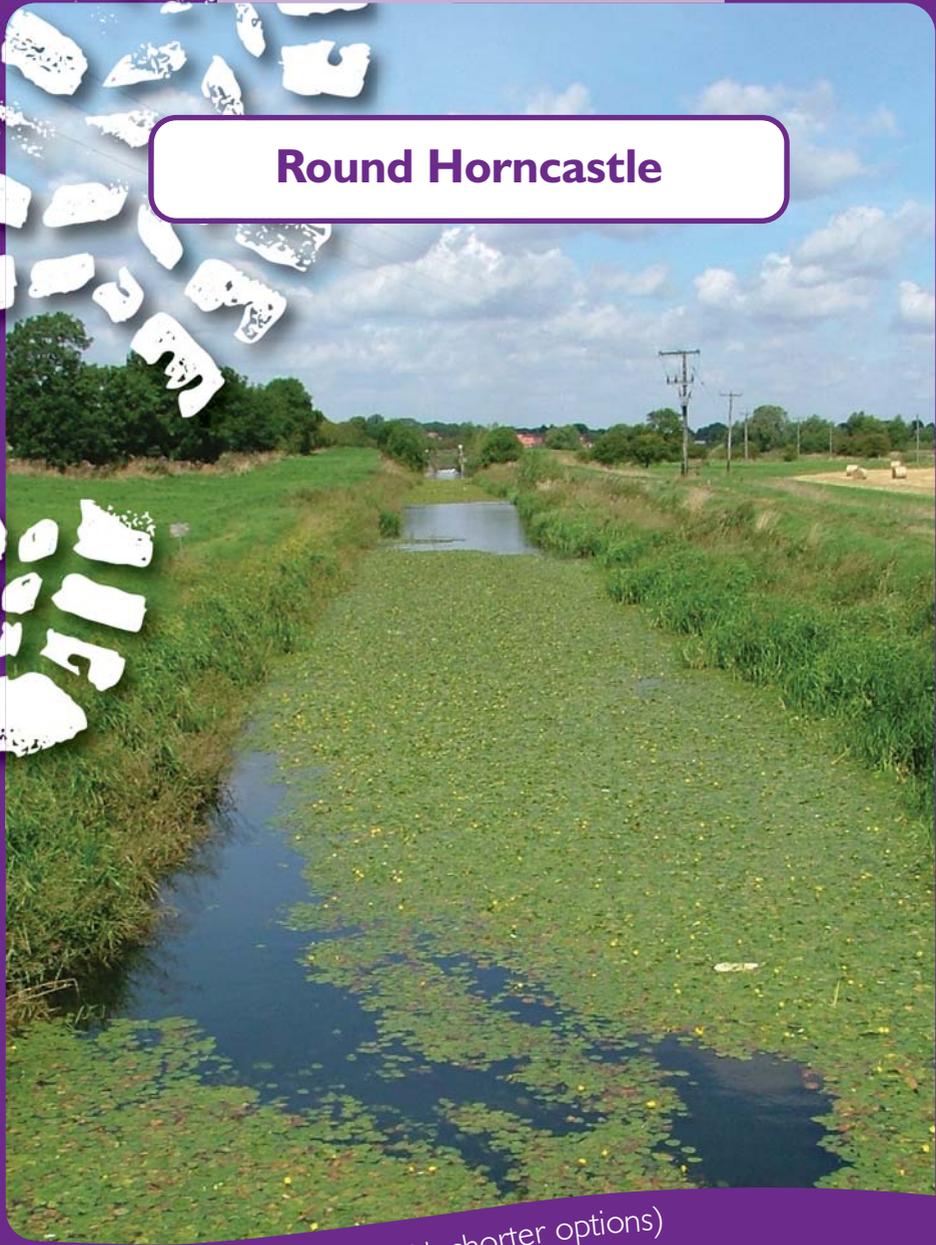


Round Horncastle



A walk of 22½ km (14miles) (with shorter options)

Introduction

Horncastle is an attractive market town lying at the south-west foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds and noted for its antique shops. The town is located where the Rivers Bain and Waring meet, and on the site of the Roman fort or Bannovallum.

Horncastle means 'the Roman town on a horn-shaped piece of land', the Old English 'Horna' is a projecting horn-shaped piece of land, especially one formed in a river bend.

Horncastle is an excellent starting point from which to enjoy the beautiful and varied local countryside, including the Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with the highest ground in eastern England between Kent and Yorkshire, and the flat but fascinating Fens.

On a clear day there are fantastic views to the west including Lincoln cathedral on the horizon and to the south-east to Boston Stump (the tower of St Botolph's church).

Horncastle is one of over 100 locations in the UK that has Walkers are Welcome (WaW) accreditation. The Horncastle WaW group encourage walking in the local area and organise a series of walks and events throughout the year. For more information go to www.horncastletowncouncil.co.uk

This is one in a series of walks from Horncastle. The others are:

- **Horncastle, Fulletby & West Ashby**
- **Horncastle Canal**
- **Horncastle Town Walk**

We hope you enjoy them.



The Walk

- 1 With your back to the Post Office walk across the Market Place and turn left along High Street to its junction with North Street and Bull Ring. Cross the road and continue ahead along Banks Street,

After approximately 200m turn left onto Linden Road and then almost immediately right. At the staggered crossroads walk ahead along Bowl Alley Lane. Walk past the schools and leave the road as it bends to the left to follow the grass track behind the houses. Continue along this path to a road.

You are now walking along the Viking Way, Lincolnshire's long distance footpath. It starts on the banks of the Humber and finishes in Oakham, a total of 147 miles. The route is waymarked with a Viking helmet symbol.

- 2 Turn right and walk along the road, taking the left fork towards Fulletby.
- 3 At the next junction turn left onto the public bridleway. Follow the waymarks and Viking Way signs as the bridleway turns right, left and then right again before meeting another bridleway. In all approximately 1 km ($\frac{2}{3}$ mile).

- 4 Turn left along the bridleway to West Ashby and the A153 road.

To return to Horncastle (2½ km, 1½ miles) turn left and follow the roadside path.

CROSS THE A153 WITH CARE and continue straight ahead along the road signed to Edlington.

- 5 Continue straight on to a staggered crossroads.

To return to Horncastle (2½ km, 1½ miles) turn left and follow the road.

Carry straight on to the A158.

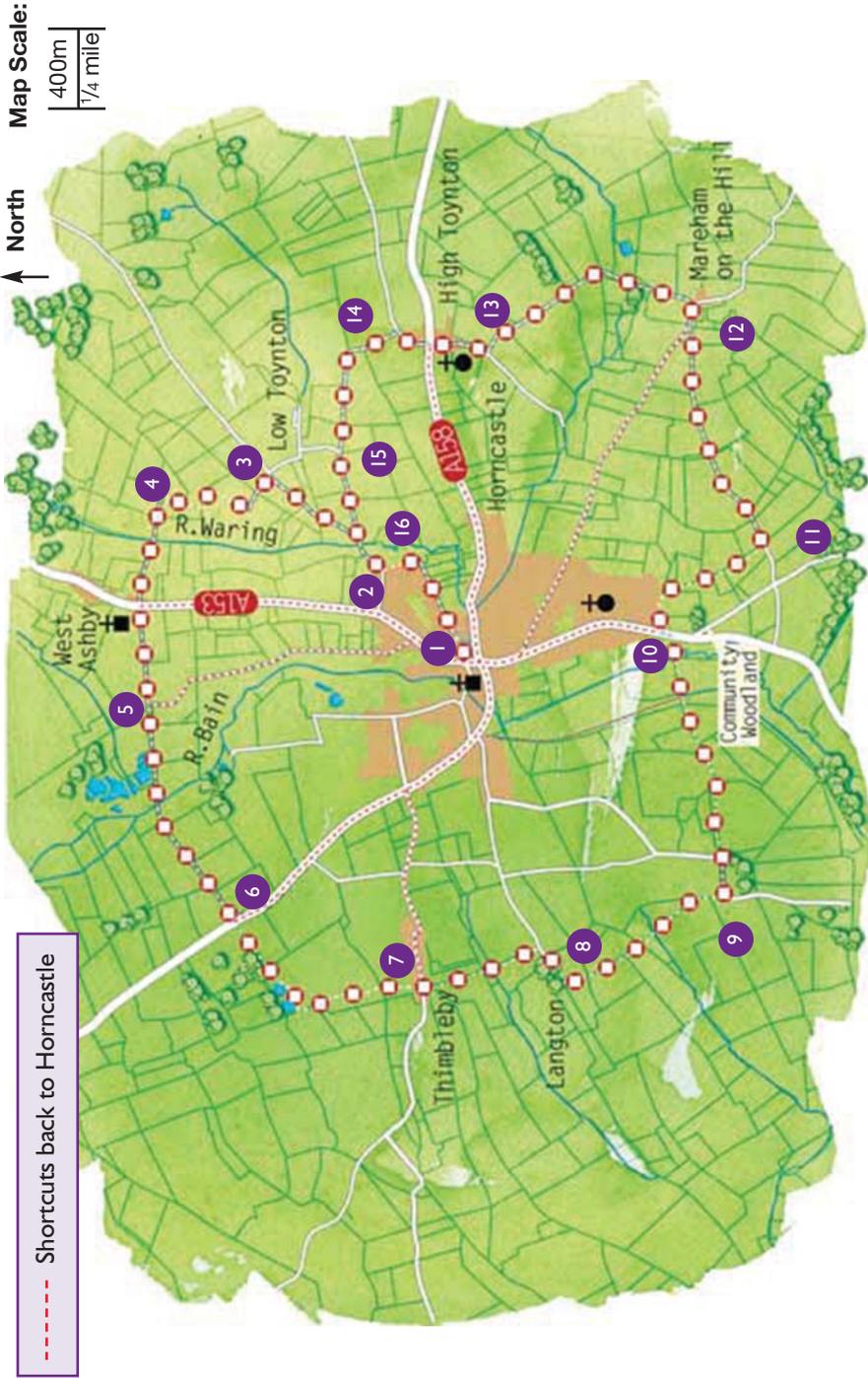


Sections of the roadside verge have been planted with a variety of trees and shrubs. Look out for sweet chestnut, sycamore, ash, scots pine, oak and spindle.

- 6 **To return to Horncastle (2½ km, 1½ miles) turn left and follow the roadside path.**

Cross the busy road with care and follow the bridleway straight ahead, past a woodland to a junction with a public footpath.

Map



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The Walk

Turn left along the footpath past a small woodland and then across two fields. Walk past the bungalows to the road.

There are views of Lincoln cathedral on the skyline to the west. Part of the wooded landscape between here and Lincoln is known as the Lincolnshire Limewoods, ancient islands of wood in an agricultural landscape. Small leaved lime woodlands like these are nationally rare and so these have been designated a National Nature Reserve. Many of the woods are open to the public and are well worth exploring.

- 7** **To return to Horncastle (2½ km, 1½ miles) turn left and follow the roadside path.**

Cross the road and walk along Chapel Lane. Ignore the tracks and follow the public footpath straight ahead across the fields to the left of the barn in the distance.



On the left the tower of Langton Mill is visible. It was built in 1861 and worked until 1936 when the sails were damaged and removed.

- 8** At the road turn right into Langton. Walk past the church and take the footpath on the left just after Langton Manor Farm. Walk straight on along the field edge and then join a track and continue in the same direction. As the track bends to the left towards some trees continue straight on along the footpath to join another track. Follow the track to a lane. Turn left and follow the lane to a junction.
- 9** Turn left, taking care along this busy road, into Thornton. Take the first road on the right. Cross the Horncastle canal to a T-junction with the A153.

To return to Horncastle (2 km, 1¼ miles) follow the brideway (Spa Trail) through the small car park just before the canal.

Why not take a detour and visit Horncastle Community Woodland. At the junction, cross the road with care and turn right along the path. Take the left hand fork and the entrance to the woodland is on the left. Once a tree nursery, the area, owned by the County Council, was planted with native tree species in 2002 and 2003 by local school children. Varieties include English oak, ash, alder, hazel and goat willow. Wildflowers have also been planted and include cowslips, foxgloves and red campion and a pond has been created to enhance the local biodiversity. The woodland is open to the public and will develop and change over the years as the trees grow. So why not come back for another visit?

The Walk

- 10 Turn left and after 200m take the public footpath on the right.

To return to Horncastle (1½ km, 1 mile) continue straight on along the roadside path.

The footpath turns immediately right and follows the fence line. Follow the fence line for approximately 400m (¼ mile) to a corner where the fence goes off to the left. Walk straight on here across the open field to a fingerpost in the hedge line. Continue across the next field in the same direction past a reservoir to a road.

- 11 Turn left and follow the road into Mareham on the Hill.

As the road gently climbs there are good views south across the Fens and north to the higher ground of the Wolds. The rolling hills of the Lincolnshire Wolds form the highest ground in eastern England between Kent and Yorkshire. Much of it was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973.

- 12 At the junction in the village turn right.

To return to Horncastle (2½ km, 1½ miles) turn left at the junction and follow the roadside path.

As the road bends right turn left onto a brideway. Walk through the yard to the bottom left hand corner and onto a hedged grass track. Follow the brideway alongside the hedge, across the track by the houses to a bridge.

Cross the bridge and bear right across the field to the corner and turn left to follow the brideway along the track.

- 13 At the junction with a lane, turn right into High Toynton, past the church to the junction with the A158.

To return to Horncastle (2¾ km, 1¾ miles) turn left at the junction and follow the roadside path.

CROSS THE BUSY A158 WITH CARE and follow the road straight ahead signed to Greetham.

- 14 After 250m turn left onto a public brideway. Follow it as it turns left onto a track. Leave the track as it bends to the right to follow the brideway straight ahead alongside a hedge and into Low Toynton.

- 15 At the road turn left and follow it into Horncastle.

- 16 Just before you enter Horncastle, turn left along the public footpath behind the first houses.

At the road turn left to a T-junction. Cross straight over and then turn left and then right into Banks Street to the High Street. Continue straight ahead to return to the Market Place.



Be a responsible walker

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

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

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council's Countryside Access Team to help you explore and enjoy the County's countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected.

We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format or language please contact us.

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Useful information

Walk Location: Horncastle lies 35km (22 miles) east of Lincoln on the A158.

Starting point:: The Market Place, Horncastle, LN9 5JQ. Grid reference TF 258 696.

Parking: Pay and Display car parks are located at the Bain (Tesco) and St Lawrence Street, Horncastle.

Public Transport: The Interconnect 6 bus service operates between Lincoln and Skegness and stops in Horncastle. For further information and times call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info

Walk length: 22½ km (14 miles) with options for shorter walks. At a leisurely pace the whole walk will take approximately 7 hours to complete.

Type of walk: This walk uses field paths, tracks and quiet roads which may be uneven and muddy in places. You may encounter stiles and livestock on this walk. The walk crosses a number of busy roads.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 273 Lincolnshire Wolds South. Landranger 122 Skegness & Horncastle.

Refreshments: There is a wide range of shops, cafes and pubs in Horncastle, the West Ashby Arms in West Ashby and the Durham Ox in Thimbleby.

Public Toilets: St Lawrence Street, Horncastle



This walk and leaflet have been put together with the assistance of Horncastle Ramblers Group and Horncastle Walkers are Welcome group.



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