

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape. Most of it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973.

Covering an area of 558 square kilometres or 216 square miles, the rolling chalk hills of the AONB have been inhabited since prehistoric times, whilst the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service helps to protect and enhance the landscape through partnership projects with local landowners, farmers, parish councils, businesses and residents of the Wolds.



Lincolnshire Wolds

# CYCLEROUTE 5

## Hubbard's Hills to Welsdale Bottom *and back*

A challenging ride to one of the areas highest points to enjoy panoramic views of the Wolds and beyond

CYCLEROUTES



Cycling is a great way to keep fit and appreciate the countryside. These easy to read leaflets provide useful information on mileage, approximate timing and gradient.

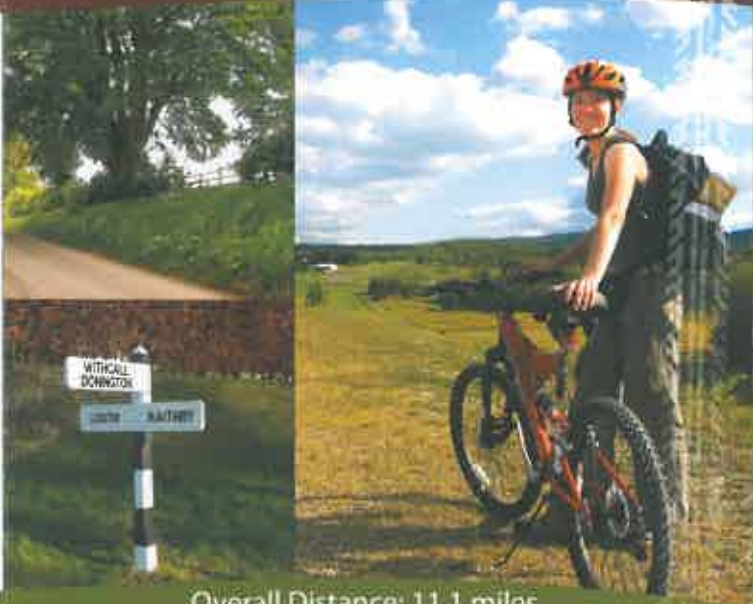
A simple map and points of interests are included – for those times when you need to catch your breath, admire the countryside or explore the area.

**Good Cycling Code**

- Always follow the Highway Code
- Be safe and be seen - wear a helmet and use lights
- Be courteous to other path and road users
- Take plenty of water and have a drink regularly

**Places of interest/refreshments nearby:-**

**Hubbard's Hills**, Louth [www.hubbardshills.co.uk](http://www.hubbardshills.co.uk)  
 Please walk your cycles through Hubbard's Hills to gain access to the public toilets and café facilities at the northern end of Hubbard's Hills -  
**No cycling permitted in the Hills**



**Tourist Information:**

**Tel: 01507 601111**  
[www.visiteastlincolnshire.com](http://www.visiteastlincolnshire.com)  
[tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk) Visit East Lincolnshire @visiteastlincs

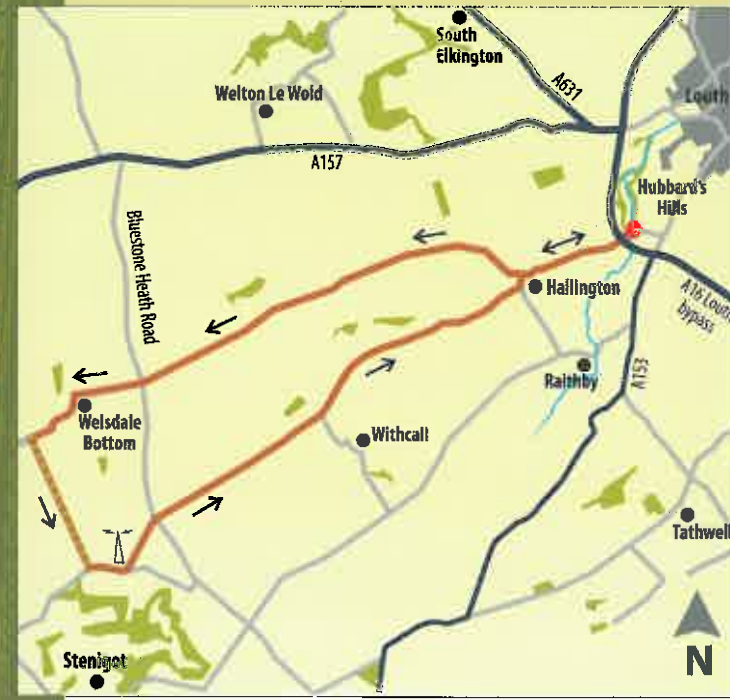


Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0DA  
 Tel: 01507 609740 [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk) [aonb@lincswolds.org.uk](mailto:aonb@lincswolds.org.uk)

**If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format please contact us.**

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Overall Distance: 11.1 miles  
 Terrain: Mainly country roads with 1 mile on bridleway (muddy at times)  
 Highest Point: 150 metres above sea level  
 Lowest Point: 35 metres above sea level  
 Journey Time @ 8 mph: 1½ hours plus breaks



## Stage 1: Hubbard's Hills to Hallington Peak (1.5 miles and approx. 15 minutes)



Hubbard's Hills

Hallington Fork

Hallington Peak

Start from the car park at the southern end of Hubbard's Hills (TF 315 861) turn right from the car park, passing under Louth bypass bridge

1 continue climbing away from Hubbard's Hills towards Hallington

2 taking care, make a right turn at Hallington fork !

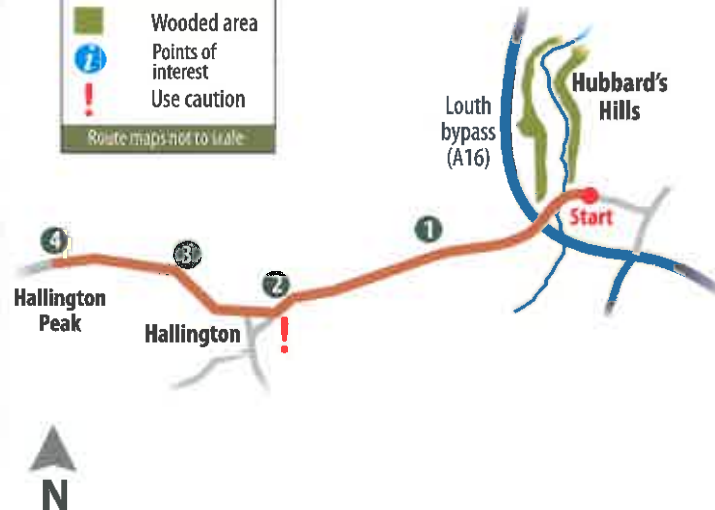
3 continue up the hill to Hallington Peak

4 stop at the highest point and have a well earned rest!

Look for the triangulation pillar behind the hedge line on the left. This was once part of a national grid which helped to accurately map the contours of Great Britain.

KEY	
	Route
	Main roads
	Minor roads
	Track
	Wooded area
	Points of interest
	Use caution

Route maps not to scale



## Stage 2: Hallington Peak to Welsdale Bottom (3 miles and approx. 25 minutes)

Hallington Peak

Bluestone Heath Road

Welsdale Bottom

1 Continue along and enjoy glorious views of the Wolds on both sides of the road

2 as you pass houses on your right you'll begin to climb towards the Bluestone Heath Road

3 give way then continue straight across the Bluestone Heath Road !

4 with views of Belmont Mast ahead **i**, cycle steeply downhill ! to Welsdale Bottom **i**

5 it's a steep climb out of Welsdale Bottom, cycle out if you can, otherwise prepare to walk!





### Stage 3: Welsdale Bottom to Bluestone Heath Road (2.5 mile and approx. 20 minutes)

### Stage 4: Bluestone Heath Road to Hubbard's Hills (4.1 miles and approx. 30 minutes)

Welsdale Bottom

Stenigot Mast

Bluestone Heath Road

Bluestone Heath Road

Hallington

Hubbard's Hills

- 1 Continue out of Welsdale Bottom until the road starts to level out, look out for a brideway sign to your left
- 2 turn left onto the grass brideway (muddy at times) and continue on to meet a stone track
- 3 enjoy the uninterrupted views to the west, can you see Lincoln Cathedral?
- 4 continue on the track with the radar dishes **i** of RAF Stenigot to your left
- 5 join the road and turn left **!** pass the radar mast **i** then stop at the crossroads.

- 1 Cross over the Bluestone Heath Road **!**
- 2 freewheel downhill for the next 2.5 miles/15 - 20 minutes and enjoy the great views to the coast!
- 3 after a short climb past the houses at Poke's Hole you will arrive at Hallington
- 4 follow the road as it bends to the left and uphill out of Hallington **!**
- 5 ignore the fork left and bear right up a short steep hill
- 6 continue steadily downhill, under the bypass bridge, and to Hubbard's Hills the end of the route **i**.



## Points of interest

### Hubbard's Hills



*River Lud through Hubbard's Hills*

Hubbard's Hills is a spectacular steep-sided valley on the outskirts of Louth. It is approximately 40 metres deep and was cut through the chalk by torrents of glacial melt-water about 40,000 years ago during the last ice age. In 1907 the Hills were purchased and then pledged to the people of Louth as a permanent memorial to the wife of Auguste Alphonse Pahud. Mr Pahud had been a teacher at the local Grammar School and due to his generosity the natural beauty of the Hills continues to be enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year. Cycling is not permitted through Hubbard's Hills.



*The tree lined lane between Hubbard's Hills and Hallington*

### Welsdale Bottom

As you cycle into the hollow of Welsdale Bottom, take a break and look out at the steep sided field on your right – it looks like corrugated cardboard! This is what's known as ridge and furrow – or ridge and furrow as its sometimes known. These long shallow trenches and banks across fields were formed through regular ploughing over many years with oxen and plough. Increasingly harsh and wet conditions by the 14th century led to many failed harvests. The population suffered through famine and the Black Death and over the years agriculture contracted and livestock farming increased, driven mainly by the demand for wool and the need for less labour. Marginal areas that were once arable were abandoned or given over for grazing, leaving the characteristic ridge and furrow marks that we see in the pastures today.



*'Ridge and furrow' across the field*

### Belmont Tower

From its location high in the Wolds, Belmont Tower is used to broadcast both analogue and digital television and radio to a large part of eastern England. Constructed during 1965, the tower has had many alterations, creating an overall height of 387.5 m (1,271 ft) in 2008, and was considered to be the tallest man made structure in the European Union. The height was reduced to 351.7 m (1,154 ft) in 2010.



*Stenigot Mast*



*Belmont Tower on the horizon*

### Stenigot

RAF Stenigot has played a key role in the nation's defence for many years. The original masts were made of wood and were built in 1938 to form part of the Chain Home Radar network which provided an early warning system against enemy aircraft. In the 1950s, at the onset of the Cold War, the large dishes were installed to form part of the NATO Ace High communications network. The site remained operational until the early 1990's. The dishes were dismantled and left in the nearby field in 1997. The mast is now a listed structure and still used occasionally in training exercises.