

16 miles | 25 km **cycle route**

6

'Tails' of the Riverbank



RIDE WELL

Start - Brigg

Description

A circular route, crossing the North Lincolnshire boundary several times south of Brigg. The route lies within the Ancholme Valley, taking in attractive small villages, riverside scenery, the Roman road Ermine Street, and several interesting historic sites.

Attractions

The market town of Brigg. The combined wind and watermill at Hibaldstow.

Traffic Levels

Generally moderate apart from around Brigg, Scawby and Hibaldstow.



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Brigg is a bustling market town, which has held an annual Horse Fair on 5 August since 1215. World famous tenor, Gervase Elwes, lived there, starting the Brigg Music Festival in 1900. One of his frequent guests was Percy Grainger, who collected folk songs such as Brigg Fair, which was later immortalised by Delius.

The town was once the centre of a thriving rabbit industry, with silver grey skins used to make muffs and tippets. Coney Court, one of the town's many historic yards once had a busy rabbit-skinning factory.

Our route begins on foot, starting at the Tourist Information Centre in the Buttercross. Crowds fill the Market Place for the Thursday and Saturday markets and the regular music, arts and flower festivals in summer. The angel, a former inn dating back to the 16th century, is now refurbished and used as offices.

Leave the Market Place, cycling west to cross the Old and New River Ancholme, along the A18 through Scawby Brook and the B1206 past the rear entrance to Scawby Hall Park. The park has a wealth of fine trees, bordered along most of its length by mature woodland. Turn west into Scawby village.

Scawby has many old stone built houses, farms and estate cottages. The Nelthorpe family, which lives in the Hall, has owned the surrounding land for many hundreds of years. Scawby Grove stands to the south west of the village, built in 1884 for Scunthorpe Ironmaster Joseph Cliff. Nearby Twigmoor Woods have a superb show of rhododendrons.

Turn south in the village and head along the B1207 into Hibaldstow.

Set a mile or so back from Ermine Street, Hibaldstow is an attractive, growing village. To the north east of the church is a combined windmill and watermill built in 1802. After the bends, turn into Church Street, pass the church, down into the solitude of the Ancholme Valley, rich in birds and wildlife.

Hibaldstow Airfield, the first built in the north of the county in 1941 for Fighter Command, had an uneventful life during the war except for one memorable incident, when a young ground crew member found herself airborne whilst working on a Spitfire tail plane!

Hibaldstow Bridge is a handsome structure, spanning the slow flowing 'New River'. The Ancholme, one of the most prolific fishing waters in Eastern England, attracts many breeding birds including great crested grebes, reed and sedge warblers and reed buntings.

Over the bridge, turn south along the track for 1.5km before turning east to North Kelsey.

Passing through the village of North Kelsey, go north along country roads to re-enter North Lincolnshire at the bridge over North Kelsey Beck. To the west of the imposing banks of the man-made Cadney reservoir lies the site of Newstead Priory, set in a landscape rich in evidence of farming dating back to Roman times.

The bridge over Kettleby Beck leads to the railway arch and a pleasant ride into Brigg along the tree shaded riverside road.

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.