

The Bourne Blunder – A 20 mile Challenge Walk

The walk covers an area east of the A1, including Bourne Wood, the Grimsthorpe Castle Estate of the Earl of Lancaster and a Medieval drove road. All of the route is on OS Landranger map 130, 'Grantham and surrounding area'. Most of the route is on Explorer 248, 'Bourne and Heckington'. (recommended)

Start from the Forestry Commission Picnic Area and Car Park (Parking Free) at Bourne Woods, signposted off the A151 about 1 mile west of Bourne (TF 077202). Alternatively, you could start at Creeton (TF 011198) by parking on the layby next to the postbox.

There are pubs on the walk at Edenham, Swinstead, Castle Bytham and Little Bytham. There are a village shops at Little Bytham and Castle Bytham.

Abbrs used: L = Left R = Right FP = Footpath SP = signposted
BW = Bridleway Str on = Straight on

- 1 From **Bourne Woods Car Park (TF 077202)**, walk to the small toilet building, and turn left towards a Bourne Wood Information board and Children's Play Area. Turn L here onto the main track, str on at cross-roads with Site Plan and information boards. Keep to main forest track, ignoring all cross paths for about 1 ½ miles. Go past the small red carved sculpture on your R, depicting medieval soldiers in battle. Keep on uphill, past ponds off to R. Main track bends to R. At next crossroads take the narrow grassy track to the **left** between trees – look for footpath arrow waymark on the right-hand side of the main track. Straight ahead, shortly is a metal hand gate into a field. Leave the wood by the gate into grass field. Walk str on, keeping dyke and wire fence on L, to stile by gate. Now keep hedge on L to leave field over cattle grid by red brick house. Walk down the road to **Edenham (TF 062218)**.
- 2 Ignore Church Lane on L. At A151, cross road, turn R out of village by the Five Bells. At the speed limit signs, turn L into Copy Lawn Farm, through farmyard to tree-lined track. Turn R through metal gate and stile. Follow track through worn grass in field, keeping stream and wire fence and trees on R. Go through metal gate in far corner, turn L following waymarks along tractor tracks to far stile, gate and bridge. Turn L, then R to walk with dyke on your R. Follow field edge and waymarks round to enter narrow woods. Go straight through to gateway and grassy track, over stiles downhill towards lake. (**Grimsthorpe Castle behind to the R.**) Walk on metalled estate road at end of lake. Turn R at corner (sometimes sp Lakeside Trail) past wooden seat and rustic litter bin. Cross new bridge. Keep L on wide grassy track across fields, turn L where it joins stony estate road. Follow this to a FP signpost on your L (by farm road to Park Farm). Cross two stiles (one collapsing) and a rough path diagonally across field towards **Swinstead**. Turn R on metalled estate road to village. (TF 018225) The large building on your left is a "Summer house" and

pavilion for Grimsthorpe Castle. It was designed by the Castle's architect, Vanburgh.

- 3) Pass Windmill Inn to leave village on road sp "Corby Glen and Grantham". (B1176). Turn L at Fp signpost onto farm track, crossing stile on R before gates. Follow field edge path round, over a stile, to turn L over another stile through hedge (waymarked). Follow direction of waymark, downhill to West Glen River (often dry in summer). Turn L to cross river by wooden bridge. Go over stile and uphill on track to turn L at the top onto The Drift. (an old drove road). Str on along here for 1 1/2 miles. At road continue forward to **Creeton**. (TF 011198).

- 4) Turn R before post box in wall, onto track under railway arches. Keep on main track (Lawn Lane), uphill, past derelict barn and radio mast, swing R to go under electricity cables. Immediately turn L on grass track passing between pylon and wood. After a small pond on L pass through hedge in front of you, over bridge into next field. Walk with wood on your R through 2 fields.
Go over a stile into a third field, follow waymarks to cross a railway sleeper bridge and stile in hedge on R. Follow waymark posts downhill towards **Castle Bytham**.
Cross stile in hedge in front of you. With large castle mound on your L, walk forward to cross stile and bridge by finger post on your R. Turn left, passing by duck pond, along Castlegate into the village (SK 988184).

- 5) Go up steps on the green to Castle Inn. Take Church Lane by R side of pub, follow it round past old school. Follow path round the L boundary of the Cemetery and into the field. Take the L path across a huge field, leading to a stile and gate onto a road.
Cross the road: at FP sign follow diagonally right passing old farm buildings (School Farm). Keep ahead, following posts uphill. Follow direction of next waymark over hill to cross bridge at top. Str on across next field to further bridge in hedge. Walk to R of plantation of small trees to R corner of field. Cross the next dyke by the new bridge and follow a fence on your left, walking towards a quarry. Keep str on to end of field at track. Cross stile in front of you into wood. (This section is newly waymarked and cleared). Follow arrows through wood (Clipsham Quarries to L). At the track, turn R to Road.
Turn L along road for about a mile. Turn L downhill (SP Holywell and Castle Bytham) and keep L at next junction (SP Castle Bytham) to walk on road between two lakes at **Holywell Hall**. (TF 003160)

- 6) Str on uphill, at corner keep str forward along farm track (SP Restricted Byway). Pass on L of farm, through far gate into field. Walk steeply uphill on wide track and through 2 gates at top. Walk str on with hedge on your R, passing tennis court, and keeping str ahead. At next field turn L, Then R str forward but with hedge on your L (waymarked).

Go under pylons, through gateway, onto track. Follow waymarks round field to FP signpost, then along track down between trees and under old railway

bridge. Walk on with hedge on R to meet main farm road. Now continue with stream on your L past gauging station.

Keep forward by stream, over stile by footbridge and gate. Keep down to L of small zinc garage, over stile. Turn L over next bridge and up the road to

Little Bytham. (TF 013180)

- 7) Turn R at road, through village, past shop and out on B1176 (SP Grantham) under railway arches. Ignore first FP signpost just past railway to turn R at BW signpost onto grassy track. Cross bridge and go through large gate back into Grimsthorpe Estate. Keep str on between chestnut trees. At the bungalow follow waymarks to turn R then L at FP signpost by farm buildings. Follow grassy track across fields, skirting wood and ponds to your L. Turn L onto stony estate road, then R to follow this across fields (all waymarked). Where this swings R keep str on, by the spinney, to turn L onto estate road (Halehouse Lane).

This is the route of a private railway line which the Earl of Ancaster built from the LNER at Little Bytham to Edenham. You will soon see its cutting on your left.

8)

Ignore FP signpost to L. Turn R at next signpost to Scottlethorpe Grange (TF 148197). At top of farm road go straight ahead at FP sign to stile. Follow waymarks & stiles round R edge of field. Pass through metal farm gate & go str ahead over field. At field bottom cross stile & walk with hedge on R, and then downwards towards bridge. Cross bridge, go over stile. Keep str on with fence & wood to your L. Go through metal gate in front of you. Cross 2 stiles and footbridge on your R. Walk half L uphill through gate onto track and past riding school (Auster Lodge) to road.

Go str over onto very wide grassy track through two fields. Cross stile in front of you to R (hidden by bushes). Walk str downhill to cross next stile to busy road junction of A151 and A6121.

Cross the A151 with care. Walk downhill towards Bourne. Turn L through gate at FP signpost. Keep on main track through woods to turn L into car park where you started.

CONGRATULATIONS! You have completed the **Bourne Blunder** which I hope you have enjoyed. To claim your certificate and rucksack badge, please send £2.00, together with a short description of your walk to: The Recorder,

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