

The Lindsey Loop

**A 105 mile walk through the Lincolnshire
Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**In eight stages with an alternative route
ending**

Brett Collier



Revised 2018

The Lindsey Loop

A 105 mile walk through the Lincolnshire Wolds
described by

Brett Collier

With Additional Notes



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Revised 2018
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The Lindsey Loop

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With grateful thanks to all Ramblers members who have reconnoitered sections or led group walks over the Lindsey Loop and with special thanks to members of Lincoln Group who revised the instructions for the whole route in 2004 and again in 2018.

Cover Picture

Heading towards Rossville Farm, Swaby just past High Barn, on the Louth to Alford section of the Lindsey Loop.

Maps and sketches drawn by Brett Collier

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Lincoln Group of The Ramblers has been responsible for producing, financing and distributing this book with considerable financial assistance from the East Midlands Awards for All programme.

The Lincoln Group of The Ramblers

At the time of publication there are ten Ramblers groups in Lincolnshire with 300 members in the Lincoln Group alone. If you enjoy walking in good company, the area offers well over seven hundred organized rambles each year, not all within Lincolnshire. In 2018, Lincoln Group had 150 rambles in their walk programme. The Ramblers is a voluntary organisation which promotes rambling, protects public rights of way, campaigns for access to open countryside and defends the beauty of the countryside.



Lincoln Group of The Ramblers

The Lindsey Loop

The late Jim Cook, one-time Footpath Officer of Lincoln Group of The Ramblers had the original idea of creating the Lindsey Loop in 1983. Various routes were explored by stout-hearted ramblers during the following year, often with great difficulty for, at that time, a very large number of our public rights of way were inevitably ploughed out and subsequently obstructed by crops for year after year. Tragically Jim was run down and killed by an overtaking car one night when walking home from Cherry Willingham. This book is a tribute to his initiative and work on behalf of The Ramblers.

Finding the Route

The detailed instructions for the route may seem unnecessarily tedious and indeed, we rather hope they are and that such detail proves to be quite unnecessary because the line of the path is perfectly obvious on the ground – as the law of the land requires. MP Sir Edward Leigh's Rights of Way Act, 1990 came about because he was invited by Stan Knafler to walk with Lincoln Group in the Faldingworth area and discovered for himself the state of public rights of way in his constituency. As a direct result of that act, all public rights of way should now be clearly defined to their minimum width throughout all seasons of the year.

Always attempt to follow the correct line of any public right of way and please remember that you are not doing anything wrong in doing so. To do otherwise only leads to confusion by later walkers trying to discover the route and may lead to a landowner charging you with being nowhere near the public right of way.

Countryside Officers cannot be everywhere and it is helpful if you could report any obstruction encountered en-route to Countryside Services, Environment & Economy, Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street, Lincoln, LN1 1XX, giving them the path number, parish and map reference if at all possible. There ought not to be any

INTRODUCTION

obstructions, for the route has been available for over 35 years. This publication has been discussed with the County Council with route maps supplied long in advance of publication.

Remember that grass is a crop and try to keep in single file when crossing a meadow. Leave all gates as you find them. Farmers are concerned about litter and possible danger to livestock, therefore leave the countryside better than you found it by collecting a piece of litter en-route. This will make you feel virtuous, it enhances the reputation of walkers as responsible visitors to the countryside and ensures a welcome for others who come after you.

Gaps, Gates and Stiles

You will see many references to 'gaps', 'gates' and 'stiles' in this book. Although they are correct at the time of printing, please remember that the countryside is forever changing and evolving so don't be surprised if you come across any of these features which are not as described.

Maps

The sketch maps provided are adequate for the purpose of each walk but an Ordnance Survey map will greatly increase the pleasure and interest you gain from being on foot in the countryside. Landranger and Explorer maps will tell you more about the immediate vicinity and help you to identify distant features – a steeple on the horizon and its village, the height of a hill, where the stream goes or the name of a wood and how far away.

Preparation

Have a thought to being properly clothed and shod, for although Lincolnshire is Lowland Britain, field paths may be muddy and rough underfoot, so stout walking shoes or boots are sensible precaution, as is some kind of wet weather clothing. It is important that you have sufficient provisions to see you through to the end of your walk, for a number of village stores originally noted have now closed and some pubs may not be open at lunchtimes or on certain days.

Our Aim

The aim of the book is to provide you with hours of good walking in exploring little frequented countryside and villages plus the satisfaction of achievement in completing the Lindsey Loop and earning the right to apply for an anorak/rucksack badge. These may be obtained from:

Lincoln Ramblers
Email: lincolnramblers@gmail.com

Distances

The Lindsey Loop is a 114-mile long-distance recreational walk located largely in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It links six market towns in East and West Lindsey. It is divided into eight sections with a choice of the final section from Donington on Bain being either to Louth or Market Rasen, or complete both sections to complete the double loop.

INTRODUCTION

The nine sections are:

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| One | Market Rasen to Caistor | 10.8 miles |
| Two | Caistor to East Ravendale | 11.8 miles |
| Three | East Ravendale to Louth | 13 miles |
| Four | Louth to Alford | 16.8 miles |
| Five | Alford to Spilsby | 8.7 miles |
| Six | Spilsby to Horncastle | 13.2 miles |
| Seven | Horncastle to Donington on Bain | 15.4 miles |
| Eight | Donington on Bain to Louth and | 13 miles |
| Nine | Donington on Bain to Market Rasen | 11.9 miles |

A more interesting way

Anyone can take the road
Or path that's trodden every day.
But come with me and I will show
A more interesting way!

Listen to the silence!
Walk a while, then stay.
Forget the man-made and I will show
A more interesting way.

Anon

INTRODUCTION

| Mileage | Places on route | Cafes | Shops | Inns | Accommodation | Railway Station | Bus | |
|---|---|-----------------|-------|------|---------------|-----------------|-----|---|
| ↓ 11 ½ ↓ 12 13 ½ ↓ 16 ½ ↓ 9 ½ ↓ 14 ↓ 15 ↓ 13 | MARKET RASEN | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| | Claxby | | | | | | | |
| | Nettleton | | ● | ● | | | ● | |
| | CAISTOR | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| | Rothwell | | | ● | | | | |
| | EAST RAVENDALE | | | | | | | |
| | LOUTH | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| | Little Cawthorpe | | | ● | | | | |
| | Burwell | | | | | | | |
| | South Thoresby | | | | | | | |
| | ALFORD | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| | Skendleby | | | ● | | | | |
| | Partney | | ● | ● | | | ● | |
| | SPILSBY | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| | Hundleby | | | ● | | | | |
| | Raithby | | | ● | | | ● | |
| | Winceby | | ● | | | | | |
| | High Toynton | | | | | | ● | |
| | 14 | HORNCastle | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| | ↓ | Market Stainton | | | | | | ● |
| 15 | DONINGTON on BAIN | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| ↓ | Welton le Wold | | | | | | | |
| 13 | LOUTH | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| 105 | Note: At East Ravendale and Swaby arrangements can be made to and from overnight accommodation with advanced notice | | | | | | | |
| ↓ 11 | DONINGTON on BAIN | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| | Hainton | | | ● | | | ● | |
| 103 | MARKET RASEN | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Traveline Public Transport information 08712002233 Web: www.traveline.info | | | | | | | | |

MARKET RASEN TO CAISTOR

Walk Description

A fine introduction to the Lindsey Loop with contrasting walking through woodland, over arable fields and along the base of an attractive ridge leading to an ancient hill fort of the early Britons that later became the Roman town of Caistor

Distance

10.8 miles

Time

5 hours with a lunch stop en route

OS Maps

Landranger Sheet 113

Explorer Sheet 282

Grimsby and Cleethorpes

Lincolnshire Wolds North

Starting Place

Market Rasen Market Square

Map Ref TF 107 892

Finishing Place

Caistor Market Square

Map Ref TF 119 013

How to Get There

A631 Grimsby – Louth Road goes through Market Rasen town

A46 Lincoln – Grimsby Road now bypasses Market Rasen Middle Rasen. Follow signposts to the town centre

Bus route Traveline Information Tel: 08712002233
Web: www.traveline.info

Parking

Pay and Display parking in John Street car park. Toilet block.

Accommodation and Food

Overnight accommodation is available in Caistor.

En route: The Salutation Inn, Nettleton.
Tel: Caistor (01472) 851228. Bar meals.

Route Description

1 Walk from the marketplace through the iron gates leading to the parish church and follow the tarmac path round on the left of the church. Cross over the main road and turn RIGHT with the River Rase below you on the left and the award-winning development of Church Mill across the river. Bear RIGHT and turn LEFT up Church Street past Granary Court. Turn LEFT at Waterloo Street and continue under the railway bridge to arrive at the T-junction with Walesby Road. Turn LEFT here and, after 350 yards, turn LEFT again off the road on to the good track known as Gatehouse Lane.

2 Walk down and cross at the first railway crossing, turn LEFT and then RIGHT over the bridge. Follow the Green Lane keeping the hedge on your left to turn RIGHT again at a FP, down to your second crossing of the railway. After this crossing turn LEFT to follow the good track just inside the wood edge. Keep STRAIGHT ON through the muddy patch and into denser woodland ignoring a footpath on the left. On reaching the motorable track turn LEFT over the Nova Scotia bridge.

3 Keep STRAIGHT ON after crossing the bridge, follow the track around to the RIGHT to reach Walesby Road, ignoring all side paths. At the lane, turn RIGHT down to the railway crossing and then immediately LEFT on signposted FP115 with the railway line on your left. Continue along the edge of the second field for about 80 yards after crossing a footbridge.

4 By the last tree on your left, turn DIAGONALLY RIGHT away from the railway across the field, aiming towards the white house in Claxby village with the road up Claxby Hill behind it. The public right of way is clearly defined and my route details may be quite unnecessary. Do not aim for prominent house on the hill or the white house over on the left.

MARKET RASEN TO CAISTOR

5 On reaching the lane, after crossing the stout bridge over the wide drain, turn RIGHT on the lane towards Claxby village and follow the lane around bends to turn LEFT at the signposts. At the next sharp right-hand bend by the Anglian Water pumping station, walk STRAIGHT FORWARD through the field gate to a kissing gate on to the permissive holloway leading to the church, which must have been used for generations. The large mound on the right was once an Ice House. It is a good place for an apple stop by St Mary's Church. Continue STRAIGHT ON past the church to the T-junction to turn LEFT passing the Viking Way Hostel on your right.

6 About 600 yards beyond the Viking Hostel, turn RIGHT off the lane on a signposted FP114, over a grassy culvert and proceed DIAGONALLY LEFT following way marker with farm buildings obscured by a hedge on your left. Go through gates on either side of the track. BW96 is joined here for some of the route. Walk STRAIGHT ON across the arable field aiming to the left of large tree and continue STRAIGHT ON with a ditch to your immediate right. Continue with a ditch/hedge on your right, crossing an access track, all the way to a 'Y' junction.

Go STRAIGHT ON here along FP100 (the left arm is the continuation of BW96) to cross a plank bridge to a field beyond. Continue along a headland path with the ditch/hedge on your right, crossing another access track to cross a planked bridge, bear RIGHT and go forward to arrive at a waymarked gate on the right. Go through gate to a beck-side and go LEFT, with the hedge line now on your immediate left and continue with it. Go through a wooden field gate, passing a farmhouse on your left and then FORWARD to a kissing gate on the old mine track. Go slightly LEFT here to go through another metal gate on the far side of the track. *Do not follow the obvious track in front.*

7 After the metal gate follow the field edge around to the right with the hedge on the right and some marshy ground on the left. Continue to the gate in front, then go with the hedge line on your right and a Paint Weathering Station (over the hedge) to a plank bridge in the field corner. Cross the bridge and follow the

diverted path around the field edge with the hedge on your right. Continue along this clear path until you reach a ruined building and a field gate on the right. Turn LEFT here towards the main road for 50 yards and then go RIGHT through a gap. Follow the footpath DIAGONALLY LEFT across the field until you reach the main road. Turn RIGHT into Nettleton village and possible refreshment at the Salutation Inn.

8 Cross the main road with care and walk STRAIGHT FORWARD up Cooks Lane. At the top of the lane, with new development on the left, proceed forward to the gate. Walk forward across the paddock towards the right-hand corner of the wire enclosure of the pumping station, crossing the concealed bridge in the hollow en-route. Go past the pumping station and follow the stream on your right and cross the stream by the waymarked bridge and turn LEFT.

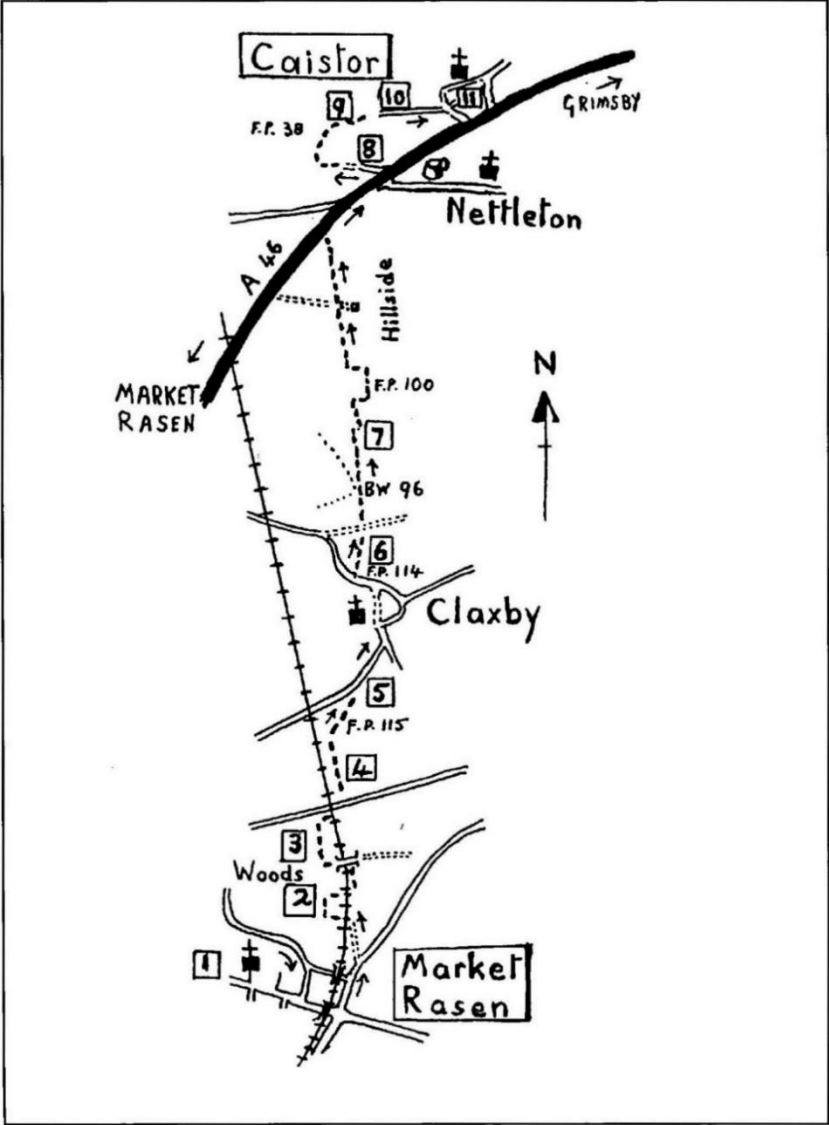
9 Follow the stream on your left now and continue through a gate into a fine green lane. Go STRAIGHT ON then bear left with the lane avoiding any hedge gaps on the right. Bear RIGHT to go through a gate at the fence and follow the edge of the field around with the hedge on your immediate right. Cross over the grassy bridge and continue to follow the edge of the field around with the flowing stream on the right. This footpath (FP38) has been diverted around the headland.

10 Turn RIGHT up the green lane with the dyke on your left. This track becomes Navigation Lane which is rapidly being developed. There are school playing fields on your left. Turn LEFT down Millfields and just beyond Windsor Drive go RIGHT through the small recreation area with the brook on your left and follow the path in between the houses.

11 Turn RIGHT on reaching the road and continue for 130 yards and then RIGHT again opposite the post box to walk up the steep minor road with the Grammar School buildings on the left. At the top of the hill, turn RIGHT by the church walls and then LEFT along the graveyard path of St Peter and St Paul. Walk down the steps in the corner, turn RIGHT and almost immediately LEFT to

MARKET RASEN TO CAISTOR

proceed uphill on Fountain Street (note the spring on your left) and continue LEFT up Plough Hill to the town square with inns and shops. The new parking place and toilets are signposted from the square.



Background information

Caistor

In Saxon times, Caistor was still an important place and outside the town there are mounds supposed to mark the place of King Egbert's victory over the Mercians in 829. Fragments of the wall that encircled the Roman camp still remain and the Roman well is still in use by the church. Caistor's lovely old church is worth exploring with its south doorway enriched with dog-toothed ornament, tombs of Knights and the strange relic of the Gad Whip.

Market Rasen

A not unattractive market town in its own quiet way with a few Georgian houses but the buildings are mostly Victorian. The big parish church stands in the little square with some fine trees nearby. The simple Holy Rood Catholic Church built of white brick is further along the main road. The Watermill has won a design award for converting a warehouse into good quality residential accommodation.

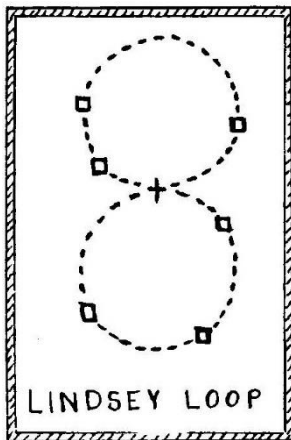
Market Rasen is the only town in the Lindsey Loop that has a working railway station.

MARKET RASEN TO CAISTOR

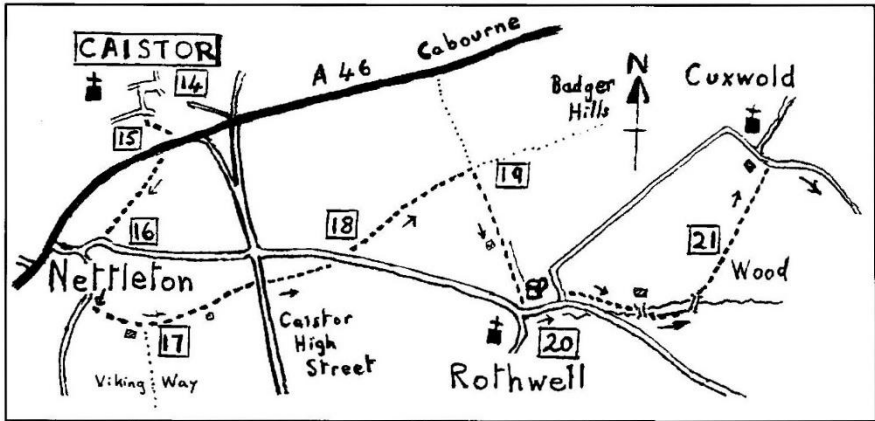
“All walking is discovery
On Foot we take time to see things whole”
Anatole France

“Is it so small a thing
To have enjoy’d the sun?”
Matthew Arnold

“Nothing ever becomes real till
It is experienced.”
John Keats



CAISTOR TO EAST RAVENDALE



Walk Description

Enjoy the natural beauty of these lovely Wolds Valleys. The walk takes you out of Caistor town to the edge of Nettleton village and then along the bottom of Nettleton Valley which is certainly one of the best sections of the Viking Way. You climb up to the Roman High Street on the Nev Cole Way and then descend into Rothwell village, once a Nickerson estate village concealed in the hollow with literally thousands and thousands of daffodils through the area in Springtime. Following a little stream, you will come to the memorial bridge dedicated to Jim Cook, the originator of the Lindsey Loop, who once walked this way planning the route. Cuxwold and Hatcliffe villages are skirted and then some road walking down an attractive valley leads you into East Ravendale and the end of this section of the Lindsey Loop.

Distance

11.8 miles

Time

6 hours including a lunch break

O.S. Maps

Landranger Sheet 113
Explorer Sheet 282

Grimsby and Surrounding Area
Lincolnshire Wolds North

CAISTOR TO EAST RAVENDALE

Starting Place

Caistor Market Square Map Ref. TF 119 013

Finishing Place

East Ravendale Church Map Ref. TF 239 996

How to get there

Caistor

A46 Lincoln – Grimsby Road. Turn off into Caistor almost at the top of Nettleton Brow

East Ravendale

B1203 Tealby – Binbrook – East Ravendale road leading to Grimsby.

Parking

Caistor

Parking behind the High Street (sign posted) at the Town Hall car park with toilets

East Ravendale

Roadside parking beyond the church and school. There is a telephone kiosk on the main road.

Accommodation and Food

Arrangements can be made for overnight accommodation providing it is done in advance.

Blacksmith's Arms, Rothwell. Tel: 01472 371300. Bar meals served seven days a week.

Route Description

14 From the Market Place walk down the Plough Hill signed to Lincoln, Gainsborough and Market Rasen. At the Horsemarket, bear LEFT opposite Fountain Court up a pathway on the left. Turn RIGHT down South Dale Road with Caistor Primary School on the left. Turn LEFT at the sign posted Tarmac Path just beyond Redhills Close. Follow the footpath into Westwold Road,

turn LEFT at the T-junction and LEFT again in front of the maisonettes to pick up the path to the rear of the council houses that takes you to the A46 road.

15 Cross the A46 and proceed down the steep embankment on a sign posted concrete footpath. This is the route of the Viking Way. Cross the field keeping the hedge line to the left and pass through the wide hedge gap to the field beyond. Make for the left field corner and walk the raised wooden causeway to go through a gate and keep the hedge line now on your right. Go through the next gate and keep the broken hedge/tree line on your right to a gate in the field corner. Cross this and keep the hedge/fence line to the right. Go through the next gate and proceed **DIAGONALLY LEFT** with the bungalow on the right. There is a gate to the road in the right-hand corner of the field.

16 Turn **RIGHT** down Mangate Hill and **LEFT** at the road junction along Normanby Road for about 550 yards. Where the road swings to the right, turn **LEFT** on sign posted path (BW101) and pass through the gateway to The Grange with its 'misleading' notice and a hideous barn on the left. Continue along the farm track and over the memorial ladder stile. The Viking Way goes up Nettleton Valley on the right just beyond the stile.

17 Our route however, following the Nev Cole Way, continues forward uphill on a good track through a metal field gate with the old barn on the right. At the top of the slope go over the cross track and continue **STRAIGHT ON** keeping the hedge line on your left. Cross Caistor High Street and take the finger posted bridle way through a gap. Continue with the hedge on your immediate left until you reach the next lane.

18 Go directly across the lane and through the hedge gap opposite the Rothwell Grange farm sign. Proceed **DIAGONALLY RIGHT** across the field at first parallel to the hedge on your left and continue **STRAIGHT ON** along this line aiming for the end of the hedge on the track in front. At the path junction, take the good track forward in the same direction you have been walking, keeping the hedge/fence/sapling line on your immediate

right all the way, eventually coming out in sight of the wooded Badger Hills. In the distance, Pelham's Pillar may be seen over on the left and, straight ahead, the Humber Bank industrial plants.

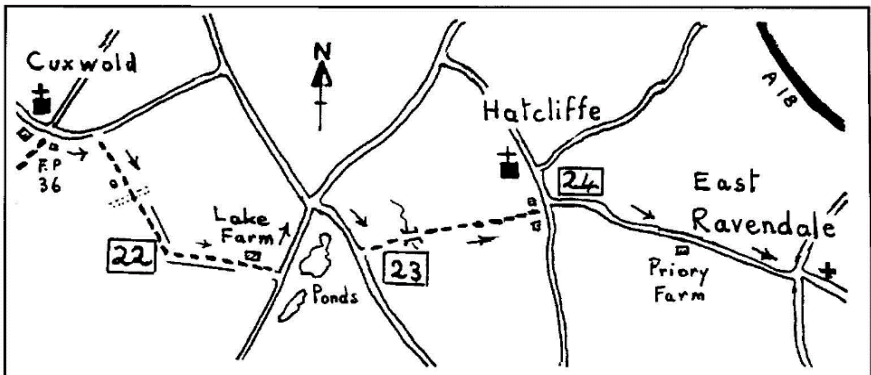
19 At the major way-marked cross tracks, turn **RIGHT** on BW24 towards Rothwell Stackgarth. I'm informed that this should really be a thirty-foot-wide green lane all the way to Cabourne. Continue **STRAIGHT ON** downhill at a cross track with a tall hedge now on your left. Turn **LEFT** at the road into the village and a friendly landlord at the Blacksmith's Arms and possibly an early lunch. There is a recreation area at the end of the public car park should you prefer to eat out-of-doors.

20 Turn **LEFT** along the Cuxwold Road for 600 yards. At the roadjunction leading into Cherry Valley, go **STRAIGHT AHEAD** over the small patch of waste land on a line mid-point between the two roads with the stream on your immediate right. There is a signpost here but it is not obvious. Continue on the line round the sewage plant until you pass the Nickerson Research Centre on the left. Follow the surfaced lane and, at Cherry Valley Manor go **RIGHT** following a track over a stream and then immediately **LEFT** down a field edge with the stream on your left. Pass through the wide hedge gap with an electricity post over on the left and continue to the Jim Cook Memorial Bridge. Cross the bridge and continue **DIAGONALLY RIGHT** up the slope of the field aiming for the top left-hand corner of the tree belt ahead.

21 In the next field follow the same general line uphill until you reach the brow of the hill where there is a new hedge and then re-adjust your line if necessary to aim for the right-hand corner of the farm buildings. Enter the farm complex with the barns on your left and the farm worker's house (dated 1861) on your right. Bear **RIGHT** uphill on the minor road for 700 yards. Turn **RIGHT** at the finger posted tarmac track before the crest of the hill to pass a large barn (formerly aircraft hangar) and pig accommodation buildings on your right and a grass airstrip on the left. Continue **STRAIGHT ON** along the track, passing a large fuel storage tank on the left and picking up the hedge line. Keep this hedge on your immediate left along this fine headland bridleway (Swallow Bridle Way 198).

22 At the end of the field go STRAIGHT ACROSS the narrow neck of the land and then turn LEFT along the green track with the hedge on your right all the way to Lake Farm. Go STRAIGHT ON through the farm buildings down to the road. Turn LEFT on the road and proceed uphill to the cross-roads. Turn RIGHT here, signposted Thorganby and Swinhope. Descend to the valley bottom with woods at the sides. As you start to climb again, go LEFT through the finger posted bridle way gate to follow the fine contour path (BW774) with, at first, a wood on your right. Eventually drop down to a way marked bridge over the swiftly flowing Waithe Beck.

23 Cross the bridge and continue STRAIGHT ON along a well-defined access track along the hill contour. Pass into the next field at the gateway and stile and continue STRAIGHT ON to drop gently down to the valley bottom with, eventually, a thick hedge line over on the left. Continue to the electricity post, just before the fence line and here drop down LEFT to a bridge. Cross the bridge, ignore the footpath ahead and go RIGHT here along a fine grassy bridleway, keeping the fence line to the right to emerge on the road by Manor Farm Cottage.



24 Turn LEFT at the road for a few yards and then RIGHT at the road junction. Continue along this attractive road, passing by the hamlet of West Ravendale. On reaching the B1203 road walk STRAIGHT ACROSS to East Ravendale with a telephone kiosk, a church and a school to the left.

Additional Interest

Caistor

The supply of freshwater from springs and its position on the ridge of the Wolds made it an attractive site for the Romans. It was walled in the latter part of the Roman era, enclosing an area of some 300 yards by 100 yards. The present church stands roughly in the centre of the walled area and is worth exploring. There was a disastrous fire in 1681 which destroyed many houses in the town. A lot of the buildings around the town square date from after this fire. The old fire-engine house, seen during the walk, is built into a tunnel by the roadside.

West Ravendale

West Ravendale has the remains of a Praemonstratensian Priory founded in 1202 as a cell of the Beaufort Abbey in Brittany. The ruin of small chapel still survives on a hill above Priory Farm but the village itself has completely disappeared. West Ravendale was part of the dowry of Henry IV's wife Joan of Navarre.

Pelham's Pillar

128 feet high and situated in Brocklesby Park it commemorates the planting of 12,552,700 trees by the first Lord Yarborough.

East Ravendale

There is a tablet in St Martin's church to the Administrator-General of Kenya colony, John Wilson Henry Parkinson who died in Mombasa in 1923. There is a fine black raven for a weathervane over the school.

Viking Way

The Viking Way long-distance recreational path created by the Ramblers' Association runs from Barton upon Humber across Lincolnshire to Oakham in Rutland.

Nev Cole Way

The late Nev Cole, was a founder member of the Ramblers' Association and in this county was Brett Collier's predecessor as Area Secretary of the Lincolnshire Area of the Ramblers' Association. He devoted his life to fighting for public Rights of Way and countryside issues. The Nev Cole Way runs from Burton on Stather to Nettleton.

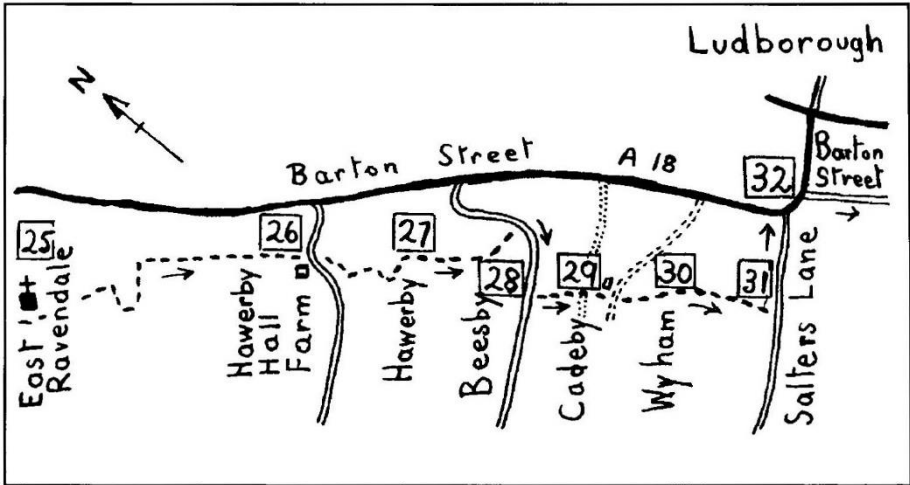
'Une journée de sentier, huit jours de santé'
(one day on the trail makes for eight healthy days)
French-Canadian Proverb

Nev

He hasn't gone away from us
This man we called our friend
I'm sure that he'll be watching us
As we travel round each bend.
He showed a good example
Of how to walk this earth
His caring of the natural world
Gave this man his extra worth.

Joan Macdonald

EAST RAVENDALE TO LOUTH



Walk Description

This eastern dip of the Wolds along the old cliff line overlooks the ancient highway of Barton Street and the Middle Marsh beyond. The route takes you through a series of 'lost' villages, Haverby, Beesby, Cadeby, Wyham and Ackthorpe. Cadeby Hall, a large 18th century house recently restored, has a number of ponds and one of them with a stone surround was once known as the Monks Bath. The stiff climb up rolling fields near Fotherby top is surprisingly remote until you are finally rewarded, at Fotherby Common, with a view of the superb spire of St James' Church, Louth and the prospect of the end to a strenuous day's walking. There isn't a shop or an inn during the whole of the day's walk.

Distance

13 miles

Time

6 hours plus

O.S Maps

Landranger Sheet 113
Explorer Sheet 282

Grimsby and Cleethorpes
Lincolnshire Wolds North

Starting Place

St Martin's church, East Ravendale

Map Ref. TF 239 993

Finishing Place

Louth Market Square

Map Ref. TF 329 874

How to get there

East Ravendale

B1203

Market Rasen – Tealby – Binbrook – East Ravendale

A18

Brigg – Louth Road, turn off to East Ravendale onto the B1203 Market Rasen Road.

Louth

A153

From Horncastle

A16(T)

From Grimsby

A157

From Lincoln

Parking

East Ravendale

By St Martin's Church

Louth

Bridge Street by the old cemetery entrance or car parks off Eastgate.

Route Description

25 Walk STRAIGHT ON from St Martin's church with an attractive thatched cottage on the left. Continue forward uphill on a sign posted bridle way (BW140). At the T-junction at the top of the hill, turn RIGHT along a good track. Continue STRAIGHT ON to the end of a small wood and then turn LEFT to keep the trees on your immediate left until the field end. Turn LEFT downhill at this hedge and RIGHT at the top of the hill to follow the field edge round. Twenty yards beyond the start of the hedge/tree line which begins on the right, go RIGHT with the finger pointer through a clear hedge gap onto a bridle way (BW139) now

following the hedge line on your immediate left. Continue on BW139 towards the farm buildings of Hawerby Hall Farm.

26 Go STRAIGHT ON to the road at the farm buildings. Note the dovecote and pond on the right. Cross the road onto an access track and then immediately BEAR RIGHT up the slope to the field edge, passing the cottage on the right. Then go LEFT along the headland tree belt on your right with views of Hawerby Hall amongst the trees down on the left. Turn RIGHT through the gap and immediately LEFT around the edge of the field. On reaching the track with the Old Rectory on your left, turn LEFT for about 60 yards. There is a sad abandoned church among the trees on the left.

27 Opposite the entrance to the Old Rectory, turn RIGHT on signposted BW152 with the hedge on your immediate right for about 700 yards and then briefly follow the track around to the left with a remnant copse on the left. After 60 yards with the hedge line coming in from the right, go RIGHT on a good track, also with a hedge on the right until you reach Beesby Wood. Turn LEFT here keeping the wood on your right until you drop down to a country lane.

28 Turn RIGHT along the lane ignoring the first sign posted bridleway on the right and the left. Evidence of your first medieval village site may be seen on the right just before Beesby House. Continue along the lane for a total distance of about 700 yards to turn LEFT immediately before the cottage on your left. Go through the finger posted bridleway gate and walk uphill with the hedge on the RIGHT. This section of the Lindsey Loop from Ravendale to the top of this field has been in N.E. Lincolnshire. Beyond the hedge it is back in Lincolnshire again. At the top of the field go through the gate and walk down hill with the hedge on your LEFT.

29 At Cadeby cross the track and continue forwards on a field edge path with a fence and Cadeby Hall farm buildings on your LEFT. At the bottom of the field go LEFT and RIGHT through the trees and then HALF LEFT up the arable field ahead. Near the

top of the field pass under some power cables and cross through the hedge by the post and continue STRAIGHT AHEAD with the hedge on your immediate RIGHT. Go through the double field gates at the end of the field and across the small paddock to the track by the house at Wyham.

30 Turn RIGHT over the former cattle grid and then immediately LEFT through the gate to proceed downhill with the house and tennis courts over on the left. At the bottom of the slope, go through a gate, then go over the culvert and aim LEFT uphill over the field, keeping to the left of the double wooden power post then drop down to a way marked bridge to the left of a copse which surrounds a pond. Cross the bridge and pick up the hedge line, keeping it to your immediate right and walk up the slope to the road.

31 Unfortunately, for some reason the footpath leading directly to North Ormsby was not recorded on the definitive map and therefore, the only legitimate way is to walk round by the road. I have never done so. Turn LEFT downhill (taking great care, since there is no pathway and no verge) to the main road which comes in from the left.

32 Go STRAIGHT ON here (signed to Ludborough and Louth) and then RIGHT after about 170 yards towards North Ormsby. Pass the junction to Utterby and Louth on the left and Utterby Primary School. After some 1,400 yards, turn RIGHT on a minor road signed to North Ormsby and Kelstern. As you come to the top of the brow with houses on the right, you can see down to the front on the left the little bellcote church of North Ormsby which is the continuation of our route.

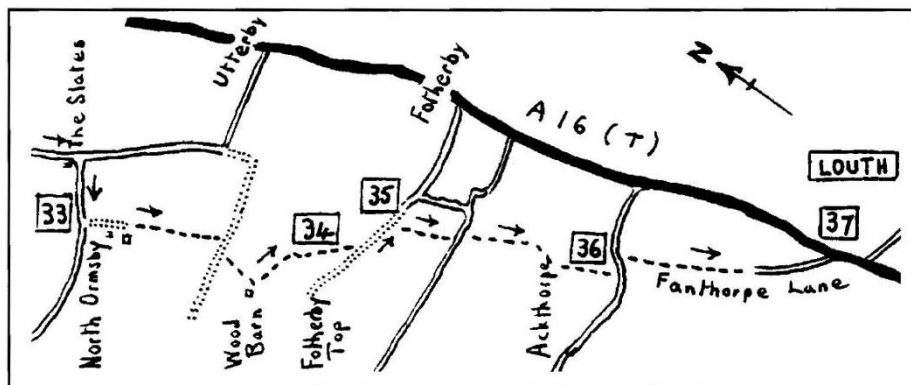
33 At North Ormsby, turn LEFT by the abandoned quarry buildings on your right to drop down the slope and then up again with the church (now a private residence) and soon, the Hall on the right. Where the good track swings right go STRAIGHT ON, up the slope on the finger posted path (FP357) with a fence and then a thicket on the right. Continue over the brow of the hill and drop down, between the legs of a double power pylon to the track

crossing in front (BW105). Turn RIGHT along this track for 120 yards.

Go LEFT off the track, down the steps DIAGONALLY right up the slope aiming for Wood Barn which is now reduced to rubble. Immediately beyond the barn, go LEFT uphill and, as you come to the crest, aim towards the tree tops in the distance. When you start to crest the rise, aim for a gap between a line of stunted bushes, that come in from the right, and a thicket where a finger post stands out quite clearly against the skyline.

34 Pass through the hedge gap and follow the finger post round to the left keeping the trees and then the hedge line to your immediate left. A couple of hundred yards on, another finger post directs you through the hedge where you continue in a STRAIGHT LINE with the hedge now on your immediate right to arrive at a track crossing your front and leading to Fotherby Top. Go LEFT out along a fine ridge-top route. Ignore the footpath finger post pointing back sharply right downhill and continue forward as the track becomes a surfaced lane and drops gently down the slope. Pass Fotherby Common with its interesting sign on the right and, a little further on almost immediately after passing under the power cables, go RIGHT through the finger-posted hedge-gap into the field beyond.

35 Cross the field, passing beneath the power cables again and aim for the left-hand edge of the wood. At the wood corner, cross the plank bridge and way marked gap. Continue ahead keeping the wood on the right until you reach another gap over which is a minor road. Cross the road and gate beyond to go STRAIGHT AHEAD aiming for the narrow gap between the two clumps of trees on the far skyline. Cross the way marked bridge over the dyke and continue IN A STRAIGHT LINE climbing gently uphill and aim for the gap between the clump of trees with a cottage in the right foreground. Cross the track leading to the cottage and the gate beyond and continue over the next field



keeping the woodland to the left. At the far side of the field cross another stile and go around to the RIGHT on a diverted section of the path with the hedge on your immediate right. Stay with the headland at the field corner going LEFT and climb gently up the slope with the hedge/woodland on the right until you meet the byway leading to Acthorpe. Turn LEFT along the lane, up a gentle slope and then down as the lane bends round to the left and then right

36 At the point where the road bends slightly to the right and a point where power cables cross the road, go RIGHT with the finger pointer to follow the headland with thick hedge/tree line on your immediate left. Continue over a plank bridge in the field corner with thick woodland on the left and over the next field aiming for the wonderful spire of St James' Church in Louth and a raw industrial estate down to the front left. Pass under the power cables and, to the right of a large conifer, walk to the field corner and pass through a way marked hedge gap to follow a pathway between fields still aiming directly towards St James' spire. The pathway becomes a green lane with hedges on either side and then improves to a surfaced track known as Fanthorpe Lane as it passes Northfield Farm on the right. Continue along this lane until the A16 Louth bypass.

37 Cross the bypass with great care and climb up the embankment on the far side using the steps or angled walkway to pick up the continuation of Fanthorpe Lane. At the Grimsby Road, turn **RIGHT** downhill towards Louth town centre along the high-level footway. Turn **LEFT** up High Holme Road and immediately before the hospital on the left, go **RIGHT** down the narrow Union Street. Continue **STRAIGHT ON** over the cross road down Grays Road, across the small bridge at the bottom, along the metalled footway and through the archway to the road. Go **STRAIGHT ACROSS** up Nichol Hill and continue to Eastgate. Go **RIGHT** on Eastgate and then almost immediately **LEFT** up Rosemary Lane, passing telephone kiosks on the left and on to the Corn Market Square.

Additional Information

Louth 'this jewel of a town' derives its name from the river Lud, the 'd' of which is pronounced in Scandinavian as 'th'. Ethelred, the first Archbishop of Canterbury originated from Louth for he was the Abbot of the 8th century monastery in the town. Louth Park is an old Cistercian abbey, founded in 1139. It became one of the most important monasteries in the country and even possessed a substantial waterway, Monks Dyke, which brought water in from the Lud.

The town is dominated by the 295-foot-high steeple of St James', which was completed in 1515 and is claimed to be the highest parish church spire in the land. The original weathercock on the spire was fixed in 1515 amid great rejoicing for it was made from a copper basin which was part of the booty capture at Flodden Field from James IV of Scotland. It was said that in 1818, a man drank ten pints of beer and then climbed the steeple, danced hornpipe on the top and then stood on one leg on a pinnacle. The present spire is not the one he used.

The people of Louth took part in the Lincolnshire Rising of 1536 against the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, when a royal letter described the men of Lincolnshire 'rude commons of

one of the most brute and beastly shires in the whole of the realm'. Several of the townsfolk were put to death at Louth and the vicar, Thomas Kendall, was hanged at Tyburn. A plaque on the wall close by the church door commemorates the event.

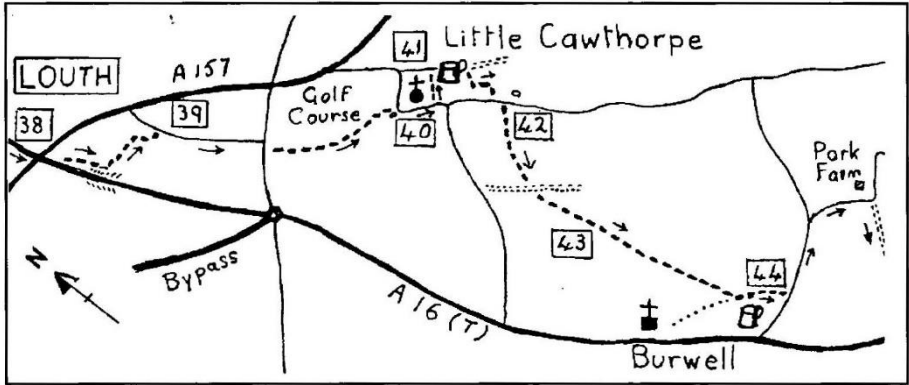
Accommodation and Food

There are a number of attractive hostelries in the town and some guesthouses for overnight accommodation. The town stands on the Greenwich Meridian, the course of which may be found in Eastgate with a metal strip in the pavement.

'Nature and the countryside will not confide their secrets to a man in a hurry. Man was born to be a pedestrian.'



LOUTH TO ALFORD



Walk Description

This is one of the longer sections of the Lindsey Loop but it takes you through some delightful countryside until you eventually arrive within sight of Alford's five-sailed windmill and the Middle Marsh. Swaby Valley is a delight. Little Cawthorpe is an attractive, unspoiled village and the brief waterside walk by the infant River Eau is a gem. In the fields by Haugh, the sweep of the Middle Marsh comes into view with a glimpse of the sea beyond. A memorable walk to your third market town.

Distance

16.8 miles

Time

7 plus hours with a refreshment stop en route

OS Maps

Landranger Sheet 122
Explorer Sheet 274
Explorer Sheet 282

Skegness
Skegness, Alford and Spilsby
Lincolnshire Wolds North

Starting Place

Corn Market Louth

Map Ref TF 329 874

STRAIGHT ON through a gate and keeping the house and garden fence to the right, go through another gate onto a surfaced lane. Go RIGHT along the lane, with a house, then farm buildings on the right. At the wooden fence go LEFT through wooden gate and out into the field and continue forward in a STRAIGHT LINE with the ditch and hedge on the left. At the far field corner cross a plank bridge and through a gate into another field. Continue on your original line over the field and then across a stile and another plank bridge onto Kenwick road.

39 Turn RIGHT up Kenwick Road for about a mile to the T-junction. Cross the road with care and continue STRAIGHT ON at a finger post into woodland along Legbourne FP206. At the surfaced lane continue STRAIGHT ON, ignoring the access lane to Kenwick Park Hotel. Continue up what is now a surfaced road, ignoring the track into Lincolnshire Rural Activity Centre on the right and continue down the slope with the Hall (and covered swimming pool) down to the left. At the bottom of the slope with lay-bys to the right, go LEFT onto a way marked track then almost IMMEDIATELY RIGHT into the trees to follow the fine woodland path which leads through a gap onto Kenwick Park Golf Course with ponds to the left. Aim DIAGONALLY RIGHT along a clearly way marked route over the golf course to a gap in the tree line ahead. Go through the gap and follow a way marked path which turns left and uphill through the golf course extension. The track continues down-slope and comes to an end at the side of the beck. Cross the beck by the plank bridge and continue DIAGONALLY LEFT UP THE SLOPE TOWARDS THE HEDGE GAP BESIDE THE TREES. Pass through the gap and continue over the next field towards the spire of Little Cawthorpe church in the distance, picking up a hedge to your immediate right. The path continues to a gap onto the road at the bend with a house on the right.

40 At the road, proceed STRAIGHT ON for 300 yards and then LEFT through a gate onto FP200 just beyond the graveyard extension and just before the barn conversion. Continue forward through a field gate and onto a track. Turn LEFT at the track then LEFT onto the road. Continue down towards the ford and the

attractive Royal Oak Inn (the Splash) where walkers are welcome.

41 After refreshment cross the ford and turn **RIGHT** on the interesting path with the infant River Eau on your immediate right. The riverside path bends to the right over a bridge and leads to a road junction. Go **STRAIGHT ON** here up a lane signed as Public Bridle Way with houses on the right and at the point where the thick hedge on your right ends, go **RIGHT** on finger-posted Little Cawthorpe FP199. It begins as a green lane with hedge on the left. Go through the kissing gate then cross the stile beside the metal gate and continue over the paddock beyond, keeping the hedge line on your left, to another kissing gate and plank bridge in the field corner. Cross into the next field and aim **DIAGONALLY LEFT** towards the left-hand corner of the field, passing a lone tree to the right to arrive at a stile. Cross this and go **IMMEDIATELY RIGHT** to a double stile with a plank bridge in the field corner. Cross these into the next paddock and go immediately **LEFT** on the Little Cawthorpe FP201 to continue with the hedge to the left passing the electricity post on the right. At the field corner cross another stile into a long narrow field and bear slightly right. At the next hedge cross the stile and planked bridge into another similar field maintaining the same line to a large gap in the next hedge which gives access to a large grassy field. Pass an area of trees and scrub on the left and aim **DIAGONALLY RIGHT** to the far field corner (slightly to the right of the house you see in the distance) to cross a stile and plank bridge onto stony access track. Go **RIGHT** here for a few yards onto the lane.

42 Walk **LEFT** along the road for hundred yards and, some 150 yards before reaching the house on the left, turn **RIGHT** onto FP348, a good track which leads gently up-slope. Cross a shallow dyke to an access track and go **LEFT**. At the lone tree 150 yards on, go **RIGHT** aiming for the right-hand corner of Haugham Wood. Go **RIGHT** then **LEFT** to follow a good access track with the woodland on your left for the next three quarters of a mile. The track drops steeply down to a double field gate with a stile beside it and as it starts to climb out of the far side of the valley, climb the

embankment left to a stile in the wire fence. Over the stile, aim STRAIGHT ON over the field towards the right-hand corner of the spur of woodland. Continue slightly left with thick bushes and trees to your left to arrive at a finger post at the field edge. Go STRAIGHT OVER this field aiming for the left-hand tree of the two trees.

43 From the left tree, continue in a line DIAGONALLY RIGHT across an immense field until the main road leading up Burwell Hill comes into view to the front right. Aim towards this and start to drop gently down-slope to an access track. Turn RIGHT at the finger post and follow the track to the next finger post where you turn LEFT, still on a good access track. Soon the square tower of Burwell Church starts to appear to the right. The path goes to the left for a short distance, aiming for the roof tops of Priory Farm with the church tower over on the right, to arrive at a T-junction of paths. Go RIGHT here aiming to the left of the church and drop down over a farm track and stream, pausing to view the old Butter Market building to the right and onto the road.

44 From the road retrace your steps to go back over the stream and farm access track and ascend the embankment to a junction of waymarked tracks with the church to the left. Go DIAGONALLY RIGHT here (you approached Burwell from the track left). Pass under the power cables and follow the track aiming to the left of Priory Farm barns. Pass the farm buildings to your right and cross the access track to continue in the same direction down onto Muckton Lane. Turn LEFT along the lane for 900 yards, bear RIGHT at the road junction then RIGHT off this interesting and attractive lane onto the green lane (BW295) some 200 yards after passing the ponds on your left. Walk uphill with some fine trees on the right.

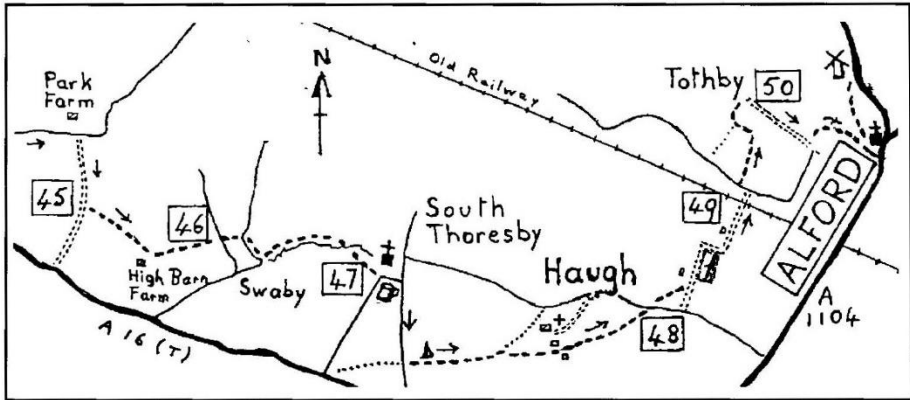
45 Continue STRAIGHT ON up the green lane and along the crest to turn LEFT through a wide hedge gap at a finger posted junction. Continue then down-slope with the hedge line on your immediate right. At the field corner, go LEFT with the track, ignoring the stile to your front, keeping the hedge to the right pass

barns to your right and descend a surfaced track to High Barn Farm buildings. Do not go right with the main track but continue STRAIGHT ON (along Swaby FP300) through finger posted hedge gap beside the cottage on the left. The path crosses an arable field to the surfaced lane.

46 Go STRAIGHT OVER the lane, crossing a stile onto a small field to the bridge and stile at the field edge. Go DIAGONALLY RIGHT over the field aiming for a kissing gate and onto a farm access road. Turn LEFT and continue towards the farm buildings. Pass through the farm complex to the road. At the road go RIGHT downhill along Long Hedge Lane and then LEFT up Valley Lane. Follow the surfaced lane to its end and continue (with way marking) into what appears to be a residential garden. Bear LEFT here with ornamental ponds below to the right to a gate and the entry into Swaby Valley Conservation Area. Follow the path (Swaby BW294) up the valley keeping the stream on the right. Pass out of the Conservation Area through a bridle-gate and continue STRAIGHT ON between thick bushes/trees, ignoring the permissive path down to the bridge on the right. Where the path bends slightly left bear to the FRONT RIGHT on way marked FP272 following the tree lined path to the field corner. Continue along the headland with trees and bushes on the right. At the end of the thick tree cover follow the path RIGHT down to the kissing gate and bridge into field corner. Follow the planks over the swampy section of the field, going DIAGONALLY LEFT and aiming for the tower of South Thoresby Church. Cross another swampy section of the field on a raised wooden causeway then cross a stile and bridge in the tree line. Continue in the next paddock aiming straight towards the church tower to go through a kissing gate beside the field gate and onto a lane with the church on the left.

47 Bear RIGHT at the church and follow the lane, passing the Wesleyan chapel (disused) to the right, then LEFT at the junction to pass a post box on the left and arrive at a T-junction to pass a telephone box on the left and arrive at a T-junction. Turn RIGHT uphill for 1,000 yards and then left on to the sign posted

LOUTH TO ALFORD



bridle way (BW274) (The bridle way signpost is across the road for the bridle way continues over the lane). Walk forward on a good clear track with the hedge on your immediate right and through the small copse of trees. It is a good place for an apple stop. Keep the hedge on your right which will switch to the left but the bridleway is still quite clear and well-marked. At the footpath signpost turn RIGHT on a clear footpath down into the dip and then up the other side aiming between the two farm cottages to the right of the farm buildings.

48 Cross the track and keep the wooden fence on your right. There is a way mark at the end of the fence. Continue STRAIGHT FORWARD to the edge of the trees and the pond on the right. Walk forward here aiming slightly left for the footpath signpost in the hedge crossing your front. Continue on the same line to Haugh Lane. Now turn RIGHT up the lane for 150 yards to a signpost in the hedge on the left. Turn LEFT on the good track with the house on your left, pass round the end of the wood and follow the road as it bends left, ignoring the waymarked path to the right to arrive at the road.

49 Go STRAIGHT ACROSS the road over the ditch board and stile on signposted FP87 and keep STRAIGHT AHEAD with a dyke on your left until you reach the gap. Turn right after the gap and continue forward with the dyke now on your right. At the field corner turn left to a finger post. Turn right here through a hedge

gap and over a bridge to follow the field edge round on the left on the diverted path. Where the hedge bears left turn RIGHT towards the farm buildings on FP283 and then LEFT at the dyke for 60 yards. Turn RIGHT over the grass bridge and stile and then go DIAGONALLY RIGHT towards the stile. Keep along this fence with the dyke on your right until just past Tothby Manor House. Turn DIAGONALLY LEFT across the field to the farm drive, stile and finger post. This quite unnecessarily complicated diversion would be refused today but it's one redeeming feature is that it has always been well marked.

50 At the farm drive, turn RIGHT for about 275 yards and then LEFT over the stile into a field onto Alford FP282. Cross the field and over a second stile aiming for the tower of Alford Church. At the hedge line, go RIGHT with the way marker on a raised causeway with the tree/fence line on your left. Cross another stile and at the field corner go through a kissing gate and then turn LEFT along the access track to a kissing gate beside gates. Go DIAGONALLY RIGHT to cross a concrete bridge and continue to a way marked kissing gate then, keeping same line over a small paddock to a signpost and another kissing gate on to Park Lane. Walk down Park Lane and turn LEFT along the main street. The market place is on the right, opposite the church.

Windmill alternative

At the kissing gate at the end of Park Lane do not pass through the gate but go LEFT along the sign posted path (Alford FP281) signed to Louth Road keeping the wire fence to your right. Go RIGHT through a kissing gate just before the field corner and continue along the headland path with the hedge line on the right then LEFT into a patch of trees and scrub. The path leads into another field corner where you turn right to arrive at Louth Road. Go RIGHT along the road after viewing the mill and continue towards the town centre to arrive at the free car park opposite the Anchor Inn.

Additional Interest

Little Cawthorpe

In the area of St. Helen's Church there were a number of springs now transformed into an attractive pond and the source of the Long Eau. The manor house, built in 1973, has diamond shaped chimney stacks and mullioned windows with four Dutch gables. There is a Victorian letter box in one of the gate posts. An oak tree planted on the grassy area near the Royal Oak (The Splash) commemorates the Best Kept Small Village Award.

Haugh

A line of very ancient yew trees leads to a farmhouse built on the site of an old mansion that was the seat of the Bolle family. Close by is the tiny ancient stone church of St Leonard with a Norman doorway and Jacobean memorials.

Alford

The mill, visible for many miles, is the only survivor of four Alford mills. It is open to the public at weekends and occasionally at other times. The abandoned railway was the Grimsby to Boston Line but was closed by Beeching in 1970. There are several attractive thatched houses in the town. The Manor House, situated on the corner of Park Lane and the main street, is now a museum and is worth a visit. The plague came to Alford in 1630 and no fewer than 132 townsfolk died.

Tothby

The present house stands on a moated site of an earlier manor. Under a weeping ash on the lawn is a square stone, probably the base of an old cross, that was used as a plague stone. Country folk would bring produce and townsfolk would purify their money by dipping it in vinegar left in the hollow of the stone.

'Always get over a stile', is the one rule that should ever be borne in mind by those who wish to see the land as it really is – that is to say, never omit to explore a footpath, for there never was a footpath yet which did not pass something of interest.

Richard Jeffries.

Tall Nettles

Tall nettles cover up, as they have done
 These many springs, the rusty harrow, the plough
 Long worn out, and the roller made of stone.

This corner of the farmyard I like most:
 As well as any bloom upon a flower.
 I like the dust on nettles, never lost
 Except to prove the sweetness of the shower.

Edward Thomas

The Milestone

“ ‘Orncastle ten
 and Louth three,”
 that’s what the milestoäne
 says ter me.
 For a thousan’ yeär
 It said the saäme
 tr every traveller
 as caäme ...
 Aye, “Louth three,
 ‘Orncastle ten,”
 ter farmers of
 the Wöald and Fen

Excerpt from a Lincolnshire dialect poem by Jesse Baggaley, November 1945. Milestones were removed during the Second World War for fear of invasion.

Walk Description

While the quality of the landscape around Well and the delightfully named Skendleby Psalter is obvious at a glance; only those who explore on foot away from the roads can hope to discover its more intimate secrets. The beautifully sited small church built at Well in 1733 to resemble a Grecian temple, the many small villages with interesting houses and churches and ancient long barrows are all there waiting to be found along this edge of the Wolds above the Middle Marsh.

Distance

8.7 miles

Time

4 hours with a refreshment break en-route, possibly in the Major's Corner at the Blacksmith's Arms in Skendleby.

O.S Maps

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Landranger Sheet 122 | Skegness |
| Explorer Sheet 274 | Skegness, Alford and Wainfleet All Saints |

Starting Place

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Alford Market Place | Map Ref. TF 456 760 |
|---------------------|---------------------|

Finishing Place

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Spilsby Market Square | Map Ref. TF 401 662 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|

How to get there

A16 (T) Louth to Skegness Road. Turn off at Ulceby Cross onto the A1104 for 3 miles to Alford

A16 (T) Boston to Louth Road. 18 miles to Spilsby from Boston. From Horncastle A158 to Partney roundabout, turn right on the A16(T) for 1 mile to Spilsby

Both market places possess car parks and toilets but Spilsby

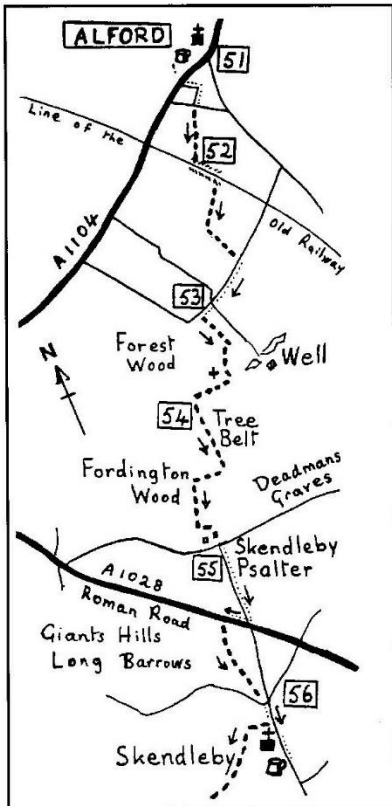
Market Square car park has now become short term. However, longer term car parking may be found at the nearby Post Office Lane Car Park.

Route Description

51 From Alford Market Place walk up South Street with Ranters Row on your left and a playing field on the right. Go STRAIGHT ACROSS Hamilton Road junction to follow Parsons Lane for 75 yards. Turn LEFT up Holywell Road (The Rookery) and bear RIGHT to continue to the road end. Turn RIGHT by the last bungalow on to a tarmac path (FP288) as it winds with

the estate to the left until it arrives at a road. Continue STRAIGHT OVER by the finger post and Three Towns Way sign along a short green lane and through a kissing gate to proceed along a good path with the hedge on your left.

52 At the field corner, cross the bridge over the deep dyke to a three-way finger post. Go LEFT following the Mill Rundle and Three Towns Way sign with the old railway embankment up on your right and the dyke down on your left. After 200 yards, go RIGHT by the finger post and up onto the embankment. Go LEFT for a few yards and then RIGHT down the far side of the embankment still following the Three Towns Way route to the waymarked kissing gate beside a wooden field gate and out into the field. Follow the fine, grassy track over the field to pick up a headland route (Well FP79) with the hedge line on the left which leads to a country lane. Turn

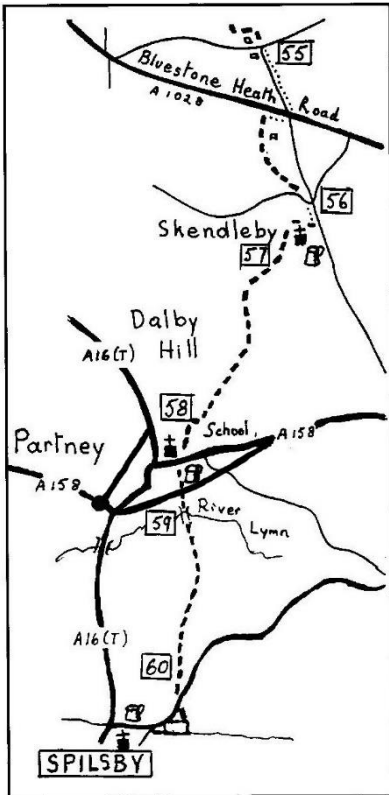


RIGHT on the lane into Well and go STRAIGHT OVER the cross roads to continue along the lane for a further 200 yards.

53 Turn LEFT at finger posted stile (Three Towns waymark) to follow a well-defined headland path (a continuation of Well FP79) with woodland on the right. Just before reaching the lake side, go RIGHT over a stile to a gated cattle corral and continue gently uphill with woods still on the right. At the end of the woodland, go LEFT up the slope to pass along the front of the church to a good place for a refreshment stop after about an hour's walking. Turn RIGHT to follow the path alongside the graveyard and then woodland on your right and a double step stile. Continue to follow the good track with the woodland still on your right.

54 The path enters the woodland and, just before emerging on the far side, go LEFT WITH THE FINGER POST AS A GUIDE. After some 600 yards of lovely woodland walking, bear RIGHT to come out of the wood to a field edge. At the field corner go LEFT before the wood, with Fordington Wood to your right. Leaving the wood behind, the path then drops down the slope with the hedge line right to the field corner. Go LEFT here, passing the cottage over to the right, then RIGHT on the track down to the road and the tiny hamlet of Skendleby Psalter.

55 Go STRAIGHT ACROSS the road (Three Towns waymark) and follow the lane uphill, passing Psalter Farm to the right. After 900 yards you join the Bluestone Heath Road. Turn RIGHT here for 300 yards and then LEFT with the finger post at the first hedge onto Skendleby FP97. Proceed down the edge of the field with the hedge on your immediate left. At the access track with the house on your left, go LEFT on a track for about 50 yards then go RIGHT to a stile by a field gate. Cross the stile and go DIAGONALLY LEFT to walk due south. Continue on this line to a stile in the far hedge. Cross the stile into the field corner and follow the headland with the hedge/tree line on your RIGHT until you reach the road. The OS map is not very clear here so keep LEFT away from the house and follow the field edge with the trees on your right.



56 At the lane turn LEFT (Three Towns waymark) to the road junction and then RIGHT at the cross road to Skendleby Village and the Blacksmith's Arms for refreshment. From the inn retrace your steps for 150 yards to turn LEFT along a finger posted lane (Skendleby FP98) which passes a cottage and then the church to the left and an Anglian Water Pumping Station to the right. The lane deteriorates to a footpath which leads between bushes and trees to cross duckboards and then a fine bridge to a field edge. Go STRAIGHT ON with the hedge line on your left. Walking parallel to the overhead power cables. Cross the stile and bridge and onto a fine access track crossing your front. Turn LEFT along the track and follow it to a double field gate and stile.

57 Cross the stile and CONTINUE IN A STRAIGHT LINE to pass beside

the external hedge corner. Continue on THE LINE OF THE SAME BEARING to walk towards the far hedge line with Dalby Hill and woodland away to your front right. Pass through the hedge gap and CONTINUE ON THE SAME BEARING to walk under the power cables to arrive at a gap in the right-hand field corner. Go DIAGONALLY LEFT over the long narrow field, aiming for the top right-hand corner to pass through a hedge gap and pick up the headland with a hedge and a ditch on your immediate right.

At the stile in the right-hand field corner, cross into the next field and continue along the headland with the hedge to the right until the corner, then go left. Go through a gate and aim directly for Partney Church passing through a line of stunted trees and then

BEAR LEFT to the far corner of the school fence. Go LEFT here, keeping the school fence on the left and walk on to a gate, finger post and a road opposite Hudson's Close.

58 Turn RIGHT at the road for a few yards and then LEFT up the church tarmac track. Why is there a piece of Australian rock in Partney churchyard? After a brief halt for refreshment and exploration, go STRAIGHT ACROSS the Skegness road to follow the green track between the Red Lion wall on your left and Partney House on your right. Follow the wall and hedge on our immediate right and KEEP STRAIGHT ON along the hedge with houses on your right. Turn LEFT at the dyke for ten yards, cross the bridge and then continue forward. Cross the by-pass, the A158, and follow the track keeping the dyke on your right.

59 At the River Lymn, cross a substantial bridge and continue STRAIGHT AHEAD for 300 yards up a gentle slope. Go FORWARD through a gate that is about ten yards in front of a finger post, follow the path through rough ground and then go DIAGONALLY RIGHT over the field to the far-right top corner. Then go through the left of the two metal farm gates, and continue over a stile into the field corner. Cross the next field, aiming slightly to the left of the power line post in the far hedge. Cross the footbridge and proceed DIAGONALLY LEFT to cut off the field corner to reach a stile by the roadside.

60 Turn RIGHT up Ashby Road for about 70 yards and then LEFT into the new housing development Ashby Meadows. After only a few yards, take the signposted path up the steps on your right and follow the path left until you reach the road. Turn RIGHT at the road and leave the path on the right to walk STRAIGHT FORWARD along Queen Street to the Post Office Lane car park and the Market Place straight ahead.

Additional Interest

Well

The church was built in its present position to add to the view from Well Vale House, now a private school. There is a gravestone in the tiny graveyard to William Dudley, a gamekeeper murdered by a Lincolnshire poacher in 1839.

Skendleby

A pleasant village set in a valley where a stream runs to join the River Lymn. The mound to the north of the village, known as the Giant's Hills, has been excavated. It was built about 1800 BC and housed eight bodies. It is said to be one of the most perfect examples of its kind in England and a scale model of it is in the British Museum.

Partney

Two streams flow into the infant River Lymn here. Partney was once a little market town until Spilsby grew in importance. An abbey, known as Bede, was destroyed by raiding Danes. The house opposite the church on the Skegness road is known as Plague House, because of a plaque on its eastern gable which reads: 'O Lord, be thou my keeper, mercie and peace in this place, 1616'. It can be seen from the footpath but is fast disappearing beneath a creeper. This house was the only house in Partney to escape the 1616 plague. Mathew Flinders, the explorer was married at Partney in 1801. Do look up at the church weather vane.

Spilsby

A hillside town at the end of the Wolds looking out over the Marsh. It has had a market since 14th century and at one end of the market place stands an ancient cross. At the other end of the market place is a splendid bronze statue of Sir John Franklin, who was born in a house on the north side of the central square. The Willoughby's chapel in the church has some striking monuments to a family who

played such a distinguished role in England's history. At the west end of the church there are three tablets for three Franklin brothers all born in Spilsby. One, a major, made the first military survey of India, one was a judge in Madras and Sir John lies somewhere in the arctic, where he was seeking a North West Passage.

Three Towns Rural Challenge Walk

These walks have been created and published by East Lindsey District Council as a partnership project. This series of varied walks has been designed to link the three market towns of Alford, Spilsby and Wainfleet. The routes also link the popular walking areas of the Wolds to the attractive marshland countryside and some quiet areas of the coast.

'The slopes of wold and valley are dotted with copses and noble trees, amongst which lie tiny villages and square towered churches.

Charles Tennyson

'Rambling is not a sport or a game to be learned in twelve months, for the older one becomes, the more one knows there is to be learned and seen.

G.H.B. Ward 1934

The Rain

I hear leaves drinking rain;

I hear rich leaves on top

Giving the poor beneath

Drop after drop

'Tis a sweet noise to hear

These green leaves drinking near.

W. H. Davis

Walk Description

Another superb walk with some magnificent views across to the ridge followed by the former pre-historic track known today as Bluestone Heath Road. The new route follows Parish Paths Partnership public rights of way to Glebe Farm on Raithby Hill and then down a steep lane to the village. After skirting Mavis Enderby village, it crosses arable fields leading to Furze Hill Nature Reserve, Hagworthingham Ford, Snipedales Country Park and on to another nature reserve. It passes near the site of the Civil War battle of Winceby in 1643 and along the aptly named Slash Lane. After a short stretch of the busy main road, the route then leads down a gentle slope to Horncastle town and its market place.

Distance

13.2 Miles

Time

6 hours

O.S Maps

Landranger sheet 122

Explorer Sheet 273

Skegness

Lincolnshire Wolds South

Starting Place

Spilsby Market Square

Map Ref. TF 401 662

Finishing Place

Horncastle Market Square

Map Ref. TF 258 696

How to get there

Spilsby

A153

From Sleaford (23 miles)

A16(T)

From Louth

A158

From Wragby/Lincoln to Skegness

A16(T)

From Partney

Horncastle

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| A153 | From Sleaford |
| A153 | From Louth |
| A158 | From Wragby/Lincoln |

Bus route Traveline Information Tel: 08712002233
Web: www.traveline.info

Parking

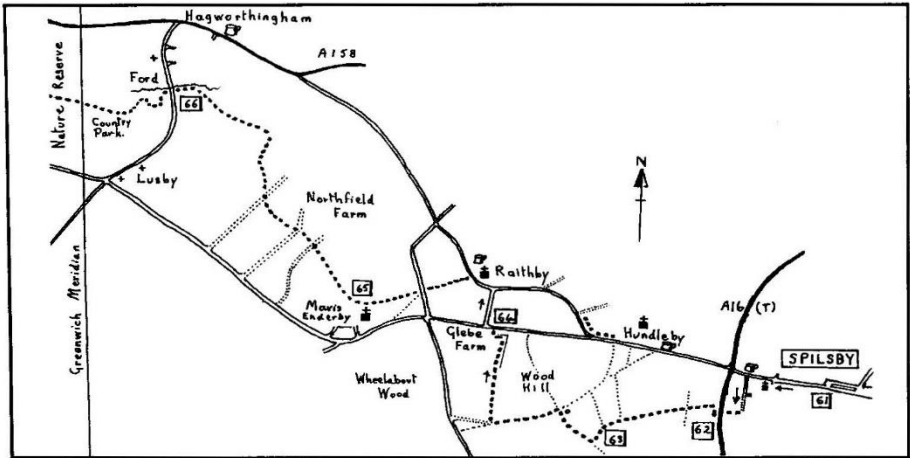
The original Market Place Car Park at Spilsby is now only short term. Good paid parking at Post Office Lane Car Park signposted off the market place. Alternately, free roadside parking en-route at Eresby Avenue off Church Street, directly opposite the Shades Hotel.

Route Description

61 From Post Office Lane Car Park walk down to the market place. Turn **RIGHT** to see the Franklin statue and continue **STRAIGHT FORWARD** up Church Street with St James' Parish Church on the left. After 300 yards turn **LEFT** down Eresby Avenue, directly opposite the Shades Hotel. Where the avenue turns left continue **STRAIGHT FORWARD** up the grassy tree line rectangle at the end bear **RIGHT** on a wandering footpath leading to the main road and signposts.

62 Cross the A16(T) road with care to a signposted footpath. Directly opposite, descend the wooden steps to turn **RIGHT** along the field edge diverted footpath. Follow the headland path around the field edge with the hedge on your immediate right. Cross the stream to continue in the same direction on a waymarked route to reach a footpath junction and signpost. Turn **IMMEDIATELY LEFT** alongside the hedge and, with the hedge on your right walk down to another footpath signpost in approximately 160 yards. Turn **RIGHT** to cross an arable field.

SPILSBY TO HORNCASTLE



63 At cross paths continue sharp RIGHT along the track to reach a large metal barn on the right. Where the track turns right go LEFT on a way signed grass track with a hedge and ditch on the right. Continue in the same direction to reach a metal signpost. Turn RIGHT off the track uphill to head straight across the arable field to meet the hedge down the hillside. Turn LEFT then RIGHT with the hedge on the right towards Glebe Farm. At the top of the hill walk through a gap in the hedge on waymarked path across a field past the Calor Gas depot. Proceed across the main road to another sign post and way mark.

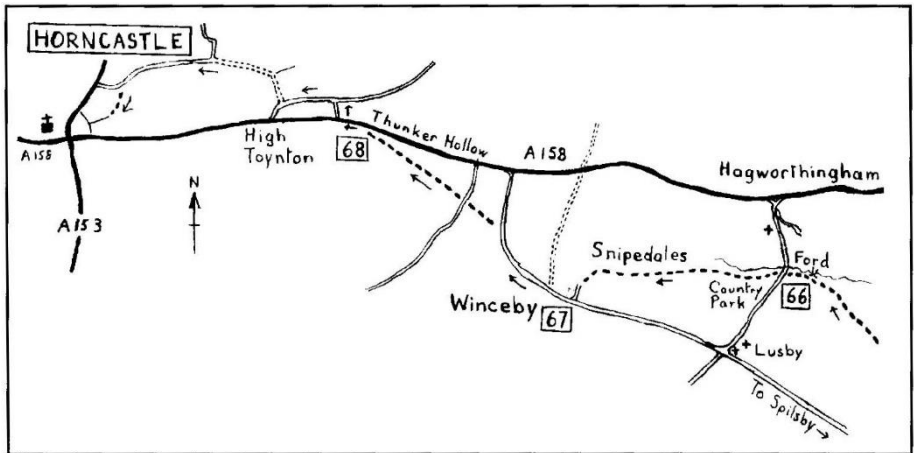
64 Turn LEFT for a few yards on a tarmac footway and then RIGHT downhill along Laundry Lane into Raithby village. Upon reaching the village turn LEFT at the T-junction, pass the telephone box on the left and then, just after the next cottage, go LEFT on FP128 along a narrow finger-posted track. Bear RIGHT when the path appears to enter a farmyard and, at the gatepost at the end of the barn on the left and a house ahead, proceed DIAGONALLY LEFT across the field aiming upslope towards a gap in the far hedge. Pass through the gap and continue your line of walk aiming for a house on the far skyline. The path breasts a slope and drops down to a narrow lane with footpath signposts on both

sides of the road. Go STRAIGHT OVER the lane and ditch board, ignore a footpath leading diagonally left and continue forward between two open fields. Cross a stile in the wire fence then follow the path as it drops down steeply to a stile aiming to the right of a large house in the trees ahead. Cross the footbridge and climb STRAIGHT ON up the slope to a waymarked stile. Follow a multiplicity of waymarks left and right with the house still on the left and, where the track comes in on the left to a fence and waymarked stile bear RIGHT to a fence with a waymarked stile. Mavis Enderby church and hamlet are behind you on the left.

65 Climb the stile and go DIAGONALLY LEFT over the pasture field as shown on the directional waymark. Drop down into the valley to cross the stream by the footbridge with way sign. With the hedge and fence on your immediate left climb the slope to walk towards the stile at the far end of the field. Cross the stile and continue as shown on waymark, aiming to the left of North Field Farm. Cross a farm track and continue uphill to a signpost. Cross the farm accommodation road and continue ahead SLIGHTLY LEFT to a lone tree. Here bear SLIGHTLY RIGHT and continue over the arable field to the left of the left-hand tree visible at the far side of the field. Eventually there is a wooden hand gate and fencing in the remnant hedge and yet another signpost. Continue in the same direction over rough pasture to drop down to a clearly visible footbridge. Cross over the bridge and stile and with the hedge and stream on your right follow the headland path around the field edge as shown by the directional waymarks. After about 880 yards, cross over sleeper bridge. Continue for some 160 yards to cross a footbridge to enter Furze Hill Nature Reserve. Turn LEFT and, with hedge and stream now on your left, walk along the valley floor, to cross the stile and wooden bridge over the infant river with the stream now on your right and continue along a narrow field. Ignore the splendid bridge on the right and bear left to the field gate and stile at the exit from the reserve. Cross the stile to the lane with Hagworthingham Ford just to the right.

SPILSBY TO HORNCASTLE

66 Go STRAIGHT ACROSS the lane to follow a signposted and waymarked footpath along the wood edge with the stream on your right. Continue around the field edge on a well-defined path to drop down to field gate and stile at the entry into Snipedales Country Park. Turn LEFT over the stile, cross the culvert with the pond on your left and follow the main track but turn RIGHT uphill at the first opportunity to pass the Meridian Stone on the left. Ignore the ride to the left and continue forward in the same direction to join a track coming in from the left. Follow this track around the park edge and after about 350 yards, follow the track as it bears right to descends the hillside and cross the



stream into Snipedales Nature Reserve with its information board. Climb out of the valley on a grassy track skirting birch woodland on the right to two field gates and kissing gates. Go through a gate and head downhill to the stream. Turn RIGHT and, with Winceby Beck on your left, follow the track as it begins the steady climb out of the valley. Ignore the sleeper bridge and footpath signpost on the left and continue along the grassy track with the beck still on your left until you reach the Hydraulic Ram on your left. Cross over the farm bridge to begin the steep climb out of the valley. At Isaacs Holt pass the old graveyard on the left to a field gate and waymarked gate to continue along the entry track.

67 Turn RIGHT off the track on reaching the grass car park, to walk across the grass to the main road. Turn RIGHT at the entry gate. There is a telephone box over on the left and shortly, a garage and store on the right. Continue along Slash Lane (Winceby battle) for around 1200 yards, ignoring the minor Hameringham Lane on the left, to leave the road by turning LEFT on signposted FP197 (at a right-hand bend in the road). Walk DIAGONALLY RIGHT uphill across the field (undefined at the time of writing) to climb to the crest of the slope. Aim for the gap in the hedge on the minor lane with the bridleway clearly visible directly opposite. There is a signpost but it is obscured by the hedge. Cross the Scrafield Lane and follow the wide rutted track, BW193, towards Thunker Plantation and the reservoir. Pass between the two and there is a signpost at the edge of the wood. As indicated, head SLIGHTLY RIGHT across the arable field to descend to a clearly visible signpost in the shallow valley. Cross the grassy bridge to bear HALF RIGHT up the slope to reach the bridleway gate and signpost on the busy main road.

68 At the main road continue with the greatest of care facing the oncoming traffic. The road slopes down and there are virtually no verges. It is almost always busy, particularly in summer time but it takes less than five minutes to cover this section. At the bottom of the slope, pass farm buildings on the left and immediately before the clump of trees on the right, turn RIGHT up an access road (with no signs) passing a house on the left. Turn LEFT on reaching Tetford Road and walk 650 yards. Immediately beyond the white cottage on the right beside a telegraph pole, go RIGHT on finger posted and waymarked BW55 and then turn LEFT where this fine track meets a stony path at a T-junction. Continue on the bridleway for 800 yards until it emerges onto a country lane at Low Toynton where you continue STRAIGHT ON. At the next road junction ignore the lane to the right leading to Fulletby and continue STRAIGHT ON (signed to Horncastle). Close to the point where the road bears right and immediately before the 30 mph

SPILSBY TO HORNCASTLE

signs turn LEFT onto signposted FP72, marked with Viking Way signs.

The public footpath keeps a line with hedge on left and residential houses on the right. This eventually develops into Bowl Alley Lane that becomes Tudor Park Road. Go STRAIGHT ON passing St Lawrence and Horncastle Primary School on the right. At the cross roads go STRAIGHT OVER to continue to a T-junction where you turn LEFT down Linden Road then RIGHT down Banks Street with a Viking Way marker and a stream on the left. Bear RIGHT with the Bull Hotel car park on your left and exit Banks Street into Bull Ring. Go STRAIGHT OVER and continue ahead into High Street and then arrive at Horncastle Market Place.

Additional Interest

Raithby

A tranquil little village off the highroad. John Wesley was welcomed at the old hall when he was preaching in the neighbourhood. In 1779, Robert Car Brackenbury gave him a room which he designated as a chapel and it remains a Wesleyan chapel to this day. An upper room in the corner of the stable yard, it is reached by two staircases – one for men and one for women. The present occupants of the Hall are not too keen on casual visitors and not unreasonably, they request that an appointment is arranged.

Winceby

The site of the Civil War battle in 1643, this was an important victory because Cromwell and his Ironsides utterly routed the Royalists. Old Bolingbroke Castle surrendered the following day and Lincoln itself a week later. The Royalist forces, pushed back along the Horncastle Road were trapped in the hollow on the main road and legend says that the valley bottom was ankle deep in blood.

Horncastle

The name Horncastle may come from its position between the Rivers Waring and the Bain. Huncastre means the 'fortress in the corner' although no castle ever stood there, only Roman walls. The Roman settlement was encircled by a town wall thirteen feet thick and built of Spilsby sandstone. The best surviving piece of the wall is in Dog Kennel Yard, north east of the market place.

Banks Street was named after Sir Joseph Banks, botanist and explorer who sailed with Captain Cook on his voyage of exploration to the Pacific. Banks' old house in the High Street now carries the town clock.

In 1860 there were 48 public houses in the town, a total much reduced today although there are a number of old posting inns offering hospitality. The Fighting Cocks in West Street still has a cockpit in the yard. Bull-baiting was practised in the Bull Ring until 1835.

The early 13th century church, built of Spilsby green sandstone, is situated on the highest ground between the two rivers. It is notable for the excellent brasses of the Dymoke family, Hereditary Champions of England and has interesting connections with the Civil War.

HORNCASTLE TO DONINGTON ON BAIN

Walk Description

Two rivers are met during this section. First the River Waring in the pleasant valley below Fulletby and then the River Bain at Market Bridge after a beautiful walk along an un-surfaced Roman road (a true green lane). The Bain is crossed again further upstream after leaving the tiny village of Market Stainton, no longer important enough to have a market today or, in the last couple of years, even to possess a shop.

Distance

15.4 miles

Time

6 or 7 hours

OS Maps

Landranger Sheet 122

Skegness

Explorer Sheet 282

Lincolnshire Wolds North

Explorer Sheet 273

Lincolnshire Wolds South

Starting Place

Horncastle Market Place

Map Ref TF 258 696

There is long term paid parking in Tesco's car park, just off the market place

Finishing Place

Donington on Bain Church

Map Ref TF 236 830

How to Get There

Horncastle

A153

From Sleaford

A153

From Louth

A158

From Wragby/Lincoln

Donington on Bain

- A157 From Wragby/Lincoln – turn right on the B1225 (towards Horncastle) and take second left to Donington on Bain
- A157 From Louth – turn on to the B1225 (towards Horncastle) and take second left towards Donington on Bain.

Route Description

69 Standing on the south side of the Market Square with the church over to the right and the General Post Office behind you, go LEFT along the High Street. At the T-junction go STRAIGHT ACROSS the Bull Ring into Banks Street and then LEFT onto Stonewell Row. At Hodson Green. Go sharp RIGHT keeping to the pathway running along the front of older terraced houses and pass through an alleyway onto the road. Go STRAIGHT ACROSS the road, along Dannarts Terrace (no visible name plate at either end) and then STRAIGHT ACROSS the next road into Bowl Alley Lane, passing the schools on your left. Where the lane bears left into the new residential complex of Tudor Park, go STRAIGHT ON along an access track with the hedge line to the right and news houses on the left. The path continues in a straight line for about 250 yards and then swings sharp left (as FP72) to eventually arrive at a kissing gate onto Low Toynton Lane. Turn RIGHT along the lane and bear LEFT at the road junction sign posted to Fulletby (2 ½ miles) and continue along this lane for about 1,000 yards.

70 At the T-junction with the Low Toynton road signed right (¼ mile) go LEFT along the finger posted public bridleway BW56 which forms part of the Viking Way long distance recreational route. Cross the concrete bridge and continue STRAIGHT ON with the hedge line on your left and, at the field corner, go RIGHT keeping the hedge on your left. At the next field corner go LEFT with the hedge on your left and RIGHT at the field end with a shallow ditch on your left to arrive at a lane and then

HORNCastle TO DONINGTON ON BAIN

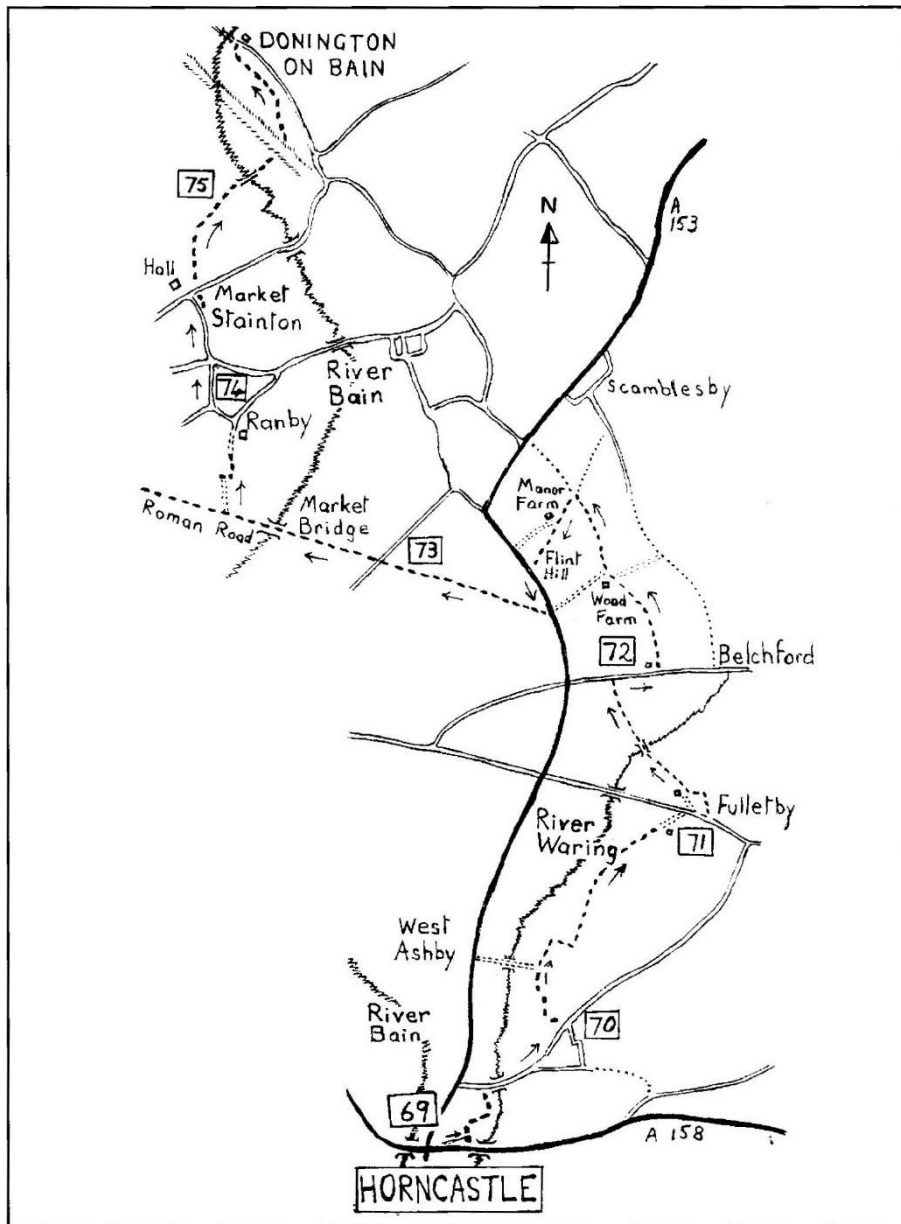
LEFT along the field edge. This really should be a 60-foot-wide Inclosure Award green lane. Turn RIGHT at the next hedge with the hedge on your immediate right and continue along the headland.

At the next hedge line, walk through the hedge and turn LEFT on a clear path with the hedge now on your immediate left and continue all the way up to Grange Farm. The true width of the green lane may be observed just beyond the farm buildings.

71 On meeting the road, walk STRAIGHT ON. Pass the entrance to the Old Rectory and a hundred yards further on, shortly after passing beneath the power cables, turn LEFT down a finger posted track, which bears to the left and right and becomes the definitive line of BW58. Where the track bears left there is a track going right which should be ignored. Bear left following the clearly marked bridleway notices, ignoring the track leading right. Keep the hedge on your immediate left. Go through the bridleway gate and continue STRAIGHT FORWARD. In the third field with the hedge on your right drop down to the River Waring and a good bridleway bridge. Continue FORWARD and climb the clear grassy path ahead between fields, when you come to a hedge keep it on your left and continue up the field edge.

72 Turn RIGHT at the road for 700 yards and immediately beyond East Farm go LEFT up a grass track (BW60). The path improves to a hard earth access track and continues upslope to a bridle gate, then continues as a grassy lane up to Wood House Farm house (left) and holiday cottages (right). There are some lovely ponds just before you reach Poachers Hideaway holiday cottages. At the top of the slope where the farm access track goes left, go STRAIGHT ON through a gate and continue along a fine headland ridge path with a hedge line to the left. This passes along an area

HORNCASTLE TO DONINGTON ON BAIN



of Countryside Commission awarded Stewardship Land with magnificent views towards Scamblesby and beyond.

Continue FORWARD through a bridle gate beside the field gates at the far field corner and drop down with the track (still BW60) and bear right with a small escarpment up on your left. Passing a way marker post the path veers to the right and drops down to a four-way finger post at a wide hedge gap. A radio mast is visible dead ahead with the Belmont television mast slightly to the left of it on the horizon. Go LEFT here (on FP26) keeping the hedge line to the left. Where the hedge turns left, CONTINUE YOUR LINE OF WALK over the brow of the hill and down to the barns of Manor Farm. Continue up the access track with the farm buildings on the left. After 350 yards, look carefully for a footpath sign hidden in the hedge on the right of the path and go DIAGONALLY LEFT here over the field. Aim for the right-hand end of the tree line on the horizon and on to a road. Turn LEFT along the road and after 500 yards cross the highroad being mindful of the busy traffic. Turn RIGHT to follow the finger posted path RUPP61 (Roman Road).

73 Walk down the Roman Road, STRAIGHT ACROSS the lane leading to Hemingby to Market Bridge over the River Bain. Just 500 yards beyond the bridge turn RIGHT on the diverted bridleway (BW62) to Ranby. Follow the main track to pick up a dyke on the right and BEAR LEFT in front of the house and LEFT again at the T-junction with the elegant Ranby Grange Farm sign.

74 Do not turn left (signed Baumber) but walk towards Market Stainton, continuing STRAIGHT ACROSS at the cross roads. Market Stainton is signposted here as ½ mile. Continue into the village with the green on your right and BEAR RIGHT at the finger post in front of the church. Walk FORWARD into the corner and follow the narrow path through two waymarked gates.

Go LEFT along the headland with garden then woodland to the left to a stile beside a field gate on a lane. Walk STRAIGHT ACROSS and proceed through a finger posted field gate and continue across a field between two splendid horse chestnut trees with the Hall over on your left. Keep STRAIGHT ON over a waymarked stile to pass through a gate into woodland and through another gate leading into the field beyond. CONTINUE YOUR LINE over the field corner to the far hedge line and go RIGHT with the hedge on your left. Drop down the slope with the woodland on your left and through a field gate onto a farm access track. Cross the track and aim DIAGONALLY RIGHT, aiming towards a gap in the trees ahead. When you are clear of the copse of trees Stenigot radar mast is visible on your right.

75 Walk to the stile and field gate to the left of the wood and then DIAGONALLY LEFT over the rough pasture aiming for a point just to the right of the field corner. Cross the stile into an area of wasteland and go on to a plank bridge to bear LEFT through a plantation and cross a small bridge with a handrail and through a kissing gate. These two bridges may be difficult to find depending on the season. Go FORWARD up the slope and at the field corner go through a kissing gate. Continue FORWARD still with the headland, aiming upslope to a three-way finger post where you again join a section of the Viking Way. Go STRAIGHT ON along a good access track with a hedge to the right aiming for a barn like building ahead and then bear LEFT to cross the line of the old railway. Continue STRAIGHT ON with the embankment/hedge to your right with the factory sheds over to the right, then pass through a hedge gap and CONTINUE THE SAME LINE with the hedge now on your left. Continue on the path and follow the line of the Viking Way for about half a mile through several kissing gates and across a farm access track until you reach a plank bridge. Follow the path along the edge of a former nurse garden to

HORNCastle TO DONINGTON ON BAIN

CONTINUE STRAIGHT ON ignoring the finger post to the left. Bear RIGHT at the houses for about 40 yards then LEFT over a stile and along a narrow pathway by the primary school. Turn RIGHT at the school entrance on to the main road opposite the church and turn LEFT to the post office and general store for refreshment.

Additional Interest

Low Toynton

Two of Low Toynton's few young men went to the First World War and two to the second. None came back.

Fullethy

An interesting little village renowned for its distant views. Roman urns have been discovered in the parish and of course it was not far from the great salt road leading from the coast. A parish clerk once served the village for 76 years, dying in 1914 at the age of 98.

Belchford

It was a puzzle why Bridle Way 58 should be a 30-foot defined width in Fullethy, but none on crossing the bridge over the river Waring into Belchford parish, until research revealed that it used to be Belchford Common and therefore at the time there was no need to define a width on that side of the river. The Blue Bell Inn is a most pleasant watering hole, although not on the route

Donington on Bain

This village is dominated by the Belmont Television mast that may be seen from miles around and the Stenigot Radar Station above its other side. In contrast to modern technology the 700-year old church has a squat, un-buttressed Norman tower. The Black Horse Inn offers refreshment and overnight accommodation and happily, the village has still got a post office and general Store.

'I love our real old English footpath. I love the rustic and picturesque stiles opening their pleasant escapes From frequented places and dusty highways into the solitude of nature But how often have I myself been arrested in some long-frequented dale, in some spot endeared by its own beauties and the fascinations of memory, by a board exhibiting in giant letters 'STOPPED BY AN ORDER OF QUARTER SESSIONS' and denouncing In terms of law upon trespassers When the path of immemorial usage is closed, when the little streak along the wealthy man's ample field is grudgingly erased, it is impossible not to feel indignation at the pitiful monopoly.

William Hone, 1827, 'Field Paths'



DONINGTON ON BAIN TO LOUTH

Walk Description

A truly delightful section of the Lindsey Loop that makes a superb days walking and it is a fitting ending to the route should you not do the final Market Rasen section. There are some spectacular views and quiet solitude on unfrequented ways, once you proceed beyond the 800-yard uphill stretch along the wide grass verge of the busy A157. Yet again part of the Viking Way route is used, before leaving it to go North East to the abandoned medieval village site of Calcethorpe, one of a number in this vicinity. The final stretch through, or above, the steep valley of Hubbard's Hills, either on the top path or along the valley floor is a delight and then your route crosses the park meadow to St James' and the wonderful spire you have seen from afar.

Distance

13 miles

Time

6 or 7 hours

OS Maps

Landranger Sheet 122

Skegness

Explorer Sheet 282

Lincolnshire Wolds North

Starting Place

Donington on Bain Village Green Map Ref TF 236 830

Finishing Place

Corn Market, Louth

Map Ref TF 329 874

How to Get There

Louth

A153

From Horncastle

A16(T)

From Grimsby

A157

From Wragby (A158 from Lincoln to Wragby)

Donington on Bain

A157 From Wragby/Louth – turn right on the B1225 (towards Horncastle) and take second left to Donington on Bain.

Route Description

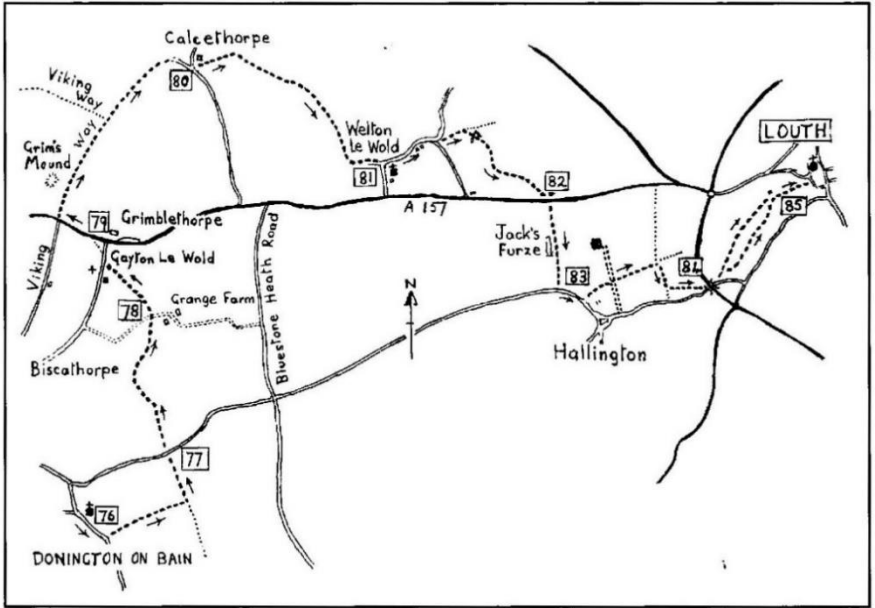
76 Proceed down the Main road through the village for 350 yards passing St Andrew's Church and the Black Horse Inn on your left. Turn LEFT through a gate onto FP154 opposite Meadowcroft and continue forward with a fence and a ditch on your immediate right. Pass through the iron field gate and on to a stile to continue on a good track STRAIGHT UPHILL passing through beautiful plantations. At the top of the hill turn LEFT on cross tracks along BW148, a well-defined track way to Weldale Road.

77 Go STRAIGHT OVER the road and continue along BW148 which initially keeps to headlands with the hedge/bushes to your left, and then follows a ridge with open land on either side with fine views of the River Bain valley down to the left. The hedge line is picked up to the left again and 300 yards on, at the three-way finger post, go DIAGONALLY RIGHT on FP147. This section of the path is often quite difficult to follow along its definitive line since it is frequently ploughed out and cropped. Hedge lines that would provide reference points have been removed and the undulating land obscures landmarks. If there isn't any defined path, proceed parallel to the hedge line which is some 350 yards over on the left aiming for the left-hand edge of the taller copse on the horizon until cresting the slope. Now aim for the left-hand edge of the two cottages on the far valley side ahead. Cross the waymarked stile and follow the double fenced track to another waymarked stile with Grange Farm on the right.

78 Cross this stile and continue FORWARD to a waymarked stile. Cross this and CONTINUE YOUR LINE to a double stile and bridge. Again, maintaining the direction up the slope, cross a farm

DONINGTON ON BAIN TO LOUTH

access track to a field gate and stile into the next field. Continue along the edge of this field with hedge line to the left to a double



set of waymarked stiles, a signpost and a country lane. Turn RIGHT along the lane for a hundred yards to the busy A157 and the hamlet of Grimblethorpe.

79 Cross the road with care and turn LEFT up the wide grass verge as it climbs for 800 yards. At the brow of the hill, where a lane, signposted Biscathorpe, goes off on your left turn RIGHT along signposted BW142. Pass the Bronze Age barrow known as Grim's Mound on you left and, at the cross tracks with the Viking Way indicated left, proceed STRAIGHT ON, still along BW142 with the hedge on your left. To the right the fields drop down into a valley but there are occasional glimpses of the valley floor where the medieval village of South Cadeby once stood. At the next junction go RIGHT with the main track (FP141) which continues straight ahead with the site of the medieval village of Calcethorpe on the left, of which little remains to be seen, following power lines to the lane and hamlet of Calcethorpe and Manor Farm.

80 Turn LEFT ALONG THE ROAD PASSING Manor Farm buildings on your right. Where the lane bends left take the redirected public footpath over a stile right. Pause to read the history of the deserted village. Follow the footpath to a stile, keeping the hedge line to the right, beside a metal gate and cross into a field. Bear RIGHT along a short hedge on the left, keeping STRAIGHT ON where the hedge line veers off to the left. Head towards a finger post in the middle of the field. Cross the stile beside the metal field gate and go LEFT for a few yards crossing a culvert and then go RIGHT, keeping the hedge and ditch on your right and, where it swings away to your right, CONTINUE ON YOUR LINE OF WALK with the hedge now on your right for a hundred yards. Where the hedge swings sharply right, BEAR SLIGHTLY RIGHT, crossing the field and aiming for a clump of trees at the top of the slope. Go through the waymarked hedge gap and passing a patch of trees to your left, continue along the fine headland path with a low embankment to your left. Keep to the headland as it bears right to pass through the edge of a small copse and drop down the slope with the hedge line to the left. At the valley floor, go LEFT with the hedge line and the bushes then trees on your right, to pass between sheds, cottages and new dwellings onto the road in the village of Welton le Wold with the old school to the right.

81 Go STRAIGHT ON along the road with the church of St Martin on the hillside on your right. Pass a narrow lane leading uphill on the right and continue STRAIGHT ON for a further 300 yards. Just before the point where the road turns sharply left go RIGHT down finger posted BW563. Pass the small enclosed sewage workings on your right then turn LEFT along the headland with trees on your left. At the end of the field, go through a field gate and then go over a narrow field then through a gate and on to a finger posted path junction with FP529 in Welton Vale. There are remains of a whalebone arch here. Turn RIGHT to wander down this beautiful wooded valley and its stream. As you approach the A157, the sound of traffic may be heard and a cottage appears to

the front left. Beside the garage of the cottage to the left, go RIGHT down a waymarked dirt track which leads to a stile and the busy main road.

82 Cross the road with care, to pick up a finger posted Permissive Path kindly provided by Mr H. Dale and Mr C. Dobson of the Hallington Farming Company. Cross the stile into the field corner and CONTINUE STRAIGHT along the field edge with woodland to the right. At the field corner, cross the stile and a plank bridge then go up a slight embankment to the field edge. Go RIGHT along the field edge then LEFT up the slope with the hedge on your right up to the fingerpost. Go through the gap in the hedge and CONTINUE YOUR LINE up the slope with the hedge now on your left. Towards the top of the slope join a farm track and CONTINUE YOUR LINE with Jack's Furze woodland on the right. This is a good place for an apple stop and to admire the view. Keep along the track all the way to the road crossing your front, with fine views of the spire of St James' Church in Louth over on your left as you proceed.

83 Turn LEFT down the lane for 300 yards and where it bends to the right, go LEFT at a finger post into a field corner. The field we cross here is a large one and the public footpath (FP167) is frequently ploughed without reinstatement. If in difficulty, aim directly for the spire of St James' Church which can still be seen in the distance. At the farm access track crossing your front, the route continues over a waymarked stile to the left of an old brick shelter and becomes a headland path with the hedge line to the left. Still with the spire to your front, the path drops down to a fine valley and a finger posted path junction. Go RIGHT here along BW168 which climbs gently with the hedge line to your right to arrive at a bridleway gate in the top field corner. Pass through the gate and go DIAGONALLY RIGHT over the next field to a bridleway gate which leads onto a country lane. DO NOT GO ONTO THE LANE but turn LEFT as directed by the finger post staying in the field following a line parallel to the hedge line and the lane on

the right. Note: this field may be set aside for grazing and there may not be an obvious defined footpath. Sometimes the farmer fences off a section of this field and he then inserts a gate some thirty yards into the field. If this is the case, go LEFT on reaching this extra gate and follow the fence line keeping the definitive route initially on your right but rejoining it where the temporary fence ends. At the right hand field corner cross the stile and drop down the steps on to the road.

84 Go LEFT along the lane, passing beneath the A16 Louth bypass and, at Hubbard's Hills car park on your left turn LEFT through a wicket gate into this beautiful, wooded valley. Go IMMEDIATELY RIGHT up the steps and, near the crest go LEFT with the finger post, following the high-level path along the top of the valley with the golf course over the hedge on your right. Note that it is also possible and equally pleasant to follow the bottom path by the stream and to join the high-level route further along beyond the toilet block.

85 Descend from the high-level path steeply to the road, cross it and follow the good, tarmac track across the park meadow with magnificent views of St James' ahead. The track passes through a wicket gate onto Love Lane. Proceed STRAIGHT ON along the main road (Westgate) and bear LEFT towards the parish church with the Wheatsheaf Inn on your left. Take the footway behind the church with the rectory on the right and then turn RIGHT at the busy main road and then left into Mercer Row and onto the Corn Market and the completion of this section of the Lindsey Loop if you are not doing the Market Rasen ending.

DONINGTON ON BAIN TO MARKET RASEN

Walk Description

An easy varied walk with contrasting sections and, from a number of different viewpoints along the route, distant sightings of Lincoln Cathedral some 15 miles away. At the start of the walk near Benniworth Haven, the views across the valley to the infant Bain with the edge of the Wolds beyond are attractive in any season. Hainton village remains an estate village with the public house reflecting the name of the local family who lived in the hall. After the village, an unfrequented bridleway takes you by Beck House Farm and then over pasture fields to Legsby village. Legsby Wood is a delight and is left all too soon, to cross arable fields to Market Rasen, with surprisingly unexpected small public paths on the very edge of town.

Distance

11.9 miles

Time

6 hours, with time to 'stand and stare'

OS Maps

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Landranger Sheet 122 | Skegness |
| Landranger Sheet 121 | Lincoln |
| Explorer Sheet 282 | Lincolnshire, Wolds North |

Starting Place

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Donington on Bain Church | Map Ref TF 236 830 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

Finishing Place

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Market Rasen Market Square | Map Ref TF 107 892 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

How to Get There

Market Rasen

Working railway to Market Rasen. A46 Lincoln to Grimsby road.
Bus Route Travelline Information Tel: 08712002233

Web: www.traveline.info

Donington on Bain

From Lincoln by road take the A158(T) to Wragby, then the A157 Louth road to turn right 2 miles beyond Hainton village onto the B1225 Horncastle road, known as High Street. After 2 ½ miles by the Belmont TV Mast that dominates the country hereabouts, turn left off the High Street down into Donington on Bain.

Parking

Market Rasen

John Street car park pay and display. Toilet block.

Donington on Bain

Not easy at Donington. There is a useful pick-up point by the church entry and the shop. Park carefully in the cul-de-sac opposite the church. There is a large car park behind the Black Horse Inn but the landlord, not unreasonably is concerned about unknown cars parked there outside normal licensing hours. The inn does offer overnight accommodation.

Route Description

A From the church gate walk across the road with the general store on your right, to bear LEFT into the cul-de-sac with the old people's bungalows across the green on your right. At the very end of the development you will find an attractive, winding footpath leading down to the infant River Bain. Cross the substantial footbridge and walk uphill towards the farm buildings with the fence on your immediate right. At the three-armed signpost turn LEFT towards the end of Benniworth House Farm buildings and then RIGHT uphill to bridleway gate and stile. The Belmont Transmitting Mast on your right dominates the first part of the walk.

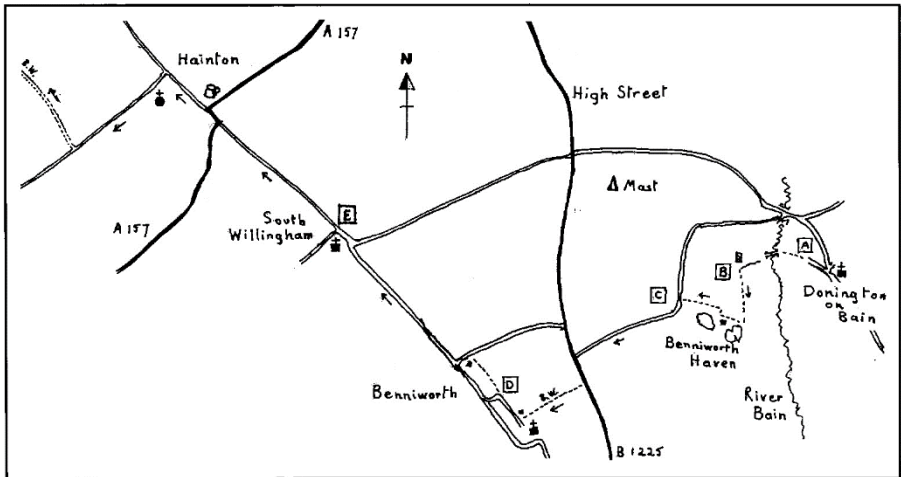
B Cross the stile to turn LEFT with the hedge on your left. After 500 yards turn RIGHT uphill on a signed path with a house half-hidden on your left. After 500 yards turn briefly RIGHT

DONINGTON ON BAIN TO MARKET RASEN

then immediately LEFT with a hedge and a lake beyond on your left. Proceed FORWARD downhill all the way to the lane.

C Turn LEFT and walk steeply uphill until you meet the main road, High Street. Turn LEFT for 200 yards and then cross the road to follow the good, straight bridleway to Glebe Farm, Benniworth. Bear RIGHT then LEFT through the farm buildings to turn RIGHT down the village lane with the farmhouse (advertising Bed and Breakfast) on your right.

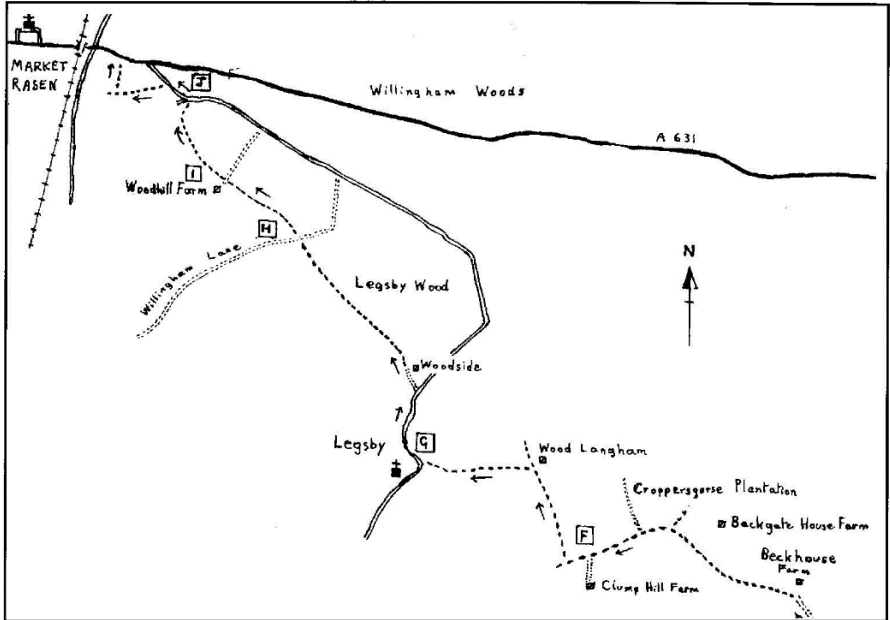
D At the sharp left-hand bend in the lane turn RIGHT through a gate on to a signposted path with a garden on the left. Continue FORWARD at the open space with signposts and walk forward on the same line with the house on your right. Turn LEFT at the lane for a few yards and then RIGHT upon reaching the main road. Continue along the road until you reach South Willingham village.



E Continue FORWARD along Hainton Road until you reach the Heneage Arms, the only place for refreshment en-route. Still proceed FORWARD for another 350 yards until you reach the T-junction. Turn LEFT with the church on your left. After 1000 yards turn RIGHT down the signposted tarmac bridleway,

DONINGTON ON BAIN TO MARKET RASEN

passing Beck House Farm on your right. The route becomes a well-defined track as it swings left along the edge of Croppersgorse



Plantation. At the end of the wood ignore the track as it turns right and carry on FORWARD along the tree-lined bridgeway.

F Pass the entrance to Clump Hill Farm on your left and after 350 yards follow the metaled track as it turns sharp right on to a way signed public bridgeway. Follow this bridle path as it meanders through the fields and, approximately 100 yards before Wood Langham Farm, look for a bridle way sign on the left in the hedge. Turn LEFT to follow the bridgeway through the thicket. Cross the bridge, go through the gate and with the dyke on your left walk along the field edge. Continue through the first field gate with the hedge on your immediate left. Pass through another field gate and at the last field gate turn DIAGONALLY RIGHT towards Legsby Village and a metal gate with the church over on the left.

DONINGTON ON BAIN TO MARKET RASEN

G Turn RIGHT through the village round the bends for 600 yards to turn LEFT up the signposted track with Woodside Farm over on the right. Follow a well-defined track into Legsby Wood and continue in the same direction along a way signed path. At the woodland edge climb the stile and continue to walk FORWARD through the wood on a well-defined path following waymarks. Cross a track, continue through wood to a metal gate and kissing gate and enter into grass field, with the wood now on your right.

Continue FORWARD through three more metal field gates to arrive at a track leading to College Farmhouse on left. Cross this track and maintain the same direction over an arable field to arrive at hedge and track.

H Cross the Willingham Lane track to a four-way finger post opposite. Continue FORWARD across an arable field to a waymark beside the oak tree at the end of the remnant hedge. Continue in the same direction to pass just to the right of Woodhill Farm. Walk along the boundary until you reach the farm road.

I Cross the farm road to a kissing gate opposite, bearing half right over an arable field aiming for solitary oak tree in the hedge and a waymark. Bear LEFT keeping hedge on right to a gate ahead. Cross this and continue to follow the right-hand hedge around field. Continue HALF RIGHT across the field to the edge of the bungalow development and a waymark. Turn RIGHT and with a hedge on both sides and later a fence walk down to the road.

J Turn LEFT for 300 yards with the cemetery on your RIGHT. Cross the road and follow a well-worn path with a second cemetery on your immediate RIGHT. Upon reaching the main road turn LEFT and continue until you reach Market Rasen Market Place and the end of the Lindsey Loop.

Final Comment.

The Lindsey Loop may not be the best walk you have ever done or will do in your lifetime. It may not be the best walk in Europe as is claimed in some advertisements for the Calderdale Way, but as you walk downhill all the way from Jack's Furze towards the magnificent 295 foot, crocketed spire of St James' Church and then along Hubbard's Hills footpath at the end of you Lindsey Loop walk you will certainly have a feeling of accomplishment and a wonderful memory of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to treasure and recall all your days.

'I firmly believe that the public has a legitimate right of access to all Britain's countryside. Provided crops, livestock and privacy are respected, there is no reasonable argument for denying access. The land historically belongs to the people. They have defended it in time of War, they have subsidised it in times of peace and they should not be denied access to it by self-centred landowners.'

*Reg Wood, a Scottish farmer
Big Farm Weekly, 1990*

Many winters have I suffered
In rain and snow.
My skin goes hard and squeaky
And is apt to crack you know.
My master is considerate
And cleans me after use
But hasn't time to dubbin me
Or that is his excuse.

Arthur Campling

The Lindsey Loop

**A 105 mile walk through the Lincolnshire
Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
In eight stages with an alternative route
ending
Brett Collier**

About the Walk

The walk visits six small market towns, each of which has a part in our Island's history. The route takes you through a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes many obscure villages both undiscovered and unspoilt as well as a sixty foot wide Roman Road. There is a choice of two final end sections—one takes you back to Louth from Donington on Bain the other returns you to Market Rasen.

Above all the walk passes through the lovely rolling countryside of the Lincolnshire Wolds. This is the Lindsey Loop.

About the Author

Brett Collier lived in Lincoln and was an enthusiastic Rambler. He published many books of walks and tours of the area and was also president of the Lincolnshire Area of the Ramblers Association.

He was often to be found in the countryside with notebook in hand making meticulously detailed notes on routes for walking enthusiasts. Not only are his notes thoroughly researched, practical and accurate—they contain much fascinating detail about the area they describe. To add interest to the text, Brett Collier has added many interesting asides about rambling and the countryside.

Price £4.95