



# Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN DISCOVERS LINCOLNSHIRE IS NOT AS FLAT AS SOME SUGGEST ON A STROLL AROUND THE WOLDS



**A**S YOU head north through Lincolnshire via the A15, there are only the gentlest of folds in the countryside – until you approach Lincoln. Then the Cathedral stands sentinel over miles of the low-lying East of England countryside all around. Market Rasen is just 15 miles farther to the north-east, in one of the British

countryside's little-known gems, the Lincolnshire Wolds. In fact, the Lincolnshire Wolds is one of 40 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across England and Wales. Lying in the north-eastern part of the county and surrounded by the fens and coastal marsh, the area encompasses 216 square miles of sparsely populated and largely

agricultural land. But it is land that has been lived on since prehistoric times, and the region has been shaped by past and present farming practices. Our walk is based from Market Rasen Racecourse site, but starts 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles away in the village of Walesby where a general lack of traffic should make parking easy.

## INFORMATION GENERAL

**NEAREST CLUB SITE:** Market Rasen Racecourse, Legsby Road, Market Rasen LN8 3EA. Tel 01673 842307.  
**Open** 10 Mar-16 Oct  
**DISTANCE:** 7.1 miles/11.4km  
**TERRAIN:** A mix of tracks and footpaths with a small amount of road walking. Some sections likely to be muddy, especially where animals graze  
**NUMBER OF STILES:** 4  
**ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:** Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 282 – Lincolnshire Wolds North (Louth and Market Rasen)  
**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Easy to moderate  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Tea rooms in Walesby at the beginning of the walk  
**PARKING:** On the road in the village of Walesby. Park close to the tea rooms  
**TOILETS:** None

## INFORMATION ATTRACTIONS

■ **Lincoln Green Clematis Nurseries**, Sand Lane, Osgodby LN8 3TE. A small family-run nursery specialising in the growth of clematis with over 350 varieties its catalogue. Open all year. Full disabled access. Tel 01673 828222 or see clematis-r-us.com  
 ■ **Horse World**, Hill House Equestrian Centre, Sand Lane, Osgodby LN8 3TE. Visitors can watch horses at work, rest and play, as well as exploring the forest and conservation area. Horse and pony rides are available, and there's also a 100-seat café. Open all year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Mostly good disabled access, with riding facilities for disabled visitors. Tel 01673 849967  
 ■ **Woodside Falconry**, Newball, Langworth LN3 5DQ. An educational visitor centre with fun fishing and ferret racing for kids, plus flying demonstrations of vultures, eagles, owls, hawks and falcons from 12pm to 3pm. Also on site is a tea room and gift shop. Open every day 9am to 5pm. Full disabled access. Tel 01522 754280 or see woodsidefalconry.co.uk



## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Park in the village by the tea rooms, near the T-junction with Catskin Lane. Start the walk by taking the footpath opposite Catskin Lane (in the opposite direction to the sign for Tealby and North Willingham).
- 2 Continue past the tea rooms and follow the yellow arrow to the right, around the barn. Follow a second yellow arrow straight ahead, then turn left at the road.
- 3 Turn right at the sign for Mill House Farm (Caravan Park) and walk along the gravel lane. Take the right fork in the lane (signposted 'Public Bridleway'). Continue round to the right, following a blue arrow. Follow another bridleway sign (ignoring the footpath to the right), then follow a blue arrow and go over a small wooden bridge.
- 4 Go through a metal gate and continue up the hill. Go through another metal gate, and turn left through yet another gate

- before heading immediately round to the right. Continue through another metal gate, still following the bridleway signs. You are now walking along the top of the ridge. Continue around the edge of a field before going through a metal gate. Go over two stiles and continue past the church. Then, at the junction, follow the Viking symbol on a green arrow, walking straight ahead. Soon, turn left through a large metal gate, following a yellow arrow.
- 5 Go through two more metal gates (still following the yellow arrows) as the path descends from the ridge. At the road go through a gate and turn left. Turn right off the road (signposted 'Public footpath') and then at the greenhouse fork diagonally left across a small field. Follow the yellow arrows and go through four wooden gates. Then cross the road and follow the public bridleway sign.
  - 6 Go through two wooden gates, then turn left along the lane and past the

- church. Go over a stile (signposted 'Permissive footpath'). Continue along the right-hand side of the field, then go through a kissing gate and continue straight ahead along the road.
- 7 When the road bends right, go straight on (signposted 'No through road'). At the 'Private road' sign, turn left (signposted 'Restricted Byway'). Go through a large metal gate. At the junction of grassy paths turn right. Go through a metal gate and then over a stile alongside a cattle grid. Turn right where the tracks meet.
  - 8 Retrace your steps back to where you parked by turning left at the road, re-entering the village of Walesby, then turning right (signposted 'Tea rooms').

## INFORMATION TOURISM

Brigg Tourist Information Centre, The Buttercross Market Place, Brigg DN20 8ER. Tel 01652 657053

