

Be a responsible walker

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council's Conservation Services Section to help you explore and enjoy the County's countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected.

We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

If this leaflet is not in a format that meets your needs please contact Conservation Services

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Conservation Services**

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Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside

Walk Information



Walk Location: Thurlby is located 3.2 km (2 miles) south of Bourne just off the A15.

Starting point: Methodist Church, High Street, Thurlby. Grid reference TF 097 169.

Parking: Methodist Church, as above.

Public Transport: For further information and times call the Traveline on 08706082608 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk length: **Walk One:** 3 1/3 km (2 miles).
Walk Two: 8 km (5 miles).

At a leisurely pace walk one will take approximately 1 hour, and walk two 2 1/2 hours to complete.

Type of walk: **Walk One:** This walk climbs out of the village to high ground from where there are panoramic views. Using field paths it may be muddy in places. **Walk Two:** This level walk visits Bourne and uses tracks and field paths. It may be muddy in places.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 248 Bourne & Heckington. Landranger 130 Grantham.

Refreshments: Village Store in Thurlby, The Horseshoe pub on the A15 or visit Bourne town centre.



These walks and leaflet have been put together with assistance from Thurlby Parish Council.

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Lincolnshire Walks

Thurlby



VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

Two circular walks of 3 1/3 km or 8km (2 or 5 miles)

Introduction

Thurlby and Bourne are found where the Fens meet the gentle slopes of the Kesteven Uplands, the Car Dyke forming the boundary between the two landscape character areas.

The local landscape is well wooded, including the ancient Bourne Wood and Math and Elsea Woods.

Walk one climbs out of Thurlby to a local high point (55m) to give panoramic views across the Fens eastwards towards Spalding, and south towards Peterborough.

Walk two uses the line of the former Bourne to Leicester railway and the Roman Car Dyke waterway which linked the River Witham to the River Nene, a length of nearly 96km (60 miles).



The Walk

WALK ONE & TWO

1 Turn right onto the High Street and follow it as it bends to the right.

2 As it then bends to the left, turn right onto Crown Lane, towards the school and community centre.

Continue on in the same direction, along a path, keeping the school on the right. Keep straight on past the rear of some houses and follow the path as it bends behind some houses and comes to a road.

Cross the road and continue through a gateway. Walk the length of the field, then alongside a garden to a road.

Cross the road, past the grass triangle, and walk along Wood Lane.

WALK ONE

3 Almost immediately take the public footpath on the left, along a gravel drive and the edge of a garden and paddock before descending through the disused railway line and on to a footbridge.

Bear left and follow the hedgeline up the hill, keeping the hedge on your left. Halfway up the hill the hedge stops, aim for the metal footpath post by the large tree on the horizon.

At the top of this field turn around and admire the panoramic views across the Fens. Look out for Spalding Power Station and the wind farm.

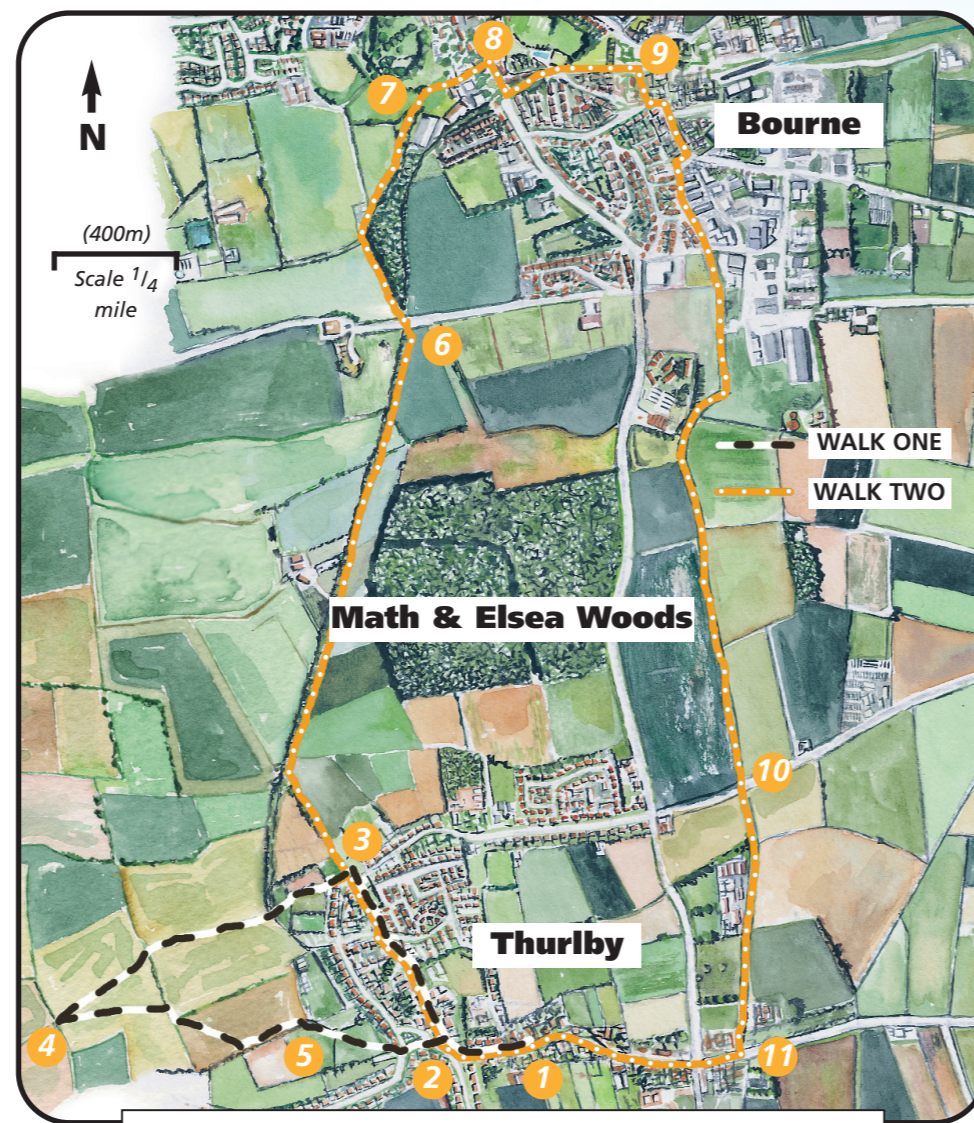
4 With the footpath sign behind you, head back down the hill, by a different route, towards the right hand edge of the hedge at the lower right hand corner of the field.

At the hedge turn right and with the ditch on your left head towards the next hedge, approximately 150m.

At the far end of this hedge turn left and cross the ditch. Walk diagonally right across the field aiming to reach a point where the cables from the pylon meet the tree line. Follow the field edge down the hill towards the barn.



Map & Walk



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The Walk

5 At the side of the barn cross the stile and then bear diagonally left to the far corner of the second field.

Go through the gate and across a private garden to join Northorpe Lane. Cross the road and turn right, and almost immediately left to pass the Post Office. Follow the road as it bends to the right and joins the High Street.

Follow the High Street left to return to the starting point.

WALK TWO

3 Continue along Wood Lane until it forks. Take the right hand lane and follow it until it becomes a footpath, which runs alongside the old railway line, to a road.

The woodland on the right is made up of two woods, Math Wood and Elsea Wood. They are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). They are ancient semi-natural woodlands with oak, ash and wych elm. There is a rich ground flora which includes wood anemone, wild angelica, meadowsweet, water avens, woodruff and bluebell.



6 Cross the road and continue in the same direction along the footpath and into a spinney.

Look out for the large oak trees on the edge of the spinney. Oak trees can live for over 1000 years reaching a height of 40m. In a good year a mature oak tree can produce up to 50,000 acorns!



As the path emerges from the spinney follow the track and take the footpath to the right, following the edge of the spinney.

7 Cross the stile on the right and follow the footpath diagonally left across the field to another stile. Follow the path alongside the water, through Baldock's Mill to South Street.

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 there were six water mills in Bourne. Today there is only one, Baldock's Mill. It was built on the banks of the Bourne Eau in 1800 and stopped working in the 1920s. It is now managed as a Heritage Centre by Bourne Civic Society.



8 Cross the busy road with care and turn right, past the church of St Peter and St Paul, which was built as part of a priory for Augustinian canons in 1138.

Turn left along Coggles Causeway and follow it to its end, then carry straight on and follow the footpath, with the playing field on the left, to Victoria Place. Cross the road and continue in the same direction to Willoughby Road.

9 Turn right and at the next junction turn left and follow the road for approximately 230m to a public footpath on the right alongside a dyke, the Car Dyke.

Follow this footpath alongside the Car Dyke, taking care crossing Cherry Holt Road.

The Car Dyke can be traced for 90 km (56 miles) between Peterborough and Lincoln, linking the river Nene and river Witham. It is believed to have been built in Roman times, but its intended purpose is still not clear. It remains an important feature in the Fens.



Follow the path alongside the Dyke for approximately 1.6 km (1 mile) to Northorpe Fen Road.

10 Cross the road and continue to follow the path alongside the Dyke to the Manor House.

Cross the bridge and turn immediately left. Cross the lane and continue along the footpath to St Firmin's Church, named after a little known saint who was the first Bishop of Amiens.

11 Turn right and follow the road to the A15. Take care crossing straight over the busy road and walk along Thurlby High Street to return to the Methodist Church.

This part of the A15 is on the line of the Roman Road known as King Street. King Street ran closer to the Fens and the Car Dyke than the Roman Ermine Street, with which it links at Ancaster.

