

For general visitor information, and to learn more about Sir Joseph Banks, visit the Joseph Banks Centre, 9-13 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincs LN9 5HZ. Tel. 01507 526065 enquiries@joseph-banks.org.uk www.joseph-banks.org.uk



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE AREA, VISIT - lovelincolnshirewolds.com



Acknowledgements

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ROYAL KEW GARDENS

Shortly after returning from Australia, Banks was received by King George III and they formed a long-standing friendship. In 1780 Banks became involved with developments at Kew Gardens. With the King as Patron and Banks as unofficial director, the Royal Gardens at Kew were developed as a systematic botanical collection. In 1781 he spent the summer laying the foundation of *Flora Kewensis*, a catalogue of the plants at Kew, which appeared in 1789 listing 5,600 species.



Plan of The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 1837

Kew remained a lifelong interest. It was not only a fascinating ornamental garden of exotic plants, it was an essential tool in understanding, preserving, growing and acclimatising as many different species of plants that could be found.



Parkinson's drawing of Mango © Natural History Museum, London

Bank's chief concern was economic botany, and Kew began distributing seed and plants to other gardens and enterprising planters. The New Zealand flax and spinach were the first steps, but soon Kew was shipping the camphor tree and mango to Jamaica, and encouraging the East India Company to establish plantations with high yield black tea bushes from China. He masterminded the scheme to send breadfruit seedlings from their native Tahiti to the West Indies, in order to feed plantation slaves better, on HMS *Bounty* under the command of Captain William Bligh. It was in recognition of this vital contribution that the Sir Joseph Banks Centre for Economic Botany building was named in his honour in 1990.



FATHER OF AUSTRALIA

Banks understood the potential of Australia. In a report to the House of Commons during 1779 he suggested that petty criminals should be transported to Australia to relieve the chronic overcrowding of prisons in England. The government finally agreed and the first ship sailed with 564 men and 192 women on board, landing at Botany Bay in January 1788. Governors sent regular reports to the government detailing developments and concerns. They also kept Banks informed of progress, and he used his status and influence to obtain support for the struggling colony. His involvement earned him the title of 'Father of Australia', where he remains an important historic figure.

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KING GEORGE III'S SHEEP FLOCK

King George III, 'Farmer George' sought Banks' advice regarding the introduction of Spanish Merino sheep into the Royal flock. Wool played a major role in England's economy in the 1700s, but to produce the best cloths, fine wool from Spain had to be imported. Banks gradually acquired 300 merinos from Spain to set up the King's flock, from which breeding stock was dispensed to other landowners, to Revesby, and in 1805 to Australia to improve breeding stock.



PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Banks was elected President in 1778, a position he held until his death 42 years later. He received many honours including a Baronetcy in 1781, Order of the Bath in 1795 and Privy Councillor in 1797, together with countless honorary memberships to learned societies in England and abroad. Banks thus was in a position to influence and support experimental work in all the sciences, and many young scientists received his patronage.



Portrait of Banks as President of the Royal Society by Thomas Phillips 1815

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LINCOLNSHIRE ACTIVITIES

Despite his high office he maintained very close links with Revesby Abbey. He owned 268 tenanted farms in Lincolnshire and thousands of acres of land. Every autumn he organised annual social events such as the Fishing Party on the River Witham, the Revesby Fair and the popular Stuff Ball.

Banks was proactive in the draining of fen land and the development of canals, including Horncastle Canal, improving Lincolnshire's economic status.

HIS LASTING IMPACT

In 1820 Banks died at his home in Spring Grove, Middlesex, and was buried in St. Leonard's Church, Heston. Through his involvement with commercial enterprises and foreign governments he influenced the future of continents, and gained the title 'Father of Australia'. He changed attitudes towards nature and agriculture. He initiated and promoted research into new techniques and ideas, and encouraged scientific exploration. He was a true patron of the Sciences and generously supported scientific projects.



A tribute to Sir Joseph Banks in Lincoln Cathedral has the words "Wide as the world is, traces of you are to be found in every corner of it" (Robert Hobart 1793). There can be few men who achieved such a lasting effect on the world.

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The Lincoln Cathedral Joseph Banks plaque

ON THE TRAIL OF SIR JOSEPH BANKS

BOTANIST, EXPLORER & PATRON OF THE SCIENCES



A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Discover how Sir Joseph Banks of Revesby Abbey influenced the development of the world.

HISTORY MATTERS

LINCOLNSHIRE TO AUSTRALIA

ON THE TRAIL OF THE NEW WORLD

Sir Joseph Banks is famous for his journey with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* to the South Seas and Australasia.

Join us on a trail through Lincolnshire and see how he was among the most influential men of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, involved in the development of the County and the world.

Sir Joseph Banks, Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey RA. 1872. Commissioned in 1821 by the British Museum and The Royal Society. Outside the Department of Botany. © The Natural History Museum, London

SIR JOSEPH BANKS 1743-1820 EARLY LIFE AT REVESBY ABBEY

Joseph was born on the 13th February 1743 in London to William and Sarah Banks. Two years later the family moved to Revesby Abbey at the edge of the Lincolnshire Fens.

The estate had been in the Banks' family since 1714 when it was purchased by Joseph's great-grandfather. This ambitious man was agent for the Dukes of Norfolk, Leeds and Newcastle. As his financial position improved he invested his wealth in land, and Joseph's grandfather and father continued to build on increasing the family's financial security.



Banks Coat of Arms inside Revesby Church

EDUCATION

Joseph was educated at home until his formal schooling commenced at Harrow when he was nine years old. In 1756 he transferred to Eton and during this period his interest in nature first emerged. Joseph's education continued at Christ Church Oxford where, on discovering there was no lecturer in botany, he personally paid for a professor.

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INHERITED THE ESTATE

In 1761 Joseph's father died and he inherited his father's wealth, including an annual income of £6,000 and the Lincolnshire estates. Under the guidance of Benjamin Stephenson, the very experienced and diligent estate steward at Revesby, he became actively involved in estate management and land drainage.

THE VOYAGES

In April 1766 he mounted an expedition to Newfoundland and Labrador where he encountered Eskimos and collected seabirds, marine life, and plants of these northern areas. In his absence he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society at the young age of 23.

In 1768 the Royal Society obtained a commission from the Admiralty, and the support of King George III, to engage Lieutenant James Cook, a Yorkshire farm labourer's son, who would find fame and promotion to Captain as a result of the *Endeavour* voyage to Tahiti, to chart the passage of the planet Venus over the disc of the sun. Banks, as a fellow of the Royal Society, requested that he and a party of eight, comprising botanist Solander, two artists Parkinson and Buchan, a secretary and four servants be allowed to join the ship and record the findings of this epic journey.

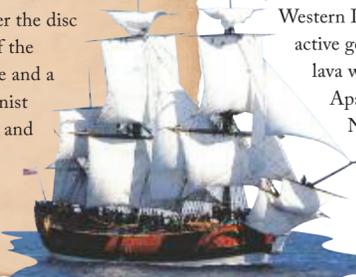


Banks spent £10,000 in organising and equipping this trip including a library of books, bottles and salts for preserving specimens, nets, trawls, drags and other apparatus.

After Tahiti the vessel sailed into uncharted waters, circumnavigating New Zealand and exploring the east coast of Australia including the Great Barrier Reef, which they claimed as British and named 'South Wales'. When they landed in Australia on 28th April 1770, Cook named Botany Bay as a tribute to Banks' work. Banks and his colleagues collected and catalogued examples of thousands of plants and animals. One of these plants was later named *Banksia*.

The return journey was a difficult one, riddled with disease, calling at Papua New Guinea, Java, Cape Town, St Helena. The ship returned in 1771 and Banks and his colleagues had a huge collection of fascinating new material. Banks' original journal is retained by the State Library of New South Wales, Australia.

A year later Banks and Solander set off again to the Western Isles and Iceland, observing the geology, active geysers and volcanoes, and collecting lava which can still be seen at Kew Gardens. Apart from travels round Britain and Northern Europe this was to be his last voyage.



Replica of the HM Bark Endeavour photo by John Lancaster

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COLLECTIONS AT SOHO SQUARE

Having established himself in London he created a vast library and reference collection at his home in Soho Square. It became an international centre for research and learned conversation, welcoming many knowledgeable and influential people from across the world. In December 1772 the Reverend Sheffield (Keeper of Ashmolean Museum) wrote a letter to Rev. Gilbert White indicating the scope of the collection:

"The armoury was given over to warlike instruments, mechanical instruments and utensils of every kind made by Indians in the South Seas.

"The second room had various native costumes together with the raw material from which they were produced, as well as a large collection of insects and a complete *hortus siccus* of all the plants collected during the course of the voyage. The number of plants is about 3,000, 110 of which were new genera, and 1,300 new species which were never seen or heard of in Europe before.

"The third room contained an almost numberless collection of animals, quadrupeds, birds, fish, amphibia, reptiles, insects and vermes preserved in spirits and most of them new... Add to these the



The library at Soho Square by permission of the Linnean Society of London

choicest collection of drawings coloured by Parkinson, and 1,300 or 1,400 more drawn with each of them a flower, leaf and a portion of the stalk, coloured by the same hand."

Banks undertook the cataloguing of this collection. By 1784 the mammoth task was complete with 800 plates prepared of Sydney Parkinson's botanical drawings, but sadly, spiralling costs prevented publication. The collection was left to the British Museum, later transferred to the Natural History Museum London as the Banks Archive.

Specimens including a tray of insects, a herbarium sheet and fish from Banks' voyage in 1770. © The Natural History Museum, London



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HISTORY MATTERS

LINCOLNSHIRE TO AUSTRALIA

ON THE TRAIL OF THE NEW WORLD

EXTEND YOUR TRAIL
 You could extend your trail with a visit to either Boston or Lincoln, both of which have strong links with Sir Joseph Banks.

Sir Joseph Banks was granted the Freedom of the Borough in 1771, he then became Recorder of Boston in 1808. Young Joseph Banks would have known Boston well as the nearest large town to his family home at Revesby Abbey. In later life he would host huge fishing parties on the River Witham when thousands of fish were caught and then cooked and eaten on the river bank.

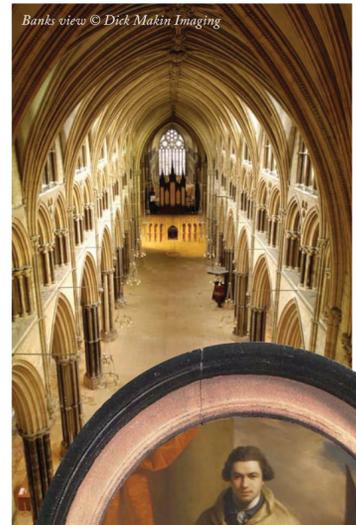
Visitors to Boston should not miss a tour around St Botolph's Church, affectionately and famously called 'Boston Stump,' where there is a wall plaque dedicated to Joseph Banks and the other Lincolnshire people who explored Australia.

The Guildhall in South Street is also a must for Banks tourists, the building dates back to 1390 and has amazing artefacts and displays concerning the Pilgrim Father's, transportation of convicts and the history of Boston. In 1809 Boston Corporation commissioned Thomas Phillips to paint a portrait of Sir Joseph which still has pride of place in this amazing museum.

The Lincoln Assembly Rooms built in 1744 was the venue for the annual Grand Ball which was the finale of Race Week, an event which Sir Joseph and his wife Dorothea attended.

Lincoln Cathedral is one of the finest medieval buildings in Europe, towering above the city as a prominent landmark for miles around. Inside the Cathedral, to the immediate left of the West Door is a beautiful plaque to Banks which was unveiled by Australia's High Commissioner in 2000. Above the plaque there is a narrow walkway known as 'Banks View', because he liked it so much. In the Wren Library, there is a large globe dated 1785 depicting the discoveries of Cook and Banks. In the Seaman's Chapel, the window on the right depicts Banks landing at Botany Bay from the Endeavour.

In Lincoln's Usher Gallery a portrait of Joseph Banks, painted by Benjamin West, hangs on the main staircase. It was painted shortly after his return from Australia and shows Banks wearing a Maori flax cloak, surrounded by objects from New Zealand and Polynesia. At his feet lies a drawing of flax by Sydney Parkinson, the artist who accompanied him on the Endeavour.



This trail visits parts of Lincolnshire, where examples of Sir Joseph Banks' work that affected the county and the world can be seen. It offers a number of exploratory tours, which you can choose to follow. Take a day out and discover some of Lincolnshire's history. The trail guides visitors from Horncastle, but can be joined by anyone staying in the area.

1 HORNCASTLE

Horncastle is a lovely Georgian and Victorian market town which is famous for its antique shops. Have fun exploring the town's history and connections with Banks by following the route on the inset map. Park in Tesco car park, off St Lawrence Street. Start here by the River Bain, which with the River Waring, provided the fill water for the Horncastle canal. This is the north basin of the canal and Stevenson's watermill can be seen. An information board is sited here.

BANKS' TOWN HOUSE

Marked by a blue plaque. He used it during his autumn visits to Lincolnshire, especially when sitting as a magistrate on the Horncastle Bench.

THE BULL HOTEL

A coaching inn in Banks' time, it provided stabling at the rear where the cobbling remains. The Bull was the venue for the Annual Ball organised by Banks in aid of the Dispensary, one of the most fashionable events in Lincolnshire.

BANKS STREET

Named after Sir Joseph and displays some well preserved Georgian houses.

WHARF ROAD

The 11 mile Horncastle canal with 12 locks was completed in 1802. Barges transported coal, grain and wool while steam packet boats carried passengers from Lincoln and Boston. The railway arrived in 1855 and gradually the canal trade declined, finally closing in 1878. An information board is on the east wall of the Library.

The first Lincolnshire Dispensary started by Banks in 1789, and Workhouse were located in the two cottages at the back of the churchyard, marked with blue plaques. On the left is the National School, started by Sir Joseph Banks on land that he owned and built with over 20 trees from his estate at Revesby.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS CENTRE

The 18th century building is a recently restored Grade II building. It is the headquarters of the Sir Joseph Banks Society whose aim is to promote the achievements of Sir Joseph and to strengthen Lincolnshire's historic link with Australia and New Zealand. It is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, housing a Joseph Banks research room, shop, exhibition area and Banks Garden. The Love Lincolnshire Plants Project aims to enthuse the next generation of botanists by making a new archive of Lincolnshire's plants; which will be retained and displayed at the Centre. Through working with students at The University of Lincoln, this 21st century collection will provide a vital tool for scientific research into climate change and plant genetics; helping to address plant extinction on a local and national level.

For a longer walk continue along Bridge Street and West Street to admire the lovely stone sculpture erected as a tribute to Sir Joseph Banks. Cross the A153 and continue along West Street, keep left past some houses, follow the footpath along the banks of the River Bain to a footbridge. Turn left over the footbridge over the Horncastle Canal. Continue along Coronation Walk where there is an information board about the canal.

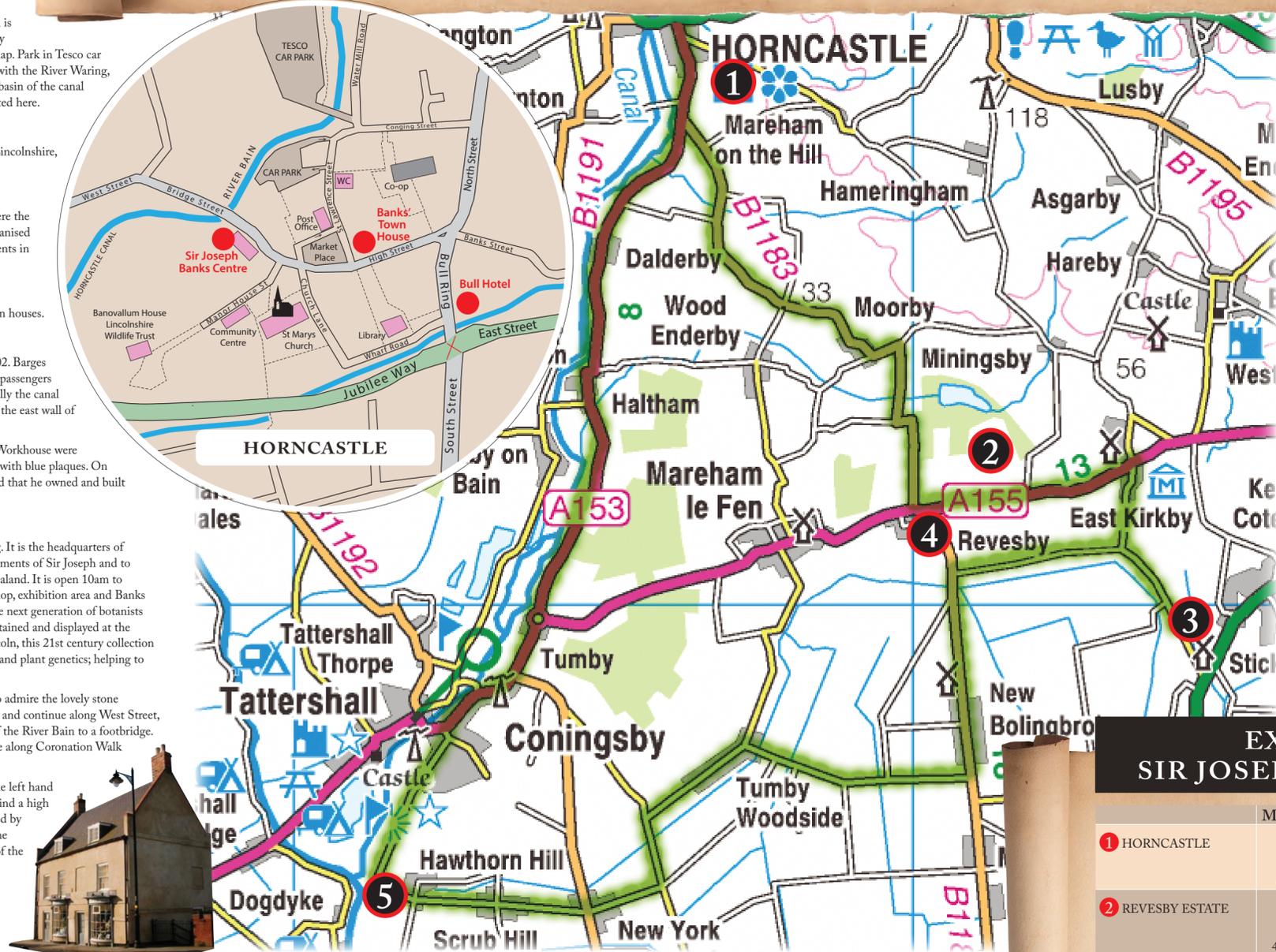
At the old school cross the road into St Mary's Square. Keep to the left hand path to emerge on Manor House Street. Opposite the school, behind a high brick wall with a blue plaque, stands the Manor House once owned by the Bishop of Carlisle. Dr. Charles Littleton was Bishop during the mid-1700s and he supported Sir Joseph at his election as Fellow of the Royal Society in 1766.

2 REVESBY ESTATE

From the A155 layby, east of Revesby, where there is an information board, you can see the parkland which has changed relatively little over the past 250 years. Banks lived here as a child and visited every autumn after his marriage. The former mansion, built in 1663, stood in parkland sited half way between the present house and the A155. The present mansion, screen and gates were erected in 1845-8. Please note there are no public rights of way across the Revesby Estate.



Parkinson's drawing of Breadfruit © The Natural History Museum, London



The Joseph Banks Centre, Bridge Street

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3 THE FENS

The Lincolnshire Fens was once a vast low lying area rich in wet grassland, wet woodland, raised bog, reed beds and fens. Attempts to drain the Fens started in the 1600s by Dutch engineers and slow progress was made in the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1799 Banks invited John Rennie, a Scottish engineer to survey the Fens and produce a new gravity drainage system that changed forever the landscape of the Fens.

There is an information board at Hagnaby Fen nature area. Take a short walk around, which will provide a glimpse of the former fen landscape. As a result of drainage many wetland habitats and species were lost, a fact later regretted by Banks. Hagnaby Lock was one of many locks which were used to keep the water level at 4-5 feet above sea level, enabling it to be used for irrigation and stock proof field boundaries.

4 REVESBY VILLAGE

Park carefully on roads around the green and explore the pretty village. There is an information board located on the village green. The village was rebuilt during the mid to late 1800s. There are many connections and memorials to the Banks family in the church and churchyard. The Abbey at Revesby was founded in 1142 and is situated in a field behind the village hall where you can trace the remains of the Abbey. The site is an ancient monument and there is an informative leaflet in the church. You can view the site if you take a short walk on the public path.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE FENS

The journey from Revesby to Dogdyke takes you on small roads which can be uneven due to peat shrinkage, please drive carefully. The roads cross many of the drains cut across West and Wildmore Fens by Rennie. Look across the Fens -

and enjoy the open landscape and big skies! This is some of Britain's richest farmland - see how many different crops you can spot. New Bolingbroke was built as an industrial village by Banks' agent John Parkinson's son in 1823 for silk & wool weaving - a short-lived enterprise.

5 DOGDYKE

There is an information board in the car park of the Packet Inn, where you could enjoy a refreshment break. Here the River Bain joins the wide River Witham, and you can watch lots of activity on the river. The Banks family started out on their annual fishing parties from here. The Horncastle Canal formerly joined the Witham to the north of here. To see more of the Horncastle Canal walk back towards the main road and take the public footpath on the left past the marina, and along the canal banks towards Tattershall Castle. You may even see a flypast from RAF Coningsby!

EXPLORE THE AREA'S LINKS TO SIR JOSEPH BANKS BY CAR OR SMALL COACH

	Miles	Route	Parking	What else can we visit? Refreshment stops
1 HORNCASTLE	6	A153 towards Coningsby for 1m, fork left on to B1183 to jctn with A155, turn left to layby.	Tesco car park or street.	Market day Thurs/Sat. Roman wall. St Mary's Church links with Lincolnshire Rising. Pubs and cafes to suit all. Red Lion PH on A153 at Revesby. Bolingbroke Castle.
2 REVESBY ESTATE	4.5	A155 to East Kirkby, turn right towards Stickney for 2m, turn right into car park.	Park in layby on north side of A155 to see estate.	Walk back on path to see gates to Revesby Estate. Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre.
3 HAGNABY FEN	4	Turn left out of car park and after 1m fork left to Revesby Bridge. At B1183 turn right for 1m and left into Revesby village.	Car park at Hagnaby Fen.	Take a short walk around the fen. Stop at Hagnaby Lock on West Fen catchwater drain if you wish. The road follows the drain to Revesby Bridge.
4 REVESBY VILLAGE	12	Return to B1183 and turn right for 2.5m. At New Bolingbroke turn right, 3m to Tumbly Woodside, turn left 1.5m, turn left 1m, turn right to Dogdyke 4m.	Park carefully on roads around green.	Visit the church and take a short walk past the site of the Cistercian Revesby Abbey. See the big skies, drains and farming of the Fens!
5 DOGDYKE	11	Take left fork to Coningsby. At jctn with A153 turn right.	Park in the Packet Inn at end of road by river.	Watch River Witham craft or take a short walk northwards on public footpath along River Bain towards Tattershall Castle and RAF Coningsby. National Trust Tattershall Castle; Tattershall Holy Trinity Collegiate Church; RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre, Coningsby; Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre.
RETURN TO HORNCASTLE		A153		