

Grainthorpe

Three circular walks of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$, 9 and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ km (1 $\frac{3}{4}$, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 miles)

VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

Introduction

Explore the coastal marshes, arable hinterland, Louth Navigation canal and the village of Grainthorpe on these three varied walks set in an area of coastal outmarsh.

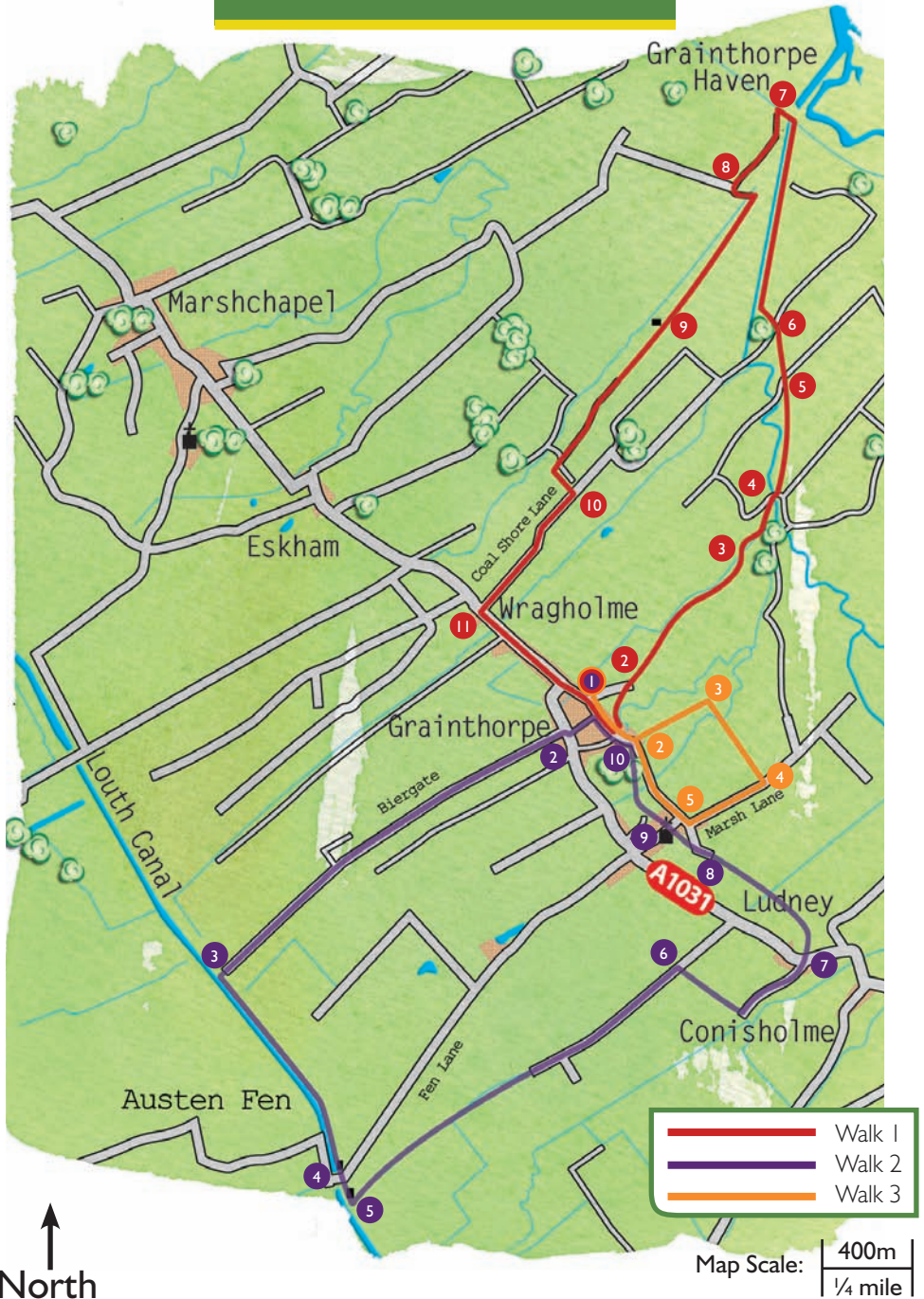
In 1086 the village name was recorded as Germundtorp which derives from the name Germund and the old Danish word thorp and is interpreted as 'Germund's secondary settlement'.

The area between the village and the coast is dotted with small islands of higher ground, indicating areas where salt would once have been made, known as salterns.



Louth canal

Map & Walk



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Walk 1 - Grainthorpe Haven Walk

- 1 With your back to the Methodist chapel turn left.

After approximately 100m turn left onto a footpath and walk through a yard and across a garden and through a gap in a hedge.

Turn left, cross a bridge and bear right across the field toward the corner of the hedge by the house.

- 2 Turn right and follow the footpath across the field to a footbridge.

Cross the bridge and bear slightly left across the next field to a drain.

The network of drainage ditches in the area prevent flooding of this agricultural land. They are also important for wildlife, as a habitat and as corridors for the movement of animals.

Turn right and walk beside the drain.

- 3 After approximately 400m (¼ mile), turn left over the drain then right into a copse. Continue alongside the drain, but on the opposite side.

- 4 At the track turn right over the drain and then left to follow the footpath alongside the drain.

After approximately 400m (¼ mile), as drain bends left, keep straight on across the field to meet the drain again. Continue beside the drain.

- 5 At the track turn right and after approximately 150m turn left over the foot bridge beside some trees.

Although there is nothing left to see, you are actually walking over the site of Swinehaven Harbour and at one time the coastline. The area was reclaimed for agriculture after the 1635 Marsh Enclosure.

Walk across the field, heading to the corner of the wood ahead.

- 6 At the wood, bear left across the next field to a drain, the Seven Towns North Eau.

Turn right and walk alongside the drain.

There are few hedges in the area but the agricultural landscape is dotted with small areas of woodland. Probably planted in the last century they provide valuable for habitat for birds and mammals, including deer!

- 7 At the sea bank and pumping station turn left to reach Grainthorpe Haven.

Grainthorpe Haven is the northern end of Donna Nook coastal National Nature Reserve. Part of the reserve is also an RAF bombing range. The reserve is made up of dunes, saltmarsh, sandflats and mudflats. Over 250 species of bird have been recorded on the site with 47 species breeding on the reserve. The reserve has one of the largest breeding colonies of grey seal in the country. It is managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Looking north on a clear day you will see the Dock Tower at Grimsby, the lighthouse at Spurn Point and ships entering and leaving the Humber Estuary.

Turn left again along the track beside the pumping station, heading back inland.

- 8 At the drain and signpost, cross the bridge and turn left and follow the footpath beside the drain for approximately 100m before turning right along the signposted track.

After approximately 1 km ($\frac{2}{3}$ mile) and where the ditch bends right, continue straight ahead towards the house.

- 9 Walk between the house and barn and follow the driveway for approximately 500m to where

it bends sharp left. Follow the footpath sign into the field ahead but then turn immediately left to walk along the edge of the field but parallel to the track. At the field corner leave the field to join the road. Permission to walk this field edge has been kindly provided by Mossop Farms Ltd.

- 10 Turn right and follow the lane to a T-junction.

- 11 Turn left and use the roadside path.

At the War Memorial carry straight on along the High Street, and walk through the village to the chapel and starting point.

Walk 2 - Louth Canal Walk

- 1 Walk along Chapel Lane opposite the chapel.

The anvil on display was donated to the village in 2001 to mark the site of the village blacksmith's forge.

- 2 At the T-junction turn right and after approximately 50m turn left onto Biergate.

Follow the lane for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ km (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) to its junction with Louth Navigation canal.

- 3 Turn left and walk along the canal bank.

The canal was built between 1765 and 1770 and linked Louth to the North Sea at Tetney. The 12-mile canal allowed vessels to navigate between Louth and coastal ports.

Imports included coal and timber; corn and wool were exported. The canal fell into decline with the arrival of the railway and eventually closed in 1924.

- 4 Walk past the old warehouse, cross the road and continue straight ahead on the public footpath.

Austen Fen warehouse was constructed in the mid 19th century in red-brick and is now a listed building.

- 5 Approximately 100m after crossing the road turn left onto a public footpath and walk between the house and the barn. Follow the path straight on beside the drain.

- 6 After approximately 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ km (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) turn right onto a grass track between two hedges.

Follow this to a lane. Turn left and follow the lane to a T-junction.

- 7 Cross the road with care and continue straight ahead on the public footpath.

Walk straight across two paddocks and cross a bridge. Bear slightly left across the next field to a signpost and bridge in the hedgeline.

Walk straight ahead along the edge of the field. Cross the next narrow field and then straight on beside a hedge and then follow the drain to join a grass track between a fence and drain.

- 8 Where the track forks, bear left. Cross the bridge and bear left to the far corner of the paddock.

Enter the churchyard, turn right and follow the path in front of the church to the gate and road.

- 9 Leave the churchyard, cross the road and carry straight on along the public footpath.

Walk straight on along the field edge.

Leave the field and turn right along the drive. At the gateway turn left to continue along the public footpath.

Continue straight ahead, over a bridge, and enter a field. Walk straight across the field and then beside the hedge to a bridge.

Cross the bridge and walk straight on into another field. Bear right across the field to a bridge in the middle of the fence line.

Cross the bridge and follow the field edge to join a driveway in front of some houses.

- 10 At the road turn left to return to the starting point.

Walk 3 - Village Walk

- 1 With your back to the chapel turn left.
- 2 After approximately 250m, at a sharp bend in the road, turn left onto a signposted public footpath.

At the fence corner bear slightly right across the field to a drain.

- 3 Follow the drain ahead.
- 4 At the junction with a road turn right.
- 5 At the T-junction turn right and follow the road back to the centre of the village and the starting point.

The red-brick barn on your left at the junction is listed and dates from the late 18th century. The listed farmhouse behind dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries with alterations in the 19th and 20th centuries.



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 Countryside Access 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 signpost, 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 would like to request a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format or a different language please contact us.

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Useful information

Walk location: Grainthorpe lies close to the coast 21 ½ km (13 ½ miles) north-west of Mablethorpe.

Starting point: Methodist chapel, High Street, Grainthorpe, LN11 7JA. Grid reference: TF 383 972.

Parking: Please park responsibly in the village.

Public Transport: For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 283 Louth & Mablethorpe. Landranger 113 Grimsby.

Walk lengths and times: Walk 1: Grainthorpe Haven Walk: 9km (5½ miles) and will take approximately 2 ¾ hours to complete.

Walk 2: Louth Canal Walk: 9½ km (6 miles) and will take approximately 3 hours to complete.

Walk3: Village Walk: 2¾ km (1¾ miles) and will take approximately 1 hour to complete.

Type of walks: The walks use field paths, roadside paths, drain banks and quiet lanes which may be uneven and muddy in places. You may encounter stiles on these walks.



Grainthorpe Church

These walks and leaflet have been put together with the assistance of Grainthorpe Parish Council.

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL