

Places of interest to visit nearby

Daisy Made Ice Cream

Lincoln Road Farm, Lincoln Road
Skellingthorpe, Lincoln LN6 5SA
Telephone: 01522 693757

Natural World Centre and Little Darters Wildlife Adventure Area

Whisby Nature Park, Moor Lane
Thorpe on the Hill, Lincoln LN6 9BW
Telephone: 01522 688868
www.naturalworldcentre.co.uk

Doddington Hall & Gardens

Telephone: 01522 694308

Doddington Farm Shop & Café

Doddington, Lincs LN6 4RU
www.doddingtonhall.com
Telephone: 01522 688581

for further information

Sustrans National Cycle Network

www.sustrans.org.uk

The Woodland Trust

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

www.lincstrust.co.uk

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.



Refreshments

The Stone Arms

High Street, Skellingthorpe
Lincoln LN6 5TS
Telephone: 01522 682589

The Plough

High Street, Skellingthorpe
Lincoln LN6 5TR
Telephone: 01522 682564

Lincoln Cooperative Shop and Post Office

Jerusalem Road, Skellingthorpe
Lincoln LN6 4RH
Telephone: 01522 682695

Accommodation

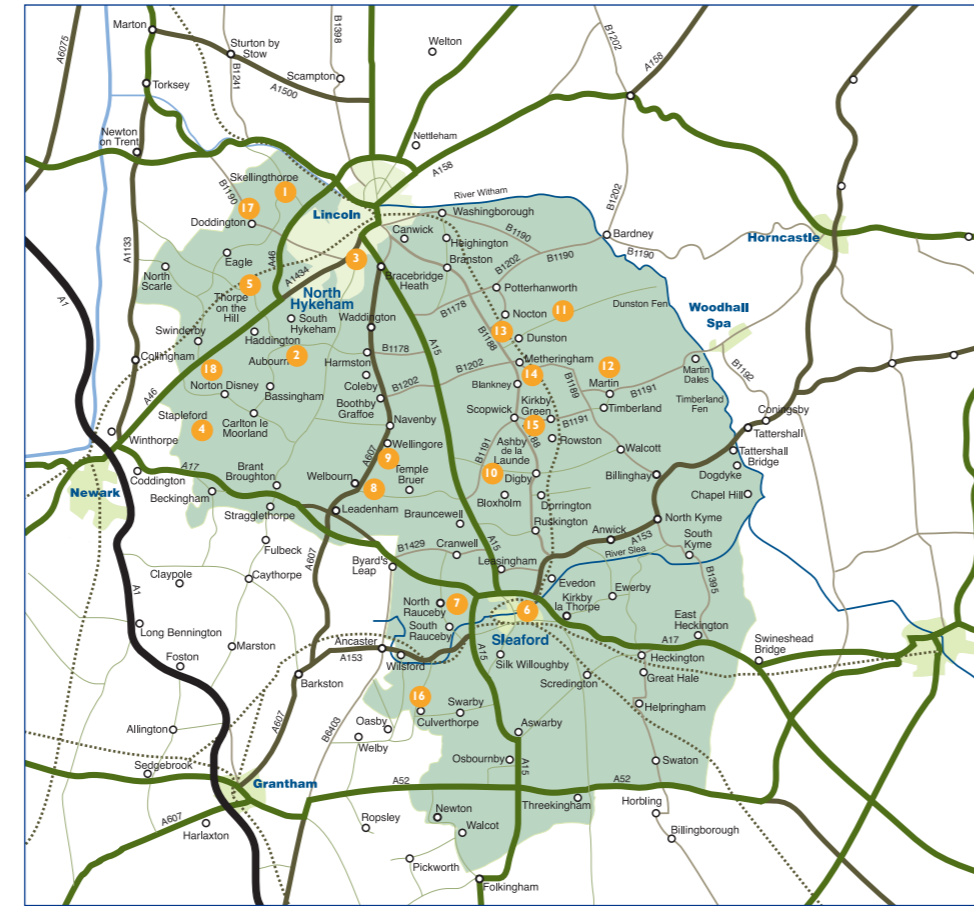
Best Western

Bentley Hotel & Leisure Club

Newark Road, South Hykeham
Lincoln LN6 9NH
Telephone: 01522 878000
www.thebentleyhotel.uk.com

Skellingthorpe Wood is owned by the Woodland Trust. Walkers are asked to help to ensure a continued welcome by keeping dogs under close control.

Go Stepping Out!



For more Stepping Out walks, further information on local attractions or accommodation, please call the Tourism Department on 01529 414155, email cranwellaviation@n-kesteven.gov.uk or log onto www.heartoflincs.com
Download all the Stepping Out walks or for information on safety in the countryside visit www.countrysidenk.co.uk
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
www.visitlincolnshire.com



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Stepping Out

Skellingthorpe Old Wood



North Kesteven District Council Heart of Lincolnshire

Distance 4.5 miles/7.6km



Walk
1



www.countrysidenk.co.uk

Visit Lincolnshire

Introduction

Skellingthorpe Old Wood is an ancient woodland. Originally it would have been populated by native deciduous trees such as oak, ash, lime and hazel. The wood is referred to in Domesday as the 'Lound'. Lound is a Viking name for a wood with some form of important ritual use and an area of woodland to the south is still known as Ash Lound. The ash tree was worshipped by the Vikings as the link between Heaven and Earth.

In the middle ages the wood was used as a deer park, but by the 17th Century the park had fallen out of use and a forester would have been responsible for its maintenance. His house still stands and is known as 'Wood House'.

In the 1940s, the wood was taken over by the Forestry Commission who began planting pines. Intensive conifer planting shaded out plants growing beneath the tree canopy and woodland wildlife was devastated.

Today the wood is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. The Trust is removing exotic pines allowing the woodland to return to its natural state. The Trust has also created a number of paths and walkers are welcome to enjoy all areas of the wood.



Walk facts

Walk Location

Skellingthorpe lies to the west of Lincoln and is easily accessed from the A46 Lincoln bypass.

Starting Point

Start at the Stepping Out car park at the Community Centre, LN6 5UU (Grid Reference: SK 925718)

Parking

Community Centre car park in Skellingthorpe village

Public Transport

For information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel

Walk Length

4.5miles/7.6km in length and should take 2 to 2 1/2 hours at a leisurely pace.

Type of Walk

The walk uses woodland trails which can be very muddy at times. There are no stiles on this walk.

Ordnance Survey Maps

Explorer 272 and Landranger 130



Skellingthorpe Old Wood Walk

- From the Community Centre car park, turn left into Skellingthorpe village. In the Doomsday Book (1086) the village is referred to as Schelinchope, suggesting Scandinavian origin.
- Follow the road left onto Church Road until you see the Co-op on your right.
- Turn right, keeping the Co-op on your left to a further junction.
- Turn left onto Wood Bank. Follow this road which soon becomes a track until the track forks. In the middle ages the wood was privately owned and used as a deer park. The deer would have been kept inside by 'wood banks' formed by large banks of earth some of which can still be seen.
- Take the right fork, passing a number of dwellings until you reach a junction of paths at the edge of the wood.
- There are a number of metal fingerboards at this junction including three Stepping Out markers. Take the right hand way marked track which takes you along the bridleway. Follow this (approximately 300 metres) until a

permissive pathway turns left, through a gate.

- Turn left through this gate and follow the woodland path, passing wooden carved sculptures and a memorial bench. The carvings have been commissioned and erected by the Woodland Trust and depict The Old Man of the Woods and woodland creatures. The path bends to the left shortly before reaching a junction of paths with a narrow grassy trail turning right, indicated by a Stepping Out way marker.

Many species of wild flower can be found in the woods including the greater butterfly, common spotted orchids, anemone, forget me not, violet, bluebell and snowdrop.



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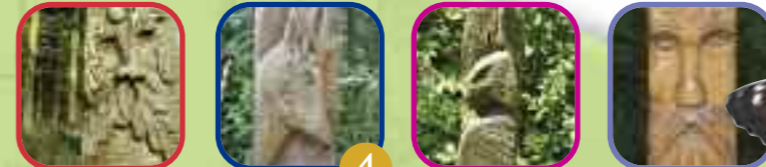
You can see many birds at Skellingthorpe including raptors like buzzards, goshawks and if you're lucky, summer migrant the hobby. Hobbies are masters of the air, hunting dragonflies and even taking small birds like swallows on the wing.



RAF Skellingthorpe operated from 1941-45 and was home to 50 and 61 Squadrons of Bomber Command. A photographic exhibition relating to the wartime airfield can be seen in the small heritage room at the entrance to Skellingthorpe Community Centre car park.



These sculptures are marked on the map according to their colour frame



- Turn right at this junction onto the narrow grass footpath and continue for a short distance until you reach a T junction.
- Turn left at the T junction and follow the path towards the edge of the wood where it bends left and travels along the edge of the wood. Follow this until you reach a further T junction with the bridleway leading left.
- Turn left, heading back into the wood along a bridleway. To the right of the bridleway is an area thought to have been used as a hunting bank.
- For an alternative finish to the walk follow this footpath for approximately 300 metres until you meet the Sustrans cycle route, turn left and follow this back to the car park.
- To follow the circular route, continue straight along the bridleway until you have open fields to your right. Then look for a way marked permissive path leading off to your left.
- Turn left here and walk through the wood, around Woodhouse Corner Farm until you rejoin the public footpath.
- Turn right onto this track, bringing you back to the point at which you entered the wood. Retrace your steps back along Wood Bank, into the village and back to your car.

A hunting bank would have been an area of cleared ground, fenced in with willow into which the deer would be driven. Archers waited just outside the area to pick off the deer as they were herded into the bank.

As you walk along this path the woodland to your right is known as Hag Wood. Hag is an old word used to describe a method of coppicing trees from which the modern word 'hack' is derived.

Keep an eye out for the Old Man of the Woods on your left and after 300 metres watch for a way marked route heading off to your right.

Until 1987 Skellingthorpe was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest as it was home to rare butterflies including the chequered skipper (now extinct in England), the silver studded blue and marsh fritillary. Thankfully many species of butterfly are now returning to the woods, including the white admiral pictured left and purple and black hairstreaks.



Much of this area lies within Witham Valley Country Park - a connected network of managed outdoor space spanning 26,000 acres. The park aims to give people greater access to green space and its many health benefits, via improved cycling and walking links to other recreational areas, in addition to conserving and improving biodiversity in the area.