**Introduction**

The Round Louth Walk circles the historic market town, journeying into the surrounding countryside of the Wolds and Marsh. Although the full walk is 14 miles long, there are shorter circular routes using various public footpaths back into the town if you don't want to do it all in one day.

Louth is a thriving market town with distinctive architecture and independent shops. The town has always been an important centre in the district, but became a major trading area in the 1770s with the building of a canal.

This added to the wealth generated from the wool trade. As the town prospered, it grew. Many of the fine buildings from this time are still in the town centre.

In 1920 disaster struck the town when the river and canal flooded, destroying large areas of Louth and killing 23 people. The waterway finally closed in 1924, after a period of decline following the opening of the East Lincolnshire Railway Line in 1848. Passenger trains stopped running in 1970 when stations closed, with goods trains operating until 1980.

**Points of Interest**

Adorning the Louth skyline is the parish church of St James. Its 293 foot tower standing high above the town is the tallest spire on a Parish Church in England.

Hundreds of people move between East and West everyday in the town - often without knowing it. From 1884 to 1958, the Greenwich Meridian was the line from which world time and longitude are measured. Nowadays, it is measured by satellite but still runs through the town.

From pole to pole the line links Louth to villages, towns and cities in Spain, Algeria, Mali and Ghana. Look out for a plaque in the wall or a metal strip in the pavement that marks the historic line.

**Local Public Transport Information**

For bus services to Louth contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or www.traveline.info

Tourist Information Centre at St James Church and Louth Town Hall
Cannon Street, Louth
The route is marked by a blue line.

1. From the southern end of Hubbard's Hills, turn right and walk along Hollington Road and under the bypass. Ignore the footpath on your right, continuing until you reach a bridleway on your right.

2. Hubbard's Hills was given to the people of Louth in 1907 by the trustees of Auguste Alphonse Pahud, a teacher at the Grammar School. Since then the valley has been enjoyed by the town's residents and visitors alike.

3. The route meets c road; turn right and follow approximately 200 metres, turn left along a grassy footpath. Continue on this footpath as it passes woodland, and cross a small stream and a farm track.

4. Go through the gate, cross the grass field and through another gate to join a track. Follow this track, ignoring any other paths, until you reach the A157 road.

5. This is a busy road so please take care as you cross straight over and turn right to follow the road to the junction of the A31. Here go left, taking care as you cross the road to join the tarmac footway towards South Elington.

6. Just past Brickyard Cottages, turn the right turn up on a tarmac farm track. This section of the walk is permissive, agreed with the kind permission of the landowner and is only available to walkers. Continue through Ashtoke Top staying on the track as it continues to Ashtoke Farm.

7. Look at the bumps and humps in the ground as you walk through the grounds of Brackenborough Hall. This is where the larger village used to be! Many of these villages disappeared or shrank between the 13th - 15th centuries due to a complex mix of reasons. These included the Black Death, famine and changes in agricultural practices. The Wolds has one of the highest concentrations of deserted or shrunken medieval villages in the country.

8. As you enter Louth, turn left at the crossroads, following Keddington Road past Gravenor Road, until you take the footpath on your right (before Elm Drive). Follow this down crossing another road to reach Louth Canal. Cross the canal by the weir footbridge.

9. Turn left along the canal towpath, until you reach another footbridge on your left. Ignore this and turn right over another footbridge. Go through a gate and cross the field to a stile and the road.

10. Carefully cross the road to join the tarmac footpath and turn left, ignoring the first footpath on your right. Take the second footpath on your right that passes close to the remains of Louth Abbey (no public access) to cross Monk's Dyke and over farmland to South Elington.

11. At the road straight ahead, then follow the road to the right. Stay on Newton Lane, ignoring a footpath on the left to take the third left footpath, over a footbridge. Follow the path round the edge of the fields, with a hedge on your right.

12. Go over a footbridge and turn left towards some houses. Cross another bridge. Go straight on down the paved road, turn right at Blanchard Road and then take the first left. Cross the road and take the footpath along Bradley Close. Ignore the turning on the right and continue to the end of the cul-de-sac. Take the narrow footpath straight ahead, between two fences. Turn left onto Florence Wright Avenue.

13. At the main road turn left and cross the road at the island. Turn into Kanwick Road, then turn right over a stile onto a footpath. Follow the edge of the next two fields, then turn right. Turn left past a house. Follow the edge of the playing fields to the car park.

14. As you emerge onto London Road, turn right uphill and walk past the cemetery. As the road starts to go downhill, turn left into Meridian View. Turn left into Bluestone Rise. Almost immediately, turn right between two fences. Continue along the road, following it downhill. Turn left at the Humbe Road, going uphill, then cross the road.

15. Follow the road downhill past a house (Wolds End) then turn right on a footpath crossing the golf course. Go down the steps to Hubbard's Hills, your starting point.
**Route Information**

**Distance:** 2 miles, 3km; 6 miles, 9.5km; 14 miles, 22km

**Time:** Approx. 1 hour at a leisurely pace for the shortest route. Approx. 3 hours at a leisurely pace for the second route. Approx. 7-8 hours at a leisurely pace for the longest route.

**Maps:** OS Landranger 122 and OS Explorer 282

**Parking:** Parking at northern end of Hubbard’s Hills and numerous car parks throughout the town - please check for parking tariffs.

**Terrain:** Some road walking, good footpaths and bridleways which can be muddy at times. Mainly level walking with few steep climbs.

**Refreshments:** Café at northern end of Hubbard’s Hills, cafes, pubs and shops in Louth.

**Toilets:** Public toilets at the northern end of Hubbard’s Hills, on Eastgate behind the New Market Hall and at the Bus Station, Church Street.

**Stiles:** A few. Many are stock proof and therefore maybe difficult for some dogs.

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**The Lincolnshire Wolds**

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 AONB contains the highest ground in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent, rising to over 150m along its western edge. Rolling chalk hills and areas of sandstone and clay underlie this attractive landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.

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

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**Tourist Information** - Tel: 01507 601111
Email: tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Website: www.visitleicestershire.com

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