

*Brackwalks*



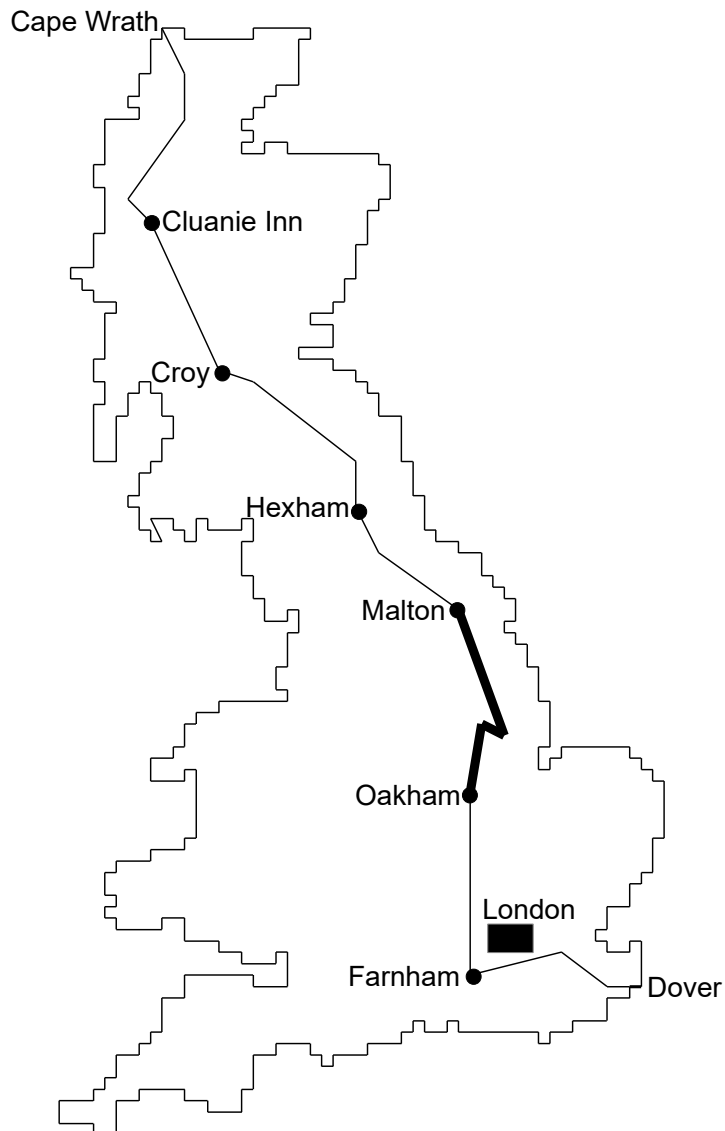
# From FORELAND to CAPE

- an end to end walk across Britain from  
South Foreland (Dover) to Cape Wrath

**Linda Brackenbury**

*Disclaimer: All details are given in good faith. However no activity can be completely hazard-free so undertaking any part of this route is done entirely at your own risk and I accept no responsibility for errors, loss or injury however caused.*

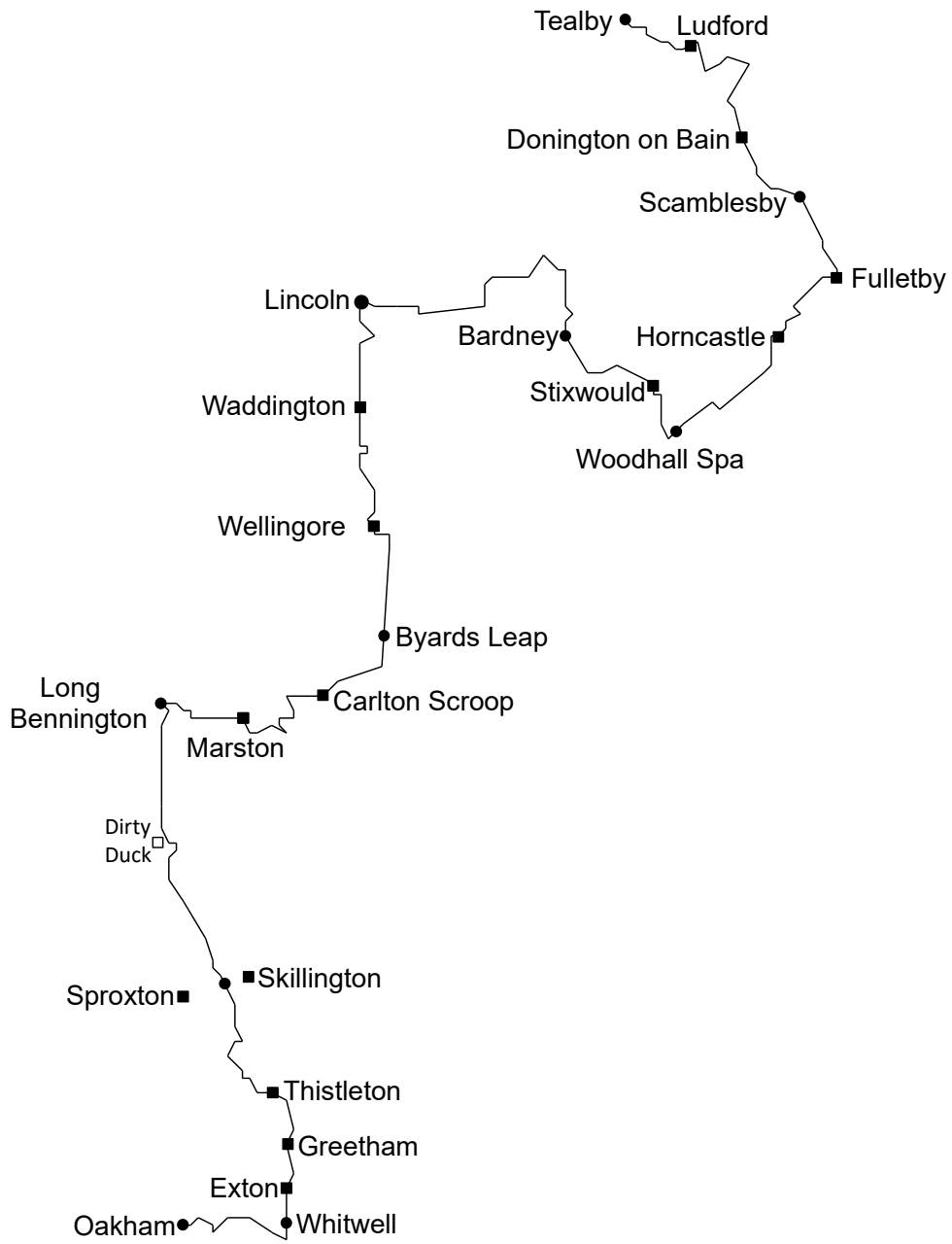
## **Part 3 Oakham to Malton (204miles)**



This is a splendid section starting from the charming market town of Oakham in tiny Rutland and finishing in North Yorkshire at the market town of Malton; both towns have railway stations for ease of access. Oakham marks the start of the Viking Way (VW) which is followed in its entirety across the large agricultural county of Lincolnshire to the Humber Bridge. Lincolnshire is an area of relatively sparse population and the accommodation on offer near the route reflects this.

A notable feature of the landscape in Lincolnshire is the lack of animals as it's arable farming territory. As a consequence, fields are enormous and are often sub-divided into sizeable different crop areas, there's usually no gates between fields as there's no animals to contain and instead there are large hedge gaps between fields so as to admit with ease the wide farm machinery used nowadays. The well signed VW has been skilfully planned to take in the very best of Lincolnshire's scenery, so it takes in ancient tracks, ridges (yes, ridges!) and includes an extensive section through it's Wolds, as well as passing through charming towns and villages, and majestic Lincoln. It is not the most direct route that can be taken to reach the Humber Bridge but it is a most rewarding walk.

The East Riding of Yorkshire is entered via the dedicated cycling/walking track over the Humber Bridge. The Wolds traversed and the dale sides north of the Humber are noticeably more undulating and steeper than those of Lincolnshire. Parts of the Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW) national trail are used to cross the East Riding area into North Yorkshire and again the route is one of agricultural land connecting pleasant villages. The YWW is left for good just after Thixendale to largely follow the Centenary Way. This descends from the Wolds and then makes its way through small villages to reach the River Derwent on which Malton stands. The best resource for accommodation north of the Humber is the YWW national trail web site <https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/yorkshire-wolds-way/plan>



Oakham to Tealby



Tealby to Malton

**Stage 25: Oakham to Whitwell** 5.4miles, ascent 126metres (410ft), descent 142metres (460ft). Explorer 234 (Rutland Water); Landranger 141 (Kettering).

This is a deliberately short stage which assumes the remainder of the day is taken up with travel to Oakham. The Viking Way (VW) uses a Viking Helmet as its walk symbol and it is well signed; however, signs can sometimes be hard-to-spot because of vegetation and also because signing appears to be better placed for walkers going north to south (which appears to be the expected direction). The walk starts close to Oakham Station, passes

through the market place and exits along a major road having a good separate cycle/pedestrian track. When the cycle track peels off from the road it heads for the north side of Rutland Water and the section along the water is very pleasant. The VW leaves the water and turns north to Whitwell which makes a good stopping point having a hotel on the main road; there is other accommodation in the area.

**Route:** From Oakham's station proceed south towards the level crossing and turn left into Northgate Street. At its end take the passageway opposite right into the Market Place, turning right to the main road. Turn left, following the Rutland Round sign, pass the library and at the next mini-roundabout turn left, signed 'All Directions' and 'Rutland Water'. At the next roundabout go straight on, signed 'Stamford A606' and 'Rutland Water North Side', along the pavement on the right. Eventually the surfaced pedestrian and cycle track diverges from the main road curving right to Rutland Water. After a walkers' gate the track becomes unsurfaced and there's a first sighting of a Viking Way sign. The track follows the shoreline of Rutland Water and emerges at the end of a lane. Here, turn left uphill as directed to a mini-roundabout and turn right, signed 'Whitwell'. Follow the lane past the car park (toilets and café) into a small sandy area. The sign at the far end signed to 'Whitwell' leads onto a good wide track through woodland and beyond a cattle grid the track becomes a surfaced lane leading up into a Visitor Centre area. Pass the café and turn left briefly then right following the Exit signs. On meeting the access lane turn left. After about 0.3miles at a left bend, turn off right on a lane and follow it as it curves right past the church. Turn left immediately after Charity Cottage, following the narrow lane down to the main road. Turn right briefly to a Viking Way sign into the car park of Whitwell's inn.

**Stage 26: Whitwell to Skillington/Sproxtion turn-off** 13.4miles, ascent 305metres (990ft), descent 265metres (860ft). Explorer 234 (Rutland Water), 247 (Grantham); Landranger 141 (Kettering), 130 (Grantham).

The route continues northwards with easy walking, mainly through farmland connecting the small villages of Exton, Greetham, Thistleton and Sewstern. After Sewstern an ancient track called The Drift is followed, which is along the Leicestershire/Lincolnshire county boundary. When it reaches a lane, there's a choice of off-route village accommodation in both direction. Skillington is about a mile to the right and Sproxtion is a couple of miles to the left.

**Route:** Go up through the inn's vehicle entrance and keep left as indicated by a Rutland Round sign to ascend steps and then follow the left hedge to a stile. Over, follow the right hedge for two fields and then the left hedge for two fields to a kissing gate. Go straight ahead for a short distance to a marker post at the hedge and then turn left as directed along the right hedge to a kissing gate. The right hedge can now be followed northwards down two fields and round the right edge in the third field to emerge at a road junction. Take the lane opposite signed into Exton village. Pass right through the village on its 'major' road. Towards the end of the village, pass the entry to Pudding Bag Lane (a 'No Through Road') and follow this lane as it bends right to Exton Park Farm. Follow the Lorry Deliveries sign and curve left to a bridleway sign with a gravel track beyond. Turn right (signed 'bridleway to Fort Henry'). Ignore a bridleway off left to continue following the helmet sign. Take the next bridleway off left (signed 'Viking Way to Greetham') following the gravel track to a footpath off half-left between two Private Road notices. The footpath is trodden and soon rejoins the gravel track which is followed northwards. Ignore a footpath off right to keep straight on (helmet). At a distinct left curve, turn right (helmet) for a short distance along a grass track beside the left hedge before turning left over a stile and plank

bridge (with a Rutland Round sign). The left hedge is now followed to join a dirt track which is followed to a sharp left curve and go straight on here on a signed footpath (helmet) to emerge on a B-road in charming Greetham village (4.1miles). Greetham has a pub and an obliging village shop just to the left but the Viking Way turns right and immediately left into Great Lane, a 'No Through Road'.

Great Lane is a gated road to prevent use by motor vehicles and is followed to meet a minor road. Pass through the hedge gap opposite and follow the farm track along the right hedge for 200metres, then turn off left along a grass field divider strip (signed) and then continue along a right hedge. The path crosses a lane to continue by the right hedge (signed). Pass to the left of an old water tower and continue to the end of the hedge. Turn half-left across the field to a gap and maintain this west-northwest direction across rough ground and a field to a hedge gap into a further field which is also crossed west-northwest (a quarter-right) to a marker post in a hedge gap. Cross this field as directed, north-west, keeping roughly parallel with the right hedge to find a marker post on the opposite side of the field. Turn left here (as signed) along the right field margin. When the field boundary curves left, turn right (hidden sign) on an enclosed grass track. Pass through a kissing gate and forward to the road through Thistleton village.

Turn left along the road to Sewstern for 1½miles and immediately after the lorry derestriction sign turn left as directed (signed 'Wymondham'). After 0.4miles turn right along an (unsigned) surfaced access drive signed 'Blue Point'. When the drive swings right to the farm continue straight on along a signed restricted byway. When it meets a gravel track turn left and shortly reach a marker post. Go straight on here, north-northwest, along a muddy track with much evidence of fly tipping and meet a track. Turn right (VW sign) to a lane. Turn right here as signed along Back Lane and at a T-junction turn left to a crossroad (10.8miles); the main part of Sewstern village is to the left. Go straight across at the crossroad, signed to Buckminster, and at the next crossroad cross the B-road to the lane opposite (signed 'Skillington' and VW sign). When the next lane is met, go straight across on a wide dirt track (called The Drift). After a short distance when the track forks, branch left. Pass more strewn rubbish and eventually meet a lane (SK 882 257) which marks the stage end.

**Stage27: Skillington/Sproxtton turn off to Long Bennington** 13.2miles, ascent 246metres (800ft), descent 354metres (1150ft). Explorer 247 (Grantham); Landranger 130 (Grantham).

This stage continues the march northwards, mainly following historic tracks. Again for much of this stage, the route follows the boundary between Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. However, the route finally opts for Lincolnshire and remains in this county for the remainder of the VW. No villages are passed through and the only place for any refreshments on this stage is a pub on the Grantham Canal. At the stage end, the VW reaches the southern extremity of Long Bennington, a long linear village which has very little to offer the walker at the end of the day. So, taking a taxi into Grantham 7 miles away or Newark on Trent 5 miles away, or continuing on the VW for another 4 miles on to a stage finish at Marston where there is a hotel half a mile from the village are the recommended options.

**Route:** From the Skillington/Sproxtton turn off the VW continues northwards on The Drift track. Pass a gliding club and on reaching a concrete access track turn right along a field edge (sign). At the end of the runway, carry straight on along a track and very shortly reach a track fork. Branch left along the left side of the wood. The track curves right and ignoring

a bridleway off right, keep straight on (northwards) along a bridleway signed as 'no access for motor vehicles'. When this eventually meets a road, turn right briefly then left on the continuation of The Drift track, marked as 'no access to motor vehicles'; it also sports an upside down Viking helmet! The sections of the track are much pleasanter on this stage as there are views on both sides. The track crosses another lane and continues on. When the access to Hill Top Farm is reached, the track becomes surfaced and is followed out to the main A607 road (3.7miles).

The track continues opposite (VW sign). When it shortly curves left to a farm, go straight on along a dirt track which eventually descends through woodland and continues to a lane. The track continues opposite along Sewstern Lane (VW sign) which is thought to be prehistoric. Just after houses on the left, the track becomes unsurfaced and very shortly afterwards keep left (signed public bridleway) at a fork to reach a lane (5.8miles); the large village of Woolsthorpe by Belvoir having accommodation is about  $\frac{2}{3}$ mile away by lane and footpath. However, the VW turns left briefly then right on a VW signed bridleway. Keep on the main enclosed bridleway, ignoring one off right after  $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Shortly after, the track passes the remnants of a disused railway and continues to the Grantham Canal. Cross the canal and immediately turn left and descend to the towpath. Turn right, westwards, along the towpath (canal on left). At bridge 61, there's the option to visit the Rutland Arms (also called the Dirty Duck) on the opposite bank (7.3miles) while the Viking Way continues as a grass path to the right of the canal. After passing various bits of 'artwork' and with bridge 60 in sight, branch right through a gate (VW sign) to meet a disused railway track after a few metres. Cross this and take a gravel track off left which shortly reaches a lane; bridge 60 is visible to the left.

Take the dirt track opposite (VW sign) to rejoin Sewstern Lane. Ignore a track going to a farm on the right in order to keep straight on to and through a wood. The track becomes surfaced and is followed to the busy A52 main road. Take the track opposite, shortly cross the railway to Grantham on a level crossing and continue on the main gravel/dirt track which is mainly enclosed. Go straight on across a dirt track (signed) and meet a track as Thackson's Well Farm is approached. Go left towards the farm. The track passes to the right of the farm and continues straight ahead as a lane (VW sign). When after  $\frac{3}{4}$ mile a T-junction is reached, turn left (VW sign). Cross over the A1 trunk road and turn right (signed 'A1' and 'Foston'). After a few metres meet a road and turn right to a roundabout (VW sign) taking the first left off it signed 'Church Lane' (VW sign). Follow the lane as it curves left by the church and becomes Church Street in Long Bennington.

**Stage 28: Long Bennington to Byards Leap** 14.6miles, ascent 335metres (1090ft), descent 286metres (930ft). Explorer 247 (Grantham), 272 (Lincoln); Landranger 130 (Grantham).

This stage predominantly goes east and east-northeast through farmland connecting the small villages of Westborough, Marston and Carlton Scroop. From Long Bennington, the route roughly follows the line of the River Witham eastwards, crossing the river at Long Bennington, Westborough and beyond Marston. The route then leaves the Witham and makes a small ascent to a ridge which is followed before descending into Carlton Scroop. Beyond, there's a short sharp climb onto a ridge which is followed at a height of around 92metres (300ft) for over 3miles to the Roman Road of Ermine Street where the route turns north to Byards Leap; there are a couple of B&Bs here..

**Route:** Continue up Church Street in Long Bennington and just after No. 45 turn off right on a track (VW sign) and cross the River Witham into a field. Follow the bridleway sign a

quarter-right across the field to a VW signed walkers' gate and go a quarter-left to a hedge on a cut crop path. Now go right along the left hedge until the hedge turns left when go straight ahead to a hedge on a cut crop path. At the hedge, turn left into an enclosed grass track which soon curves right and becomes a lane. At the top of Baker's Lane turn right as directed (VW sign) to Westborough's church and turn left into Church Lane (VW sign). At the lane end, ignore a bridleway off left to go straight on to a footbridge over the River Witham into a field. Go a quarter-left along a cut crop path and continue in the same direction across the next field on a trodden path then go half-right (VW sign) on a good cut crop path. Part way along turn left on a burnt-off crop path (with a gate to the right) to a field turn where an enclosed grass track is entered and followed to a lane.

Turn right towards Foston village and just before the 30mph sign, turn left through a gate with a 'no motor vehicles' notice. Follow the grass track straight on until it meets a track and turn left as directed (VW sign). The track turns right and at the field end go straight on (sign on tree) under power lines to a footbridge over Foston Beck with a signpost beyond. Here turn left on a grassy bridleway (VW sign) beside the beck to a turn right through a walkers' gate (sign). Beyond, follow the cut grass path eastwards, pass through a gate and follow the track straight ahead alongside a left hedge. The track continues straight ahead as a concrete access track, then becomes a sandy bridleway track and finally a lane which meets a road in Marston village (accommodation) (4miles).

Take School Lane opposite right which curves right onto Barkston Road and take the second left off it into Hougham Mill Lane (VW sign). After ½mile when the lane curves left, go right (VW sign) on a bridleway track prohibiting use by vehicles and follow the enclosed track to meet a bridleway track. Turn left as VW directed to meet a concrete bridleway track. Turn left (sign) but leave the concrete at a works gate for a 'No Vehicles Allowed' bridleway track to its right (VW sign). Follow the track until there's a gap off left to the works fencing (with a well-disguised VW sign to the right). The path continues close to the fencing leading very shortly to an underpass of a busy railway line. Beyond, follow the track as it wends its way round two sides of a field towards a wood on a 'hill' and at the end of the second side turn right along a field margin by the River Witham. Turn right at a VW sign up a wide grass strip used as a field divider. Follow the strip as it turns left to reach a bridge over the Witham and beyond continue on a dirt track (VW sign) to the end of the left fence. Here, turn one-and-a-half left on a bridleway track (sign) and ascend the 'hill' shoulder. When a track is met, turn right eastwards. Stay on the main gravel track following a signed direction to the right at a junction of fields and meet a lane.

Turn left (VW sign), signed for 'Honnington'. After nearly a mile, turn right on a restricted byway (VW sign) which becomes unsurfaced after passing to the right of a farm. Follow the excellent main track which gently descends from the ridge and meets a lane. Turn right (VW sign) and just after the 40mph sign for Carlton Scroop turn left on the paved path and follow it down past the church to the main A607 road (10miles). Turn left through the village (accommodation) and immediately after a sharp left bend, turn off right on Heath Lane (VW sign), a 'No Through Road' which ascends steeply.

At the lane end, pass through a gate onto a good unsurfaced track and keep ascending to very shortly meet a track. Turn left leaving the gravel for a lovely grassy track which soon turns right before curving left round the left field margin (sign) and then right (VW sign); at this last turn, don't go straight on through the 'horse' gate. The ridge is now followed north-of-east and a broken down wall appears on the left (very unusual in this part of the world). Cross a track and keep straight on (signed) along the left margin in the company of the wall on the left. Eventually the track approaches a B-road. Immediately before meeting the



road, follow a VW directional sign left to find and follow a trodden path parallel but just away from and usually below the B-road (which is the old Roman Road of Ermine Street). Cross a lane and continue to where the B-road curves right to meet the A17. Here go straight on (VW sign) on a business access road and when it curves left, continue straight ahead through a fence gap to the A17. The route continues on the track opposite but there's accommodation close to the A17 on both sides of the A-road.

**Stage 29: Byards Leap to Lincoln** 16.7miles, ascent 391metres (1270ft), descent 458metres (1490ft). Explorer 272 (Lincoln); Landranger 130 (Grantham), 121 (Lincoln).

This is a very good walk which keeps to the high ground. It proceeds northwards through the quiet villages of Wellingore, Boothby Graffoe, Coleby and Waddington. Beyond Waddington, the skilful route follows the ridge through Bracebridge Heath and along the border of South Common enabling walkers to arrive in the centre of Lincoln without much urban walking. Moreover, there are stunning views of the cathedral atop Steep Hill on the approach to Lincoln's centre. You should note that around Lincoln, VW signs are a bit hit and miss. Lincoln has a large range of shops and is a good place to stock up.

**Route:** From the A17, follow the High Dyke track northwards to meet a lane. The track continues opposite northwards and crosses another lane (VW sign). On meeting the next lane at a bend, turn left (northwards) along the old Roman Road of Ermine Street to a crossroad. Here turn left signed for 'Wellingore'. At a triangular junction turn right for 'Wellingore' and 'Navenby' (VW sign) and then take the first left signed 'Wellingore' (VW sign). Pass Wellingore Hall and continue to the main A607 road (5miles). Turn right (VW sign) for a short distance before turning left into West Street (VW sign and) signed to the Memorial Hall. Turn right into Memorial Hall Drive (VW sign) and at its end turn left in front of the building (which has a small VW plaque on it). Proceed into a children's playground and keeping to its left, pass through the wall and hedge gap ahead onto a good trodden path which after one field enters a field and turns right (VW sign). Continue until a track is met and turn right (VW sign) into a field. Follow the right hedge round to a gate onto Clint Lane.

Turn left briefly then turn off left into The Smoots. When the house is reached, branch left onto a descending path and ignoring side paths follow this restricted byway to a road (Church Lane). The main part of Navenby village is to the right but the route turns briefly left along the road before turning right up an 'Unsuitable for Motors' track (VW sign). Ascend on the track which becomes a lane and after a few metres of tarmac, go left on a VW signed path. The path leads into a field and here proceed along right hedges, which continue straight on keeping to the ridge. The (good) path becomes a track and then continues as a lane to meet a road. Turn left through the small village of Boothby Graffoe.

When the road bends right, go straight on along a 'No Through Road' named Far End (VW sign). At the lane end go through a walkers' gate (sign) and proceed three-quarters left as directed to a walkers' gate. Through, go right as directed along right field edges on a good trodden path until a path is met. Here turn left round the back of a house to emerge at a lane junction in Coleby village (8.4miles). Turn right along the 'major' lane, pass The Tempest inn (open at lunchtimes) and turn right into Rectory Road (VW sign) by the church. About 130metres further on turn left on a signed footpath down the left side of the village green. This continues to cross a drive and then follows a left field edge. Cross a track and continue along the right hedge for two fields, then turn right along the right hedge to the main A607 road.

Turn left and at the traffic lights turn left, signed for 'Harmston' (VW sign). Opposite Harmston Park Avenue, turn off right on a VW signed footpath. Pass to the right of the farm then continue ahead to a kissing gate with a stile. Maintain the same direction across the next field to emerge on a lane. The path continues opposite (VW sign) along a right edge to a kissing gate where the edge side swaps. After passing through the next kissing gate the side reverts to the right hedge passing a trig point(!) and an old windmill into an enclosed path followed by a left hedge to a kissing gate (VW sign). Beyond, follow the tarmac path which is between a hedge on the left and houses on the right. This joins a road and very shortly reaches a crossroad (11miles).

Go straight across into Waddington's High Street. After ¼mile when the road curves right, go straight on along Moxons Lane and when this shortly meets a lane turn left (VW sign). When the lane turns sharp left, go right on a gravel footpath signed to Bracebridge Heath. When this meets a path, turn left along the left hedge (VW sign). Just keep on northwards along the left hedge until eventually the path curves right (still along the left hedge) then turns left into woodland (with a pond just visible on the left) to reach a kissing gate. Beyond cross a small field to a waymarked kissing gate onto an enclosed path. Ignore a path off right to keep straight on along the left hedge. Eventually a kissing gate with a path junction just beyond is reached. From the junction, descend half-left (VW sign) but soon branch right to ascend and keep to near the top of the ridge. The path continues near the back of houses and reaches a kissing gate. Here go right (VW sign) and right again on meeting a track (VW sign). At the next signpost turn left; the VW sign has been moved to point in the wrong direction here. Cross the field on a trodden path and go forward to meet a road turning right to the main A15 road.

Turn left, ignoring another 'adjusted' VW sign pointing right. After about 80metres turn off right on a VW signed path. Follow the (long) main path along the edge of South Common which keeps to the top of the ridge. The path eventually curves left (sign) to run parallel with a B-road on the right. The track joins the pavement beside the B-road and shortly turn off left into South Park (road). Turn left along this but after 160metres and just before Eastholme Care Home, turn right on a cycle path to a road. The cycle path continues opposite right (VW sign) to a road with modern bungalows. Turn left down this (a school is on the left). At the end of the close, continue on the pavement on the left which goes straight on to the end of a road (with Lincoln City's football ground to the left). Turn right down Cross Street and at a crossroad turn left into Scorer Street (VW sign). At a Give Way sign, turn right into Sincil Bank (and get a good view of the cathedral). Follow the road up alongside Sincil Dike to the top and when the road swings right, continue straight on along a short cycle path meets (busy) Tentercroft Street. Turn left along Tentercroft Street, cross a set of lights and at the next set of lights, turn right into Lincoln's pedestrianised High Street. Cross the railway line by the level crossing then use the underpass to cross a major road and enter High Street, right in the centre of Lincoln's shopping area. This marks the end of the stage.

**Stage 30: Lincoln to Bardney** 15.3miles, ascent 351metres (1140ft), descent 354metres (1150ft). Explorer 272 (Lincoln), 273 (Lincolnshire Wolds South); Landranger 121 (Lincoln).

After the ridges of the preceding stages, this is a low-level walk to Bardney, east of Lincoln, where the height is never far from sea level. However, it starts by climbing steeply over 60metres (200ft) past old dwellings to Lincoln's majestic cathedral and this is followed by passing through a delightful arboretum; again note that there is not much signing

around Lincoln. The stage continues through Lincoln to exit at its south-east end and presses on to reach the River Witham. After a nice stretch along the Witham, the VW leaves the river and the remainder of the route is through farmland. It's a bit flat around Bardney and this is probably the least interesting bit of the VW. This feeling seems to be reflected by the fact that some of the VW field paths appear not well walked. Bardney has unusual B&B accommodation at the old railway station, now a Heritage Centre; sleeping quarters are in a railway carriage with breakfast served in the waiting room! Bardney also has a shop slightly off-route.

**Route:** The VW continues northwards along the pedestrianised High Street towards the Cathedral. Pass through the old city gate and continue straight ahead towards the cathedral on the still pedestrianised shopping area, crossing roads as met until a fork is reached. Branch right along Strait which is a narrow cobbled street and go forward up the aptly named Steep Hill, still heading for the cathedral. At the top, just before the Information Centre, turn right through an old city gate into the cathedral grounds. Keep right of the magnificent cathedral and when Minster Yard meets a road turn right. Bear left to meet the main road (by the Adam and Eve pub). Briefly turn left then turn right into Upper Lindum Street (signed to the Arboretum) and at a T-junction turn left (VW sign) for a short distance before entering Lincoln's beautiful Arboretum through gate posts on the right. Take the tarmac track half-right to join the main track at a fountain feature and follow the main track to the left. Pass another fountain and go through the exit gate just beyond onto a gravel track to a road.

Go right briefly then left on a tarmac urban passageway (marked 'No Cycles') which runs along the top of a series of streets. On meeting Fairfield Street (the third such street), curve left onto a wide, surfaced cycle/pedestrian track which passes a large hospital on the left. When the cycle path ends go straight on in the same direction down Tower Drive to a B-road and take Crofton Road opposite left into an industrial estate. At a T-junction at its end, turn right into Dowding Road and shortly at its end turn left onto a footpath (VW sign). Follow the footpath to descend steps into a field which marks the completion of the exit from Lincoln.

Turn right to the railway and then left along the line to the end of fencing. Here turn right to cross over the railway line and continue by the line until just after passing to the left of a hall and church when go a quarter-right to emerge on a road at a bend sign. Go right for about 5metres then turn off right on a path (VW sign) which goes half-left on a cut path to the diagonal opposite corner. Pass through the hedge gap on the right and proceed down the left hedge (VW sign). Continue ahead to the River Witham and turn left along its peaceful embankment. After two and a half miles, when a minor lane is met, turn left to a T-junction (6.5miles).

Turn left at the T-junction (VW sign) towards Fiskerton but after 210metres take the first turn off right (VW sign). When the lane curves right, go left on a VW signed bridleway track which goes left of the bungalows on an enclosed grassy track. When a track is met, go straight on (VW sign) along the left hedge and shortly at the next bridleway junction, go straight on (VW sign). Curve left as directed at the next footpath sign to keep on the enclosed track. When the track enters a field, go straight on along the right hedge which shortly leads into an enclosed track again. The track then continues along the right hedge for a short distance before a brief length along the left hedge to a sign. Beyond go a quarter-right across a field on a cut path (VW sign to Low Barlings) to an arched footbridge over a dike and continue along the left hedge for two fields to a lane (VW sign).

Turn right, pass 'The Cottage' and immediately turn left (VW sign) up the drive of Ferry House Farm. As the house is approached, go right through a signed walkers' gate and turn left passing a short distance beyond the ruins of Barlings Abbey to a bridle gate guarding a footbridge. Cross a small field to another bridle gate onto a track which is followed to a gate (VW sign). Go a quarter-right across the field to a bridle gate onto a lane (10.1miles). Turn left and immediately before a lane off left, go right through a bridle gate on a VW signed bridleway. Go straight ahead along the right field margin to a bridle gate at the bottom of the field and beyond continue a quarter-left as directed on a track across the field towards a conspicuous telegraph pole. Pass just to the left of a hedge end and continue in the same direction to a field turn then follow the left hedge to a lane.

Take the VW signed path opposite which quickly curves left. Continue on the path to a signpost and turn right as directed down the side of Foxhall Wood. Ignore a wide track off right into the wood to follow the edge straight on to a lane. Turn right (VW sign) through the hamlet of Stainfield, cross a cattle grid and go half-left on a signed footpath to a walkers' gate. Cross a small strip of grass to a visible walkers' gate opposite then cross the field entered a quarter-right to the corner and exit onto a lane. Go left briefly then go half-right on a path (VW sign) aiming to the left of a white house to find a footbridge onto a road.

Turn right (VW sign) and shortly go left at a T-junction. Just after a layby on the right, turn right on the farm access to Snakeholme Farm (VW sign). Keep to the right of the farm buildings and just beyond them turn left (VW sign) down the left field edge and follow the left edge in this and the next field as signed. At the end of the second field go straight on in the same direction along a trodden path (sign) passing to the right of a 'hump' to meet a track. Turn right on the bridleway (VW sign) following the track out to a lane.

Turn left (VW sign) for 0.4mile passing houses on the outskirts of Bardney. Just after Carron Close on the left, turn right on a path (VW sign) and follow a good track along a left field edge. Cross a track to a kissing gate opposite (VW sign) and follow a grotty path along the line of the left fence to a crossing point then ahead (in the same direction) on a rough trodden path to a footbridge in the hedge. Beyond, follow the path left to a kissing gate and then turn right to a farm gate with a walkers' gate onto a track to the B-road in Bardney. The VW turns left (and the village centre is in this direction) but the Heritage Centre is a short distance to the right.

**Stage 31: Bardney to Woodhall Spa** 8.8miles, ascent 157metres (510ft), descent 154metres (500ft). Explorer 273 (Lincolnshire Wolds South); Landranger 121 (Lincoln), 122 (Skegness).

This is a deliberately short, straightforward stage enabling time for exploration of the small classy town of Woodhall Spa and its environs. The overall direction is south-east and again the territory crossed is low lying with many drains in evidence to siphon water from the land. The VW passes through the villages of Southrey and Stixwold to reach Woodhall Spa which describes itself as an inland resort of Edwardian character. Certainly, it has a distinctive air and its shopping parade along its main street is reminiscent of a bygone age with its small independent shops. Evening entertainment is offered at the Kinema In The Woods, a cinema dating from 1922 and still going strong.

**Route:** From where the track meets the B-road in Bardney turn left for about 60metres before turning right on a good track after No. 79 (VW sign). Follow signs to Southrey, ignoring tracks off left and right. When the Water Railway cycle route turns right, carry straight on (VW sign). The track passes down the right side of a wood to meet a farm

track. Here go left on the farm track along the left hedge to continue on the public bridleway southwards (do not take the permissive bridleway). When the track meets a lane turn right (VW sign) through Southrey village to meet a road.

Turn left briefly then turn off right on a bridleway (VW sign). At the end of the field cross the next field a quarter-left to a footbridge onto a wide grass track towards a farm (VW sign). This becomes an access drive to a house and farm which in turn becomes a lane. On meeting a lane, take the bridleway track opposite (VW sign). Follow the left hedge to a gate and then go straight on along a field divider towards Willow Farm. At the end of the field continue on in the same direction along a farm track. When the track turns left, go straight on through a walkers' gate (VW sign) and down the left side of a field to a walkers' gate onto the unsurfaced farm access drive which is followed to a road. Turn left (VW sign) to shortly meet a more major road and turn right here. Cross Catchwater Drain and continue into Stixwould village (5.4miles).

As the road in the village bends sharp left, turn right on a lane signed to Stixwould Station (VW sign). Continue to a lane junction and turn left (VW sign). When a more major road is met turn right (VW sign) for 230metres to a left corner and turn off right on a footpath (VW sign). Follow the gravel access track to a gate and beyond go left on a lovely grassy track along the left hedge. The track crosses a drain on a brick bridge and beyond go a quarter-right (leaving the track) to a walkers' gate about 80metres to the right of a ruined building. Go straight on as signed across the field (east-of-south) on a track towards the wood and then left as VW directed on a grass track round the wood edge. At the end of the wood go through the hedge gap on a plank bridge and turn left along the left hedge (VW sign). Follow the hedge round until a VW path sign off left onto a very short track through woodland which meets a track. Go straight on along an enclosed gravel track to a lane. Turn right briefly then left on a gravel path (VW sign) which continues across a housing estate road and across another road to meet a B-road. Turn left (VW sign) and at a road junction go straight on along Broadway which is the centre of Woodhall Spa.

**Stage 32: Woodhall Spa to Scamblesby** 14.8miles, ascent 391metres (1270ft), descent 338metres (1100ft). Explorer 273 (Lincolnshire Wolds South); Landranger 122 (Skegness).

Usually, I am not enthusiastic about walking along disused railway lines. However, the old railway line to Horncastle is lovely. It's open so there are views, there are classy sculptures along the route (including some excellent ones in metal) and interesting information boards along the way. Horncastle is a small town with its shops mainly arranged around its market square. Beyond Horncastle, there's a distinct change to the feel of the landscape as the route continues north-eastwards to enter the undulating Lincolnshire Wolds and climbs to the Wolds village of Fulletby. The route continues on footpaths through the Wolds, turning west-of-north through Belchford village to reach the sprawling village of Scamblesby. Scamblesby has both B&B accommodation and an inn offering food and accommodation.

**Route:** Continue along Broadway, pass the shops then the church on the left and immediately after turn left down Iddesleigh Road (VW sign). Go through the white gate ahead and after the next white gate turn right as directed (VW sign) down a 'No Through Road'. Keep going straight ahead, the surface becomes a short gravel track into a field where the left hedge is followed and after crossing a track, the track enters woodland. Keep straight on (north-eastwards), crossing fairways as met to continue on the track. Eventually the track peters out and here go left on a short track to a lane. Turn right for 0.2mile and just after the 40mph sign turn left (VW sign) onto the gravel bridleway track of a disused railway. Follow the delightful track and meet a lane. Turn right briefly and

immediately after crossing the River Bain turn left on a riverside path (VW sign). The river bank is followed to a kissing gate and beyond a tarmac footpath is followed which curves right to following a side stream of the river (VW sign). After crossing an offshoot of the side stream the path curves left to continue along the side stream (parallel to a car access drive on the right). Join a tarmac path for a few metres then turn left over the side stream (VW sign) to a pedestrian crossing and take the pedestrian way opposite; this passes to the left of the church and when it meet a lane, turn right (VW sign) briefly into Horncastle's busy market square (6.4miles).

Turn right and keep right through the square (VW sign) to meet the main road. Go opposite left into Banks St and follow it until turning left into Linden Road (VW sign) and first right (VW sign) to meet a road. Take Bowl Alley Lane opposite left which is a 'No Through Road' (VW sign). Pass schools and as the lane curves left into a new estate, turn right along a track (VW sign). The path turns left to keep round the back of houses and when it meets a lane turn right (VW sign). Ignore a lane off right to stay on the road to Fulletby. Continue to the next lane off right and take the bridleway track off left (VW sign).

On reaching the corner at the bottom of the field turn right to follow the left hedge round to a VW sign. Turn right here as directed and initially the track follows to the right of a ditch but then swaps ditch sides. When the track meets a bridleway, turn right (VW sign) on a track which soon turns left. Pass through a hedge gap and turn right along the right hedge (VW sign) turning left at the corner. Follow the right hedge to the end of the field then carry straight on but swap hedge sides. At the hedge end go half-right on a grass strip (VW sign) to meet a gravel track and go left on this (i.e. straight on) along a signed bridleway which becomes a concrete track and then a lane. At a triangular junction keep right to follow the lane into Fulletby with its attractive village sign (10.6miles).

In the village, follow the lane towards Belchford and immediately after Fulletby Motors turn left down Mill Lane. Curve right into Church Street and then at a T-junction turn left into School Lane. Continue down this 'No Through Road' until a 'Private Road' notice is met. Here go quarter-right (northwards) through a field (VW sign) and a quarter-left on a trodden path in the next field to a walkers' gate in the top right corner. Beyond, follow the right hedge and at the field end turn left (VW sign) along the right hedge to a hedge gap with a VW sign. Through, follow the right hedge north-westwards along and down a very long field. Pass out of the field by joining a more major farm track and continue descending a short distance to a VW sign. Turn right to follow the track parallel to the right hedge as directed. Just before a field gate turn left and follow the right edge. The path curves right then very shortly turns left over a red brick footbridge onto an enclosed path which meets a track. Turn right as directed (VW sign). The track becomes a lane into Belchford village and on meeting a road turn left (VW sign).

Just after a small nursery (plants) on the right, go right through a kissing gate (VW sign) and along the right edge to a kissing gate. Through, continue along the right edge for just over a side and then cross a plank bridge in a hedge gap (VW sign). Go straight on along the right edge for one and a bit sides to a VW sign. Here turn right over a footbridge then turn left as directed along the left field edge and at the top left field corner follow the VW sign through a hedge gap and along an enclosed track (with a hedge to the left and a fence to the right). At the end a track is met and go just left of straight ahead for a few metres to a walkers gate. Beyond, descend between electric fences to a double walkers' gate arrangement. Through, cross a meadow straight ahead and then a quarter-left on a trodden grass path, keeping left of the wooden pen to pass through a walkers' gate onto a track which is followed to the left into a field. Go straight on along the left hedge and then

follow a farm track along a right hedge until a hedge gap to the right enables a lane to be joined (VW sign). Continue northwards on the lane and ignore a lane off right to remain on Mill Lane. Keep on the 'main' lane and at a T-junction turn right for a short distance (signed for Louth). The route turns left on a path after 80metres but for the Green Man pub in Scamblesby continue a little further on along the lane.

**Stage 33: Scamblesby to Tealby** 15.8miles, ascent 412metres (1340ft), descent 394metres (1280ft). Explorer 273 (Lincolnshire Wolds South), 282 (Lincolnshire Wolds North); Landranger 122 (Skegness), 113 (Grimsby).

This is another day in the undulating Wolds going generally north-westwards along the western side of the Wolds. It starts with paths that are not well walked. However, the walking improves beyond Donington on Bain which has a village shop. After Donington, the line of the Bain valley is followed to Ludford, passing through or close to sites of medieval villages. Ludford is a very long, smart-looking village. It has a pub and at its far end there's a garden centre with an excellent café, however there's no accommodation. The stage ends with a descent from the hills into the pleasant, olde-worlde village of Tealby. Tealby has accommodation and two pubs for eating, one of which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is thatched.

**Route:** Before Scamblesby's inn, turn left on a path (VW sign) which leads to a footbridge. Over, turn left beside a ditch to the main road. The path continues opposite (VW sign) after negotiating the barrier and resumes on a rough path beside the ditch. The path then enters a field and turns left (VW sign) along a trodden path which curves right to keep to the right of the ditch. After crossing the ditch the path keeps to the left of the ditch and becomes a track to a lane. Cross the ditch to take the path opposite right (VW sign) and follow the ditch to a footbridge. Over, go straight on to a lane and take the path continuation opposite (VW sign). Immediately go straight on (not left) (VW sign) and continue to the right of the ditch into a field where the left fence is followed (VW sign). When a lane is met, take Shop Lane opposite (VW sign) into Goulceby. Meet a lane and turn left (VW sign). Follow the lane as it curves right and continue down the lane to a triangular junction. Keep right here and ascend to a T-junction.

Go left (signed for 'Ranby') for a short distance then turn right (VW sign) on an access dirt track. Pass through a walkers' gate. Ignore a track into a farm storage area on the right to stay on the farm track to the left. The track eventually ends at a gate. Through, turn right to follow the right fence round the field to a VW sign (about) two-thirds of the way down the field and from here turn left across the field. Having ascended to the top, keep along the high part of the field to spot a VW sign ahead and turn right here to a walkers' gate (the walkers' gate is near the bottom left corner of the field and the route through the field seems unnecessarily circuitous!). Over the footbridge turn left as directed and follow the path which soon turns right to run between fences to a lane.

Turn right, ignore a significant bridleway off right and continue on the road for a further 0.2mile to a track off left (VW sign). When the track soon swings left, go straight on beside a right fence with a hedge to the left. Emerge in a field and keep along the track beside the right hedge (sign) to meet a bridleway track. Turn right (VW sign) and keep to the track. Cross a disused railway line and a few metres further on when the track hairpins right, go straight ahead through a walkers' gate (footpath sign). Follow the right fence a short distance to a walkers' gate on the right (VW sign). Pass through and follow an enclosed path to a walkers' gate. Beyond, follow the left hedge to a walkers' gate onto a short enclosed path which crosses a gravel track to a walkers' gate (VW sign). Beyond, follow

the left hedge for one and a half sides to a walkers' gate on the left then follow the right hedge to the field end where a plank bridge is crossed. Continue on the path beside a ditch and pass through the gate at the end onto a track which curves right (VW sign). Just before the track becomes a lane, turn left on a path (VW sign) (but continue a short distance on the lane to visit Donington on Bain's pub and village shop). The path runs between hedges/fences and meets a road by Donington's church (5.1miles).

Turn left keeping to the 'major' road through and beyond the village. At a left curve, take the lane off right (signed to Hallington and Louth) for a short distance before turning off left on a path (VW sign) (which is immediately after a house on the left). Follow the track straight ahead through the field along a fence to a walkers' gate. Continue along the left field edge (VW sign) and then a grass track to the right of reeds which leads to a footbridge into a field. Follow the left edge with a lake to the left and keep on to a walkers' gate (VW sign). Then continue by the left edge to a footbridge off left (VW sign). Beyond, follow an enclosed path to a walkers' gate and along the left wall of Biscathorpe Church continuing along the left fence to a VW sign. From here go half-left, crossing a rough lane, to a footbridge and go straight ahead (north-westwards) up the hill passing between two trees to reach a walkers' gate (VW sign); the path passes through the site of Biscathorpe's medieval village. A trodden path continues along the ridge through trees to a lane. Turn right to follow the lane to the main A157 road.

Take the farm track opposite (VW sign). The track passes to the right of Grim's Mound (a bronze age burial mound) and continues to become a grass track along a right field hedge. Turn left at the bottom of the field (VW sign) to continue along the right hedge in this and succeeding fields (VW sign), passing right of a house in the last field onto a rough lane. Turn left (VW sign) and when the lane shortly curves right, go straight on along a stony farm track (VW sign) which passes to the left of a cottage. Keep following the farm track which turns right (eastwards) and eventually after passing a farm it becomes a lane. At a T-junction turn right and follow Girsby Lane northwards for a mile to the main A631 road (11.7miles). Turn left (pavement) for nearly a mile into and through Ludford.

Continue on the main road past the garden centre (tea!) and turn right on a concrete access track (VW sign). Go straight ahead to a gate and beyond continue straight ahead on the tarmac farm track into a field. Here, go straight on along a right hedge to its end then turn left (VW sign) to stay along the right hedge in this and the next two fields to meet a B-road.

Turn right for 180metres then turn left (VW sign) on a gravel track (turn off opposite a house). On reaching a hedge at right angles to the track, turn right down the right hedge (VW sign) and at the next hedge at right angles, turn left (VW sign) down the left hedge descending gradually from the ridge. The path curves right to stay along the left edge and at the field end, go through a hedge gap and turn left (VW sign) along a left edge. Then pass through a gap onto an enclosed path with a hedge on the left and a fence on the right. This curves right and continues to meet a gravel track. Turn left and follow the track, ignoring a gravel track off left to keep straight on (VW sign) into Tealby village. The track becomes a lane. Go straight on through a gate onto a gravel track, cross a ford by a footbridge and continue on the lane ascending to a T-junction. Go right to very shortly meet a B-road. Turn left on Rasen Road and turn right on a path (VW sign) just after White Cottage on the right.



**Stage 34: Tealby to Barnetby le Wold** 17.1miles, ascent 514metres (1670ft), descent 578metres (1880ft). Explorer 282 (Lincolnshire Wolds North), (small section of) 284 (Grimsby), 281 (Ancholme Valley); Landranger 113 (Grimsby), 112 (Scunthorpe).

This is very much a walk in the Lincolnshire Wolds with the length of the description reflecting that there's a lot of field paths. The Walkers Church at Walesby is a relatively short distance from Tealby and is the highlight of this stage. After Walesby, the route goes close to the highest point in Lincolnshire at 168metres (546ft) before descending into Nettleton and on to Caistor. Caistor is about half-way and is a nice compact market town which in Roman times was a fortress; the route passes its Heritage Centre which offers food. Officially, the Wolds are left at Caistor. However, there appears to be no noticeable difference in the amount of ascent and descent required beyond. Here, the route chosen for the VW passes through a number of small settlements on the way to the large village of Barnetby le Wold. At the end of a longish day, the path approaching Barnetby seems to go all round the houses! Barnetby has a railway station, shop, accommodation and a place to eat.

**Route:** From Rasen Road in Tealby, follow the VW signed track to a walkers' gate, then go straight on looking for a waymark half-left and follow the path to a walkers' gate. Follow the left fence to a plank bridge. Don't cross but follow the left fence, keeping left at a track fork to ascend towards a wood, passing a VW sign. Continue towards a barn at the wood end and curve right to a walkers' gate (with Castle Farm to the left) (VW sign). Ascend along the left side of the wood and having passed out of the wood go a quarter-left to a VW sign. Continue to the left of a pond to a walkers' gate (VW sign) and along a right fence (crossing a farm track). Cross the bridleway lane to a footpath opposite (VW sign). Follow the right fence and then go straight on (signed) along a wide grassy path up then steep down to a walkers' gate (VW sign). This is followed by a steep up by the right fence (with a deer farm to the right). Ascend half-left at a VW sign near to the top-right fence-turn. When the path reaches a fence, turn right along it (VW sign). Pass through a deer gate, cross a track to another deer gate and beyond go straight ahead across the field to walkers gates. Then follow the right hedge to a walkers' gate into the Walkers Church; the church stands in a commanding position above Walesby village. After pausing to admire the view, keep left of the church and exit by its entrance gate onto a descending track, which becomes a lane into Walesby village.

On meeting a road turn right (VW sign) and shortly turn first left (VW sign). Proceed for about a quarter mile down Moor Road, pass the derestriction sign and take the next track right signed to a caravan park. Follow the track for 240metres then leave the caravan track by taking the track half-left to a field corner and then following the left hedge. Beyond, follow the obvious grass track up the hill; don't go to the top but branch right round the right side of the hill to a VW sign. The path then continues below the summit to a (VW signed) bridle gate and then follows a right edge keeping to the ridge. Pass through a bridle gate and continue along the right edge across the next two fields to a field gate onto a farm track which passes Normanby le Wold's church. Shortly after, as the track becomes a lane, keep left as VW signed. Follow the lane and take the first left off this, signed Claxby (4miles).

After 100metres and just after Rose Cottage on the right, turn off right on a path (VW sign) and go a quarter-left to a field turn, then follow the right hedge to a walkers' gate onto a road. Turn right (VW sign) on the Nettleton road for a mile; the road along the ridge passes close to the highest point in Lincolnshire. Just after Acre House farm, turn right on a signed bridleway. Follow the track along the right hedge to a walkers' gate and through turn left

(VW sign) along a dry valley bottom, veering half-right past a telegraph pole to a walkers' gate (VW sign). Beyond, cross duckboards to a walkers' gate and follow the left hedge to a walkers' gate. Cross to a walkers' gate opposite (VW sign) onto a path through woodland which bears left through a disused chalk quarry (rather than ascending the bank on steps). The path becomes a track through the wood and shortly meets a concrete track.

Turn left (VW sign) for 160metres and then turn off right on a path (VW sign). Follow the line of the left fence to a walkers' gate and then take the duckboard path to a walkers' gate. Beyond, keep to the left fence along the valley bottom. On entering the next field, take the track (as directed) up the bank and then proceed left on a trodden path parallel to the left hedge line. Ignore a path down to the water in order to keep up before descending to duckboard and continuing ahead to a hedge gap. Turn left (VW sign), cross a ladder stile onto a track which becomes a surfaced lane.

When the lane meets a road, turn right through Nettleton village and then take the first right signed for 'Rothwell' (VW sign). At a right bend, go left on an access drive and immediately right through a walkers' gate (VW sign) signed as a 'footpath to Caistor'. Turn left along the left fencing of the buildings but when it turns, make for a walkers gate in the top right field corner. Beyond, follow the left hedge for three fields to a walkers' gate on the left (VW sign). Now follow a clear path along the right hedge to a walkers' gate onto a ramp to the main A46 road. Take the path opposite and turn right on reaching an estate road (VW sign). Curve right (VW sign on telegraph pole) after a few metres and continue to the garages at the end where turn left on a tarmac path (VW sign) to a road. Turn right (VW sign) and keeping to the 'major' road curve left to descend and then ascend past the Heritage Centre (café) and into Caistor's Square (9miles).

Keep left in the Square to reach the main road and turn left (VW sign) briefly before turning right up a passageway (VW sign) after No. 22. This crosses a lane and continues as a signed gravel path (VW sign) which quickly enters countryside becoming a good enclosed path which descends then ascends to meet a bridleway.

Cross to the walkers' gate opposite and take the cut path across the field to a walkers' gate (VW sign). Descend the next field a quarter left to a stile and then cross an access drive to a walkers' gate opposite left (VW sign). Go across a small field to a visible stile (VW sign) and keep ahead in the same direction to a walkers' gate (VW sign). Go a quarter-right from here to a VW marker post in mid-field. From here go a quarter-left of straight ahead to a footbridge (VW sign) and then along a left ditch. At the end, twist left and right into a field and proceed along the left fence. Turn left (VW sign) in front of Fonaby Farm for a short distance then go right through a (VW sign) kissing gate and up the side of the farmhouse to its access drive.

Turn left (VW sign) along the drive but after a few metres turn off right through a kissing gate onto a gravel track (VW sign). This continues straight on as a short grass track before going straight on as a path beside a right hedge (VW sign) to a walkers' gate into a wood (VW sign). Take the clear path through the wood to a VW signed walkers' gate. Go forward on a grass track and cross a lane to a path opposite which picks up and follows a right fence to a signpost (VW sign). Turn left briefly to a field gap and then go straight across the field (VW sign) on a field division strip to a stile (VW sign). Beyond go a quarter-left on a trodden path to a stile onto the main A1084 road; the stile is opposite Clixby's Church Farm.

Turn right for a short distance and at a right bend turn off left on an access drive (VW sign). When the lane branches, go straight on (left) (VW sign), passing right of a large barn and on into a field where go straight on along the track at the right edge (VW sign) to a

small wood. Pass right of the wood and at the end of the wood, go straight on along a crop-cut path and maintain this direction to pick up and follow a left hedge to a farm gate. Beyond, go straight on to join a lane which is followed into Grasby village. Ignore a road off left to reach a T-junction and turn left (VW sign). Turn off right to pass to the right of the church and continue into a 'No Through Road' (VW sign). At its end, it continues as a tarmac path (VW sign) to a walkers' gate onto a lane. The path continues opposite (VW sign) with the obvious path followed into a field where the left hedge is followed then a trodden path to a walkers' gate. Beyond, follow a short track to meet a lane in Searby village (13.6miles).

Take Back Lane opposite left (VW sign). Pass left of the church and continue to follow the lane for a short distance to a footpath off right. Follow the trodden path a quarter-left to a gap between wooden posts then go a quarter left to a walkers' gate into a field where the right hedge is followed in this and the next field. The path becomes a brief gravel track before returning to grass and after a few metres curves left to a VW signed walkers' gate onto an access drive. Turn right to a lane and turn left. At a left bend, go right through a walkers' gate (VW sign) and take a rough trodden path to a monument erected in 1770 to commemorate the (presumably happy) 29 years of marriage of Edward and Ann Weston of nearby Somerby Hall. Continue beyond Somerby Monument on a trodden path to walkers' gates then follow the curving path round the slope base to a gate onto the main A1084 road.

Cross to the road opposite into Bigby village; Bigby is one of four villages in Lincoln where all the men who fought in the First World War returned and consequently was termed a 'Thankful Village' In the village, turn off left into Smithy Lane which is a 'No Through Road' (VW sign). Follow the lane as it curves right (VW sign) and it becomes a track which very shortly turns left (VW sign) to become a path into a field. Here turn right (VW sign) along the right field edge. At the field end, swap hedge sides (VW sign) to meet a track and turn left (VW sign) briefly before turning right on a field divider (VW sign) to pick up and follow a left hedge. Beyond, continue in the same direction on a field divider turning right briefly at the crop end before turning left on a field divider (VW sign) in order to continue in the same northwards direction.

At the field end, cross a footbridge (VW sign), go half-left briefly and then go right along a crop edge, with the crop to the left and rough ground to the right. Keep on in this direction on a track through the next field (towards the houses of Barnetby le Wold). Continue along the improving track to meet a lane and turn left (VW sign) away from Barnetby(!) for a ¼mile to a bridleway off right. The bridleway track meets and follows a right fence. The track becomes enclosed and when it meets a track, turn left to meet an estate road. Here turn left down St Mary's Road to the major road through Barnetby. There's a Guest House on the corner on the right.

**Stage 35: Barnetby le Wold to Barton Cliff** 13.5miles, ascent 268metres (870ft), descent 283metres (920ft). Explorer 281 (Ancholme Valley); Landranger 112 (Scunthorpe).

This stage makes its way north-northwestwards to South Ferriby on the south shore of the River Humber and then follows the river eastwards. The walk still has the feel of the Wolds although one is conscious of busy roads nearby and the signing is not as good as in previous stages. Once the vicinity of the A15 is left, it's quiet tracks and lanes to reach South Ferriby. The final track to this village passes a chalk quarry which is rather unpleasant in very dry conditions as there's a lot of chalk dust flying around. It's quite exciting to get glimpses of the impressive Humber Bridge during this stage; it's an early

objective of the following stage. The walk along the river passes a hotel beautifully situated with the Far Ings Nature Reserve on one side and the Humber on the other; a gate from the riverside track leads directly into the hotel and makes a good finishing point for this stage if it is still operating.

**Route:** Turn left on the major road through Barnetby, following it up (on the left pavement) to meet the main A18 road at a roundabout. Go straight on at the roundabout still keeping to the left side (signed for Scunthorpe) using the provided crossing points but on the other side of the roundabout immediately cross the main road to the provided pavement on the right. Follow the pavement (northwards) to shortly reach an even bigger roundabout. Continue on the pavement as it curves right at the roundabout and rises to a slip road (VW sign ahead). Cross the slip road where provided and continue to cross over the dual carriageway below followed by another slip road onto a pavement. Turn right along the pavement (VW sign) which gently diverges from the slip road onto the end of an old lane. Follow the old lane away from the slip road but alas not the noise.

When the lane meets a road, go straight across along a grass track (VW sign). When the track enters a field, go straight on along the right hedge to a lane. Turn left (VW sign) and after 300metres turn left at a VW signed bridleway which follows the grass track along the left hedge for 1.2miles to a road. Turn left (VW sign) for about 340metres to where the road bends left. Here, go straight on along a bridleway (VW sign) along the left hedge. Keep with the left hedge and gradually draw nearer to the busy main A15 road. On meeting a track, turn right (VW sign) parallel to the main road but separated from it by a left hedge. Cross a lane and continue on the grass track opposite (VW sign) which follows the left hedge (again with the main road on the other side of the hedge). Keep on until the track ceases and it's possible to exit onto a quiet (slip) road on the left at the point where there's a VW sign. Turn right on this road to shortly meet a B-road. Turn left, signed for 'Brigg' (VW sign), shortly cross over the main A15 road and meet a B-road almost immediately (6.2miles).

Turn right on the B-road to Barton for 1/3mile passing a lane off left and then taking the next track off left (VW sign). Follow the track along the left hedge to a barrier and turn right to continue along the left hedge to reach a lane. Turn left (VW sign) for 260metres and (just after a right curve) turn right on a bridleway (VW sign) which follows a farm track across a field. At the field end, a dirt track is met and go straight on along the right hedge (VW sign) to a track T-junction. Go right on the stony track (VW sign) to continue in the same direction (initially along a left hedge). Keep on this major track and pass under the first line of pylons and then turn off right on a track as the main track curves left (VW sign). The track is now followed to a lane (Horkstow Road). Turn left (VW sign) for a mile, passing farm buildings on the right and then descending to a track off right (VW sign to South Ferriby) opposite a lane off left. Follow the obvious track along the left hedge which then becomes enclosed. The track becomes a rough lane which is followed down past chalk works to meet a main road in South Ferriby village (10.9miles).

Take the lane opposite (VW sign) and go straight on along Cliff Road (ignoring a turn off left down North End). The lane becomes an unsurfaced stony track and at this point keep right to maintain height and pass an old Viking Way (Motors Prohibited) sign. Follow the track which after some time curves left towards the River Humber. When close to the Humber, bear half-left to find the track along the Humber which is along and just above the foreshore. Continue along the obvious path which diverges from the foreshore to a farm. The path circles to the right round the farm buildings (VW sign) and then turns left onto and along its access track. Ignore paths off right to stay on the stony byway heading back

to the Humber. The access drive becomes a lane into a car park and turn right though the car park along the Humber on a gravel track (VW sign). Keep going along the path until there is a large building on the right which is the hotel at Barton Cliff.

**Stage 36: Barton Cliff to Brantingham** 12.7miles, ascent 422metres (1370ft), descent 372metres (1210ft). Explorer 281 (Ancholme Valley), 293 (Kingston-upon-Hull); Landranger: 106 (Market Weighton).

The crossing of the Humber Bridge is a symbolic moment in the trek. It marks the transition from the East Midlands into the North of England. The views from the bridge are very good; behind, to the left, the route taken along the River Humber to the bridge is visible and looking ahead the foreshore on the northern side can be seen with trees behind masking the Yorkshire Wolds.

The obvious way to move north-westwards towards Malton is to take the Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW) national trail for much of this and indeed this is adopted except where the YWW takes a particularly circuitous route. The intention on this stage was to take the YWW from the Humber Bridge to Brantingham except for the section after Welton village where a short cut would be taken. I have been several times to this area to attempt the YWW route from the bridge along the foreshore and through Long Plantation to where it emerges just beyond North Ferriby village. Alas, every attempt has been a frustrating experience where I have encountered problems. Usually the failure is due to the tide being so high that the route along the foreshore can't be completed and so the entry to Long Plantation is inaccessible. However, I have found the foreshore track completely closed near the bridge without advance warning or signed diversion. So the directions given cover all foreshore eventualities.

Beyond North Ferriby the trail enters the Wolds and there are no further impediments to its route. It is a charming trail, well worth undertaking in its entirety and waymarked to the usual national trail high standard. This stage ends at Brantingham which is a typical small village in the East Riding of Yorkshire. If there's no accommodation in Brantingham, then the small town of South Cave which does have accommodation is a further 2.5miles on.

**Route:** Continue to follow the path along the line of the Humber, pass under the Humber Bridge and keep on by the Humber to a car park with a VW sign which seems to signal the official end of the Viking Way. Turn right on a tarmac road along the left side of the car park. When it bears left, go a quarter-right to pick up a tarmac path through a park (and away from the Humber). Follow this all the way as it curves gently leftwards to meet a road. Turn right and turn right again at The Sloop Inn into Far Ings Road. Pass under the Humber Bridge and turn immediately left at a walkers/cyclists Humber Bridge sign. Ascend the ramp turning left again up steps to the bridge. Turn left and cross the bridge over the River Humber. On the other side descend steps on the left and at the bottom, meet a cycle track. Turn left for a few metres and meet a lane. Turn right briefly and then turn off left on a path signed to the Humber Foreshore. The track soon curves right (signed to North Ferriby) and shortly after branch right through a kissing gate (signed to the Foreshore Car Park). Descend through woodland and at the bottom of steps, ignore a good track off right and go straight on. Pass under two bridges (one rail and one road), pass left of a windmill tower and reach the foreshore lane. Turn right and shortly at a Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW) sign, take to the foreshore. Pass left of the Country Park Inn and about 200 metres beyond, the foreshore leads up to a field gate with a walkers' access (and the national trail acorn sign).

If the foreshore track is closed, return to the large Humber Bridge car park above, seen on the way down to the foreshore. Follow its car entry/exit access to meet Ferriby Road. Turn left and keeping to the left side of the road, shortly reach a large roundabout. Cross the 'No Through Road' and then take the first exit following the sign to North Ferriby; there is a pavement. After a further short distance, the main road forks and the right fork (i.e. straight on) is taken; again there is a pavement and a provided crossing point. After passing over a dual carriageway, the road does a large rightwards curve and keep on the A15 until there's a sign off left to North Ferriby. Take this and follow Ferriby High Road westwards through the large village of North Ferriby (shop, pub). The major road through the village becomes a B-road (called Melton Road) and is followed (keep to the pavement on the left) to a more major road. Curve left here to shortly reach a mega-roundabout with a YWW sign pointing right at a pedestrian crossing of a slip road of the roundabout

All the above road walking can be avoided if the foreshore track is not closed. In this case, follow the track between the railway line on the right and the foreshore on the left. After passing through a further gate, continue on the main track until the YWW is signed off left. Follow this path to reach a wide grass path running along the estuary bank, with good views back of the bridge. Ignoring a good path off right away from the water, continue through a walkers' access with an acorn sign and stay with the estuary bank path. At the next walkers' access, a decision needs to be made depending on the state of the tide (5.6miles).

If the tide is right in, turn right signed as the High Tide route. Follow the gravel path to a road where there is a marked absence of any YWW signs. Turn left along Ings Lane and when it meets Humber Road turn right towards the station and cross the station footbridge. Go ahead to meet a road and turn left into Parkfield Avenue. Turn off first right into Nunburnholme Avenue which curves left into Corby Park road. Follow Corby Park road as it curves right then left and quickly right again on its way to meet the B-road out of North Ferriby (named Melton Road). On meeting the B-road, turn left to a mega-roundabout, passing a YWW sign on the way to reach a YWW sign pointing right at a pedestrian crossing of a slip road of the roundabout (6.9miles).

If the tide allows further progress, then follow the Low Water sign (rather than the High Tide sign) and continue on the estuary bank to steps down to the foreshore. Follow the foreshore to the next set of steps up. If the water is lapping at the foreshore rocks ahead, then escape up these steps into Humber Road. Walk up Humber Road away from the water to reach the station footbridge and follow the instructions in the previous paragraph from there to reach the mega roundabout (7miles).

If further progress along the foreshore is possible, continue to the next set of steps and ascend these iron steps; you may get very muddy boots on the way. With your back to the water, enter woodland (sign). Follow the very wide main track northwards through Long Plantation, ignoring all turn-offs left and right. After crossing a railway line, the path continues straight ahead through a narrower strip of woodland. On leaving the wood, the track becomes tarmacked and quickly meets a cycle track. Turn right and ascend to the B-road from North Ferriby. Turn left to the YWW sign pointing right across the slip road of the mega-roundabout and the joining of all the alternative routes (7miles).

The Wolds Way is now followed to near Welton. Use the pedestrian crossing to cross the slip road, then almost immediately cross another slip road and follow the pavement over a dual carriageway. Now cross another slip road and follow the cycle track right as directed for a short distance to a YWW sign left into woods. Follow the main track through Terrace Plantation veering half-right at a YWW sign to a scout camp and take the main track down

from the camp which descends to a road. Take the track opposite right and at the end of the left fence, turn left (YWW sign) and then right along the left edge of Bow Plantation (either just inside or outside wood). Keep following the main track which eventually goes slightly deeper into the wood and curves right to a rough lane (above Welton village).

Turn right (leaving the YWW) and ascend on the lane which becomes a track turning left then right. Eventually, when the clear track reaches a field, continue along the left edge. At the end of the field, the track enters woodland and continues to shortly meet a concrete access drive. Turn left and shortly turn off right on a track at a YWW sign (9.8miles); the YWW is now followed to Brantingham. When a track is met, go left (YWW sign) through a gate for a brief distance then turn right on a track (YWW sign) to a bridleway junction. Turn left (YWW sign) and follow the track to a road junction. Take the lane opposite (YWW sign) signed to Elloughton and at a left bend turn off right on an unsurfaced white road (YWW sign), following the gravel track which becomes a pleasant grass path. When a rough lane is met, go straight on (i.e. left) (YWW sign). Keep going on the lane and with the first houses of Brantingham visible down the hill, turn off right at a YWW sign onto an enclosed descending footpath and meet the (surfaced) access drive to Brantingham's church. The YWW goes right here but Brantingham village with its pub is to the left.

**Stage 37: Brantingham to Market Weighton** 13.8miles, ascent 490metres (1590ft), descent 511metres (1660ft). Explorer 293 (Kingston-upon-Hull), 294 (Market Weighton); Landranger 106 (Market Weighton).

This stage follows the YWW all the way and there are lots of ups and downs. The only decision that needs to be made is whether to take the trail route through the small village of Goodmanham or the alternative through the small market town of Market Weighton. Both have accommodation and somewhere to eat but Market Weighton is chosen because it has other shops such as a chemist and a large supermarket for stocking up.

**Route:** Turn right on the drive to Brantingham Church and meet the lane. Turn right and at a right corner go left on a track (YWW sign to South Cave) into woods. The track soon becomes an enclosed ascending path between fences to a walkers' gate. Through, descend on a track (YWW sign) curving right at the bottom (YWW sign) and shortly go left through a walkers' gate (YWW sign). Follow the path to the next walkers' gate leading on to a path alongside a wood on the right and out into a field. Turn left along the left field margin and having gone round a house, shortly go left (YWW sign) through a farmyard onto its access lane which is followed downwards. Emerge from 'Steep Hill' onto a road and turn left (YWW sign).

Shortly, just after the 30mph sign for South Cave, go right (YWW sign) (but carry on down the road for the centre of South Cave with its facilities). Follow the trodden path along a left fence, go over a footbridge and then ascend up the obvious grass track ahead to meet a track at the top. Turn right (YWW sign) and gently ascend along the edge of woodland. When a gravel track is met, go right (YWW sign) but turn off left after ¼mile on a path at a YWW sign. The field path descends into Comber Dale following the left fence to a path junction. Here turn right (YWW sign) on a lovely grass track round the base of the hill but shortly turn sharp left (YWW sign) through a visible horse kissing gate (or go over the stile). Cross a track to a path opposite which turns right into a wood. Follow the path to meet a gravel forest track and follow it to the right. Eventually a track fork is reached. Branch left here (YWW sign). The gravel track soon becomes a path which climbs steeply out of the wood and turns left into a field. Follow the left edge to meet a road. Cross into the field opposite and turn right along the right field margin (YWW sign). Turn left at the

beacon on a grass track (YWW sign) to meet a lane and turn right (YWW sign) to a cross-road (5.3miles).

Take Littlewood Road opposite for the length of one field then turn off left down a left field hedge (YWW sign) for (nearly) two sides to a walkers' gate. Descend steeply, parallel to the left fence (YWW sign), curving left along the dale bottom to meet another dale. Turn left here (YWW sign) along the dale bottom. Pass through a gate and contour anti-clockwise round the slope base and continue along the valley bottom (YWW sign) to a stile (YWW sign). Beyond continue on a track through a crop field (still along the valley bottom). The track becomes a farm track to a lane. Turn right (YWW sign) and immediately after passing a farm and a large barn on the left, turn left on a farm track (YWW sign). At the top meet a lane and turn right (YWW sign). Take the first track off left (YWW sign) and ascend. At the top, the track passes to the right of a wind farm and meets a road. Turn right along the ridge to meet a main road (10.2miles).

Take the lane opposite (YWW sign) and almost immediately branch left down an access drive (YWW sign). Go straight on to the left of large barns (acorn sign) then curve left onto a farm dirt track. Twist right then left along a left field edge to pick up and follow the farm track along the field's right hedge. At a YWW sign continue along the left hedge and gently descend to a walkers' gate. Beyond, follow the trodden grass path which follows the left hedge line to a walkers' gate (by the farm gate) onto a lane. Take the lane opposite, signed to Goodmanham.

Shortly turn off left (YWW sign to Market Weighton) and follow the disused railway line; the line passes a ribbon decorated tree and St Helen's Well, a natural spring, is a very short distance above. Keep on the main track into Market Weighton and come to a track/path junction. Curve left here (acorn post) on a tarmac path which leads into Station Road. On meeting a road, go opposite left into Church Side and emerge on Market Weighton's main street.

**Stage 38: Market Weighton to Thixendale** 17.1miles, ascent 677metres (2200ft), descent 569metres (1850ft). Explorer 294 (Market Weighton), 300 (Malton); Landranger 106 (Market Weighton), 100 (Malton).

It's over 20 miles to Thixendale if the YWW is faithfully followed as it goes a long way east to take in the villages of Huggate and Fridaythorpe. This led to a decision to only follow the national trail to just past Nettle Dale and to then take bridleways and paths through Frenal Dale, Tun Dale, Pluckham Dale and Bradeham Dale to rejoin the Wolds Way in Thixen Dale; this presents no problems except that Pluckham Dale's path appears not well walked. There is significant ascending and descending during the YWW part of this stage and rather less so once the YWW is left. Thus the route described here here not only saves about 3 miles compared with the YWW trail but has around 215metres (700ft) less ascent and descent. Thixendale is one of the larger Wolds villages and has both B&B accommodation and somewhere to eat.

**Route:** Turn right on Market Weighton's main street (York Road) and just after the last house on the right, turn right on a footpath (YWW sign). Follow the well trodden path across the field which continues beside a right hedge and emerges on the A614 main road. Cross this fast road carefully to the track opposite (YWW sign). Follow the track through Towthorpe Grange and ahead into a field. Go half-right, pass through a field gap and turn right briefly before going just left of straight ahead to a walkers' gate. Through,



follow the trodden path to the right boundary which is then followed across two fields. At the end of the second meet Intake Hill lane via a gap on the right.

Turn left and shortly turn right through the imposing gateposts into the parkland of the Londesborough Estate. Follow the excellent track up through delightful parkland and ignoring a track coming up from the right (which is where the Wolds Way alternative through Goodmanham comes in) continue to a lane off left. Take this (YWW sign). After passing Londesborough's church, the lane swings right and is followed to a crossroad. Go straight across (YWW sign), signed to 'Burnaby'. At a T-junction turn right (YWW sign) and shortly at a left curve, turn off left on an access track to Partridge Hall (take the upper track). Pass to the left of barns then turn left at a large yellow arrow and right at the next large yellow arrow onto a farm track. Follow the track along the right hedge to a walkers' gate and beyond aim for the right end of a wood to reach a walkers' gate. Through, follow the left fence to a walkers' gate and follow the path ahead along the right fence to a YWW sign where go left along the right hedge to a footbridge. Over, go half-left to a farm track which is followed left to a lane in Nunburnholme village (5.3miles).

Turn left and just past the church turn right into a field (YWW sign). Follow the left hedge round two sides to a walkers' gate onto a lane. Turn left for a short distance then turn off right to take an ascending gravel track (YWW sign) and at the top go straight on to a walkers' gate (acorn sign). Now follow the line of the right field edge to find a walkers' gate about 30metres to the left of the top right corner (acorn sign). Through, go ahead along the right field hedge. The path becomes a track. Turn left after the first building on the right (YWW sign) and descend on the track, quickly turning right through a farmyard then left on the farm's access lane (acorn sign) for a short distance. Immediately before a bungalow turn right up a field (YWW sign) then turn left along the left hedge as (signed) to a B-road.

Take the walkers' gate opposite and follow the right fence to a walkers' gate then go ahead on a track along the left field edge (sign). On entering the next field the track curves right to follow the right edge (sign) to a farm. Keep to the right of the building, curving left to exit onto its access lane. Just as a lane is met, turn right (YWW sign) on a clear ascending track. At the summit, when the track swings right, turn off left (YWW sign) on a clear grass track along a field divide. The clear path twists left then right to run above the village of Millington (down below on the left). Just past a farm (Warren Farm) on the left, turn left (YWW sign) down a right hedge line for two sides to a walkers' gate (acorn sign) and descend on a grass path into the dale bottom of Rabbit Warren.

The gradient of the dale's ascent has been eased by taking a path to the right which then turns left to reach the walkers' gate at the slope top. Through, take the fenced path which drops down to a walkers' gate. Take the walkers gate on the right (YWW sign) and follow the path along the left fence which descends to the dale bottom. Go straight on (YWW sign) up to a path junction (SE 850 541) (10.8miles). Leave the YWW here (the YWW turns right) to go straight on along the Chalkland Way (signed as such). Pass through a walkers' gate and go straight on (northwards) to the next walkers' gate. Continue straight on along the left fence descending to a walkers' gate onto a lane.

Take the walkers' gate opposite left (bridleway sign) and pass through the walkers' gate immediately on the left. Curve right along the bottom of Frenal Dale. Go through a walkers' gate and curve right to keep to the dale bottom. The dale bottom curves left into Tun Dale heading for a wood. The dale-bottom track continues into the wood and look for a track off right after ½mile. Two tracks go off here; the bridleway sign (just to the left of the main track off right) is followed with a short track leading to a visible field gate out of the wood. Beyond, follow the slope base along the right fence (with the wood beyond it) to a

walkers' gate back into the wood and continue on the obvious uphill path through the wood which rises to meet the upper forest track. Turn left, pass through a barrier to meet a road and take the lane opposite to the fast and busy main A166 road (13.6miles).

Turn left for a ghastly ½mile to a footpath sign off right in the dip (ignore a bridleway sign off right after ¼mile). Follow the left field edge for 200metres then take a rough track branch off left into woodland to keep to the bottom of Pluckham Dale. The track eventually leads to a stile and over follow the left fence along the dale bottom with wood beyond. At the end of the wood, curve left to stay with the dale bottom and curve left again when a dale is met. Pass through a walkers' gate and along the right fence to a stile on the right. Over, continue along the bottom of Bradeham Dale and rejoin the YWW at a sign; Worm Dale is on the left and Thixen Dale is ahead. Keep to the dale bottom and follow the YWW along the floor of Thixen Dale to meet a lane. Turn right (YWW sign) and ignoring two lanes off right, take the next lane left, signed Village Centre, into Thixendale village.

**Stage 39: Thixendale to Malton Station** 12.3miles, ascent 289metres (940ft), descent 403metres (1310ft). Explorer 300 (Malton); Landranger 100 (Malton).

This stage follows the YWW for 1½miles before leaving for the Centenary Way which is followed (apart from a small section) into Malton. There's a lovely descent from the Wolds into the charming estate village of Birdsall but it's fairly flat after that. The pub at North Grimston village serves food and makes a good lunchtime stop. After, the route passes through Settrington village to get to Norton which is one side of the River Derwent with classier Malton on the other side. There's a lack of paths through Norton, so there is some urban walking. Things pick up when the river is reached and a riverside path can be taken into Malton with its railway station nearby.

**Route:** Turn right on the track towards the end of Thixendale village (YWW sign). Ascend to a track fork and branch left (YWW sign) to a walkers' gate. Through, take the track ahead (sign) until a sign indicates that the hedge is to be crossed. Beyond, follow the left 'hedge' for two sides to a walkers' gate (sign). Descend on a trodden path to a walkers' gate (sign) and continue down to a walkers' gate in the dale bottom. Through, turn right and follow the grassy track up by the right fence to a field gate at the top and then follow the right hedge into a small copse to reach a track junction with a signpost (SE 836 629). Leave the Yorkshire Wolds Way by turning left and joining the Centenary Way. Follow the gravel track westwards taking the first gravel track off right (sign) to go northwards. Follow this track past Toisland Farm and through the farm gate ahead. Proceed on a track initially along the right fence which then veers left. Follow the grassy track down the field to meet a track at a signpost and turn right on this to continue the descent down to a field gate at the bottom. Through, enter an enclosed track and when it meets a lane, go straight on (left).

Follow the lane into and through the delightful estate village of Birdsall to a T-junction (3.6miles). Turn right, signed for 'Malton' and follow the Malton road for a ½mile. Near the end of the pavement, turn right on a lane signed to 'North Grimston'. Follow the lane past a sharp right and left turn. Just after, in a dip, cross a red brick bridge over Mill Beck and immediately turn right at a Centenary Way sign taking the track into a field.

The (untrodden) path follows the line of the left fence up a very long field. On reaching a ruined red brick building, turn left immediately before the building through two walkers' gates and turn right (bridleway sign). Follow the line of the right fence to a field gate and then the bridleway signed walkers' gate a few metres ahead. Now follow the right hedge to a walkers' gate beside a field gate (bridleway sign) and beyond stay by the right hedge to

a lane. Take the bridleway opposite left (sign) and follow the right hedge for one and a bit sides to a field gate. Now go by the left fence under a disused railway line to a bridleway signed walkers' gate. Follow the fairly overgrown path (nettles!) through woodland to a walkers' gate and beyond by the ditch to a footbridge and onto the road at North Grimston (6.4miles).

Its welcoming inn (the Middleton Arms) is to the right but the route turns left briefly to the left bend where it turns right on a footpath (Centenary Way sign). Briefly follow the access drive to a stone stile on the right and go half-left (northwards) in the field entered to a walkers' gate then to a stile near the corner. Follow the left fence to a stile onto a farm access track. Go right for a few metres then turn off left to follow the right hedge briefly to a stile on the right. Follow the right hedge to a stream and then follow to the left of the stream to a stile and field gate at the field far end. Follow the path between trees to a stile into a field where the left hedge is followed to a stile; there's not much sign that any of this is walked. Again follow the left hedge but then take a slight trodden path leading a quarter-right to pick up Settrington Beck and reach a plank bridge. Over, go half-right to a stile onto a farm access drive and turn left to follow the improving track which becomes a rough lane.

On meeting a road, turn right. Ignore the first lane off left and then a lane off right to reach the edge of Settrington village. Just after a right curve, take the next minor lane off right which has a Yorkshire Wolds Cycle Route 166 sign as well as a ford sign. When the descending lane curves right to ford the stream, don't cross but take the tarmac path on the left which stays left of the stream. When it meets a gravel track continue on this to meet a lane and turn left. Ignore a road off left back into the village to continue on the road towards Malton. After a short ½mile, on a left bend, go straight on along a dirt track; it's just before the derestriction sign. When the main track swings right, go straight on along an enclosed grassy track and just before it enters a field go left on a signed (good) path through woodland into a field. Follow the left edge round to a substantial signed footbridge off on the left.

Ascend the steps onto a path which turns right along an embankment and becomes a track. When it shortly meets a track, turn left (sign) for 5metres then go right at a footpath sign and follow the left fence into a field. Go half-left to a stile in the corner and then follow the left hedge (westwards) in this and in the next field until there's a major track off right which is taken. Follow this field-divider track which turns left to pass to the right of farm buildings and meets a road on the edge of Norton. The next bit is not picturesque! Turn right for ½mile and at a mini-roundabout go straight on signed for Birdsall. After passing a cemetery, the road bends left and reaches a T-junction. Turn right into Wold Street and shortly reach Norton's main street. Turn left to a level crossing and immediately after crossing it, turn off left on a road parallel to the river on the right. Turn right onto a flagged path along the river following it to a road. Turn left for Malton's railway station and right to cross the river into Malton's centre.