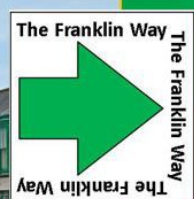


THE FRANKLIN WAY



A walk linking Spilsby and Hundleby
5.5 km (3.5 miles)

INTRODUCTION

Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer, who perished along with his crew while seeking the North West Passage connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was born in Spilsby on 26 April 1786. In 1986, to commemorate the bicentenary of his birth, East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council created The Franklin Way, a walk linking Spilsby and Hundleby. In 2018 the route was updated by Spilsby and Hundleby Walkers are Welcome to encourage locals and visitors alike to explore this attractive area of the Lincolnshire countryside.



North Beck Lane. An attractive metalled lane that leads from the 16th century Sumpter Farm, past Hundleby Grange and Spindleberry Cottage to Main Road, Hundleby.



THE ROUTE

The route starts at the West End of the Market Place in Spilsby, where there is a handsome statue of Sir John Franklin, erected by public subscription in 1861 (A). With your back to the inscription on the statue, walk ahead, carefully cross Ashby Road and continue straight on, with St James Church to your left. Cross Spence Street and pass the imposing building of Spilsby Theatre, built in 1824-6, previously the Court House and local prison. Cross West End, continue ahead and then carefully cross the main A16 at the traffic island. Turn right and walk along the pavement, passing Granary Close, until you reach the footpath sign at the final bungalow (B). Turn left here. Follow the footpath along the edge of the bungalow for 70 metres, before heading diagonally right across the field. Meet another footpath at the field edge and go right for 175 metres. At the field corner, follow the footpath sign to the left along the field edge. At the far corner there is a junction of paths. Ignore the footpath leading ahead towards a house – instead go left just before the hedge line (C). Proceed with the hedge on your right, for 280 metres until you reach a large gap in the hedge. Go through, continuing in the same direction on the other side of the hedge (D). The footpath then becomes a track. Continue in the same direction, with views towards the Lincolnshire

Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

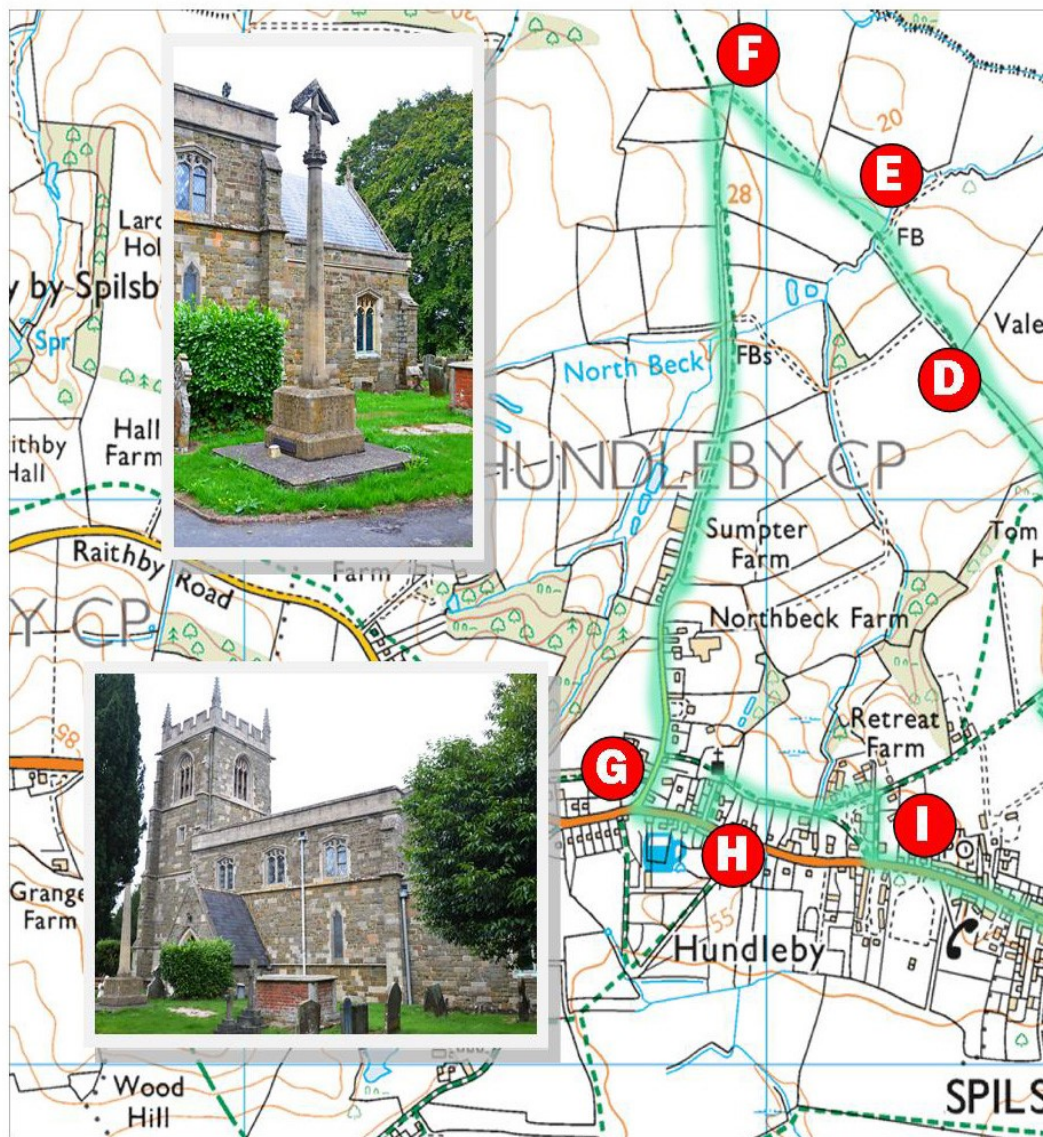
This area overlooks the Lymn Valley where at one time there was a racecourse. The slope formed a natural grandstand during race meetings. The field between B and C was used to park cars and carriages, which frequently had to be pulled out in wet conditions by the horses from the brewery at the southern end of Hundleby.

This section of the Franklin Way is shown on the Endosure Map of 1804 as the Sausthorpe Footway, and is still a Public Right of Way.

Where the track bends to the right, go straight ahead through the hedge to cross a footbridge over the North Beck stream (E). Go along the right hand field edge, then left.

East of the bridge was once a rifle range used by 'F' Company of the 1st Lincolnshire Rifle Volunteers in 1860.

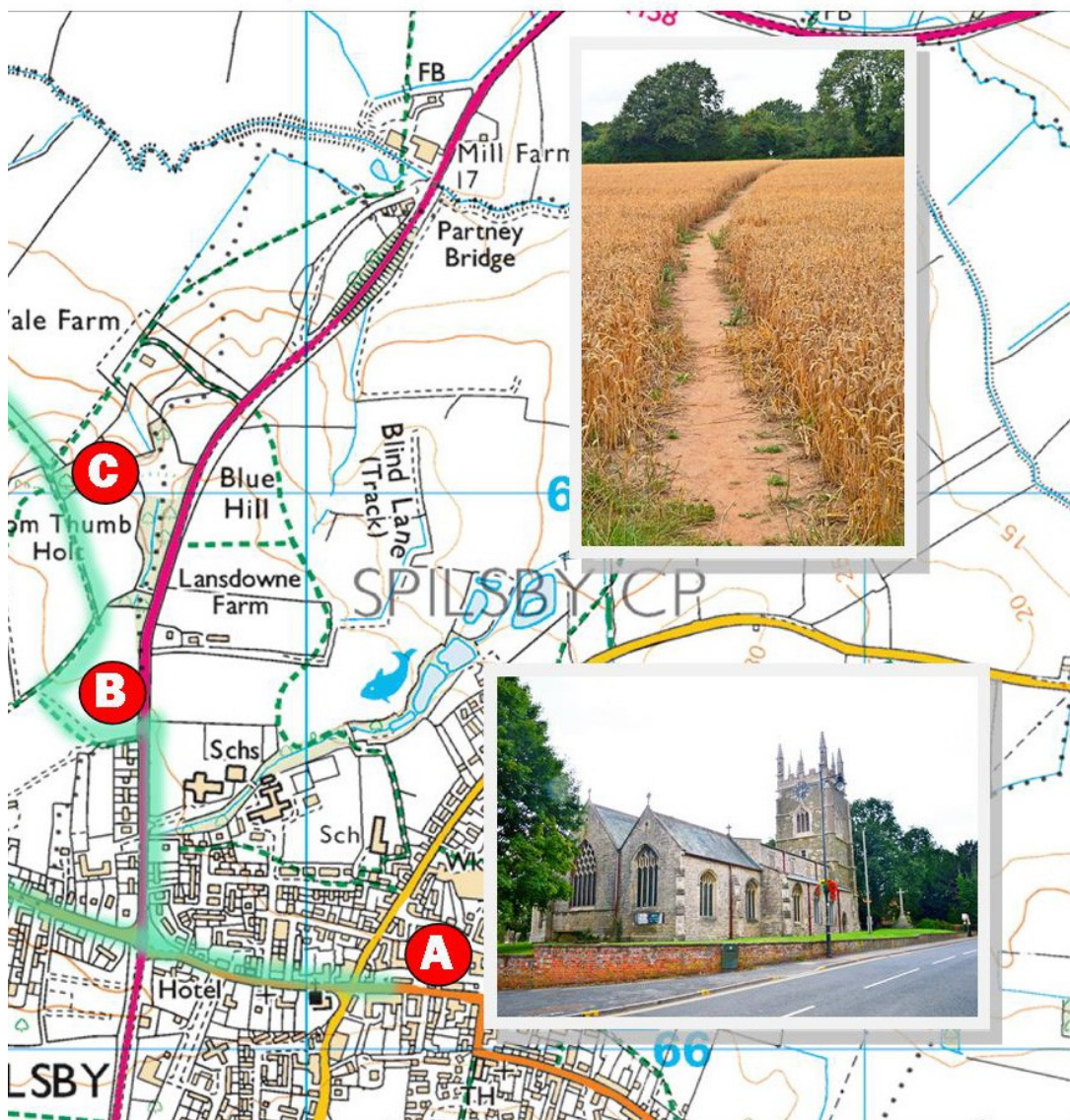
Halfway along the field edge, at a footpath sign, go through the hedge, over a stile, and almost immediately left over another stile. The path then goes diagonally half right across the field, to a fingerpost by a tall tree in the far hedgerow. Once through the hedge, the path goes forward for 40 metres before turning left across the field to a metal gate (F). Cross the stile, a metal gate and a further



Pictures above: Hundleby War Memorial and St Mary's Church.

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Pictures above: The path across the fields at (B) and St James Church, Spilsby.

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Photographs courtesy of Mick Holmes. Waymarkers supplied by Acorn Print of Spilsby.

stile before climbing a stile on your left into a field, to walk in the same direction with the hedge on your right. This runs parallel to a track.

The track was an ancient carriers' route between Old Bolingbroke and Partney. Transport then would have been by packhorse, and in the 17th and 18th centuries fines were imposed on the local body responsible for the upkeep of these tracks. In 1879 Hundleby Parish provided 15 double banded "kids" (bundles of sticks) to be laid in a primitive attempt to improve drainage.

The footpath continues in this direction on the eastern side of the track (North Beck Lane), crossing a number of fields by way of stiles and footbridges. Some of these fields may contain cattle, so be aware of them and keep your distance. Leave the final field at the stile beside a telegraph pole, with farm buildings to your right, to join North Beck Lane.

To your right you will see Sumpter Farm, dating back to 1530, which was a staging post for horses using this route. The farm was given this name because a large pond at the back of the property was used to wash pack-horses, or sumpters.

You are now in the village of Hundleby, and its Conservation Area contains a number of historic buildings, including Hundleby Grange, a red brick thatched building, and Spindleberry Cottage, a colour-washed plastered and pantiled cottage with attic and dormer windows. Continue to the end of North Beck Lane and

look right, towards the red brick cottages. They stand at the end of Brickyard Lane, where the bricks for building Hundleby were made. Turn left (G) along the main road through the village.

Hundleby was described in 1842 as 'well-built, with several neat modern mansions'. In 1926 the local landowner was the Earl of Ancaster, the land having previously been owned by Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, who was also the chief landowner in Spilsby.

On your right you will see the Hundleby Inn, before turning left (H) down Church Lane by the small village green and notice board. Enter the churchyard by the kissing gate.

The church of St Mary was built in 1855, for the sum of £1,300, replacing an earlier church. It is built of green sandstone in Perpendicular style, and was lit by gas in 1880 at a cost of £53. Nowadays it has electricity! In the churchyard is a stone shaft surmounted with a crucifix in memory of those from the parish who laid down their lives in the two World Wars.

Take the tarmac path beside the war memorial to leave the churchyard. Cross over a stile and follow the path along the field edge, with views down towards the Lymn Valley. After the second stile bear left across the grass to cross the entrance road to

Continued overleaf.

Bowman's Ridge, an estate built in 1996. After crossing the grass on the far side, turn right at the fingerpost and bin, up the track known as Milner's Lane (1).

The Enclosure Map of 1804 calls this "Eastfield Road", adjacent to Retreat Farm. It was crossed by the Partney Footway, which provided access for the race-course mentioned previously

On reaching the main road again, (B1195) turn left. Number 28 Spilsby Road has a semicircular Greek Doric porch which was the brewery manager's house as it is adjacent to Brewery Yard. Pass an imposing Victorian terrace of houses built in 1869.

On the opposite side of the road is a new (2018) development of houses built on the site of The Gables Hospital, originally the Union Workhouse. It was designed and built in 1838 by Giles Gilbert Scott, and in 1881 had room for 250 paupers. It later served as an old peoples' hospital, in conjunction with The Grace Swan Memorial Hospital further along the road, built in 1902, which still operates as a local cottage hospital.

Soon Hundleby runs into Spilsby, without any noticeable gap. Continue to the junction with the A16 and cross carefully at the island. Pass in front of the single storey Coley's Almshouses built for 'impecunious local residents' in 1961. Follow the road round to return to the starting point. You may however wish to visit St James Church, where there are interesting memorials to Sir John Franklin and other members of his family. You may also be able to pick up a leaflet entitled "On the Trail of Sir John Franklin" to enable you to find out more about Spilsby's most famous son. Spilsby has a number of cafés and pubs for refreshments at the end of your walk.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Starting Point: The Franklin Statue at the west end of the Market Place in Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Map reference TF401 661 (PE23 5JP)

Getting There: Spilsby is served by the number 56 hourly bus route between Lincoln and Skegness. It is also served by the Brylaine bus from Boston. See:- www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info. There are several car parks in Spilsby.

Route Finding: The route follows public footpaths and is marked with yellow arrows. It is also marked with Franklin Way indicators where necessary.

Animals: Please keep all dogs under effective control at all times. Pick up their waste and dispose of it appropriately. "Bag it and bin it." You may encounter cattle in any of the fields.

Length of the Walk: The walk is 5.5 km (3.5 miles) long and takes 1.5 - 2 hours to stroll around. There are stiles throughout the route.

Facilities: There is a public house in Hundleby, but opening times are limited, and a range of pubs and eating places in Spilsby. There are also public toilets in Spilsby Market Place. For more information on local facilities see:- www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com. For other local walks see www.spilsbyandhundlebywalkersarewelcome.com.

COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

