

Digital Editions

The *Country Living Guide to Rural England - Lincolnshire* published by Travel Publishing in conjunction with *Country Living Magazine*, is one of a series of county-based digital travel guides covering England which will be made available to readers free of charge through the *All About You* website and through Travel Publishing's own websites.

The guides are based on the popular series of Country Living Guides to Rural England published in printed form which can be purchased through the *All About You* bookshop, *Country Living Magazine*, high street bookshops, internet retailers and Travel Publishing.

This digital guide to Lincolnshire is published in PDF format which means that you can browse the guide page by page or simply search for specific villages or towns (see pages 4 and 5). You can also print off individual pages of your choice if you are planning a visit to a particular area of Lincolnshire or, alternatively, the whole of the digital guide.

If you want more information on the places to see, stay, eat, drink or shop advertised in this guide all you need to do is click on the relevant website or e-mail address contained in the advertisement.

We do hope you like using this version of the *Country Living* rural guide and that it helps you enjoy exploring Lincolnshire. We are always interested in receiving comments on places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to give us your considered comments by e-mailing us on info@travelpublishing.co.uk.

For more information on other titles in the Country Living Rural Guide series or any other Travel Publishing titles (printed or digital) or to buy a printed guide please visit the *All About You* website on www.allaboutyou.com/countryliving or one of the Travel Publishing websites - www.travelpublishing.co.uk and www.findsomewhere.co.uk.

Travel Publishing

© Travel Publishing Ltd

All content within this edition is protected by the UK copyright of Travel Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved. This material may be used only for internal, informational, noncommercial purposes. You may not modify or alter the content in any way. You may not, without obtaining Travel Publishing's written permission, republish, redistribute, or otherwise make any copies except for personal use. You may not use the material in a manner that suggests an association with any of our publications or services.

Guide to Rural England

LINCOLNSHIRE



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

Towns and Villages

Please click on any of the towns and villages listed below for information on that location.

Aby	pg 27	Fishtoft	pg 34	Old Bolingbroke	pg 24
Alford	pg 27	Folkham	pg 47	Osournby	pg 47
Alkborough	pg 16	Gainsborough	pg 14	Pinchbeck	pg 36
Bardney	pg 11	Gedney	pg 37	Ropsley	pg 47
Barton-upon-Humber	pg 16	Grantham	pg 44	Sandtoft	pg 18
Bassingham	pg 11	Grimsby	pg 30	Scopwick	pg 51
Belton	pg 47	Grimsthorpe	pg 44	Scunthorpe	pg 15
Belvoir	pg 48	Haxey	pg 17	Skegness	pg 18
Boston	pg 33	Heckington	pg 50	Sleaford	pg 49
Bourne	pg 43	Holbeach	pg 37	Somersby	pg 23
Brigg	pg 17	Horncastle	pg 22	Spalding	pg 35
Burgh le Marsh	pg 21	Immingham	pg 31	Spilsby	pg 23
Caistor	pg 32	Lincoln	pg 7	Stamford	pg 40
Cleethorpes	pg 31	Long Sutton	pg 39	Surfleet	pg 37
Coningsby	pg 53	Louth	pg 25	Tattershall	pg 54
Crowland	pg 39	Ludborough	pg 26	The Deepings	pg 42
Deeping St James	pg 42	Mablethorpe	pg 26	Wainfleet	pg 21
Doddington	pg 11	Market Rasen	pg 12	Weston	pg 37
Donington	pg 34	Metheringham	pg 51	Willoughby	pg 22
Donington-on-Bain	pg 29	Navenby	pg 49	Woodhall Spa	pg 51
Dorrington	pg 51	Normanby	pg 15	Woolsthorpe by	
East Kirkby	pg 24	North Rauceby	pg 50	Colsterworth	pg 48
Epworth	pg 18	North Somercotes	pg 32		



Lincolnshire Wolds

Lincolnshire

Known to the Romans as Lindum Colonia, Lincoln stood at the junction of two major Imperial thoroughfares, Fosse Way and Ermine Street. By the time of the Domesday Book, it had grown into a settlement of around 1,000 households. William the Conqueror won few friends here by peremptorily ordering 166 of these houses to be destroyed to make way for an imposing castle. Around the same time, he authorised the building of a cathedral and made Lincoln the ecclesiastical centre of a vast bishopric that extended from the Humber to the Thames.

The city reached its peak of prosperity during the Middle Ages, but when Henry VIII visited in 1541 the town fathers were reduced to begging relief from taxation or “they would be compelled in short time to forsake the city, to its utter desolation”. Henry rejected their plea. When Daniel Defoe passed through Lincoln in the 1770s he found “an ancient, ragged, decayed and still decaying city”. Half a century later, another traveller dismissed the historic city as “an overgrown village”.

Happily, improvements in roads and canals, and the arrival of the railway in the 1840s, returned the city to prosperity and Lincoln became a major centre for heavy engineering - steam engines, agricultural machinery, excavators, motor cars and other heavy duty items. But you only have to climb the hill to the old town to enter the serenity of the cathedral close, a tranquil enclave lying in the shadow of the noblest and most majestic of all English cathedrals.

The south bank of the River Humber is indeed Lincolnshire's most industrial area but that is only part of the story. Rural north Lincolnshire is as peaceful and unspoilt as anywhere in the county, with scenery that ranges from the northern tip of the Wolds in the east, to the level plains of the Isle of Axholme in the west. The area also includes the largest town in the county, Grimsby (population 92,000), once one of the busiest fishing ports in the world and now an important centre of the food processing industry. A few miles up-river, and even more imposing, is the colossal Humber Bridge, the largest single span suspension bridge in Europe.

The Lincolnshire Wolds, a sweeping chalk downland stretching up the middle of the county,

includes some of the most beautiful and largely undiscovered countryside in England. This is great walking and cycling country, but there are a few hills, too – Nab Hill and Tetford Hill both rise to over 400 feet. Picturesque villages and small towns such as Aby, Bag Enderby, Normanby-on-the-Wold, Somersby, Spilsby and Walesby are well worth exploring, as are the larger towns – Market Rasen on the western edge, Horncastle in the south and Louth in the east.

Stretching from Wainfleet and Skegness in the south, to Cleethorpes and the mouth of the Humber to the north, the Lindsey Coastal Plain runs for about 40 miles, north to south, and extends between five and 10 miles wide, east to west. The Plain offers a good range of animal sanctuaries and nature reserves. The area's other main attraction, the splendid sandy beaches running virtually the whole length of the coast, didn't come into their own until the railways arrived in the mid 1800s. The coastal villages of Skegness, Mablethorpe and Cleethorpes have grown steadily to become popular resorts for East Midlanders, each one offering a wide range of family entertainment.

The Elizabethan writer Michael Drayton must have deterred many of his contemporaries from visiting southeast Lincolnshire by his vivid word picture of the “foggy fens”. It was, he wrote, “a land of foul, woosy marsh...with a vast queachy soil and hosts of wallowing waves”. It can't have been quite that bad - the Romans farmed extensively here, for example. Since Drayton's day, various drainage schemes, from the 16th century onwards, have reclaimed many thousands of waterlogged acres. Spalding is known around the world for its annual Tulip and Spring Flower Festival when a procession of floats, adorned with millions of tulip heads, progresses through the town.

The Great North Road, now the A1, brought Grantham and Stamford a constant stream of travellers and trade, a traffic whose legacy includes some fine old coaching inns. One visitor during the early 1800s regarded this as “the only gentrified region” of Lincolnshire. Belton House, Belvoir Castle, Grimsthorpe Castle and the breathtaking Elizabethan splendour of Burghley House are four of the grandest stately homes in England.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

[Click Here for travel guidebooks](#)

Lincoln

 Cathedral	 Bishops Old Palace	
 Jews House	 Castle	 The Stonebow
 Ellis Mill	 Museum of Lincolnshire Life	
 Usher Gallery		

Apart from Durham, **Lincoln Cathedral** is the only one in England to occupy a magnificent hilltop location, its towers soaring high above the Lincolnshire lowlands and visible for miles around. William the Conqueror ordered the first cathedral to be built here but that was almost entirely destroyed by an earthquake on 15 April 1185. The rebuilding that followed, under the energetic direction of Bishop Hugh of Avalon, resulted in the creation of one the country's most inspiring churches. Among its many superb features are the magnificent open nave, stained-glass windows incorporating the 14th-century Bishop's Eye and Dean's Eye, and the glorious Angel Choir, whose carvings include the Lincoln Imp, the unofficial symbol of the city.

The imposing ruins of the **Bishops Old Palace** (English Heritage) in the shadow of the Cathedral, reveal the sumptuous lifestyle



Jews House, Lincoln

of the wealthy medieval bishops whose authority stretched from the Humber to the Thames. Visitors can wander through splendid apartments, banqueting halls and offices, explore the dramatic undercroft, gaze at the views from inside the Roman city walls, relax in the peaceful Contemporary Heritage Garden and see one of Europe's most northerly vineyards.

A good way to explore the city is to follow the Lincoln Heritage Trail, which takes in the city's Magnificent Seven tourist attractions. The cathedral, naturally, takes pride of place, but close by is **Lincoln Castle**, which dates from 1068. Visitors can climb to the ramparts, which include Observatory Tower, to savour some fine views of the city. Interesting features abound, notably the keep, known as Lucy Tower, Cobb Hall, where the public gallows were located, and the Victorian prison whose chapel has separate pews like upright coffins. The building also houses an original version of Magna Carta.

There are some fine Norman buildings on a lesser scale in Steep Hill and the Strait. **Jews House**, which dates from about 1170, is thought to be the oldest domestic building in England to survive intact. Its neighbour is

Jews Court, a reminder of the time when there was a thriving Jewish community in Lincoln. Medieval splendour lives on in the black and white half-timbered houses on High Bridge and in the old city Gateways, while the residences in the Cathedral Close and Castle Square are models of Georgian elegance.

The most impressive survival of the old town walls is **The**

Stonebowl, which spans the High Street pedestrianised shopping mall. The three-storey building houses the city's Guildhall, its civic insignia, royal charters and other historic artefacts. The Mote Bell on the roof, dated 1371, is still rung to summon the City Fathers to council meetings.

The Collection is a recently opened museum, standing next to the region's premier art gallery, the Usher. The archaeology collection contains over 2,000,000 artefacts from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, Viking and Medieval eras. The **Usher Gallery** was built in 1927 in the grounds of the temple Gardens with funds bequeathed by a Lincoln jeweller, James Ward Usher (1845-1921). It is a major centre for the arts, with collections of porcelain, glass, clocks and coins, and a display of memorabilia connected with the Lincolnshire-born Poet Laureate, Alfred Lord

Tennyson. The gallery also houses an important collection of works by Peter de Wint and paintings by Turner, Lowry, Piper, Sickert and Ruskin Spear.

The Lawn, originally built in 1820 as a lunatic asylum and set in eight acres of beautiful grounds and gardens, is an elegant porticoed building whose attractions include a tropical conservatory with a display dedicated to the botanist Sir Joseph Banks, an aquarium, a specialist shopping mall and a fully licensed pub and restaurant.

Lincolnshire's largest social history museum is the **Museum of Lincolnshire Life**, which occupies an extensive barracks built for the Royal North Lincoln Militia in 1857. It is now a listed building and houses a fascinating series of displays depicting the commercial, domestic, agricultural, industrial and community aspects of Lincolnshire life. The

FORTY FOUR

44 Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1LU

Tel: 01522 527516

e-mail: fortyfourseephill@btinternet.com

website: www.fortyfourseephill.co.uk

Forty Four is a friendly independent gift shop, filled with cute, quirky and colourful things that are guaranteed to delight children and the young at heart. Originally trained in textile design, the owner created the shop in 2005, inspired by the shops she knew and loved in London and Brighton. Behind the cheerful turquoise door the shop has a homely feel, with a Victorian fireplace, Medieval beams and vintage furniture. It even has a large section of the Roman Southgate on display.

It is stocked with all sorts of retro homeware, letter sets, journals, notebooks, postcard books, party decorations, cake candles, tote bags, badges, photo frames, rubber stamp sets, melamine cups, great design ideas and much more. The unusual cards, stationery and gift wraps are sourced from all over the UK, Japan, Korea, Scandinavia and the USA, and feature illustrations by well-known artists and local talent. They are stockists of Lady Luck Rules OK, Artbox, Sukie and Rice, as well as the collectable Momiji dolls. Forty Four, located on an atmospheric street close to the Castle and Cathedral, is usually open from 10.30 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday and 11 to 4 Sunday.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

BELLES & BEAUX

38 Newport, Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN1 3DF

Tel: 01522 539602

e-mail: enquiries@bellesandbeaux.co.uk

website: www.bellesandbeaux.co.uk

Situated in the heart of historic Lincoln under the gaze of Lincoln Cathedral is the most delightful boutique run by Dorothy Griffiths and her daughter Rhianon Wilton.

Enjoy the warm and friendly advice offered by this family business – whether you are looking for that special mother of the bride outfit, a ball gown to die for or a stylish hat for the races, Belles & Beaux have a fabulous selection of outfits carefully hand picked from fashion designers around the world.

Dorothy has run Belles and Beaux in Lincoln for the past 20 years and has now been joined by her daughter Rhianon who will concentrate on Hattytude! - offering over 300 hats and fascinators to either hire or buy. With exciting new collections by Ispirato, Frank Usher, Chianti, Michaela Louisa, Peter Martin and Peruzzi there is an outfit for you. We stock sizes 8-24.

Belles & Beaux also have a specialized ballgown department with over 200 gowns all of which are available to hire or buy. Whether you are 16 and going to your school prom or 60 and going to a glamorous charity event, our hand picked collection of the very best gowns from Europe and the USA will ensure you look perfect for your event. Visit our shop in Lincoln – you are guaranteed a warm welcome.



Domestic Gallery turns the clock back to the beginning of the 20th century, showing what life was like in a middle-class home; settings include a nursery, bedroom, kitchen, parlour and wash house. The Transport Gallery shows the skills of the wheelwright and coachbuilder in such items as a carrier's cart and a horse-drawn charabier (hearse). It also contains a fully restored 1925 Bullnose Morris and a Lincoln Elk motorcycle. In the Agricultural and Industrial Gallery notable exhibits include Flirt, a World War I tank built by William Foster of Lincoln; a 20-ton steam ploughing engine; a steam traction engine and a number of tractors. Commercial Row features a builder's yard, a printing press, a village post office and several shops. All the above represent just part of the scope of this marvellous museum, where visitors can also pause for refreshment and perhaps a slice of

the local speciality, plumbread, in the Hungry Yellowbelly café. (That peculiar name is applied to anyone born in Lincolnshire!)

Ellis Mill is the last survivor of a line of windmills that once ran along the Lincoln Edge, a limestone ridge stretching some 70 miles from Winteringham by the Humber to Stamford on the county's southern border. This four-sailed tower mill dates back to 1798 and is in full working order. For those interested in Lincoln's commercial past, the Lincoln Engineering Society has produced a leaflet detailing an Industrial Heritage Trail that guides visitors to a score of the city's manufacturing companies, past and present.

Lincoln stages several major annual events, including a flower festival in the Cathedral and the Lincolnshire Show at the Showground just north of the city. The Lincoln Waterfront Festival is a family-oriented street arts festival

PHILIPS & SONS IN LIGHTING

Unit 11 Riverside, Allens Business Park, Skellingthorpe Road, Saxilby, Lincolnshire LN1 2LR
Tel: 01522 704400 Fax: 05601 167687
e-mail: info@philipsandsonsinlighting.com
website: www.philipsandsonsinlighting.com

Philips & Sons in Lighting is one of the largest stockists of old chandeliers and droppers in Europe. They have in stock around 30,000 chandeliers at any one time, with upwards of 3,000 on display in the showrooms. None are new or reproductions, all are genuine old items, in all shapes and sizes, ranging from 18 inches to 20 feet and covering a very wide price range. Items from across the range are perfect for adding a touch of class or luxury to hotel or office reception areas, to shopping centres and prestigious shops, to ballrooms and to family homes from pads to palaces. The firm exports all over the world, and customers near and far can be confident that their purchase is a genuine, beautifully crafted bespoke product.

The staff at Philips & Sons are all expert, experienced craftspeople, and clients can discuss their ideas with them before turning their chandelier dreams into chandelier realities. All the chandeliers are completely and painstakingly renovated, allowing clients to acquire an elegant original without the worry of old, sometimes potentially unsafe electrics (the bulb holders are new and always up to the highest British safety standards). This successful company grows day by day, enabling it to offer an ever wider range of stunning old chandeliers at amazing prices. The firm stocks literally millions of glass and crystal droppers to attach to the chandeliers, along with wall lights and lamps, candle holders and covers, cables, fittings and spares. They also offer a bespoke service from old parts when repairs are needed.

The trade and retail site is located in a rural business park off the A57 on the Lincoln side of Saxilby, a substantial village on the Foss Dyke Navigation Canal. The wheelchair-accessible showrooms are open from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and at other times by appointment. There's ample riverside parking. For those who can't get to Saxilby the stock can be viewed and orders placed through the excellent, recently updated website.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for travel guidebooks

based around the Brayford Waterfront in the bustling city centre. Each year a free programme combines exciting and innovative acts with well-established favourites such as the World Champion Jet Skiers, street theatre performers and a firework finale.

Around Lincoln

Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum

Just southeast of the city are the popular open spaces of Hartsholme Country Park and Swanholme Lakes Local Nature Reserve, 200 acres of woodland, lakes and meadows to explore. A little way further south is Whisby Nature Park, set on either side of the Lincoln-Newark railway line and home to great crested grebes, teal and tufted duck. Also on the southern outskirts of the city is the privately owned **Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum** where 100 vintage cars, commercial vehicles and buses span more than 70 years of road transport history. Also on display is a wide variety of old road signs, ticket machines and early bus timetables. Open Monday to Friday noon to 4pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm May to October; Sunday 1pm to 4pm November to April.

DODDINGTON

5 miles W of Lincoln off the B1190

Doddington Hall

About five miles west of Lincoln, **Doddington Hall**, is a very grand Elizabethan mansion completed in 1600 by the architect Robert Smythson, and standing now exactly as then, with wonderful formal gardens, a gatehouse and a family church. The interior contains a fascinating collection of pictures, textiles, porcelain and furniture

that reflect four centuries of unbroken family occupation.

BASSINGHAM

7 miles SW of Lincoln off the A46

Auburn

A pleasant little village with houses mostly of local warm red brick; an Elizabethan manor house (private) and, on one of the many little greens, an oak seat carved in the shape of a bull. This striking feature is part of an admirable enterprise masterminded by North Kesteven Arts to enhance both the natural and built-up areas of the District with all kinds of sculpture and art work. These imaginative pieces, many of them serving as public benches, range from the Dorrington Demons, based on a local legend, to the Scopwick Woman whose seat, in the lap of her skirt, has become a kind of letterbox with local people leaving tokens, messages or gifts for others to pick up. A booklet titled *In View*, which gives full details of these fascinating works, is available from TICs.

A couple of miles north of Bassingham, **Auburn** is a charming Elizabethan and Jacobean manor house set in attractive gardens and notable for a finely carved oak staircase. Nearby, the tower of Auburn's Victorian church stands alone, all that was left after the church was demolished in 1973 and parishioners reverted to worshipping in the chancel of the old church amidst the clutter of memorials to the Meres and Nevile families.

BARDNEY

10 miles E of Lincoln on the B1190/B1202

Abbey

The dominating feature of this little town beside the River Witham is the British Sugar Corporation's towering beet processing

factory. In medieval times, a more elegant structure distinguished the town, and was just as important to its prosperity. **Bardney Abbey** was famous then because it housed the holy remains of St Oswald, an 8th-century King of Northumbria. Pilgrims flocked here in their thousands. The original Saxon abbey was demolished by Viking raiders in AD870 and its Norman successor fared little better at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Only the ground plan is now distinguishable. Some fragments from the abbey were incorporated into Bardney's Church of St Lawrence, which is otherwise mostly 15th century. Features of interest here include a tomb slab of Abbot Richard Horncastle, who died in 1508, and two unusual Charity Boards dated 1603 and 1639. These list benefactors of the parish, complete with colour portraits of these generous souls.

Connoisseurs of unusual churches will be well rewarded by a short detour to Southrey, a remote hamlet set beside the River Witham. Built of timber by the parishioners themselves in 1898, St John the Divine is painted brilliant white outside and sky blue within. Resembling some Mission station in the Australian outback, this quaint little church stands on a plinth incorporating gravestones from Bardney Abbey.

MARKET RASEN

14 miles NE of Lincoln off the A46



This pleasing little market town stands between the great plain that spreads north of Lincoln and the sheltering Wolds to the east. Now happily bypassed, the town still has a market on Tuesdays and throughout the year there are regular National Hunt meetings at

BAUMBER PARK

Baumber, nr Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 5NE

Tel: 01507 578235 Mobile: 07977 722776

e-mail: mail@baumberpark.com

website: www.baumberpark.com or www.gathmanscottage.co.uk

Baumber Park is a spacious farmhouse of both Georgian and Victorian character, dating back to 1680. Situated in a tranquil location the farmhouse stands proud and elegant, surrounded by colourful gardens and beautiful parkland which is home to Lincoln Red cattle and Lincoln Longwool sheep. Clare Harrison welcomes bed and breakfast guests to Baumber Park and husband Michael runs the adjoining farm. Guest bedrooms (two doubles and a twin) are large with antique furniture and lovely views over extensive gardens and farm. Downstairs is a large guest lounge with open fire, piano and TV and a dining room with a big mahogany table and a collection of Lincolnshire books. Aga-cooked breakfasts use home-grown or locally-sourced produce.

Also on the farm is a thatched and Grade II listed self-catering property, Gathman's Cottage, which sleeps six. Lovingly restored to its original state, the cottage has all modern requirements whilst retaining its great character. Being in the centre of the County and close to the Lincolnshire Wolds, farmhouse and cottage are the perfect places to stay for an activity holiday with golf nearby, a little culture in historic Lincoln or simply relaxing in the peaceful countryside and pottering in interesting market towns.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

ATTICA DESIGN

37 Front Street, Tealby, nr Market Rasen, Lincolnshire LN8 3XU

Tel: 01673 838241

e-mail: info@attica-design.co.uk

When Lisa Spivey drove past this handsome 18th century ironstone building she knew that she had found the new location for her business. What had been Fishers the Butchers became **Attica Design**, a treasure trove of beautiful things for you, your home and garden and a source of lovely gifts that are certain to delight. Since opening here in 2006 Lisa and business partner Sarah have gradually built up the business, and with the stock constantly changing every visit is sure to reveal new surprises and delights.

Their own hand-poured scented vegetable wax candles are guaranteed best-sellers, and other items in stock range from local handmade soaps and balms, pottery, scented fabric hearts, cushions, Garden Trading home and gardenware, Thomas Kent clocks, Terrace and Garden Kew Pots with locally grown herbs and True Grace home fragrances. There is also a lovely selection of scarves and jewellery for every occasion and Emma Ball, Liz and Pip and Trumbers World Cards to accompany the perfect gift. And if you don't find what you want the girls will do their best to find – or to have it specially made. Lincolnshire producers are very much to the fore, and Lisa and Sarah are prime movers in the Lincolnshire Living Fayre, an annual event devoted to beautiful and exclusive rural crafts, showcasing some of the talented craft businesses that supply the shop. Attica Design is open 9.30 - 3 Wednesday to Friday and 10 - 3 Saturday and Sunday, other times by appointment.



EAST FARM FARMHOUSE

East Farm, Atterby, Lincolnshire LN8 2BJ

Tel: 01673 818917

e-mail: anneastfarm@hotmail.com

website: www.eastfarm.me.uk

Mick and Ann Drury are the friendly, welcoming hosts at **East Farm Farmhouse**, where they rightly take pride in creating a comfortable, home-from-home feel for their guests. They took time to get things just right in the two adjoining properties, investing care, thought and resources into the creation of the guest accommodation, which comprises double and twin en suite rooms and a double with a private bathroom; all have TV with Freeview and a hot beverage tray.

The day starts with a full English farmhouse breakfast using the best Lincolnshire produce or a lighter Continental version, and guests can plan their days in the comfortable sitting room or enjoy a stroll in the quiet garden. Guests feel instantly at ease in the relaxed, serene surroundings of the farm, which lies a short drive off the A15. Take the Atterby road off the A15 a couple of miles north of the A15/A631 junction. Go over the first junction and follow the road to the last stone buildings on the right; look for the stone pillars with lions on top – that's the entrance to the farm.



the **Market Rasen Racecourse**.

Taking its name from the little River Rase, Market Rasen was once described by Charles Dickens as being “the sleepest town in England”. Much of the central part is a conservation area.

GAINSBOROUGH

15 miles NW of Lincoln on the A156

Old Hall All Saints Church

Britain's most inland port, Gainsborough is located at the highest navigable point on the River Trent for seagoing vessels. During the 17th and 18th centuries particularly, the town prospered greatly, and although many of the lofty warehouses lining the river bank have been demolished, enough remain to give some idea of its flourishing past.

The town's most famous building is the

enchanting **Gainsborough Old Hall**, one of the most striking architectural gems in the county. The Hall was built in the 1470s by Sir Thomas Burgh, a Yorkist supporter in the Wars of the Roses. Sir Thomas later entertained Richard III in the Great Hall with its vast arched roof. The kitchens also remain virtually unchanged since those days. A century or so later, around 1597, a London merchant, William Hickman, extended the building in Elizabethan style. The Hall is generally considered one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in the country. Today, it is run jointly by Lincolnshire County Council and English Heritage, and is open most days throughout the year.

Gainsborough also boasts an outstanding church. Beautifully set in its own grounds in the centre of the town, **All Saints Church** is a

ASTRA ANTIQUES CENTRE

Old RAF Hemswell, nr Caenby Corner,
Lincolnshire DN21 5TL

Tel/Fax: 01427 668312

e-mail: sales@astra-antiques.co.uk

website: www.astra-antiques.co.uk

Astra Antiques Centre was opened in 1990 on the extensive site of the former RAF Hemswell, home of the Lancaster bomber. The base was closed in 1967, but many of the old buildings survive, and Astra is located in what was Campbell H Block, next to the Astra Cinema. One of seven antiques centres on the site, Astra is home to more than 100 dealers selling an amazing array of antiques and collectables, from period furniture of the finest craftsmanship to quirky items such as retro plastic lampshades. It is *the* place to come to spend many happy hours browsing and finding something a little bit different to enhance the home, to have fun with or to give as a present.

Categories include architectural and reclamation, fireplaces and ranges, books, maps and atlases, ceramics, glassware, furniture, pictures and prints, jewellery, militaria, toys, games and dolls, lighting and mirrors, rugs, linen and samplers, taxidermy, telephones, silver and pewter, tools, brewery memorabilia, arms and armour, kitchenalia, hunting, shooting and fishing...and a whole lot more. Astra also has perhaps the biggest costume department in the county, with everything from tie pins and braces to 40s clothing and accessories – much in demand for the stage, cinema and TV, parties or just having fun dressing up. The Centre is open from 10 to 5 seven days a week. For those who can't get to the Centre, a full range of what's on display can be viewed and bought online.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

magnificent example of a Georgian classical city church. The interior, with its massive columns, box pews and gallery, is richly decorated in gold and turquoise. It is open during daylight hours, tours are available and there's even a cafeteria and gift shop.

Another notable building is Marshall's Britannia Works in Beaumont Street, a proud reminder of Gainsborough's once thriving engineering industry. Built around 1850, the quarter-of-a-mile long frontage bears an impressive figure of Britannia herself.

Gainsborough is believed to have provided material for George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*. The now-demolished Ashcroft Mill on the River Trent was the model for Tulliver's mill and the eagre, or tidal bore, that precipitates the tragic climax of the novel is clearly based on the surge that happens at Gainsborough. This usually takes place about 50 minutes after high tide at Grimsby and the bore can be anything between eight feet and 13 feet high.

Scunthorpe

Appleton Frodingham Railway Preservation Society

North Lincolnshire Museum

Up until the 1850s, the main activity around Scunthorpe was the maintaining of rabbit warrens - the local breed with their silvery coats being much in demand with furriers. Then a local landowner, Rowland Winn, discovered that the poor local soil lightly covered vast deposits of ironstone. Scunthorpe's rapid rise to becoming a major steel town was under way. Today, the Corus plant produces more than four million tonnes of liquid steel, from a 690-hectare site, which contains 90 miles of railways.

On selected summer weekends, the **Appleby Frodingham Railway Preservation Society**

runs two-hour rail tours around the plant.

Pulled by a restored steam locomotive, the fully guided tour takes in all aspects of iron and steel making and includes a glimpse of red hot steel being rolled in the mills.

More of Scunthorpe's industrial and social heritage is on display at the **North Lincolnshire Museum**, with exhibits that include an ironmonger's cottage. The town has also created a Heritage Trail, which takes visitors through three of the parks created by Victorian benefactors - Scunthorpe is proud of its parks and gardens.

Around Scunthorpe

NORMANBY

4 miles N of Scunthorpe off the B1430

Normanby Hall Farming Museum

Normanby Hall was built in 1825 for the Sheffield family and extended in 1906. The interior is decorated in Regency style, and displays include eight rooms that reflect the changes made down the years, as well as two costume galleries. The 300-acre Park has plenty to see and enjoy, including a deer park, duck ponds, an ice house in the middle of the miniature railway circuit, a Victorian laundry, a Victorian walled garden and a new children's play area. The Normanby Hall **Farming Museum** majors on rural life in the age of the heavy horse and, among the exhibits illuminating the workings of a 19th-century country estate are traditional agricultural equipment and transport and country crafts. Near the park gates, some picturesque estate cottages bear witness to the Sheffield family's reputation as good landlords. Rents were low and job security was good, so perhaps the only drawback was that the Sheffield family

restricted the number of public houses they would allow on their lands.

A mile or so northwest of the Hall, St Andrew's Church in the agreeable village of Burton-on-Stather contains an impressive range of memorials to the Sheffield family, the oldest of which dates back to the 1300s.

ALKBOROUGH

11 miles N of Scunthorpe off the A1077

 Julian's Bower

A scenic walk leads from Burton-upon-Stather to Alkborough, where the medieval maze known as **Julian's Bower** is a perplexing talking point. Not a maze made of hedges, but a pattern cut in the turf, it occupies a beautiful location on a clifftop overlooking the River Trent. The design of the maze is reproduced in the porch of the 11th-century village church, and again in a window high above the altar.

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER

10 miles NE of Scunthorpe off the A15

 Baysgarth House  Barton Clay Pits

 Water's Edge Country Park  Far Ings

Today, Barton is dominated by the colossal south tower of the Humber Bridge, connecting Lincolnshire with East Yorkshire. This has been a major crossing point for more than 1,000 years. The Domesday Book recorded a ferry here and the community was then the largest town in North Lincolnshire. In the 1770s, Daniel Defoe gave a vivid description of his passage across the Humber "in an open boat in which we had about 15 horses, and ten or 12 cows, mingled with about 17 or 18 passengers, we were about four hours tossing about on the Humber before we could get into the harbour at Hull". (The river at this point is about two-and-a-half miles wide.)

The heart of the town still has some pleasant streets - Fleetgate, Bargate, Beck Hill and Priestgate, all distinguished by mainly Georgian and early Victorian buildings.

Baysgarth House, now a museum, is an 18th-century mansion with a collection of 18th and 19th-century English and Oriental pottery, a section on country crafts and an industrial museum in the stable block. The surrounding park has a picnic area, play area and various recreational facilities. Once an area of severe industrial contamination, **Water's Edge Country Park** is now home to an impressive number of species - bird, mammal, plant and insect - and its easy paths and tranquil surroundings make it a great place to unwind. Opened in April 2006, it is an environmentally-friendly visitor centre with displays on the wildlife of the Park, a coffee shop, and interactive cameras in nesting boxes (the first in the country).

Just to the north of Barton, on the banks of the Humber, is an observation area for viewing the mighty Humber Bridge. Opened in 1981, this is Europe's longest single-span suspension bridge with an overall length of 2,428 yards. This means that for more than a third of a mile only four concrete pillars, two on each bank, are preserving you from a watery death. From these huge pylons, 510 feet high, gossamer cables of thin-wired steel support a gently curving roadway. Both sets of pylons rise vertically, but because of the curvature of the earth they actually lean away from each other by several inches. The bridge is particularly striking when the vast structure is very occasionally floodlit at night.

Around the bridge are important nature reserves. **Barton Clay Pits** cover a five-mile area along the river bank and offer a haven for wildlife and recreation for sporty humans. **Far**

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for travel guidebooks



Humber Bridge

Ings, with hides and waymarked trails, is home to more than 230 species of wild flowers, 50 nesting bird species and hundreds of different sorts of moths.

BRIGG

7 miles E of Scunthorpe on the A10

 Brigg Fair

King John was not universally liked, but one of his more popular deeds was the granting of a charter (in 1205) that permitted this modest little town to hold an annual festivity on the fifth day of August. **Brigg Fair**, along with Widdecombe and Scarborough, joined the trio of 'Best Known Fairs in England', its celebrity enhanced by a traditional song (twice recorded by Percy Grainger), and the haunting tone poem, *Brigg Fair*, composed by Frederick Delius in 1907.

King John's son, Henry III, also showed favour to the town. He granted the loyal burghers of Brigg the right to hold a weekly market on Thursdays, a right they still exercise to the full. Each week, the market

place is crammed with around 100 stalls. A farmers' market is also held on the fourth Saturday of each month, attracting producers of quality local produce and crowds of shoppers. A pedestrianised town centre, combined with ample parking nearby, has made

Brigg's markets some of the busiest in North Lincolnshire.

Many visitors to Brigg, including the architecture guru Nikolaus Pevsner, have commented that some of the town's most interesting buildings are its pubs. Pevsner picked out for special mention the Lord Nelson, with its broad Regency bow window, the Dying Gladiator, remarkable for the "gory realism" of its pub sign, and the Black Bull, which boasts "a vigorous Edwardian pub front".

HAXEY

8 miles SW of Scunthorpe on the A161

 Haxey Hood Game

Haxey is the site of a nature reserve, but is best known for the **Haxey Hood Game**, launched around 2.30 on the afternoon of Twelfth Night in front of the parish church. Three hundred men divided into four teams compete to push a leather tube or 'hood' into the pub of their team's choice. The game apparently started in the 12th or 13th century

when Lady de Mowbray lost her hood and a number of village men scrambled to retrieve it. The strongest man caught the hood but was too shy to hand it back, and was labelled a fool by the lady, while the man who eventually handed it over was declared a lord. The lady suggested that the scene should be re-enacted each year, and gave a plot of land for the purpose. The scrum or 'sway' of men struggle across the fields working the hood towards the appropriate pubs and always staying within the sway - no open running. When the sway reaches the winning pub, the landlord touches the hood to declare the game over, and 'free' drinks paid for by a collection end the day in time-honoured style. Rather an elaborate build-up to a drinking session, but just one of the quaint traditions that make English country life so colourful.

EPWORTH

12 miles SW of Scunthorpe on the A161

 Old Rectory  St Andrew's Church

This small town, the southern capital of the Isle of Axholme, is a hallowed place for Methodists from all over the world. From 1696 until his death in 1735, the Reverend Samuel Wesley was Rector here. John Wesley was born at the **Old Rectory** on 17 June 1703; his brother Charles on 18 December 1707. Two years later, inflamed by one of the Rector's outspoken sermons, local people set fire to the Rectory. The house was rebuilt incorporating ribs and keels from ships broken up in the nearby River Trent. It still stands today, a charming Queen Anne building. Several of its rooms have been refurbished in period style and some of the brothers' possessions are on display. There are also collections of portraits and prints.

St Andrew's Church, where Samuel

Wesley was minister, is a short walk from the town centre. His table tomb stands near the southeast door and it was from this vantage point that John would address his followers after he had been refused access to the church. Inside, the 12th-century font in which both John and Charles were baptised, can still be seen.

The best way to follow the footsteps of the Wesleys is to join the Wesley Trail, which has information boards placed at various locations connected with the family. A pamphlet giving full details of the Trail is available from various outlets in the town.

SANDTOFT

10 miles W of Scunthorpe off the A161 or Exit 2 of M180

 Trolleybus Museum

On a wartime airfield on the Isle of Axholme, the **Trolleybus Museum** at Sandtoft is home to the world's largest single collection of trolleybuses and motorbuses. Started in 1969 by a small and enthusiastic group of volunteers, the collection includes vehicles dating from 1927 to 1985, including magnificent six-wheeled double-decker trolleybuses and a fascinating one-and-a-half decker from Aachen in Germany.

Skegness

 Church Farm Museum  Seal Sanctuary

 Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve

 The Jolly Fisherman

In the early 1800s, when the Tennyson family used to visit Skegness with the future Poet Laureate, Alfred, in tow, it was still a tiny fishing village but already famous for its miles of firm sandy beaches and its 'oh-so-



bracing' sea air. As late as 1871, the resident population of Skegness was only 239, but two years later the railway arrived and three years after that the local landowner, the Earl of Scarborough, built a new town to the north of the railway station.

A huge pier, 1,843ft long, was erected. This survived for almost 100 years before a gale on the night of 11 January 1978 left it sadly truncated. Other amenities provided by the Earl of Scarborough for visitors included the Lumley Hotel, St Matthew's Church and a grand promenade. The Jubilee Clock Tower on the seafront was added in 1899 and, in 1908, the town fathers amazed even themselves by a stroke of advertising genius – their adoption of the Jolly Fisherman as the town's mascot.

The **Jolly Fisherman** has an interesting story behind him. In 1908 the Great Northern Railway purchased an oil painting of the plump and prancing fisherman for £12. After adding the famous slogan, Skegness is so Bracing, they used the painting

as a poster to advertise trips from London to Skegness (fare 3s 15p). Almost a century later, the same Jolly Fisherman is still busy promoting Skegness as a holiday resort. There are two statues of him in town, one at the railway station, another in Compass Gardens and, during the summer months, he can also be seen strolling around the town.

Naturally, the town is well-provided with funfairs – Bottons, Fantasy Island, and Butlin's, the latter two of which are actually in the contiguous town of Ingoldmells. It was in 1936 that Billy Butlin opened his very first holiday camp promising A Week's Holiday for a Week's Wage – about £2.50 in those days. The price included accommodation, meals and entertainment, and the holidays were understandably popular with workers – a new law had just guaranteed them a statutory week's leave with pay. Just three years later, World War II erupted and the holiday market imploded. But Billy Butlin still prospered. The government bought his camps to use as army barracks, appointed him Director-General of Hostels and, at the end of the war, sold the camps back to him at a knock-down price. The camp is still operating, now named the Butlin's Family Entertainment Resort, and day-visit tickets are available.

Alongside the obvious attractions of the beach and all the traditional seaside entertainment, Skegness and Ingoldmells have other places of special interest.

Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve

Distance: 1.9 miles (3.0 kilometres)

Typical time: 80 mins

Height gain: 0 metres

Map: Explorer 274

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:1833

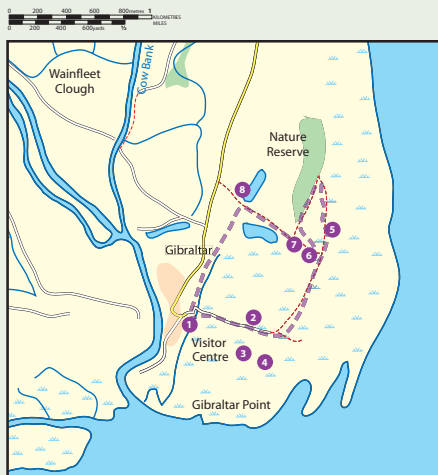
Contributor: Sam Roebuck

ACCESS INFORMATION:

The walk starts at the South Car Park, by the Visitor Centre of Gibraltar Point, though it is easy enough to pick up the walk from the North Car Park. Gibraltar Point itself is only accessible by car (or a good cycle track) via Skegness town centre, but is very well signposted and the South Car Park and Visitor Centre are at the very end of the access road.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The map does not represent the main paths too well, but don't despair - it is all but impossible to get lost. There are many bird hides accessible from this route and it is well worth exploring at least one - don't forget your binoculars.



DESCRIPTION:

This is a gentle walk around one of England's best-known nature reserves, around the dunes of Gibraltar Point. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity, disturbed only by birdsong and the gentle rolling of the waves on the miles of quiet beach. An ideal walk for a summer's evening.

FEATURES:

Sea, Toilets, Wildlife, Birds, Gift Shop, Good for Kids, Mostly Flat, Nature Trail, Ancient Monument Description.

WALK DIRECTIONS:

- 1 | Look for the notice board in the corner of the car park and go through the gate on its right. Turn immediately right over a footbridge.
- 2 | In 400m, by a notice board and immediately before the wooden walkway continues over the dunes, turn right, keeping the dunes on your left.
- 3 | In 200m, at the bird observatory, turn left to ascend the steps that run to the right of the building.
- 4 | The path emerges on the edge of the beach, onto a sandy track that runs northwards with the dunes on the left. Follow this track for half a kilometre. There are many opportunities during this stretch to divert from the path towards the sea to explore the quiet, sandy beach.
- 5 | The dunes on the left give out as the track bends to the left, leaving you in front of a World War II pillbox. Walk up to the pillbox and turn left. Within 100m, pick up a vague, sandy track, then quickly another track that turns right into the dunes.
- 6 | At a high and distinctive dune, as the path bends left, climb the steps that ascend the dune, to the viewpoint. Continue over the dune and down the far side.
- 7 | At the junction of paths, fork right and follow this path for another 400m.
- 8 | As you reach the bird hide on your right, turn left and follow this path back to the car park.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Church Farm Museum, a 1760s farmhouse and Lincolnshire's only open-air museum, is home to a collection of old farm implements and machinery, furnishings from the Edwardian period, re-created village workshops, a paddock of Lincoln Longwool sheep, and a fine example of a Lincolnshire 'mud and stud' thatched cottage brought here from the nearby village of Withern. Craft demonstrations can be viewed on most Sunday afternoons and a programme of special events - sheep shearing, steam threshing and so on - continues throughout the season. Open daily in summer.

Natureland Seal Sanctuary on North Parade provides interest and fun for all the family with its seals and baby seal rescue centre; penguins; aquarium; tropical house with crocodiles, snakes and tarantula; a pets corner and Floral Palace; and a large greenhouse teeming with plant, insect and bird life, including butterflies and flamingoes. Open daily from 10am.

Serious birdwatchers should head south along the coast to **Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve**, a field station among the salt marshes and dunes with hides, waymarked routes and guided tours.

Around Skegness

WAINFLEET

5 miles SW of Skegness on the A52

Magdalen College School

Formerly a thriving port, Wainfleet now finds itself several miles from the sea. Narrow roads lead off the market place with its medieval stone cross, making this a place you really have to explore on foot. The most striking building in the town is the former **Magdalen College**

School, built in dark red brick in 1484 for William of Waynefleete, Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor to Henry VI. William founded Magdalen College, Oxford, and later established the college school in the town of his birth. It continued as a school until 1933 but now houses the public library, a small museum, a tearoom and a walled tea garden.

This attractive little town has a Friday market, held in the unspoilt Market Place with its butter cross and Clock Tower, and among the variety of family-run shops there is one that offers an unusual culinary treat - traditional fish and chips cooked on a coal range.

A curious feature lies about a mile south of the town, on the western side of the A52. Rows and rows of small, rounded mounds are all that remain of an important industry that flourished here from the Iron Age to the 1600s - the extraction of salt from sea water. Throughout these long centuries, salt was an expensive, but absolutely vital, commodity, both as a preservative and a condiment. During the Roman occupation of Britain, part of an Imperial soldier's remuneration was a pouch of salt, his salarium or salary. When the mounds at Wainfleet were excavated in the 1950s they were found to contain salterns - low hearths surrounded by brick in which fires were lit to evaporate pans of sea water and leave behind the precious salt.

BURGH LE MARSH

4 miles W of Skegness on the A158

Peddars Way Gunby Hall

Pronounced Borough, this small town was once the terminus of a Roman road from Lincoln. Although Burgh is now several miles inland, it was from here, centuries ago, that travellers boarded a ferry to cross The Wash and join the **Peddars Way** in Norfolk.

About three miles northwest of Burgh, Gunby Hall (National Trust) is reputed to be the setting Tennyson had in mind when he wrote of:

*an English home – gray twilight pour'd
On deny pastures, deny trees
Softer than sleep – all things in order stored,
A haunt of ancient peace.*

Built in 1700 and extended in the 1870s, **Gunby Hall** is a delightful William and Mary house of plum-coloured brick surrounded by sweeping lawns and flower gardens. The Hall has long been associated with the Massingberd family whose portraits, including several by Reynolds, are on display, along with some very fine English furniture. The walled garden is particularly charming and beyond it the Church of St Peter contains some life-size brasses of early Massingberds.

WILLOUGHBY

11 miles NW of Skegness on the B1196

Captain John Smith

Willoughby is best known as the birthplace of **Captain John Smith**, founder of what is now the State of Virginia in the USA. A farmer's son, Smith was born in the village in 1580 and educated in nearby Louth. He left England as a young man and, after a spell as a mercenary in Europe, set sail with other optimistic colonists for Chesapeake Bay in 1607. A forceful character, Smith was elected Governor of the new settlement but his diplomatic skills proved unequal to the task of pacifying the local Native Americans. They took him captive and were intent on killing him until one of the chieftain's daughters, Pocahontas, interceded and saved his life. Pocahontas later married one of Smith's fellow colonists, John Rolfe, and returned with

him to England. Beautiful and intelligent, the dark-skinned Pocahontas was welcomed as an exotic celebrity. King James I graciously allowed her to be presented at his Court but within a few months the lovely Indian princess died "of a fever". Four hundred years later, the romantic tale continues to provide the material for songs, stories, plays and musicals.

Willoughby village celebrates its most famous son with a fine memorial window in the church (a gift from American citizens), and at the Willoughby Arms pub, where a portrait painted on an outside wall may be seen and, inside, accounts of his adventures.

Horncastle

St Mary's Church

"Few towns of Horncastle's size can have so many Regency bow-windows", noted Nikolaus Pevsner. These attractive features, and the houses that went with them, were a direct result of the town's increased prosperity and the building boom that followed the opening of the Horncastle Navigation Canal in 1802. The town also has an unusual number of pubs; many of them were built to accommodate visitors to the annual Horse Fair, which started some time in the 1200s and continued until 1948. Its modern successor is the Summer Fayre, a popular event that takes place each June.

St Mary's Church has some interesting features, including a brass of Lionel Dymoke, dated 1519. The Dymokes were the hereditary King's Champions who, at the coronation feast of medieval monarchs, challenged anyone who disputed the validity of the king's succession to mortal combat. Above an arch in the Lady Chapel hang 13 scythe blades. These agricultural tools were the only arms available

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

to the local people who took part in the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536. This was a mostly northern protest against Henry VIII's policy of closing down every monastery in the country. Their rebellion failed. The king graciously pardoned those who had taken part and the rebels returned peacefully to their homes. Once the crisis had been defused, Henry ordered the summary execution of the most prominent leaders and supporters of the uprising.

Around Horncastle

SOMERSBY

7 miles NE of Horncastle off the A158

Bag Enderby

For pilgrims on the Tennyson trail, a visit to Somersby is essential. The poet's father, Dr George Clayton Tennyson, was Rector of the village and the adjoining parish of **Bag Enderby**. Alfred was born here in 1809 and for most of the first 30 years of his life Somersby Rectory was his home. Many of his poems reflect his delight in the surrounding scenery of the Wolds, Fens and coast. When the family left Somersby in 1837, following the death of Dr Tennyson, Alfred wrote:

*We leave the well-beloved place
Where first we gazed upon the sky;
The roofs, that heard our earliest cry,
Will shelter one of stranger race.*

The Rectory, now Somersby House (private), still stands, complete with the many additions Dr Tennyson made to accommodate his family of 10 children. He is buried in the graveyard of the small church where he had been minister for more than 20 years and which now contains a fine bust of his famous son. Also in the graveyard, where

a simple tombstone marks the Doctor's burial place, stands a remarkably well-preserved medieval cross.

The nearby village of Bag Enderby is associated with another celebrated figure, John Wesley. He preached here on the village green beneath a noble elm tree. The hollow trunk still stands. The church also has a special treasure: a beautifully carved 15th-century font "worth crossing Lincolnshire to see". The carvings include a tender Pietà, a hart licking the leaves of a tree growing from its back, and a seated figure playing what appears to be a lute.

SPILSBY

10 miles E of Horncastle on the A16

Church of St James

Northcote Heavy Horses Centre

A pleasant little market town with a population of about 2,000, Spilsby sits near the southern edge of the Wolds. Market day is Monday (with an open air auction as part of the fun), and there's an annual May Day Carnival with dancing round the maypole in the market square. The **Church of St James** has many interesting features, most notably the incredible array of tombs and memorials of the Willoughby family from the 1300s to the early 1600s. Perhaps the most striking of them, a 1580s memorial to the Duchess of Suffolk and Richard Bertie, fills the whole of the original chancel arch. Another monument honours Spilsby's most famous son, the navigator and explorer Captain Sir John Franklin, who lost his life while in charge of the expedition that discovered the North West Passage. A handsome bronze of the great man stands in the square facing the market hall of 1764.

About two miles east of Spilsby, on the

THE CENTREPIECE

39 High Street, Spilsby,
Lincolnshire PE23 5JH
Tel/Fax: 01790 753807
e-mail: thecentrepiece@live.co.uk
website: www.thecentrepiece.com

The **Centrepiece** is a family run business situated in the centre of Spilsby, an historic market town on the Lincolnshire Wolds. The building, part of which dates back to the 17th century, houses a gift shop and tea room.

The gift shop is packed with a wonderful array of jewellery, ceramics, pewter, original paintings and prints, beauty products, essential oils, cards and gifts for all occasions. It also offers unique services such as passport photos, framing, trophies, engraving and digital developing.

The quaint, old fashioned tea room, with its open fire, serves freshly prepared, home cooked food and delicious home made cakes, scones, pastries and pies. Opening hours 9am - 5pm, Monday to Saturday.



B1195, the **Northcote Heavy Horses Centre**, opened in 1988 by Keith and Ruth Sanders, offers a unique hands-on experience with these gentle giants. Visitors have the options of participating in morning or all-day sessions during which they have close contact with the horses, including grooming them if they wish. The afternoon programme is for those who simply want to walk around on their own, explore the museum/vehicle workshop, watch the video display of the Centre's activities, enjoy a half-hour horse dray ride through country lanes, or settle down for tea and scones in the Hen's Nest Tea Room.

OLD BOLINGBROKE

8 miles SE of Horncastle off the A155 or B1195

Bolingbroke Castle

Old Bolingbroke is the site of **Bolingbroke Castle**, now in the care of English Heritage.

Originally built in the reign of William I it later became the property of John of Gaunt whose son, afterwards Henry IV, was born at the castle in 1367. During the Civil War, Bolingbroke Castle was besieged by Parliamentary forces in 1643, fell into disuse soon after and very little now remains.

EAST KIRKBY

8 miles SE of Horncastle on the A155

Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre

The airfield beside the A155 is the setting for the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre**, based in the old control tower of a 1940s Lancaster bomber airfield. Displays include an Avro Lancaster bomber, a Shackleton, cockpits from Canberras, military vehicles and a wartime blast shelter.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk

Click Here for travel guidebooks

Louth

Church of St James Museum Art Trail

One of the county's most appealing towns, Louth is set beside the River Lud on the eastern edge of the Wolds in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Louth can make the unusual boast that it stands in both the eastern and western hemispheres, since the Greenwich Meridian line passes through the centre of the town.

There was a settlement here long before the Romans arrived. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, Louth was recorded as a prosperous market town. It still is. There's a cattle market on Thursdays; a general market on Wednesdays (with an open air auction), Fridays and Saturdays; and a Farmers' Market on the last Wednesday of each month.

The town is a pleasure to wander around, its narrow winding streets and alleys crammed with attractive architecture and bearing intriguing names such as Pawnshop Passage. Westgate in particular is distinguished by its Georgian houses and a 16th-century inn. A plaque in nearby Westgate Place marks the house where Tennyson lodged with his grandmother while attending the King Edward VI School. Founded in the 1200s, the school is still operating and among its other famous old boys are Sir John Franklin and Captain John Smith of Pocahontas fame. Broadbank, which now houses the **Louth Museum**, is an attractive little building with some interesting artifacts including some amazing locally-woven carpets that were displayed at the 1867 Paris Exhibition. And Tennyson fans will surely want to visit the shop in the market square that published *Poems by Two Brothers* and is still selling books.

But the town's pre-eminent architectural glory is the vast **Church of St James**, which boasts the tallest spire of any parish church in England. Nearly 300 feet high and built in gleaming Ancaster stone, this masterly example of the mason's art was constructed between 1501 and 1515. The interior is noted for its glorious starburst tower vault, beautifully restored Georgian pine roof, a wonderful collection of Decorated sedilia, and a fascinating array of old chests. On summer afternoons, visitors can climb to the base of the spire for a panoramic view that stretches from the Wolds to the North Sea.

An interesting recent addition to the town's attractions is the **Louth Art Trail** linking commissioned works of art, each of which will have some significant connection with the town's history. The trail incorporates a wide



Louth Church

range of styles and media, including sculpture and street furniture. It starts at the Navigation Trust Warehouse on the west side of town and follows the River Lud into the centre and beyond. Call 01507 354364 for details of progress of the Trail. The Lud and the Louth Navigation Canal have both made important contributions to the town's prosperity, although the Lud has also brought disaster. In 1920 a flash flood destroyed hundreds of homes and killed 23 people. A plaque on the side of the town watermill shows how high the river rose during that disastrous inundation. Another Art Trail commission is based on the theme of the Greenwich Meridian, and there's a further sculpture located in Hubbards Hills, a picturesque public park lying in a 125ft-deep glacial valley to the west of the town.

Around Louth

LUDBOROUGH

6 miles N of Louth on the A16

 Lincolnshire Wolds Railway

The only standard gauge steam railway in the county, the **Lincolnshire Wolds Railway** is a noble volunteer enterprise with the ambitious aim of extending its present half-mile track to a full 10 miles. The line is part of the original Great Northern Railway, which opened in 1848 and closed in 1980. The old Ludborough station has been restored, visitors can watch ongoing



Lincolnshire Wolds Railway, Ludborough

restoration in the engine shed and, on steaming days, travel along the line. The former ticket office now houses a collection of railway memorabilia; there's a gift shop and a buffet car serving homemade light refreshments. Entrance to the site is free (01507 363881).

MABLETHORPE

13 miles E of Louth on the A52 & A1104

 Seal Sanctuary  Museum

Mablethorpe is the northernmost and most senior of the three Lincolnshire holiday resorts that almost form a chain along this stretch of fragile coast, which has frequently been threatened by the waves, and whose contours have changed visibly over the years. Much of the original village of Mablethorpe has disappeared into the sea, including the medieval Church of St Peter. In the great North Sea flood of 31 January 1953, seven Mablethorpe residents were drowned.

Long popular with day-trippers and holidaymakers, Mablethorpe offers all that could be asked of a traditional seaside town, and a little more. One of the most popular attractions is the **Seal Sanctuary** at North

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

ALFORD

12 miles SE of Louth on the A1114

 Manor House  Windmill
 Church of St Wilfrid  Alford Festival

Often described as Lincolnshire's Craft Centre, Alford is a flourishing little town with markets that were first established in 1238 still taking place on Tuesdays and Fridays. These are supplemented by a regular Craft Market every Friday throughout the summer.

Small though it is, Alford boasts some outstanding buildings. **Alford Manor House**, built around 1660, claims the distinction of being the largest thatched manor house in England. It's an attractive building with brick gabling and a beautifully maintained thatched roof. It serves now as a folk museum where visitors are invited to step back into the past and take a look at local life through time-warp shops, an old-fashioned veterinary surgery and a Victorian schoolroom. Reaching even further back into the past, the History Room contains a collection of interesting Roman finds and displays from the salt works that once prospered in this part of the county. Another exhibit explores the still-flourishing connections between Alford and the USA.

An even more tangible link with the past is provided by The **Five Sailed Windmill** on the eastern side of the town. It was built by a local millwright, Sam Oxley, in about 1837. Standing a majestic six floors high, it has five sails and four sets of grinding stones. This sturdy old mill came perilously close to total destruction in 1955. Thanks to the efforts of local enthusiasts it is now back in full commercial operation, complete with a vintage oven turning out bakery items with the full flavour that only the old-fashioned

End. This complex has rescued hundreds of injured or orphaned seals since 1974, releasing them after treatment or finding a permanent home here. The sanctuary has rescued many other creatures large and small, from an elephant hawk moth to hobbies, pigeons, barn owls, weasels, foxes and badgers. There are special wildcat and barn owl features, a seal and seabird hospital, and a nature centre with many fascinating displays. The lynx caves are particularly interesting, displaying three-dimensional scenes of Mablethorpe as it was 9,000 and 20,000 years ago, along with prehistoric tools and fossils.

A unique collection is on view at **Ye Olde Curiosity Museum** where Graham and Sue Allen have amassed an astonishing collection of more than 18,000 curios. One of the oddest is an 1890 'fat remover', which looks like a rolling pin with suction pads and was used in massage parlours. The Museum also houses the most complete collection of Pendelín in the world.

ABY

10 miles SE of Louth on minor roads

 Claythorpe Watermill & Wildfowl Gardens

Claythorpe Watermill & Wildfowl Gardens are a major draw for visitors of all ages to this small village at the tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds. A beautiful 18th century watermill provides the central feature, surrounded by attractive woodlands inhabited by hundreds of waterfowl and other animals. There are peacocks and pheasants, cockerels, wallabies, goats and even a miniature Shetland pony. Built in 1721, the mill is no longer working, but it provides a handsome setting for a restaurant, gift shop and Country Fayre shop. Open daily between March and October, the gardens also have a Bygone Exhibit Area.

WESTBROOK HOUSE B&B

Gayton-le-Marsb, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 0NW

Tel: 01507 450624 Mob: 07818 854995

e-mail: info@bestbookwestbrook.co.uk

website: www.bestbookwestbrook.co.uk

Westbrook House, a contemporary home, stands in its own grounds in a tranquil village, just off the A157 and has been welcoming guests for 10 years. The guest bedrooms – two en suite doubles and a twin with a private bathroom – have been carefully designed and thoughtfully equipped to provide high standards of comfort and amenity; furnished mostly in pine, they all have controllable heating, hot drinks tray and radio alarm clock. Breakfast, featuring locally cured bacon, Lincolnshire sausages, free-range eggs and home-grown tomatoes, is served at a large table in the conservatory/dining area, where an optional evening meal (bring your own wine) is also available. Main courses might be local lamb chops with redcurrant wine sauce or salmon with lemon chive butter served with home-grown vegetables.

Guests have the use of a galleried sitting area as well as a patio garden, and the house has plenty of books, magazines, maps and local information. This is a good area for walking and cycling with a number of footpaths and bridleways nearby – bikes and route maps can be borrowed. Miles of sandy beaches are a short drive away in one direction, the beautiful Lincolnshire Wolds in the other, and the interesting old market towns of Alford and Louth are a few minutes' drive away.



COTTAGE NURSERIES

Thoresthorpe, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 0HX

Tel: 01507 466968 Fax: 01507 463409

e-mail: bill@cottagenurseries.net website: www.cottagenurseries.net

Cottage Nurseries are stocked with well over 1,000 varieties of plants, some not widely available elsewhere and most of them grown on site. Developed from flat, uncultivated land, it has grown over the years into a delightful, well-regarded source of healthy plants, with alpines, perennials and tender plants the main specialities. Visitors are always welcome at this family-run enterprise, but if you can't get along to the nursery the plants, with full descriptions and prices, can be ordered by mail order through the comprehensive website. The nurseries lie on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, a mile east of Alford on the A1104 Mablethorpe road. Opening times are 9 to 5 March to the third week in October, 10 to 3 end October to February. Closed 3 weeks Christmas/New Year.



methods seem able to produce. Other attractions here include a wholefood shop, tearoom and garden.

Alford's handsome medieval **Church of St Wilfrid** dates from the 14th-century and among its treasures are a curiously carved

Jacobean pulpit, the marble tomb of the former Manor House residents, (the Christopher family), and an amazing collection of tapestry kneelers. With so many parish churches nowadays locked for most of the time, it's good to know that St Wilfrid's is

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

THE PADDOCK AT SCAMBLESBY

Old Main Road, Scamblesby, nr Louth,

Lincolnshire LN11 9XG

Tel: 07787 998906

e-mail: steve@thepaddockatscamblesby.co.uk

website: www.thepaddockatscamblesby.co.uk

Steve and Marion Cooney offer 'Bed & Breakfast with a hint of luxury' in their lovely home in a rural location midway between Louth and Horncastle. **The Paddock at Scamblesby** is a quiet, comfortable and very civilised base for business visitors, for walkers, for cyclists and for tourists. The two bedrooms – a double and a twin – are particularly well equipped, with bath and shower en suite, TV/DVD player, wireless internet access, hospitality tray, hairdryer and trouser press along with thoughtful touches such as fresh flowers, fruit and chocolates to welcome guests. A cooked-to-order breakfast is served in the pleasant conservatory overlooking the landscaped garden and the Lincolnshire Wolds beyond. No children under 5; no pets.



open daily from 9am - 4pm. In August, St Wilfrid's hosts a **Flower Festival**, part of the Alford Festival, which began in 1974 and over the years has attracted a growing variety of craftspeople, joined by dancers, singers, poets and actors.

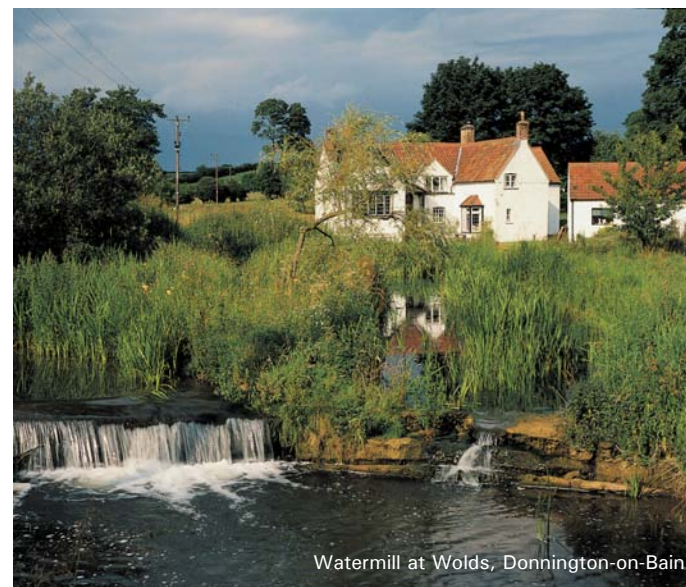
DONINGTON-ON-BAIN

10 miles SW of Louth via A153/A157

Red Hill Nature Reserve Viking Way

Country roads lead westward into wonderful walking country at Donington-on-Bain, a peaceful Wolds village on the **Viking Way**.

This well-trodden route, which was established in 1976 by Lincolnshire County Council, runs 147 miles from the Humber Bridge to Oakham in Rutland and is waymarked by Viking helmet symbols. While in Donington, have a look at the grand old water mill and the 13th-century church. There is a story that it was usual at weddings for old ladies to



Watermill at Wolds, Donnington-on-Bain

throw hassocks at the bride as she walked up the aisle. This boisterous custom was ended in 1780 by the rector after he was hit by a badly aimed hassock!

To the east of Donington and south of Goulceby is the celebrated **Red Hill Nature Reserve**. The hill itself is an outcrop bearing a vein of spectacular red chalk that is rich in fossil finds. The small reserve is home to several species of butterflies and moths, the meadow pipit, common lizard and grass snake. From the clifftop there are some wonderful views across the Wolds. The hill also provides the setting for a Good Friday procession when the vicar of Asterby and three parishioners carrying crosses climb the steep lane. The three crosses are erected above a chalk pit and a short service takes place with music provided by the Horncastle Brass band.

Grimsby

-  Dock Tower
-  Fishing Heritage Centre
-  The Time Trap
-  People's Park
-  Freshney Park Way

According to tradition, it was a Dane called Grim who founded Grimsby. He had been ordered to drown the young Prince Havelock after the boy's father had been killed in battle. Grim could not bring himself to murder the child so he set sail for England. After a tempestuous crossing of the North Sea, Grim and the boy arrived at the Humber estuary where he used the timbers of their boat to build a house on the shore. They lived by selling fish and salt, thus establishing the foundations of an industry for which Grimsby would become known the world over.

But until 1848, Grimsby didn't even rank

among Lincolnshire's 10 largest towns. That was the year the railway arrived, making it possible for fish to be swiftly transported to major centres of population inland. Only four years later, the town's most famous landmark, the elegant, Italianate **Dock Tower**, was built, soaring more than 300 feet above the busy docks. The Tower now enjoys Grade I listed building status, ranking it alongside such national treasures as Buckingham Palace and Chatsworth House. The tower's original function was purely utilitarian, the storage of 33,000 gallons of water to operate the hydraulic system that worked the lock gates. But shortly after it was built in 1852 it was discovered that water in a pressurised tube worked just as well so the tower became redundant. On open days, visitors can undertake the gruelling climb up the inside of the tower to enjoy the breathtaking views from the top.

The Tower stands beside Alexandra Dock, which enjoyed its heyday during the 1950s when Grimsby was the world's largest fishing port. The story of those boom days is told in vivid detail in the **Fishing Heritage Centre** in Alexandra Dock, where visitors are challenged to navigate the icy waters of the Arctic, experience freezing winds, black ice, and lashing rain as the trawler decks, literally, heave and moan beneath your feet. As well as re-creating the deep-sea fishing industry at the height of its importance, the Centre also explores the social setting of that period, with reconstructions of the twisting back streets and alleys of 1950s' Grimsby. **The Time Trap**, housed deep in old prison cells of the Town Hall, shows the seamier side of life on dry land and has proved a very popular annexe to the Heritage Centre. Visitors pass through dark, twisting

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

corridors, explore mysterious nooks and crannies, discovering en route some unexpected facets of the town. The Town Hall itself, built in 1863, is a dignified building whose frontage has a series of busts depicting Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, local man John Whitgift (later Archbishop of Canterbury), Edward III (who granted the land around here to the Freeman of Grimsby), the Earl of Yarborough, (local landowner and High Steward of the borough at that time), and the historian Gervase Holles who was Mayor of Grimsby in 1640.

Many Victorian buildings were destroyed during World War II, but a surviving legacy from that era is the **People's Park** where the facilities include a heart-shaped lake, children's play area, bowling greens, croquet lawn, ornamental gardens and plenty of open space. The Floral Hall is vibrant with colour all year round and houses both tropical and temperate species, and a large variety of house and garden plants, shrubs and conifers are on sale. Away from the centre, by the banks of the River Freshney, is **Freshney Park Way**, 300 acres of open space that attracts walkers, cyclists, anglers and birdwatchers as well as picnickers.

Around Grimsby

IMMINGHAM

7 miles NW of Grimsby off the A180

-  Pilgrim Father Monument
-  Museum

A small village until the early 1900s, Immingham's breakthrough came when a new port on the south bank of the Humber was proposed. Grimsby naturally thought that the honour should be hers, but consultants favoured Immingham because the deep water

channel of the river runs close to the shore here. The new Docks were opened by King George V in 1912, and rapidly grew in importance, especially when the Great Central Railway switched its passenger liner service from Grimsby. The Docks expanded yet further when the Humber was dredged in the late 1960s to accommodate the new generation of giant tankers and a huge refinery now stands to the west of the town. Not promising country for tourists, but the heart of the old village has survived with St Andrew's Church at its centre.

The **Immingham Museum** traces the links between the Docks and the railways and there is also an exhibit about the group of Puritans who, in 1607, set sail from Immingham to the New England. A memorial to this event, the **Pilgrim Father Monument**, was erected by the Anglo-American Society in 1925. It originally stood near the point of embarkation, but is now located near the church. Most of the 20ft-high column is made from local granite, but near the top is a block hewn from Plymouth Rock in New England where these religious refugees first landed.

CLEETHORPES

1 mile S of Grimsby on the A180

-  Ross Castle
-  Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway
-  Humber Estuary Discovery Centre

One of Cleethorpes' claims to fame is that it stands on zero longitude, ie on the Greenwich Meridian line. A signpost on the coastal path marks the Meridian line and points the way to London, the North Pole and other prominent places, an essential snap for the family album.

Just south of Grimsby and almost merged with it, Cleethorpes developed from a little

village into a holiday resort when the railway line was built in the 1860s. The Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway Company developed much of the town and also built the splendid promenade, a mile long and 65ft wide, below the cliff. Above the promenade they built the sham ruin known as **Ross Castle**, named after the railway's general secretary, Edward Ross. Swathed in ivy, the folly marked the highest point of the cliffs, which the promenade now protects from erosion.

The railway company also funded the construction of a pier. This was opened on August Bank Holiday Monday 1873, when nearly 3,000 people paid the then princely sum of sixpence (2½p) for admission. The toll was reduced the next day to a much more reasonable penny (½p), and it is recorded that in the first five weeks 37,000 people visited. The pier, like many others, was breached during World War II as a defence measure to discourage enemy landings, and it was never restored to its full length. The pier now measures 355ft compared to its original 1,200ft, but the Edwardian pavilion of 1906 is still in place and is currently the largest nightclub in the area.

The town also boasts the last surviving seaside steam railway, the **Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway**. This narrow-gauge steam railway runs along the foreshore and lakeside every day from Easter to September, and on weekends throughout the year, from Kingsway Station to North Sea Lane Station at the mouth of Buck Beck. A recent addition to the town's attractions is the **Cleethorpes Humber Estuary Discovery Centre**. Here visitors can become time travellers, discover extinct creatures and submerged forests, and work off their aggression by participating in a

Viking raid. The Lincolnshire clockmaker, John Harrison, who solved the problem of finding longitude, is celebrated in one of the many exhibits and the complex also offers refreshments in the Boaters Tea Room.

NORTH SOMERCOTES

12 miles SE of Grimsby off the A1031

 Donna Nook Nature Reserve

Olney's Shrove Tuesday pancake races may be better known, but those at North Somercotes are equally popular. Contestants run the length of this straggling village tossing their pancakes as they go. There are separate contests for adults and children.

To the east of the village is the **Donna Nook Nature Reserve**, which stretches six miles south along the coast to Saltfleet. In summer it's a favoured nesting site for many species of birds, among them dunnoek, little grebe and meadow pipits. Large colonies of Brent geese, dunlin and other waders are attracted to the mudflats, while common and grey seals pup on the sandflats. As well as marram grass and sea buckthorn, the dunes also provide a support for the much rarer pyramidal orchids.

CAISTOR

10 miles SW of Grimsby on the A46

 Church of St Peter & St Paul  Pelham's Pillar

Caistor's market place stands on the plain, looking across corn fields to the distant towers of Lincoln Cathedral; but its narrow streets wind their way up the western slopes of the Wolds. Caistor's name makes it clear that this agreeable little market town did indeed start life as a small Roman camp. Just a few hard-to-find fragments of the once massive walls remain. However, it's known that the camp measured just 300 yards by 100 yards and that the present

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Church of St Peter & St Paul stands at the exact centre of the Roman enclosure. The church, whose oldest part is the Anglo-Saxon tower, contains a curiosity kept in a glass case. This is the famous Gad Whip, which until 1847 was "cracked over the head of the vicar on Palm Sunday by a man from Broughton in payment for certain parcels of land". Another version of the tradition claims that the whip, which had a purse containing two shillings tied to it, was simply waved over the head of the clergyman while the latter read the second lesson. Either way, Victorian opinion regarded the performance as not consistent with ecclesiastical decorum and it was suppressed.

A mile or so north of the town, **Pelham's Pillar** commemorates the planting of the surrounding woods by Charles Pelham, Earl of Yarborough. Between 1787 and 1828, the earl planted 12,552,700 trees – at least that is what the inscription claims. The lofty tower cost a staggering £2,395 to build and when it was completed in 1849, no less a personage than Prince Albert came to view it. The tower is locked, but if you want to climb up inside a key can be obtained within reasonable hours from the Keeper's Cottage, Pillar Lodge.

The 147-mile long Viking Way passes through Caistor and about five miles south of the town climbs to Normanby-on-the-Wold, the highest village in Lincolnshire. The path continues through Walesby, where All Saints Church is known as the Ramblers' Church because of its stained-glass window depicting Christ with ramblers and cyclists, and on to the delightful village of Tealby.

Boston

 Boston Stump  Guildhall  Windmill

An important inland port on the River Witham, Boston's fortunes reached their peak

during the Middle Ages when the town was second only to London in the amount of taxes it paid. Today, it's a prosperous market town of around 37,000 inhabitants and the administrative centre for the region. The market, more than 450 years old and the largest open air market in Lincolnshire, takes place every Wednesday and Saturday.

The town's most famous landmark is St Botolph's Church, much better known as the **Boston Stump**. 'Stump' is a real misnomer since the tower soars 272ft into the sky and is visible for 30 miles or more from land and sea. Building of the tower began around 1425 and was not completed for 100 years. The body of the church is older still – it dates back to 1309 and is built mainly in the graceful Decorated style of architecture. St Botolph's is the largest parish church in England (20,070 square feet in all) and its spacious interior is wonderfully light and airy. The church is noted for its abundance of often bizarre medieval carvings in wood and stone – a bear playing an organ, a man lassooing a lion, a fox in a bishop's cope taking a jug of water from a baboon.

One of Boston's most striking secular buildings is the 15th-century **Guildhall**, which for 300 years served as the Town Hall; it has recently re-opened after major refurbishment. Another impressive building is the **Maud Foster Windmill** (1819), the tallest working windmill in Britain and unusual in having five sails, or 'sweeps'. Visitors can climb to the top of the mill, see the machinery and millstones in action, and enjoy some fine views from the outside balcony. There's a tearoom and a Mill Shop that sells the mill's own stone-ground organic flour as well as local books and souvenirs.

If you enjoy seeking out architectural curiosities, then there's a splendid one in a

TIMOTHY GUY

12 Pen Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 6TJ

Tel: 07855 310422

e-mail: jennybrewster@fiscali.co.uk

Jenny Brewster was a customer at **Timothy Guy** for many years before acquiring this high-class ladies clothes shop in 2005. The range of clothes she sells is aimed mainly at the over-35s, with sizes from 6 to 24 and clothes for any occasion, from casual to evening wear.



The stock on display on shelves and rails includes clothes made by Garella, Tutta Natura, the London-based Italian designer James Lakeland, Hebbeding from the Netherlands and Out of Xile – designed, cut, sewn, knitted, dyed and finished in England. The shop is one of very few European stockists of the Californian Mycra Pac range of lightweight all-weather jackets and coats. Jenny has the invaluable assistance of manageress Val, who has worked at the shop since the early 1980s. They make everyone welcome and are always ready with help and advice, and customers can relax with a cup of tea or coffee in the comfort of a Lloyd Loom chair while perusing their purchases.

Timothy Guy is located in a pleasant shopping street in a conservation area of Boston, with plenty of parking nearby. Shop hours are 9.30 to 5 Monday to Saturday.

quiet back street of the town. The frontage of the Freemason's Hall represents a miniature Egyptian temple, complete with columns crowned by papyrus fronds. Half a century earlier, following Napoleon's Egyptian campaign, there had been a spate of such monumental buildings, but Boston's temple, built in the 1860s, presents a very late flowering of the style.

Around Boston

FISHTOFT

3 miles SE of Boston off the A52

This village has just one claim to fame. It was from an obscure creek near here that the Pilgrim Fathers made their first attempt to

escape England's oppressive religious laws. A simple monument is inscribed with the words:

*Near this place in September 1607
those later known as the Pilgrim Fathers
set sail on their first attempt to find
religious freedom across the seas.*

DONINGTON

10 miles SW of Boston on the A52

A small market town, Donington boasts some elegant Georgian buildings, among them the former Grammar School, and a huge church that was bountifully re-endowed in the 14th century when Donington was flourishing as the centre of trade in flax and hemp. Like Deeping St James, the church has its own rather elegant hude, or movable hut. If

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

inclement weather coincided with a burial, the hut would be moved to the graveside. Standing inside the shelter (complete with its own coat hook) the parson could smugly observe the mourners being drenched. Inside the church there are a number of memorials to the Flinders family. Their most famous son, Matthew, was born at Donington in 1774 and later became celebrated for his exploration of the Australian coastline. Returning from Australia to England via the Indian Ocean in a decrepit ship, Flinders put in at Mauritius for repairs. At that time, Mauritius was governed by the French who had watched British expansion in Australasia with alarm. They arrested Flinders as a spy and it was seven long years before they allowed him to continue his journey back to England and his home town of Donington.

Spalding

- Gordon Boswell Romany Museum
- Flower Parade Springfields Festival Gardens
- Ayscoughfee Hall Museum & Gardens

This small market town is known around the world for its annual **Flower Parade**, which attracts half a million visitors each year. Established in 1959, the Festival is held in early May when marching bands lead a succession of colourful floats, each adorned with thousands of tulip heads and spring flowers, through the town. The floats are then displayed at **Springfields Festival Gardens** whose 30 landscaped acres include marvellous show gardens, a carp lake, a shopping outlet, a play barn and Fenscape, a unique experience where you can discover how the landscape was created and what life is like for those living on the Fens.



Butterfly & Wildlife Park, Spalding

another equally impressive construction stands south of the station, spanning the main line and a now defunct branch line.

The jewel in Spalding's crown is undoubtedly **Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens**, a well-preserved medieval mansion standing in attractive gardens by the river and with some venerable yew tree walks. Pronounced Asscuffy, the Hall was built around 1429 for Sir Richard Aldwyn. It later became the home of Maurice Johnson (1688-1755), a member of the Royal Society and a leading figure in the intellectual life of his day. In 1710, he founded the Gentlemen's Society of Spalding, which still flourishes from its headquarters and small museum in Broad Street. Part of the Gentlemen's extensive collection of stuffed birds, dating back to 1800, is on display in Ayscoughfee Hall, which also has a prominent exhibit honouring the explorer and oceanographer Captain Matthew Flinders who has been mentioned earlier under his birthplace, Donington. Other galleries record Spalding's social and economic history.

Located in the lovely grounds of Ayscoughfee Hall is Spalding's War Memorial, which stands at one end of an ornamental pool that in winters past would freeze over. Blocks of ice were hewn from it and stored in the icehouse, which still survives, tucked away in a corner of the garden walls.

Connoisseurs of odd buildings should make their way down a lane off Cowbit Road to a red brick building that belongs to no recognisable school of architecture. Known as the Tower House, it was built in Victorian times but no one has any idea who built it, why or exactly when. It's a bizarre medley of medieval towers and crenellations, a random

obelisk, Georgian-style windows and other bits and pieces. One writer described it as being "like a giant Lego construction". It is now a private house, but the exterior can be enjoyed from the lane.

A couple of miles south of Spalding, the **Gordon Boswell Romany Museum** has a colourful collection of Romany Vardos (caravans), carts and harnesses, along with an extensive display of Romany photographs and sketches covering the past 150 years. A slide show talk on the Romany way of life, and conducted tours and carriage rides are available and there's also a fortune-telling tent. Gordon Boswell and his wife Margaret also arrange Romany Days Out in a horse-drawn vardo, a trip that includes a meal cooked over a traditional Romany stick fire. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from Easter to the end of October (01775 710599).

Around Spalding

PINCHBECK

2 miles N of Spalding on the B1356

 Pinchbeck Engine & Land Drainage Museum

 Spalding Bulb Museum  Tropical Forest

For an interesting insight into how the South Holland Fen has been transformed by man, a visit to the **Pinchbeck Engine and Land Drainage Museum** is strongly recommended. The star exhibit here is the Pinchbeck Engine, a sturdy monster that was built way back in 1833. Each year for almost 120 years, up until 1952, the 20hp engine lifted an average of three million tons of water from the soggy fens at a rate of 7,500 gallons per minute.

In 1988, the Drainage Board and South

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

Holland Council restored this superb piece of machinery and it now operates regularly. It is the centrepiece of the museum, which is open daily from April to October.

Also in Pinchbeck, in Birchgrove Garden, is the **Spalding Bulb Museum**, which follows the growth of the bulb-growing industry down the years with the aid of tableaux and artefacts, as well as audio-visual and seasonal working demonstrations. A third attraction is **Spalding Tropical Forest**, actually a water garden centre but promising "a tropical paradise full of plants, waterfalls, fountains and streams".

SURFLEET

4 miles N of Spalding off the A16

The River Glen provides an attractive feature in this popular village with its yachts on the water and holiday homes on the banks. Surfleet church has a tower that leans at an alarming angle, more than six feet out of true, the result of subsidence in the boggy ground. The north door is pockmarked with musket shot, a permanent reminder of an unwelcome visit from Cromwell's soldiers during the Civil War.

WESTON

3 miles NE of Spalding on the A151

 St Mary's Church  Moulton Mill

This small village surrounded by tulip fields boasts a fine church, **St Mary's**, which is notable for having one of the most complete early Gothic interiors in the country. The superb arcades have been compared to those in Lincoln Cathedral and there's a wealth of carving known as Lincolnshire stiff-leaf. The 13th-century font is carved with huge flowers decorating each panel of the bowl, and the Victorian pulpit has openwork panels

somewhat Islamic in style. An eye-catching feature in the rather dimly-lit interior, is the display of colourful kneelers placed on the shelves of the pews.

Just to the southeast of Weston is **Moulton Mill**, the largest surviving windmill in the country. Open to the public after many years of use as a grain store, it offers a unique experience. A visitor centre, gift shop and The Granary tearoom will complete a visit.

HOLBEACH

10 miles E of Spalding on the A151/B1168

Located deep in the heart of the Fens, Holbeach stands at the centre of one of the largest parishes in the country. It extends some 15 miles from end to end and covers 21,000 acres.

Holbeach is a pleasing little town with a market on both Thursday and Saturday and also boasts an impressive church with a lofty spire visible for miles across the flat fields. The curious entrance porch, with its two round towers, is believed to have been 'borrowed' from the now vanished Moulton Castle, a few miles to the west.

When William Cobbett passed through Holbeach on his Rural Rides in the 1840s, he was delighted with the "neat little town, a most beautiful church, fruit trees in abundance and the land dark in colour and as fine in substance as flour". Surprisingly little has changed since William visited.

GEDNEY

13 miles E of Spalding off the A17

 St Mary's Church

Of all the fine churches in this corner of the county, **St Mary's** at Gedney is perhaps the most spectacular. It is supernaturally light inside, an effect produced by its magnificent

THE WILLOWS

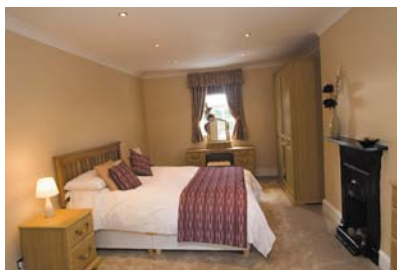
Old Main Road, Fleet Hargate,
Spalding, Lincolnshire PE12 8LL
Tel: 01406 423112

e-mail: sue.willows@btconnect.com

Located in the peaceful village of Fleet Hargate, **The Willows** is a charming B&B with licensed restaurant. Attention to detail is something owner Sue Harman delivers perfectly. The Willows is a quality establishment, run to a very high standard in all aspects. Dating back to the 17th century the building has been upgraded to give a contemporary feel inside and it is light and comfortable throughout. There are five modern and stylish guest en-suite bedrooms, all tastefully decorated and finished to a high standard. There is a king size, 2 double, family and twin/single room. All of the rooms have flat screen televisions with DVD players, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryers, slippers, dressing gowns and ironing facilities on request. Wireless Internet access allows guests to continue business or keep in touch with family and friends.

Fine dining is what The Willows does best. In the restaurant there are some outstanding dishes to be tried, with the majority being cooked fresh and sourced locally when possible. There is an extensive new lunch menu, served from 12pm – 2.30pm, with goats cheese brochette, turkey, leek and bacon pie, just some of the fantastic dishes listed. On the evening meal there is plenty to choose from with starters including salmon & smoked haddock fishcakes and a vegetarian option of warm nicoise salad on baked mushroom. The main dishes really are delicious, with something for the fussiest of taste buds. Slow roast belly of pork or pan-fried red bream fillet (both served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables) are among the options. Just reading the dessert menu will make your mouth water with blackberry brulee and chocolate pot among the favourites.

The Willows is an amazing find in the Lincolnshire countryside. It provides the ideal get-away and is close enough to all main roads. There are plenty of places to explore in the surrounding area, including the Fens and the Norfolk countryside. If you are after a good quality home from home experience, The Willows could be just what you are looking for. Popular with walkers and cyclists, there are many leisure activities to have a go at during your stay, including fishing and bird watching. With an airfield nearby, you can even learn to fly. The establishment is just two minutes from the A17, making it an ideal place to visit for travellers. There is ample parking at the rear of the property. Opening hours are Wed - Sat 9 - 4.30pm and Sun 12 - 3pm.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

clerestory in which the medieval masons reduced the stonework to near-invisibility. The 24 three-light windows drench the interior with light, brilliantly illuminating the carvings and bosses of the roof, and the interesting collection of monuments. The best-known of these is a brass in the south aisle that depicts a lady, who died around 1400, with a puppy crouching in the folds of her gown.

LONG SUTTON

15 miles E of Spalding on B1359

🦋 Butterfly & Wildlife Park 🚶 Peter Scott Walk
👤 King John's Lost Jewels Trail

Long Sutton is a very appropriate name for this straggling village. St Mary's Church has an unusual two-storeyed porch, the upper floor of which was once used as a school, and a rare, lead-covered spire 160 feet high.

The surrounding area borders The Wash and is a favourite place with walkers and naturalists, especially bird-watchers. One of the most popular routes is the **Peter Scott Walk** – during the 1930s the celebrated naturalist lived in one of the two lighthouses on the River Nene nearby. Another route, **King John's Lost Jewels Trail**, covers 23 miles of quiet country roads and is suitable for cyclists and motorists. It starts at Long Sutton market place and passes Sutton Bridge where the unfortunate king is believed to have lost all his treasure in the marsh. Sutton Bridge itself is notable for the swing bridge over the River Nene. Built in 1897 for the Midland & Great Northern Railway, it is one of very few examples still surviving of a working swing bridge.

The **Butterfly and Wildlife Park** has one of the country's largest walk-through tropical butterfly and bird houses. With its wallaby enclosure, reptiles, birds of prey flying displays and a host of other amenities, it makes the

perfect family day out.

CROWLAND

10 miles S of Spalding on the A1073

🏰 Abbey 🌉 Trinity Bridge

It was in AD699 that a young Mercian nobleman named Guthlac became disillusioned with the world and took to a small boat. He rowed off into the Fens until he came to a remote muddy island (which is what the name Crowland means). Here he built himself a hut and a small chapel. Guthlac's reputation as a wise and holy man attracted a host of visitors in search of spiritual guidance. He died in AD714 and shortly afterwards his kinsman, King Ethelbald of Mercia, founded the monastery that became known as **Crowland Abbey**.

The abbey buildings have suffered an unusually troubled history. Nothing but some oak foundations remains of the first abbey - the rest was destroyed by Danish invaders. The monastery was rebuilt in Saxon style in about AD950 when the community began to live according to the rule of St Benedict. That abbey was also destroyed, on this occasion by a great fire in 1091. An earthquake in 1117 interrupted the rebuilding. Some 50 years later, the third abbey was completed, in the Norman style. Parts of this splendid building can still be seen, notably in the dogtooth west arch of the central tower. Another fire caused massive damage in 1143 and the restoration that followed provides most of the substantial ruins that we see today. They present an impressive sight as they loom forbiddingly over this small Fenland village. Happily, the abbey's former north aisle survived and now serves as the parish church.

Crowland is also noted for its extraordinary Bridge without a River, also known locally as

the Three Ways to Nowhere Bridge. When it was built in the 1300s, **Trinity Bridge** provided a dry crossing over the confluence of three small streams. Hence its unique triangular shape. But the streams dried up and the bridge now serves no purpose apart from being extremely decorative. At one end, there's a large seated figure, possibly of Christ and almost certainly pilfered from the West Front of the abbey where a surprising number of these 15th-century statues are still in place.

Stamford

 St Leonard's Priory  Burghley House
 Museum  Steam Brewery Museum

Proclaimed as "the finest stone town in England", Stamford was declared the country's first Conservation Area in 1967. Later, "England's most attractive town" (John Betjeman's words), became familiar to millions of TV viewers when its wonderfully unspoilt Georgian streets and squares provided an authentic backdrop for the BBC's dramatisation of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. Stamford is a thriving little town with a wide variety of small shops (including a goodly number of antiques shops), and a bustling street market on Fridays.

A dubious local legend asserts that Stamford was founded in the 8th century BC by the Trojan king of Britain, Bladud, and continued as a seat of learning until the 14th century AD when it was supplanted by the upstart universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever its past, what gives the present town its enchanting character is the handsome Georgian architecture, evidenced everywhere in private houses and elegant public buildings such as the Town Hall, the Assembly Rooms, the theatre and the well-known George Hotel,

whose gallows sign spans the main street.

Stamford's most ancient ecclesiastical building is **St Leonard's Priory**, founded by the Benedictines in the 11th century and a fine example of Norman architecture with an ornate west front and north side arcade.

Secular buildings of note include Browne's Hospital in Broad Street. It now houses the Museum of Almshouse Life - the ground floor presenting aspects of almshouse life, the upper hosting various exhibitions.

The town is well provided with museums. The **Stamford Museum** includes an exhibit celebrating one of the town's most famous visitors. Daniel Lambert earned a precarious living by exhibiting himself as the world's heaviest man. As an additional source of income he would challenge people to race along a course of his choosing. Daniel would then set off along the corridors of the inn, filling them wall to wall and preventing any challenger from passing. For most of his adult life he weighed well over 50 stones. When he died in the Waggon & Horses Inn at Stamford in 1809 the wall of his bedroom had to be demolished in order to remove his body.

Railway buffs will want to pay a visit to the Stamford East Railway Station. The station was built in 1855-1856 for the branch line of the Great North Railway. Because the land was owned by the Marquess of Exeter, of nearby **Burghley House**, the architect William Hurst was obliged to build in the classical style using the local honey-coloured stone. The result is surely one of the most elegant small stations in the country.

A rather more specialised museum is the **Stamford Steam Brewery Museum**, which has a collection of original 19th-century brewing equipment. The museum is housed in the malt house and brewery, which was

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

T. & C. ROBINSON

4 St Marys Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DE
Tel & Fax: 01780 755378
website: www.countrylifestyleonline.co.uk

T & C Robinson is one of the finest leathershops in Lincolnshire, owned by the Robinson Family since 1905, granddaughter Anne Brown presently runs the business from this beautiful Georgian grade II listed building, dating back to 1780.

T & C Robinson specialise in leathershops, county clothing and gifts and the range of goods in this shop is simply astounding with something for all ages.

There is an extensive selection of finely crafted leather handbags, leather luggage and many unique gift ideas, with top brand names such as Radley, Tula, Gianni Conti and La Moda. Robinsons also sell country clothing from prestigious names such as Dubarry, Barbour, Musto, Joules and Weird Fish. There is also an attractive choice of chic gift ideas such as small leathershops, jewellery, cufflinks, traditional games and childrens toys. You are guaranteed to find something you like here, even if it's just the alluring smell of fine leather that draws you in off the street to the perfect purchase. Priding themselves on quality customer service T & C Robinson is a must for anyone who visits Stamford.

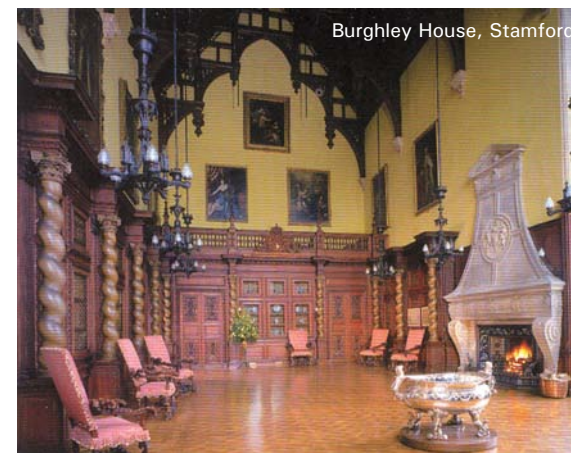


established by William Burn in 1825 and continued brewing right up until 1974. It was restored in the late 1990s and is now open to the public by prior arrangement.

Two more of Stamford's famous residents should be mentioned. Buried in the town cemetery is Sir Malcolm Sargent, the 'pin-up' conductor of the Henry Wood Promenade

Concerts in the 1960s and 70s. The cross on his grave is inscribed with the Promenaders' Prayer. And in St Martin's Church is the splendid tomb of William Cecil, 1st Lord Burghley, who was Elizabeth I's Chief Secretary of State from her accession until his death in 1598. Cecil's magnificent residence, Burghley House, lies a mile south of the town.

"The largest and grandest house of the Elizabethan Age", Burghley House presents a



dazzling spectacle with its domed towers, walls of cream coloured stone, and acres of windows. Clear glass was still ruinously expensive in the 1560s so Elizabethan grandees like Cecil flaunted their wealth by having windows that stretched almost from floor to ceiling. Burghley House also displays the Elizabethan obsession with symmetry - every tower, dome, pilaster and pinnacle has a corresponding partner.

Contemporaries called Burghley a 'prodigy house', a title shared at that time with only one other stately home in England - Longleat in Wiltshire. Both houses were indeed prodigious in size and in cost. At Burghley, Cecil commissioned the most celebrated interior decorator of the age, Antonio Verrio, to create rooms of unparalleled splendour. In his Heaven Room, Verrio excelled even himself, populating the lofty walls and ceiling with a dynamic gallery of mythological figures. The State rooms house the earliest inventoried collection of Japanese ceramics in the West, rare examples of European porcelain and wood carvings by Grinling Gibbons. Four magnificent state beds stand majestically against fine examples of Continental furniture and important tapestries and textiles.

In the 18th century, Cecil's descendants commissioned the ubiquitous Capability Brown to landscape the 160 acres of parkland surrounding the house. These enchanting grounds are open to visitors and are also home to a large herd of fallow deer which was first established in Cecil's time. Brown also designed the elegant Orangery, which is now a licensed restaurant overlooking rose beds and gardens.

Twelve acres of scrub woodland have been reclaimed and planted with specimen trees and shrubs and now provide a sylvan setting for

the Sculpture Garden, featuring a number of dramatic artworks by contemporary sculptors.

Throughout the summer season, Burghley hosts a series of events of which the best known, the Burghley Horse Trials, takes place at the end of August.

Around Stamford

THE DEEPINGS

8 miles E of Stamford off the A16

 **Priory Church of St James**

There are four Deepings in all and they lie alongside the River Welland, which here forms the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. The largest is Market Deeping, once an important stop on the London to Lincoln coaching route. The triangular town centre has some imposing Georgian buildings, a large antique and craft centre, and a church dating back to 1240.

Today, Deeping St James merges imperceptibly with its larger neighbour. The old village sits on the banks of the Welland where it is controlled by two locks. The **Priory Church of St James** is an impressively large structure and was originally built as a satellite cell of Thorney Abbey. Among its possessions is a hude - a small shelter rather like a sentry box which was designed to keep the Vicar dry when conducting burial services in the rain. Another interesting curiosity is the small square building in the centre of the village. It was originally the Market Cross, but was converted into a lock-up in 1819 to contain village drunks and other troublemakers. Three semi-circular stone seats with chains can still be seen through bars in the doors. Incongruously, the rather elegant little building is topped by a graceless modern street lamp.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



[Click Here for travel guidebooks](#)

BOURNE

10 miles N of Stamford on the A6121

 **Heritage Centre**  **Bowthorpe Oak**

 **Bourne Wood**

A small, attractive town, Bourne has a fine church, an impressive Town Hall of 1821 with an unusual staircase entry, delightful Memorial Gardens, and a variety of family shops, craft and antiques emporia, as well as modern shopping precincts. A colourful market takes place every Thursday and Saturday.

It was the springs of clear water that enticed the Romans to settle here. Today, the springs flow into St Peter's Pool from which a small stream known as the Bourne Eau runs into the town and Memorial Gardens. Here, willow trees border the crystal clear water, home to fish, wildfowl and small roosting

houses. En route, the Bourne Eau passes Baldocks Mill, which functioned between 1800 and the 1920s, and now houses the **Bourne Heritage Centre**.

Notable sons of Bourne include Raymond Mays, who founded the BRM motor company in 1949 and built his cars in a workshop behind Eastgate House. In 1962, with Graham Hill at the wheel, a BRM became the first British car to win a world championship. Charles Frederick Worth, the couturier and founder of the House of Worth, was also born here. A mile west of the town, beside the A151, stands **Bourne Wood**, 400 acres of long-established woodland with an abundant and varied plant and animal life. Once part of the great Forest of Brunswald, it's a great place for walking or cycling, and has some interesting modern sculpture in wood and

CONCEPT

*35b North Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9AE
Tel: 01778 424878*

Situated in the quiet market town of Bourne, Concept is a long established gift shop on North Street nestled a little way down from the town centre. Having been in its current location for the past 21 years, Dena Edis and her friendly staff are always on hand to offer advice on choosing that unique gift.

Concept prides itself on offering quality products at a range of prices in order to suit all budgets. As well as stocking a broad range of gifts for all ages and items for the home, Concept is also the proud stockists of Crabtree and Evelyn toiletries, Kit Heath's silver jewellery, Sia, Parlane, Gisela Graham and many more. Furthermore, Dena is also proud to stock handmade products, many that have been made locally.

For those that have a birthday or special occasion coming up Dena offers a wish list service so individuals can take pleasure in picking out what they would like! Or if you've already found that special present, a gift wrapping service is offered to help you finish off your shopping.

So whether you're after a kaloo soft toy for a newborn baby, a set of handmade star glass champagne flutes for an anniversary, or a Sixtrees photo frame for a friend's birthday, why not pop into Concept and see what they can offer you.



stone. The waters around Bourne and the Deepings are credited with curative properties and the Blind Well, on the edge of the wood, is reputed to be particularly efficacious in healing eye complaints.

About four miles south of Bourne, near the village of Witham on the Hill, stands the **Bowthorpe Oak**, which is believed to be the largest in terms of its girth than any other tree in Britain. When last measured, the oak was just over 39 feet around. The tree is hollow and it's claimed that on one occasion 39 people stood inside it.

GRIMSTHORPE

5 miles NW of Bourne on the A151

Castle

Grimsthorpe Castle is definitely two-faced. Seen from the north, it's a stately 18th-century demi-palace. Viewed from the south, it's a homely Tudor dwelling. The Tudor part of the house was built at incredible speed in order to provide a convenient lodging place in Lincolnshire for Henry VIII on his way north to meet James V of Scotland in York. The royal visit to Grimsthorpe Castle duly took place in 1541, but the honour of the royal presence was tarnished by the adultery that allegedly took place here between Henry's fourth wife, Katherine Howard, and an attractive young courtier, Thomas Culpepper. In Tudor times, royal misbehaviour of this nature constituted an act of high treason. The errant queen and her ardent courtier paid a fatal price for their nights of passion at Grimsthorpe Castle. Both were condemned to the executioner's axe.

The imposing Georgian part of Grimsthorpe Castle was built in the early 1700s. The 16th Baron Grimsthorpe had just been elevated by George I to the topmost rank of the peerage as Duke of Ancaster. It

was only natural that the new Duke should wish to improve his rather modest ancestral home. He commissioned Sir John Vanbrugh, the celebrated architect of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard, to completely redesign the building. As it happened, only the north front and the courtyard were completed to Vanbrugh's designs, which is why the castle presents two such different faces.

There's no such confusion about the grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle. These could only be 18th century and were landscaped by who else but Capability Brown. His fee was £105, about £100,000 in our money. In return for this substantial consideration, Brown miraculously transformed the flat fields of south Lincolnshire into an Arcadian landscape of gently rolling hills, complete with an artificial lake and a sham bridge.

Seventeen generations of the Willoughby family have been Lords of the Manor of Grimsthorpe since they first arrived here in 1516. During that time they have borne a bewildering variety of other titles. All have held the Barony, but at different times have also been Earls of Lindsey, Dukes of Ancaster and, later, Earls of Ancaster. The Willoughby genealogy is further complicated by the fact that the Barony is one of the very few peerages in Britain that can descend through the female line. A marriage in 1533 between the 49-year-old Duke of Suffolk and the 14-year-old Margaret Willoughby added yet another title, Duchess of Suffolk, to the Barony's pedigree.

Grantham

 The Conduit  St Wulfram's Church

 Grantham House  Methodist Church

 Museum  Arts Centre

A lively market town set beside the River

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

Witham. Turn a blind eye to the charmless environs that surround the town from whichever direction you approach and make your way to its centre, which boasts a pleasing core of old buildings. These cluster around the town's famous church, **St Wulfram's**, whose soaring spire, 282 feet high, has been described as "the finest steeple in England". When completed in 1300, it was the loftiest in England and is still the sixth highest. St Wulfram's interior is not quite so inspirational, dominated as it is by uncharacteristically drab Victorian stained glass, but the rare 16th-century chained library of 150 volumes is occasionally open to the public and well worth seeing.

Just across from the church, **Grantham House** in Castlegate is a handsome National Trust property, parts of which date back to around 1380. Additions were made in the 16th and 18th centuries. The house stands in 25 acres of garden and grounds sloping down to the River Witham. For opening arrangements

call the Regional Office on 01909 511041. Also in Castlegate, look out for the only living pub sign in the country. In a lime tree outside the Beehive Inn is a genuine bee hive whose bees produce some 30lb of honey each year. This unique advertisement for the pub has been in place since at least 1830.

After St Wulfram's Church, Grantham's most venerable building is that of the Angel and Royal Hotel in High Street. The attractive 15th-century façade still bears the weather-beaten sculptured heads of Edward III and Queen Philippa over its central archway. King John held his court here and it was in one of the inn's rooms that Richard III signed the death warrant of the 2nd Duke of Buckingham in 1483.

A hundred yards or so from the inn stands an unusual Grantham landmark. **The Conduit** is a miniature tower built by the Corporation in 1597 as the receiving point for the fresh water supply that flowed from springs in the nearby village of Barrowby. At the southern end of the High Street stands a monument to Sir Isaac Newton who was born nearby and educated at the town's King's School. It's an impressive memorial, cast in bronze from a Russian cannon captured during the Crimean War. Behind the statue is the ornate Victorian Guildhall (1869), which now houses the **Guildhall Arts**



Grantham Conduit

Centre. Originally, the building incorporated the town's prison cells but these now serve as a box office for the Arts Centre.

Next to the Conduit, the **Grantham Museum** provides a fascinating in-depth look at local history - social, agricultural, industrial - and has special exhibits devoted to Sir Isaac Newton, and to Margaret Thatcher, the town's most famous daughter. When elevated to the peerage she adopted the title Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven - the local authority area in which Grantham is located. She still retains close links with the town and once declared, "From this town I learned so much and am proud to be one of its citizens."

There is another connection with the former Prime Minister in Finkin Street **Methodist Church**, just off the High Street. Inside this imposing building with its pillared

entrance and spacious balcony is a lectern dedicated to Alderman Alfred Roberts, a Methodist preacher, grocer, and father of Margaret Thatcher who worshipped here as a child.

The Thatcher family lived over Alderman Roberts' grocery shop in Broad Street. For a while this became The Premier Restaurant but is currently a natural therapies centre. Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first woman Prime Minister, but Grantham can also boast another distinguished lady who was the first in her profession. Just after World War I, Edith Smith was sworn in as the country's first woman police officer. Edith was reputed to be a no-nonsense lady who made the lives of the town's malefactors a misery.

Before leaving the town, do try to track down the local delicacy, Grantham Gingerbread. It was created in 1740 by a local

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

OSBOURNBY

8 miles E of Grantham on the A15

Set in rolling hill country, Ozemby is an attractive village with a pleasing mix of architectural styles from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The large church, unusually for Lincolnshire, has a tower rather than a spire and is also notable for its fine collection of medieval bench ends. Hanging on the wall of the nave are paintings of Moses and Aaron of which Pevsner enquires:

Are they the worst paintings in the county? Anyway, one cannot help liking them.

ROPSLEY

6 miles E of Grantham off the A52

Described in Elizabethan times as "a considerable village remarkably situated as it were in a bason with hills all around", Ropsley was famous then as the birthplace of Richard Fox (1448-1528), a trusted advisor of Henry VII. Fox was appointed to a succession of bishoprics, two of which, Exeter and Wells, he never visited. But he did spend the last 12 years of his life in Winchester as its bishop. Fox founded Corpus Christi College at Oxford, and also established the King's School in Grantham where Sir Isaac Newton was later educated. The house in which Fox was born still stands on Ropsley High Street.

FOLKINGHAM

8 miles E of Grantham on the A15

Once a market town and an important coaching stop, Folkingham was also the venue until 1828 of the Kesteven Quarter Sessions, which were held in the former Greyhound Inn facing the Market Square. Convicted prisoners were confined in the nearby House of Correction of which only

baker who mistakenly added the wrong ingredient to his gingerbread mix. The unusual result was a white crumbly biscuit, completely unlike the regular dark brown gingerbread. Traditionally, the sweetmeat was baked in walnut-sized balls and, until the 1990s, was always available at Catlin's Bakery and Restaurant whose baker possessed the secret recipe. Sadly, Catlin's Bakery is now closed and Grantham Gingerbread is no longer easy to find.

Around Grantham

BELTON

3 miles N of Grantham on the A607/A153

Belton House

"An English country-house at its proudest and most serene", **Belton House** stands in 1,000 acres of parkland surrounded by a boundary wall five miles long. Built in 1685 of honey-coloured Ancaster stone and in the then fashionable Anglo-Dutch style, Belton was the home of the Brownlow family for just under 300 years before being given to the National Trust in 1983. The Trust also acquired the important collections of pictures, porcelain, books and furniture accumulated by 12 generations of Brownlows. With its Dutch and Italian gardens, orangery, deer park, woodland adventure playground, indoor activity room and a Discovery Centre with various wildlife-themed activities. Belton provides a satisfying day out for the whole family.

Anyone interested in follies should make a short detour from Belton to the village of Loundthorpe. The original purpose of the "heavily rusticated stone arch with a horse on the top" has long since been forgotten, but it now serves as a bus shelter.

THE CEDARS BED & BREAKFAST

Low Road, Barrowby, nr Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG32 1DL

Tel: 01476 563400

e-mail: pbcbenett@mac.com

Kinga and Peter Bennett offer top-quality Bed & Breakfast accommodation at **The Cedars**, a 17th century Grade II listed property in the attractive conservation area of Barrowby village, situated 2 miles west of Grantham. The hosts and their lovely dogs provide the warmest of welcomes, and some handsome original features add to the quiet, civilised feel that brings guest back to The Cedars year after year. The guest accommodation comprises two spacious but cosy bedrooms with en suite facilities and another with a shared bathroom. Amenities in the rooms include TV, radio and tea/coffee tray, and internet and fax facilities are available. The full English breakfast is definitely worth waking up for, with eggs from the resident free-range chickens and prime Lincolnshire bacon and sausages from the butcher just up the road. A one- or two-course evening meal can be provided by arrangement, with Italian cuisine a speciality, making fine use of home-grown vegetables and local meat and fish. Guests have the use of a quiet sitting room with an open log fire and a pretty walled garden.



the forbidding gatehouse-cum-governor's house survives. This surprisingly roomy edifice is now available to rent as a holiday cottage through the Landmark Trust. Also recalling the penal provisions of the past are Folkingham's village stocks, which are preserved in St Andrew's Church.

WOOLSTHORPE BY COLSTERWORTH

7 miles S of Grantham off the A1 at Colsterworth

Woolsthorpe Manor

Voted Man of the Last Millennium, Isaac Newton was born in 1642 in the modest Jacobean farmhouse, **Woolsthorpe Manor**, which has scarcely changed since he lived here. It was at Woolsthorpe that the Father of Modern Science later made some of his greatest inventions and discoveries. The Manor is now owned by the National Trust, which has furnished the rooms to reflect the life of the period, and has converted a 17th-century barn into a Science Discovery Centre, which helps explain the achievements of one of the country's most famous men. Almost as famous is the legendary apple tree that helped clear Newton's thinking about the laws of gravity. The apple tree in the garden here is said to have been grafted from the original tree beneath which Newton was sitting when the apple fell on to his head. Newton's interests were wide and varied, from 1696 he was involved in reforming the nation's corrupt coinage system, and from 1699 until his death in 1727 he held the post of Master of the Mint.

A rather strange memento of the young Newton is preserved in the church at nearby Colsterworth. It's a sundial crafted by Newton when he was nine years old. It seems odd to

place a sundial inside a church and even odder to install it upside down.

BELVOIR

8 miles SW of Grantham off A607

Castle

In Victorian times, the Dukes of Rutland could stand on the battlements of **Belvoir Castle** comfortable in the knowledge that, in whichever direction they looked along the pastoral Vale of Belvoir, everything in sight formed part of their estate, some 30,000 acres in all (plus large holdings in other parts of the country). William the Conqueror granted this spectacular site to his standard-bearer at the Battle of Hastings, Robert de Todeni and, more than 900 years later, his descendants, now the Dukes of Rutland, still live here. Perched on the hilltop, the present castle looks convincingly medieval with its great tower, turrets and castellations, but it was in fact built in the early 1800s and is the fourth to occupy the site. The opulent interior contains some excellent paintings, including works by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Poussin, and the familiar portrait of Henry VIII by Holbein. In the 130ft long Regent's Gallery are some remarkable Gobelin tapestries, while other magnificent rooms display elegant Regency furniture, a dazzling ceiling copied from the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, a dramatic array of 18th-century weaponry and a monumental silver collection, which includes a wine cooler weighing more than 112lb. The castle also houses the Museum of the Queen's Royal Lancers. The grounds provide a marvellous setting for special events, among which the medieval jousting tournaments are undoubtedly the most colourful. (Incidentally, Belvoir Castle lies just across

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

the county boundary, in Leicestershire, but has always been regarded as a Lincolnshire attraction.)

Sleaford

 Cogglesford Mill  Church of St Denys

 The Hub

The history of this busy market town stretches back to the Iron Age. In Roman times there was a massive mint here (730 coins were discovered in one dig), and when a railway was being constructed in Victorian times, a vast Anglo-Roman cemetery was uncovered. Later, the Normans built a sizeable castle of which only a small portion of a wall remains, but much of their other major contribution to the town, the **Church of St Denys**, still survives. Its tower, 144 feet high and dating from around 1200, stands separate from the main body of the church, and is among the oldest stone-built towers in England. The interior is notable for the superb 14th-century tracery in the north window, two magnificent monuments to the local Carre family, some stained glass by William Morris, and a striking rood loft restored by Ninian Comper in 1918.

Collectors of old inn signs will be interested in the Bull and Dog pub in Southgate. Set in the wall above its ground floor is a stone bearing the date 1689 and depicting a bull being baited by dogs. The scene is thought to be unique in the country and the stone itself the oldest surviving pub sign in England. **The Hub Centre** for contemporary craft is based in a restored seed warehouse by the Banks of the River Sle. Regularly changing exhibitions are held in the two galleries, as well as special events and craft courses, and the retail area, the

rooftop viewing area and the riverside café complete the visitor experience. On the eastern edge of the town, **Cogglesford Mill** has been restored to working order and is open to the public. Probably built around 1750, the Mill has an exhibition detailing its history.

Other features of interest in Sleaford include the 15th century vicarage near the church, the landmark Handley Monument, a memorial erected to the town's MP in 1846 and reminiscent of an Eleanor Cross, and the Old Playhouse, purpose-built as a theatre in 1824 and now home to the local theatre company.

Around Sleaford

NAVENBY

10 miles NW of Sleaford on the A607

Mrs Smith's Cottage

One of the county's most unexpected attractions is **Mrs Smith's Cottage**, just off the High Street of this village where Hilda Mary Craven was born on 28 October 1892. After spending her childhood in Navenby, Hilda moved out of the county but returned in the 1920s to live in a tiny cottage in East Road. At the age of 64 she married, becoming Mrs Smith, but her husband Joseph died less than four years later. Hilda stayed on in the cottage, resisting any change she thought unnecessary, until she was 103. During her 80 years of living here, she created a spellbinding time warp. The original ladder access to the first floor is still in place; Hilda's rocking chair and shawl still remain in her favourite place by the range; the original outside privy and washhouse can still be viewed. Opening times are restricted: for more details, call 01529 414294.

NORTH RAUCEBY*5 miles W of Sleaford off the A17* **Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre**

Generations of RAF personnel have trained at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. When it opened on 5 February 1920, it was the first Military Air Academy in the world and it later chalked up another first when a jet plane designed by Frank Whittle, a Cranwell graduate, took off from the runway here in 1941. In the nearby village of North Rauceby the **Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre** (see panel below) tells the Cranwell story and that of the other numerous RAF bases in the region, with the help of photographs, exhibits and film. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 10.30am - 4.30pm during the season.

Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre

Heath Farm, North Rauceby, Sleaford,
Lincolnshire NG34 8QR
Tel: 01529 488490
website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

The Royal Air Force College at Cranwell in Lincolnshire is probably the most famous landmark in R.A.F. history. The Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre portrays the history of this renowned Royal Air Force officer training establishment, from its early days as a Royal Naval Air Service balloon base to present day.

The attraction features photographs, exhibits and archive film. It also has a computerised flight simulator, outside courtyard area with Jet Provost aircraft, Vampire nose pod, an exhibition hall with interpretation panels, artefacts, and exhibits and video theatre, and an information and retail area which sells souvenirs and memorabilia.

For opening times, more information on the centre, or details of special events contact Sleaford Tourist Information Centre on 01529 414294, e-mail: tic@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

**HECKINGTON***5 miles E of Sleaford off the A17* Windmill  Church of St Andrew

There's plenty of variety and interest here, in particular the tall **Church of St Andrew**. The early 14th-century Church of St Andrew is famous for the wealth of stone carvings on its tower. Inside, there's an outstanding Easter Sepulchre on which medieval master masons depicted the events of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection. The same masons were also responsible for the sedilia (stone seats), beautifully carved with scenes from village life and figures of saints. At the back is an interesting display of the church's history. Other attractions are the Victorian almshouses and the magnificent eight-sailed **Heckington Windmill** by the railway

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

station. When built in 1830, the mill's sails numbered a modest five, but after storms damaged the mill in 1890, eight sails were removed from another mill nearby and installed here. The only surviving eight-sailed mill in Britain rises to five floors and was in use up until 1942. It is now owned by Lincolnshire County Council and can be visited on weekend afternoons, Thursday and Friday afternoons in the season, and at other times by appointment.

DORRINGTON*5 miles N of Sleaford on the B1188* **North Ings Farm Museum**

Run entirely by volunteers, **North Ings Farm Museum** is a fascinating place where vintage tractors, commercial vehicles, stationary engines, a fairground organ, a narrow-gauge railway and a small foundry are among the attractions. The museum is open one Sunday a month (01526 833100).

SCOPWICK*8 miles N of Sleaford on the B1188/B1191*

Stone cottages line the main street of this small village and a stream splashes alongside the road. In 1838, the Reverend George Oliver noted in his booklet, Scopwickiana, that the stream invariably overflowed in wet weather making progress along the street possible only by means of stepping stones. This inconvenience continued until fairly recent times. The Reverend Oliver also recorded that the village's only ale house was kept in good order by a formidable landlady who permitted her customers no more than a couple of pints before sending them home to their wives.

Just south of Scopwick is RAF Digby, which was the first Lincolnshire airfield to be

attacked by the Luftwaffe in World War II. In the RAF Digby Operations Room Museum the wartime setting has been re-created, complete with plotting table, maps and personnel, and the airfield's story is told with the help of many exhibits, photographs and documents. Guided tours take place on summer Sundays. For further details call 01529 414294 (Sleaford TIC).

METHERINGHAM*9 miles N of Sleaford on B1189* **Airfield Visitor Centre**

Just outside this large, straggling village, on the B1189, is the **Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre**, one of many Lincolnshire airfields established by the RAF during World War II. A leaflet available from local TICs gives details of the North Kesteven Airfield Trail, which includes Metheringham. Here, the Centre's exhibits, photographs and documents tell the story of the airfield and of 106 Squadron, Bomber Command, whose base it was. Open Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from Easter to October.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum  Kinema in the Woods

Woodhall Spa is something of an anomaly – a chunk of the Home Counties transplanted to the heart of Lincolnshire. Surrounded by pine and birch woods, spacious Victorian and Edwardian villas are set back from tree-lined avenues, and it's said that not a single house in the town is older than the 1830s. Woodhall became a spa town by accident when a shaft sunk in search of coal found not coal but mineral-rich water. In 1838, a pump room and baths were built, to be joined later by

CHAPLIN HOUSE B&B

92 High Street, Martin, Lincolnshire LN4 3QT

Tel: 01526 378795

e-mail: info@chaplin-house.co.uk

website: www.chaplin-house.co.uk

Chaplin House is an award winning B & B which specialises in using the very best of local and organic produce. Built as an ale house in 1797, **Chaplin House** served the community as a public house until 1923. It was known throughout this time as Chaplin Arms, a name it retained until 2003. The building played an important role in village life, the first floor at the front being one large room used for parish meetings and other public gatherings. After life as a pub, it became a Post Office and a shop, but down the years it fell into disrepair. Successive owners have played a part in its revival, and that revival has been completed by the present owners David and Margaret Lockyer, who have created one of the most pleasant and friendly Bed & Breakfast establishments in the region.

In the main house itself is a double room, while the rest of the accommodation is in a recently renovated barn and adjacent outbuilding – a ground floor double with its own patio area (the Garden Room), a ground floor twin with disabled access including a wet room, and a first floor family room (a cot is available). All the bedrooms are spacious, stylish and very comfortable, with en suite accommodation, TV with DVD player, clock radio, hot drinks tray and hairdryer. Guests can relax in the peaceful garden or the barn lounge which is well supplied with a wide range of reading material. There is free wifi throughout the barn accommodation as well as internet access for looking up tourist or travel information. In the reception area in the main house (the owners' lounge) stands a beautiful cast-iron range made by C Duckering of Lincoln. It's no longer used for cooking but is still lit on winter evenings.

The day starts with an excellent breakfast served in the main house, with full English and a range of other options. Evening meals are available by arrangement. Guests are welcomed with tea or coffee and home-made cake, one of the many nice touches that make a stay here such a pleasure. Such attention to detail has been recognised by many awards including *East Midlands Enjoy England Excellence Gold Award*; *Visit Britain Silver Award*; *Lincolnshire Star Award Accommodation of the Year*; and *Taste of Lincolnshire Award*.

The village pub is just up the road. On the edge of the village is Car Dyke, a Roman waterway that commands splendid views. Woodhall Spa, Horncastle, Sleaford and Lincoln are all an easy drive away, and other attractions include the Viking Way (3 miles), golf (4 miles), fishing on the River Witham and aviation attractions at Coningsby, East Kirkby and Metheringham. Note that there are two Martins close to each other. This one lies on the B1191 southwest of Woodhall Spa, the other is northeast of Woodhall Spa also on the B1191.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

hydro hotels. Here, real or imagined invalids soaked themselves in 'hypertonic saline waters' heated to 40 degrees centigrade (103 degrees fahrenheit). The arrival of the railway in 1855 accelerated Woodhall's popularity, but by the early 1900s the spa had fallen out of favour and the associated buildings disappeared one by one. But this beautifully maintained village has retained its decorous spa atmosphere, pleasantly relaxed and peaceful, and also boasting a championship golf course.

One interesting survivor of the good old days is a former farm building and tennis pavilion, now the **Kinema in the Woods**. When it was converted to a cinema during World War II, it inevitably became known as the Flicks in the Sticks. It's one of very few back projection cinemas in the country and the entertainment on offer includes classic and modern films and performances on an original Compton Organ. The **Cottage Museum** on Iddleigh Road, also the Tourist Information Centre, tells the story of the establishment of the town as a spa resort.

Woodhall Spa had close connections with 617 Squadron, the Dambusters, during World War II. The squadron was based at nearby RAF Scampton and the Petwood Hotel was used as the officers' mess. Memorabilia of those days are displayed in the hotel's Squadron Bar, and outside is one of the few original Bouncing Bombs. In Royal Square a memorial to those intrepid airmen takes the form of a 20ft long model of a breached dam.

There are several sites of interest outside the town. To the north stand the ruins of a 15th-century hunting lodge called the Tower on the Moor, built for Ralph, Lord Cromwell of Tattershall Castle. And, standing all alone on Thimbleby Moor in the hamlet of Reeds

Beck, is a 36ft high memorial to the Duke of Wellington, erected in 1844 and topped by a bust of the Iron Duke. The column celebrates the successful cultivation of Waterloo Woods, an oak forest planted just after the battle in 1815.

At Kirkstead, off the B1191, stands a towering piece of brickwork, the only visible remains of a 12th-century Cistercian Abbey. Close by is the fine 13th-century Church of St Leonard, "a gem of early Gothic...with an interior like a cathedral aisle", according to Simon Jenkins. Originally built as a "chapel outside the gates" for visitors to the abbey, St Leonard's was closed in 1877, but restored in 1914 by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Miraculously, its beautifully carved chancel screen has survived intact. Dating back to the 13th century, it is believed to be the second oldest such screen in England.

Around Woodhall Spa

CONINGSBY

4 miles S of Woodhall Spa on the A153

 **RAF Coningsby**

The centre of this large village, which started life as a Danish settlement, is dominated by the church tower of St Michael, notable for its enormous single-handed clock; at over 16ft in diameter, this 17th-century clock claims to be the largest working example of its kind. South of the village is **RAF Coningsby**, whose mission is "to deliver the future, develop the present and commemorate the past of the RAF's combat air power". It is also the home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, created in 1957 in memory of the gallant airmen who flew in

that crucial battle. The Flight operates a Lancaster, five Spitfires, two Hurricanes, two Chipmunks and a Dakota. These historic World War II aircraft are not just museum pieces, they are all still flying and can be seen at a variety of air shows during the summer months. Over 7,000 Lancasters were built in the 1940s and Coningsby's veteran took to the air to celebrate the Memorial Flight's 50th anniversary in April 2007 after a full restoration in Coventry. Visiting these wonderful machines on their 'home territory' provides an added dimension, and knowledgeable guides provide informative tours. The Centre is open throughout the year, Monday to Friday, and at weekends for special events. For details call 01526 344041.

TATTERSHALL

4 miles S of Woodhall Spa on the A153

 Castle  Holy Trinity Church

Tattershall lies on the opposite bank of the River Bain from Coningsby and is known all over the world for the astonishing keep of **Tattershall Castle**. Its six storeys rise 110ft, a huge rectangular slab built in local red brick. In the 1400s it must have appeared even more formidable than it does now. Construction began around 1445 on the orders of the Lord Chancellor, Ralph Cromwell, and it was clearly designed more as a statement of his power and wealth rather than for defence. Military fashion had moved on from such huge keeps

and in any case the peaceful heart of 15th-century Lincolnshire had no need for fortifications on this scale. Originally, the keep was surrounded by a large complex of other buildings, but these have almost entirely disappeared and the tower stands menacingly alone. Despite its magnificence, Tattershall had fallen into near ruin by the early 1900s. There was a very real possibility that it would be dismantled brick by brick, transported to the United States and re-erected there. Happily, the tower was rescued by Lord Curzon who



Tattershall Castle

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

bequeathed it to the National Trust on his death in 1925.

In the shadow of the castle is Tattershall Country Park, set in 365 acres of woods, parks and lakes and offering all sorts of sporting facilities.

As well as this superb castle, Tattershall boasts one of the county's finest churches. **Holy Trinity** was also commissioned by

Ralph Cromwell. That was in the 1440s: the church was finally completed in 1480, long after Ralph's death. Constructed of Ancaster stone, this "glasshouse church" is dazzlingly light and airy inside, but because of its scale and the absence of all but a few adornments, more imposing than likeable. Among the items of note is a striking brass of Ralph himself, but sadly, his image is headless.



ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND DRINK

Baumber Park, Baumber	pg 12
The Cedars Bed & Breakfast, Barrowby	pg 46
Chaplin House Bed & Breakfast, Martin	pg 52
East Farm Farmhouse, Atterby	pg 13
The Paddock at Scamblesby, Scamblesby	pg 29
Westbrook House B & B, Gayton-le-Marsh	pg 28
The Willows, Fleet Hargate	pg 38

ANTIQUES AND RESTORATION

Astra Antiques Centre, Caenby Corner Estates	pg 14
--	-------

FASHIONS

Belles & Beaux, Lincoln	pg 9
T & C Robinson, Stamford	pg 41
Timothy Guy, Boston	pg 34

GIFTWARE

Attica Design, Tealby	pg 13
Concept, Bourne	pg 43
Forty Four, Lincoln	pg 8
T & C Robinson, Stamford	pg 41

HOME AND GARDEN

Attica Design, Tealby	pg 13
The Centrepiece, Spilsby	pg 24
Cottage Nurseries, Thoresthorpe	pg 28
Forty Four, Lincoln	pg 8
Philips & Sons In Lighting, Saxilby	pg 10

JEWELLERY

Attica Design, Tealby	pg 13
Belles & Beaux, Lincoln	pg 9
Concept, Bourne	pg 43

PLACES OF INTEREST

Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre, North Rauceby	pg 50
--	-------

Travel Publishing Order Form

To order any of our publications just fill in the payment details below and complete the order form. For orders of less than 4 copies please add £1 per book for postage and packing. Orders over 4 copies are P & P free.

Please Complete Either:

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Travel Publishing Ltd

Or:

CARD NO: EXPIRY DATE:

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO:

Please either send, telephone, fax or e-mail your order to:

Travel Publishing Ltd, Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road, Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PP
Tel: 01752 697280 Fax: 01752 697299 e-mail: info@travelpublishing.co.uk

	PRICE	QUANTITY		PRICE	QUANTITY
HIDDEN PLACES REGIONAL TITLES			COUNTRY LIVING RURAL GUIDES		
Cornwall	£8.99	.....	East Anglia	£10.99	.....
Devon	£8.99	.....	Heart of England	£10.99	.....
Dorset, Hants & Isle of Wight	£8.99	.....	Ireland	£11.99	.....
East Anglia	£8.99	.....	North East of England	£10.99	.....
Lake District & Cumbria	£8.99	.....	North West of England	£10.99	.....
Lancashire & Cheshire	£8.99	.....	Scotland	£11.99	.....
Northumberland & Durham	£8.99	.....	South of England	£10.99	.....
Peak District and Derbyshire	£8.99	.....	South East of England	£10.99	.....
Yorkshire	£8.99	.....	Wales	£11.99	.....
HIDDEN PLACES NATIONAL TITLES			West Country	£10.99	.....
England	£11.99	.....	TOTAL QUANTITY		
Ireland	£11.99	.....			
Scotland	£11.99	.....	TOTAL VALUE		
Wales	£11.99	.....			
OTHER TITLES					
Off The Motorway	£11.99	.....			
Garden Centres and Nurseries of Britain	£11.99	.....			

Looking for:

- Places to Visit?
- Places to Eat & Drink?
- Places to Shop?
- Places to Stay?

Then why not visit Travel Publishing's fully searchable website?



You'll find it very easy-to-use with:

- Informative pages on places to visit, stay, eat, drink and shop throughout the United Kingdom.
- Information on tens of thousands of places of interest as well as interesting stories, amusing anecdotes and historical facts on over 5,000 villages, towns and cities.



www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK