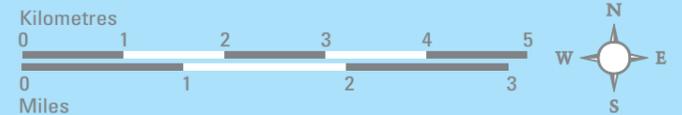




- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Roads with heavy traffic - best avoided                           | Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes area              | Public toilets  |
| Off-road cycle route away from highway corridor with access point | Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes information point | Camping   |
| Routes found useful by local cyclists - mainly on quiet roads     | Wind Farm  | Public house<br><small>Rural pubs may only be open at weekends and evenings</small> |
| Track - may be unsurfaced and muddy after rain                    | One way  | Café  |
| Other roads   | Take great care  | Shop  |
| Fast or busy section of route - take extra care                   | Cycle shops  | Ice cream parlour   |
| Footway beside busy road - cyclists must walk on the link footway | Cycle parking stands                                   | Children's play area  |
|   | Tourist attraction                                     | Toby's Hill Nature Reserve  |
|   | Tourist information                                    | Youth Hostel  |



**The Purple Route – 8.5 miles** – starts in Louth and visits the villages of Alvingham and North Cockerington and passes Rushmoor Country Park on the way back to Louth.

**The Blue Route – 13.5 miles** – starts from the New Inn Visitor Hub at Saltfleet and passes the churches of Skidbrooke St Botolph and Saltfleetby St Peter. It takes the rider to the Gayton Engine Pumping Station and passes Saltfleetby All Saints church on the way back to the New Inn.

**The Green Route – 26.5 Miles** – is a longer ride starting at Mablethorpe and passes Theddlethorpe All Saints church and the Gayton Engine Pumping Station. It includes some delightfully quiet lanes and the opportunity for a rest at Claythorpe Watermill and Wildfowl Gardens on the way back to Mablethorpe.

# Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Cycling Map

Published by Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project 2014



The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Partnership was set up in 2003 to regenerate the grazing marshes and to conserve them for future generations through a programme of activities focusing on habitats, heritage, farming and community.

The marshes are a nationally threatened habitat supporting a diverse variety of wildlife. They are a distinctive wetland landscape and are steeped in a rich cultural history. The land is scattered

with historic landscape features and archaeological remains and this map will enable cyclists to explore the area and experience some delightful places.

Front cover image © James Makinson-Sanders



## Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes

The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes stretch from Grimsby to Gibraltar Point and lie between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the coast. Their history and culture is closely associated with traditional farming methods using livestock to graze fertile, moisture retaining pastures where hay meadows were cut for forage.

The land was kept dry enough for livestock to graze, with wet 'fences' providing ideal habitats for water voles, otters, dragonflies and damselflies. A high water table created perfect conditions for flocks of waders and birds such as lapwing and snipe. Although this habitat is at risk of being lost forever, the area highlighted on this map still, fortunately, contains pockets of the original grazing marsh so, when cycling around this area, you can experience the solitude, peace, beauty and wonderment of this vanishing landscape.



© James Makinson-Sanders

### Farming

The traditional wet meadows and pastures started to disappear as a result of the push for food production after the war. This process began in the 1950's and accelerated through the 60's and 70's. The construction of flood relief channels after the 1953 east coast floods also led to extensive drainage of large areas of marshland, and creating river embankments led to the disappearance of the winter flood meadows around the smaller streams. The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project aims to promote a thriving mix of arable and pastoral farming, whilst maintaining and restoring the unique coastal landscape of the grazing marshes, its wildlife-rich grasslands, watercourses, archaeological sites and historic buildings.

### Salt making

Salt-making was an important part of the area's economy until the post-medieval period when it went into decline. Salterns were places where salt was extracted from brine and, in this area, salterns used seawater. Water was evaporated, usually over a series of ponds, allowing pure salts to be produced. An alternative approach involved

washing salt-impregnated sand and this process, known as 'muldefang' in Lincolnshire, took salt-caked sand from the spring tide line and placed it in a trench or 'kinch' along with seawater. The resulting solution was then tapped and stored, whilst the de-salted sands were thrown away and the kinch refilled. Waste mounds are indicative of these later coastal salterns.

### Drainage

As a low-lying area, management of water is essential, and so drainage and land reclamation have been a dominant factor in the development of this landscape. The best way of understanding how this has been managed over time is to visit the Gayton Engine Pumping Station. Completed in 1850, it was built to pump water from Gayton Fen and Marsh into the Great Eau. This pumping station is no longer needed as part of the local drainage system and so the delightful building and pumps have been preserved by the Gayton Engine Preservation Society as a museum that highlights the history of drainage in the area. It is open periodically throughout the summer and its information boards and picnic site are available to visitors all the year round.



© Joe Blissett

### Louth

Louth was the market town for the Saltfleetby Marshes area. It still has a thriving market square and the town has worked hard to retain its attractive individuality.



Kindly supplied by Louth Town Council

William Brown painted two panoramic pictures of the view from the Tower of St James church in 1844. A reproduction at the Louth Museum gives an idea of the scenery looking from Louth, across the marshes to the sea. The original is hung at the Sessions House in Louth.

Louth was linked to the sea for ocean going vessels in 1770 with the completion of the Louth Canal. Of its eight locks, six were built in an unusual way with the sides of the lock chambers consisting of 4 elliptical bays, to make them stronger. The remains of the lock at Alvingham shows this design.

### Churches

Lincolnshire was one of the great wool producing areas of the country and it was the wealth from wool that paid for many of the churches in the area. The



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© Joe Blissett

stunning spire of St James church in Louth was completed in 1515 at a cost of £305-7s-4d (£305.37p). At 90m, it is the tallest medieval parish church in the country.

Cycling is probably the best way to appreciate the churches of the marshes as a cyclist has the opportunity to take in the presence of each building before being entranced by a visit to each site.

### Nature Reserves

The largest nature reserve in the area is the Saltfleetby -Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve which covers 952ha and stretches for 5 miles along the coast. The reserve's habitats are constantly changing and include saltmarsh, foreshore and embryonic dunes on the seaward side and the more stable established dunes and marsh on the landward side. You can enjoy the site all year round: visit especially in May-June for dune flora, May-October for migrant birds, and in the winter months for wildfowl.

All the nature reserves on the map are for cycling to, rather than cycling around and cyclists are asked to leave their cycles at the car parks/entrances and enjoy the reserves on foot.

### For further information about this leaflet, please contact:

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tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk  
Tel: 01507 601111

For further information about the area go to [www.visiteastlincolnshire.com](http://www.visiteastlincolnshire.com) or visit one of our Tourist Information Centres :

**Louth**  
Cannon Street, Louth LN11 9NW  
Tel: 01507 601111  
Email: louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk

**Mablethorpe**  
High Street, Mablethorpe LN12 1AF  
Tel: 01507 613273  
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