



**Poacher  
Line**

CITY • COUNTRY • COAST

# STATION WALKS

A collection of walking  
routes accessible by rail

Radcliffe

Bingham

Bottesford

Grantham

Sleaford

Heckington

Boston

Wainfleet



For full information about our guided walks, please visit [poacherline.org.uk](http://poacherline.org.uk)

# ABOUT

All along the Poacher Line you can find historic landmarks to visit, scenic walks, seaside visitor attractions and monuments that are accessible up and down our award winning line.

Spanning from Nottingham to Skegness incorporating 19 stations along the route, the Poacher Line encourages passengers to enjoy their journey and discover a new way of travel.

# CONNECTIONS TO THE LINE



For full information about our guided walks, please visit [poacherline.org.uk](http://poacherline.org.uk)

- Nottingham
- Netherfield
- Radcliffe
- Bingham
- Aslockton
- Elton & Orston
- Bottesford
- Grantham
- Ancaster
- Rauceby
- Sleaford
- Heckington
- Swineshead
- Hubberts Bridge
- Boston
- Thorpe Culvert
- Wainfleet
- Havenhouse
- Skegness



**POACHER LINE PROMISES AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP FILLED WITH ACCESSIBLE MONUMENTS AND CAPTIVATING SIGHTS**

**DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL MARKET TOWNS, VISIT THE CITY AND EXPLORE MEDIEVAL AND LISTED MONUMENTS**

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- [www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)
- [www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk)





# RADCLIFFE STATION WALK



**1 hour**  
at a slow pace



**1.58 miles**  
approx

The village lies on the south bank and cliff overlooking the River Trent. The "Rad" part of its name is a corruption of the Old English for red, in reference to the dark red colour of the cliffs, which are formed of Triassic red shale with gypsum banding.

Archaeological finds suggest that the site of Radcliffe might have been crossed if not settled however written evidence of any settlement does not appear until after the Norman conquest. By Tudor times a settlement would have been assembled around the church and also the main road.

The Railway arrived in Radcliffe - on - Trent in the mid - 19<sup>th</sup> century. Work began in 1848 in preparation for the Grand opening of the line from Colwick through to Grantham including Radcliffe station which was opened on 15<sup>th</sup> July. A new viaduct was constructed across the meadows to the Trent in 1909. It was acknowledged in early 1964 that the original wooden viaduct needed replacing due to the increase in freight traffic. Arrival of the railway opened up Radcliffe to the wealthy business men of Nottingham and contributed to the expanding residential areas within the village. Information relating to Radcliffe occurs in the Domesday Book of 1086.



## 1 Radcliffe Station

Radcliffe station is a place of beauty, surround by well maintained platform gardens from our Station adopters and artwork produced by the local school. The opening of the railway line from Nottingham to Grantham was on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1850.

## 2 The Radcliffe Hotel

The Radcliffe was built around 1908 by Charles Wright Gowthorpe, it was originally built as a home for the Gowthorpe family. The residence was later renovated and changed into a public house changing its name multiple times before being known today as The Radcliffe.

## 3 Rockley Memorial Park

Rockley Memorial Park is dedicated to local men who died in the Great War. Mr. Lisle Rockley, whose son William was killed at Ypres in 1917, bought the land in the 1920s, created the park and presented the site to the village in 1927.

## 4 Radcliffe Lodge

This grade II listed building was built in 1791 by Colonel Samuel Wright, between 1922 and 1934 it became a school for 40 boys, attending as day and boarding pupils and after the war around 1950 the Lodge was renovated into separate dwellings as it remains today.

## 5 St Mary's Church

St Mary's is grade II listed. For many years everyone thought it had fallen but there has been a church in Radcliffe since the 13<sup>th</sup> century however the current building bears little resemblance to its medieval predecessor. In 1879 the rest of the church was rebuilt and enlarged.

## 6 The Royal Oak

A public house has been on this site on Main Road since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It has had a number of names including The Newcastle Arms, The Duke's Arms and The Plough; it became The Royal Oak in 1832. The earliest record is in 1780 when Elizabeth Marshall, a Radcliffe resident, sold the original premises to Ann Richardson, a widow, for £46.

# BINGHAM STATION WALK



**1.5 hour**  
at a slow pace



**2.27 miles**  
approx

The name Bingham is thought to be Saxon and derived as follows: "the homestead of the family or followers of a man called Binna", i.e. .Bynna-ing-ham- the place (ham) of the people (ing) of Bynna.

The land upon which Bingham originally stood used to be a lake and it is thought that the land on which Bingham currently sits is in a different location to which it was originally built. The location in which Geologists believe Bingham originally occupied was in and around Crow Close. The lost village is said to have two islands one in which Holme Farm sits upon and the other in which Wiverton hall sits. The village is said to have been destroyed by a hurricane, to this day you can still see narrow furrows in the grass depicting the walls and foundations of buildings that once stood.

This site can be found next to Cogley Lane playground in the field and from an aerial view these furrows can be seen easier.



## 1 Bingham Station

The station itself was opened by the Great Northern Railway in 1857. The buildings were designed by Nottingham architect Thomas Chambers Hine. This was the first of two stations to serve the village of Bingham.

## 2 Buttercross

The Buttercross was erected in 1861 by public subscription in memory of John Hassall, the Earl of Chesterfield's popular land agent. It was designed by Nottingham architect Thomas Chambers Hine.

## 3 St Marys and All Saints Church

Much of the current St Mary's was built between 1220 and 1320, by Bingham's small community, with support from the lord of the manor Sir Richard de Bingham who came from a family of wealthy Nottingham wool merchants.

## 4 Cogley Lane Playground

This Field is known as Crow Close, it was the first site in England to be described as a deserted medieval village, having been identified as such in 1907. Outlines of boundaries and buildings can be seen from above.

## 5 Linear Walk

The path follows the course of a dismantled railway line built in 1879, one of two lines that passed through Bingham. This line was a branch from Harby and Statheron to form a junction with the Grantham to Nottingham line at Saxondale Junction.

## 6 Station House

The first station master was J. Price, with the house being built in 1879 and subsequently closing to all rail traffic in 1951 to which it became a residential property. Today you can still see the original GNR chimney stacks.

# BOTTESFORD STATION WALK



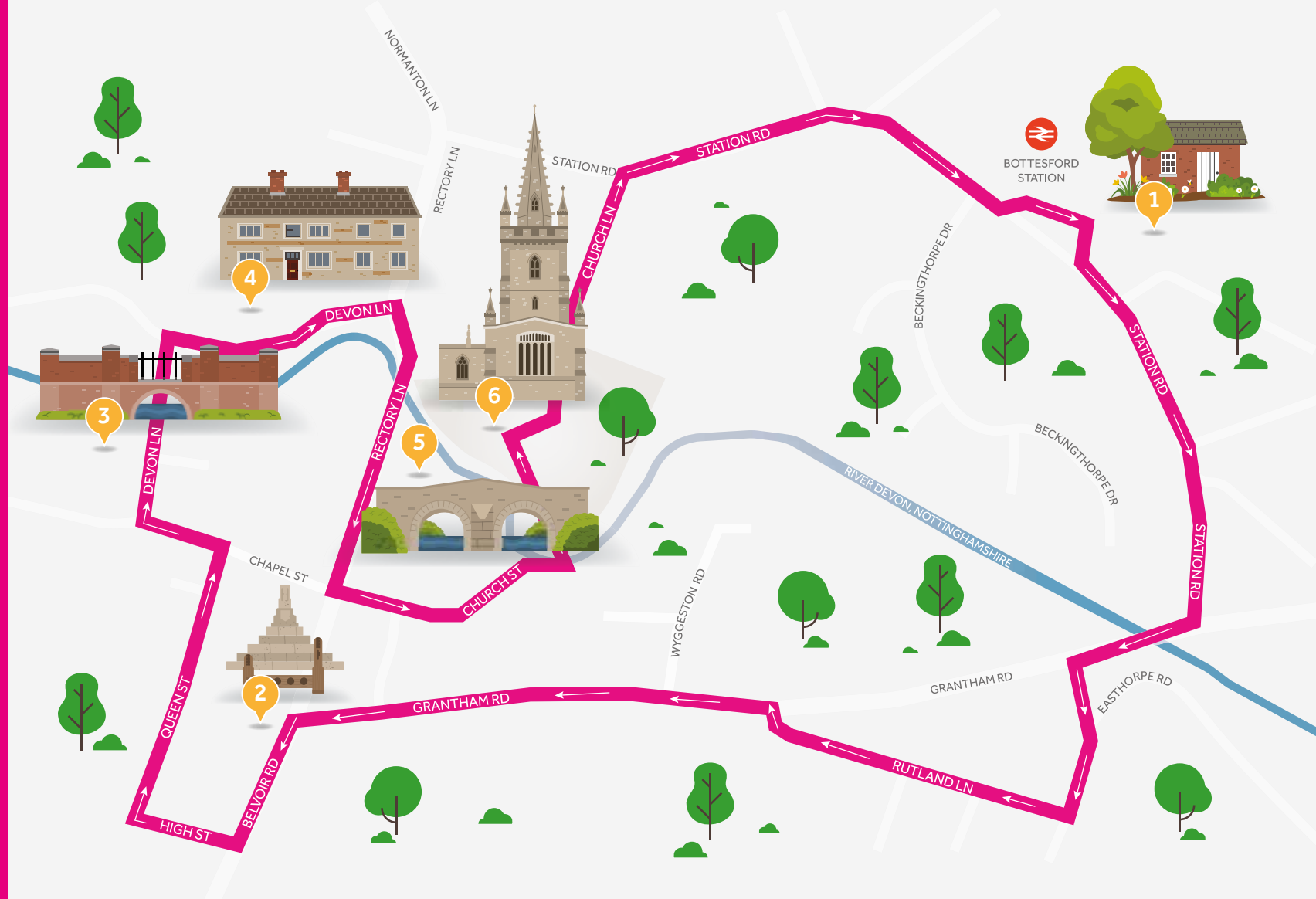
**1 hour**  
at a slow pace



**1.5 miles**  
approx

Bottesford derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon "Ford belonging to the botl" (house). The ford was over the River Devon. Bottesford is listed in the 1086 Domesday Book as "Botesford", in the hundred of Framland. Historically, Bottesford was closely associated with the Earls and Dukes of Rutland.

Bottesford is both a Parish and a village situated in the vale of Belvoir. The station opened in July 1850 and still forms part of the Poacher Line, also being the only station to be situated within Leicestershire. There were two stations in Bottesford however, the second opened in 1879 and closed a matter of years later due to the through service being discontinued. The ford was over the River Devon which runs through the heart of Bottesford. The village was built along the River Devon (pronounced Dee-von) and named after the ford at the centre of the village.



## 1 Bottesford Friendly Garden

This beautiful garden has been created and maintained by the Station adopters. An unused piece of Railway land that has been transformed into a welcoming landscaped garden, a peaceful place for everyone to visit and enjoy the wildlife.

## 2 Market Cross and Stocks

This Grade II listed medieval standing cross stands on/near its original standing place, with the Stocks and Whipping post located next to it, it is thought that these two features date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 3 Devon Lane Ford

This Georgian Century footbridge runs over the river Devon with a ford crossing Devon lane heading towards The Green. This Green was a communal area where locals would gather for celebrations and to watch children play.

## 4 The Earl of Rutland's Hospital

This Grade II listed building, The 'Rutland Hospital' was founded in 1591 by the Elizabeth, Countess of Rutland, wife of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rutland, as an almshouse.

## 5 Flemings Bridge

The River Devon runs under this beautiful Grade II listed bridge, the bridge was built in 1590 by Dr. Fleming, rector of Bottesford. One day, while trying to cross the river to church when the river was in flood, he had to be rescued. As a debt of gratitude he had the bridge built.

## 6 St Mary the Virgin's Church

This Grade I listed church tower contains a fine peal of six bells, re-hung in 1869. The Anglican parish church was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. The church dates back to 1170.

# GRANTHAM STATION WALK



**1-1.5 hour**  
at a slow pace

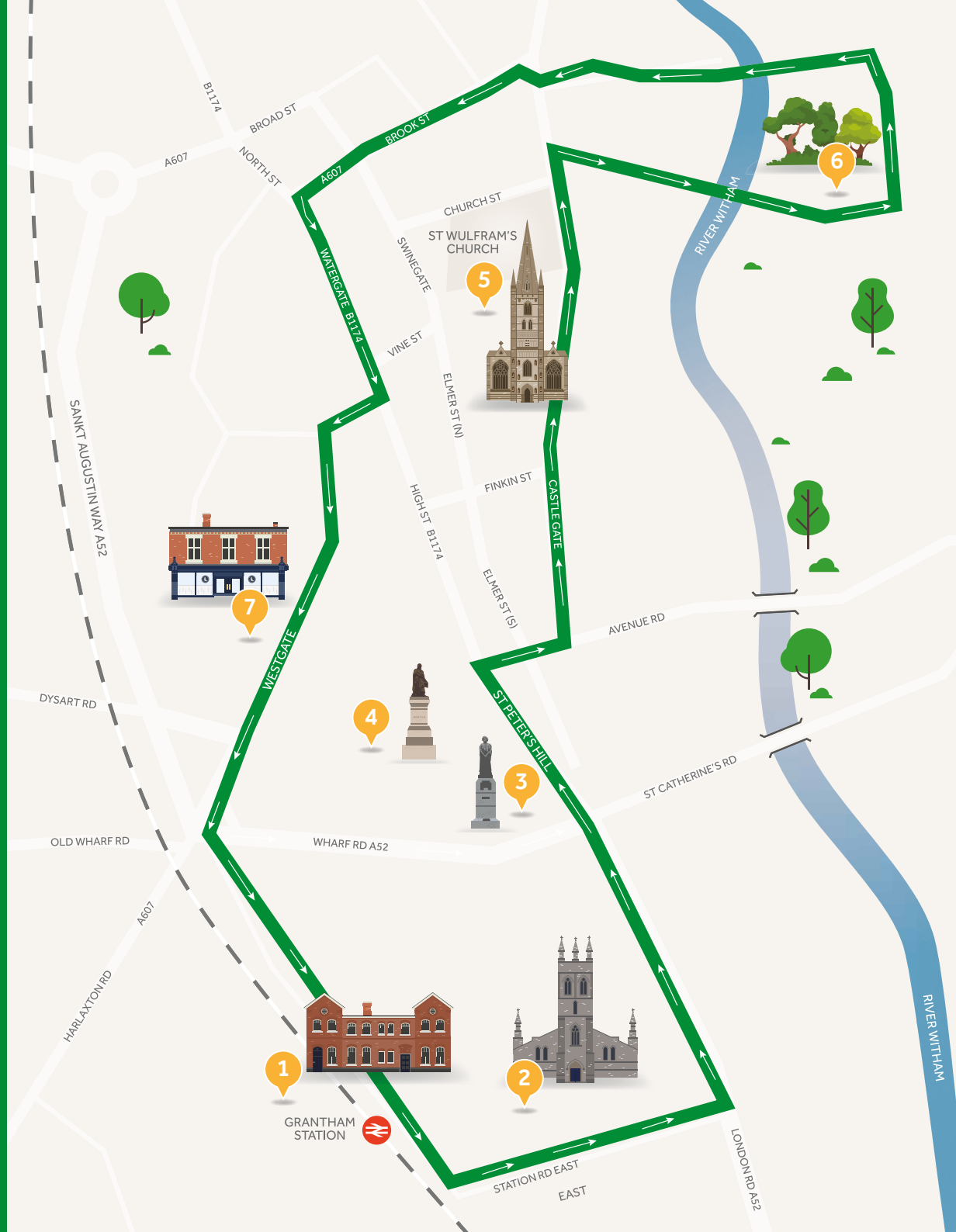


**2.27 miles**  
approx

Grantham began as a small Saxon village that grew into a market town during the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Grantham was recognised in the Domesday Book in 1086 with a recorded population of 183 households and in the Middle Ages, the town was successful in the wool and leather trade.

St Wulfram's Church towers over the historic town and was described by Simon Jenkins as 'the finest steeple in England'. The Angel and Royal hotel located on the High Street dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest coaching inns in the country. The charming property has hosted no less than seven Kings and Queens over the centuries.

In more recent history, Grantham has become well known for being the birthplace of former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher but Grantham was also the birthplace for Isaac Newton who was educated at the King's School in Grantham. Isaac Newton's notorious revelation about gravity actually took place at Woolsthorpe Manor in Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth - just a short distance from Grantham. The town is also known for gingerbread biscuits, first made in 1740 by a baker, William Eggleston.



- 1 Grantham Station**  
The Great northern Railway opened the station on August 1, 1852. Senior staff lived in nearby houses on Station Road, where once stood the original water tower providing water for the "Up" platform water columns. The original booking hall still remains on this platform.
- 2 St John the Evangelist Church**  
Built in 1841, St. John's Church Spitalgate was designed by Anthony Salvin, who also designed Harlaxton Manor. Made of Ancaster stone in the Early English Lancet Style, it features a chancel, transepts, and a five-bay nave.
- 3 Margaret Thatcher Monument**  
A 10 feet 6 inches (3.2 m) tall bronze statue of Thatcher. Created by sculptor Douglas Jennings, the statue depicts the late British Prime Minister dressed in the ceremonial robes of the House of Lords.
- 4 Sir Isaac Newton Monument**  
Grantham's renowned native, Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727), a distinguished English physicist and mathematician, is commemorated by a bronze statue built in 1858. He stands as a highly influential figure in the world of science.
- 5 St Wulfram's Church**  
The church is dedicated to St. Wulfram, a 7<sup>th</sup>-century missionary born around 650 AD near Paris. He chose Holy Orders over a military career, became Archbishop of Sens, and later a missionary in northern Germany. Canonized after his death in 720, he's known for many miracles.
- 6 Wyndham Park**  
In 1924, the park was established as a World War One memorial and later renamed after Lt. Hon. William Reginald Wyndham, a 1st Life Guards officer who died in action in 1914. Lady Leconfield, his mother, inaugurated the park in his honor. The park's existing Memorial Shelter commemorates Grantham's WWI fallen soldiers.
- 7 Petticoats Vintage Tea Rooms**  
1940s themed tea rooms with vintage décor. An experience where you feel like you have stepped back in time.

# SLEAFORD STATION WALK



**1 hour**  
at a slow pace



**1.73 miles**  
approx

The name Sleaford is derived from the old English words *Sliow* and *ford* meaning 'ford over a muddy or slimy river'. In a 12<sup>th</sup> century document Sleaford is recorded as being called *Sliowaforda*.

The first settlement formed in the Iron Age where a prehistoric track crossed the River Slea. Sleaford now has the remains of a 12<sup>th</sup> century Castle situated on a low lying fen boasting a moat, however it fell into disrepair some 400 years later and today remains only a small part of masonry wall. Thought to be called a castle it was more of a fortified Manor built by the Bishop of Lincoln. Sleaford is still to this day a market town and was officially granted the right to hold markets in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



- 1 Sleaford Station**  
The station boasts a lovely community garden called Poachers Patch, this is tended to by our Station adopters, there is also a recently renovated 'old waiting room' on the middle platform painted in the heritage GNR colours.
- 2 The Little Tyme House**  
This unusual looking shop is triangular and is a locally listed heritage asset. The small building is said to have been used as a toll building for the river.
- 3 St Deny's Church**  
There has been a church here that formed part of a manor owned by the 1<sup>st</sup> bishop of Lincoln and has been here since the late Saxon period. This church was dedicated to St Deny's in 1140 in the Domesday Book.
- 4 Cogglesford Mill**  
The Mill dates back to the Saxon times, it is thought that it is the only Sheriff's watermill to be still in operation to this day. Whilst the mill at present was built mainly in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century it has been the site of flour production for over 1,000 years.
- 5 The Hub**  
This gallery and exhibition centre hosts up to 20 exhibits a year from up and coming artists. The main gallery exhibits ever changing features and it also supports programs to teach and encourage arts, crafts, design and dance.
- 6 Navigation House**  
This building was built in 1838 and is believed to be the only one of its kind still in existence. This grade II listed building stands in the old public wharf area known as Navigation Yard. Presented inside is the story of the Navigation and development of the new River Slea and the impact on Sleaford's history.



# HECKINGTON STATION WALK



**1 hour**  
at a slow pace



**1.2 miles**  
approx

The name 'Heckington' means 'the farmstead or village associated with, called after Heca', and is derived from Old English, 'Heca' being a personal name. The settlement of Heckington was first documented in the Domesday Book, where a large number of landholdings were recorded.

The Anglican parish church is dedicated to Saint Andrew and dates back to 1345 to 1380. The church has a spire 185 feet tall with Parish registers existing from 1559. Heckington is unique in that it hosts a long standing local show. Heckington show dates back to 1867 and has been present at its current location ever since being the biggest village show in the country. It is also the location of the only 8 sailed windmill still standing in the country, boasting a visitors centre, café and opportunity to ascend inside to the very top.



## 1 Heckington Station

The station was opened by the Boston, Sleaford and Midland Counties Railway on 13 April 1859, it is situated close to the Windmill.

## 2 Heckington Windmill

Heckington Windmill is the only eight-sailed tower windmill still standing in the United Kingdom with its sails intact. It was built in 1830 by millwright Edward Ingledew for its first owner Michael Hare. Following a severe thunderstorm which blew off the cap and sails, it was repaired in 1892. The repairs were carried out by John Pocklington using a cap and eight sails from a windmill in Boston.

## 3 Heckington War Memorial

This Grade II listed Memorial lists 31 Heckington men who fought in the first and second world wars who lost their lives, it was unveiled in 1922.

## 4 Henry Godson's Almshouses

Constructed in 1886 they feature red brick in Flemish bond, slate roofs with raised stone coped gables and moulded kneelers. Godson bequeathed four Almshouses to the village and they were used for the sick and poor until 1912.

## 5 St. Andrew's Church

This church is a rare example of a complete 14<sup>th</sup> century decorated church with a spire that reaches 185 feet tall. The church has original stained glass windows, one of which depicts the construction of the decorated style building itself.

## 6 Heckington Manor

Heckington Manor was originally a seventeenth century building which was rebuilt in 1909. In 1578 the Mansion House, also known as Boston Garth, was leased to William Taylor. By 1665 Robert Taylor was living in a large house in Heckington, presumably on this site. In 1769 Richard Godson married Mary Taylor, the heiress of the Taylor estate, and this family lived at Heckington Manor until the 1950s.



# BOSTON STATION WALK



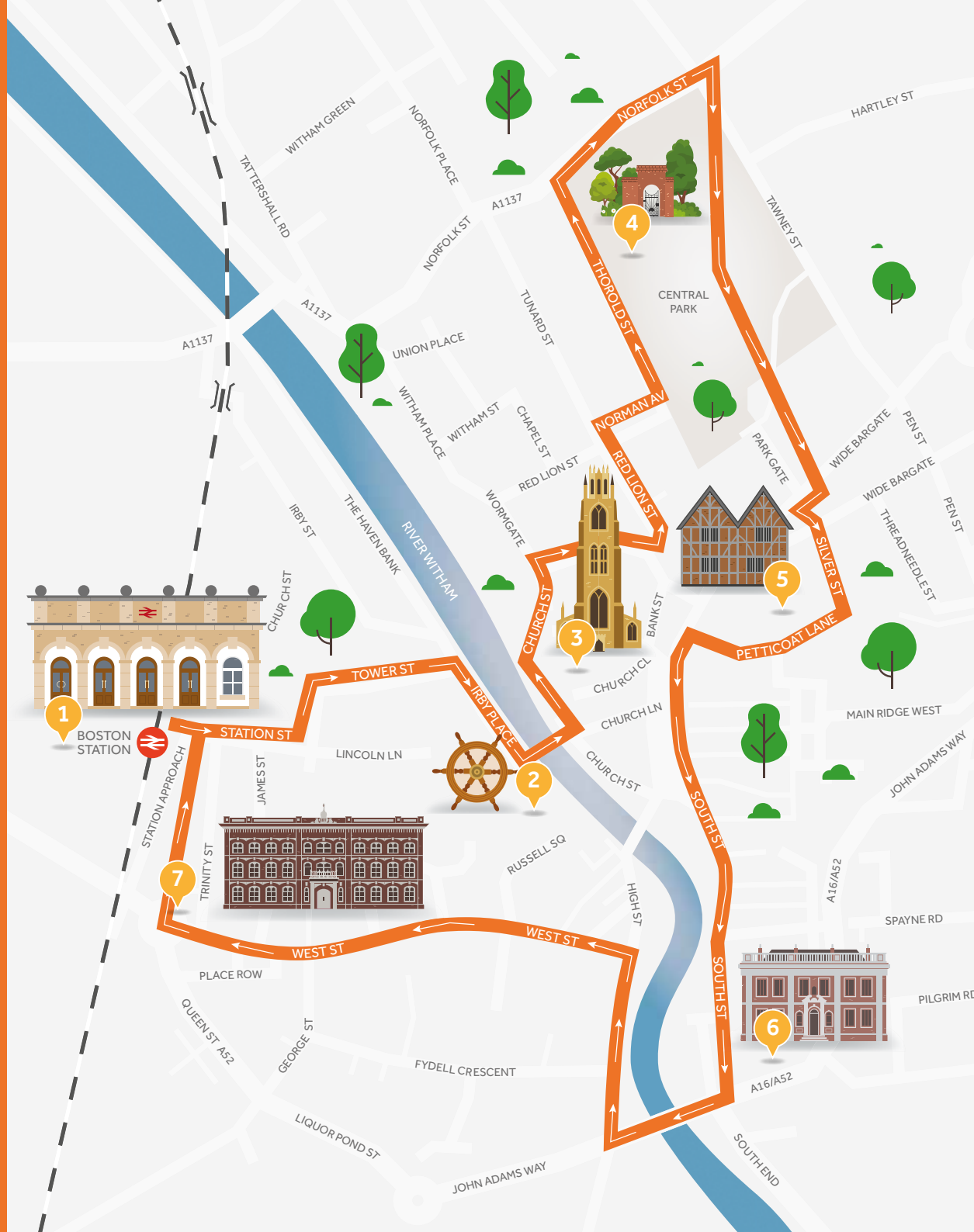
**1-1.5 hour**  
at a slow pace



**2.14 miles**  
approx

St Botolph (Patron Saint of Travellers) name was commonly chosen for travellers lodges and similar buildings across the country. The name Boston is believed to be a contraction of "Saint Botolph's town" or "Saint Botolph's stone."

Boston is believed to have grown into a town in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and was a busy little port doing much international trade with Europe. By 1125 Boston held annual fairs as well as weekly markets, merchants came from all over Europe to trade, wool was very popular at the time. By 1848 Boston became the largest and richest town in the country, then the Great Northern Railway arrived transforming trade in and out of the town making it much quicker, subsequently bringing an end to the port trading Boston had been so used to.



- 1 Boston Station**  
The station boasts a beautiful eco-garden, complete with a bug hotel and an EMR branded barrel train beautifully planted and looked after by the dedicated Station Adopters.
- 2 Fishermen's Memorial**  
Fishing in wartime is perilous. In WWI, ten Boston trawlers were captured or sunk, and their crews were imprisoned. In total, 22 trawlers were lost, and 80 fishermen perished. This monument pays tribute to these men.
- 3 St Botolph's Church**  
The Church was constructed during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Boston stump was the name given to the tower and was added between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. For hundreds of years it acted as a landmark for sailors.
- 4 Central Park**  
The park was originally commissioned as a private deer estate in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The park now gives the public a beautiful open space for families and many visitors providing a multi-use game area and skate park.
- 5 Pescod Hall**  
The Hall dates back to around 1450. The square in which Pescod Hall is situated is named after the Pescod family who were a notable family amongst the merchant community within Boston. It was taken down and rebuilt in 1973.
- 6 Fyde House**  
This Georgian house was built in the early 1700's by the Jackson family, it was later bought and altered by Joseph Fyde giving it its current name. Fyde was a cloth importer and local merchant. It still boasts original features such as the formal walled garden.
- 7 Swan House**  
Built in 1877, this building is best known for being Fogarty's feather factory it replaced a factory that previously burnt down. Geese were kept on the local fens for hundreds of years and their feathers plucked twice a year and stuffed into pillows for the wealthy and rich. This factory purified the feathers before being used for feather pillows.

# WAINFLEET STATION WALK



**45 mins**  
at a slow pace



**1.07 miles**  
approx

This small market town is said to stand on the Roman settlement of Vainona. In the Domesday book 1086, Wainfleet is referred to as 'Wenflet'; the local Lincolnshire dialect transformed this into 'Waynflete'.

'Wainfleet' comes from a combination of 'weg'n' and 'fleet' translating to mean wagon that can cross a stream. In the medieval period this town was a busy port but the River Steeping was silted which put an end to this. Wainfleet boasts a famous local inhabitant as it was the birthplace of William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester and founder of Magdalen College in Oxford, he built the Magdalen college school for the purpose to teach 7 local boys Latin and Greek in preparation to move onto the Magdalen college. Waynflete was also the lord Chancellor under Henry VI.

## 1 Wainfleet Station

The station was opened by the Wainfleet and Firsby Railway for passenger traffic on 24 October 1871. The passenger service was extended from Wainfleet to Skegness on 28 July 1873.

## 2 Batemans Brewery

George and Susannah Bateman began their brewery in 1874, initially serving local farmers who compensated their laborers with a mix of produce, cash, and beer. In 1880, George Bateman acquired Salem House, which still houses Batemans Brewery today.

## 3 Salem Bridge

Built in 1820, the Tower mill worked until 1920. Acquired by Batemans Brewery in 1920, it's now part of the Brewery. Salem Bridge windmill and attached mill building are Grade II listed.

## 4 Magdalen School

Built in 1484 by Bishop William Waynflete, this school, initially Wainfleet Grammar School, became Wainfleet Secondary Modern School in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2007, it transformed, with the upper floor as a local museum and the lower floor serving as a County Library branch.

## 5 Barkham Street

Built in 1847 by Sydney Smirke, this row of 10 houses served the Bethlem Hospital, designed to resemble the tenements in Southwark, London. Bethlem Hospital, a psychiatric institution and prison established from 1811-15, was also expanded by architects P. Hardwick and Sydney Smirke. These Lincolnshire houses likely accommodated similar patients.

## 6 Petrol Station

Storrs were established in Wainfleet back in 1958 and operates as a self service station, it still operates old fashioned petrol pumps on the road side opposite the market place.

## 7 Buttercross-Market Place

The Buttercross, where John Wesley preached, got its name because it stood in the marketplace where people from nearby villages came to purchase local butter, milk, and eggs.



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