

Lincolnshire Limewoods Cycle Routes



Lincolnshire
Limewoods

Bardney, Stixwold & Minting



A circular route of 33 or 21 km (20½ or 13 miles)

Places to look out for...

The letters used here correspond to those shown on the map.

★ Southrey Wood

Southrey Wood is part of the Bardney Limewoods National Nature Reserve and is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. It is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are a variety of tree species growing in the wood including oak, hazel and ash, as well as lime. In early spring the woodland floor is carpeted in the white flowers of wood anemone.

★ River Witham and the Water Rail Way

The river Witham flows from its source south of Grantham, through Lincoln and Boston before entering The Wash. It is home to a variety of wildlife so look out for herons, swans, great crested grebes as well as the shy water rail. Barn owls can often be seen hunting in the fields close to the river during the day. The Water Rail Way is a multi-user path between Lincoln and Boston, managed by Sustrans. Much of the route is off road on the old railway line. Look out for artworks along the route, including Lincolnshire curly coated pigs!

★ Stixwoud

Stixwoud was home to a Cistercian nunnery, founded in 1135 and suppressed in 1539. All that remain today are earthworks. Several stone coffins from the priory can still be seen in the church of St Peter. In the churchyard are the remains of a medieval cross.

★ Stixwoud Wood

Another Forestry Commission wood within the Lincolnshire Limewoods area. These woodlands date back to prehistoric times and are believed to be one of the few remaining examples of wildwood with continuous woodland cover for the last 8000 years. They provide a range of habitats for a variety of wildlife. Owls, woodpeckers, bats, butterflies, moths and deer as well as colourful displays of wildflowers throughout spring and summer.

★ Minting

The village of Minting dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period. Earthworks of the medieval settlement can still be seen, and as you cycle past the pub and round the corner the earthworks of the Benedictine Priory can be seen on the right. The priory was founded in 1129 and dissolved in 1414. The earthworks represent stock compounds, buildings and a moat. The ponds remain but may have been enlarged at a later period.



Places to look out for...

★ Bardney

Bardney's first monastery was built during the Anglo-Saxon period and destroyed by Vikings in 870. A Benedictine house was founded on the site in 1087 but in 1536 with the threat of dissolution a local rebellion broke out and six monks from Bardney were hanged in Lincoln for joining the rising. It was finally dissolved in 1538. Although no buildings remain today,

outlines of the buildings can be seen and give a sense of scale of the original site. St Lawrence's church in the village contains some architectural pieces from the abbey.

★ Bucknall

There was a settlement here in medieval times but all that remains of crofts, fishpond, quarries and field systems are earthworks. Look out for them in the fields around the village.

Be a responsible cyclist

- Always follow the highway code
- Always follow the countryside code
- Be courteous to other users and vehicles
- Use a bell to let people know you are there
- Be seen – wear high visibility clothing and use lights in poor visibility
- Wear a helmet
- Keep your bike roadworthy
- Please do not cycle around nature reserves or the woodlands - take time to enjoy them on foot

This route has been produced to enable cyclists to explore the Lincolnshire countryside. Although the route is generally quiet please note that all roads have periods when they are busier and attract faster vehicles so please take care.

This is just one in a series of cycle routes produced by Lincolnshire County Council. For others please contact us or visit the website.

We would welcome your comments and suggestions on this route and leaflet to help us improve future editions.

If you would like to request a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format or a different language please contact us.

Lincolnshire County Council
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Map



North

Map Scale: 1km 1:75 000
1mile



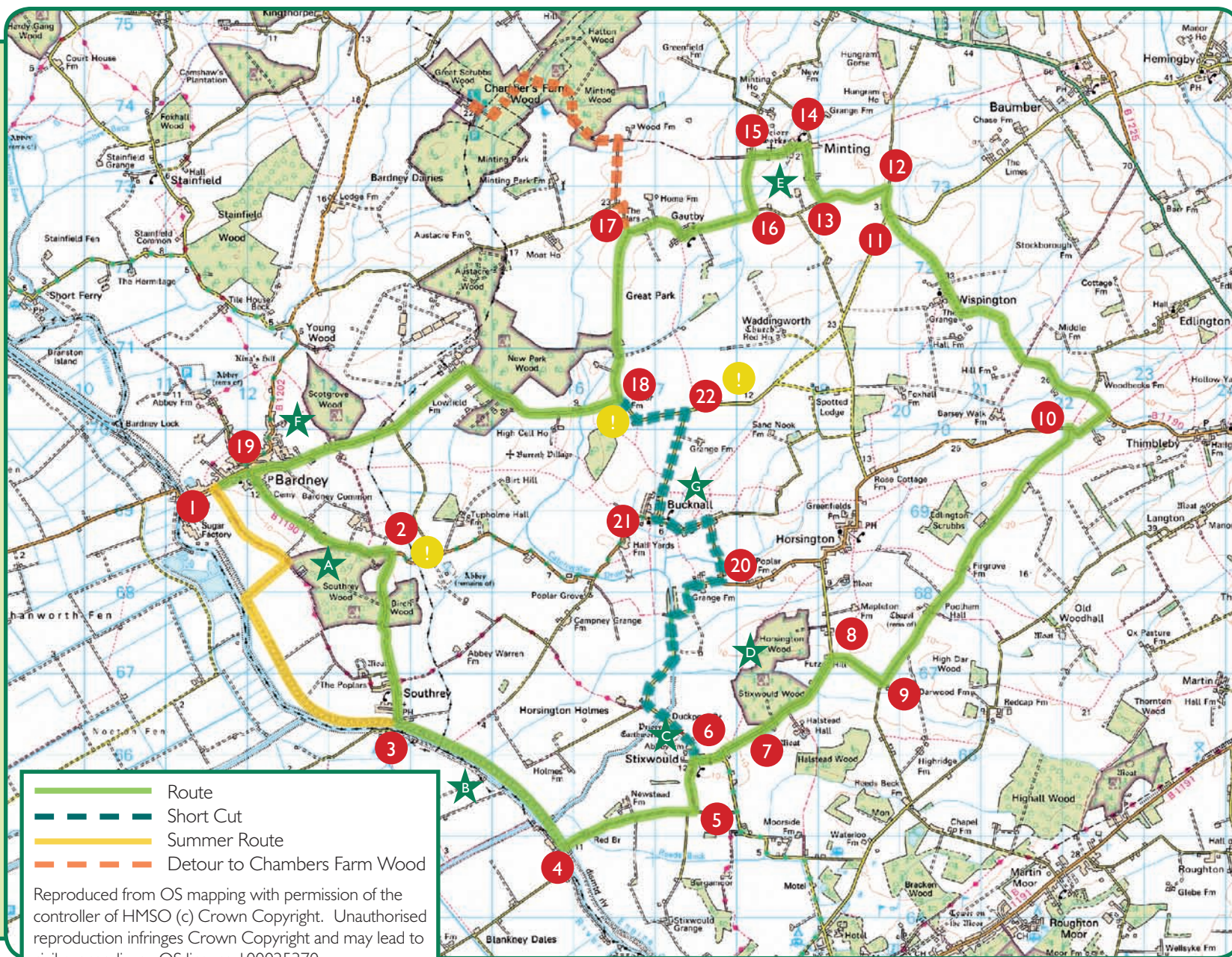
curly-coated pigs



Stixwoud Church



Stixwoud Wood



Directions

The Lincolnshire Limewoods area, between Wragby, Bardney and Woodhall Spa, is a great place to explore with ancient woodlands, medieval abbey ruins, and a wealth of wildlife and history. Explore this fascinating area of the Limewoods on two wheels and you will experience an arable landscape interspersed with areas of ancient woodland and small villages.

Directions

 = Pub/Refreshments  = Shops  = Places to look out for  = Take care  = Toilets


- 1** Leave the Heritage Centre and turn right and cycle into the village.


There are two options to start the route: On the road, or off-road using a rough track which can be wet and muddy after rain.

On road:

Follow the road through the village heading towards Southrey and following the blue signs for the Water Rail Way winter route and NCN 1.


 **A** Southrey Wood

- 2**  Turn right (signed Southrey).

- 3** In Southrey cycle past the pub and through the gate and turn left to join the Water Rail Way towards Woodhall Spa. 

Off road:

Approximately 300m from the Heritage Centre turn right along a track (signed Water Rail Way summer route). As you approach woodland (Southrey Wood) turn right (signed Water Rail Way) and follow the track through a gate to join the surfaced path beside the river.

 **B** River Witham and Water Rail Way

Both routes:

Continue along the Water Rail Way to the old station at Stixwoud.

- 4** Immediately after the platform turn left off the Water Rail Way to join a lane.

- 5** Turn left towards Stixwoud village.

At the T-junction in Stixwoud the longer and shorter routes divide.

 **C** Stixwoud

Longer route:

- 6** Turn right (signed Woodhall Spa).

- 7** At next junction turn left (signed Horsington).

 **D** Stixwoud Wood

- 8** Turn right (signed Poolham).

Directions

- 9** At the T-junction turn left (signed Poolham).

- 10** At T-junction turn right (signed Thimbleby).

Turn left (signed Wispington).

- 11** At the crossroads continue straight ahead (signed Minting).

- 12** Turn left (signed Minting).

- 13** Turn right (signed Minting).

 **E** Minting

- 14** At the T-junction turn left (signed Hatton). 

- 15** At the T-junction turn left (signed Gautby).

- 16** At the T-junction turn right (signed Gautby).

- 17** Turn left (signed Bucknall).


There is an off-road detour on tracks and forest rides to Chambers Farm Wood Centre and toilets. Remember the route in as it is the same to return back.

*At **17** continue straight on (signed Bardney). Turn right onto a track after the Old School House. At the end of the track turn left. This section of the route uses a permissive bridleway by kind permission of Mr & Mrs P Kime.*

Enter the wood and keep on the track to a junction with a triangle of trees and bear left to follow the track and the red banded posts to the visitor centre.

You can explore the woodland on your bike but please keep to the surfaced forest roads. Why not park your bike at the centre and stretch your legs?

*Follow the same route back to **17** and turn right (signed Bucknall).*

- 18**  At the T-junction turn right (signed Bardney). Take care, this road can be busier than others on the route.

- 19** At the crossroads in Bardney go straight ahead along Church Lane.

 **F** Bardney


At the T-junction turn left to return to the starting point.

Shorter route:

- 6** Turn left (signed Bucknall).

- 20** At the T-junction turn left (signed Bucknall). Cycle through Bucknall, past the school and village hall.

- 21** Turn right (signed Waddingworth).

- 22**  At the T-junction turn left (signed Bardney). Take care on this busier road.

Cycle through Bardney and join the directions for the longer route at **19**.

Useful Information

Route summary: Longer route: Bardney, Southrey, Stixwoud, Wispington, Minting, Gautby, Bardney. With an off-road option to visit Chambers Farm Wood. Shorter route: Bardney, Southrey, Stixwoud, Bucknall, Bardney.

Route length: Longer route: 33 km (20 ½ miles). Shorter route: 21 km (13 miles).

Route description: Circular, mostly on quiet roads with an off road section (7 ½ km/4 ½ miles or 2 ½ km/1 ½ miles) on the Water Rail Way (National Cycle Network (NCN)1). The route is mostly level.

Starting and finishing point: Bardney Heritage Centre, Station Road. Grid Ref: TF 113 691. Post code: LN3 5UF.

Parking: Please park responsibly in the village.

Shops: Bardney.

Pubs and refreshments: Selection in Bardney; Riverside Inn, Southrey; Sebastopol Inn, Minting.

Cycle hire: Bardney Heritage Centre, Station Road. Opening times: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9.30am to 4pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm. Plus all Bank Holidays and every day during the summer holidays. To check opening times and bike availability call 01526 397299 or email bardneyheritage@btinternet.com. The centre also has a tea room and information on local history.

Ordnance survey maps: Landranger 121 Lincoln & Newark, and 122 Skegness & Horncastle. Explorer 273 Lincolnshire Wolds South.

More information: South Wolds Cycling Map (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk). Water Rail Way Artworks and The Water Rail Way: Bardney to Woodhall Spa leaflets (www.sustrans.org.uk).



The Limewoods Project aims to protect, enhance and promote the Lincolnshire Limewoods area through the Limewoods Partnership. www.limewoods.co.uk

Email: limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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