

Marston & Hougham



Three circular walks of 4, 8 and 11km (2 ½, 5 and 7 miles)

VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

Introduction

The villages of Marston and Hougham are situated six miles north of Grantham to the east of the A1, and are surrounded by agricultural land growing wheat, oil seed rape, carrots, potatoes, leeks and turf. Wembley Stadium was turfed from this area. Each village has its own church, but the village hall, playing field and various village societies are shared. Marston is the larger village and has a pub, the 'Thorold Arms', and a primary school. Both villages were mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Both also lie within an area of known archaeological activity. A Bronze Age arrowhead and a sword have been found, together with a Romano-British quern stone, bronze brooch, buckles, bone pin and various items of pottery. Some of the pottery was found in a field near the Olde Barn Hotel known as the Ginchester, which was the site of a small Roman settlement.

Marston, from the Old English *mersc-tun* meaning 'homestead by the marsh', is situated on the river Witham. St Mary's church dates back to the 12th century,

but was much altered in the mid 19th century. The broach spire is typical of the 13th century.

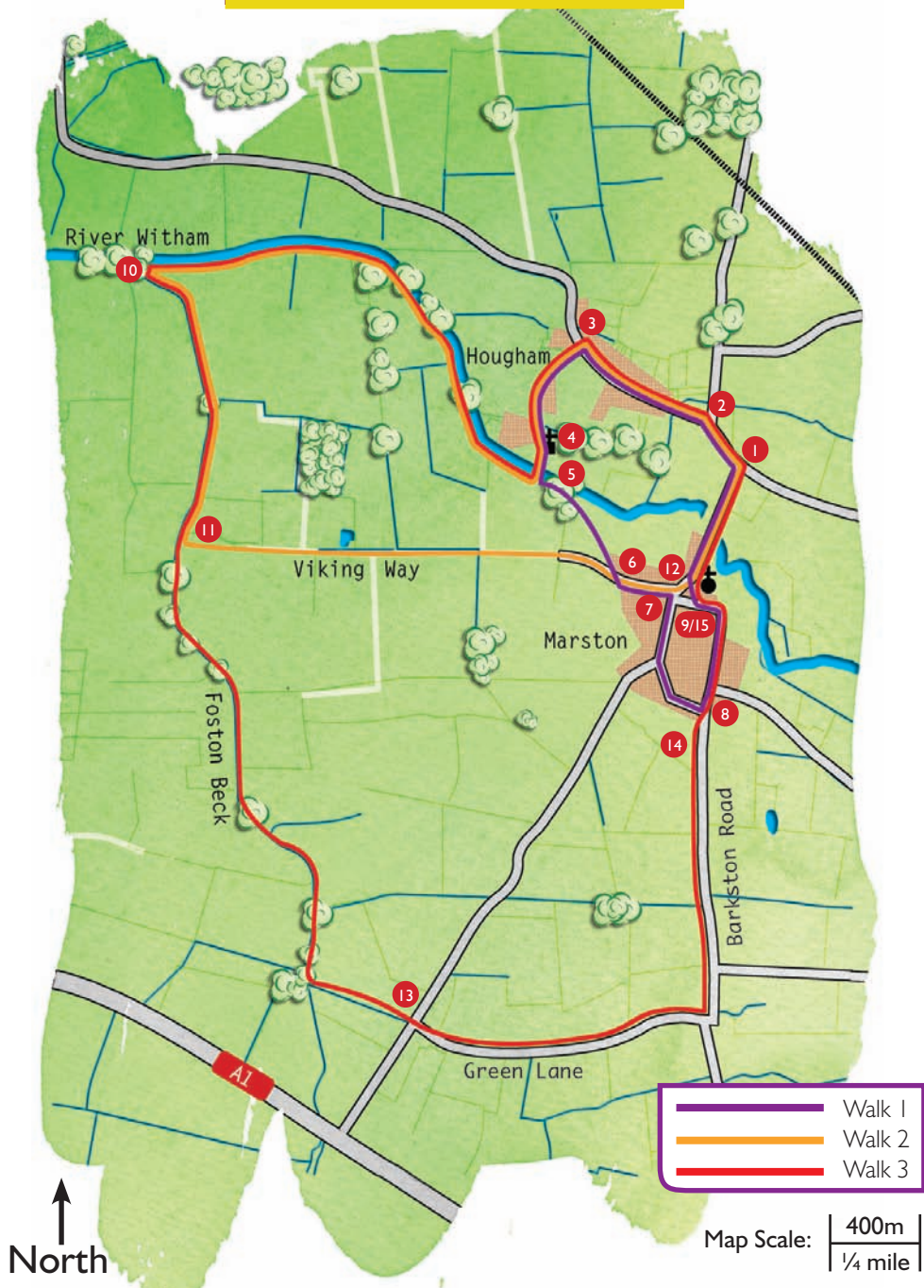
Hougham, once the larger of the two villages, is now much reduced in size but boasts a Norman Manor House. The village name means 'river meadow of Hough-on-the-Hill.' Throughout the Middle Ages Hougham was home to the de Bussey family, and then by marriage to the Brudenells - of Lord Cardigan fame. All Saints' Church contains a monument to a crusader, possibly Sir Hugh de Bussey.

The three walks start from Hougham and Marston Village Hall which lies mid way between the two villages.



All Saints', Hougham

Map & Walk



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Walk I - The Beanholme Walk

- 1 Leave the village hall car park and turn right onto the main road.
- 2 After approximately 200m turn left to Hougham.
- 3 In Hougham village take the second left, Coach Road, and follow it to the church.
- 4 Follow the footpath through the churchyard and across the field to the footbridge and weir over the river Witham. Hougham Manor can be seen on your left. Go over the bridge, across the paddock (about 120m), through the hedge, and over the dyke.

The river Witham rises in South Witham, south of Grantham, and flows through Grantham and Lincoln before flowing into The Wash at Boston. Look out for wildlife as you walk close to the river, including herons and swans.

- 5 Carry straight on, along the footpath, across the field towards Marston. This footpath linking the two villages is known as 'The Beanholme'.
- 6 At the junction with a road, Stonepit Lane, turn left and follow it into the village to a junction with Main Street. Opposite is the Thorold Arms.
- 7 Turn right and walk down Main Street to Pinfold Lane. Turn left into Pinfold Lane and follow it to Barkston Road.

Note the original pinfold on the right hand side half way along Pinfold Lane. A pinfold was an enclosure where stray animals were contained.

- 8 Turn left into Barkston Road and follow it to the left hand corner where the road becomes School Lane. The entrance to Marston Hall is on this corner. Follow School Lane as far as the end of the Hall's garden (the end of the stone wall).

Marston Hall, a Grade II* listed building, which was attacked by Cromwell's troops in 1643, did not undergo restoration until the 18th century. The current building retains parts of the earlier Norman manor house, and the central hall of the original Elizabethan 'E-plan' house. The Hall has been in continuous ownership by the Thorold family since the 14th century.

- 9 Turn right into a narrow footpath leading to the church.

However, before doing this go a little further down School Lane to view the school itself, then return to the footpath.

The village school was founded by Dame Margaret Thorold in 1760 and enlarged over the years. The older part of the building near the road was built in 1861 and is considered one of the best examples of Victorian polychromatic brickwork

At the end of the footpath turn left and follow the village green to Bridge Street and turn right back to the village hall (about 500m, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile).

Walk 2 - The Witham Walk

Follow the directions for Walk 1 up to point **5**.

- 5** On the other side of the dyke turn right along a footpath alongside the dyke. At the junction with a bridleway turn right and follow the field edge to the river. Follow the river bank for about 2 ½ km (1 ½ miles) to where the river is joined by Foston Beck.
- 10** Turn left and follow Foston Beck for about 1200m (¾ mile) to where it meets the Viking Way.
- 11** Turn left and follow the Viking Way towards Marston - across the field, along a track and concrete road and into Marston on Stonepit Lane.
- 12** At the Thorold Arms public house turn left and follow Bridge Street back to the village hall (about 500m, ¼ mile), passing the church on your right.

The Viking Way is the long distance footpath through Lincolnshire. Starting on the banks of the Humber and ending at Rutland Water it covers a distance of 147 miles. The route is waymarked with a Viking helmet.



Foston Beck

Walk 3 - The Foston Beck Walk

Follow the directions for Walk 2 up to point **11** (the junction with the Viking way).

- 11** Continue straight on along Foston Beck. Ignore the bridge over the beck which takes the Viking Way towards Foston, a footpath over the beck and also, further along, ignore a sign for a bridleway to the left. Continue to follow the beck and bridleway towards the large industrial buildings, and then left across the field and next to a drain to the junction of Toll Bar Road and Green Lane.



Marston school

- 13** Cross over into Green Lane and after about 100m step into the field on your left and follow the bridleway which runs alongside Green Lane but on the other side of the ditch or hedge. Continue eastwards for about 1200m ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile) and then turn north for another 1200m ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile) – always following the road but on the other side of the ditch or hedge. This leads right to the edge of Marston village where the fields end.

- 14** At the edge of Marston village step out onto Barkston Road and follow the road through the village to the sharp left hand corner where the road becomes School Lane. The entrance to Marston Hall is on this corner. Follow School Lane as far as the end of the Hall's garden (the end of the stone wall).

- 15** Turn right into a narrow footpath leading to the church. However, before doing this go a little further down School Lane to view the school itself on your left (and possibly visit the Thorold Arms on your right), then return to the footpath. At the end of the footpath turn left and follow the village green to Bridge Street and turn right back to the village hall (about 500m / $\frac{1}{4}$ mile).



St Mary's, Marston

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 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 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: Marston & Hougham are situated approximately 9 ½ km (6 miles) north of Grantham.

Starting point: Hougham & Marston Village Hall which lies on the main road mid way between the two villages at the junction with Frinkley Lane.

Grid reference: SK 894 441. Post code: NG32 2JA.

Parking: Village Hall, as above.

Public Transport: For times and more information call the Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info

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

Walk length: Walk 1: The Beanholme Walk: 4 km (2 ½ miles) which will take approximately 1 hour to complete.

Walk 2: Witham Walk: 8km (5 miles). Approximately 2 ½ hours to complete.

Walk 3: Foston Beck Walk : 11km (7 miles). Approximately 3 ½ hours to complete.

Type of walk: The walks use tracks, field paths, roadside paths and quiet lanes. The walks are level but may be uneven and muddy in places. There are no stiles on any of the walks.

Refreshments: The Thorold Arms, Marston.



St Mary's, Marston

This leaflet has been produced
in partnership with
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COUNTY COUNCIL