

### Bourne Woods

<b>Start:</b>	<i>Car park in Bourne Woods</i>
<b>Nearest Post Code:</b>	<i>PE10 0LF</i>
<b>Grid Ref</b>	<i>TF079203</i>
<b>what3words</b>	<i>burglars.plus.should</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	<i>Five Bells pub, Edenham (mid-point of walk). Check opening hours.</i>
<b>Getting there:</b>	<i>Bourne Woods can be accessed via the A151 Colsterworth Road.</i>
<b>Distance:</b>	<i>7.5 miles / 12 km.</i>
<b>Route Description:</b>	<i>A walk close to the town of Bourne, taking in the picturesque village of Edenham and Bourne Woods, famous for the bluebells in Spring.</i>

#### **The Walk**

Leave the car park by the path running southeast, soon reaching a track where you turn right. Continue, heading south to leave the woodland through gates and reaching a road. Turn right along the pavement and in a short distance, you reach a junction. Bear right for a couple of yards, then cross with care to a footpath sign and stile beyond [A].

Walk ahead, boundary left, crossing a stile and passing woodland on your right and continuing beneath power lines to reach a road. Cross, to a driveway and enter a farmyard, walking ahead to the barns, then onwards, through gates, over stiles and footbridges, and passing woodland on your right [B]. At the end of the wood, cross a footbridge over the East Glen River and bear half-right across the field to pass through a gate on the far side. Continue in the same direction, up the hill and through another gate in the hedge into a further field. Cross this, to a gate in the top corner with a hedge on the right to reach a track.

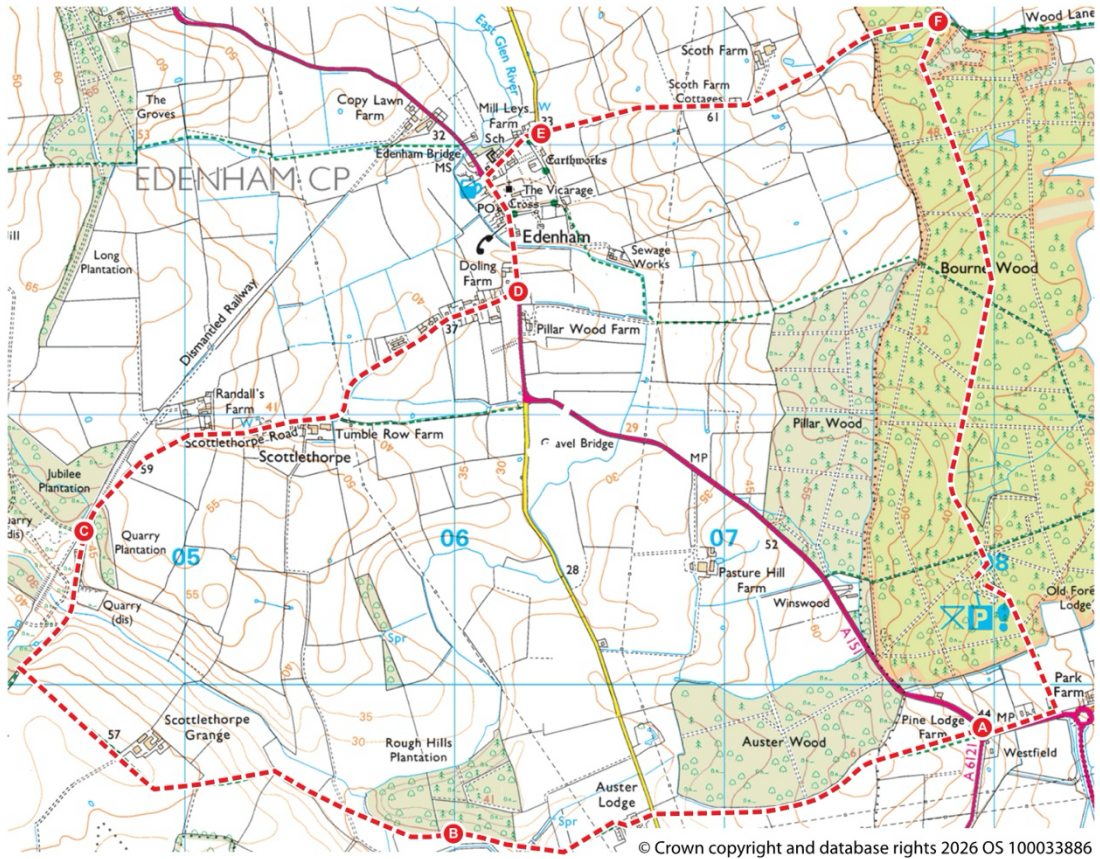
Turn right, following the track and passing Scottlethorpe Grange on the right. Continue to reach a surfaced private road where you turn right, following the road until you reach a track on your left [C]. To your left, beyond the wooden gates, is the course of the Edenham & Little Bytham Railway.

*This was a railway company formed by Lord Willoughby de Eresby, to build a line from the Great Northern Railway at Little Bytham to Edenham, serving the villages of Edenham and Grimsthorpe and also Grimsthorpe Castle, his Lordship's home in Lincolnshire. The railway was originally constructed between 1851 and 1853 as a road and a traction engine was built to haul wagons. Adhesion problems and steep gradients led to an experimental conversion of short stretches to a wooden tramway, and it was decided in March 1855 to convert the entire line to a standard gauge railway, which was completed in 1856. The E&LBR worked the line as the GNR refused to operate it, opening in December 1857, but struggled, with passenger services being particularly unprofitable. These ceased in October 1871, because the locomotives were worn out and the company could not afford to replace them. A freight service of sorts lingered on using horse traction until 1884, when the line closed.*

Continue now on the public road to reach the hamlet of Scottlethorpe, and ahead for about a mile, to reach the main road [D]. Cross to the opposite pavement and walk left into Edenham village and Church Lane on your right, where the cedar tree growing in the churchyard and overhanging the main road is thought to be over 150 years old. Continue, passing the church on your right, then turn right into School Lane, just before the Five Bells pub (a possible refreshment stop). Beyond Church Lane on the right, bear right as the road swings left [E] and walk uphill to reach Scoth Farm, where you cross a cattle grid and follow a bridleway onwards, boundary right, and ignoring the track soon going right. Cross into the following field and keep to the right boundary as you approach woodland.

You are now entering Bourne Wood, so continue ahead until you reach a wide forest track [F] where you turn right. Easy walking for a little over a mile now as you follow the track, ignoring turnings right and left to arrive back at the car park and your transport.

*There has been a woodland on the site of Bourne Wood since at least 1086, when Bourne Wood was recorded on the Domesday Book. The Forestry Commission now encourage a natural re-generation of trees and the woodland remains an area for wildlife and for the people of Bourne for recreation.*



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