Two circular walks of 4km (2.5 miles) and 5km (3 miles)
Lying between the coast and the Wolds, Lincolnshire’s coastal grazing marshes are a nationally threatened habitat supporting a rich variety of wildlife with a distinctive landscape and rich cultural history. Big skies and long views dotted by churches give the grazing marshes a unique character, this special landscape is full of untold stories and hidden clues that tell of how this landscape has been shaped through history. Through Heritage Lottery funding, the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project (LCGM) hopes to protect this part of the county’s heritage, known by few and at risk of being lost forever.

Saltfleet is believed to have been one of the biggest ports outside London during the 12th to 15th centuries, providing important trade links to Europe. Lincoln Longwool fleeces, revered for their long yarn, and salt were shipped to Europe whilst tobacco, spices, gin and building materials would be brought back on the returning ships. The import of building materials during this period explains why many local buildings are constructed from European stones. The port contributed to the wealth of local market towns such as Louth, Alford and Burgh le Marsh, but was also responsible for a rise in smuggling and a wealth of folklore that now surrounds these communities.

These two walks visit the site of the old port and abandoned church which were once at the centre of these communities.
The Walk

Walk one

1. With your back to the New Inn turn right along Main Road. At the crossroads turn left down Pump Lane, at the side of the Crown Inn.

   On the left you will see one of the old warehouses where goods would have been stored before they were shipped to Europe and along the coast. The bridge at the end of this lane crosses North Creek Drain, once part of the busy medieval port.

2. At the end of the houses turn right onto a public footpath and over the bridge.

   Walk straight across the playing field to another bridge. Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead along the field edge to a road.

3. Turn right and walk along the road into Skidbrooke.

4. After approximately 750m (0.5 mile), where the road bends to the left, leave the road to join the public footpath ahead.

   Walk diagonally right across the field to where a field edge ditch bends at right angles.

5. Turn right and follow the path along field edges and beside a ditch towards the church.

6. At the road you have a number of options:

   To continue the walk turn right and follow the road for approximately 750m (0.5 mile). Go to directions 7

   To visit St Botolph’s church turn left and follow the road and then signs to the church.

Skidbrooke was once the main village in the area, located around the now disused church of St Botolph’s. Reclamation of land through salt making and an increasing popularity of the Lincoln Longwool’s fleece during the 13th century meant villagers moved closer to the newly reclaimed coast. St. Botolph was the patron saint of wayfarers and is said to have rid the marshes of their ‘devils’—in fact, he probably had the marshes drained and eliminated the ‘marsh gas’ with its night glow.
The Walk

Walk two

1. With you back to the New Inn turn left along Main Road.

2. Turn right onto Louth Road, signed Skidbrooke, and follow it for approximately 200m.

3. Just after crossing the drain turn left onto the public footpath. Bear right across the field, towards the end of the line of trees in the distance.

4. At the field corner turn left over the bridge. Turn right, following the footpath, and after 20m turn left, cross a track and bridge and follow the path straight ahead along the side of a drain for 1.2 km (0.75 mile) to a road.

5. At the road:

   To visit Saltfleetby St Clement’s church turn right and follow the road for approximately 350m (0.25 mile). Take care, the road can be busy and the traffic fast.

   As with many churches in the area, Saltfleetby St Clement’s church tells a story of the area’s link with Europe through the salt and wool trade. If you look closely you can see that some of the stones are round and made of a volcanic material, only found in the Rhine valley.

6. Turn right onto a track beside a drain and follow it to a road.

7. At the road turn left, cross the drain, turn left and then right to follow the public footpath along the field edge and then across the playing field to a road.

   Turn left and follow the road to return to the starting point.

To visit Skidbrooke Cyder Company turn left, walk past the entrance to St Botolph’s church to a T-junction. Turn left and then right along Saddleback Road.
The leaning churches of Lincolnshire’s coast and marsh have become an icon of the landscape. They may lean for a number of reasons. Many were built on wooden foundations and in some cases the towers are older than the rest of the church having been built originally as look out towers to defend the coast.

In 2012, the LCGM Project replaced the lych gate after it was stolen in the 1990’s. The lych gate was originally funded by Mrs Carr-Gregg, wife to the vicar, in 1930.

To continue the walk turn left and at the crossroads continue straight ahead, taking care crossing the road.

Walk along the tarmac lane until you reach Sea View car park. Go straight across the car park to join the path along the edge of the saltmarsh. Turn left and walk towards Saltfleet along a nature reserve path.

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve is a major coastal reserve of international importance. There is a wealth of wildlife including displays of cowslips, lady’s bedstraw, viper’s bugloss and field mouse-ear on the dunes, marsh orchids in the freshwater marsh and on the saltmarsh look out for sea thrift, sea lavender and sea aster. During the spring and autumn the sea buckthorn can attract migrating birds. On warm, sultry evenings in late spring the distinctive churring calls of male natterjack toads may be heard. For more information about the reserve go to www.naturalengland.org.uk

You will walk past a pill box that formed part of the defences built to defend the country against invasion during the Second World War.

At the end of the dunes cross the drain and follow the track to a road.

Turn right and follow the roadside path through the village to the starting point.
Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council’s Countryside Access Team to help you explore and enjoy the County’s countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected. We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

**Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access Team**
Tel: 01522 782070 Minicom: 01522 552055
Email: countryside_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Web: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside

**Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Team**
The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project aims to protect the habitats, heritage and farming in the three key target areas of Burgh le Marsh, Saltfleetby and Anderby/Huttoft. The Project also works to encourage people to discover, explore and celebrate the special qualities of these areas.
Tel: 01507 613134
Email: info@lincsmarshes.org.uk
Web: www.lincsmarshes.org.uk

**East Lindsey Active**
A scheme run by the Health Improvement Team based at East Lindsey District Council. Working with community groups they offer free health walks across the District. Health walks are an excellent opportunity to explore the area, a good way to socialise, keep physically active, enjoy the outdoors and have fun. All walks are free and are led by trained walk leaders.
Tel: 07825 989418
Web: www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format or language please contact us.
Walk location
Saltfleet is on the coast, 13km (8 miles) north east of Louth and 9.5km (6 miles) north of Mablethorpe.

Starting point
Project Information Hub at the Saltlfeet New Inn, Main Road, Saltfleet. 
Grid reference: TF 454 938, 
Post code: LN11 7RZ

Parking (see Starting point above)
New Inn reception area or there is a public car park on Sea Lane. 
Grid reference: TF 455 943, Post code: LN11 7RP

Ordnance Survey maps for the area:
Explorer 283 Louth & Mablethorpe. Landranger 113 Grimsby.

Walk length:
Walk one 4km (2.5 miles) which will take approximately 1 hour to complete at a leisurely pace. 
Walk two 5km (3 miles) which will take approximately 1 ½ hours to complete.

Type of walk
The walks use field paths and quiet lanes. The walks are level but may be uneven and muddy in places. You may encounter stiles and livestock on both walks.

Refreshments
New Inn, Crown Inn and village shop, all Main Road, Saltfleet.