

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 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



To the Sea with L.N.T



A 10 mile (16 km) walk along the **Louth Navigation** following the old towpath which may be started at Riverhead, Louth or Tetney Lock.

INTRODUCTION

Take pleasure in your heritage with a hike on the old towpath alongside the Louth Navigation - excavated by hand in the 1760's - and get the feel of a bygone age. The waterway passes through, or forms the boundary of, ten parishes, with a varied mix of historical and current interest. Moorhens, mallard and mute swans now cruise where barges sailed. Enjoy the varied flora and fauna of one of East Lincolnshire's forgotten gems.



A loaded Humber Sloop



Thoresby Bridge

COUNTRYSIDE CODE

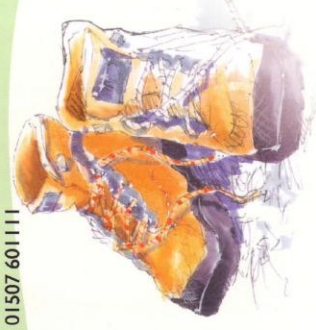
Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
 Leave gates and property as you find them
 Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
 Keep dogs under close control and consider other people

ROUTE INFORMATION

Distance:	10 mile, 16km
Time:	Approx. 5 hours at a leisurely pace
Maps:	OS Landranger 113 and OS Explorer 283
Parking:	At Riverhead, Louth and Crown & Anchor, Tetney Lock.
Terrain:	Level but can be muddy at times
Refreshments:	Woolpack Public House, Riverhead, Louth - 01507 606568 Crown & Anchor, Tetney Lock - 01472 388291
Toilets:	No public toilets along route
Stiles:	Approx. 15 of various construction and types

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

- 11 Fish retreat** - Excavated alongside the canal and linked to it by a small channel, it is used by fish as a place to 'rest up', particularly in winter at times when the canal is in spate.



Perch



A dart of colour may be all you see of the kingfisher as it patrols its territory along the waterway hunting for small fish

- 9 Austen Fen Bridge** - see the partly restored example of an 18th Century warehouse built to accommodate canal borne goods.



Alvingham Churches



Willows Lock

- 4 Willows Lock**, a good example of one of six unique 'barrel sided' locks along the canal, built like this for additional strength. Of a total of eight locks, only Outfen and Tetney Locks were 'straight' sided.

- 12 At Tetney Lock** (Nat. Grid Ref. TA 343 022) the 'new' road bridge straddles the canal where the old sea lock and wooden road bridge stood. The Crown and Anchor dates from the late 18th Century. Proceed from the Crown & Anchor 200 metres west along the roadside to a stile on the right hand side. Follow the track of the old towpath on the south side of the canal for 10 miles (16 Kms) to the Tilting Weir at Louth where you should cross over the footbridge to the north bank and thereafter arrive at the Navigation Warehouse.

- 10 Firebeacon Bridge** - where there is an 18th Century canal side warehouse. To the west of the bridge the old Ship public house has now been replaced by a bungalow. Upstream of the bridge, water from the canal is pumped into Covenham Reservoir, with its various water sport activities (see www.covenhamsc.co.uk). The reservoir is a magnet for bird watchers, particularly in the winter when many species of migratory waterfowl are to be seen there

- 8 Outfen Lock** is the only remaining example of a straight sided lock on the Louth Navigation

- 7 At High bridge** the canal was originally spanned by a wooden swing bridge. Apart from the brick foundations, only a small section of old iron railing remains of this structure. It has now been replaced by a fixed road bridge.

- 6 Alvingham Lock** still has the remains of a goods wharf. Close to the lock the present Lock Farm house was the old Ship Inn. 300 metres downstream from the lock there is a footbridge across the canal, giving access to the N.Cockerington church of **St Mary's** and the Alvingham church of **St Adelwold's**, both dating from the 12th Century and occupying a common churchyard. Beyond the churchyard and adjacent farmyard is **Alvingham Mill** circa. 17th Century.

- 5 Salter Fen Lock** is in a very poor state with only the top sill remaining. The Keddington Sewage Farm discharges clear effluent into the canal just beyond the lock.



- 3** **Ticklepenny Lock**, named after the family of smallholders and lock keepers who lived close by. Some of the Ticklepenny family are buried in St Margaret's churchyard, Keddington,. The lock was originally spanned by a wooden swing bridge, now replaced by a permanent structure.



Fishing along the Navigation canal at Tetney.



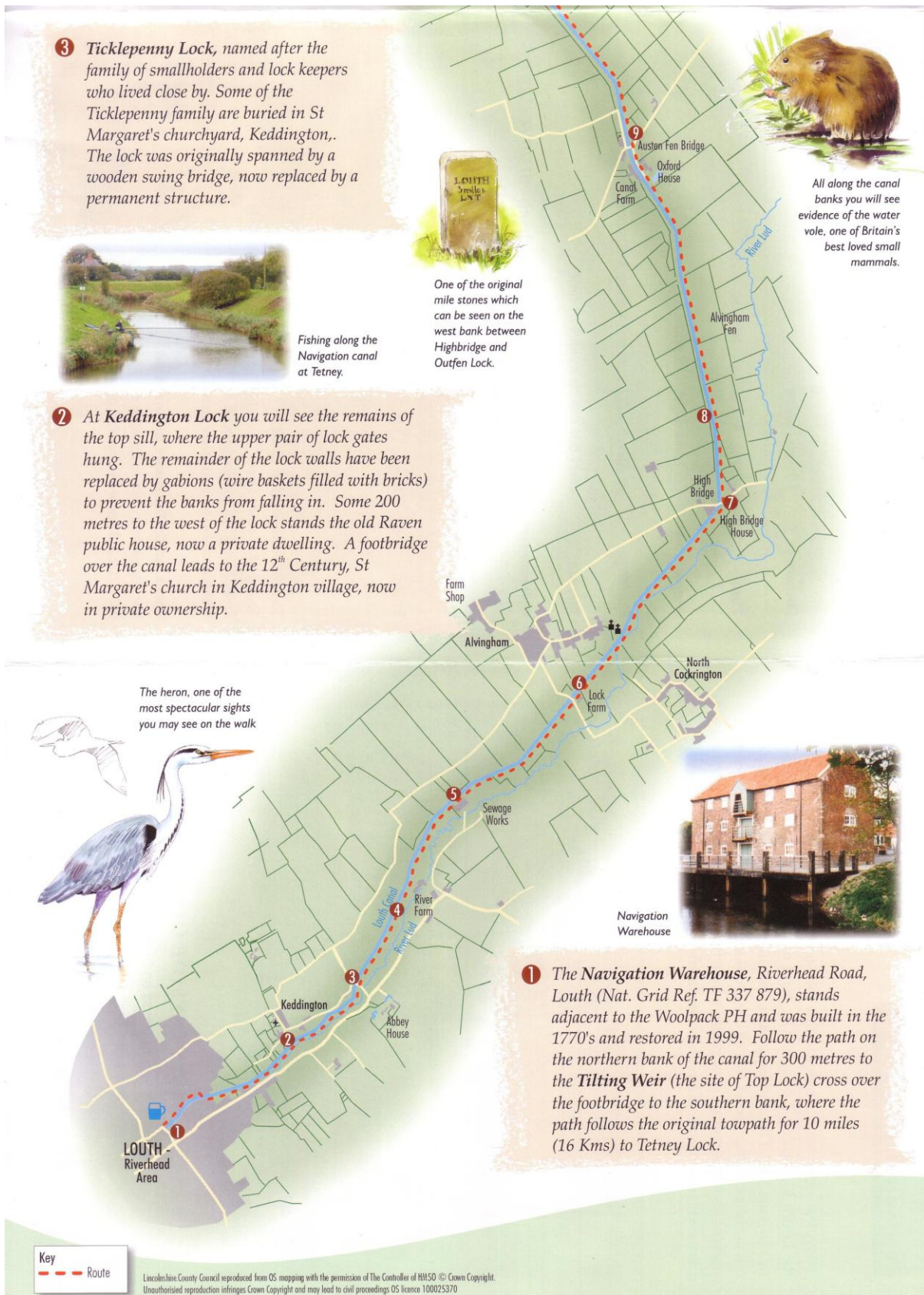
One of the original mile stones which can be seen on the west bank between Highbridge and Outfen Lock.



All along the canal banks you will see evidence of the water vole, one of Britain's best loved small mammals.

- 2** At **Keddington Lock** you will see the remains of the top sill, where the upper pair of lock gates hung. The remainder of the lock walls have been replaced by gabions (wire baskets filled with bricks) to prevent the banks from falling in. Some 200 metres to the west of the lock stands the old Raven public house, now a private dwelling. A footbridge over the canal leads to the 12th Century, St Margaret's church in Keddington village, now in private ownership.

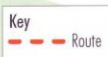
The heron, one of the most spectacular sights you may see on the walk



- 1** The **Navigation Warehouse**, Riverhead Road, Louth (Nat. Grid Ref. TF 337 879), stands adjacent to the Woolpack PH and was built in the 1770's and restored in 1999. Follow the path on the northern bank of the canal for 300 metres to the **Tilting Weir** (the site of Top Lock) cross over the footbridge to the southern bank, where the path follows the original towpath for 10 miles (16 Kms) to Tetney Lock.



Navigation Warehouse



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