

7 miles | 11 km

cycle route

4

Where Romans Trod

RIDE WELL

Start - Winterton

Description

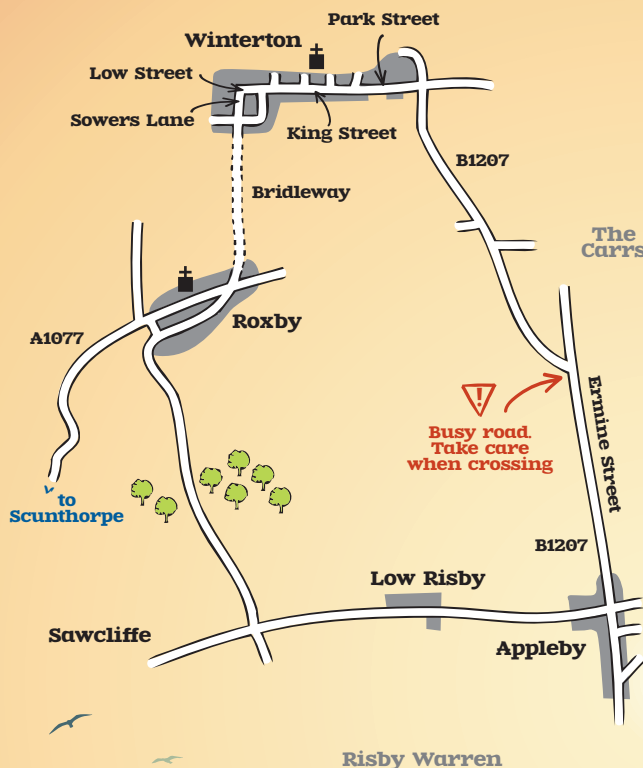
A circular route overlooking the valley of the River Ancholme through mainly arable countryside and along the Roman road, Ermine Street.

Attractions

Roman roads and earlier settlements, ancient churches and deserted village sites.

Traffic Levels

Moderate



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Winterton, the starting point for this ride, is an attractive small town. A wealth of historic buildings surround the market place, overlooked by All Saints parish church with its mid 11th century tower and nave. The distinctive local stone is used for many of the handsome town and farmhouses.

In July each year, the town celebrates with a mid summer show, a tradition for over one hundred years and one of the most popular in the region.

Leave the town, via a bridleway at the junction of Manlake Avenue, Henderson Way and Sowers Lane, known locally as the "Trods". This pleasant route takes you across the fields to the neighbouring village of Roxby. Almost all the farming is now arable with only a few farms keeping any grazing stock.

Roxby has stone houses and farm buildings gathered around the 14th century church of St. Mary. In a garden between North and South Street lies the site of an important Roman dwelling, its mosaic floor occasionally exposed for viewing.

The soils become increasingly sandy as you cycle south from Roxby, passing over the Lincolnshire Cover Sands, deposited by the prevailing winds after the last Ice Age.

Turn left onto Appleby Lane midway between the farmsteads of Sawcliffe and Risby, both the sites of deserted villages. To your south is Risby Warren, where huge numbers of rabbits were once trapped for their skins and meat. The nearby town of Brigg was one of the country's major centres for the curing of rabbit skins. During this century the majority of heath land has been put into cultivation, planted with trees or mined for ironstone. Many of the surviving remnants, with specialized flora and fauna and geographical interest, are now protected.



Cycling east down a gentle slope you reach the pretty estate village of Appleby. This was once the country home of the Winn family, later Lords St. Oswald. Rowland Winn, the pioneer of the Scunthorpe iron and steel industry, built the attractive "New Frodingham" village and was the driving force behind the coming of the railway to the area. A Scunthorpe Heritage Trail leaflet tells the story of his achievements.

Turn north onto Ermine Street, following the major Roman road from Lincoln to the Humber at Winterringham. Constructed by soldiers in the mid-first century AD it was one of the finest stretches of Roman Road in the country.

To the east, the valley of the River Ancholme is known as the "Carrs", an old term to describe low lying land liable to flooding. The drainage of the Ancholme Valley proved to be very difficult, taking around 200 years to perfect.

After 1.5km along the Ermine Street, branch left and follow the road back to Winterton.

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.