



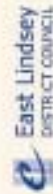
## THE LOUTH NAVIGATION

The canal was built in order to revitalise Louth's dwindling trading situation. Construction began in 1765 at Tetney Lock, with the canal reaching Louth in 1770 at a total cost of £28,000. The 12 mile route allowed seagoing vessels to navigate between Louth and other inland and coastal ports, including London. The main imports were coal and timber, whilst corn and wool were exported. Much of Georgian Louth was built using the profits made from canal trade. With the advent of the railways, the canal fell into decline towards the ends of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Louth flood in 1920 caused much damage to the Riverhead area and it eventually closed in 1924.

The Louth Navigation Trust was established in 1986. It aims to enhance the Louth Navigation canal corridor for the benefit of present and future generations by undertaking sustainable heritage, environmental and economic regeneration and restoration works, together with the promotion and implementation of community involved educational and recreational projects. The Trust, working with Groundwork Lincolnshire, was instrumental in restoring the Navigation Warehouse in 1999, where it has its main base and office.



For more information contact: Louth Navigation Trust,  
Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0DA.  
Website: [www.louthcanal.org.uk](http://www.louthcanal.org.uk) Email: [info@louthcanal.org.uk](mailto:info@louthcanal.org.uk)



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# Two Sea Forts and a Canal



A choice of circular walks from Tetney Lock:  
4 miles (6.3 km) or 7 miles (11 km) from Louth Navigation to the Fitties.  
or 5.5 miles (8.5km) around Tetney Blow Wells

## INTRODUCTION

Louth Navigation meets the sea at Tetney Lock. This selection of walks will show you variety of natural water features from lagoons to Blow wells. The experience is exhilarating yet tranquil, no wonder so many birds choose to live here.



Hulle Sands Fort - a relic from WW1 which was part of the Humber Estuary submarine defences.



Little Tern

## COUNTRYSIDE CODE

**Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs  
Leave gates and property as you find them**

**Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home  
Keep dogs under close control and consider other people**

## ROUTE INFORMATION

**Distance:** 4 miles, (6.3 km) or 5.5 miles, (8.5 km) or 7 miles, (11 km)

**Time:** Approx. 2, 3 or 4 hours

**Maps:** OS Landranger 113 and OS Explorer 283

**Parking:** Crown & Anchor, Tetney Lock. By kind permission of the landlord

**Terrain:** Level but can be muddy at times

**Refreshments:** Crown and Anchor, Tetney Lock - 01482 388291  
Plough Inn, Market Place, Tetney - 01472 812319  
Humberston Fitties in Summer Season

**Toilets:** No public toilets

**Stiles & Gates:** Some steps and stiles

### Tourist Information Centre

New Market Hall, off Commarket, Louth - Tel: 01507 609289  
Email: [louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

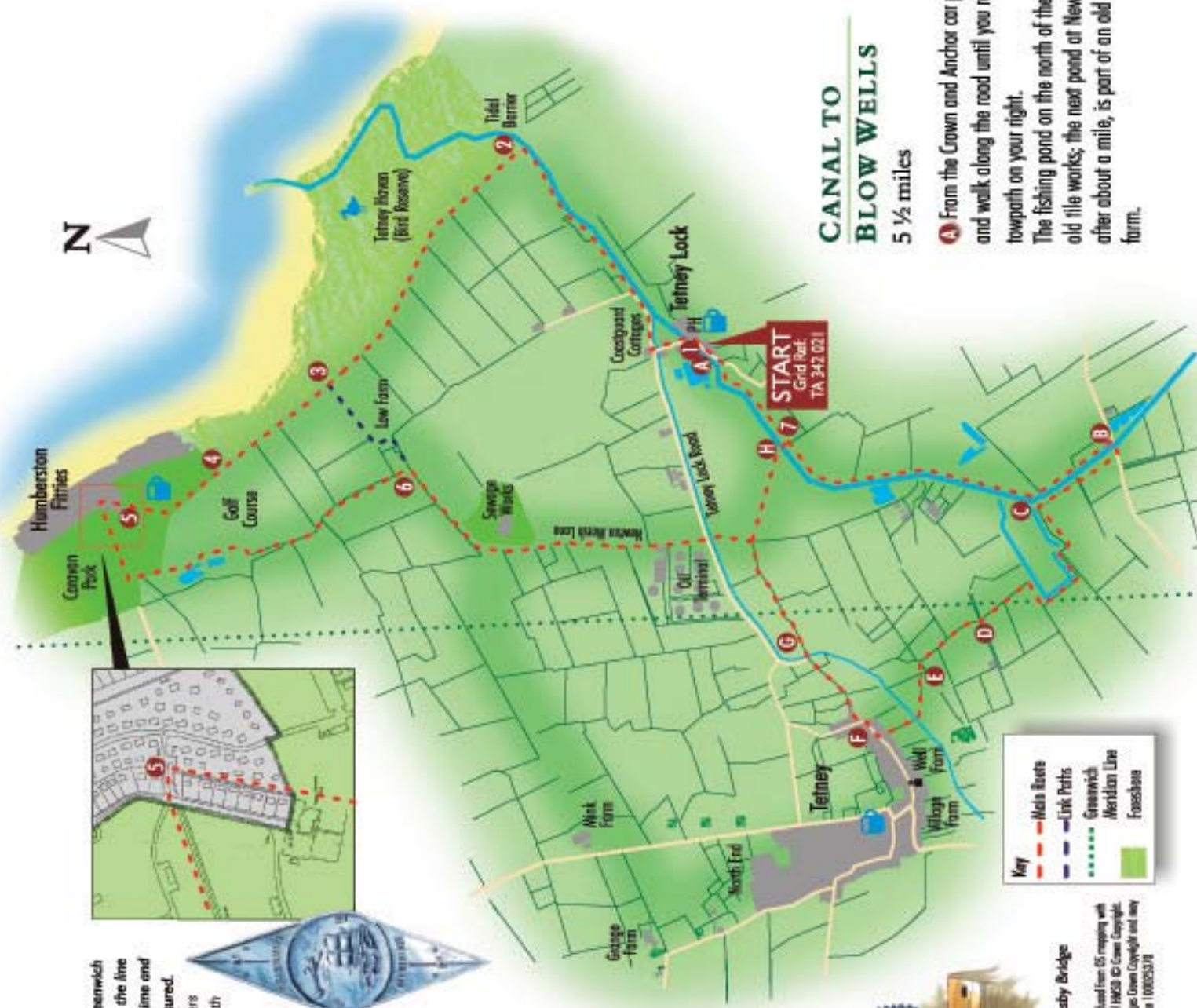
Website: [www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)

### Local Public Transport Information

For bus services contact Traveline on:  
0870 608 2 608 or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)



Since 1884 the Greenwich Meridian has been the line from which world time and longitude are measured. Plaques and markers can be seen in Louth and Cleethorpes indicating the route of the Meridian line.



## CANAL TO BLOW WELLS

5 ½ miles

**A** From the Crown and Anchor car park turn left and walk along the road until you reach the canal towpath on your right. The fishing pond on the north of the canal was an old tile works; the next pond at New Delights, after about a mile, is part of an old watercress farm.

- B** Follow the towpath to Thoresby Bridge and the old warehouse. Cross the canal and go back along the opposite bank, over the original sluice gate and past the pumping station on the old Fleet drain.
- C** Turn left onto the embankment around the flood relief area built in 1970. Follow the embankment around then turn left over a stile and bridge on your left.
- D** Follow the path along the fields to the track. Turn right then left across the track and proceed to the corner of the wooded area around Tetney Blow Wells.
- E** Skirt the Blow Wells and head towards Tetney Church until you cross the large Tetney Drain. Go straight on down the hedge side to the road. If you wish to visit the church, shop or Plough Inn turn left into Tetney.
- F** To continue the walk, turn right on Church Lane then straight on down Mill Race to a stile on your left. Bear right across the field to a path between the sewage works and the scrap yard.
- G** Cross Tetney Drain again and follow the track, straight ahead for ½ mile, then take the right fork to the canal.
- H** Cross over the Bailey Bridge and turn left along the tow path back to Tetney Lock.

Sluice gate at Thoresby Bridge

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## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Haile Sand Fort** (nearest) and the bigger Bull Sand Fort (which had a garrison of 200 men) were built during World War 1 and had an anti submarine steel mesh net stretched between them to guard the Humber.

### Tetney Haven Bird Reserve.

An important feeding area in the mouth of the estuary for migrating waders and wildfowl, a habitat for breeding Little Terns, Plover and Red Shank and a roost for Gulls.



Golden plover

**Tetney Blow Wells.** These reservoirs of artesian well water were formed by water under pressure escaping from chalk through weaknesses in the overlying boulder clay. They are about 16 ft deep.



### Humberston Fitties and Lagoon

A remarkable collection of ramshackle summer homes built before the Second World War. The saline lagoon is only two hectares, but is nationally important for specialist invertebrates, which include the lagoon shrimp. The word 'fitties' is in fact a Lincolnshire word for a salt marsh.

## THE ROUTE

The route is marked with a boat logo.

### CANAL TO FITTIES

4 or 7 miles

1 From the Crown and Anchor car park at Tetney Lock, cross over the canal and walk down the road to the bend. Turn right, past the Old Coastguard Cottages and Methodist Chapel and follow the towpath beside the canal to just before the tidal barrier.

2 Turn north (left) by the concrete "Bunker" and follow the sea bank for 1 1/2 miles. Look out for Grimsby dock tower straight ahead. In the Estuary you will see the two Sand Forts. Across the Estuary is Spurn Head lighthouse.



3 For a short cut, after a mile, a footbridge down the bank on your left will take you back to Tetney Lock. Turn left again past the remains of Low Farm, along Newton Marsh Lane and right and left back to the Crown and Anchor.

4 For the longer walk, carry on along the sea bank past the ponds until you are level with Humber Mouth Yacht club, over to your right.

### Salterns

Medieval salt making sites are identified by an artificial mound built from waste soil and are easily recognized since they lie in an otherwise flat landscape of marsh. Examples can be seen north of Tetney Lock on an early sea bank or the Medieval shoreline.

Go straight ahead over the footbridge and the footpath is clearly sign-posted on your left.

At the junction of the dyke follow the footpath round to the right, cross over Broadland Drive, and continue straight ahead into the Fitties Conservation Area where you rejoin the dyke.

\*Amenities are available in season - turn right on Broadland Dyke

5 Follow the dyke round to the left cross over the yellow bridge and walk along the left hand side of the lake following the line of trees. Cross over the road and walk along the right hand side of the dyke.

Go through the turnstile to your left and follow the track keeping the golf course on your left.

6 At the next sign post on Newton Marsh Lane by the remains of Low Farm, turn right and follow the track round to the left of the Tank Farm. At the road go straight over Tetney drain (Waitha Beck), left at the track, across the ex military Bailey Bridge over the Louth Navigation and left along the towpath back to Tetney Lock.