



Heckington Mill

This quaint hamlet is home to St Oswald – a small 12th century church that is still without electricity and the only light source is candlelight, giving Howell a unique and charming atmosphere.



St Oswald

One of the most enduring features of the Fens are its windmills and its soaring church spires. The dramatic spire of ashlar-faced St. Andrew's Church of the 13th century cuts a fine sight towering above the village of Helpingham in an impressive rural landscape.

### Helpingham

The Heckington Mill was built in 1830 with five sails. Damaged in a storm in 1890, the mill was repaired using eight sails. It is the world's only 8 sail windmill still working. Now fully restored, the site hosts an award-winning visitor centre, tea room and bakery, plus gardens onsite.

There is no wonder that it is dubbed one of the largest villages in Lincolnshire when it has as much to offer its community in terms of services, facilities and heritage as the small towns that surround it. The village also boasts its own railway station – served by the Grantham to Skegness train service – and it is also home to the largest annual village show in the country.

### Heckington



St Andrew's Church



Grffiti

## Focal points & attractions



On the route

Sleaford is a scenic and popular market town located on the River Slea. It is surrounded by flat fenland countryside, which makes this area perfect for cycling. The town has a rich agricultural heritage and continues to be an important trade today. Sleaford is home to The Hub – the nationally acclaimed arts centre that hosts innovative exhibitions and events by acclaimed artist and new talent throughout the year.

### Sleaford

Old graffiti can be found in the porch of many of the churches especially in St Denis, Silk Willoughby where a guide in the church will help you decipher them.

### Look out for!

There are 9 churches to explore, 5 of which are dedicated to St Andrew, with pubs and cafes for you to enjoy, and the site of ancient manor houses which will give you plenty of opportunity to linger a little while longer. The circular route is mainly on quiet roads and lanes with some off road cycle paths alongside the busier stretches in and out of Sleaford.

This great ride will take you on a tour of the gently rolling countryside and villages around Sleaford and includes a visit to the famous 8 sail windmill at Heckington.

Distance: 40.2 km / 25 miles

Starting point: Sleaford

Finish point: Sleaford

## What to expect

## Directions

- 1 Turn right from the station approach over the railway crossing then turn right again towards Grantham.
- 2 After a short distance turn left to Silk Willoughby and follow the cycle path to the village and its church.
- 3 Take the left turn at the end of the village signposted to Burton, after about a mile at the junction and turn left then immediately right to keep on towards Burton.
- 4 When you reach the village of Burton Pedwardine turn right, then take the next right-hand turn past the church signposted to Screddington.
- 5 Follow the Screddington road for about a mile and at the unmarked junction turn right, and continue to follow the road until the left hand signposted to Screddington go passed the site of the medieval manor houses and information board on your left.
- 6 In the village left and follow the gently undulating road towards Helpingham when you reach the village keep on past the church and continue to follow the road on towards Great Hale and Heckington.
- 7 When you reach Great Hale turn right to visit the church, continue past the church and then take the next left making your way back to the Heckington road and follow this into Heckington.
- 8 As you enter Heckington the windmill is on your left go past this and at the crossroads turn left to the village green, and then right to St Andrew's Church.
- 9 Continue on at St Andrew's Church, the road turns left onto Cowgate, continue straight on this onto Kyme Rd and then out of the village and over the A17 on a bridge. After the bridge turn immediately left towards Howell and Ewerby.
- 10 Go through Howell and turn left to Ewerby, At Ewerby turn left for Kirkby La Thorpe.
- 11 Turn left at Kirkby signposted to Sleaford, go back over the A17 on a bridge and follow the cycle route adjacent to the main road back into the Town.
- 12 When you reach the T-junction with traffic lights in the town.

# Cycle Lincolnshire

## Getting there

The start point is Sleaford railway station and there are regular direct train services from Nottingham, Peterborough, Doncaster and Lincoln. All services are operated by East Midlands Railways ([www.eastmidlandrailway.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandrailway.co.uk)).

There are two dedicated spaces for bikes on each train which, at time of writing, cannot be reserved, more details can be found at [www.eastmidlandrailway.co.uk/trains-stations/on-board-the-train/bikes-on-trains](http://www.eastmidlandrailway.co.uk/trains-stations/on-board-the-train/bikes-on-trains).

Cyclists arriving by car can park in the long stay car park on Grantham Road.

## Refreshments

On this route you are truly spoilt for choice from, pubs, cafés, restaurants and even a garden centre.



# Cycle Lincolnshire

## Sleaford Spires and Sails

12 stages | 40.2 km / 25 miles



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# Sleaford Spires and Sails

Starting point: Sleaford | Finish point: Sleaford | Distance: 40.2 km / 25 miles

