

OTHER WALKS

ROUTE 1

ALFORD TO SPILSBY

A delightful 8 mile (13 kilometre) linear walk through the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a glacially sculpted and ancient landscape.



ROUTE 2

SPILSBY TO WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS

A contrasting 9½ mile (15 kilometre) linear walk from the edge of the Wolds, along the Steeping River, to the medieval port of Wainfleet.



ROUTE 3

WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS TO ALFORD

A remarkable 18½ mile (30 kilometre) linear walk through fenland, marsh and wold, with prehistoric heritage, Roman remains and beautiful parkland.



ROUTE 4

WALKAROUND ALFORD

A charming 4 mile (6½ kilometre) circular walk around the historic market town of Alford, with fine views of both coast and local landmarks.



ROUTE 5

WALKAROUND SPILSBY

A varied 4½ mile (7½ kilometre) circular walk around the medieval market town of Spilsby, exploring its historic landscape and literary connections.



ROUTE 6

WALKAROUND WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS

A fascinating 5½ mile (8½ kilometre) circular walk around the medieval port of Wainfleet, discovering its remarkable heritage and links with Magdalen College Oxford.



ROUTE 7

ALFORD TO THE COAST

An interesting 10½ mile (16½ kilometre) linear walk through the historic Middle Marsh and flat Outmarsh to the Sea at Wolla Bank or Chapel Six Marshes.



Listed above is a series of walks in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, leading you through rich landscapes shaped by the past, and enlightening you to three significant, charming towns.

WALK INFORMATION

DISTANCE 8 miles, 13 km
TIME Approx. 4 - 5 hours at a leisurely pace.
MAPS OS Landranger 122 and OS Explorer 274.

PARKING Free car parking is available in Alford off Millers Way, opposite the Anchor Inn on East Street (Grid Ref: TF 456 762). There are also pay and display car parks in Alford Market Place and South Market Place.

In Spilsby, there is a pay and display car park off Post Office Lane (Grid Ref: TF 404 661).

TERRAIN Along footpaths which can be muddy at times. Roadside walking, including crossing the A1028 and A158. Gentle hills throughout, with two short steep climbs.

REFRESHMENTS Tearooms, restaurants, pubs and shops in Alford and Spilsby. The Blacksmiths Arms at Skendleby. The Red Lion Inn at Partney.

TOILETS Public toilets behind Alford Library in South Market Place car park. Also in Spilsby Market Place, next to the bus shelter.

STILES Numerous. Some are stock proof and therefore may be difficult for some dogs.

Acknowledgements:

Routes walked and compiled by Fiona M Anderson
 Photos by kind permission of Fiona M Anderson; John Byford; Rod Edwards
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To find out the nearest attractions, places to eat, events and where to stay
www.visitlincolnshire.com or text DISCOVER to 84118

VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

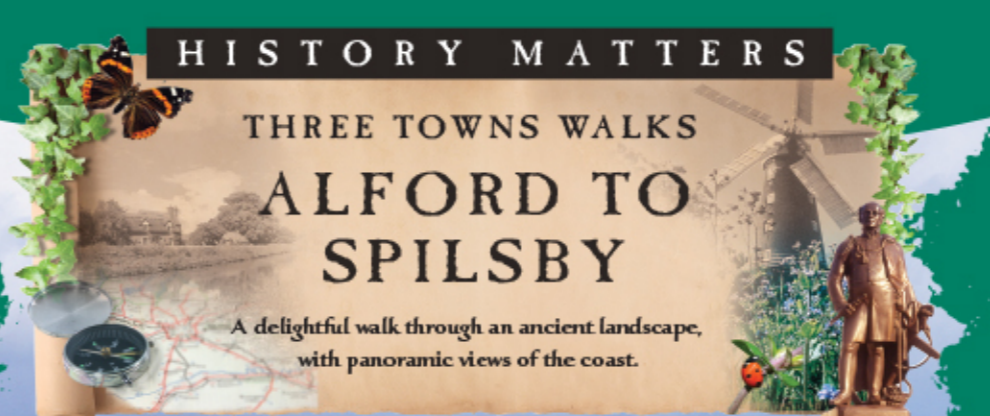


HISTORY MATTERS

THREE TOWNS WALKS

ALFORD TO SPILSBY

A delightful walk through an ancient landscape, with panoramic views of the coast.



ROUTE 1

LINEAR WALK - 8 MILES

LINCOLNSHIRE



Lincolnshire

One of England's biggest counties, Lincolnshire offers plenty of space to enjoy big skies and contrasting, diverse landscapes. The district of East Lindsey on the eastern side of the County has compiled a series of walks around some of its delightful towns and rich heritage for you to enjoy.

Alford Manor House is reputedly the largest thatched manor house in the country. Built in 1611, it is a very rare example of a composite structure, featuring a wooden frame encased in brick. Newly restored, it offers contemporary art and craft, tearoom and gardens, plus special events throughout the year.



Alford Manor House

1 Facing Alford Manor House, turn left to walk along West Street, quickly crossing over the Wold Grift Drain. Immediately after the Finnveden works, turn left onto Chantry Road. Follow this road across the junction and through an area of housing to turn right, just past a bungalow named Newlyn (number 82), onto the signposted footpath.

2 Continue ahead, through a metal gate, to walk along a field edge, turning left to follow the signposted footpath between the Mill Rundle drain and embankment of the disused railway, before turning right to climb to the embankment top. The Mill Rundle is a tributary of the Wold Grift Drain and was cut, in the late 1970s, by Alford Drainage Board to reduce the risk of flooding.

When the East Lincolnshire Railway from Grimsby to Boston was completed in 1848, Alford joined the national railway network and a journey to London became possible within three hours. However, the arrival and development of motor transport sounded the line's death knell, its last trains running on 4th October 1970.

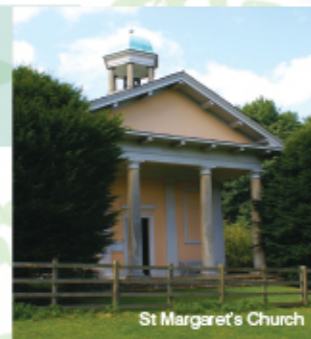


Well Vale Hall

3 Turn left along the course of the old railway line, then quickly right, through a metal gate, to follow the grassy track between fields to the road. There, turn right to carefully walk along low lane into Well. Notice the variety of species in the roadside hedges as you go, including dogwood, guelder rose, elm and hazel. Carry on past the entrance to Well Vale Hall and parkland. Then, just before Hop Gardens wood, turn left over a stile to follow the signposted footpath along the woodland edge.

4 Immediately past the large stock pen above Well Vale Hall lake, turn right to follow the signposted footpath over two stiles, marvelling at the old beech trees in between. Continue along the edge of the wood, walking between fences, to the signpost adjacent to a double field gate. There, turn left to cross straight over the valley floor, climbing steeply uphill to pass the front of St Margaret's Church. Pause awhile to enjoy this peaceful place, before turning right to follow the fenceline, past the graveyard, to the next stile.

Built to give the appearance of a Grecian temple when viewed from Well Vale Hall, St Margaret's Church is thought to have been modelled on St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, in the spirit of the Palladian. Consecrated in 1733, the altar has, most unusually, been placed at the western end.



St Margaret's Church

5 Turn to appreciate panoramic views of the coastline, before carrying on along the grassy track beside Badger Hill wood. Continue downhill, turning left to follow the signposted footpath through a long, narrow belt of woodland known as Handkerchief Piece Lane. Notice the plants growing beneath the trees. Some, such as woodruff and dog's mercury, suggest that this is very old woodland. Bear right where the tracks meet, then quickly left, to walk along the field edge towards Fordington Wood.

Woodruff



The Countryside Code

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

KEY

- ● ● ROUTE
- FB FOOTBRIDGE
- ☕ REFRESHMENTS



Traditional road sign

6 There, turn left to walk with the Wood to your right and more magnificent views to your left, with both onshore and offshore wind turbines visible on a clear day. Continue ahead along the hedgeline, turning first left, then right, to drop down into the hamlet of Skendleby Psalter. The unusual name of 'psalter' derives from the Old English words 'saltere' and 'haga', meaning 'the salters' enclosure'. A small reminder of Lincolnshire's once important coastal salt industry.

7 Cross Psalter Road, keeping Psalter Farm on your right, to carefully climb up the road opposite out of the valley. Deep dry valleys, such as this, were cut by meltwaters during the last glaciation and are a characteristic of the Lincolnshire Wolds' landscape. Carry on along this road, noticing the large fenced enclosure off to your left. This was 'RAF Skendleby', a former nuclear bunker.

Starting life as a radar station, 'RAF Skendleby' was developed as a secret subterranean regional operational command site. Designed to house 150 key government and military personnel in the event of a nuclear attack, the bunker was decommissioned at the end of the Cold War and is now in private ownership.



Towards Well

8 At the crossroads, pause to notice the Roman straightness of the Bluestone Heath Road, before crossing it with great care. For this section of the ancient ridge way, now the A1028 and one of the main routes to Skegness and Lincolnshire's holiday coast, has felt the tread of both Ancient Briton and Roman alike. Continue downhill towards Skendleby, listening out for the pheasant's characteristically loud and explosive *corr-kok* call. Away to your right lie the Giant's Hills long barrows, Neolithic burial monuments dating from 3500-2700 BC.



Pheasant

9 At the road junction, turn right to continue downhill into Skendleby village. Why not pause here awhile to visit the Blacksmiths Arms? One of the route's interpretation boards can be found in the pub's garden. Alternatively, turn right opposite Skendleby Old School and the village noticeboard to follow the signposted footpath past a cottage and St Peter and St Paul's Church, then across a wooden boardwalk and footbridge, to walk along a field edge.

10 After the next double stile and footbridge, turn left to walk through old pasture. Notice the distinct 'humps and bumps' in the grass field to your left, revealing the site of medieval Skendleby. Then, crossing the stile adjacent to a double field gate, continue past the small grassy spur, jutting into the field on your left, to follow the waymarked path straight over this large field towards the far hedgeline. In Skendleby Park, off to your left, the site of the medieval Chapel of St James was rediscovered by a local farmer in 2003.

ALFORD TO SPILSBY

START
GRID REF:
TF 454 760



N



St Nicholas' Parish Church

11 Passing through the hedge, follow the signposted footpath across another field to a footbridge and stile in the top right field corner. From there, continue diagonally left over grassland to a hedge gap in the top left field corner. Carry on, with the hedge to your right, along the edge of two fields, before climbing a stile into interesting old grassland.

Dating back to at least the early fourteenth century, St Nicholas' Parish Church stood at the junction of two major historic roads. A thousand year old oak tree can be found in the churchyard, with the stone commemorating the marriage of Matthew Flinders, the first circumnavigator of Australia, standing nearby.

13 Carefully cross the old Skegness Road to continue along the gravelled drive between the Red Lion Inn and Partney House. Keeping the wall and hedgeline to your right, follow the field edge path downhill to a footbridge, wooden gate and the re-routed A158 beyond.

15 Carry on into some very interesting old grassland, walking diagonally right towards the gate in the next fenceline. From there, continue to the wooden gate in the top right field corner. Make out the corrugations of remnant ridge and furrow ploughland, and other 'humps and bumps', in the grassland around you. These are the protected remains of a deserted medieval settlement.

16 Continuing straight over a stone track, walk diagonally right across the next field to a footbridge and stile in the hedgeline. Then, bearing slightly left, carry on across old pasture to another. From there, cut left across the next field corner to emerge, over a stile, beside Ashby Road.

18 Continue straight ahead as the path leads into Queen Street, passing by Cottage on your right and the Post Office to your left. Carry on into Spilsby's east Market Place, with its historic Buttercross, your journey's end. However, just a short walk to the west Market Place will reveal an impressive bronze statue of Sir John Franklin, a son of Spilsby who became one of the world's most respected pioneers of Arctic exploration.

12 Follow the waymarked path through a remnant hedgeline, before walking diagonally left to pass behind Partney Primary School, with the tower and unusual 'ship' weathervane of St Nicholas' Parish Church visible ahead. On reaching the far corner of the School's fence, turn left to emerge, over a stile, down onto Maddison Lane. There, turn right along the pavement and then quickly left to follow Chapel Lane, a narrow tarmac path leading past the Parish Church.

14 Cross the road with great care to continue, through a second gate, beside the drainage ditch to a footbridge across the River Lynn. From there, follow the waymarked path to bear right over the next field, heading towards the dense stand of trees visible on the skyline and the wooden gate at the next field corner.

'Ridge and furrow' is one of the most recognisable features of the English historic landscape. Created by early ploughing, ridge and furrow is today revealed in old grassland as corrugations of long raised ridges, separated by deeper furrows. In most cases it marks the remains of medieval strip fields.

17 Turn right along the pavement towards Spilsby, the pinnacles of St James' Church tower beautifully framed before you. Then, opposite the next road junction on your left, carefully cross Ashby Road to briefly walk along Ashby Meadows, turning right to follow the signposted footpath up bankside steps to a stile between bungalows. There, turn left onto the narrow path between hedge and fence, then right to follow the tarmac path.

Throughout its history Spilsby has provided a market for surrounding communities. Still present is the medieval street pattern of four roads uniting in an extended market place. The fifteenth century Buttercross was probably the market centre, its steps being used to display wares and as a platform for itinerant preachers.

Spilsby Buttercross