



# Ramble To Rigsby



A circular walk of 5 miles from the historic town of Alford to Rigsby via Ailby Woods and Tothby Manor



## INTRODUCTION

This is an enjoyable circular walk from Alford up into the Lincolnshire Wolds at Rigsby before returning to Alford. The route follows grass tracks and quiet lanes as well as across some arable land. There are excellent views of the Lincolnshire coast and Alford town from the ridge and Rigsby.

Rigsby church has Norman features and a fine 15<sup>th</sup> century carved font.



Altar at Rigsby church



Bluebells can be found in the woods during late spring

## LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

For bus services and Call Connect services to Alford contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

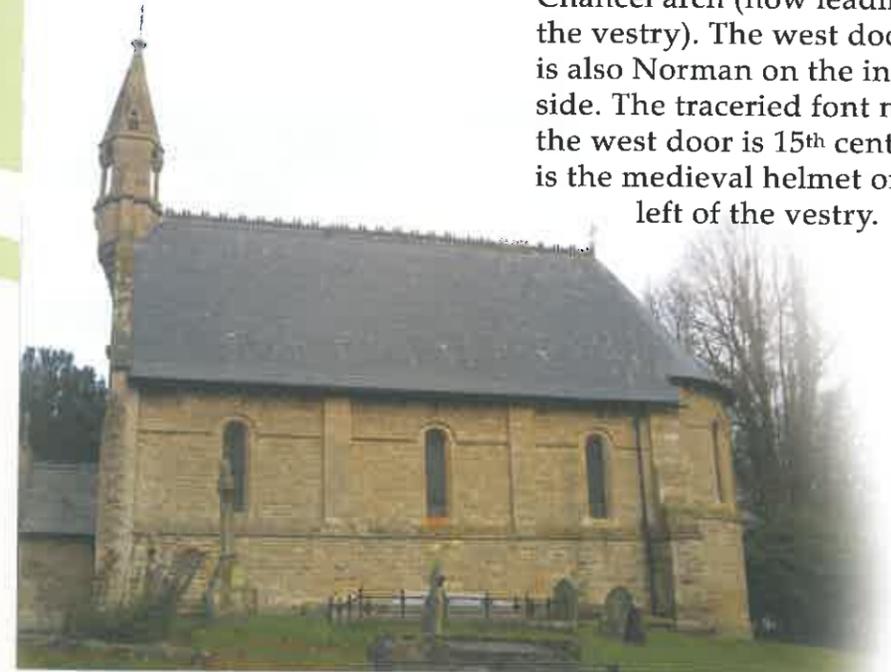
### DROVER'S ROAD

The road on the ridge, with a central tarmac road and wide grassy verges, is an old drover's road or "swath". These highways, which were bordered by high hawthorn hedges, have been made by drovers over the centuries driving sheep or cattle to market, connecting the Wolds with centres of population. The width of a "swath" was the approximate size of a small flock of sheep. About twenty sheep could graze alongside one another as they made their slow way over the hills.



### RIGSBY CHURCH

Rigsby Church of St James (originally built in the 1200s) is the "mother church" of the church in Alford. It was rebuilt in 1865 in the Norman style and retains its original Norman Chancel arch (now leading to the vestry). The west doorway is also Norman on the inner side. The traceried font near the west door is 15<sup>th</sup> century as is the medieval helmet on the left of the vestry.



# THE ROUTE

- 1 Start at the Alford Manor House in West Street. Built in 1611, it is reputedly the largest thatched Manor House in England; an H shaped building with an unusual brick & timber construction. Facing the house turn right, then left into Park Lane.
- 2 Walk to the end of Park Lane, through the gate and into the field, then bear left. Cross the field and go through a gate in the hedge. Walk across the field, and ignoring the waymarked stile to your right, go over the bridge over the Wold Grift Drain.
- 3 Immediately after the bridge, go through a gate on your right, and walk diagonally across the field towards a gate. At the gate bear left, and keep the field edge on your left heading towards a gate. Continue with the hedge on your left until you reach a roadway. Turn right and continue on Tothby Manor drive.
- 4 Walk towards Tothby Manor. In front of the house go over the stile and walk diagonally to the left of the house, following the yellow markers. Go over another stile and through the field at the side of the Manor and then over another stile to exit the field.
- 5 Cross over the bridge and turn left facing a field. At this point you will see the remains of the Manor's moat. Walk left before crossing the field diagonally to the right. Turn left at the footpath marker and follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. At the second gap in the hedge line go through and follow the field edge footpath towards the garden centre.

## TOTHBY MANOR

In the 1640s Tothby Manor (to the north of Alford) was the site of a Plague Stone. Originally the stone was on Miles Cross Hill (the road to Spilsby). Here in times of plague, villagers would leave produce and townsfolk would pay by leaving money in a trough cut in the stone, full of vinegar that would purify the money.



To Rigsby from Alford



Researched and produced by Alford Town Team and the community of Alford. Photography by Karen Watson. Alford Town Council are grateful for assistance from the Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund to produce this leaflet.

- 6 Cross the road and take the footpath. The garden centre is on your right hand side. The path takes you up hill with woodland on your left, eventually emerging into open field.

The woods are found on heavy ground or clay beds. Ash trees are the most common and the woods often show evidence of woodland management e.g. pollarding. In late spring bluebells (and occasionally wild orchids) can be found in the woods and buzzards are often seen quartering the hill sides.



- 7 At the top of the path turn left onto the road and walk into the village of Rigsby.

There are fine views of the Wolds from Ailby Wood. From the ridge road and Rigsby Church there are views of Alford and the coast.

- 8 Take the footpath through the gate on the left immediately after Rigsby Wold Cottage. Then cross a stile (with Rigsby Church to your right) and head downhill bearing left to a waymarked gate. Walk ahead through the middle of a grass field and bear right at a signpost to a stile and bridge.
- 9 Cross the bridge and follow the path alongside hedges over three bridges to the road.
- 10 Turn left at the main road to head back into Alford and your starting point.



