

Rimac Nature Reserve

Start:	Rimac car park, off the A1031
Nearest Post Code:	LN11 7TS
Grid Ref	TF467917
what3words	bats.surely.epidemics
Refreshments	None
Getting there:	Lane to car park is signed on a bend of the A1031 near Saltfleetby St Clement.
Distance:	3.9 miles / 6km
Route Description:	A walk for nature-lovers. An early morning walk at the beginning of May should guarantee sound and often sight of a cuckoo, as well as numerous warblers recently returned from foreign climes. In winter, look for merlin and peregrine flashing across the saltmarsh. A level walk with just a couple of stiles, and these can be avoided.

The Walk

From the car park at Rimac, enter the reserve through the gate by the information board and turn right.

Rimac is named after a sailing brig that went aground off North Somercotes on December 12th, 1874. It's thought the brig itself was named after the Rimac River in Peru. The grass-covered sand dunes soon passed on your left, developed on a storm beach and are thought to have formed in the 7th to 8th centuries.

Follow the path, boundary right, until you arrive at a junction [A], with a track right and ahead, and path left. Go left on this sandy path, soon reaching a pond on the left with a gate right. If you wanted a shorter walk, continue along the track to reach the beach [C].

The walk continues through the gate, following a meandering path through the nature reserve and exiting to a track where you go left.

In a short distance, you reach the Churchill Lane car park [B] and from the far side, you take the path going left through the dunes to the beach. Turn left and walk with the dunes and bushes left to reach a path on the left – this is where the shortcut emerges [C].

Continue, keeping close to the bushes on the left – don't wander seaward – eventually reaching another path on the left [D]. Following this will lead you straight back to your starting point, however, there is useful seating and information boards just a few yards along this path.

The flora of the saltmarsh changes throughout the seasons; in July and August, flowers of the sea lavender create a haze of purple looking across the marsh. Around the same time, common glasswort, also known as 'Marsh Samphire' grows in the wetter parts of the marsh – the 'sea asparagus' on the menu of up-market restaurants. Sea-purslane is also edible; found on the upper areas of the marsh, it is so prolific at Rimac that it is often overlooked, even when it is displaying its tiny golden flowers in late summer. The handsome purple and yellow sea aster flowers well into the autumn, so provides a valuable source of nectar for late-flying butterflies. The seed heads are a favourite of the goldfinch and tinkling flocks can be seen moving from site to site across the marsh.

If you are happy to continue, walk on for another half-mile to the next opening and here, go left to reach Sea View car park. Take the signed path left, with the Lincs Wildlife Trust workshops on the right [E] and follow it, going right with the fence.

From here, all routes lead back to your starting point, but the best views are to be had by following a narrow path that climbs the dunes to a viewpoint. Beyond, descend the steps and through the gate to pick up the path right to your transport.

The ridge of dunes you have just traversed developed in the mid-1800s following the diversion of the Great Eau. It's interesting to see just how far the tideline has moved over the centuries.

