

# On Foot from Fotherby



Two circular walks, both 6 miles from Fotherby, one going through Utterby, the other through North Elkington



## INTRODUCTION

Both walks start from Fotherby and onwards to Fotherby Common. One then heads to North Elkington, passing through the Deserted Medieval Village, the other takes in Utterby, passing Packhorse Bridge and St Andrew's church before joining the disused railway line. On both walks there are fine views of the eastern edge of the Wolds, across the marsh towards the coastline and round to the Humber.



Fotherby station 1961



Artists impression of medieval village as seen at North Elkington

Fotherby Parish Council and volunteers are very grateful to Hugh Marrows for the use of the material and assistance from Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund in producing this leaflet

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### ALMSHOUSES

Everitt Allenby, Esq., born at Fotherby Manor in 1794 kindly provided funds for the six almshouses to be built in 1866 for the benefit of the village poor. Constructed by James Fowler of Louth, the red brick, slate roof and decorative ridge tiles form a distinctive feature within the centre of the village. Grade II listed February 1986



### DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, NORTH ELKINGTON

The earliest record of a settlement dates from 1086 and continued until the 16th century. There are three distinctive sites – all show remnants of hollow ways, enclosures of farmsteads and buildings. Medieval cropping systems can be seen in the ridge and furrow and lynchets.



### ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOTHERBY

Completely rebuilt by James Fowler of Louth in 1863, some aspects of the original building are retained, such as the font which dates from 1450 and the spire contains three bells cast in 1608. St Mary's is the hub of the village, with meetings and pop-in coffee and cake sessions held weekly – the interior is unusual in that the pews can be moved around for larger social events. Grade II listed March 1967



# THE ROUTE

1 Face the Interpretation Board and turn left. After walking 200 metres turn right along Short Lane and carefully cross the A16 bypass. Continue along to the lane junction and turn right, following the road up to Fotherby Common.

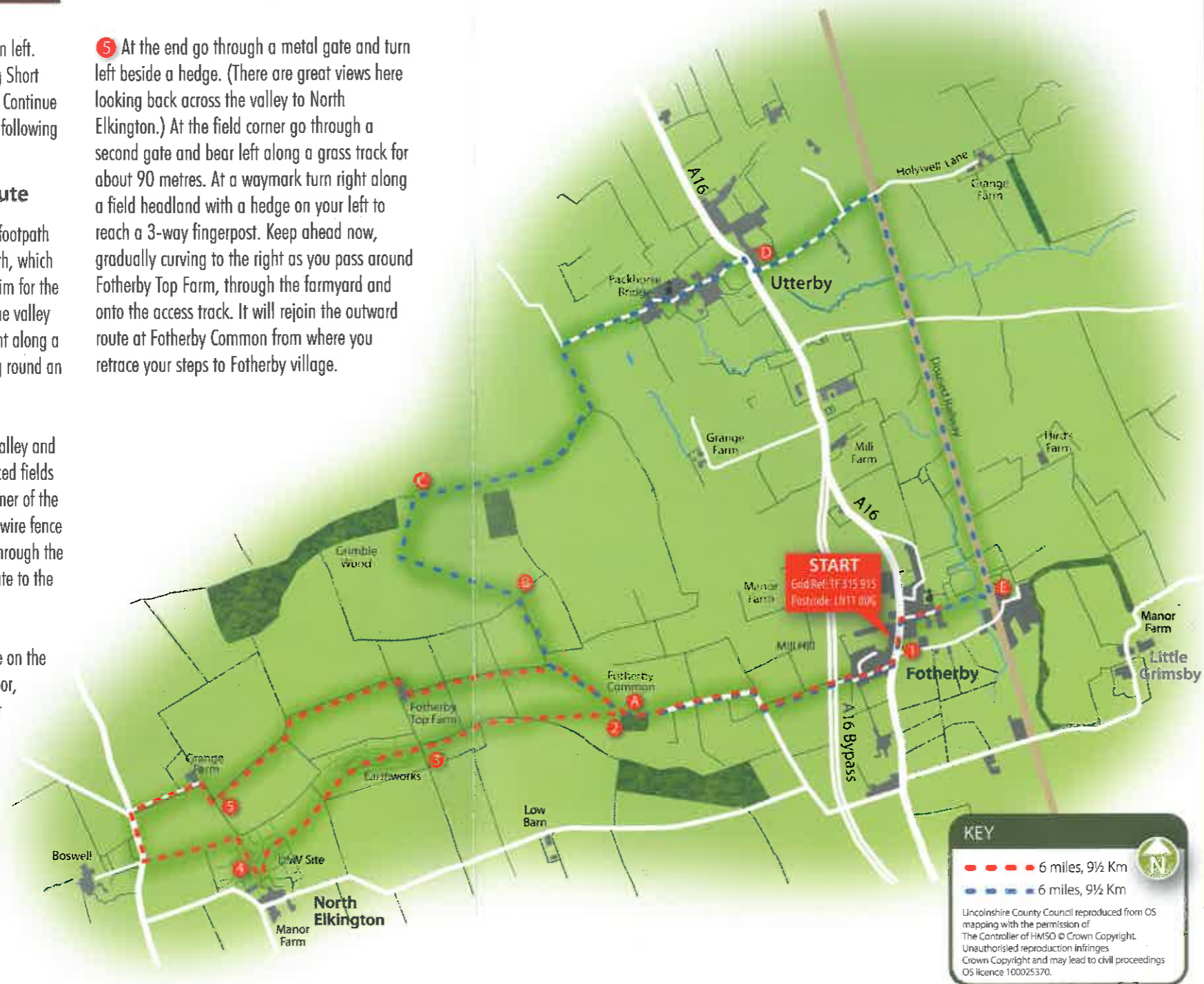
## For the North Elkington Route

2 Continue along the farm track to the footpath sign on the left. Bear left onto the footpath, which is normally marked on the ground, and aim for the tall tree where the hedgerows merge in the valley bottom. Cross the footbridge and turn right along a grass track, past some woods and skirting round an old pond to a stile on your left.

3 Climb the stile into the open grassy valley and bear left uphill passing some of the terraced fields of the earthworks. Aim for the top left corner of the field. Climb a double stile and follow the wire fence to the corner. Now bear diagonally left, through the deserted medieval village, to a kissing gate to the left of the first house.

4 Go left along the track to a bridlegate on the right and from it descend to the valley floor, along one of the former village streets. At the bottom turn left and cross the arable field in line with the electricity poles, aiming for the gap in the hedge. Turn right along the road. After 275 metres turn right onto the access road to Grange Farm. Walk through the farmyard and turn right at the end along a short track, passing a white cottage.

5 At the end go through a metal gate and turn left beside a hedge. (There are great views here looking back across the valley to North Elkington.) At the field corner go through a second gate and bear left along a grass track for about 90 metres. At a waymark turn right along a field headland with a hedge on your left to reach a 3-way fingerpost. Keep ahead now, gradually curving to the right as you pass around Fotherby Top Farm, through the farmyard and onto the access track. It will rejoin the outward route at Fotherby Common from where you retrace your steps to Fotherby village.



## For the Utterby Route

A Follow the track, ignoring the footpath on the left and Fotherby Beacon on the right, to the next hedgerow on the right. Turn right along the footpath with the hedgerow to the left. Then follow the sign through the gap, continuing along with the hedgerow on the right.

B At the field corner go through the hedge and bear diagonally left. The pathway should be visible on the ground, but aim for the right hand edge of the woodland on the horizon. Continue across the field arriving at a grass area with a track to Grimble Wood. Don't go along this track, but bear right down the hill, with Grimble Wood to your left. Aim for a large gap in the hedgerow with the footpath sign visible. Walk up the steps and turn right onto the track.

C Continue along the track as it bears to the left and joins the road. Turn right and walk along the road through the village, passing the Packhorse Bridge and St Andrews church. Continue to the A16, turning right onto the tarmac footway and carefully crossing the A16 at the refuge.

D Turn right, then left onto Holywell Lane. Follow the lane to the former railway bridge. Take the Permissive Bridleway on your left and join the disused railway line. Turn right and pass under the bridge, continuing along for approximately 2 kms, ignoring the first set of footpath signs.

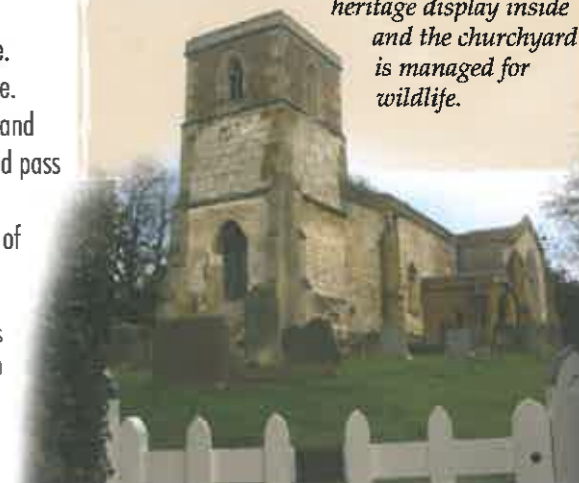
(This permissive route is part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway and it is hoped that trains will once again run along the track.)

**GRIMSBY TO LOUTH RAILWAY**  
East Lincolnshire Railway opened a passenger service from Grimsby to Louth in 1848. Fotherby Gate House station opened in 1852, used only on market days, but closed in 1872. It reopened in 1905 as Fotherby Halt, with the line becoming part of British Rail 1948. Passenger traffic closed in 1961 but the line remained open for freight until 1980.

E At the second set of footpath signs turn right, cross the track to the fenced footpath and continue to a footbridge. Go through the kissing gate, along the grass field to the second kissing gate. Continue along the lane passing St Mary's church to return to the Interpretation Board.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, UTTERBY

The main building of St Andrew's dates back to the early 14th century however just outside lies the base of a medieval cross, which would have served as the focal point for earlier services and meetings. As you venture inside, take time to view the carvings on the inner door frame – you should see depictions of a green man and animals. The community has created a small heritage display inside and the churchyard is managed for wildlife.



## ROUTE INFORMATION

**Distance:** 6 miles or 9 ½km

**Time:** Approx: 3 hours at a leisurely pace for each route.

**Maps:** OS Landranger 113  
OS Explorer 282

**Parking:** Roadside parking in the village - please park  
considerately.  
Map Ref: TF 315 915 Postcode LN11 0UG

**Terrain:** A mixture of footpaths over grass and arable fields and  
stone tracks.  
Some roadside walking crossing Fotherby bypass.

**Refreshments:** Limited light refreshments at St Mary's Church - usually  
open Wednesday during the summer months.  
Brackenborough Arms Hotel is nearby.

**Stiles:** A few on the North Elkington route, none on the Utterby  
route.

**Public Transport:** For bus services to Fotherby contact Traveline on  
0871 200 22 33 or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)



Tourist information - Tel: 01507 601111  
Email: [tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@e-lindsey.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)

## 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.

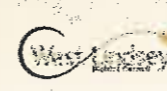
A Countryside Service helps to protect and enhance the landscape through partnership projects with local landowners, farmers, parish councils, businesses and residents of the Wolds.



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Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL



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