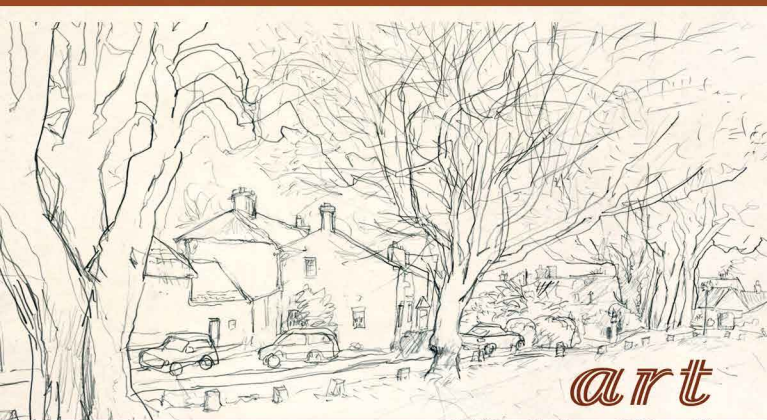


Nocton

A VILLAGE TRAIL GUIDE



Park Farm, The Green - Cliff Baxendale



Trees at Nocton - Suzi Stevens



Nocton Hall - Vivian Cameron

Welcome



In addition, the artwork used to illustrate this guide was created by local artists during a 'sketchcrawl'. Why not bring your own art materials and have a go yourself?

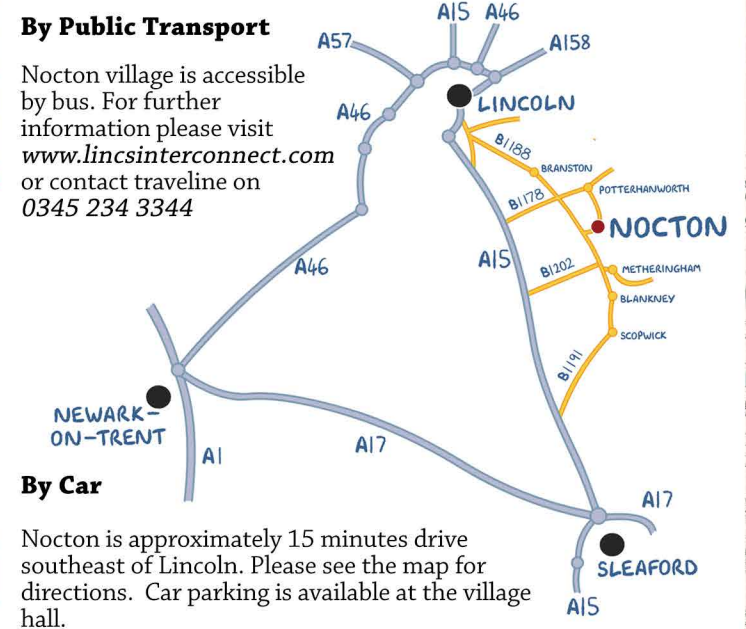


Nocton Hall - Cliff Baxendale

Church Detail - Jane Haigh

Getting Here and Acknowledgements

Please allow between one and two hours for your visit to the trail. To discover more of the arts and heritage of North Kesteven visit www.spiresandsteeples.com for more trails.



By Public Transport
Nocton village is accessible by bus. For further information please visit www.lincsinterconnect.com or contact traveline on 0345 234 3344

By Car
Nocton is approximately 15 minutes drive southeast of Lincoln. Please see the map for directions. Car parking is available at the village hall.

Acknowledgement and thanks is given to Carol Bennett. Many of the historical references in this trail guide come directly from or rely heavily upon her original guide book text.

Thanks is also given to the local artists who contributed their artwork to illustrate this guide.


Cliff Baxendale	Vivian Cameron
Jane Haigh	Audrey von Lintzgy
Barbara Robson	Margaret Smith
Suzi Stevens	



The trail begins at the Village Hall.

- On leaving the car park, look to your right. You will see:
1. A cast iron way marker, the first of three sited around the village. This was designed by residents to reference its rural character.
 2. Turning left and at the corner of Wellhead Lane is a carved oak marker depicting a tiny wren.
 3. Looking up Wellhead Lane on the left is a row of workers' cottages, Ten Row, built by the First Marquis of Rippon in around 1878.
 4. On the corner immediately opposite is a marker depicting a Victorian post box which marks the site of the old post office, dated 1833.
 5. The Old Post Office was originally built by the first Earl of Ripon as a Poor House in 1833 before becoming the village Post Office in the early 1900s.
 6. On the fence to the right of the drive is another village trail cast iron way marker.
 7. On the opposite side of the road, on the far side of the beck, is a small mosaic depicting toadstools.
 8. Continuing down Main Street, on the right is a roundel depicting Sir George Gilbert Scott, the main architect of the Parish Church, Nocton School and the next row of cottages on the left.
 9. These 4 cottages are called Ripon Row and were designed around 1860 in the Gothic Revival style. Continue down the road. At the next bend, on the opposite side of the road, is the entrance to Nocton Hall Drive where you will return later.
 10. Follow the main road to the left past a third cast iron marker and pause at the entrance to the drive leading up to a white house. This is the remains of Manor Farm.
 11. Some of the farm buildings can also be seen. Next to this farm was once a public house called "The Silent Woman". Apparently, the Inn sign depicted a "headless woman"!

12. Further along the road, at the corner with Potterhanworth Road and to the right of the first cottage, is a path which runs through the estate, formerly housing RAF personnel. This path leads on to the track passing down to the Roman Car Dyke on the village boundary. At the entrance to the passage is a metal trail marker devised from pinhole camera photographs taken by villagers. If you look carefully inside you may be able to see local scenes.
13. About 100 meters further along Potterhanworth Road is a village sign depicting the long agricultural history of the village.
14. Returning to the entrance to the Hall grounds, on the corner of the Avenue and next to the beck, is a mosaic way marker of a frog, referencing the water and wildlife the beck attracts.
15. If you walk up the Avenue, at the corner of the school playing field you will see a large roundel depicting a Roman Legionnaire referencing the Village's Roman connection (The Car Dyke is the second longest remaining Roman feature in the country after Hadrian's Wall). Many Roman artifacts have been found in the village. There is archeological evidence of a farm in the field at the top of Wellhead Lane.
16. On returning to the entrance to the Hall grounds, on your right you will see the Lodge (Gatehouse), built in 1867 as a bequest of the Countess of Ripon. Walking up the drive, you will pass another iron way marker.
17. Before coming to the Garden House (next to the beck). This is the original site of the cottage garden which supplied much of the food for the Hall's residents.
18. There are a number of large fir trees beside the road. These are trees native to North America. The interesting feature is their soft bark. This is nature's way of preserving the core of the tree from wild fires.
19. Walking up the drive past the Garden House there is the former Head Groom's House and behind it are the old stables which are out of sight behind the Cottage Residential Home. This building was the Motor Transport Section of RAF Nocton Hospital. During WWII the Hall and its buildings were used as part of a large American Army Hospital. At the end of the war it became an RAF hospital. The buildings added during and after the war are all now in a sad state of repair.

20. Turn left up the drive that leads to the Main Hall. On the left, before the Cottage Residential House, there is an ancient Horse Chestnut tree. Tradition has it that it was planted by Katherine Howard when she visited the Hall with Henry VIII in 1541. But, it has been pointed out that Horse Chestnuts were not introduced into England until sometime later. It is possible that this tree is a direct descendant of one of those first imports. Our tree does appear on an estate map of 1809.
- 
- Yew Tree Avenue**
21. Next to the tree is the derelict Nocton Hall. Carol Bennett, who wrote the original Trail Guide, points out that Nocton Hall has been twice destroyed by fire. The Latin plaque on the north wall tells the story up to the construction of the present house in 1841. It states that the house was built in the reign of Henry VIII, and was added to in 1680 by Sir William Ellis and again by George (later Earl of Buckinghamshire) in 1780. Finally, Frederick John, Earl of Ripon, who married the daughter of Robert, Earl of Buckinghamshire, inherited it. It was he who built it anew on the same site in 1841 after it had been consumed by fire in 1830. A newspaper account tells us that the date was 1834, rather than 1830, and was caused by a rook's nest catching fire in one of the chimneys. The second fire was caused by arson in October 2004. The interior of the main room featured a superbly carved marble fireplace, crystal chandeliers and an oak paneled staircase. After the United States Air Force last used the building in 1991 the Ministry of Defence sold the site and its sad decline began.
 22. In the area in front of the house there is a fine example of a Georgian ice house.
 23. Walk back down to where the drive turns up to the Hall. With your back to the main house look left and you will see a grass path going across the field opposite; this common footpath leads to an arched gate at the end of the Yew Avenue. Before going through the gateway look through the trees on your right. You will see the back of the Pheasantry.

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The Nocton Village Trail begins and ends in the Village Hall car park. Parking is available here.

Please remember that the majority of the historic buildings on the trail are private properties and should only be viewed from the public paths.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

24. If you look carefully you will see a trompe l'oeil painting covering the back of the 17th century house. The doorway and windows are painted to deceive the eye, creating a false impression of grandeur.

25. Walk down the Yew Avenue and you will be greeted by the Parish Church of All Saints, Nocton.

26. Sir George Gilbert Scott was the architect for this majestic example of a gothic revival building. His other notable works include The Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens and the Midland Grand Hotel at St. Pancras station. The Earl and Countess of Ripon commissioned its building and was constructed to replace the church of 1775. The Earl, who was briefly Britain's Prime Minister, died in 1859. The Countess died in 1867 but their son, Marquis of Ripon and Earl de Grey, completed it in 1872. There are some wonderfully decorated motifs and panels inside. There is an interesting image of a WWI tank displayed in one window.

27. A lenticular sculpture honors the men of Nocton who died serving their country in WWII.

28. The path leading up to the North door was designed and made by the villagers of Nocton. The design motifs of the pebble mosaics reflect the patterns of those on the Victorian interior. Sixty two villagers constructed the mosaics and they are commemorated in panels set in the borders along the path. The Bishop of Lincoln formally dedicated the path on 23rd August 2004. It was later selected as a finalist in the ACE/RIBA Awards for Religious Architecture 2005.

29. In the church yard there is a gravestone on the East Wall dedicated to Group Captain Gilbert Insall, an airman who won the VC and MC in France in 1917.

30. On returning to the road you will see a silver marker opposite to the gate and a trail map.

31. Turn left out of the gate and immediately on the right is Nocton Community Primary School designed by Scott and completed in 1869. The schoolmaster lived in the two storied part of the building.

32. Park Farm, on the top left hand side of The Green, has a rich history and, until a recent conversion, the block to the east was the hosteller's accommodation. It also seems likely that there was once a mill based on the site since original millstones can be seen as part of the back step from the garden in to the house.

33. Outside the entrance to the drive is a marker made by the members of Nocton Art Group. This design is based on a Lincolnshire Longwool Sheep. For many years one of the local landowners, Mr Chris Howard, used to win prizes at the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show for producing fine examples of this famous breed.

34. Opposite, on the corner of the Green, is the Queen's Jubilee Sundial. This was conceived by Cliff Baxendale, a local resident. It contains the historical theme of "Then and Now". The hour plaques set in the ground range from 7am – 7pm, each plaque representing an event from the village's history.

The dandelion flower symbolizes time passing and the seed head represents the seeds of our future. As the shadow passes over the plaques it reminds us of our past history. To commemorate the Queen's Jubilee the surnames of the families living in the village on 2nd June 2002 are etched in a spiral design.

35. The two stone cottages backing onto The Green have an unusual asymmetrical roof structure and corner buttresses. They are a good example of rural Victorian architecture. On the stone gatepost of the first cottage there is a mosaic marker.

36. On the extreme right of the stone wall in front of the Manor House (immediately opposite Park Farm) there is another marker depicting oxen ploughing their long ridge furrows found in the fields of the 12-14th century. There are 2 fields left in the village where the remains of this type of ploughing can be seen.

37. Behind the wall in the garden is the Manor House. The Regency front is a later addition to a house which appears on a map dated 1776. Despite the name however, the only true Manor House is the great Hall built by Lord Ripon.

38. Walking up the road on the right is Saffron Barn, then Hall Barn. These were originally part of Hall Farm.

39. On the left is Wray's Yard. If you look at the gable end of No 1 Wray's Yard you will see the date 1913 and the letter "H" for Norman Hodgson who owned the estate at that time. Numbers 1 and 2 were originally a large stable block for work horses. The large converted barn and Wray's Cottage opposite, made out of three old cottages, were all connected to Park Farm.

40. On the corner of the entrance wall to Wray's Yard you will see a plaque depicting the "Light Railway". This system operated throughout the estate from 1926 to the 1960s. The track and trains were originally used to transport munitions for the front in WWI. It is affectionately known as the Lincolnshire Potato Railway. It originally ran through the 10,000 acres of the Smiths Estate linking the fields growing potatoes with connections to the main line railway station.

41. Walk to the corner of the main road. On the left is a picturesque pair of gabled cottages with oriel windows. Next to them is Bridle Path Cottage one of the oldest houses in the village. In the early 20th century it was called Carpenter's Farm and the outbuildings were let to a Mr Noble who was the wheelwright.

42. Turn left down the bridle path, to the right of the barn gate is a mosaic marker of a mouse.

43. Across the bridle path was the estate farriers where the estate's horses were shod until the 1950's. This is now part of the house called "Shooter's Lodge" where shooting parties used to meet before and after a shoot.

44. Turn down the bridle path and on the wall just past Wheelwright Barn you will see the black and white cow which was designed by Nocton school children in 2002. There are 7 different pieces of old farm machinery which were used to make this delightful piece of art. The cow was chosen by the children to represent the village's farming heritage.

45. At the far end of the same wall is a small mosaic plaque of a snail, another reference to our local flora and fauna.

46. At the bridle path junction you can clearly see the ridges and furrows of ancient ploughing.

47. The row of cottages opposite, with the Post Office on the corner is called "The Old Ten Row" and is dated 1841 on the central pediment. In the 1891 census 12 families lived here.

48. Halfway along the row is a carved oak bench which is standing on a mosaic. These artworks are on the site of the old water pump. Water was still being drawn from it for use by these cottages until the early 1950s. A brass marker commemorates the pump. The bench was carved from an old oak tree taken down when the A46 was widened. A number of villagers spent a year carving the plants and animals. The cat was Kay's pet and lived at number 2. The bulrushes link the bench with the mosaic water feature and the mosaic fish represent those caught in the lake and eaten by the monks of Nocton Priory on Fridays.

49. Walk up the road, past the row of cottages set back from the road, and you will come to Embassy House, named after the Ripon's other estate in the old West Riding of Yorkshire. In 1917 the house was a convalescent home for US Army Officers.

50. Across the road up on the left is the village sign, designed and made by Cliff Baxendale. The sign was made to represent the village's purpose as a farming community. In the background is the Parish Church which stands as a reminder of the village's heritage and history

51.Returning back to the Village Hall car park on the corner of the Post Office wall, there is a mosaic of a Saxon warrior. This commemorates the Saxon Lords who were the landowners before the Norman Conquest.

This brings you to the end of the Nocton Village Trail.

