

# STEPPING OUT: BLOXHOLM ESTATE CIRCULAR



Moderate Terrain



**A 3.5 mile (5.5km) circular walk around the Bloxholm estate, close to Ashby de la Launde in Lincolnshire.**

The walking route follows paths and tracks on a simple circuit around the old estate, taking in both farmland and woodland, and with fine views of the old walled gardens and hall. This walk is part of the Stepping Out network, published through a collaboration with North Kesteven District Council to inspire more people to enjoy the district's landscapes, ancient woodland, historic buildings and charming villages.

If you are looking for refreshments or places of interest nearby, Dorrington is home to The Musician Arms pub and the North Ings Farm Museum, Digby is home to The Red Lion pub, and RAF Digby includes the Sector Operations Room Museum.

## Getting there

The walk starts and finishes at the dedicated Stepping Out parking area alongside Peacock Lodge, about 5 miles north of Sleaford, just off the B1191 on the entrance track for Mount Farm. From Sleaford, head north along the A15 and then turn right onto the B1191 (signed to Ashby and Scopwick). After only 0.5 miles, turn right into the entrance track for Mount Farm and you will see the dedicated car parking area on the right, just before the wooden gates ahead.

Approximate post code **LN4 3JJ**.

## Walk Sections

**Go**  **1 Start to Bloxholm Wood**



**3.5 Miles  
Circular  
2 hours**

200518



## Access Notes



1. The walk is almost entirely flat, with one steady climb towards the end. It follows a mixture of farm tracks, woodland paths, quiet lanes and one stretch across a grass field. Whilst the surfaces are generally good, there are some stretches that can be muddy after periods of rain and in winter.
2. Dogs are welcome, but the landowner requests that they remain on leads.
3. The bulk of the walk has no obstacles or livestock, but the final stretch uses a permissive path to cross a grass pasture (which may be holding cattle or sheep) and includes three stiles (one with no dog gap) and a kissing gate.
4. If this permissive path is closed (due to farm requirements) or you wish to avoid the field, there is a longer alternative ending which avoids all stiles and livestock but does include 0.7 miles along the narrow grass verge of a B-road.
5. Please remember the Countryside Code. Some paths are provided by kind permission of the landowner, please only use the waymarked paths. Where young stock may be present, please make sure your dog is under firm control in these areas.
6. OS Map Explorer 272.



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To begin the walk, follow the Mount Farm access track heading away from the B1191, passing through a wooden gateway. This long straight driveway once formed part of the original carriageway that led visitors to Bloxholm Hall. Just a few metres before you reach the buildings of Mount Farm on your left, turn right to join a grass track which leads you between fenced grass pastures. Towards the end of this grass track, you will pass a pretty pond on your left, before reaching a T-junction with a tree-lined track at the edge of Bloxholm Wood.

## 1 → 2 Bloxholm Wood to Public Road



Turn left to follow the tree-lined woodland track, the start of the area managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. At the end of this short strip of woodland, the path crosses a small stream and comes to a fork with a waymarker post. Take the right-hand branch, following the edge of the woodland with fields visible through the trees to your right.

This woodland includes ancient coppiced ash, sycamore and horse chestnut trees, impressive stands of early purple orchids, and vast arrays of bugle along with goldilocks buttercup and sweet violet. Buzzards are known to breed in the woodland and other notable bird species include woodcock, tawny owl and nuthatch.

At the woodland corner, follow the path as it swings left to continue through the edge of the woodland. Simply stay ahead on the path, eventually passing through a gap alongside a wooden gate to reach a junction with a farm access track. (If you look to your right here, you will see the buildings of Hill Farm). Keep straight ahead to join the tarmac access track, which passes between open crop fields with far-reaching views all around. Eventually you will reach a junction with the public road.

## 2 → 3 Public Road to Walled Garden



Take the left-hand branch (straight ahead) and follow the public road which soon swings left. If you look across to the right at this point you will be able to see the tower of Dorrington Church in the distance. Continue past a parking lay-by on your right, noting the mosaic artwork which depicts an oxen-pulled cart.

About 90 metres later, you will pass a curious hexagonal house called The Round House on your left. This was built in 1825 as part of the Bloxholm estate. Immediately after the garden of The Round House, turn sharp left to join a stone and grass access track, passing the house on your left. Keep ahead on the track, passing open crop fields on your left and the beautiful, red-brick, tall wall of the old walled garden on your right.

## 3 → 4 Walled Garden to Mount Hedgerow



Keep ahead on the stone track and, where it bends right into a private property, keep ahead on the field-edge grass path with a hedgerow on your right. Before you reach the end of the field, you will see a fingerpost within the hedgerow on your right. Follow the grass path which swings right through a hedgerow gap and you will reach a junction with a grass track at the edge of another crop field.

Turn right to join the grass track, with a hedgerow on your right. If you peek over this hedgerow, you will see the old estate pasture land, which show signs of medieval ridge and furrow past cultivation. Continue just until you reach a wide metal farm gate on your right, with a waymarker post. If you glance to your right here, you will be able to see part of the remaining wing of Bloxholm Hall. The original hall was built during the 1600s by Cyprian Thornton. In 1825, the Manners family (relations of the Duke of Rutland and owners of the lordship) extensively enlarged and beautified the hall and gardens. The hall was largely demolished in the 1960s and the surviving north wing acts as a farmhouse.

Turn left at this point, to join the raised grass track leading you between crop fields. You are now once again following the old carriage driveway for Bloxholm Hall. The wooded mound you can see in the distance ahead is known as The Mount. Just after passing the woodland visible across to your right, look across to your right for a lovely view of the church at Ashby de la Launde. The grass track leads you ahead, going gently downhill to meet a hedgerow at the base of The Mount.

## 4 → 5 Mount Hedgerow to End

At this point you have two choices, either the main direct route (which follows a permissive path across a livestock pasture with three stiles) or an alternative longer ending (with a 0.7 mile





stretch along the narrow grass verge of a B road and for use should the direct permissive route be closed or unsuitable). Follow one of the two paragraphs below, depending on your choice.

For the main direct route, go ahead through the hedge gap and cross the stile to enter the hillside pasture (which may be holding cattle and sheep). Walk straight ahead on the obvious grass path leading steadily uphill. At the top of the field, cross the stile ahead and continue on the short grass avenue between sections of woodland. Cross a third stile and continue on the grass track between hedgerows, passing through sets of metal farm gates as necessary and finally taking a kissing gate ahead to reach the farm drive. Keep ahead to join this and it will lead you directly back to Peacock Lodge and the parking area where the walk began.

For the alternative route, turn right and follow the field edge path (with the hedgerow on your left). Take a bridge on your left passing through the hedge and maintain your direction to reach the field boundary ahead. Turn right to follow this field boundary and follow it around several bends (left, right and left) then continue ahead to the field corner. Follow the grass track which turns right here and then, halfway along the field, use a bridge to cross the ditch on your left. Turn right to continue heading north. At the end of the field, turn left and follow the grass track (with a hedge on your right) all the way out to the road. Turn left and, taking care of traffic, follow the B-road (using the verges as much as possible for your safety) for 0.7 miles to reach Peacock Lodge and the parking area on your left where the walk began.

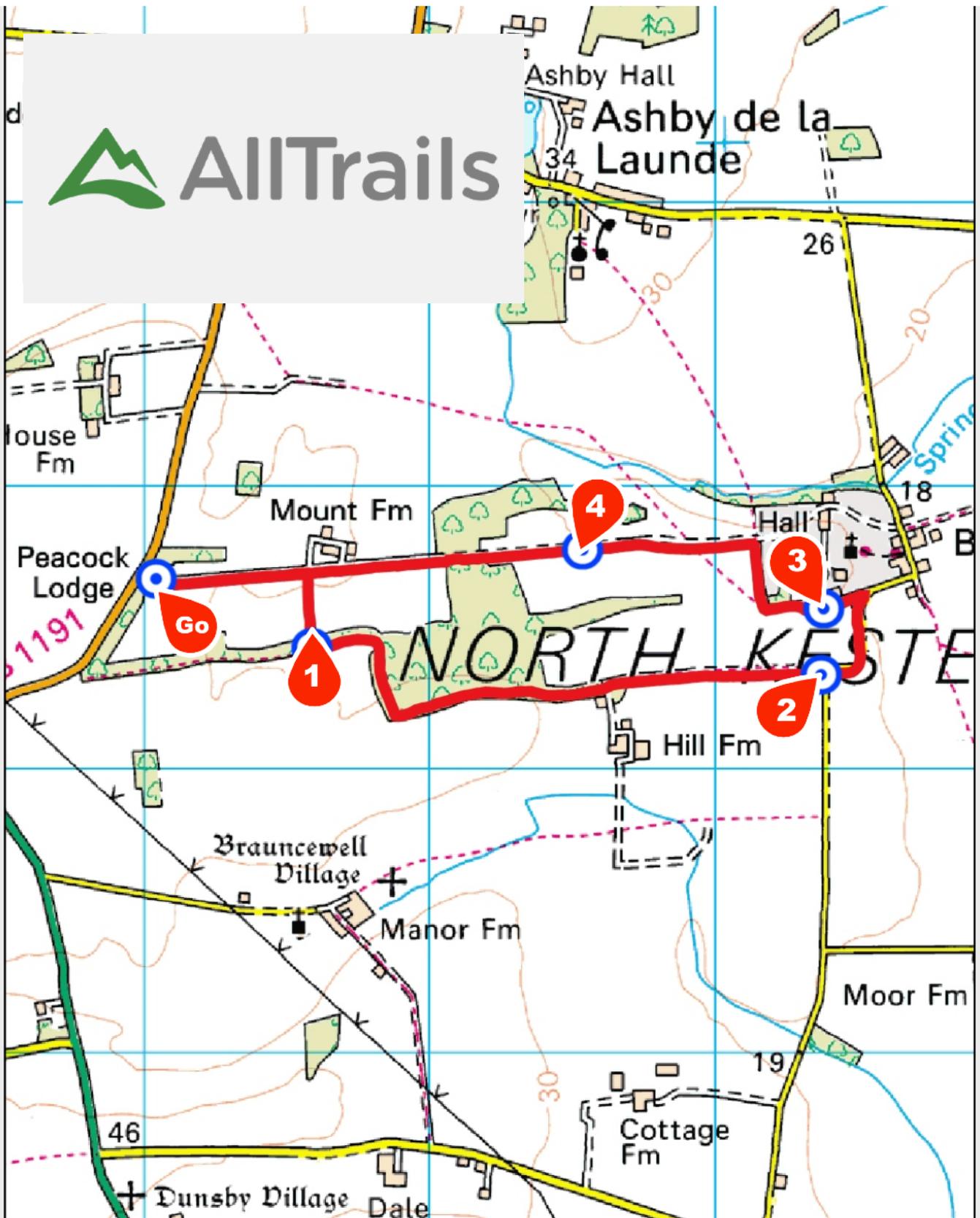
#### Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

#### Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.





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