

Burgh Le Marsh



VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

A circular walk of 2 or 6 km ($1\frac{1}{4}$ or $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles)

Introduction

This walk is set in Burgh le Marsh and farmland to the west of this small town. Burgh is built around a low hill in the southern "Middle Marsh". This is part of the Lincolnshire coastal plain, where during the last Ice Age, clays and rocks were spread over the eastern edge of the chalk wolds. This has produced deeper, moister soils, where there is still a high proportion of grassland. The fields, their hedges, trees, drains and ditches collectively still support a wide range of farmland birds, such as lapwing, skylark, tree sparrow and fieldfare.

There is evidence from the Domesday Book of an important Anglo-Saxon settlement here called Burg or Burch meaning 'fort'.

Burgh le Marsh was granted a charter in 1401 and became a busy market town with the surrounding marsh area providing good grazing for cattle. The town market was located on the High Street. The market closed in 1961.

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul was built around 1500 with later alterations and additions. The clock on the tower has an ornate painted surround and was originally intended to be in the town's market place.

Dobson's windmill, a prominent feature of the town, was built in 1813 and restored in 1947. It is named after Frank Dobson the last miller, who worked there until 1964. The windmill has five sails and stands five storeys high. At the other end of the town is Hanson's mill which was built in 1855 and was in use until the 1930s. The machinery was removed in 1964 and taken to Brixton Mill in London.



Map & Walk



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The Walk

- 1 Cross the High Street in front of the Bell Inn and walk up Church Street past the Museum and Library. Follow the path diagonally across the churchyard.



- 2 Leave the churchyard, turn left and take the public footpath on the left just before the path rises. Keep straight ahead on this path until you reach a road.



The mound in the field on your right is the site of an Anglo-Saxon burial mound and ditch. It was excavated in 1933 and found to contain a burial from the late 6th or early 7th century. It is thought the mound was enlarged and used for cock fighting, hence its name Cock Hill. The mound is a designated Scheduled Monument.



- 3 Turn right and follow the road past Burgh Hall.

At the road junction turn right, then left down Wildshed Lane.

*Look out for the large English oak tree in the hedgerow on the right after the bungalows. The English oak (*Quercus robur*) is the king of British trees. The name robur means sturdy and its timber is strong and durable and traditionally used in house and ship building. The oak tree supports more insect life than any other native British tree, and can live for over a 1000 years*



After approx 250m (270yds) there is a public footpath on each side of the road.

- 4 For the **SHORTER WALK** turn right and bear right across the field to a stile and post in the hedgerow. Continue in the same direction towards the corner of the next field heading for the old mill.

The Walk

The undulations in this field are the remains of medieval strip farming methods and are known as ridge and furrow because of their shape.

Go between the bungalows and turn right on reaching the road. Follow the road as it bends to the left and joins the main road. Turn right and walk past Hanson's windmill, now a private house. Rejoin the directions at **14**.

For the **LONGER WALK** turn left and keep the hedgerow on your right to the end of the field.

Cross the bridge, turn right along the hedgerow and dyke to the field corner.

Turn right and then immediately left and cross the field to the left of the house.

Cross into the next field and walk between the ponds.

Continue ahead between the house and bungalow to reach a road.

- 5** Cross the road and follow the footpath to the left hand corner of the field.

Continue ahead, taking care through this marshy field, to reach the first of three footbridges.

These fields have been specially seeded with wildflowers and are managed as wet grassland, with ponds and scrapes. Look out for lapwings and skylarks. The lapwing is also known as the peewit because of its distinctive display call. It is often seen on farmland where it feeds on worms and insects.



Cross the bridges and walk along the edge of the field, keeping the hedgerow on your right, to a green lane.

- 6** Turn right and follow the lane to a road.
- 7** At the road turn left and after approx 100m (110 yds) turn right onto a public footpath. Cross the field, aiming to the right of a small copse, until you reach a footbridge and footpath sign.
- 8** Turn left just before the bridge, aiming for another small bridge midway between two telegraph poles.



The Walk

9 Turn right and walk along the road toward Burgh, ignoring a turning to the left.

10 Approximately 150m (164 yds) after the junction, and before the road bends right, take the public footpath on the left.

Follow the path with the dyke and then hedgerow on your right.

This area is owned by Burgh le Marsh Town Council and is managed as an area for wildlife. Look out for the pond on the right which was formed from old gravel workings.

11 Go Through the first large gap in the hedge and cross the field by bearing diagonally left to the hedge and then follow the hedge to the field corner.

Turn left and follow the edge of the field.



12 At the footpath sign turn right over the dyke and follow the hedgerow towards the cottage. Walk through the yard and leave by a gate on the left before turning right along the track.

Follow the track into the field and bear left towards the old windmill. Go through the hedge and bear left to the corner of the garden and down a narrow path to a road.

13 Turn left, and at the main road turn right, past Hanson's windmill.

14 Just before the footpath rises, cross the road and almost immediately turn left down a public footpath.

At the junction with Orby Road turn right and at the High Street turn left to return to the Market Place.



Walk Information



Walk Location: Burgh le Marsh lies 8 km (5 miles) west of Skegness on the A158.

Starting point: Market Place, Burgh le Marsh.
Grid reference TF 502 651.

Parking: Market Place or
Tinkers Green Recreation Ground, Jacksons Lane (TF 502 651).

Public Transport: The Connect 6 bus runs between Lincoln and Skegness and stops in Burgh le Marsh.
For times call the traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk length: Shorter walk 2 km (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles). Longer walk 6 km (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles). At a leisurely pace the shorter walk will take approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour and the longer walk 2 hours to complete.

Type of walk: Both walks use a mixture of surfaced paths, tracks and field paths, it may be wet and muddy in places.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 274 Skegness, Alford & Spilsby, and Landranger 122 Skegness & Horncastle.

Refreshments: There is a good selection of pubs and shops in Burgh le Marsh with toilets located in the Market Place.

Windmill opening times: To confirm times call 01754 766658.

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- 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

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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.

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