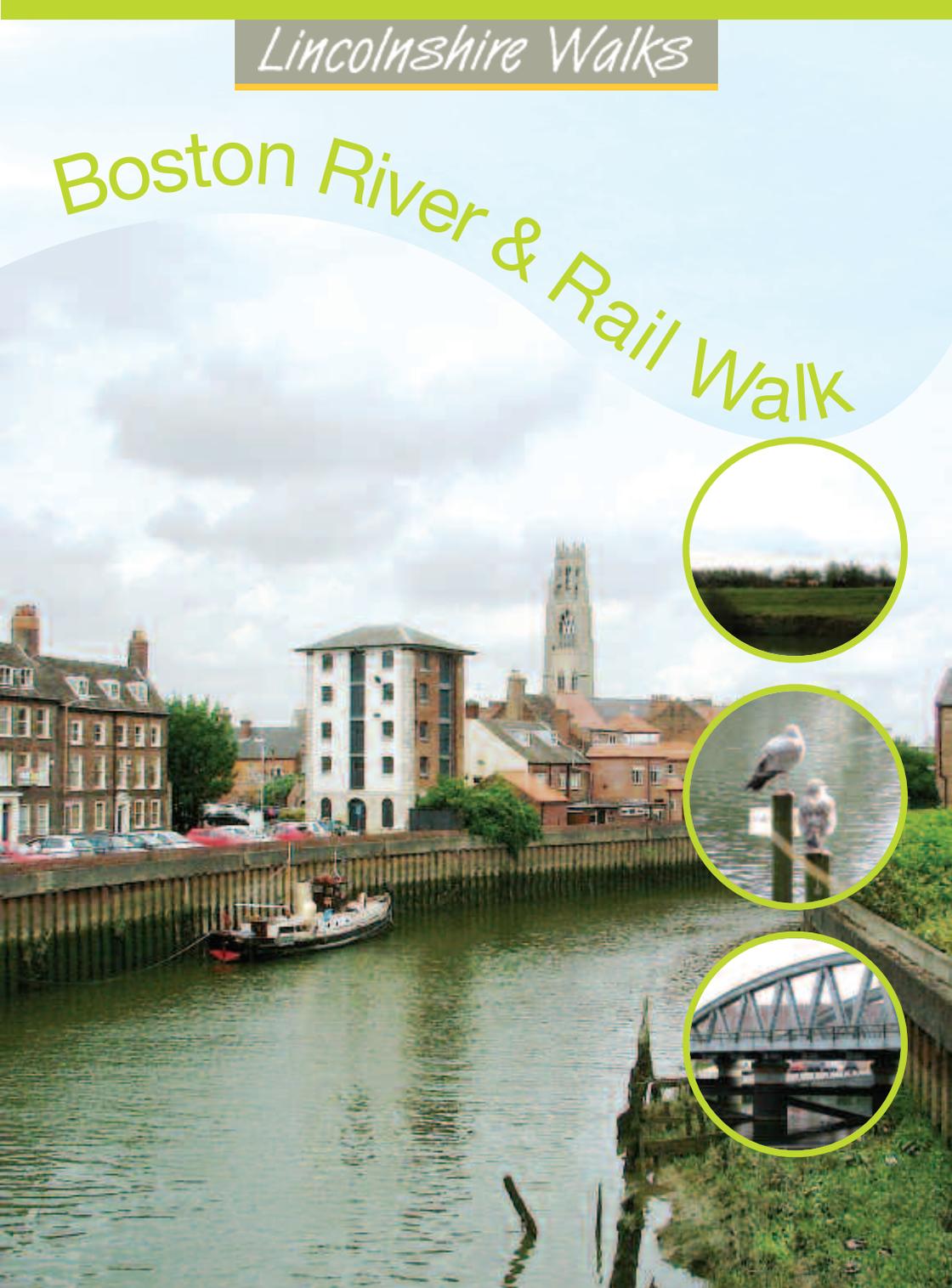


Boston River & Rail Walk



Introduction

On this walk you will experience both town and country taking in some of the historic streets of Boston, crossing fertile fenland fields and walking beside both a river and a man-made drain.

During medieval times Boston was a prosperous town with a thriving port dependent on the river. During the 18th and 19th centuries improvements were made to the river and the channel to the sea to ensure continued use of the port. At the same time the fens were being drained and large areas of fertile farmland were being created.

As well as controlling the level of water in the fens the drains are now also used for recreation, including fishing, walking, cycling and boating.

The railway arrived in Boston in 1848 and the early 20th century was Boston's largest employer. Today the railway links Boston with Grantham and Skegness and is a popular service, especially during the summer months when people travel from the Midlands to the Lincolnshire coast for their holiday.

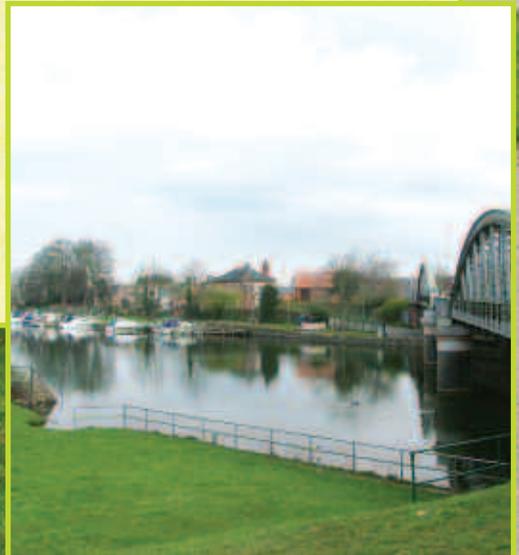
This is one in a series of walks in the Boston area.

The others are:

Boston: Town walk

Boston: Waterways walk

We hope you enjoy them.



The Walk

The walk

- 1 Leave The Haven and TIC and turn right.

There are a number of interesting buildings reflecting Boston's history between The Haven and the Market Place. Look out for the 18th century Fyde House, The Guildhall (now a museum), the Custom House, the timber framed Shodfriars Hall and of course The Stump, St Botolph's Church. For more information on these pick up a copy of the Boston Town walk.

Cross the Market Place and turn left along Church Lane (in front of the statue of Herbert Ingram).

- 2 Walk over the pedestrian bridge and turn immediately right. Follow the river bank, signed to the marina.
- 3 At the Grand Sluice bridge cross the road and the railway line, and continue alongside the river and past the marina.



- 4 After approximately 2 km or 1¼ miles (and at a fence line) leave the river bank down a slope to a road opposite one of Boston Woods Trust's recently planted woods, Beech Wood. It is well worth making a detour and exploring this woodland.

The Boston Woods Trust was formed in 2001 to provide the people of Boston with recreational opportunities such as walking and bird watching. So far 45 acres of trees have been planted in three woodlands: Beech Wood, Grange Wood and Westgate Wood.

- 5 For the **SHORTER** walk turn left and follow the road, past Grange Wood, into the housing area. After the first group of bungalows on the left turn left along the public footpath next to a hedge. At the road continue straight ahead along Carlton road. Walk past the play area and at the end of the open green space turn left along the path to the river bank.

Turn right and follow the river bank path back to the Grand Sluice bridge.



The Walk

Turn left over the bridge and follow the road to the traffic lights. Continue straight on along Witham Place. As the road bends, continue straight on along Wormgate.

Turn left in front of the Stump to return to the Market Place. Cross the Market Place and walk along South Street to return to the starting point.

For the **LONGER** walk, turn right along the road for approximately 300m before turning left along a public footpath beside a drain.

In this arable landscape lookout for hares. If disturbed, this shy animal will flee at high speed – up to 35 miles an hour! Alternatively they may crouch low to the ground in the hope of being camouflaged from their predators such as owls, foxes and buzzards.

- 6 At the road (Punchbowl Lane) turn left and follow it for approximately 1000m or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.
- 7 As the road bends to the left continue straight on over the pedestrian bridge crossing the North Forty Foot Drain. Follow this road to its junction with the A52.

- 8 Use the pedestrian crossing to cross this busy road and then turn right

- 9 At the roundabout turn left over the level crossing. Immediately after the crossing and before the drain turn left along the public footpath.

Follow this path beside the South Forty Foot Drain. After crossing a pedestrian bridge follow the path between the two fences to a junction with a road.

The South Forty Foot Drain was first dug in 1657 amid much opposition from local farmers who had grazing rights on the existing common land. Much of the work was destroyed by the graziers and it was not until 1756 that the drain was improved and reconstructed and the rights of common grazing were abolished and farmers rented or purchased land.



The Walk

This section of railway line is part of The Poacher Line that links Grantham, Sleaford, Boston, Wainfleet and Skegness.

- 10 Turn right and follow the path under the road bridge and beside the drain.
- 11 At the junction with a road turn left along London Road, which becomes the High Street. Walk past the Swing Bridge, and over the level crossing to a junction with the A16.

The Swing Bridge was built by Handysides, an iron foundry in Derby, in 1882 to connect the docks with the Great Northern Line across the Haven. The bridge was originally operated manually but was converted to electricity in 1981. The docks were opened in 1884.



This was once the main route into Boston from London and properties date from the 16th century and include Boston's first bank. Look out for the terrace of tall houses on the right (numbers 124-136) which are known as The Barracks and thought to date from the late 17th or early 18th centuries.

- 12 Cross the A16 at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and cross the High Street and then the river.
- 13 Turn left along South Street to return to the starting point.



Walk Information

Walk location: Boston is located 56 km (35 miles) south-east of Lincoln.

Starting point and parking:

Tourist Information Centre and The Haven,
South Square, South Street, Boston.
Grid reference: TF 328 438.
Phone: 01205 356656



Parking: Pay & display car parks in Boston.

Public Transport: Boston is served by buses and trains. For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk length: Longer walk: 9½ km (6 miles) and will take approximately 3 hours to complete at a leisurely pace.
Shorter walk: 5½ km (3½ miles) and will take approximately 1¾ hours to complete.



Type of walk: The walk uses drain and river banks, which may be uneven and muddy in places. The walk is level and there are no stiles.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 261 Boston.
Landranger 131 Boston & Spalding.

Refreshments: There is a good selection of shops and pubs in Boston.

Public toilets: Market Place and Bus Station.

This walk and leaflet have been produced by the Natural Environment Team with assistance from Divisional Highways Officers based in Boston.

Be a responsible walker

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 Natural Environment 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.

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact us.

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