

10 miles | 15 km

cycle route

8

Sandhills and Windmills

 RIDE WELL

Start - Messingham

Description

A circular route, passing through mainly open countryside on the higher ground of the Trent Valley and the western slope of the Lincoln Edge. The route takes in the attractive villages of Messingham and Manton.

Attractions

The Nature Reserve at Messingham and Twigmoor Woods

Traffic Levels

Moderate except around Messingham



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Our route begins in Messingham, a growing village on the outskirts of Scunthorpe. At the southern end of the High Street, George Dawes, the Victorian Ironmaster, built his house 'Trent Holme' in 1875. Looking more like a factory than a house it originally had a tower from which he could view his Scunthorpe works.

Follow the B1400 (Brigg Road) out of the village, turning south, towards Cleatham, about 1.5km out of the village. Areas of glacial sand extraction dominate this mixed farming landscape. Not too many years ago much of the land in this region was heathland or poor quality grazing but like most North Lincolnshire farming, is now arable. During Roman times kilns were in operation here producing pottery and tiles. The extensive abandoned workings are superb havens for wildlife.

The wood skirting the road has the unusual name of Black Walk Nook and like most local woods was planted during the last century. An attractive public bridleway runs along the northern side to the hillside hamlet of Manton. It is actually a lowland heathland, quite scarce in North Lincolnshire. Areas of woodland are being cleared to allow this heathland to develop.

Follow the signs to Manton, up the quiet hill a short way and then north along the hillside, past the impressive Cleatham Hall.

The tiny hamlet of Manton is in a delightful setting amongst woodland with evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon cremation cemeteries.

At Manor Farm take the signed public bridleway, which will take you through the farmyard and across country for about 1.5km to join the road near Greetwell Hall Farm and the nearby Manton Warren. If you think the path is too rough for cycling you may wish to dismount for this stretch. Cycling west, the road takes you past several recently planted woodlands to the sharp bend to the Twigmoor Side Road near Belle View Farm. This stone covered track, is suited to more sturdy bikes.



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At short detour east up the hill to Greetwell crossroads and north along the busy B1398 for 0.5km takes in Twigmoor Woods. This attractive, rich woodland, is home to a huge variety of fauna and flora. In early summer, there is a spectacular display of rhododendrons and large numbers of dragon fly that breed in the slightly acidic waters of the Twigmoor Lakes.

At Holme Lane the route takes you west, back towards Messingham, along the High Street back to the start.

The grades for cycle rides - **ride easy**, **ride steady**, **ride well** and **ride strong** have been developed by British Cycling to help cyclists to decide whether a particular route is appropriate for their ability and experience.

The routes shown on the N Lincs map have been designed and approved by North Lincolnshire Council and the colour grading system serves only as a guide as to the terrain, duration and nature of the ride.