



LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

GATEWAY WALKS

A Route With a View



Two circular walks; one of 6½ miles, the other of 9½ miles from Market Rasen going through Walesby village



INTRODUCTION

Two walks that start from Market Rasen going to Walesby. The shorter is mainly along roads and quiet lanes, the longer is over a variety of terrain from woodlands to farm tracks in the Wolds. Both routes allow the chance to explore All Saints' Church, Walesby, affectionately known as the Ramblers' Church as well as offering dramatic views across Lincolnshire.



Brown hare



Male orange-tip butterflies

LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

For train times to Market Rasen, phone 03457 484950
For bus services and Call Connect services to Market Rasen contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or www.traveline.org.uk

W A L E S B Y

Unusually for such a small village, Walesby has two churches. The older, All Saints' (the Ramblers' Church) stands dramatically alone on a hilltop that is steeped in history.

Nearby was a large Roman villa, home of an early Christian congregation whose 4th century font was discovered in a field in 1959. In 1990 a number of 6th century pagan Saxon burials were discovered in the vicinity and it is thought that the hilltop became a Viking meeting place.

By the 19th century the centre of the village was down the hill and the climb up to the church was bleak and difficult. All Saints' ceased to be the parish church in 1914. The old church fell into disrepair and was replaced, at first by a temporary building in the village and then by St Mary's in the centre of Walesby.



Ramblers' window



Ramblers' Church

The building of St Mary's was started in 1913 and owes its existence to the efforts of the Rector, Perceval Laurence who died on the day work commenced.

All Saints' was rescued in the 1930s and restored. It is still used for special services - a Ramblers' Service in the summer and Carols by Candlelight at Christmas.

These walks offer some of the best views in Lincolnshire across the Trent Valley towards Nottingham in the west, towards Lincoln in the south and the steelworks in Scunthorpe to the northwest.



The kestrel is Britain's most widespread bird of prey. Silently it hovers until it drops onto its kill. Small mammals make up its staple diet.

THE ROUTE

- 1 Start in the car park in John Street, Market Rasen. Leave the car park by the John Street entrance and turn right.
- 2 At the end, cross the main road into the Market Place. Go into the churchyard and follow the path to the left. Turn right at the road and then first left into Church Street. At the T-junction, turn left and continue to the end.
- 3 Turn left into Walesby Road.

FOR THE SHORTER WALK

- A Stay on this road, and then turn left into Walesby Road (which later becomes Rasen Road).
- B Carry straight on to Walesby village. You pass Catskin Lane on the right.
- C The Ramblers' Church comes into view on the horizon. Pass St Mary's Church and at the corner go straight on up the track to the old church.
- D Then follow the route from section 16.

FOR THE LONGER WALK

- 4 Where the road curves to the right, turn left down the bridleway.
- 5 Cross the railway line and then follow the path, crossing the railway line again.
- 6 Follow the path through the woods before turning left to cross a brick railway bridge. Follow the track to the right.
- 7 At the end turn right over the level crossing.



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The wren's loud 'tit-tit-tit' call is all that may give away this tiny, darting bird's position among the hedgerows.



Field scabious



As you walk along the road, you may glimpse Claxby Church nestling in the foot of the Wolds

- 8 Ignore the footpath on the left next to the crossing. Turn left down the bridleway towards Otby Moor Farm. Go through the farm and follow the bridleway until you reach the tarmac road and then turn right.
- 9 Where the road turns sharp left, turn right down a lane marked 'no through road'.
- 10 Turn left up the track before you reach Claxby House Farm.
- 11 Follow the track to the right, keeping the conifer trees on your left.

- 12 Continue through a field with the hedge on your right.
- 13 The Viking Way long distance footpath now joins and merges from the left. Bear right, and follow a track through a meadow and onto Moor Road, on the outskirts of Walesby Village.
- 14 Turn left and go into the village. Turn right at the crossroads. At the 'T' junction, turn left.
- 15 At the corner take the path to the church through the gateway straight ahead, under the trees.

The yew is a common sight in many churchyards. Dark needle foliage and red poisonous berries distinguish the tree.



As you go up to the church, you should be able to see some lumps and bumps on the ground. This is where the medieval village of Walesby was. This settlement shrunk in size in the 14th century. During these times, landowners were enclosing their land for sheep farming which meant the tenants could no longer use the land to make their living. Many had no other trades and had to move to the town.

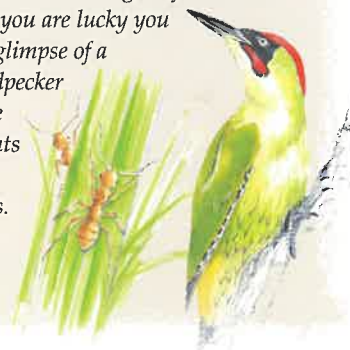
- 16 At the church, the path goes through the gates into the churchyard.

This is the well-known Ramblers' Church. Inside the church there are many faces watching you - see the carved faces on a pillar near the door - there are a few others elsewhere in the building!



- 17 Leave the churchyard through the gate opposite the church doorway and turn left. Follow the edge of the field towards a gate in the corner.
- 18 Cross a few fields following the Viking Way. Do take care, as parts of this path can be muddy.

You may see some more lumps on the ground - these are not archaeological features but anthills. If you are lucky you may get a glimpse of a green woodpecker that eat the meadow ants living in the anthills.



- 19 Continue along the path to the right of some buildings, to the driveway of Risby Manor Farm.
- 20 Turn right onto the track. Cross the road and continue on the bridleway opposite. 21 Bear left through the farmyard.
- 22 At the main road, turn left. Where the road turns sharp left, turn right onto the footpath through the woods to return to Market Rasen.

ROUTE INFORMATION

Distance: 9½ miles, 15 km or 6½ miles, 10½ km

Time: Approx. 4 - 5 hours at a leisurely pace for the longer route
Approx. 3 hours at a leisurely pace for the shorter route

Maps: OS Landranger 113 OS Pathfinder 730 & 747
OS Explorer 282

Parking: Car park in John Street, Market Rasen - Grid ref: TF 108 89
Postcode LN8 3HH

Terrain: Good footpaths and bridleways which can be very muddy at times. Some verge walking. One steep descent and ascent.

Refreshments: Cafes and pubs in Market Rasen

Toilets: John Street, Market Rasen

Stiles: Some. Many are stock proof and therefore maybe difficult for some dogs.



Tourist Information - Tel: 01427 676666



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.



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