



# Poacher Line

CITY • COUNTRY • COAST

## ANCASTER TO SLEAFORD

### 3 ¼ hour walk

Starting from Ancaster Railway Station, this walk passes through the attractive countryside between Amcaster and Sleaford, taking in the pretty village of South Rauceby along the way.

**EMR**



**Lincolnshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Working for a better future*

 Department  
for Transport

**LNER**  
LONDON NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

**crosscountry**  
by arriva

  
Community Rail  
Accredited Partnership  
2019-20



# ANCASTER TO SLEAFORD



## Poacher Line

CITY • COUNTRY • COAST



### START

**Ancaster Railway Station, Station Approach**

Public carpark at Sleaford Railway Station and carparks in Sleaford town.

### WALK LOCATION

**Ancaster is situated between Grantham and Sleaford**

Grid Reference: SK 983 443

### WALK LENGTH

**10 ½ km (6 ½ miles) - Up to 3 ¼ hours to complete**

The walk uses surfaced/un-surfaced paths and quiet lanes, which may be muddy and uneven in places.

### REFRESHMENTS

**There's plenty of choice in Ancaster and Sleaford**

The Ermine Way public house, Railway Inn, Post Office and Ancaster Stores in Ancaster. The Bustard Inn in South Rauceby and facilities in Sleaford town centre.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### TRAIN TIMES

National Rail Enquiries

Tel: 03457 484950

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

East Midlands Railway

Tel: 03457 125678

[www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk)

#### BUS INFORMATION

Lincolnshire County Council

[lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel)

[Lincsbuses.info](http://Lincsbuses.info)

[Traveline.info](http://Traveline.info)

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist information Centre

Tel: 01522 526450

[www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)

For guided walks throughout the year, please visit **[poacherline.org.uk](http://poacherline.org.uk)**



Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership



@poacherline

# ANCASTER TO SLEAFORD



## Poacher Line

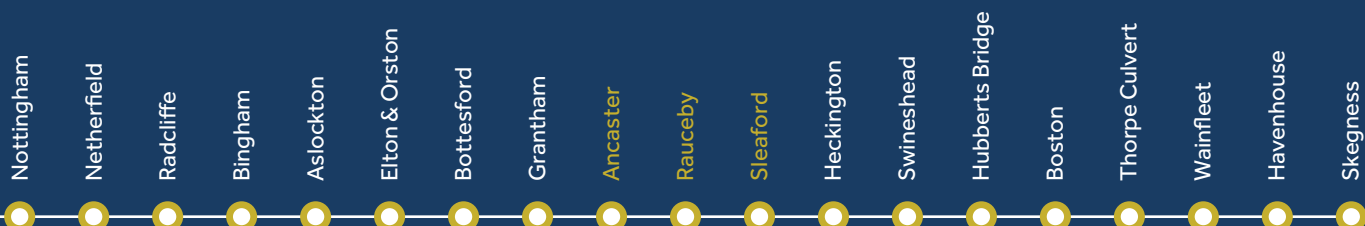
CITY • COUNTRY • COAST

### MAP & DIRECTIONS

**Please note:** All our walks can be done in the reverse direction if required



## Nottingham to Skegness Take the Poacherline



For guided walks throughout the year, please visit [poacherline.org.uk](http://poacherline.org.uk)



# ANCASTER TO SLEAFORD



## Poacher Line

CITY • COUNTRY • COAST

- 1** From Ancaster railway station walk down Station Approach road, past the old warehouses, to the Railway Inn and Ermine street.

Cross the road with care and walk along the footpath directly opposite, parallel to the railway embankment.

As you enter the corner of a field bear left and follow the hedgeline to the field corner and road.

- 2** Turn right and follow the road for approximately 800m (½ mile) to a footpath on the left.

- 3** Bear right across the field to the left hand corner of the copse. Walk through the gap in the hedge and carry on in the same direction, diagonally across the field to a way mark and a gap in the hedge.

Look out for the silver birch trees in the copse. Easily recognised by their silvery-white bark and drooping branches, this attractive tree is often called the lady of the woods.

Turn right and follow the hedgeline. Just before the woodland follow the path through a gap in the hedge to carry on in the same direction, but on the other side of the wood.

At the corner of the wood and fields bear diagonally left across the field, heading towards the right hand corner of the wood on the skyline to meet a farm track.

It is worth stopping for a minute and turning around to admire the view. The spire of Ancaster church can be seen in the middle distance.

- 4** Turn left along the track and follow it as it heads across the field. Halfway across the field bear left, off the track, and follow the footpath to the hedge. Climb the steps through the hedge, cross the drive to a gap in the stone wall, through a small copse and over another wall. Carry on in the same direction to the corner of the field and road.

- 5** Turn right and follow the road for approximately 700m before turning right along the footpath and driveway. Walk past the house and turn left after the gate, then follow the hedgeline. Climb the stile and bear right across parkland, to the corner of a stone wall.

Turn right and cross a driveway, then follow the fenceline along the edge of the field. Just before the bottom of the field, follow the waymark, and turn left to cross the field, then leave it by the gate below the old mill to join the road.

This tower mill is dated to 1841 and worked by wind until the early 1930s. It was then engine powered before being converted into a house in the 1940s.

- 6** Turn left and after approximately 120m, just before the bus shelter, turn right along a footpath beside a driveway. Walk between a fence and hedge to enter a field. Bear left downhill across the field and then between two houses.

Leave the cul-de-sac and turn left. At the T-junction turn right along Rauceby Drive and then almost immediately turn left along Pinfold Lane.

On the left are views of Rauceby Hall and park. The park and gardens are registered and the Hall is a listed building. The Hall was built in 1842 by William Burn in the Tudor Gothic style.

- 7** As Pinfold Lane turns right, continue straight on along the track and after approximately 20m turn right onto a footpath through a copse.

Follow the path through the wooded area and old quarry and past a metal sculpture to emerge in a field at the junction of two footpaths.

Called 'In the Field' the metal sculpture is based on the layout of the fields around the village, and X marks the position of the sculpture. Included is an image of a bustard. The last bustard in Lincolnshire is said to have been shot in Rauceby, hence the village pub's name, The Bustard Inn.

Follow the left hand path along the field edge. Continue on this path along the edge of two more fields and past the poultry buildings. The path then meets with another path, but continue in the same direction taking the path between a hedge and paddock to a quarry.

Through the quarry continue straight on the path that runs across the poultry field to a field edge and to the junction of two paths.

Continue in the same direction, on the right hand path, across the middle of the field to the bank of the river Slea. Turn left and follow the path along the river to the A15 road.

The river is not very wide at this point but is still home to a variety of wildlife. Look out for a heron fishing in the river. Herons nest in colonies, known as heronries, in large trees and use the same nest year after year.

- 8** Cross this very busy road with care. Carry on walking along the river bank into Sleaford, a distance of approximately 1.6 km (1 mile).

- 9** At the junction with Castle Causeway turn right and follow the roadside path. Walk past the play area and site of Sleaford castle.

Just before the rail crossing, turn left and follow the footpath beside the railway line to return to the station or town centre.

# ANCASTER TO SLEAFORD



## Poacher Line

CITY • COUNTRY • COAST

### Poacher Line Railway Walks

This linear walk links Ancaster and Sleaford railway stations on the southern Lincolnshire edge. The 78 miles of railway line between Nottingham and Skegness is known as the Poacher Line and is a community rail line/service. Community rail lines aim to involve local people in the development and running of local and rural routes, services and stations.

This is one of five linear walks linking stations on the Poacher Line. If you have enjoyed this walk why not try the others:

1) Radcliffe to Nottingham	10½ km	(6½ miles)
2) Bottesford to Aslockton	10 km	(6 miles)
3) Grantham to Bottesford	15 km	(9½ miles)
4) Ancaster to Sleaford	10½ km	(6½ miles)
5) Skegness to Wainfleet	12 km	(7½ miles)

This leaflet is produced by the Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership and supported by; Lincolnshire County Council, Community Rail Network, East Midlands Railway, CrossCountry, London North Eastern Railway and the Department of Transport.

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

**Most of all enjoy  
your visit to the  
countryside!**

Lincolnshire County Council have a series of walk leaflets produced by the Countryside Access Team to help you explore and enjoy the county's countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website: [lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside)

If you would like to request a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format or a different language please contact Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access Team: **Tel: 01522 782070**  
**Email: [countryside\\_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk)**

For guided walks throughout the year, please visit **[poacherline.org.uk](http://poacherline.org.uk)**

