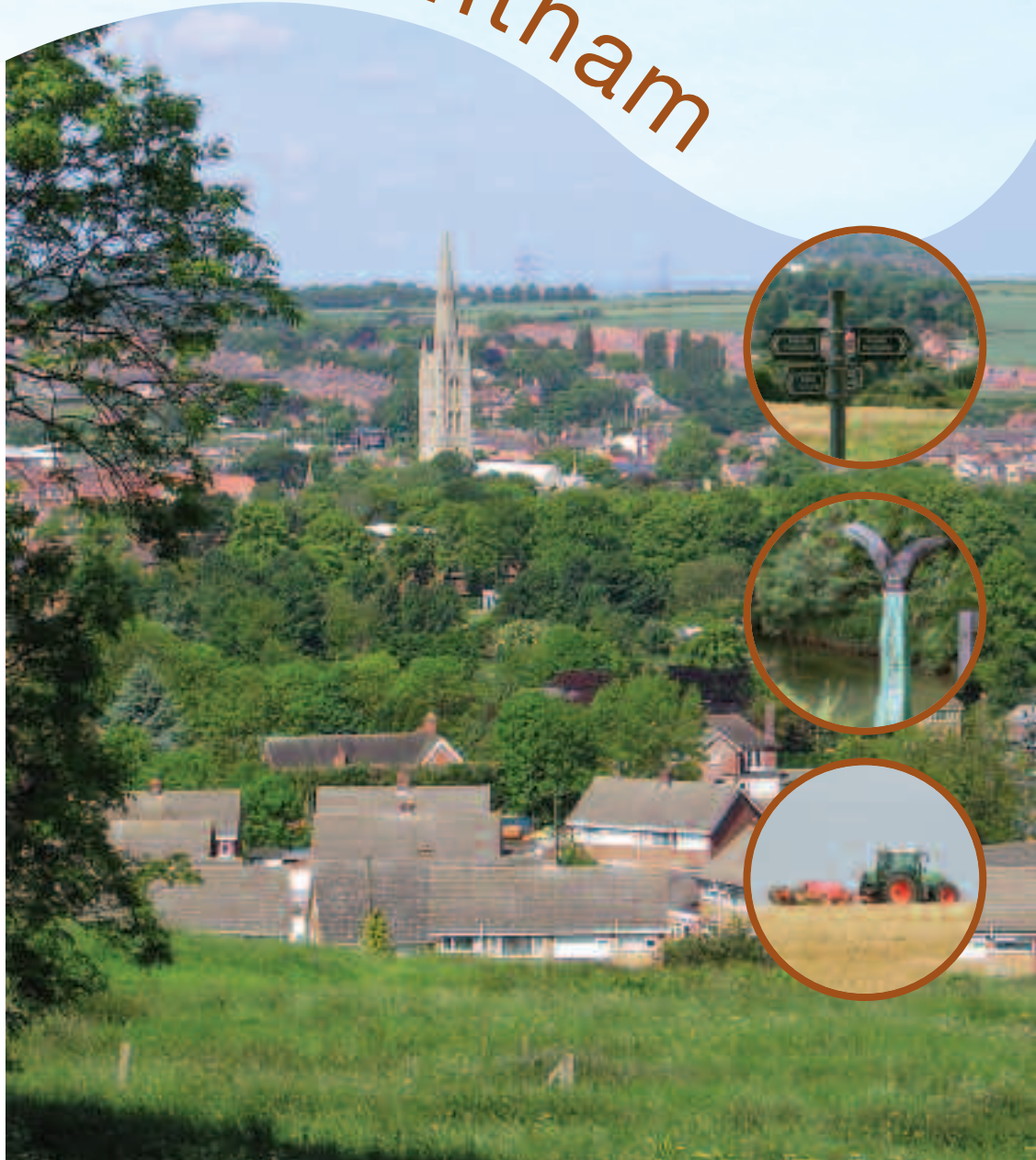


Grantham



A circular walk of 3¼ or 5¼ km (2¼ or 3½ miles)

Introduction

This relatively short circular walk, which starts in the middle of Grantham, offers plenty of variety. The route takes you through a pleasant park and then beside the River Witham before joining field paths and tracks around Harrowby. After a short uphill section, you are rewarded with some fine views back over the town and surrounding countryside. A short stretch through a residential area completes the walk.

Grantham is believed to have originated as a sixth century Saxon settlement, with the name supposedly derived from 'the settlement on the gravel'. The town grew considerably during the eighteenth century as a result of the Great North Road, becoming an important coaching centre midway between London and York.

Growth continued with the building of a 30 mile canal to Nottingham in 1793. The canal age and the subsequent Industrial Revolution brought the warehouses, wharves and factories that formed the foundations of the modern town.

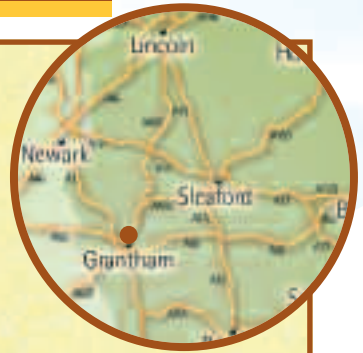
A number of famous people are associated with Grantham. Sir Isaac Newton attended school here, as did William Cecil, the first Lord Burghley, who became the most powerful statesman in the land during the reign of Elizabeth I. Charles Dickens is believed to have written much of his novel, Bleak House, while staying at the former George Hotel. Today the town is renowned as the birthplace of Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first woman Prime Minister.



Walk Information


Walk location: Grantham lies 37km (23 miles) south of Lincoln.

Starting point: Car park at the entrance to Wyndham Park, Hill Avenue.
Grid reference: SK 917364.



Parking: Car park at the entrance to Wyndham Park, Hill Avenue.

Public Transport: There is a bus stop just outside the entrance to the car park. For times call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.



Walk length: 3¼ km (2¼ miles) or 5¼ km (3½ miles).
At a leisurely pace the walk will take approximately 1 or 1¼ hours to complete.

Type of walk: The walk makes use of tarmac footpaths, field tracks and urban pavements. Both versions of the walk include a short ascent and descent with moderate gradients. It may be muddy in places in wet weather.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 247 Grantham.
Landranger 130 Grantham.

Refreshments: Numerous shops and pubs in Grantham.

The Walk

The walk

- 1 Go through the brick arch by the car park entrance into Wyndham Park. Take the first path on the left, passing between the bowling green and the sports field. Where the path splits, you can either continue along the bank of the Witham or go through the kissing gate and across the meadow. These paths meet up again to take you through to Stonebridge Road.

Wyndham Park was opened in 1924 as a memorial to those who served in The First World War. Thousands of men passed over this ground on their way to a training camp at Harrowby. As you walk through the park and along by the river you will see the fine thirteenth century church of St Wulfram, towering above the rooftops of the town. Its magnificent spire is reputed to be the third highest of all English churches.

- 2 Cross over Stonebridge Road and follow the path as it bears diagonally left through another small park called Stonebridge Close.
- 3 On reaching the main road turn

left and walk up to the junction, with the police station on your left. Bear right at the junction (signed for crematorium).

- 4 Take the narrow path, marked by a public footpath sign, which goes off immediately to the left.

Continue ahead on this path as it climbs gently between houses on your left and the cemetery on your right. Follow the path around the new part of the cemetery and then up through grass fields until you reach a farm track and junction of paths just to the right of a cottage.

It is well worth pausing here after the short climb and to look back over the route taken so far. There are some superb views of the town and surrounding countryside. If the weather is clear you should be able to make out the impressive features of Belvoir Castle on the escarpment to your left.

- 5 For the **SHORTER ROUTE**, turn left at this junction and walk along the edge of the field, with occasional glimpses of the town below and to your left. Keep straight on at the next junction of paths in a shallow dip, finally reaching another



Map & Walk



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The Walk

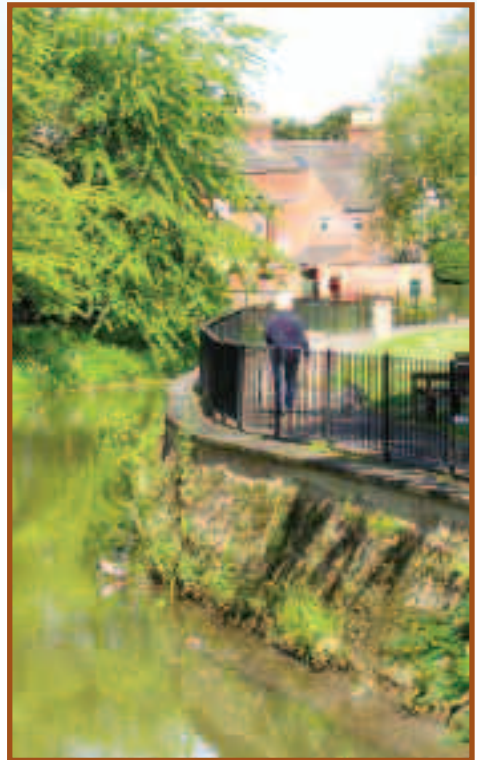
junction by a large tree. Turn left here to rejoin the longer route at point **10**

For the **LONGER ROUTE**, continue ahead on the track at the cottage.



- 6** After approximately 200m bear left at a hedge line just after the track bends to the left. Walk along the field edge, with the hedge on your left, towards a belt of trees on the horizon. Go past an area of scrub and rough ground on your left until you reach a junction of paths. Go straight on, now keeping a tall hedge on your left. Continue ahead at another junction of paths, finally emerging onto a narrow tarmac road.

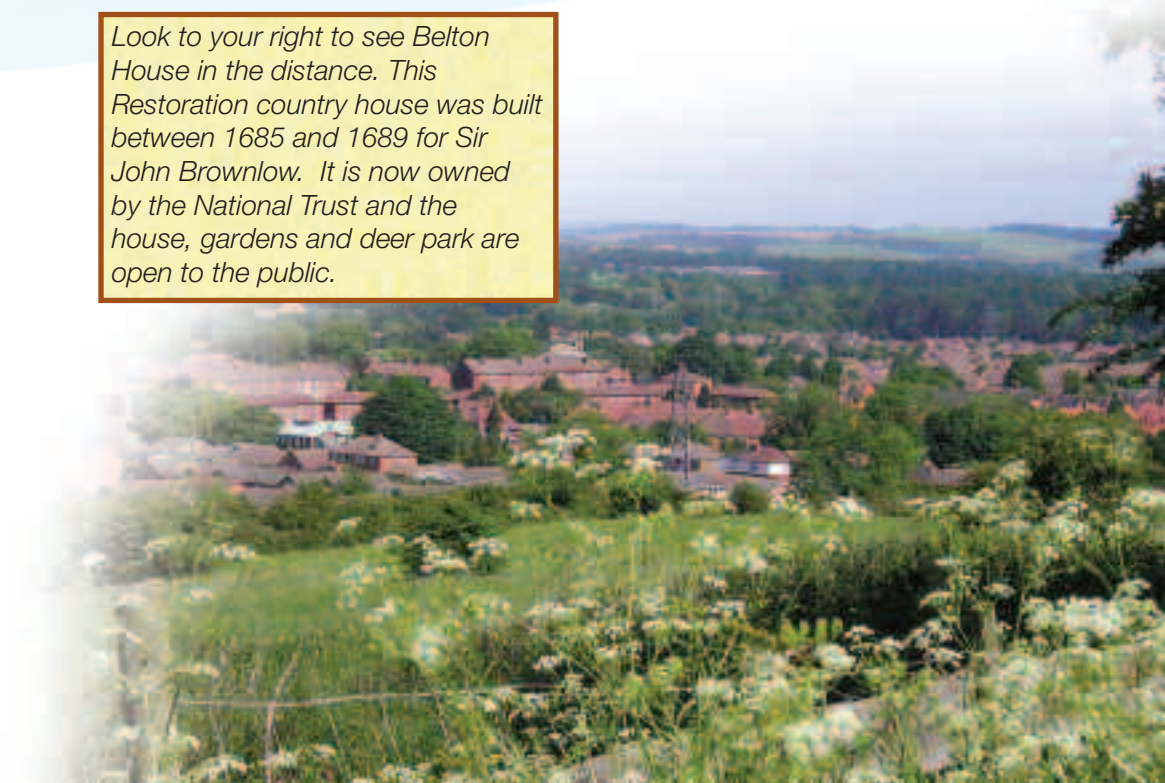
The area to your right was once a hive of activity in the form of RAF Spitalgate. It was originally called RAF Grantham and opened in 1916, reputedly the first military airfield in Lincolnshire. Renamed RAF Spitalgate in 1944 to avoid confusion with another local site, it was used as a training base throughout World War II. Its life as an RAF base ended in 1975, but it continues to be used by the Territorial Army's Royal Logistic Corps.



The Walk

- 7 Turn left along the tarmac road.
- 8 Where the road bears sharply to the right on the outskirts of Harrowby village, bear left by some farm buildings and then continue down a track just to the right of the entrance to Harrowby Hall. Continue downhill along the field edge.
- 9 Turn left up the slope at a footpath sign, now keeping a tall hedgerow on your left. Continue along this field edge path until you come to the large tree and junction of paths and turn right.
- 10 Follow a broad grass track down the hill towards the houses, aiming just to the right of the electricity pylon. Go through a gap in the hedge and continue straight ahead on a path between the houses.
- 11 Cross over the main road (**with care**) and walk down Hill Avenue.
- 12 Take the second road on the right (Gorse Rise) and, after approximately 75m, turn left onto a footpath that brings you out opposite the car park and your starting point.

Look to your right to see Belton House in the distance. This Restoration country house was built between 1685 and 1689 for Sir John Brownlow. It is now owned by the National Trust and the house, gardens and deer park are open to the public.



Be a responsible walker

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council's Natural Environment Team to help you explore and enjoy the county's countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected.

We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact us.

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