

Directions

- 1 Starting at the Market Place, Alford, head south from the Market Place on the B1176, signposted for Willoughby.
- 2 After about 0.4 of a mile, turn left signposted Farlesthorpe. This puts you on Farlesthorpe Road, follow it through Farlesthorpe, until you arrive at the village of Bonthorpe.
- 3 At the fork (junction with Cumberworth), follow the road to the right, signposted Willoughby.
- 4 Continue travelling along Bonthorpe Road, and as you come into Willoughby it becomes Church Lane. At the T-junction, turn right on to the B1196, and continue through the village, until you come to a sharp right-hand bend, with a road leading off it to the left. Take this lane signposted for Claxby.
- 5 In Claxby you'll encounter a short sharp descent. At the foot of the hill, turn right and follow the signpost for Ulceby. You then start to climb out of Claxby along Psalter Road, and after about a mile, turn

left. The slope ramps up a little for a short sharp climb (if you are not a regular cyclist, it is suggested that you get off and walk this section, as it is going to hurt!).

- 6 Continue straight over the crossroad (giving way to priority traffic), and continue to and through Skendleby, until you come to the A158.
- 7 Cross straight over the cross road (take care, especially in the summer, as the A158 can be very busy).
- 8 Follow the road all the way into Spilsby.
- 9 Turn left into Reynard Street, and at the end of the road turn right onto Queen Street.
- 10 Turn right and you have arrived in the Market Place.

Cycle Lincolnshire

Getting there

Alford sits between Louth and Skegness, and if travelling by road, access via the A1111, A1104 and B1196. There is no rail travel available.

Parking

Parking is available in the Market Place, Smith Street, South Street and Millers Way.

Suitability

This route is suitable for all types of bicycle.



The Manor House, Alford

Whilst great care has been taken compiling this information, Visit Lincoln cannot be held responsible for any errors, omissions or alternations contained within it.

Cycle Lincolnshire



Three Towns Cycle Routes

Alford to Spilsby

10 stages | 12.1 km / 7.5 miles



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In partnership with



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What to expect

Starting point: Alford

Finish point: Spilsby

Distance: 12.1 km / 7.5 miles

Picturesque and steeped in history, our Three Towns Cycling routes are relatively flat, easy rides along quiet rural roads. Between them they take in the towns of Alford, Spilsby and Wainfleet All Saints, leading them to be collectively known as the Three Town Rides.

This beautiful route links the historic towns of Alford and Spilsby, along quiet country roads.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust manages many nature reserves around the county

Focal points & attractions

Alford

This attractive market town, set in beautiful countryside at the foot of the Wolds, is an excellent base for cyclists and walkers.

Alford Craft Market offers an extensive events programme throughout the year, including the Whitsun and August Bank Holiday Craft Markets held in the grounds of Alford Manor House.

The town's prosperous past is evident in its many fine buildings, which include the thatched Manor House, a visitor attraction (museum, exhibitions, gardens & tea room). Adjacent to the Manor House is the 'Museum of Rural Life' where you can explore local artefacts, dating back over 300 years.

There is a good choice of bed and breakfasts and hotels in Alford, as well as a variety of restaurants and cafes, and arts and antique shops.

Farlesthorpe, Bonthorpe and surrounding area

Scattered farms and a few houses form these hamlets. In Farlesthorpe, St. Andrew's Church, built in 1800, is approached through Glebe Farm.

South of Cumberworth Road is an area of Bronze Age burial mounds called Butterbump. This charming name was inspired by the local name for the bittern, the elusive marsh bird that, in years gone by, was hunted for food.

Willoughby

Although there are indications that there was a settlement here in the Bronze Age, St. Helena's Church dates from the 14th century. Built with local green sandstone, one of its windows portrays events in the life of John Smith, who was baptised here in 1580. He went on to become President of Virginia after his life was saved by Pocahontas.

Hoplands Wood

Hoplands Wood is an example of the woods, dominated by oak and ash trees, that once covered the marshland of east Lincolnshire. These trees thrive in the moisture retentive, calcareous boulder clay soils, and the pervading dampness produces an abundance of ferns and mosses, as well as other traditional woodland plants. Wildlife abounds and the woods teem with a wide variety of birds. The reserve lies just below the eastern edge of the Wolds, partly in the chalk valley of Burlands Beck. There are waymarked walking trails, as well as a public footpath that crosses part of the reserve.

Nature Reserves & SSSI

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust manages many nature reserves around the county. They also maintain several stretches of grass verge to encourage the growth of wildflowers and herbs.

Many of the reserves are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The nature reserves are extremely varied, ranging from ancient woodland to coastal reed beds to disused railway tracks.

Claxby and Claxby Spring

The Parish of Claxby is a delight. As you approach Claxby village you are treated to a panoramic view of the Wolds.

The Church of St. Andrew, built in 1846, is now a private chapel to Claxby Hall. The hall itself was built around 1760 and was once the Manor House. It has gone through extensive renovations over the years.

Claxby Spring nature reserve is situated to the right of where Burlands Beck valley rises and runs east towards Willoughby.

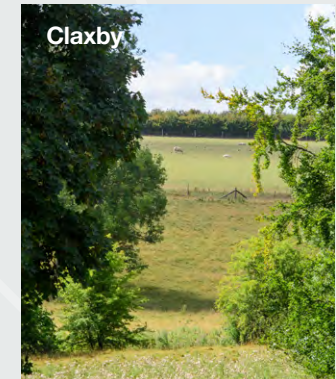
Skendleby

A truly photogenic village with charming 17th and 18th century houses, a pub, a church and a spreading cedar tree. The little stream in the valley flows into the River Lymn.

Grebby and Scremby

These hamlets, with their parkland and handsome Georgian houses, feel as though they've leapt straight off the pages of a Jane Austen novel.

In Scremby you'll find the pretty Georgian church of St. Peter and St. Paul. From the cycling route you'll spot local landmark, Grebby Mill, a wind-powered cornmill built in 1812, that is now a private residence.



Ashby by Partney

Ashby by Partney is a quaint hamlet, two miles east of the town of Spilsby. The Church of St. Helen was built in 1841 of distinctive pale orange brick. It was restored in 1892 by the ecclesiastical architect, C. Hodgson Fowler.

Spilsby

Handsome and bustling, Spilsby has been a market town since 1302 and still holds a market every Monday.

Presiding over the main square is a statue of the town's most famous son, the Arctic explorer, Sir John Franklin. Born in 1786, he is credited with discovering the Northwest Passage.

Alford to Spilsby

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