

## Be a responsible walker

## Walk Information

## Lincolnshire Limewoods Walks

## Introduction

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 Natural Environment 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.*

**Lincolnshire County Council**  
**Natural Environment Team**  
**Tel: 01522 782070 Minicom: 01522 552055**  
**Email: dev\_net@lincolnshire.gov.uk**  
**Web: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside**

**Walk location:** Bardney is situated 16 km (10 miles) east of Lincoln.

**Starting point:** War Memorial at the junction of Silver Street, Horncastle Road and Church Lane.  
 Grid reference: TF 120 694.

**Parking:** Please park responsibly in the village.

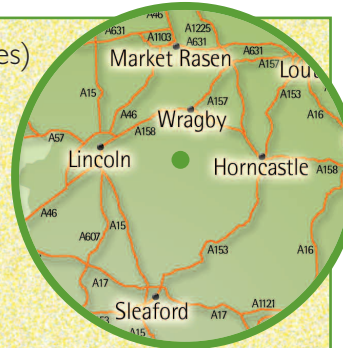
**Public Transport:** For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel).

**Ordnance Survey maps for the area:** Explorer 273 Lincolnshire Wolds South. Landranger 121 Lincoln.

**Walk length:** 13½ or 9½ km (8½ or 6 miles).  
 At a leisurely pace the longer walk will take approximately 4 hours to complete and the shorter walk 3 hours.

**Type of walk:** The walk uses village paths, field paths, woodland rides and quiet lanes, which may be muddy and uneven in places.

**Refreshments:** There are a number of shops and pubs in Bardney, and the Riverside Inn in Southrey.



# Bardney



A circular walk of 13½ or 9½ km (8½ or 6 miles)



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. Who knows what you might see! Owls, woodpeckers, bats,

butterflies, moths and deer as well as colourful displays of wildflowers including wood anemones, lily of the valley, water avens, woodruff and orchids.

The Witham valley has one of the largest concentrations of abbeys and priories in the country. These medieval religious houses were located close to the river following a tradition of ritual use in the prehistoric period, and because it was an important link to Lincoln and the port at Boston. In medieval times some of the woodlands would have been owned by the abbeys and played a vital role in the local economy.

This walk visits two woods, Southrey and Scotgrove, and the remains of two abbeys, Topholme and Bardney.

*The Limewoods Project aims to protect, enhance and promote the Lincolnshire Limewoods area through the Limewoods Partnership.*  
[www.limewoods.co.uk](http://www.limewoods.co.uk)  
 email: [limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk)



Published September 2007



## The Walk

- 1 Walk down Church Lane, opposite the war memorial, past St Lawrence's church.

*The church was rebuilt after 1434 when the old parish church at the Abbey collapsed. It includes re-used architectural pieces from the Abbey. You are welcome to look around the church where you will see a large monumental slab to Abbot Richard Horncastle and a model of Bardney Abbey.*

As the road bends sharp right, turn left along the public footpath. Follow the path behind a row of houses to a junction with a bridleway.

- 2 Turn left along the bridleway and follow it straight on along the edge of Southrey Wood.

- 3 At the far corner of the wood turn left into the woodland. Turn immediately left, ignoring the permissive bridleway to the right. This is a working woodland so please respect any signs or requests.

Follow this path along the edge of the wood for approximately 50m before turning right along a woodland ride.

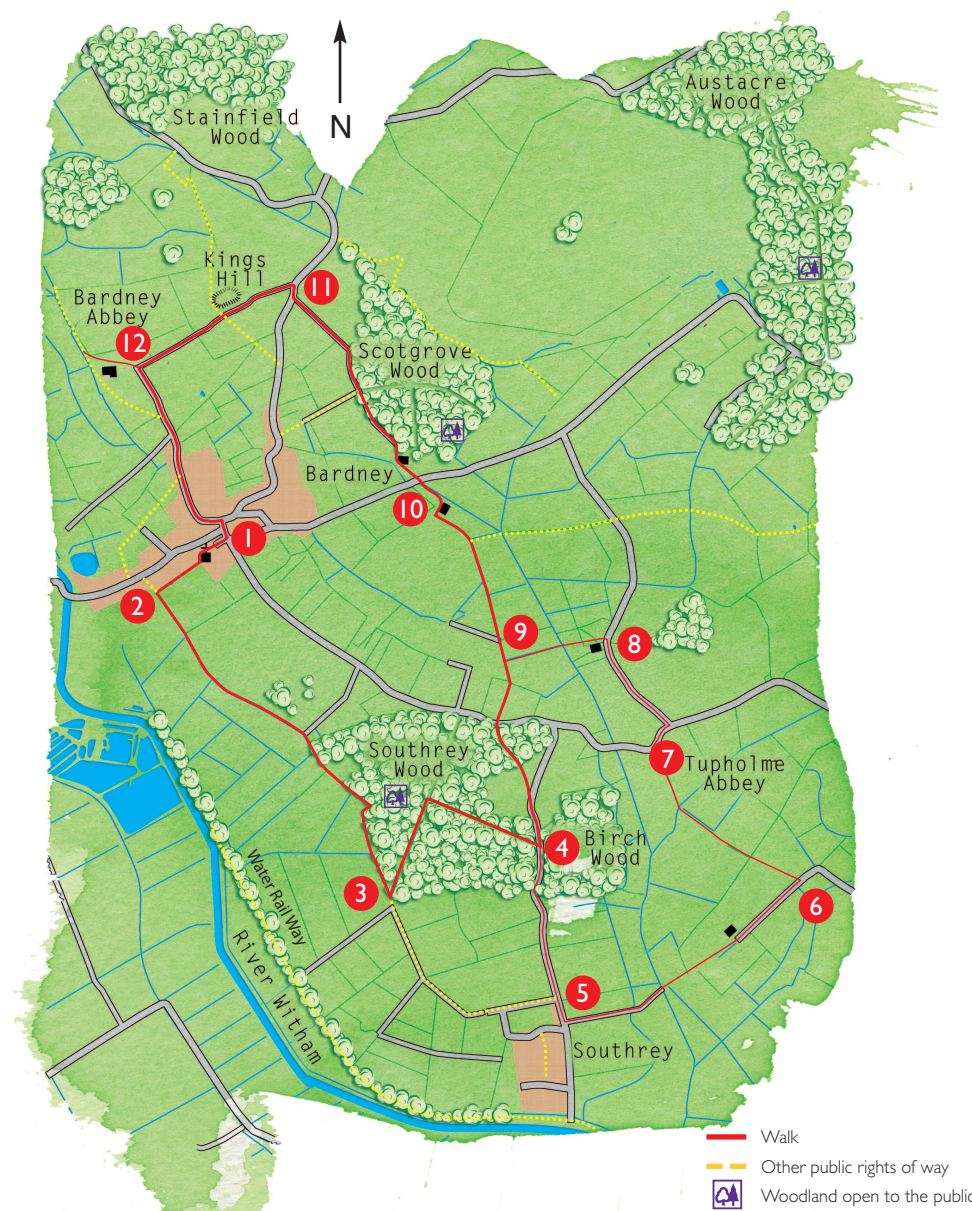
*Southrey Wood is part of the Bardney Limewoods NNR and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. There are a variety of tree species, look out for oak, hazel and ash, as well as lime. You may also see hazel and lime coppice stools. Coppicing is a traditional woodland management technique where stems are cut back to just above ground level and allowed to re-shoot. Coppicing is being carried out by volunteers from Butterfly Conservation to create open glades which will attract a variety of butterflies including white admiral and purple hairstreak.*

Follow the ride for approximately 500m to a clearing where the ride becomes surfaced, and turn right along a path and follow it to a road.

- 4 For the **SHORTER WALK** turn left and follow the road for approximately 300m. Turn left onto a public footpath and follow the old hedgerow across the field towards the wood. Enter the woodland, walk past the house and continue along the driveway to a road.

Cross the road with care and follow the public bridleway opposite by walking straight on with the hedge on your left. Walk past the warehouse and rejoin the instructions at 9

## Map and Walk



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For the **LONGER WALK** turn right and follow the road into Southrey.

- 5 Turn left along the public bridleway just before Highthorpe Road. Cross the bridge and carry straight on past the farm and cottages.

- 6 Approximately 400m past the cottages turn left along a bridleway.

Continue straight on beside the hedge, past a cottage and along a track, originally a causeway. The remains of Tupholme Abbey will come into view ahead. Continue along the bridleway to a road.

*The Premonstratensian Abbey at Tupholme was founded between 1155 and 1165 by an Abbot and 12 canons from Newsham in north Lincolnshire. In 1536 the Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII. The site and buildings were granted to Sir Thomas Heneage of Hainton who built a house on the site. Having passed through several hands the house was demolished in 1700 and Tupholme Hall was built, with remains of the Abbey being kept as an ornament in the parkland. A farm developed from the 18th century around the Abbey remains and was demolished in the 1980s. The site is now owned and managed by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.*

- 7 Turn right and follow the road with care for 150m before turning left along a lane.

## The Walk

- 8 After approximately 600m turn left into the entrance of Low Road Farm. Enter the field on the right and follow the footpath by turning left across the field to a stile in the fence.

Walk straight across the next field to a bridge and then alongside the hedge towards the warehouse.

At the end of the field turn right along the bridleway.

- 9 Continue straight on keeping to the right hand side of the hedge.

Continue along the track to a road.

- 10 Cross the road with care and continue straight ahead along the bridleway, through the farmyard and along the track.

Enter the field on the left through the small gate and turn right to the stile.

Follow the green lane along the edge of the wood, Scotgrove Wood, and continue straight on to a road.

## The Walk

*Scotgrove Wood is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and part of the Bardney Limewoods NNR. It is one of several woods owned by the Forestry Commission and is open to the public. It is a working woodland so if you enter please follow any signs and requests.*

- 11 Turn right and walk along the road with care for approximately 70m before turning left along a bridleway.

Continue past King's Hill, the mound on the right, towards the water tower to join a lane. The earthworks visible ahead and to the right are those of Bardney Abbey.

*There is some debate over King's Hill as to whether it is an Anglo-Saxon burial mound associated with Oswald of Northumbria or Aethelred of Mercia, or a pillow mound (a medieval rabbit warren). It is thought more likely to be a rabbit warren.*

*The water tower was built around 1903 and stored water from nearby boreholes for use by the village. It was used until 1938 when mains water was introduced.*

- 12 To visit the Abbey site, turn right at the lane and follow it through the farmyard to the site entrance. To return to Bardney, retrace your steps through the farmyard to the lane.

To return to Bardney, without visiting the Abbey site, turn left at the lane.

*The first monastery at Bardney was built in Anglo-Saxon times and from 675 housed the relics of St Oswald. It was destroyed by Vikings in 870 and the monastery re-founded in 1087 by Gilbert de Gant as part of the Benedictine Order. In 1536 with the threat of dissolution a local rebellion broke out and six monks from Bardney were hanged, drawn and quartered in Lincoln for joining the rising. The Abbey was finally dissolved in 1538. Sir Robert Tyrwhitt acquired the land and demolished the church using the stone to build a grand house, leaving the rest to go to ruin.*

*By 1718 all the buildings on the site had gone except for a small part of the gatehouse.*

*Between 1909 and 1915 the ruins were excavated and left open for public view until 1933 when due to damage by the weather, the ruins were covered over. The building outlines still remain visible today giving a sense of scale of the original structures.*

Follow the lane into the village. At the junction with Wragby Road turn right to return to the starting point.