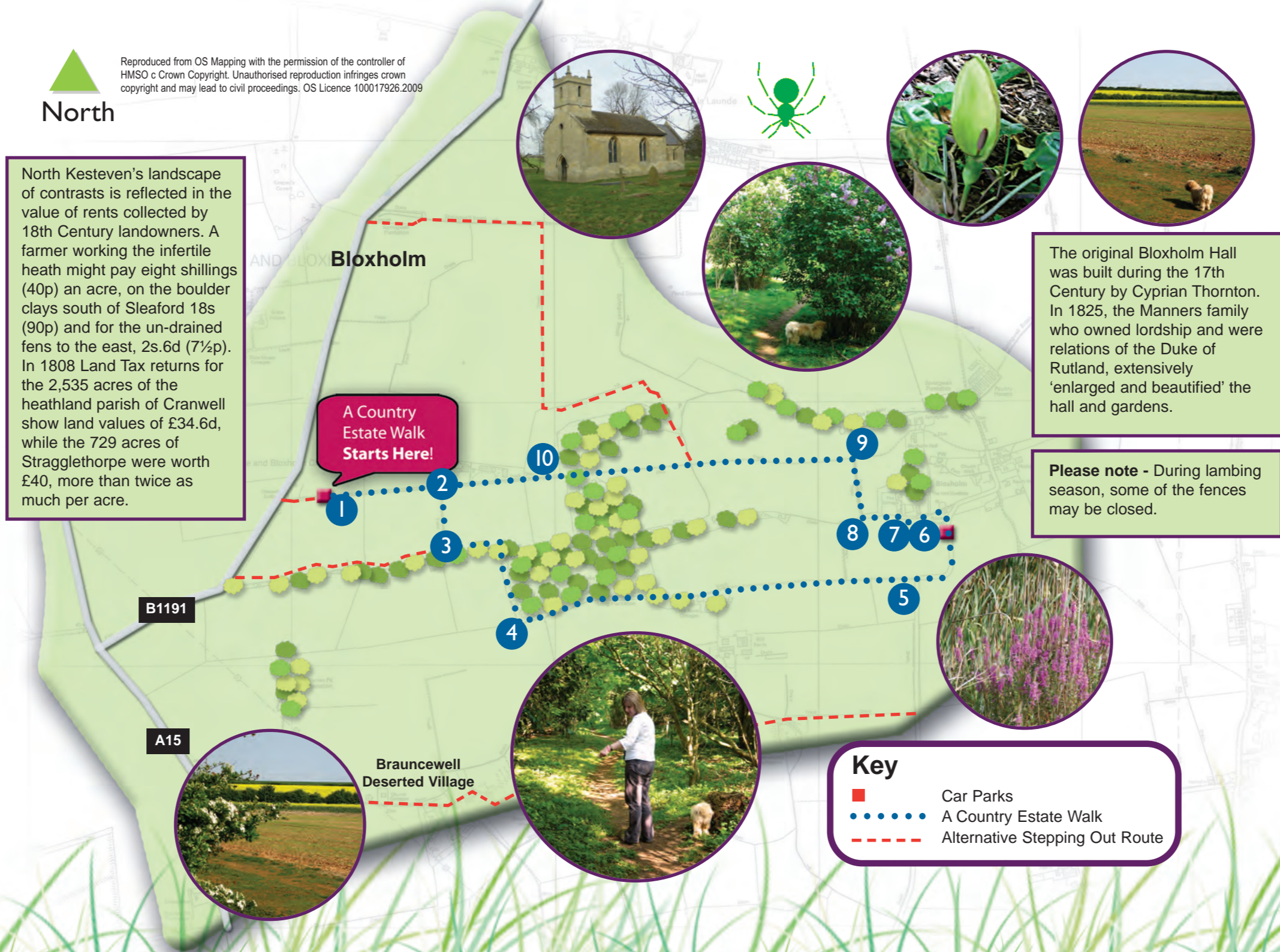
# Country Estate Walk



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- From the Stepping Out Car Park at Peacock Lodge, walk straight ahead, through the wooden gate and down the wide farm track, originally the carriageway to Bloxholm Hall.
- Just before you reach Mount Farm on your left, look for a track leading right alongside a large blackthorn hedge. Turn right onto this path.
- Continue down this path, passing a pond on your left, until you reach a long strip of woodland. The path on your right leads through the plantation, back to the road where, for a shorter walk, you can turn right back along the road to your car. To continue the circular route, turn left into woodland known as Ten Acre Plantation.
- This path winds its way through Spruce Covert and Four Acre Plantation where many of the trees are hornbeam. Violets and celandine can also be seen in spring. Follow the way markers through the wood until you emerge onto a single track road. The road bends to the right to Hill Farm. Carry on straight ahead and take the left hand road through open fields. The village of Bloxholm can be seen ahead, while Dorrington Church tower is clearly visible in the distance.
- This track joins the public road, bear left here, towards Bloxholm. Continue along the road until you reach a curious round hexagonal house (called the round house) on your left. This house was built for the estate in 1825.
- Just after the round house, take the path off to the left, along a cinder path which leads left towards the old walled garden belonging to the hall. Continue past the old gates until you reach the corner of the garden wall.
- At this point the cinder path bears right into a private property, follow the grassy path leading off to your left. Take this path, keeping the hedge on your right. The path bends right over an old footbridge until it reaches a farm track leading around the edge of a field.
- Turn right onto this track. You will see the walled garden across to your right and the pasture showing signs of medieval 'ridge and furrow past cultivation.' Continue until you see a wooden gate on your right with the hall in the distance.

North Kesteven's landscape of contrasts is reflected in the value of rents collected by 18th Century landowners. A farmer working the infertile heath might pay eight shillings (40p) an acre, on the boulder clays south of Sleaford 18s (90p) and for the un-drained fens to the east, 2s.6d (7½p). In 1808 Land Tax returns for the 2,535 acres of the heathland parish of Cranwell show land values of £34.6d, while the 729 acres of Stragglethorpe were worth £40, more than twice as much per acre.



A Country Estate Walk Starts Here!

The original Bloxholm Hall was built during the 17th Century by Cyprian Thornton. In 1825, the Manners family who owned lordship and were relations of the Duke of Rutland, extensively 'enlarged and beautified' the hall and gardens.

Please note - During lambing season, some of the fences may be closed.

**Key**

- Car Parks
- ..... A Country Estate Walk
- - - - - Alternative Stepping Out Route

- Turn left here onto the broad grassy path which leads between fields towards the wooded mound known as The Mount.

Before ascending the gentle rise to The Mount you will reach a hedge. Here, a way marked path leads off right. This path takes you around the edge of a field to a bridge. Turn right at the bridge and follow the stream around the edge of the field past a copse (The Thorns) until you reach the main B1191 road. Turn left at the road to return to the car park.

To continue the circular route, pass through the gap in the hedge, cross a stream and a stile into the pasture beyond. The path continues up the slope to The Mount.

- At The Mount, continue along the track, through four sets of metal gates and past the farmyard at Mount Farm and return through the metal gates and back to your car.

Many of the paths have been provided by the goodwill of local landowners. These are marked by Highways Act signs. No special permission is needed to use these paths, but walkers are asked to help to ensure a continued welcome by only using the waymarked paths and keeping dogs on a lead. Where paths cross pasture young stock may be present. If you have a dog with you please make sure it is under firm control in these sensitive areas.

**Brauncewell Medieval Village**

Brauncewell had a population of 100 or more in 1086. The subsequent abandonment of the site has been attributed to many things: fire; a succession of land grants to religious houses; and in 1348 the Black Death, the plague which killed a third of the population of England. But it is also possible that climate change played a significant part in the demise of Brauncewell and other lost villages like nearby Dunsby, Hanbeck, Old Rauceby and Burgh.

Climate scientists believe that between 900 and 1300 Europe was much warmer than today and that this era (sometimes known as the Medieval Warming Period) was followed by the so-called Mini-Ice Age which lasted for about 600 years from 1300 to 1900. The effects of so sudden a drop in temperature would have been catastrophic on subsistence farmers, resulting in agricultural recession, famine and possibly the loss of English vineyards.

Whatever the cause, by early 17th Century, Brauncewell was completely deserted. Today the site can be reached by taking the minor road from the A15, which leads to Manor Farm. Cars can be parked on the grass verge by All Saints Church. A public footpath to Brauncewell can also be accessed from the minor road that leads from Bloxholm to Leasingham, approaching the site across the paddocks from the east.