

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	9½ miles, 15 km
TIME	Approx. 4½ - 5½ hours at a leisurely pace.
MAPS	OS Landranger 122 and OS Explorer 274.
PARKING	In Spilsby, there is a pay and display car park off Post Office Lane (Grid Ref: TF 404 661). Free car parking is also available in Wainfleet Market Place (Grid Ref: TF 498 589).

TERRAIN Along footpaths which can be muddy at times. Some roadside walking. Part of the route by kind permission of the landowner, subject to closure on 1st November each year. Gentle hills at first, then generally level.

REFRESHMENTS Tearooms, restaurants, pubs and shops in Spilsby and Wainfleet. The Eaves Inn and The Village Store at Little Steeping. Also, The Holly Tree Pub at Thorpe St Peter and Three Tuns Inn at Thorpe Culvert.

TOILETS Public toilets in Spilsby Market Place, next to the bus shelter. Also in Brook's Walk, off Wainfleet Market Place, next to the Red Lion Hotel Garage.

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

Acknowledgements:

Routes walked and compiled by Fiona M Anderson
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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



HISTORY MATTERS

THREE TOWNS WALKS SPILSBY TO WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS

A contrasting walk from the edge of the Wolds into fenland, with surprising riverbank views.



ROUTE 2

LINEAR WALK - 9½ 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.



SPILSBY TO WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS

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 Butter Cross

1 From the Buttercross in the east Market Place, turn right to walk past Spilsby Methodist Church, crossing over Halton Road at the zebra crossing. Just before Franklin Hall, turn right to follow the tarmac path downhill, crossing a road into an area of housing. At the second road, turn left, then quickly right to climb uphill onto Vale Road. There, turn left, walking across the entrance to Magellan Drive and past Vale Court industrial units. At the next road junction, turn left, then immediately right to follow the signposted footpath alongside a large industrial unit. This narrow path can be slippery when wet, so do take care.

2 On emerging into open fields, walk straight ahead along the wide grassy track, pausing to appreciate the panoramic views of Spilsby behind you. At the stone track, follow the signposted footpath diagonally left over the next field, dropping downhill towards the left corner of a small reservoir. Then, continuing in the same direction, cross a second field to emerge onto Peasgate Lane, an attractive green lane of known antiquity.



Towards Halton Hologate

3 From there, walk straight ahead, following the lane as it bends first left, then right, before turning left to follow the next signposted footpath across field. Pause on the hill top to notice the tower of St Andrew's Church at Halton Hologate away to your left, and the onshore and offshore wind turbines in the further distance. Then, heading for the left end of the hedgeline coming in from your right, carry on to a footbridge. There, continue diagonally left over the next field, heading towards the white house (Church Farm), with increasingly fine views of the fifteenth century greenstone tower of Toynnton St Peter's Church.

Known locally as 'greenstone', Spilsby Sandstone contains glauconite, an unusual green mineral that gives the stone its distinctive greenish hue. Formed in a shallow sea about 140 million years ago, Spilsby Sandstone has been widely used in local churches. It can be prone to masonry bee activity on sunny, south-facing elevations!



Toynnton St Peter's Church

4 Carry on along the grassy track into Church lane, turning left immediately after Church Farm to follow the signposted footpath straight across the field in front of the farmhouse. After climbing the 'gate stile', continue through old pasture to a stile and footbridge in the top right field corner, making out the connotations of remnant ridge and furrow ploughland as you go. From there, follow the waymarked path over the next two fields to another footbridge. Then, ignoring the farm track, walk diagonally right across the next field, heading towards the signpost visible in the hedgeline and the road beyond.



'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 connotations of long raised ridges, separated by deeper furrows. In most cases it marks the remains of medieval strip fields.

5 Turn left to carefully walk along Halton Road, with the churches of Toynnton St Peter, Spilsby and Halton Hologate all now visible on your left. As the road bends sharply left, turn right, then immediately left to follow the signposted footpath over a stile into grassland. Keeping the fence and hedge to your right, continue ahead to a double stile and footbridge, then along a field edge to another. From there, bear left to a third double stile and footbridge, following the waymarked path to emerge, between fences, onto the road.

6 Turn right to walk through Halton Fen-side, turning left, just past Akita Lodge (number 27), to follow the signposted footpath along a short grassy track. At the field edge, turn right to continue beside the drainage ditch to a footbridge and stile. With the rise of the Lincolnshire Wolds to your left and fine views of St Andrew's Church at Little Steeping ahead, stride out across old pasture, bearing half left to a double stile and footbridge, then follow the waymarked path to another.

7 From there, turn right to carry on along a field edge to the next footbridge and stile, continuing half right over the next field towards the signpost visible in the top right field corner. As you walk, look for shallow pits filled with dung. These are badger latrines. Turn right to follow the signposted path onto a grassy lane, then left along a splendid green lane bounded by tall ash trees. Listen for the great tit's characteristic tea-cher tea-cher tea-cher call, before emerging onto the road beside The Eaves Inn.



Great Tit

8 Crossing to the opposite pavement, turn right to walk through Little Steeping, quickly noticing an impressive orchard on your left and The Village Store to your right. Continue carefully beside the road, turning left down Ings Lane, the bank of the Steeping River becoming visible on your left.

Although early nineteenth century improvements straightened the route of the Steeping River between Steeping and Wainfleet, remains of its former meandering course are still visible at the end of Ings Lane. Historically, 'ings' were areas of low lying land prone to seasonal flooding, the resulting pastures providing valuable summer grazing.



Off Ings Lane

12 There, emerging onto the road, turn left to carefully cross Crow's Bridge, continuing ahead along Mill Lane. The Steeping River is now to your right, flowing onwards to the Sea at Gibraltar Point.



Batemans Brewery

13 Turn left, to follow the next signposted footpath to the rear of cottage gardens and alongside small fields, onto Mat Pitts lane. There, turn left, then quickly right to cross a footbridge onto another signposted footpath. Follow this path across a second footbridge, continuing straight over a stone track to a third. Carry on, noticing the striking brick tower mill and 'beer bottle' weathervane of Batemans Brewery to your right, arriving beside Station Road, almost opposite Wainfleet All Saints' Parish Church.

Batemans Brewery was founded in 1874 by George Bateman and, having survived some turbulent times in the 1920s and mid-1980s, is still today an independent family brewery producing 'Good Honest Ales'. The visitor centre offers attractions for all the family, including brewhouse tours, good Lincolnshire cooking and award-winning liquid refreshment!

14 There, turn left, carefully crossing the railway line, to walk along historic High Street to Wainfleet All Saints' Market Place, your journey's end. It was here, on the limestone steps of the medieval Butter Cross, that John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, preached in 1780.

9 As the lane bends sharply right, continue straight ahead along a grassy track into old pasture. Keeping the remnant hedgeline on your left, carry on to a stile and footbridge beneath the old sycamore tree. Then, continue across the next field, heading towards the waymark post beneath the tall willows. There, turn left to follow the field edge to a stile, walking parallel with the Boston - Skegness railway line.

10 Now standing below the bank of the Steeping River, turn right to cross two stiles beneath the railway bridge, following the waymarked path initially along the foot of the riverbank, before climbing to the bank top.



Crow's Bridge

Alfred Lord Tennyson drew his early inspiration from the Lincolnshire Wolds' landscape. One of his best known poems describes the journey of 'The Brook', from its source near Somersby, "to join the brimming river" of the River Lynn, the Lynn becoming the Steeping River on its course to the Sea.

11 Ignoring the footbridge crossing to Firsby, turn right to continue along the bank top. This long riverbank section of the walk is permissive, agreed with the kind permission of the landowner and is only available to walkers. Enjoy its fine panoramic views across a working agricultural landscape, whilst watching for hares in nearby fields. The Steeping River itself is a haven for wildlife, so look out for fish-feasting cormorants, summer swallows and winter snipe. Staying on this western riverbank, cross roads at Clough Bridge, Warth's Bridge and Thorpe Culvert Bridge, pausing at Bycroft's Bridge to study one of the route's interpretation boards, before heading downstream to Crow's Bridge.



Snipe

START
GRID REF:
TF 403 661

KEY

- ROUTE
- FB FOOTBRIDGE
- ☕ REFRESHMENTS



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



Steeping River



Working agricultural landscape