

INTRODUCTION

A wonderful walk through grassy valleys and over open hilltops.

The walk crosses the site of the old Orford Priory, now a series of lumps in the ground, once an important settlement.



Weasel



Medieval cultivation terrace

The walk is mainly on paths and tracks with some steep slopes and a number of stiles (some may be difficult for dogs). Some paths may be muddy, so stout shoes or boots are recommended. Allow 2½ -3 hours for the walk.

There are toilets off Market Place. Considerate parking is available throughout the village.

For times of buses to Binbrook phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.org.uk

This walk is on Ordnance Survey Explorer map 282.

Don't forget to follow the Countryside Code wherever you go - respect, protect, enjoy.

Prepared with contribution from the community of Binbrook

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 558 square kilometres or 216 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.



For more information contact: Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0DA. Tel: 01507 609740 Website: www.lincswolds.org.uk Email: aonb@lincswolds.org.uk



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WOLDS WALKS

Paths, Ponds and a Priory



A circular walk of 5½ miles (9km) from Binbrook

Orford Priory

As you cross the lumps and bumps, think what used to be here - the medieval nunnery of St Mary, founded in the 12th century and dissolved in 1539.

Adjacent to the priory is the remains of the deserted settlement of Orford.

There were a series of fish ponds, providing an important food for the nuns who couldn't eat meat on Fridays. The nunnery would have been self sufficient for all its food.

Kirmond le Mire has an interesting history to its name. Kirmond means goat hill, while le Mire means marshy ground. In the 1970s remains of a Roman villa were found in this area, including a mosaic that included an image of a blackbird. Unfortunately today there is no evidence on the ground of the villa.



The image of the blackbird appears in all four corners of the mosaic

Blackbirds

Blackbirds are today one of our most familiar birds, but have strong connections with folklore of our country, as sung in the nursery rhyme *Sing a Song of Sixpence*,

"four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie. When the pie was opened the birds began to sing, Oh wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?". In medieval times blackbirds, and other song birds, were actually eaten as a delicacy! However, a court jester may well have suggested to the court cook to bake a pie pastry crust and place this over some live blackbirds to surprise and amuse the King!



1 Start at the Market Place and walk towards the T junction at the northern end. Turn left (signposted for Market Rasen) and walk past the Queen's Hall. Follow the road left past the RAAF 460 Squadron Memorial.

2 Immediately after the second bungalow on the right follow the public footpath passing in front of a house, cross the stile and walk across a small field to a further stile.

3 Cross the stile and continue across the next field heading for a gap in the hedge. Continue across the next field aiming for a prominent electricity pylon where three sets of power lines join.

4 Cross the next field to the stile at the far side and traverse the marshy ground in the next field using the wooden walkway. Cross the stream via the wooden bridge and climb over the stile at the far end of the field.

5 Cross a further stile and bridge and follow the dog-leg route of the footpath past the old Priory earthworks to a stile alongside a gate in the corner of the field.

6 At the far side of the next field, cross the wooden footbridge over the stream. Follow the footpath alongside the stream and then bear right continuing to another stile at the far side of the field.

7 Continue across three more fields to the village of Stainton le Vale. Go over the stile to meet the road.

8 Turn left along the road and where it bears right, go straight ahead through a gap in the hedge and follow the public bridleway to the left past two cottages.

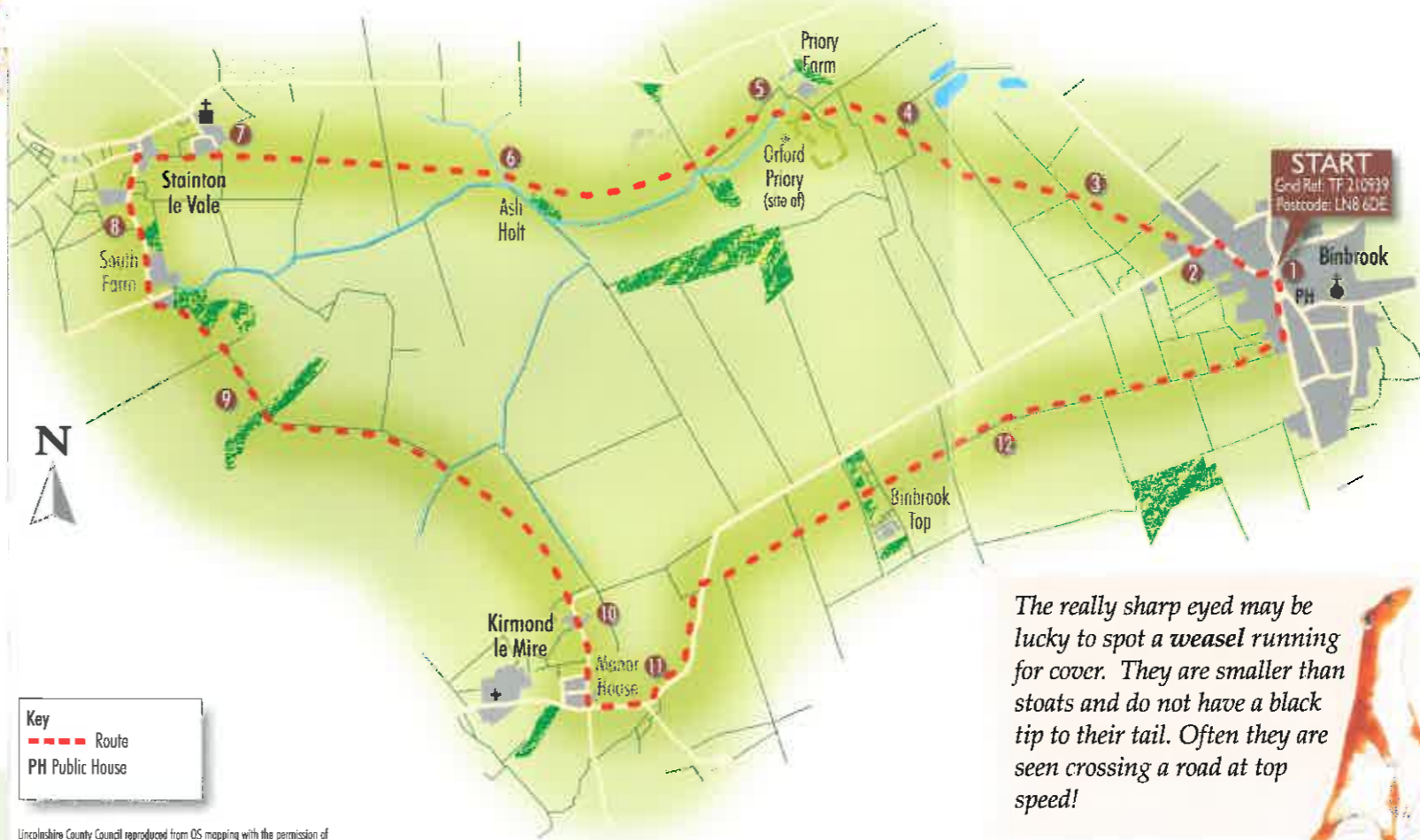
9 Continue along the bridleway uphill, through a small wood and turn left at the top of the hill. Follow the bridleway keeping the hedgerow on your left and cross the stream using the wooden footbridge.

10 Cross the next field and follow the track through the farmyard and past the Manor House.

Once you have gone through the farm yard, look to your left to see the cultivation terraces.

11 At the road, turn left. Follow the path uphill on the field edge. This path has been created by kind permission of the landowner so walkers do not have to walk along the road here. At the top, carefully cross the road, then turn right up a steep bank to follow the public footpath.

12 Continue straight ahead, past cottages on your left. Cross a bridleway and follow the footpath to Binbrook. Turn left along the High Street back to the Market Place.



Key
 - - - - - Route
 PH Public House

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The really sharp eyed may be lucky to spot a weasel running for cover. They are smaller than stoats and do not have a black tip to their tail. Often they are seen crossing a road at top speed!

