# 6 miles | 9.5 km cycle route

# In Search of the Lost Don



## € RIDE STEADY

### Start - Mere Dyke

### Description

A circular route, passing through Ideal cycling country. This area drained by the Dutch in the 17th century has a rich and varied history and a great diversity of flora and fauna.

### Attractions

Garthorpe and the deserted medieval village of Haldenby near Luddington.

#### **Traffic Levels**

Low.

This route can easily be reached from Keadby on the Trent and from Crowle.

# 6 miles | 9.5 km cycle route

Your ride starts at Mere Dyke on the banks of the Trent, cycling north alongside the river which has a variety of boats passing along this busy stretch. A short way along this road is Waterton Hall, on the site of the deserted medieval village of Waterton. The Hall has one of the most substantial threshing barns in the area, the date stones testifying to the prosperity of agriculture in the 18th century. The village stood on the riverbank until the main channel moved to the east. Waterton also has a horse wheel still with most of its machinery intact.

Reaching the left turn to Garthorpe look back over the Trent to Burton upon Stather and the impressive high ground of the cliff. Many years ago a ferry joined the two banks and many visitors came to picnic and walk the steep hillside. During the Second World War this stretch of the Trent was a high security area, used to test amphibious military vehicles.

The joined twin villages of Garthorpe and Fockerby puzzle many visitors. In the past the arm of the River Don divided the villages before entering the Trent just above its confluence with the Humber. The Don marked the historic boundary of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, with Garthorpe in Lincolnshire and Fockerby in Yorkshire. The river was diverted during the 17th century drainage schemes of the Dutch engineer Vermuyden. This, followed by the enclosures, transformed huge areas into highly productive farmland.

Riding south through arable countryside you pass the deserted medieval village of Haldenby, on to the small village of Luddington with its isolated church outside the village. It may be that it once served more than one settlement. Luddington is a typical local village with most of the properties clustered around the main street. The one time abundance of public houses catered for the high number of farm workers once employed on the land. To the north of the village are the remains of a brick built windmill. The route continues to follow the B1392 back to the junction at Mere Dyke.

An optional ride south along the riverside takes you to Keadby, through Amcotts. The picturesque village of Amcotts with trees bordering the road has a delightful church, built in 1830. In 1747 at Amcotts Moor the well-preserved body of a woman was found in the neat

Keadby Lock is the tidal entrance to Stainforth and Keadby Canal, opened in 1802. Keadby has grown over the years, influenced by the building of the first power station in 1948-1952. The King George V Bridge at Keadby, built 1912-1916 by Sir James Ball is the only crossing of the Trent to the Isle of Axholme. Of steel construction, the once electrically-operated bridge originally opened by rolling forward.



The grades for cycle rides - ride easy, ride steady, ride well and ride strong have been developed by British Cycling to help cyclists to decide whether a particular route is appropriate for their ability and experience.

The routes shown on the N Lincs map have been designed and approved by North Lincolnshire Council and the colour grading system serves only as a guide as to the terrain, duration and nature of the ride.