

## STEPPING OUT:

# WELBOURN VILLAGE AND RIDGE



Moderate Terrain



**A 2.3 mile (3.7km) walk around the historic village of Welbourn and up to the Lincoln Ridge, giving the walker a beautiful panoramic view of the Lincolnshire landscape.**

The walk through the village gives a great tour of public artworks and historical sites.

## Getting there

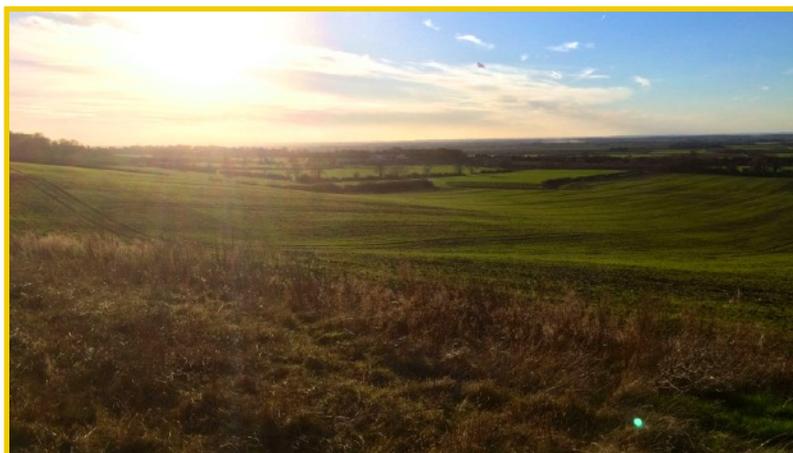
Welbourn is located about 8 miles north-west of Sleaford, in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. There is parking (including disabled parking) at the start of the walk at Welbourn Village Hall.

Approximate post code **LN5 0LZ**.

Additional parking can be found in the lay-by on the A607 (Waypoint 6). If you are coming by public transport, there are several bus stops in the village, all just a short walk from the walking route.

**2.3 Miles  
Circular  
1.5 hours**

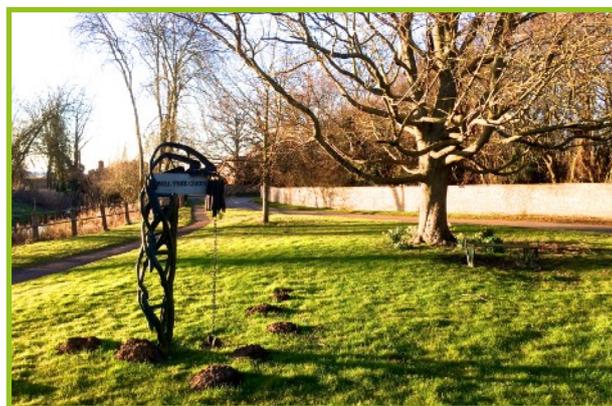
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## Walk Sections



### Start to Bell Green



Leave the Village Hall car park, cross over to the pavement and turn right heading towards the T-junction. Just before this junction, you will come to a small green (Bell Green) with a large tree and a public artwork, commissioned by artsNK.

## Access Notes



- 1. The walk is relatively flat for the most part, but then quite steep for the climb up onto the ridge.*
- 2. The paths through the village are tarmac pavements, but the loop up to the ridge is on unmade paths and the ridge itself is a bit marshy; so good boots are recommended.*
- 3. You will need to negotiate a few kissing gates plus one stile. This is pictured in the gallery and has quite a tight fence surround, so larger dogs may need help to get over it.*
- 4. You will need to cross the A607 twice, this is relatively busy and traffic can be fast moving so take particular care.*



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## 1 → 2 Bell Green to The White Horse



Follow the path as it bends left, around the back of Bell Green, skirting Castle Hill. You are forced to swap to the right-hand pavement, as you pass the lane to St. Chad's Church on your right. After this, follow the road swinging left onto the High Street. Just before the houses start, on your left, if you look left across the road, there is an entrance gate to Castle Hill. If you have time, I do recommend paying it a visit, it has some information boards that are worth a read! It is the site of a medieval fortification surrounded by a moat that now lends itself to the environment, acting as a quiet space for dog walking or sitting and reflecting.

As you follow the High Street, you will see White Horse House (pictured) on the left side of the road. The White Horse was an alehouse and, due to having a different licence to the other village pub (The Joiner's Arms), it could only serve beer. It lasted well into the second half of the twentieth century.

The 'Ridges & Furrows' project has been investigating the history of Welbourn and working with the community to create artworks inspired from the village's agricultural heritage. As part of the project's oral history research, a resident who grew up in the White Horse, has given an interview and shared some of her memories, including an anecdote about a suspicious death after a night spent in the White Horse! Soundbites from her interview can be found online on the Ridges & Furrows website.

## 2 → 3 The White Horse to Old Forge



From the White Horse, continue along the High Street, passing Welbourn Primary School and the Joiner's Arms pub. The pub serves a range of beers, food from 12pm onwards, accepts dogs, has a pool table and dartboard, and has a great coal fire to warm you if you are walking in winter (correct at time of writing).

At the end of the street (as it curls round to the left), on your

right is an unassuming stone building (pictured). This is the Old Forge, it dates from 1864 and served the needs of the local farmers and tradesmen for more than 100 years, including the Co-operative Society and Welbourn Manor. It created wrought iron rims for farm carts, wagons and wheelbarrows, and repaired ploughs. The last blacksmith Edward 'Ted' Wilkinson was born in 1895 and, after leaving school at 14, he became apprenticed to the then blacksmith, and was employed at five shillings per week, and then after World War II, nine shillings per week. The forge closed in the mid 1960s.

Across the road, there is the site of the Old Co-operative Shop. It was the first rural branch of the business in Lincolnshire, opening in 1878. In 2016, the Ridges & Furrows project worked with Welbourn primary school, teaching the pupils local Lincolnshire dialect. Together with the project historian Dave Reeves, the children created a poem using dialect words. This was then pasted onto the windows of the old Co-op. Do have a read. The dialect words that the children learnt include 'featish' and 'jannick' meaning good, 'siling' meaning heavy rain, and 'battle twig' which is a local word for earwig.

## 3 → 4 Old Forge to Birthplace of Sir William Robertson



Follow the High Street as it curls round to the left (crossing the road to join the right-hand pavement) and you will come to another green on your left. Just beyond the green, on the right-hand side, is a neat row of cottages. Above one of the cottages is a plaque commemorating the birthplace of Field Marshal Sir William Robertson. He was one of the only men in the armed forces to rise from the rank of Private to Field Marshal. Welbourn is very proud of this and the local secondary school is named after him. A closeup of the plaque can be seen in the walk photo gallery.

## 4 → 5 Birthplace of Sir William Robertson to Footpath

From this cottage birthplace of Sir William Robertson, continue on the pavement and turn right onto the road signed 'The Green leading to Dycote Lane'. Follow this road keeping to the right. Before the road curls right, look across the road and you will see a footpath sign with long hedges running to the sides of it (pictured).





Once over the A607, follow the path marked 'Grassy Track'. Take the obvious path, keeping the hedge to your left. This footpath is easy to walk, wide and doesn't get too muddy, however towards the top it is pretty steep. Follow this footpath up to the top of the ridge where you will reach some farm buildings.

## 5 → 6 Footpath to Footpath over road



This marks the start of two footpaths. Take the right-hand one, up to a large pastoral field. (If you find yourself on the left path and come to the main road, turn back and take the right path).

After a medium sized kissing gate, suitable for dogs of all sizes, you will come to an expansive field containing earthworks which were the site of a medieval settlement (pictured in the gallery).

Walk along the left-hand side of the field and you will come to a vehicle gate (pictured in the gallery). There is a space to the side (a former kissing gate) big enough for people and dogs.

Once past the gate, you will find yourself in a lay-by on the A607. Turn right along this to reach the entrance to the lay-by. Cross the main road with care to reach the footpath in the opposite field (pictured).

## 6 → 7 Footpath over road to Farm Buildings



## 7 → 8 Farm Buildings to Mill Lane



Just before the farm buildings at the top of the ridge, turn left onto the footpath along the top of the field. As you walk along the top of the ridge, you will see a beautiful view of the sloping fields down to the typically flat Lincolnshire landscape, spreading down to the Trent Valley. You can see the whole of Welbourn lying in the landscape, the spire of St. Chad's Church, numerous other villages and a factory far off in the distance. Looking straight ahead at the footpath along the top of the field, you will be able to see the ridge curling to the north (pictured).

You are following the ancient spring line where the permeable Lincolnshire limestone meets the heavy upper lias clays, therefore it tends to get very marshy and difficult to walk on, so I hope you've brought the right footwear!

When you get to the end of the field, if you look to your left down the slope, you will see an enclosed field (pictured in the gallery). The ground has some quite substantial contours. This is a remnant of a medieval ridge and furrow system; an early agricultural innovation to increase the surface area of your piece of land. This farming technique has many examples left in North Kesteven, but this one in Welbourn is still particularly clear.

At the end of the ridge path, you will come to a junction with a tarmac lane, Mill Lane.

## 8 → 9 Mill Lane to Miller's Way



Turn left onto Mill Lane. Once at the bottom of the tarmac road, cross the A607 again with care. You will come to a series of gates in a row (pictured); including a kissing gate, stile, and normal gate, so take your pick.

Beyond this gate there is a small track across an unkempt field, known locally as the Miller's Way.

## 9 → 10 Miller's Way to Manor House



Along the small track coming into the village you will come to a small stile (pictured in the gallery). It is the most challenging of the walk's obstacles. Small dogs may be able to squeeze through the gaps, but larger dogs may need a lift over.

Once over the stile and down a small path, you will come to Beck Street. You will see a small door set in a wall with a hedge on top, opposite to where you emerged. That is the back entrance to Welbourn Manor (pictured).

## 10 → 11 Manor House to End



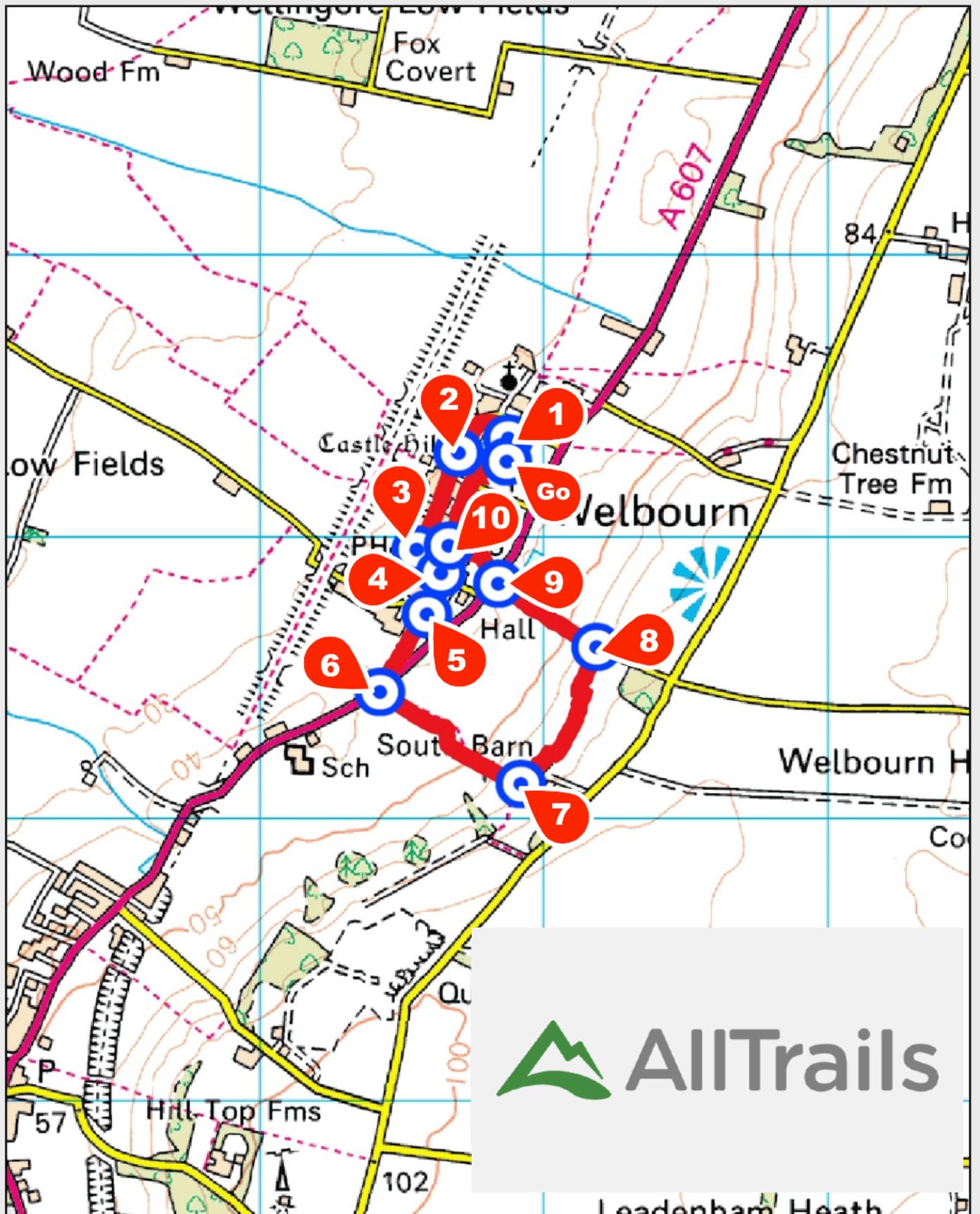
Turn right onto Beck Street. You will pass the village shop and post office on your left. Walk until you come back to the Village Hall on your right, where the walk began. At the Village Hall you will pass (on your right) a duck pond, which often is teeming with the little quackers (pictured).

### 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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