

10.8km/6 3/4 miles

As you like it

The old Georgian market town of Stamford has more than 600 listed buildings, which Sir Walter Scott proclaimed to be some of the finest between London and Edinburgh, and the town has featured in many television dramas. During this walk you pass Toilethorpe Hall, a 17th-century manor house owned by The Stamford Shakespeare Company, and described as one of the finest open air theatres in Europe. Performances are held here on warm summer evenings.

The walk

- 1 Start** Enter the High Street pedestrian area and turn L into Ironmongers Street. On reaching Broad Street, cross over and, on the L, is the hospital of William Browne. Turn R to see the Stamford museum on the R. You can obtain from here five town trail leaflets as well as explore its many exhibits. Take the next L into Newgates and then go R into East Street, by the Salvation Army citadel. Go under the footbridge to the traffic lights, then bear L along the A6121. Passing the Stamford School you enter St Paul's Street to turn L again at the mini roundabout into Ryhall Road. Cross the road by the hospital and continue along Ryhall Road, beyond the traffic lights, with the industrial site on the R.
- 2 1.4km/ 3/4 mile** Join the Macmillan Way at the end of a brick wall to the R. Cross over a stile by the metal gate and aim half-L, heading for the three telegraph poles. In the

3 hours

meadow corner, cross another stile and footbridge, and follow the waymarker. Over a further stile and you begin to climb to yet another stile, then go L as you reach Newstead Road.

- 3 3.1km/2 miles** Where the road bends to the L, continue ahead by Cobbs Nook Farm, ignoring a path off to the R. Leave the Macmillan Way at the next yellow marker post on the L. Head towards Belmesthorpe, and the two white gable ends of the bungalows, to find a stile and footbridge. Turn L on entering the estate through Castle Rise and go R to the Ryhall down Shepherds Walk, passing the Blue Bell pub which has unusual 'S' shaped wall ties.
- 4 4.1km/2 1/2 miles** Just past the seat by the stream, take the path over the footbridge to the L, go across the field and over a stile with a dog flap. Enter the recreational area via the gate and go into Ryhall. Turn L at the village hall into Church Street and go ahead into Balk Road with Ryhall Manor on the R. Cross the A6121 on to a track with the footprint waymarker.
- 5 5.5km/3 1/2 miles** At first this track follows the stream. At the next yellow topped marker post bear L across a field, away from the stream. Turn L at the hedge, then go immediately R over two stiles to reach a lane.
- 6 6.3km/4 miles** Go straight ahead. Turn L at Toilethorpe Cottage on the gravel track to Toilethorpe Mill. The path runs alongside

moderate

and then behind this building. To your L are the grounds of Toilethorpe Hall, with its open air theatre. This path leaves the stream and crosses a field to rejoin the road at Little Casterton. Turn L to the junction.

- 7 7.4km/4 1/2 miles** Go ahead at the junction, then take the path on the R, over a stile which has a water tap attached. This path follows a line of telegraph poles to Northfields Farm, from where it veers L to Stamford.
- 8 9.3km/5 3/4 miles** On entering the housing estate, turn L into Churchhill Road. Go R at Kingdom Hall into Green Lane, which then changes to Kings Road. At the stop sign, continue ahead into Recreation Ground. Road as far as East Street. Turn R here, by the Warehouse Restaurant. Cross over by the Intec Services building into the Nags Head passage to enter Broad Street. Cross over into Ironmongers Street and return to the start.

DETAILS

Country Walking ID 2497
Mag Route 6, May 2003
Region East of England
Area Lincolnshire
Length of walk 10.8km/6 3/4 miles
Time needed 3 hours
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Mostly wide tracks and footpaths, gentle inclines

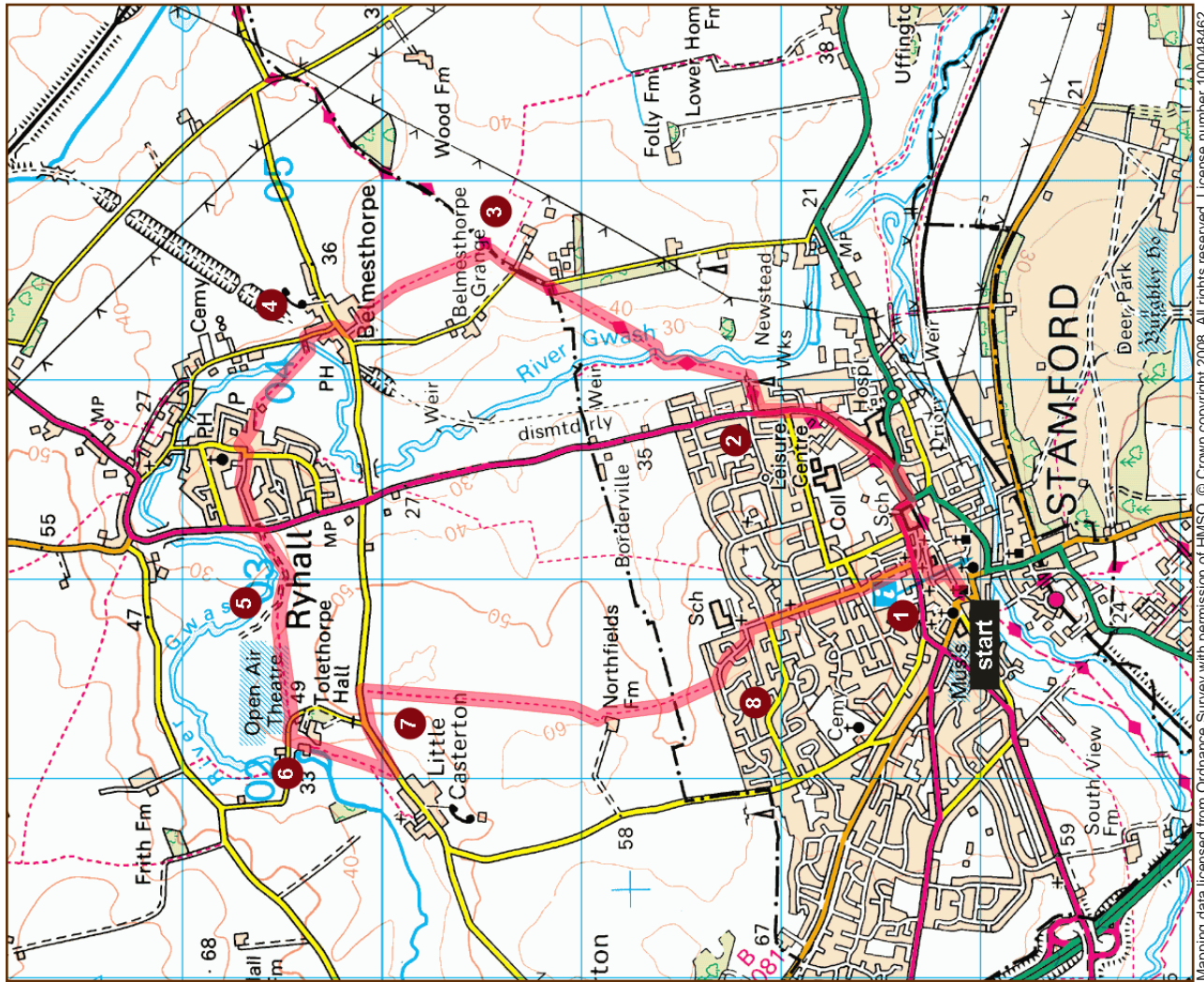
PLANNING
Parking Red Lion Square, Stamford, grid ref TF034075
Start grid ref TF029071
Nearest town Stamford

Refreshments Cafés and pubs in Stamford
Public toilets Just off Red Lion Square
Public transport Bus services, operated by Lincs Road Car from Lincoln; Reliance Travel from Grantham and Delaine Buses from Peterborough. Trains also run to Stamford. For details call Traveline on 0870 608 2608

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 234, Landranger 142

BRIAN HOLMAN



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