

# Going Dutch

📍 7 stages | 📏 13 mi (21 km) | 🚲 Ride Well

This circular ride starts from Beltoft, a pretty hamlet in the parish of Belton and takes in many of the sights of the historic Isle of Axholme, through peaceful countryside to Epworth, home of the Wesleys, visiting Owston Ferry and West Butterwick on the Trent. The Isle of Axholme is rich in history. Once marsh and fenland, it was drained by the Dutch in 1626 by order of Charles I. Cornelius Vermuyden and his Dutch associates met with much opposition from the locals who saw the destruction of their way of life. There was great controversy over the distribution of the new land, causing much conflict with the commoners.



## Highlights

### The Old Rectory

This impressive Grade 1 listed house was the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley. Built in 1709, Epworth Old Rectory will transport you back in time to the formative years of these pioneering evangelists. Enjoy a tour of the house, where you can learn about the different characters who made up the Wesley family. Meet 'The Mother of Methodism' and the Wesley children – all ten of them!



### Axholme Priory

One of ten medieval Cartusian houses in England. Established in 1397/1398 by Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham and later Duke of Norfolk. The house was centred on a pre-existing chapel on the present Low Melwood Farm, between Owston Ferry and Epworth in the Isle of Axholme, which according to a papal bull of 1398 'was called anciently the Priory of the Wood'.

### Kelfield

Marvel at the Dutch Architecture here - Home to a grade 11 listed house which dates back to 1689, is the only example of a house of this period with curvilinear gables in the area. These gables are a Dutch style and show the influence of the Dutch workers who came to the Isle of Axholme with Vermuyden.

### Rider Information

Beltoft is situated just south of the M180, between Scunthorpe and Epworth.

Road surface is constructed of tarmac and is in a reasonable state of repair. However, watch out for small potholes that pepper the roads.

Suitable for all types of bike.

### The grades for cycle rides

Ride easy, ride steady, ride well and **ride strong** have been developed by British Cycling to help cyclists to decide whether a particular route is appropriate for their ability.

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## Directions

- 1 Start/Finish: Beltoft Village.
- 2 Leave the village heading North East on Outmill road, crossing over the M180, before heading East.
- 3 At the T-junction, turn right onto Trent Bank, and follow the road for the next 6 miles, keeping the River Trent on your left.
- 4 After entering a built up area you come to a T-junction, with the White Hart P/H on your left. Turn right onto the High Street, Owston Ferry.
- 5 Follow the road for 0.3 of a mile, and then turn right onto Epworth Road. Follow the road all the way into Epworth.
- 6 The road eventually comes to a T-junction, turn left onto Rectory Street.
- 7 Turn right onto Greengate Lane, which leads on to Hollingsworth Lane. Turn right at the T-junction and stay on road to Beltoft.

## Refreshments

- ★ **The White Heart**  
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[theferryboatbar@gmail.com](mailto:theferryboatbar@gmail.com) (Pub)  
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[info@theepworthtap.co.uk](mailto:info@theepworthtap.co.uk)

★ **The Crooked Billet**  
[www.the-crooked-billet-owston-ferry.business.site](http://www.the-crooked-billet-owston-ferry.business.site)

★ **White Bear Pub**  
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★ **Mojo Coffee Lounge**  
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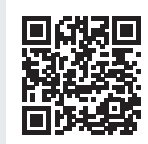
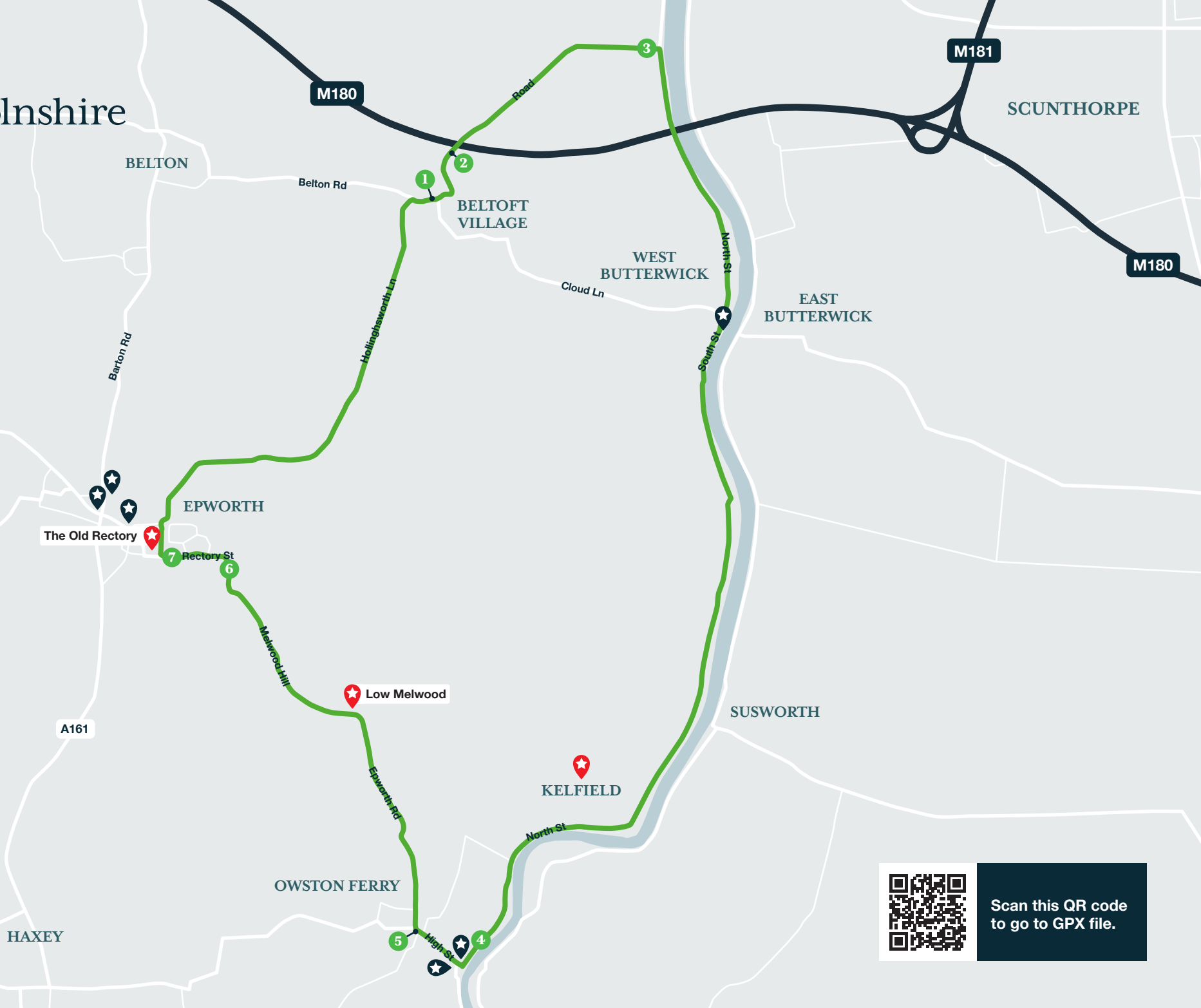
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[info@hattystearoom.co.uk](mailto:info@hattystearoom.co.uk)  
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01427 872282  
[holmesandgardens1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:holmesandgardens1@hotmail.co.uk)

★ **The Epworth Tap**  
[www.theepworthtap.co.uk](http://www.theepworthtap.co.uk)  
01427 873 333  
[info@theepworthtap.co.uk](mailto:info@theepworthtap.co.uk)

★ **Red Lion Steakhouse** – Evenings Monday to Friday  
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