

A Walk for all Ages



A figure of eight walk of 5 miles around the Parish of South Thoresby.

INTRODUCTION

This walk combines the history and wildlife of an ancient Wolds valley with the open space and stunning views of the Wolds and the coast, along with a visit to South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve.

You can also strike out into the Swaby valley or visit the small church of St. Leonard at Haugh.



Park Bridge

The Heron poised and alert hunting for prey is a beautiful sight, and may be seen along the walk.

A figure of eight walk which can be done in two stages. Allow 3 hours walking at a leisurely pace. Stout shoes or boots required as the paths can be muddy. A dog friendly walk, but please keep your dog under close control. Please clean up after your pet. Parking is available near the old Vine Inn, please park with consideration. For times of buses to South Thoresby phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.org.uk This walk is on OS Explorer map 274. Don't forget to follow the Countryside Code wherever you go - respect, protect, enjoy.

Researched and designed by the community of South Thoresby

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 have 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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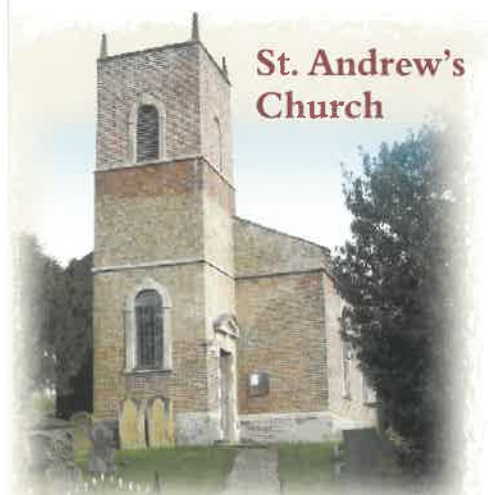


If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format please contact us.

THE ROUTE

The route is waymarked with a leaping trout symbol. 

Start the walk at the old Vine Inn ① and head towards St. Andrew's Church ②, past The Old Rectory, a fine example of the work of the architect S. S. Teulon.



St. Andrew's Church

Built from 1735-8 on the site of an earlier medieval church. St. Andrew's is a simple Georgian church.

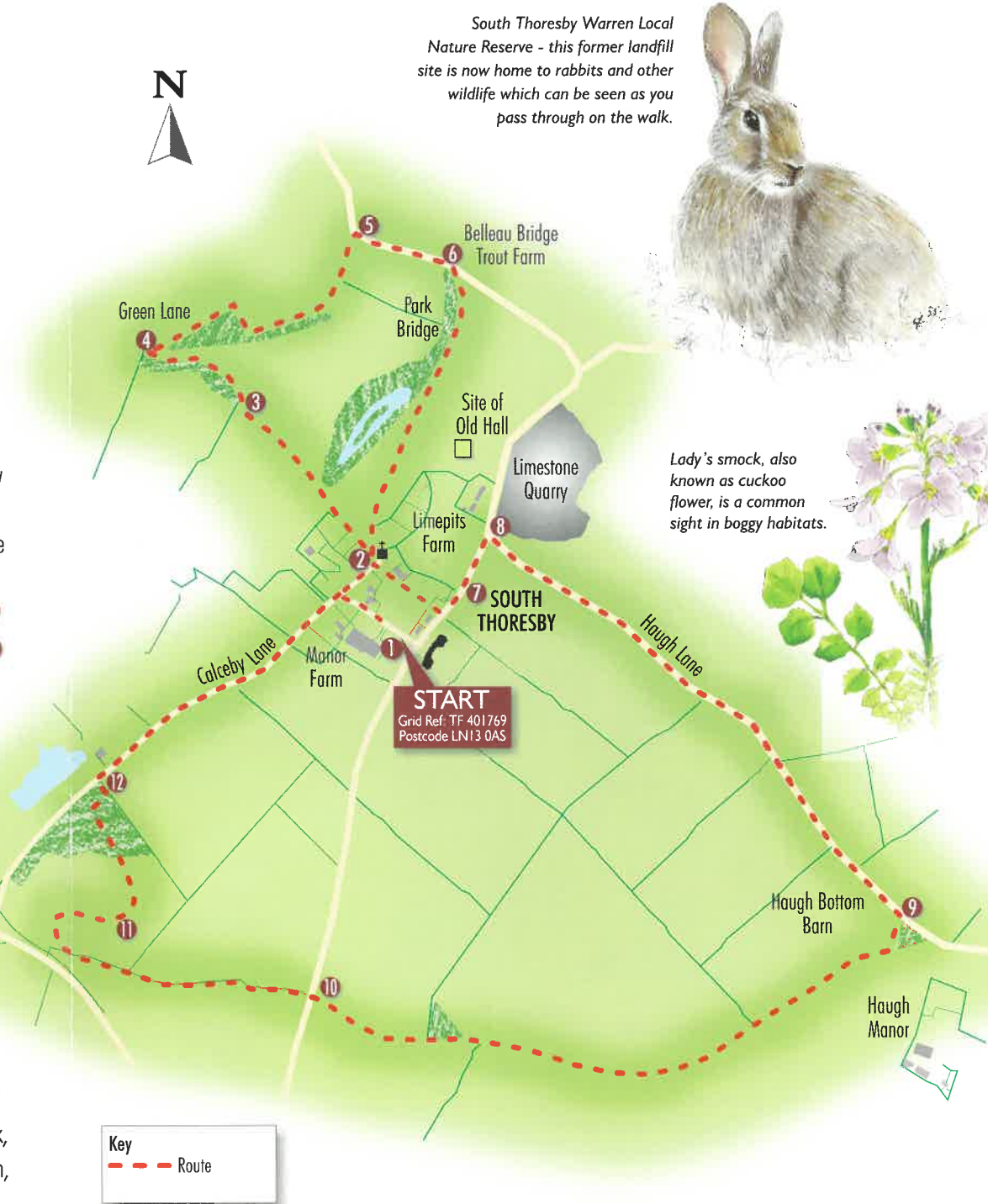
Cross the field on your left, keeping to the left and noting the remains of the deserted medieval village. Go over Calceby Beck and cross the next field using the boardwalks. This is an important boggy habitat for marshy plants such as lady's smock and meadowsweet, and for birds such as snipe and lapwings.

Both Calceby Beck and Swaby Beck are chalk streams and merge to form The Great Eau, which enters the North Sea at Saltfleet Haven. Chalk streams are internationally rare habitats which support some of our most threatened plants and animals. Eau is a common Lincolnshire word for a water course probably from the Anglo Saxon word for river or stream.

Passing over Swaby Beck the path curves to the left ③ and joins a bridleway ④. To the left, the path goes through Swaby Valley, a glacial overflow channel. Follow the path to the right, along Green Lane. The copse contains many examples of mature trees and the hedge has fine field maples, which were once laid as part of the hedge. At the road ⑤ walk down the hill to Belleau Bridge Trout Farm ⑥ and enter the field opposite.

To the left once stood South Thoresby Hall. The little bridge over the Great Eau is a relic of The Hall, as is the long brick wall in the next field, behind which was the kitchen garden. Herons and kingfishers can be seen near the lake. Proceed past the old wind pump and across the next field and back to the church.

From here you can walk back to the old Vine Inn if you wish or, to complete the full length of the walk, following the footpath to the left, through a garden, over the stiles and across the fields to Greenfield Lane ⑦.



South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve - this former landfill site is now home to rabbits and other wildlife which can be seen as you pass through on the walk.



Lady's smock, also known as cuckoo flower, is a common sight in boggy habitats.



Key
- - - Route

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At Greenfield Lane, turn left towards Limepits Farm and at the junction ⑧ go right up Haugh Lane until the footpath is reached ⑨. Follow the footpath to the junction with the bridleway. Ahead is Haugh Manor Farm, the home of the ancient Bolle family, and to its left hidden from sight, the small and charming church of St. Leonard. Turn up the hill to the right and follow the path. On the way you will pass a Parish boundary marker. This is an excellent spot to appreciate the sweeping views, both of the Wolds and down to the coast.

Continue down to the road ⑩ and cross it, keeping the hedge on your right and continue down into the woodland. Go through the gate and into South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve

The Old Hall



Very little is known about this grand looking building which was demolished in the 1820's. A sketch survives done for Sir Joseph Banks of Revesby indicating that it was a house of some importance. It was the seat of the Wood family who owned most of the Parish of South Thoresby. The dovecote remained converted into a cottage until demolished in the late 1950s.

From the Local Studies Collection, Lincoln Central Library, by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council, Education and Cultural services Directorate

The Vine Inn



There has been an inn on this site since 1508. The present building dates from the 18th century and is now a B&B. In the 19th century the innkeeper was also a blacksmith working from the adjacent barn.

The site is a mixture of woodland and grassland, created and managed for both people and wildlife by Lincolnshire County Council and the local community. Follow the path uphill to enjoy the seating areas and willow hide built by local children ⑪. Continue round the reserve and through the woodland to join Calceby Lane near the garage ⑫. Turn right along the road to go back to the village and some refreshment at the old Vine Inn.