

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape. Most of it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973. Covering an area of 558 square kilometres or 216 square miles, the rolling chalk hills of the AONB have been inhabited since prehistoric times, whilst the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service helps to protect and enhance the landscape through partnership projects with local landowners, farmers, parish councils, businesses and residents of the Wolds.



# Lincolnshire Wolds CYCLEROUTE 3

## Legbourne to Belleau *and back*

A strenuous ride on the south eastern edge of the Wolds, bordering attractive woodland near Burwell

CYCLEROUTES



Cycling is a great way to keep fit and appreciate the countryside. These easy to read leaflets provide useful information on mileage, approximate timing and gradient.

A simple map and points of interests are included – for those times when you need to catch your breath, admire the countryside or explore the area.

### Good Cycling Code

- Always follow the Highway Code
- Be safe and be seen - wear a helmet and use lights
- Be courteous to other path and road users
- Take plenty of water and have a drink regularly



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Overall Distance: 16.2 miles  
Terrain: Mainly country roads, short section main road  
Highest Point: 62 metres above sea level  
Lowest Point: 10 metres above sea level  
Journey Time @ 8 mph: 2 hours plus breaks

### Places of interest/refreshments nearby:-

**Legbourne Post Office and Shop**

Open 7 days Tel: 01507 354947

**The Royal Oak 'The Splash'** Watery Lane, Little Cawthorpe

Tel: 01507 600750

www.royaloaksplash.co.uk

### Tourist information

Tel: 01507 601111

www.visiteastlincolnshire.com

tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk Visit East Lincolnshire @visiteastlincs



Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0DA  
Tel: 01507 609740 www.lincswolds.org.uk aonb@lincswolds.org.uk

If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format please contact us.



## Stage 1: Legbourne to Authorpe Grange (4.8 miles and approx. 35 minutes)

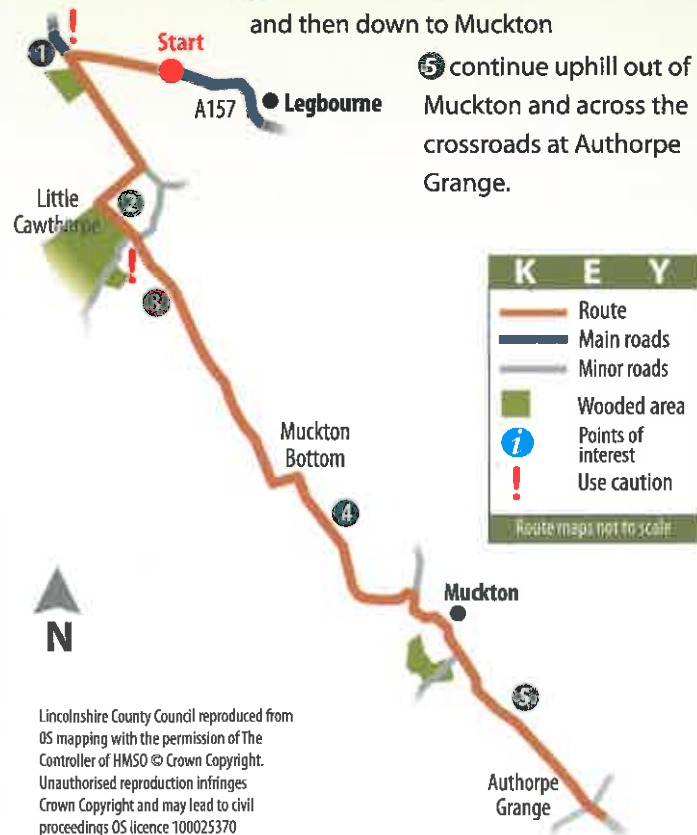


Legbourne Little Cawthorpe Muckton Bottom Authorpe Grange

Start from the car park and picnic site on Louth Road, Legbourne (TF 360 847) and turn left onto the A157, towards Louth

- ① turn left at the first bend **!** and continue toward Little Cawthorpe
- ② follow the road around a right hand bend and cycle up the hill
- ③ keep on this road, ignore junctions **!**, and cycle uphill out of the village
- ④ climb to the top of Muckton Bottom and then down to Muckton

⑤ continue uphill out of Muckton and across the crossroads at Authorpe Grange.



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## Stage 2: Authorpe Grange loop via Belleau (4.1 miles and approx. 30 minutes)

Authorpe Grange Meagram Top Belleau Authorpe Grange

- ① Continue round the bends uphill to Meagram Top to enjoy the views to the coast
- ② take the left turn to Belleau and proceed downhill into this pretty village
- ③ stop at St John the Baptist church **i** and you'll see the Tudor dovecote opposite
- ④ continue downhill **!** out of Belleau on the lowest part of the route
- ⑤ turn left at the next junction, signposted Authorpe
- ⑥ continue straight on **!** as you join the road that climbs towards Authorpe Grange.





### Stage 3: Authorpe Grange to Muckton Bottom (via Burwell) (4 miles and approx. 30 minutes)

### Stage 4: Muckton Bottom to Legbourne (3.3 miles and approx. 25 minutes)



Authorpe  
Grange

Catch Acre

Burwell fork

Muckton Bottom

Muckton Bottom

Little Cawthorpe

Watery Lane

Legbourne

- 1 At Authorpe Grange, give way then continue across the crossroad !
- 2 continue to climb towards woodland at Catch Acre
- 3 follow the road downhill passing a walled enclosure on the right i
- 4 take the right turn at Burwell fork and continue towards Muckton
- 5 continue on then take the left turn to Muckton at the next junction
- 6 continue through Muckton and then make the steep climb out of Muckton Bottom.

- 1 Continue on, looking out for Fir Hill Nature Reserve on the left i
- 2 take the next right turn into Little Cawthorpe !, cycling past the church and pond i
- 3 dismount to take the small bridge near 'The Splash', turn right and walk cycles on footpath to Legbourne, following the Long Eau
- 4 remount at the end of the footpath and bear left on Mill Lane towards Legbourne Mill i
- 5 turn left onto the main road ! at the end of Mill Lane cycle out of the village, look out for the car park on your left and the end of the route.



## Points of interest

### Belleau

Derived from the Norman word for 'good water', Belleau is a much smaller settlement now than it once was. The grassed over remains of the medieval village are to the far side of the 13th century church of St John the Baptist. The springs nearby - the 'good water' - are the beginnings of the Great Eau which flows from the Wolds, over the Middle Marsh all the way to the sea at Saltfleet Haven. There is an attractive dovecote in the village that dates back to Tudor times. This dovecote and a small barn nearby are all that remain of a much larger estate which included a medieval moated manor house.



*'Good water' springs and dovecote*

### Burwell Park

As you cycle towards Burwell you will pass the derelict brick stable blocks and walled garden of Burwell Park. At the centre of the park stood the hail which was built in 1760 and demolished in 1958. It must have once enjoyed an imposing and grand parkland setting.

### Fir Hill Quarry

A very long time ago, when sea levels were higher, the chalk ridge on the eastern edge of the Wolds formed a sea cliff, something like the white cliffs of Dover. Fir Hill Quarry lies on this ancient sea cliff. Chalk was once quarried here for building and agricultural purposes but today, in its sheltered location, it is a haven for butterflies feeding on the nectar-rich flowers. In the lower grassy banks salad burnet, marjoram, wild basil, pyramidal orchid, common spotted-orchid and other chalk plants can be found. The upper level is wooded and inaccessible. Please leave your bike at the gate before you explore this Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.



### Little Cawthorpe

The church of Saint Helen in Little Cawthorpe is a very striking country church built in red brick with black brick and limestone decoration. Built in 1860, it became structurally unsound and closed in 1996 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. It is well worth stopping off to explore the inside with its fine stained glass and green marble pillars.

### The Long Eau and pond

A line of freshwater springs run between Little Cawthorpe in the north and Claxby in the south. The water that flows from these springs fell on the Wolds some months ago and has travelled underground through cracks in the chalk. During this time, the water has been cleaned so that it is crystal-clear, improved with minerals and cooled to a steady temperature. If you look closely at the pond near the church you can see the natural spring water gently bubbling up at the surface.



*Footpath along the Long Eau*

### Legbourne Mill

Nestled in the trees to the north of Mill Lane, the green copper top of the mill can be seen clearly from the road as you cycle from Muckton Bottom to Little Cawthorpe. The mill was one of only two combined wind and water powered mills that existed in Lincolnshire, the water wheel is still visible though the windmill sails are long gone. It was built in 1847 by Sanderson of Louth and converted into a private house in the 1960s. The grounds of the mill are now the site of a commercial trout farm.

