

What to expect

Starting and Finish point: Horncastle

Distance: 18.5 km / 11.5 miles

Enjoy magnificent views, interesting towns, quaint villages and some of the best countryside in Britain in this surprisingly hilly gem of a ride through the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The Wolds are an upland chalk landscape extending to over 200sq miles and were an important area in medieval times when its rolling hills were ideal for sheep which produced much of the wool on which the wealth of the country was based. The population density at this time was much greater than it is today and there are still traces of that wealth with impressive village churches and distant views of Lincoln Cathedral.

With the population declining as the result of the expansion of sheep farming and the ravages of the Black Death. The Wolds also has one of the largest densities of deserted and shrunken medieval villages in the country, and you will pass several of these on the route.

More recently the Wolds were at the heart of "Bomber County" in WW2 and there are traces of two airfields on the route and many more in the surrounding area.

With over 5,000 ft of ascent expect some hills, nice ridge rides and great views across Lincolnshire, the Humber Estuary and the Wash. Look out for Lincoln Cathedral which can be seen at several points despite being over 20 miles away.



Getting there and cycle information

Horncastle is located in the county of Lincolnshire, East Midlands, six miles north-east of the town of Woodhall Spa and 18 miles east of the major city of Lincoln.

The route is easily accessible from Lincoln railway station which has regular direct services to London and the rest of the country. Follow the Water Rail Way cycle path NCN Route 1 to Woodhall Spa then onto Horncastle (30 miles), with an alternative return route from Hainton joining NCN Route 1 near Wragby and back into Lincoln past the Cathedral (20 miles).

The 80-mile ride can be done as a challenging one-day sprint or as a more leisurely two-day break, stopping over enroute, perhaps in the picturesque town of Louth, "The Capital of the Wolds."

The route is all on tarmac surfaces and suitable for road bikes. Two short stretches are on A roads but the majority of the ride is on country lanes.



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

In partnership with



cycle-lincolnshire.com

Lincolnshire Wolds' Challenge

28 stages | 129 km / 80 miles



cycle-lincolnshire.com

Viking Way,
Tealby



Focal points & attractions

Lincolnshire Wolds – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Lincolnshire Wolds has everything you could wish for in an idyllic getaway. Enjoy 216 square miles of unspoilt countryside, beautiful rolling green hills, picturesque hidden valleys and all kinds of magnificent animals and wildlife. The perfect destination for lovers of the great outdoors, active adventurers and heritage enthusiasts.

The Wolds provide views across the flat Fens and salt marshes of Lincolnshire, it is possible, from various points on the Wolds, to see all of the larger structures in the north and east of the county: the Belmont mast, Boston Stump, Grimsby Dock Tower, the Humber Bridge, Lincoln Cathedral, St James' Church in Louth (known locally as the 'Cathedral of the Wolds', though it holds only parish church status),

the radar station near Normanby, Tattershall Castle and the wind turbines on the coast near Mablethorpe.

Horncastle

Is an attractive market town often described as the 'gateway to the Lincolnshire Wolds.'

Surrounded by the beautiful countryside this market town is steeped in history, Horncastle dates back to Roman times and in the Domesday Book of 1086 it is claimed to be owned by King William.

Enjoy a stroll around Horncastle's quaint, cobbled streets, explore the antique and artisan shops, as well as galleries and spot thatched houses and 18th and 19th century architecture.

Horncastle hosts weekly markets on Thursdays and Saturdays and monthly Farmers Markets, held on the second Thursday of each month.



Tealby

Louth

Enjoy a relaxing day out in Louth, explore the magnificent Georgian and Victorian architecture, shop fine local produce at the local markets and explore the vast array of independent retailers, with around 70% of businesses independently owned in the town.

Louth is known to be a foodie's haven with its specialist grocers, and local butchers. It is also home to The Cheese Shop, which has gained nationwide recognition, including in The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, and appeared on The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain.



Market town of Louth

Tealby

Tealby is often said to be one of the best places to visit in Lincolnshire. Nestled on the edge of the gentle slopes of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Tealby has always been a pretty village and as such supports a vibrant community with an active church, school, community-run shop, two pubs, a tearoom and many local businesses all benefiting from walkers, and cyclists who regularly stop off to enjoy what the village has to offer.

Hubbard's Hills

Located close to Louth, in the Lincolnshire Wolds. The picturesque hills are the result of a highly

unique glacial overspill channel formed during the last ice age, over 40,000 years ago. Today, it's a wonderfully popular spot for picnics, play and for walking the dog!

South Ormsby

Set in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds, the South Ormsby Estate is a haven for rural business and entrepreneurship in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Throughout the year the Estate offers a range of different guided tours, activities and events led by the team of friendly and knowledgeable guides.



South Ormsby



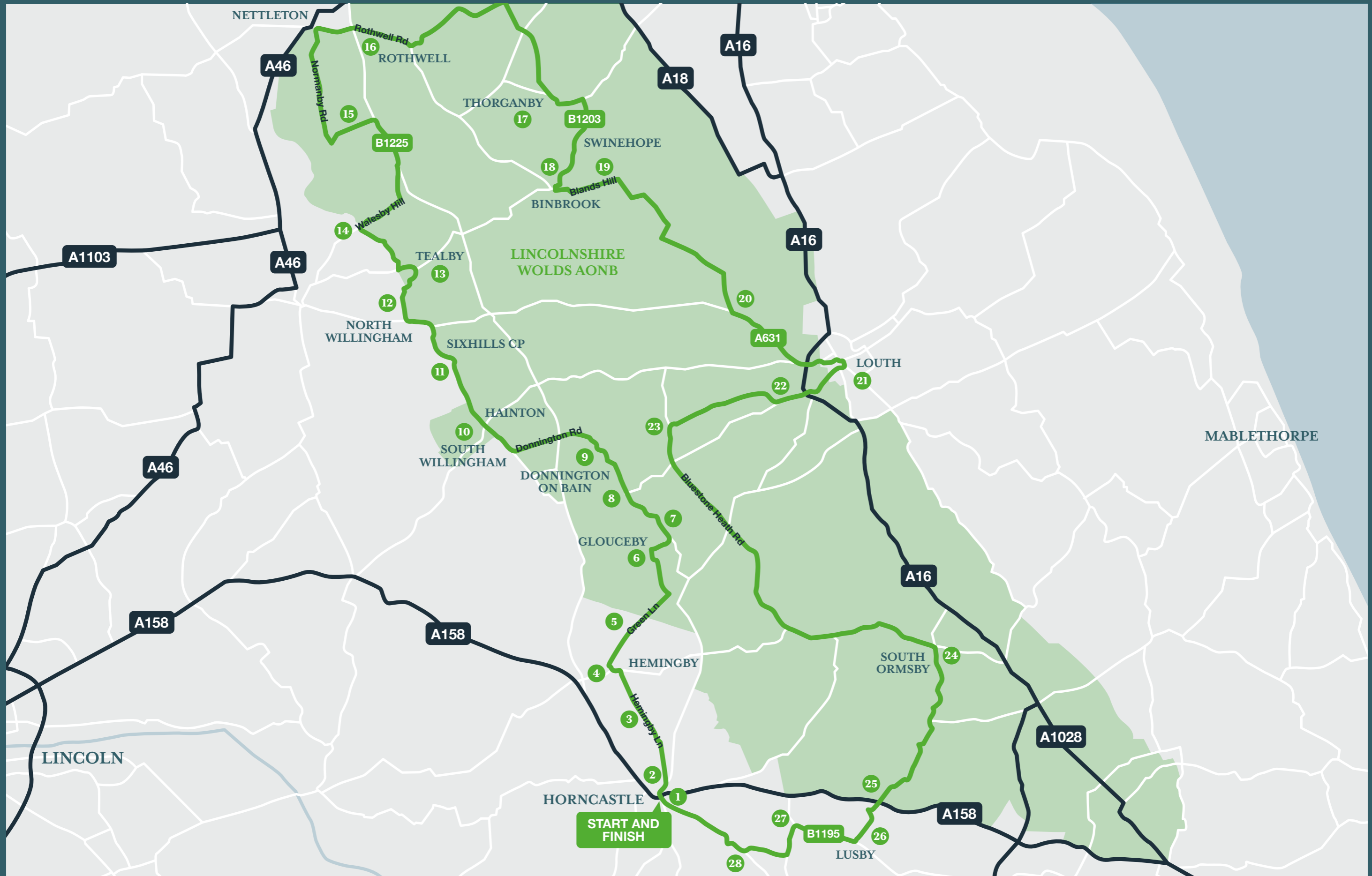
Rolling Hills, Lincolnshire Wolds

Lincolnshire Wolds' Challenge

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Scan to download the GPX files



Directions

- 1** We have chosen Horncastle as the starting point for directions of this clockwise tour of the Lincolnshire Wolds as it is accessible from Lincoln via the Water Rail Way cycle route and has a super bike cafe near the Market Place, but you can start your ride from any of the towns and villages mentioned.
- 2** From Market Place in Horncastle head east and then turn left onto North St. and continue over the mini roundabout and then turn left onto Hemingby Lane, signposted 'Public Weighbridge'.
- 3** Follow the lane for about a mile and go straight across the next junction signposted Hemingby.
- 4** At the next junction turn left into Hemingby and take the first right onto Chapel Lane, opposite the village hall.
- 5** At the end of the lane turn right onto Green Lane and begin a gentle, steady climb into the Wolds.
- 6** **At the T junction turn left and head rapidly downhill towards Goulceby, take care it is steep!**
- 7** Stay on the main road through the village and on up the hill to Top Lane where you turn right.
- 8** Follow Top Lane to the next T junction where you turn left, signposted Stenigot.
- 9** Continue on through Donington on Bain for approximately 4 miles until you reach a crossroads on the B1225.
- 10** Go straight across and continue on to South Willingham and then turn right in the village, towards Hainton. **Follow the road until its junction with the A157 where you turn right and follow the A road for about 250m before turning left by the Heneage Arms. Please take great care as the A157 is a very busy road.** There is a partly paved path on the right-hand side which may be preferable to cycling on the main carriageway.
- 11** Go straight on up and down hills to the aptly named Sixhills. Stay on the main road through the village and continue straight on to North Willingham.
- 12** **Turn left onto main road (A631). This can be busy but there is asphalted cycle path on its right-hand side.**
- 13** After half a mile turn right to Tealby. In Tealby turn left and left again at the B1203 before turning right to Walesby, although you may want to explore this beautiful Wolds village which has a thatched pub and a vintage tea room.
- 14** **When you reach Walesby turn right and go up the hill to the crossroads, turn left at the crossroads signposted Thoresway and Caistor and then left again at the next junction onto the B1225, towards Caistor. Take care as this road can be busy.**
- 15** Take the next left to Normandy le Wold and, at the bottom of the hill, turn right towards Nettleton. Go through the village and turn right to Rothwell, near the village information board. You are now on the Viking Way.
- 16** Head up Mansgate Hill, across the crossroads, and continue on the main road through Rothwell and onto Cuxwold where you turn right opposite the church towards Beelsby.
- 17** At the T junction turn right and then at the next crossroads go straight across, signed Thorganby. Turn right into the village, cross the river, and then bear left up the hill to a junction where you turn right on to the B1203 to Binbrook. You will pass the site of RAF Binbrook, one of the 48 RAF bases in Lincolnshire in WW2.
- 18** On reaching Binbrook turn left towards Louth.
- 19** A short while past Binbrook church turn left towards Ludborough and go up Blands Hill. At the junction turn right and continue following Blands Hill.
- 20** At the next junction turn right, signed Kelstern, and re-join the Louth Road at the RAF Kelstern memorial. Turn left here and follow the road to the A613.
- 21** **On joining the A613 turn left and continue on it to Louth taking care whilst crossing the busy Louth bypass roundabout.**
- 22** In Louth turn right at the church, although you may want to turn left onto Mercer Row to explore the town first. Continue up the hill to the traffic lights and turn right onto South St. Follow the road for about half a mile then turn right signposted to Hallington and Hubbards Hill.
- 23** Take the right hand turn at Hallington and climb the hill.
- 24** At the top turn left onto Bluestone Heath Road. You will follow this road up and down with views on either side for the next 6 miles until you reach a crossroads at South Ormsby, with the Massingberd Arms on your right. Turn right past the pub, and then left, signed to Brinkhill Spilsby and Harrington.
- 25** Bear left at Harrington and climb gently up to Hagworthingham where you reach the A158.
- 26** **Cross the busy A158 and go down the hill and turn left onto Water Lane and follow it as far as Lusby.**
- 27** Once you reach Lusby turn right towards Winceby on the B1195. After Winceby turn left towards Hammeringham and then right into the village. After the village turn right to Mareham on the Hill. Look out for some lovely distant views of Lincoln Cathedral on the horizon on this stretch.
- 28** Follow the road through Mareham on the Hill and then go down the hill and into Horncastle. Turn right once you reach the T junction in the town and go straight across at the traffic lights and over the small bridge where you turn immediately left onto Wharf Road which will take you back into Horncastle Market Place and our starting point.