

Stately Homes of South Lincolnshire

Day 1 – Ride to Belvoir Castle

Starting from Belton, Grantham, NG32 2LN / (Belton Woods Hotel) turn left on to the main road and then take your next right and ride through Belton. Turn right at the first main junction in Belton. Head 1 mile up the road then turn right onto cycle route NB. At the end of the road turn right and keep following the cycle route in to Grantham. Follow the cycle route NB for some time until you reach Bridge End road.

Turn right on Bridge end road then turn left on to Houghton road still following the cycle route NB, take the second right on to Albert street. End of Albert street turn left and you will now be heading up hill still on the cycle route NB.

After the Phoenix Academy School turn right and head 3.5 miles to the 2nd left turn. Ride down to the sharp left corner and take the right turn on the corner. Ride for 1.6 miles then turn right. Head down this road for 1.7 miles and turn right onto Saltby Road. Now ride to the Main Road.

Cross over the Main Road onto top road and ride through Croxton Kerrial village. This will lead you on to Church Lane and then you need to turn right onto Croxton Lane. Ride for 1.4 miles taking in the stunning views to Knipton. At Knipton you will follow the road around to the left then follow round to the right as you pass through the village.

Ride for about 0.8 miles and take the first right turn on this road. Keep heading on this road and you will find the entrance to Belvoir Castle.

Now you have seen the delights of Belvoir Castle, turn right out of the car park and head down the hill to the crossroads. Turn left onto cycle route 64 and ride 0.5 miles before turning right and heading down to the tow path. Ride over the humped bridge and take cycle route 64 on the right, down the canal tow path back to Grantham.

At the end of the tow path get back on the road and head under the bridge which take you back into Grantham. Turn right on to Springfield Road and then at the main crossroads go over this road and you will start to see the cycle route you came out on. Follow the same cycle path back to your starting point.

Distance: 32.2 miles

Accent: 1204ft

Descent: 1203ft

Highlights: Belvoir Castle. Canal tow path with working locks

Grade: Medium, Few short steep hills with a lot of rolling hills. To Belvoir Castle. Flat ride from the canal tow path.

Day 2 – Ride to Grimsthorpe Castle.

Starting from Belton, Grantham, NG32 2LN / (Belton Woods Hotel) turn left on to the main road and then take your next right and ride through Belton. Turn right at the first main junction in Belton. Head 1 mile up this road then turn right onto cycle route NB. End of the road turn left and head up to Londonthorpe. Pass through Londonthorpe and carry on to the end of the road. Turn left on to the Eyedyke and take the first right about 150m down the road. **Please remember to use hand signals as this is a very busy main road.**

You are now heading towards Welby. Ride through Welby. At the first set of crossroads you come to turn right, ride a short distance and then cross the A52 and head towards Ropsley. At the end of the road turn left and ride through Ropsley.

Ride for about a mile and you will see a right turn that drops down a hill, take the turn and follow the road to Little Humby. When you are in Little Humby take the only left turn to Great Humby. You're now starting to ride on some narrow roads so please keep to the left as much as possible. Ride on to Ingoldsby and once in Ingoldsby follow the road around to the left. After about half a mile, as you approach the outskirts of Ingoldsby, you will see a right turn. Take this turn and follow the road for about 2 miles and passing through Osgodby.

Come to the end of the road and turn left and take the first right, you will now be heading to Bulby. **Please do not ride through the ford. Take the bridge.** Keep heading down the road and you will pass through Elsthorpe hamlet (which is just a farm yard and a couple of houses) all the way to the end of the road. You will now join a main road for the last little ride to Grimsthorpe Castle. Turn right onto the main road. **PLEASE RIDE IN SINGLE FILE.** You are now in Grimsthorpe. You will need to ride 1.2 miles on the main road to the main entrance of Grimsthorpe Castle.

When leaving Grimsthorpe Castle turn right on to the main road and start heading back the way you came, turning left on the right bend after 1.2 miles. Head back down the single track road to Bulby. When you reach the sharp left corner at Bulby turn right – this is just around the corner. Ride to the end of this short road and you will need to turn left. Ride for about 1 mile into a small village called Hawthorpe. You will go round a sharp left bend and you will need to take the right turn and start heading up hill to Kiesby.

From the ponds at Kiesby ride for about 3.5 miles and then turn left. You will now be heading back to Ropsley where you will ride the same route in. When you pass through Ropsley, you will reach a left corner with a right turn on it. Take the left turn and you will be heading back down to the A52 cross over.

Cross the A52 and ride for about a mile and take the first left turn you come to. You will now be heading back to Welby. Ride through Welby to the end of the road and turn left on to the High Dyke and take the first right to Londonthorpe. **PLEASE USE HAND SIGNALS AND RIDE IN SINGLE FILE.** Ride through Londonthorpe down the hill. Halfway down the hill turn right back on to the cycle route NB. At the end of the road turn left and ride back into Belton.

Distance: 40 miles

Accent: 1602ft

Descent: 1600ft

Highlights: Bellmount Tower (cycle route NB). Grimsthorpe Castle.

Grade: Low/medium, 1 long hill to climb up to Londonthorpe. Mostly flat with some areas of rolling countryside. 2 Major roads to ride on maximum 2 miles.

Day 3 – Ride to Isaac Newton.

Starting from Belton, Grantham, NG32 2LN / (Belton Woods Hotel) turn left on to the main road and then take your next right and ride through Belton. Turn right at the first main junction in Belton. Head 1 mile up the road then turn right onto cycle route NB. At the end of the road turn right and keep following the cycle route in to Grantham. Follow the cycle route NB for some time until you reach Bridge End road.

Turn right on Bridge End Road then turn left on to Houghton Road still following the cycle route NB. Take the second right on to Albert street. At the end of Albert Street turn left and you will now be heading up the hill still on the cycle route NB.

After the Phoenix Academy School turn right and carry on for 3 miles before taking the first left turn. Keep following cycle route NB. You will pass through Stroxtan and carry on through to Skillington. You will reach a T junction in Skillington, turn left onto Colsterworth Road and stay on cycle route NB. Cross over the staggered junction keeping on cycle route NB. Ride for 0.5 miles and take the first left. You will now be heading to Woolsthorpe.

When you ride through Woolsthorpe follow the 'brown signs' to Woolsthorpe Manor on Water Lane. You will shortly arrive at the home of Sir Isaac Newton.

The route back to Belton is mostly the same route back on cycle route NB. After turning right at Skillington ride about 1 mile and turn right. Ride a further mile and turn left. This will take you through Stoke Rochford village. Follow the road and you will come back on the cycle route NB. Keep following the road you came out on and head back to Belton.

Distance: 35.5 miles

Accent: 1399ft

Descent: 1398ft

Highlights: Woolsthorpe Manor, Stoke Rochford Estate and Hall.

Grade: Medium, few short steep hills mostly rolling countryside. Please note - not many opportunities to stop for refreshments on this route.

Day 4 – Ride to Stamford (ends in Stamford)

Starting from Belton, Grantham, NG32 2LN / (Belton Woods Hotel) turn left on to the main road and then take your next right and ride through Belton. Turn right at the first main junction in Belton. Head 1 mile up the road then turn right onto cycle route NB. At the end of the road turn left and head up to Londonthorpe. Pass through Londonthorpe and carry on to the end of the road. Turn left on to the High Dyke and take the first right about 150m down the road. **Please remember to use hand signals as this is a busy main road.**

You are now heading towards Welby. Ride for 3 miles passing through Welby to the end of the road. Turn right the other side of the woodlands. Ride for 2 miles to the T junction and turn right. Stay on the road passing through Dembleby and you will reach the A52. Turn right then left on the main road. **PLEASE KEEP TO THE LEFT OF THE LANE AND USE HAND SIGNALS.**

Ride to Newton. Come to the T junction in Newton and turn left. This will take you past the church. Follow the road to Walcot and turn right at the main junction in Walcot and head for Folkingham. Ride to the T junction in Folkingham and then turn right.

Ride 3.3 miles to the end of the road and turn left, ride through Kiesby and you are heading to Hawthorne. When at Hawthorne follow the road around to the right and head to Irnham. Turn right at Irnham and ride past the church heading towards Corby Glen. Perhaps take a refreshment break in Corby Glen.

From Corby Glen head to Bourne Road and turn right on the Main Road and take the first left. Ride 1 mile to the end of the road and turn right. Head into Swayfield and follow the road onto the High Street. Perhaps sample the locally brewed ales at the Royal Oak Public House! Carry on down the High Street and turn left onto Castle Blytham Road. Ride for about 2.5 miles into Castle Blytham.

Stay on the same road and you will start to ride down Station Road. Keep going straight for about 2 miles and you will pass some ponds either side of the road. Ride a bit further to the end of the road and turn right and then turn right on the left hand bend. Ride a couple of hundred metres and take the first left onto Pickworth Road and road for about 4.5 miles to Great Casterton.

From here you can turn left onto cycle route 63 for a short distance and then take cycle route NB. Follow cycle route NB into Stamford.

Option - from Stamford take a short trip to Burghley House which can be accessed on cycle route 63 south of Stamford.

Distance: 38.5 miles

Accent: 1649ft

Descent: 1681ft

Highlights: Historic town of Stamford. Burghley house (this is an option)

Grade: Low/medium, 1 hill to climb up to Londonthorpe mostly flat with bits of rolling countryside. 1 Major road to ride on maximum 1 mile.