

THE LOUTH NAVIGATION

The canal was built in order to revitalise Louth's dwindling trading situation. Construction began in 1765 at Letney 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 end of the 19th 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 Email: secretary@louthcanal.org.uk



LINCOLNSHIRE

NAVIGATION WALKS



Reservoir Rover



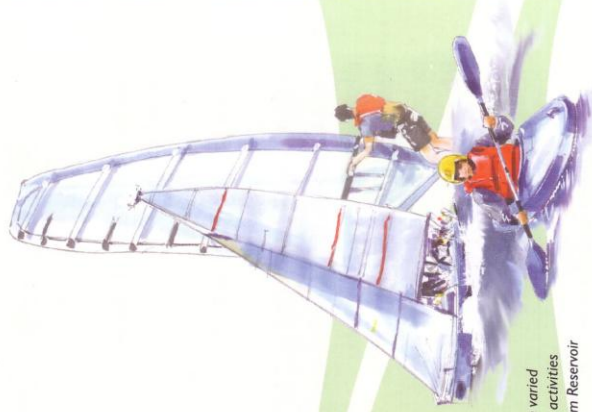
A circular walk with a choice of routes:
6 miles (9.5 km) or 7 miles (11 km) including the unspoilt Lincolnshire village of Fulstow, Covenham Reservoir and Louth Navigation Canal

INTRODUCTION

Experience the beauty of big skies, grace of the sail and tranquility of the water. Enjoy unspoilt Lincolnshire rural villages with their red brick farm houses and quiet lanes. Fill your lungs with fresh air and reap the benefits of this nostalgic walk in the countryside.



A cormorant drying its plumage after a dive is a common sight on Covenham Reservoir



Some of the varied water sport activities on Covenham Reservoir

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: 6 miles, (9.5km) or 7 miles, (11km)

Time: Approx. 3 or 4 hours

Maps: OS Landranger 113 and OS Explorer 283

Parking: Cross Keys Inn, Main Rd, Fulstow.
By kind permission of the landlord

Terrain: Level but can be muddy at times

Refreshments: Cross Keys Inn, Fulstow - Tel: 01507 363630

Toilets: No public toilets

Stiles: Some steps and stiles

Tourist Information Centre

Town Hall, Cannon Street, Louth LN11 9NW - Tel: 01507 601111
Email: louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Website: www.visitlincolnshire.com

Local Public Transport Information

For bus services contact Traveline on:
0871 200 2233 or www.traveline.org.uk



POINTS OF INTEREST

Covenham Reservoir

The reservoir, the largest stretch of inland water in Lincolnshire, with its various water sport activities (see www.covenhamsc.co.uk) is a mecca for bird watchers, particularly in the winter when many species of migratory waterfowl are to be seen there. The 'concrete bowl' construction, built in 1970, operates a 'simple flow' water management system: pumping water from Louth Navigation into the reservoir and out to the Humber bank



The Millhouse, Covenham

The present building is believed to date back to the 1500s although a post mill is known to have been built around 1430, a little to the east. The mill, one of many erected at the time, was used to grind corn

for the Benedictine Priory, 150 yards to the south. It was William the Conqueror who, at the instigation of the Bishop of Durham, founded this priory as a cell to the Abbey of Karalephut in Normandy. Like other religious houses in Britain, it was closed in 1536 as a consequence of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries and the mill became redundant

Fulstow Village

This charming rural village is situated on the Meridian line, has an abundance of fresh water springs and although the Post Office closed in 2008 the Pub now incorporates the village shop.

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 in Grainthorpe and Marshchapel on an early sea bank or the Medieval shoreline.

THE ROUTE

The route is marked with a boat logo.



- 1 Cross Keys Inn, Main Road, Fulstow. Grid ref: (TF328 971) From the Pub car park turn left, follow the road past the Village Hall, round a double bend and turn right at Covins Lane.



Follow the lane past the farm buildings then continue straight ahead along the footpath. The remains of Fulstow Mill are visible on your right. Follow the footpath diagonally across the field until you reach the lane.

ROUTE A

- 2 At Firebeacon Lane turn left along the verge until you see the steps up to Covenham Reservoir bank on your right. At the top of the steps walk round 3/8ths of the Reservoir in an anti clockwise direction, past the club house.

Once on the southern edge of the Reservoir you will see the steps down and the footpath sign-posted. Turn left onto the Bridleway to Grainthorpe.

Wild life

The value of farm buildings to wild life is often forgotten. A watchful eye on the sky could reveal some interesting sights: such as Bats, Barn Owls, Swifts, Swallows and House Martins.



Barn owl

ROUTE B

- 3 At Firebeacon Lane turn right along the verge until you see the footpath sign-posted on your left. Cross the footbridge and follow the path across the field until you come to the dyke, turn right along the dykeside and onto the lane then left, as sign posted, through a private garden. Follow the footpath across the next field, behind the thatched Millhouse Restaurant until you reach the stile at the roadside in Covenham St Bartholomew, turn left then left again onto the Bridleway to Grainthorpe.

ROUTE A & B

Follow the bridleway until you reach The Grange then follow the signs round to the right of The Grange and along the grassy path.

Fulstow



Bridleways

Many of the marsh bridleways were the Old Salt Routes which were used to carry salt from the Salterns on the East Coast to Lincoln and Louth. Now forming an important part of the Countryside Access Improvement Scheme, please be aware that the bridleways on this walk are still well used by horse riders and occasionally cyclists.



Butterbur

Butterbur

Margaret Baker reports that young unmarried women would sow butterbur seeds on a Friday morning:

"I sow, I sow

Then come, my own dear,

Come here, come here,

And mow and mow"

And she would see her future

husband scythe in hand.

Butterbur is now widely used as an alternative medicine: a remedy for migraine and allergies.

Follow the signs diagonally across the field to Biergate Footbridge which crosses the Louth Navigation. From here you can also see Biergate Pumping Station and Coniscliffe Windfarm.

4 Cross the bridge and turn left. Walk along the towpath to Firebeacon Bridge where there is an old canal-side warehouse and a boat builder "Sportique". Just before the bridge water from the canal is pumped into Coventham Reservoir. Follow the roadway which runs parallel to the canal for almost 1/2 mile, then continue along the towpath.

5 Cross over Fulstow Footbridge to the left and follow the lane back into Fulstow. Choose either the first left or second left and right, past the pond.



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