A Walk on the Wild Side

A circular walk of 7 miles from Ludford, taking in the views and history of Wykeham, Great Tows and the 101 Squadron.

INTRODUCTION

Starting from Ludford, this dog friendly walk joins the Viking Way long distance footpath and leaves the village past the old 101 Squadron airfield, skirting the edge of the Deserted Medieval Village at Wykeham and leaving the Viking Way. Onwards and upwards to Great Tows, the highest point of the walk where there are fine views of the Wolds top and often a brisk breeze blowing.

101 Squadron

The village has had a long association with the RAF 101 Squadron who were based at Ludford during the 2nd World War. In 1978 the 101 Squadron Association erected a memorial in the village dedicated to the memory of the 1,106 airmen who lost their lives – this being the highest number of casualties of any RAF Bomber Command Squadron during the war. Every year since then, on the first weekend in September, veterans, family and friends gather together to pay their respects to fallen comrades at a moving remembrance service on the Magna Mile. Weather permitting, the highlight of the day is still the flypast over the village by one of the few remaining Aer Lingus Lancaster Bombers.

In the White Hart Public House a corner has been dedicated to some wonderful 101 Squadron memorabilia – well worth a visit as the pub is also renowned for its extensive range of local real ales!

Twinning

Ludford is twinned with the village of Voué in Northern France. This association came about as a result of a 101 Squadron Lancaster Bomber being shot down over Voué with the loss of all its crew. The villagers were able to bury the crew’s remains and to this day they still tend their graves. Once the link with Ludford came to light the villages twinned up and still enjoy regular visits to each other.
The Route

1. Starting your walk from Ludford Village Hall, where there is ample parking and picnic tables, walk to the main road A631 and carefully cross the road, turn right and head through the village. Continue past the White Hart Pub and the church on your left and the old village school on the right. Look for the waymarked footpath on your right at a bulk in the hedge, carefully cross the road and follow the path across the field as it bears diagonally left.

2. When you reach Grosby Lane, turn right and follow the road past the edge of the airfield until you reach Wykeham Lane, on your left. This is a tarmac farm track, with a tall stand of trees on the right. Take this track and walk towards Wykeham Park, crossing the River Bovin as you do so.

3. As you walk up to the Park, you will see the remains of the deserted medieval village of East Wykeham are on your left as you walk past the Wykeham Hall farm buildings. During the early part of the 14th century the impact of famine and climate changes as well as the move to sheep farming caused a decline in the local population. The Black Death in 1348-9 decimated what remained of the village community.

4. Fanny Hands Lane
   This lane towards the west end of the village was voted amongst the
   top ten 'smuttles' / street names in the country by a national
   newspaper a few years ago. Fanny
   was Frances, wife of a local farmer,
   John Hard, who named the lane
   after her in the early 1900's. Their
   milk parlour, where Fanny worked, has now been
   converted into a holiday cottage at the bottom of
   the lane.

5. Take the first right turn signed for Great
   Trees. At the next junction take the left fork and
   head towards Town Farm, keeping the farm
   buildings on your right.

6. Continue along the road as it bears left and,
   as the road bears right, go straight ahead,
   following the field track with the hedge on your
   right as it dips then rises again. You are now at
   one of the highest points of the walk, with
   fantastic views for miles.

7. At the top of the field, follow the waymarker
   and turn sharp right, again keeping the hedge on
   your right. Follow the track around the perimeter
   of the field as it turns left and eventually comes
   out onto the Binbrook Road.

8. Turn left onto the Binbrook Road, follow it
   round the left hand bend and continue up the
   hill. At the waymarked gap in the hedge on the
   right, take the footpath across the field, heading
   towards the edge of the field with the
   remaining stump of the windmill to your right.

9. The windmill
   The windmill stump has the
   distinction of being the remains of the
   last newly built windmill in
   Lincolnshire. It was built in 1889
   by Sowerby & Co.
   but ceased to be
   operational by
   1930. The sails
   were taken down
   in 1932 and the
   tower was
   reduced to
   its current
   height after
   the war.

10. Walk down Sledge Hill, by kind permission of
    the landowners. Go past Sledge Hill cottage on
    your left, turning left at Horseshoe Cottage onto
    Stock's Hill, noting the stocks on the green.
    Emerge onto Magna Mile at the Church.

11. Keeping to the right hand pavement walk
    through the village, passing the 101 Squadron
    Memorial at Lime Villas and eventually returning
    to the Village Hall.
THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

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 538 square kilometres or 210 square miles, the AONB contains the highest ground in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent, rising to over 150m along its western edge. Rolling chalk hills and areas of sandstone and clay underlie this attractive landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.

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

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