

The letters used here correspond to those shown on the map and in the directions.

★ Market Deeping

Located on the banks of the river Welland this market town has many fine stone Georgian houses. It is just one of the towns and villages that form The Deepings, an area that has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Gravel workings and ploughing often reveal finds from the past including bog oak and birch.

founded an Abbey on the site, the remains of which can be seen today. Close to the centre of the town stands a triangular bridge. Now spanning dry ground three streams once flowed beneath it. It was built in the 14th century and a figure, possibly of Christ, sits on the bridge. It is thought that the figure may have originally come from the Abbey.

★ Deeping Lakes

Please do not cycle around the reserve but enjoy it on foot.

This 176 acre reserve, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is made up of a number of flooded gravel pits. The main lake site was quarried in the late 19th century while the smaller lakes are the result of quarrying during the 1990s. There is a waymarked circular walking route around the reserve including a bird hide from where a variety of wildfowl can be viewed.

The reserve is a good example of how former quarries can be used to benefit both wildlife and people.

★ Spalding

The largest market town in the area there are grand Georgian terraces and buildings which reflect the town's historic importance as a major trading port.

The surrounding fenland soil is very fertile and ideal for growing vegetables and flowers and there are more daffodils grown in this area than anywhere else in the country.

★ Baston Fen

Please explore the reserve on foot, and follow the waymarked route.

The reserve is owned and managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and is a SSSI. It covers the area between the river Glen and the Counter Drain.

There is an area of pasture which is flooded in the winter months and attracts large numbers of wildfowl. In all over 160 species of birds have been recorded and over 300 species of plants.

The Counter Drain and the washes were constructed in the 17th century and used to draw water from the river when levels rose. This prevented the banks from bursting and farmland and houses from flooding.

Traditionally ice-skating took place on the fen when it froze in the winter, but due to warmer winters it rarely occurs now.

★ Crowland

Crowland was once an island surrounded by water before the land was drained in the 18th century. In 699, Guthlac, a Mercian nobleman came to seek God and live as a hermit on the island. After his death King Ethelbald



Crowland Abbey

- Always follow the highway code.
- Always follow the countryside code.
- Be courteous to other users and vehicles.
- Use a bell to let people know you are there.
- Be seen – where high visibility clothing and use lights in poor visibility.
- Wear a helmet.
- Keep your bike roadworthy.
- Please do not cycle around the nature reserves – take time to enjoy them on foot.

This is just one in a series of cycle routes produced by Lincolnshire County Council. For others please contact us or visit the website.

We would welcome your comments and suggestions on this route and leaflet to help us improve future editions.

If you require this leaflet in another format or language please contact us.

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Deeping Lakes