

Directions

- 1 From the parking lay-by at Snakeholme Pit Nature Reserve ride in a northerly direction towards Stainfield.
- 2 Turn off this road at the first right hand turning, signposted to Stainfield and Apley.
- 3 Follow this road for 2.5 miles and at the 90-degree bend in the road turn right to Apley.
- 4 Follow this road through the small village of Apley and past its tiny church dedicated to St Andrew.
- 5 After Apley turn left to Goltho and Wragby. There is little left of the medieval village of Goltho except the church that stands a walk away from the road in a small group of trees. Continue on the road until you reach the B1202.
- 6 At the B1202 junction turn left towards Wragby. At Wragby there are a number of places where you can get refreshments.
- 7 After visiting Wragby re-trace your route back down the B1202 and keep on it until you reach Kingthorpe and take the second right hand turn, signposted to Stainfield.
- 8 Towards the end of this road there are two cattle grids so care needs to be taken when crossing them. The first is after 1.5 miles just before you reach St Andrew's church and the other before the T-junction.
- 9 At the T-junction turn left, signposted to Bardney & Fiskerton. You will have travelled this road on your outward-bound journey.
- 10 Keep on this road until you reach Short Ferry Road and turn left towards Bardney. Continue along this road until you reach your starting point.

Cycle Lincolnshire

Getting there

Bardney is located in the county of Lincolnshire, East Midlands, five miles south of the town of Wragby, nine miles east of the major city of Lincoln, and 117 miles north of London.



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Snakeholme to Wragby

10 stages | 18.5 km / 11.5 miles

What to expect

Start/Finish point:

Snakeholme Pit Nature Reserve

Distance: 18.5 km / 11.5 miles

This circular route to Wragby follows a network of quiet roads that link up small, ancient villages.

On the journey, you will pass two churches dedicated to St Andrew, which are very different from each other. The church at Stainfield was attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, as he had stayed at Stainfield Hall around the time it was built. The diminutive church at Apley was originally a mortuary chapel but was rebuilt at Apley when shelter was needed for burials. It is arguably one of the smallest parish churches in the country. There is little left of the medieval village of Goltho, but its church, hidden away by a few trees, is a short walk off the route.

From Bardney you can hop on the Water Rail Way, a purpose built trail that follows the River Witham from Lincoln to Boston. The mostly traffic-free off-road route is ideal for cycling and walking.

Cycling the Water Rail Way



Focal points & attractions



Bardney

The name of Bardney village gives a clue to its past. The 'ey' ending means 'island', an indication that the area on the bank of the River Witham was once marshland, and the village site little more than an island in the marsh.



When the bones of St Oswald were brought to **Bardney Abbey** in AD 675, the monks at first refused to admit them. They were later convinced that

he was a saint when a light shone down on his remains. From then on, they claimed they would never shut the doors of the Abbey again. The parish church of **St Lawrence** dates back to 1434 and was erected by the monks of Bardney for the villagers.

The remains of **Bardney Abbey** are situated on the outskirts of the village. Also, nearby are the remains of **Tupholme Abbey**, which dates back to a later period. Parts of the façade are still in situ.

Bardney Manor has a history going back to at least the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, and the former site of **RAF Bardney** was a Bomber Command station in 1943.

The Water Rail Way passes through the village and is a nice route to follow on bike or foot. The 33 mile (54km) route starts in Lincoln and follows the old railway line to Boston.

Snakeholme Pit Nature Reserve

This former clay pit was used as a fish nursery until it was taken over by Butterfly Conservation in 2013.

Large hedgerows with mature ash and oak trees surround parts of the site. There is a good show of cowslips in the spring and the fine summer wildflower display includes Greater Burnet-saxifrage, Betony and the unusual Adder's-tongue fern.

Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve

Between April and July is the most rewarding time to visit Fiskerton Fen nature reserve, but with it being available all year round it's worth a visit at any time.

Consisting of wet fenland with open water and reedbeds there is an abundance of wildlife and wetland animals.

There are large areas of grassland with thickets of blackthorn and hawthorn scrub, and wildflowers which home butterflies and a host of other insects.

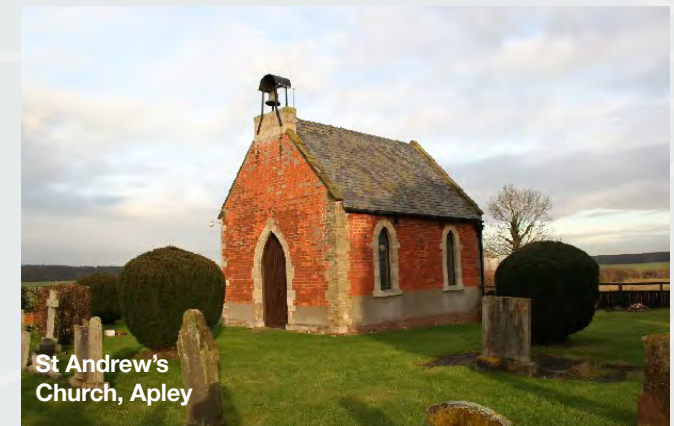
Apley

Apley's tiny church is dedicated to **St Andrew**. It is a small brick building erected in 1871 at a cost of £284.

Wragby

There's so much to experience in this small town, from losing yourself in **Wragby Maze** (open Easter to September) to taking in the vastness of **Goltho Woods**.

A short distance away is **Woodside Wildlife Park**, where visitors can see a variety of animals. They offer demonstrations, feeding and hands-on wildlife encounters.



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