

Directions – 40.2 km / 25 miles

1 From the car park cross the river and turn left to follow the “Water Rail Way” cycle path and follow this for 9 miles to Bardney.

2 At Bardney turn right and cross the river Witham then take the first left signposted to “Wasps Nest”.

1 At Wasps Nest look out for the vestiges of the Roman Car Dyke as well as an interesting heritage centre in a telephone box!

3 At Wasps Nest turn right, then after about a mile turn left into Nocton and take Wellhead lane (the first right in the village) unless you want to see Nocton church which was built by George Gilbert Scott.

4 Going straight across the B1188 at its junction with Wellhead lane, but **TAKE CARE** as this road is an accident red route, then follow the road across the heath.

5 Turn right at the next T junction towards Bracebridge Heath and go straight across at the next junction and continue until you reach the Lincoln Bypass.

6 On reaching the Lincoln Bypass look out for the cycle path on your right, cross the bridge and follow the cycle route alongside the bypass (signposted Washingborough) and across the next two roundabouts, keep to the path closest to the road and **TAKE CARE** at the second roundabout as the approach to it is downhill and fast.

7 Go under the railway bridge on the bypass then turn left and re-join the Water Rail Way cycle path, turning left for Lincoln and right if you have joined the route elsewhere.

Cycle Lincolnshire

Getting there

Parking is available near the start of the route on Spa Road by the Lincoln Rowing Club on the North (Cathedral) bank of the river, Postcode LN5 7FB. From the car park cross the river on the bridge and turn left to follow the “Water Rail Way” cycle path to Bardney.

Parking is also available at Washingborough on Ferry lane, at Bardney on Station Road and on the longer route at Southery at the end of Ferry Road.

The route is also easily accessible from Lincoln Railway Station. Take the pedestrian crossing opposite the station into Sincil Street and turn right when you reach the river, then cross the pedestrian footbridge over Broadgate and follow Waterside South to the start.

Refreshments

No matter which route you take, you'll find plenty of cafés tearooms and pubs to enjoy.



Cycle Lincolnshire



River Witham Cycle Trail

8 stages | 40.2 km / 25 miles

In partnership with



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What to expect

Starting point: Lincoln

Finish point: Lincoln

Distance: 40.2 km / 25 miles
or 59.5 km / 37 miles

Welcome to Washingborough. You are on the Water Rail Way, the path beside the River Witham that connects Lincoln to Boston.

There are markers beside the path so you can tell how far you've travelled.

The path was named in a local competition both for its former life as a railway line but also for the abundant bird life that can be seen in this green corridor. The shy moorhen-like Water Rail has been spotted from this path.

The rides follow a dedicated cycle ways and quiet country roads making for a relaxed easy to follow ride.

Fiskerton Fen Reserve



Directions – 59.5 km / 37 miles

- 1 From the car park cross the river and turn left to follow the “Water Rail Way” cycle path and follow this for 9 miles to Bardney.
- 2 At Bardney turn left and look out for the water railway summer route on your right **TAKE CARE** the first part of the route is on an unmade track.
- 3 Follow the route to Woodhall Spa, and unless you wish to visit the town cross the river and take the first left signposted Witham Bank, follow this for about a mile then turn right to “Timberland”, go through the village then straight across the junction towards “Scopwick”.
- 4 At Scopwick turn right on the B1188.
- 5 There is an interesting cemetery with war graves on the right, including the graves of a German Henkel Crew shot down nearby and John Magee a war Poet, you may wish to visit this, otherwise take the next left signposted Bracebridge Heath keeping straight on at all of the junctions across the heath until you reach the Lincoln bypass.
- 6 On reaching the Lincoln Bypass look out for the cycle path on your right, cross the bridge and follow the cycle route alongside the bypass (signposted Washingborough) and across the next two roundabouts, keep to the path closest to the road and **TAKE CARE** at the second roundabout as the approach to it is downhill and fast.
- 7 Go under the railway bridge on the bypass then turn left and re-join the Water Rail Way cycle path, turning left for Lincoln and right if you have joined the route elsewhere.



To visit the IBBC

If you wish to Visit the International Bomber Command Centre, (approx. 1 mile) keep left up onto the bridge after the first Roundabout and turn left onto Heighington Road and cross the main road on foot to find the pedestrian entrance to the centre. Retrace your steps to re-join the route.

Focal points & attractions

Look out for

RAF connections!

Lincolnshire, renowned as the ‘Home of the Royal Air Force’, has a vast aviation heritage. The county’s flat, open countryside and its location made it ideal for the development of airfields during World War I, and in World War II Lincolnshire became the most important home of Bomber Command.

Several airfields are still operational and serving the modern-day RAF while former airfield’s museums and memorials are witness to the bravery of the men and women who served here in most turbulent times.

Ride to the International Bomber Command Centre just off the route and take in the stunning views over the City of Lincoln to the Castle and beyond.

This award-winning venue serves as a point of recognition, remembrance and reconciliation for Bomber Command.

Washingborough

Washingborough marks the beginning of the Lincolnshire Fens. Ferry lane marks the northern starting point of the great Roman Car Dyke, an 85 mile long watercourse which runs along the western edge of the fens to The River Nene, near Peterborough.

Excavations nearby have unearthed history dating back to the Iron Age. In 1826 archaeologists discovered a

rare decorative bronze shield facing dating from the 4th century BC. The Witham Shield can now be seen on display at the British Museum.

Five Mile Bridge

Many residents of Fiskerton remember when catching a train that they first had to cross by the ferries which predated the bridge. Two ferries were operated by a winding handle that hauled them across the river on a chain. One carried carts and motor vehicles and the other foot passengers.

Many rare and beautiful treasures have been found in and near the river. Some can be seen at The Collection Museum in Lincoln. In the ancient village church of Fiskerton there are clues to its Norman origins even though it was largely rebuilt in the 15th century.

Nature Reserve

Fiskerton Fen Reserve is two miles by road from here. Cross the bridge, and when you reach the top of the lane turn right.

Be careful of traffic if you are walking or cycling along the main road. The reserve was created in 2004/5 when clay was extracted for flood defences leaving a large pit behind. It has been designed to attract wading birds particularly the rare bittern and it is run by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

River Witham Cycle Trail

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