

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

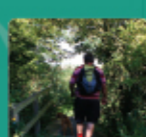
A varied 4½ mile (7½ kilometre) circular walk around the medieval market town of Spilsby, exploring its historic landscape and literary connections.



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 10¼ 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 10¼ miles, 16½ km

TIME Approx. 5 - 6 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.

Car parking is also available at Wolla Bank, Anderby (Grid Ref: TF 556 750) and Chapel Six Marshes, Chapel St Leonards (Grid Ref: TF 559 742).

TERRAIN Along footpaths and bridleway which can be muddy at times. Roadside walking, including crossing the A52. Part of the route follows the Willoughby Branch Line Nature Reserve. Generally level.

REFRESHMENTS Tearooms, restaurants, pubs and shops in Alford. Also, The Red Lion pub and shop at Mumby.

TOILETS Public toilets behind Alford Library in South Market Place car park. Also at Chapel Six Marshes, between Easter and mid-October.

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

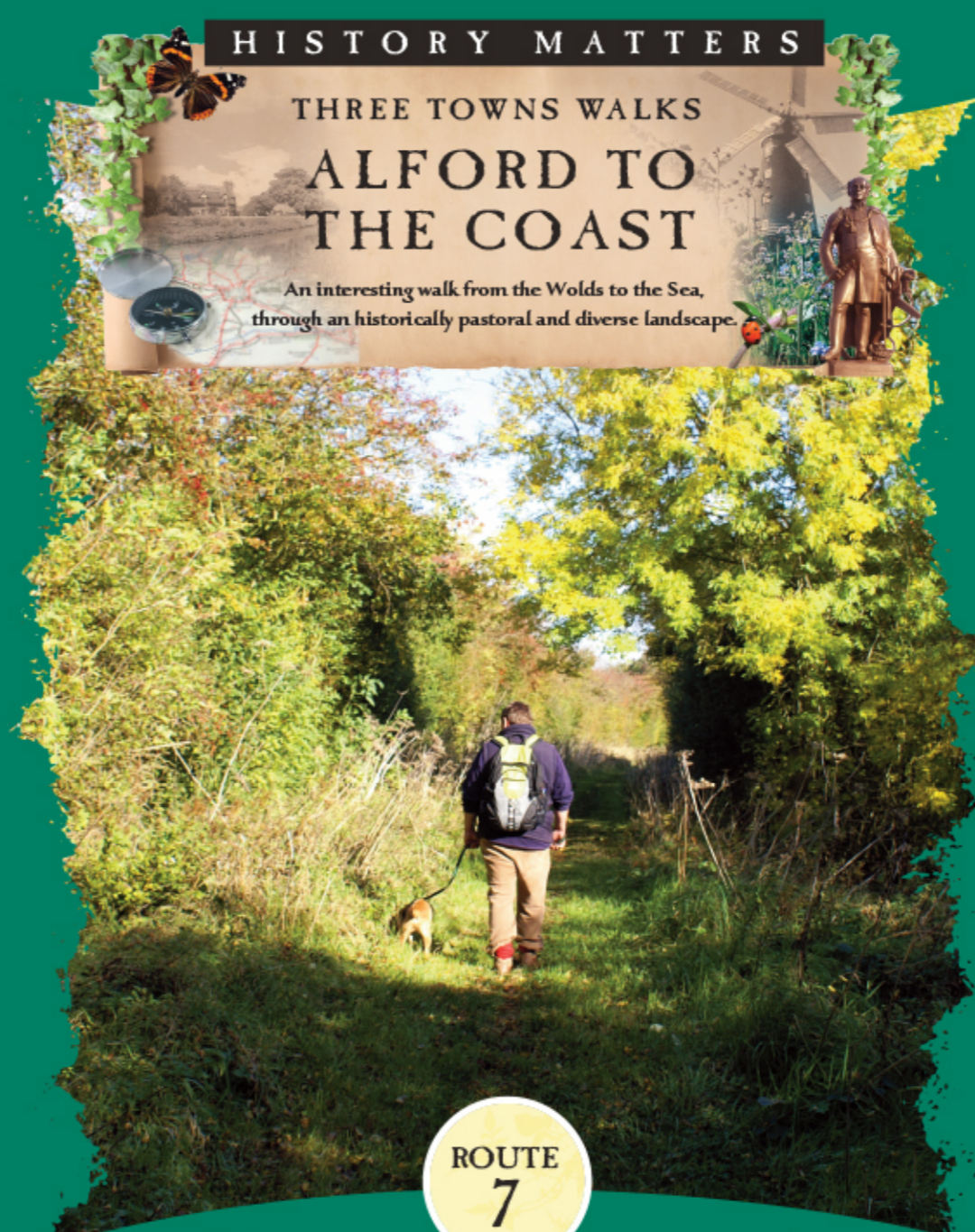


HISTORY MATTERS

THREE TOWNS WALKS

ALFORD TO THE COAST

An interesting walk from the Wolds to the Sea, through an historically pastoral and diverse landscape.



ROUTE 7

LINEAR WALK - 10¼ 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.



Nestling at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds, Alford is an historic market town boasting fourteenth century St Wilfrid's Church, reputedly the largest thatched Manor House in the country and a fully restored working Five-Sailed Windmill. A thriving community, it hosts weekly outdoor markets, nationally renowned craft markets and music festivals.



Alford Market

1 From Alford's central Market Place, turn right to walk past Barclays Bank into South Market Place, continuing past the library to turn next left into Caroline Street. Follow this road as it bends right into Hanby Lane, passing John Spendluffe Technology College on your left and Alford Primary School to your right. Carry on as the road narrows to a tarmac path, passing to the rear of house gardens, to arrive beside Farlesthorpe Road.

2 Turn left to pass Alford Cemetery's main entrance, continuing along the pavement to the next road junction. There, follow the road as it bends right towards Farlesthorpe, turning right to follow the next signposted footpath across two stiles. This short section of path is part of the Mill Rundle Walk, a permissive walk around Alford following the Mill Rundle drain. Leaving the Mill Rundle, carry on ahead along the edge of two fields, drainage ditch on your left and the rise of the Lincolnshire Wolds visible to your right.

3 At the field corner, turn right to continue along the field edge, then left to follow a stone track between fields, before turning right to walk beside a drainage ditch once more. In summer, look for dragonflies flitting over the water. Then, turn left onto a grassy track. As this track turns right, carry on ahead, following the signposted footpath across field, heading for the footbridge visible at the next boundary. There, follow the waymarked path over a second field to another footbridge, then across a third to a hidden signpost and the Willoughby Branch Line Nature Reserve.



Towards the Wolds

Part of the disused branch railway from Willoughby to Sutton on Sea and Mablethorpe, Willoughby Branch Line has developed into a fine wildlife area, its combination of grassland, woodland and scrub supporting a varied flora and fauna. Now a statutory Local Nature Reserve, it is managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.



Rosehips

4 Climb up the embankment steps to enter the Reserve, turning left to continue along the old track bed. Enjoy this quiet haven as you walk along, its colourful flowers and butterflies in summer and hungry migrant fieldfares and redwings in winter. Look out too for the ghostly barn owl quartering for its prey where once trains rumbled. Leave to the side of the field gate, emerging onto Farlesthorpe Road opposite the old crossing cottage.



Fisher's Drain

5 There, turn left to follow the road around the cottage garden, then quickly right through a second field gate to continue along the eastern section of the Willoughby Branch Line Nature Reserve. Immediately after crossing a deep drainage ditch, turn right to walk along the field edge beside it. Notice the unusual building off to your left. This is Farlesthorpe's remaining brick kiln and the nearby fishing pond, the pit from which clay was dug. Both bear witness to a once vibrant local industry.



Willoughby Branch Line

6 At the field corner, follow the signposted footpath across field, heading for the footbridge visible at the next boundary. Then, continuing in the same direction, cross a second field, passing to the right of School Farm to join a stone track. Turn right to follow this track as it bends first left, then right between fields to a tall hedge. There, turn left to walk along the field edge, before quickly cutting through the hedgeline to turn left onto another stone track.

7 Turn right to follow the next signposted footpath across field, aiming towards the outward corner of the drainage ditch ahead of you. Then, carry on along the field edge beside it to a large footbridge over Fisher's Drain. Pause awhile to catch a glimpse of local bankside inhabitants, before following the footpath over the next field, heading for the signpost to the right of the farmyard. Listen for the lapwing's characteristic pee-wee call, before turning right along the grassy track (Westfield Lane). Follow this as it bends first left, then right to emerge onto Willoughby Road in Cumberworth.



Lapwing

8 From there, turn left to walk through the village. Make out the corrugations of remnant ridge and furrow ploughland, and other 'humps and bumps', in the grass fields adjoining the road. Notice also the 'Primitive Methodist Chapel 1859' to your right. Then, immediately after the Old School House, almost opposite Ivy House, turn right to cross a footbridge and stile onto a narrow signposted footpath between gardens. Follow this through a metal gate and across three stiles to emerge, over a stile and footbridge, onto Ings Lane.



Grazing pasture, Cumberworth

9 Turn left to walk along the lane, then right at the T-junction. Pause by the bus shelter to notice St Helen's Church, with its unusual bell turret. Then, keeping right with the road, carefully carry on towards Mumby. Look out for the 'humps and bumps' in the grassland to your left and the concrete pillbox on your right beside Main Drain. This is one of the surviving fortified gunposts constructed to defend the County from the very real threat of seaborne invasion during World War 2.



The Country 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

10 At the crossroads, continue straight ahead through Mumby village, arriving beside the A52 almost opposite St Thomas of Canterbury's Church. The Red Lion pub and shop are just up to your left. Cross the road with great care to walk along the 'loop' of road connecting the Parish Church with Mumby Methodist Church. There, turn left to follow the signposted public footpath along a grassy track between ditches, listening for the blackbird's characteristically loud pink pink pink call.

15b Or turn right to carefully walk beside the Road, noticing the corrugations of remnant ridge and furrow ploughland on your right and turning left along the signposted track to Chapel Six Marshes. Continue into the car park, walking over the dunes to view the sea beyond.

On 31st January 1953 mountainous waves driven by near-hurricane winds hammered the east coast, the defences were breached and the sea came in. Wolla Bank Pit and Reedbed were dug to provide material for the repair of the sea defences. Both are now nature reserves managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.



Towards the Coast

ALFORD TO THE COAST



START
GRID REF:
TF 455 760

KEY

- ROUTE
- FB FOOTBRIDGE
- ☕ REFRESHMENTS



N

12 Turn left along the Road, quickly noticing the tower of St Mary's Church at Hogsthorpe on the skyline to your right. Ignoring the first turning left, pause at the roadside memorial to the four Canadian crew members of Halifax II BB216 who died near this spot in 1942. Continue past Meadow Side and Hawnbly House, the offshore wind turbines visible before you.

13 Turn left down the next 'No Through Road' to follow Ember Lane. This area has close associations with John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, whose ardent supporter 'Honest George Robinson' lived at Langham Row away to your left. On your right is Quakers' Hill which, some say, was the site of a Quaker village.

14 Just before the entrance to Langham House Farm, turn right onto a stone track. Ignoring turnings off to left and right, carry on along Ember Lane as it becomes a splendid green lane. Believed to have been 'surfaced' using embers from the local brickyard, Ember Lane leaves the undulating boulder clays of the Middle Marsh behind, crossing the flatter marine silts of the Outmarsh to the sea bank. On reaching Anderby Road there are two alternative endings to this walk.

15a Either turn left to carefully walk beside the Road, passing Wolla Bank Pit on your left and turning right along the signposted track to Wolla Bank. Continue past Wolla Bank Reedbed into the car park, walking over the dunes to the beach beyond.

Now dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury, Mumby's Parish Church was in 1489 dedicated to St Andrew and in 1876 to St Peter! Built in the Early English style and dating from the thirteenth century, part of its oak roof screen was the centre post of the village post mill.



St Thomas of Canterbury's Church



Roadside Memorial

11 Crossing a footbridge, turn right to walk along the field edge to another footbridge and stile, then follow the waymarked path through old grassland to a double stile and footbridge. Continue over more grassland, keeping the fence on your left, to the next stile. From there, carry on across field to walk along the field edge to another footbridge, continuing beside the drainage ditch to a large footbridge and stile over Main Drain. Go on across the next pasture to emerge, over a stile and footbridge, onto Langham Road.

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Becoming a Methodist in 1765, George Robinson had his own octagonal chapel built on his farm. Enlarged twice in eighteen years to accommodate increasing congregations, it served local Methodists for more than a century. 'Honest George Robinson', as Wesley called him, preached for forty-three years, becoming the first circuit steward.