

	ERMINE STREET TRAIL PT 273 54km - 3 Sections 18km - 17km - 19km			
START VENUE	Tourist Information Centre, Castle Hill Square, Lincoln. LN1 3AA			
CAR PARKING	Close By - Burton Road Lincoln (Nearby Post Code: LN1 3BG)			
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Nearest train stations are: Lincoln, Grantham, Ancaster and Sleaford. Local bus service from Lincoln, Ancaster and Grantham. Most villages can be reached by local bus companies at regular times, Many local taxi companies operate as well.			
DISTANCE/GRADE	54km (3 Sections: Section 1=18km; Section 2=17km; Section 3=19km - Grade 2			
TERRAIN	Minor and Main roads, tracks, river bank paths, heath land, some steep hills and woodland paths. There are stiles on this route and as such it is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.			
GENERAL INFORMATION	<p>This linear route is a 54km stretch of one of England's oldest main roads, which ran from the heart of London to historic York. Throughout our nation's history the Ermine Street played a vital part for people and their animals, to move to different markets and religious centres.</p> <p>The route is split into 3 sections (18km, 17km & 19km) but you don't have to walk it all or in any particular order, you can reduce the length of section you walk to suit your own ability. Each section finishes close to a bus stop or train station and gives you the option to return to Lincoln or stay in the local area in one of the many villages the route passes through with some pretty impressive traditional country inns, or B&B's. (Accommodation is available in Lincoln, Waddington, Navenby, Byards Leap, Oasby, Welby & Grantham)</p>			
REFRESHMENTS:	At the start and in many places along the route			
TOILETS	Public Toilets at the start point (Castle Hill Square) and may be available in public houses on route.			
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31 December 2017			
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK/UPDATED	7 June 2016 (Please check you are using the latest version if you printed this off a while ago).			
BWF DECLARATION	The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.			
ENTRY FORM	Please complete the section below and send your IVV log books, Payment and an SAE to the Contact Address. Please check the postage rate for weight/ thickness of the envelope. Overseas postage is more expensive.			
ENTRY FEE	£1.00 per walker (Cheques payable to: Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club)			
AWARD	Due to manufacturing costs, a cloth badge/award is not available			
SOUVENIER LOG BOOK	Free stickers for your souvenir log book are available on request. Quantity Required _____			
CONTACT/ ADDRESS FOR STAMPING OF BOOKS	Rob Eddington, 56 Westbeck, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 9GU. Tel: 07834 121220 e-mail: robeddington@aol.com			
NAMES OF THOSE COMPLETING THE WALK				
DATE WALK COMPLETED		PAYMENT ENCLOSED	£	
EMAIL	(in case we need to contact you about your entry)			
PT POSTAL CARDS	Will be stamped if you do not wish to send your IVV books - YES/NO *			
QUESTION 1		QUESTION 2		
QUESTION 3				

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - SECTION 1 (18KM)

From the Tourist Information Centre in Castle Square, head downhill passing Brown's Pie Shop on right. At fork bear left continuing down Steep Hill (sign Steep Hill & City on wall), continue ahead downhill with hand railings on left, then continue down The Strait, passing 2 x green bollards. Continue on pedestrian way to cross 2 roads. Pass under Stonebow Arch and ahead. At black and white fronted building on right (Stokes Café) turn right just before this building to go between the building and shop down steps and along passage. Continue with river on left, pass through narrow passage at the end and continue with river on left. Go under bridge and continue along Brayford Pool, pass Royal William IV on right, continue along the waterside.

Pass marina on left and at Sea Cadets bear right to road, then go left up over bridge and pass University of Lincoln sign on left. Continue over bridge to traffic lights. Continue left (note tank statue on roundabout) head towards Toys R Us keeping it on your right. Cross road for University car park, at next traffic light just before bridge / Ropewalk, turn right to cross road at crossing and head on path with river on left towards Burger King. Cross road to go down side of Burger King with the River Witham on left.

Continue along this riverside path for 2.8km until you reach the A1434 Newark Road and the Plough Public House. Turn left along pavement to cross road at pedestrian crossing over Newark Road and head up Brant Road, when safe cross Brant Road to opposite side and head up Brant Road until you reach Parker Avenue on left. DO NOT go down Parker Avenue but instead take gravel lane at back of houses and continue with hedge on left.

At field proceed along bridle path up hill, take left of 2 forks, at finger post go through gap in hedge and continue uphill, at small fork go right uphill to reach kissing gate. (there are a number of paths that go uphill to reach the Viking Way which runs along the ridge). Proceed along ridge (VW) with hedge on right and fields on left. Continue along this ridge to emerge at Far Lane at metal (Arco) barrier. Turn left up Staples Lane, at T junction turn right, at next junction continue ahead pass Horse & Jockey P.H. on right.

Question 1: What is the name of the house on the right immediately after the pub called?

Pass church on left and 3 Horse Shoe PH, play area (*with seat*) on right. Crossover main road into Millers Road and then at sign post go ahead on footpath alongside hedge. Pass through kissing gate and follow path past old mill towards Harmston church. Crossover village road and continue ahead across fields to reach the village of Harmston. Turn left along village road.

At crossroads (A607) turn right along tarmac path. At next footpath sign turn right to follow path alongside hedge. At marker post turn left and keeping hedge on left follow broad grassy path. Pass by old Stone archway (house entrance) to reach road in the village of Coleby. Turn Right along village road. Turn left along High Street opposite church.

Pass by The Tempest PH and then crossover road by village green to go ahead on narrow hedged path. At path junction bear right to continue along fenced path. Crossover stile and follow path around edge of field. Follow path along ridge through a number of fields to reach the outskirts of Boothby Graffoe. Turn left through gate at footpath sign. Go diagonally across field to gate in front of house. Through gate and go ahead along village road. At road junction bear right along Main Street.

Continue along Main Street. When road bends left out of village go ahead along track to metal gate and continue on track to pass next metal gate and follow path alongside wood. Follow path through fields and then alongside wire fence/hedge to reach steps. Go down steps and turn left, immediately before Hill Top Cottage turn right along Cat Walk, passing village hall on right, follow round to left then right with the church on your right. At lane turn left continue up to the main road of Navenby Village.

End of section 1 (18km completed)

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - SECTION 2 (17KM)

Turn right in front of Cottage Tea Room and proceed along the High Street passing the Kings Head PH and Lion and Royal PH, then becomes Grantham Road. Pass the Doctors Surgery into the village of Wellingore. At the garage cross over road with care and bear right down Millgate with Diamond Jubilee Garden on right to reach T junction (Marquis of Granby PH on right), turn left into the High Street and turn left again into Sleaford Road, to reach main road Pottergate Road turn right.

After 300m (uphill) turn left (sign posted - Temple Bruer). At crossroads turn right onto Ermine Street.

When hard surface road swings away left continue ahead along broad track (*The Ermine Street*). Crossover 2 minor roads to continue on broad track. Crossover busy major road (A17) and drop down embankment to reach a notice board on your left.

Question 2 : What was Byard?

Pass Byards café and B & B on your right and continue ahead. The route now runs parallel to the major road. Follow this track for about 2kms until you reach a very distinct Viking Way sign. Pass through gap in hedge (*tall trees on right*) and follow restricted byway alongside of field with hedge on right.

At cross tracks turn left away from Viking Way and continue ahead to gap in next hedge. Shortly after passing pipeline gap on right, at next fingerpost, bear diagonally left across field. Continue line across next field, pass through another hedge and head towards 7 mature trees. Track passes to left of trees, then hedge on left to arrive at tarmac road. Cross over to tarmac public by-way and descend gently with views of Ancaster ahead. Wire fence on right, hedge on left and small select housing development on right.

Cross railway line and continue down lane / tarmac path, at the end bear left and walk towards the Post Office. Turn right on to Ermine Street.

End of Section 2 (17km completed)

**** Section 3 on next page****

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - SECTION 3 (19KM)

Continue up Ermine Street and turn left at traffic lights. In approx. 50m carefully cross busy road to waymarked track. In another 50m take right fork, going through gate into Ancaster Valley Nature Reserve. At the end of the valley go through gate on left and up steps. At wire fence ahead turn right at finger post keeping hedge on left and small plantation of trees on your right. This then opens out to fields on right. At hedge gap in corner of field cross tarmacked road to track opposite. Hedge now on right and a trig point.

Continuing ahead pass through gap in hedge and at next gap continue straight ahead between fields. At next gap continue to left of hedge. Through next gap with hedge on your right, plantation on your left and at field corner bear left then right on permissive bridle way keeping hedge on left. Where hedge crosses ahead turn left up track to road, then turn right. Ignore finger post left and continue down to T junction. Cross this road and enter the field as indicated by the footpath sign. On opposite side of the field there is a gap in the hedge, a footbridge and a stile that you cross into a grass paddock. Head diagonally right to stile in the wooden fence. Cross stile, head to gate in left hand corner, go through gate, go diagonally left to field corner by outbuilding to cross stile. Enter narrow track between houses which emerges onto a small green in the centre of Oasby.

Turn right along the road, pass telephone box on right and Houblon Arms PH on right. At T junction turn left and follow through attractive village. At T junction turn right and follow this lane / road to village of Welby. Go over cross roads and pass Crown and Anchor PH on right. Continue ahead through village passing Lordship farm on right and Old Post House. Continue out of village and ahead to main road. Cross with EXTREME CAUTION turn left for 15m, then turn right on to public footpath (sign in hedgerow), go through gap in hedge and continue along field edge with hedge on right.

At corner turn left, at next marker post turn right with ditch then hedge on right. After approx. 100m at marker post in hedge, turn left crossing field. At marker continue straight on with hedge on left. At corner of field turn right with hedge still on left. At field corner cross stile, then 2nd stile going diagonally across field to opposite corner.

Cross 2 stiles and turn left between conifer hedges to reach lane. Turn right along pavement, just before junction cross to opposite side keeping in same direction. Pass stone bus stop on left .

Question 3: In what year was the bus stop re-erected?

to reach road junction, turn left along Newgate Lane. At end of house on right Spring Lodge turn right onto Green Lane, ignore public footpath on left, keep ahead passing green barrier and proceed along Green Lane.

At fork go left along Gingerbread Way with woodland on right. Continue into wood and continue on wide path through wood. At fork bear right for 10m, at next fork by yellow topped marker bear right dropping down to gate. Go through the gate and take right fork downhill through heath land. At bottom go through kissing gate, turn right with metal fence on left. Follow path to reach road, turn left and continue along pavement crossing to opposite side by row of shops and continue to the end passing fish & chip shop on right. At junction turn right along pavement of Harrowby Lane.

Continue along the pavement to reach a roundabout, go left in front of a row of shops on right and pass Harrowby C of E Infant School on right. Continue on New Beacon Road then at traffic lights, cross at pedestrian crossing and continue in same direction on Stonebridge Avenue; pass the college on right, this then becomes Avenue Road; continue to eventually emerge in a square, turn left into St Peter's Hill to finish at the Guildhall on your left.

End of section 3 (19km completed)

End of route if you have completed all 3 sections – Well Done 54km in total

Welcome back, Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club hopes you enjoyed the Ermine Street Trail.