

became The Hollies Nursery in Victorian times, which was closed and sold in 1924. Pass Bowmans Ridge and Park Avenue, once the site of Fry's Mill, and Mill Cottage on the left, which once had a mill grinding corn for animal feed. On the right you will see The Gables, **J**, a recent housing development, built to resemble almshouses, on the site of the former Work-house.

Spilsby Union Workhouse was built in 1837 at a cost of £4,400. It was provided to house the poorest of the parish and a much larger area including Alford, Wainfleet and Friskney. Following a design competition, in which 17 architects submitted plans, it was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-78) who also later designed The Albert Memorial in London. In 1885 new wash-houses, a laundry and hospital wards were added. The number of inmates varied from 58 to 262 between 1841 and 1911 when it ceased to be a Poorhouse. In 1922 it became a General Voluntary Hospital, and later it became an Elderly Care Hospital, although many local residents were reluctant to be admitted due to its history as a workhouse.

On the left you will see number 46, "Curate's House", which until 40 years ago was owned by the Diocese of Lincoln and occupied by the local curate. Number 32 was the former Post Office, and number 28, with the semi-circular Greek Doric porch and columns, is mentioned in Pevsner and was the former brewery manager's house, **K**. Walk a little way down the adjacent Brewery Yard to see the large brick brewery building at the far end, then return to the main road. On the opposite side of the road is the half-timbered, low-rise Grace Swan Hospital, **L**. Hundleby now merges into Spilsby — the exact boundary depends on which side of the road you are on — so retrace your steps back along the main road towards Bowmans Ridge. On the corner of Milner's Lane is Hundleby House, which used to house a private boarding

Along with the Brickworks, Hundleby Brewery was the main industrial employer in the village. It supplied beer by horse and cart to local pubs, including six in Spilsby. It also supplied a drink wagon for the races taking place on the racecourse beyond, and also provided a horse to pull carriages out of the frequently muddy ground. Apparently if the owners refused to pay for this service, a further horse would be attached to the far side and the carriage pulled back into the mire! The brewery went into liquidation and closed in 1921, despite supplying beer to over twenty pubs.

*The Grace Swan Hospital, **L**, (back page) was built in 1902 as a memorial to Mrs C T Swan of Sausthorpe Hall. It was built as a hospital with a nurses' home at the back, and accommodation for a matron. It had 14 maternity beds, and dealt with minor operations and emergencies, as well as hosting consultants' visits. It is now an NHS community clinic, having ceased to deal with maternity cases when the Pilgrim Hospital was built in Boston.*

and day school. You now have a choice of routes.

Route 1: If you are happy to negotiate a couple of stiles, then turn down Bowmans Ridge, an estate built in 1996. Keeping to the footpath cross the grassy area to your left, climb the stile and follow the footpath beside a field. The views to the right are towards the Lymn Valley and the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and look over the area where the racecourse used to be. Cross the second stile into St Mary's churchyard, turn left through the metal gate back up Church Lane to the starting point, **A**.

Route 2: If you prefer not to climb stiles, then pass the entrance to Bowmans Ridge, the post box and the bench donated by the Royal British Legion in 1933. Continue along the main road until you reach the village green and the starting point of this walk, **A**.

THE ROUTE

Starting at the small village green, **A**, at the end of Church Lane, head down the lane, away from the main road. Pass the Parish Rooms, enlarged in 1884 and formerly a National School with 120 pupils, and enter the churchyard through the metal gate.



B. The Church (inset on map) was built in 1854-55 at a cost of £1,300 raised by public subscription, replacing an earlier building. It is built in Perpendicular style of green sandstone, and is Grade II listed. Inside are carved oak choir stalls, a richly carved pulpit, a 17th century 7-sided font, with pews that were once strictly segregated, with the back two rows reserved for the maids. The chancel was restored with a donation from the 19th Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, patron of the living and Lord of the Manor, and £53 was paid in 1880 for the church to be lit by gas (it now has electricity!) The war memorial in the churchyard is a stone shaft surmounted by a crucifix in memory of the seven villagers who gave their lives during the two World Wars.

Hundleby Grange: Built in the mid 18th century, this imposing property once housed the Southwold Hunt. An earlier property on this site was reputed to have belonged to John of Gaunt of Bolingbroke Castle, who used it as a hunting lodge and to house one of his mistresses. In the early 20th century it was home to Clement Booth (1842-1926), who played first-class cricket, and used to teach boys the game on the front lawn.

fishponds for a former monastery on this site. When you reach the entrance to the Equestrian Centre, admire the views beyond, **E**, retrace your steps along the lane, eventually passing the impressive North Beck House. Take the first public footpath on the right, through the metal gate, at the end of the wall. This pleasant path, (left) which can be muddy, passes behind back gardens, through another gate and a

Facing the church, take the footpath leading away from the tower to the left, through the kissing gate. **C**. This footpath leads you onto North Beck Lane, by the pretty 18th century Spindleberry Cottage. Turn right and walk the length of North Beck Lane, once the carriers' route between Partney and Old Bolingbroke, to appreciate the attractive properties, including the unusual thatched Hundleby Grange, **D**.

'Beck' is Old Norse for 'stream' and the lane takes its name from the stream at its far end beyond Sumpter Farm. Here pack horses could be washed in the large pond at the back of the property, which may also have served as

GENERAL INFORMATION

Starting Point: the village green in Hundleby, by the notice-board.

Map reference: TF389664 Postcode: PE23 5NA

Getting there:

Hundleby is served by the hourly number 56 bus route between Lincoln and Skegness. See: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel or www.lincsbus.info. If coming by car you can park considerably at the roadside in the village. Length of the walk is 2km (1.2 miles) and will take 45 minutes to an hour to stroll around. There are 2 stiles, but an alternative route is suggested to avoid these.

Animals:

Please keep all dogs under effective control at all times. Pick up their waste and dispose of it appropriately. There are bins available. "Bag it and bin it"

Facilities:

There is a public house, The Hundleby Inn, in the village, see www.thehundlebyinn.co.uk. There are also two B&Bs: Blue Line Cottage and The Elm Tree – the latter may serve afternoon tea. See Facebook for further details.

Please remember that the buildings in Hundleby are owned and occupied, so please avoid disturbing the residents or blocking driveways. Thank you.



Above: The Brewery Manager's House.



Above: The Grace Swan Hospital.



The view from the end of North Beck Lane, **E**.



Historic Hundleby



A stroll around Hundleby discovering its history 2 km (1.2 miles)

This publication kindly supported by Hundleby Parish Council, The Hundleby Inn and The Elm Tree



INTRODUCTION

Situated on the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, the pleasant village of Hundleby lies either side of the B1195. It is bounded by Spilsby to the east and Raithby to the west. Referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 as "Hundlebi", the name comes from the Old Norse personal name "Hundulfr", and the Old Danish "by" suffix, indicating a farmstead or village. At that time there were two landowners, the Bishop of Durham and Ivo Tallboys, a steward to William II, and it was considerably larger than Spilsby, which is now a market town.

The village has a number of historic buildings and some vestiges of former industries remain. In the past you may have found grocery shops, a butcher, boot repairers, a Post Office, workshops of a joiner and a wheelwright, a nursery, two schools and eleven farmers, but now it is an agreeable village, with a good sense of community which repays closer attention, with the help of this leaflet.



Above: Two examples of former industries in Hundleby. A brick from the brickworks in Brickyard Lane which is very solid and heavy and imprinted with the maker's name, Hardy & Son.

The stone beer bottle is from the old brewery which was situated behind the brewery manager's house at 'K' in Brewery Lane.



wooded area, eventually crossing a small bridge over a tributary of the North Beck.

Emerge onto the main road at an area called Hundleby Springs – in wet weather you may be able to see why! Turn left along the road, and after 50 yards admire the little brick houses on Spring Terrace on the opposite side. These were built to showcase the quality of the products from the Hundleby Brick and Tile Works, and housed the workers. In 1999 their particularly ornate chimney pots were demolished for reasons of safety.

*In the late 19th century almost every town and village had its own brickworks. Along Brickyard Lane, **F**, were the works of the former clay-pit and kiln, designed by H Clayton of London. Hundleby bricks, which were almost impossible to split, were manufactured here, as well as chimney pots and tiles, and were transported by horse and cart to Spilsby railway station for distribution. The works closed in 1912, but many of the houses in the village were constructed with its products. At the far end of the lane was a forest, apparently owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, which existed until 1917.*

Continue along the main road, passing North Beck Lane, and the quirky South Beck Farm, **G**, opposite, (pictured below) dated 1628, once with a vineyard in the fields beyond.



Further along you will see The Hundleby Inn, **H**, (below) Telephone 01790 752577 for opening hours. This used to be The Maltster's Arms, and originally had its own small brewery, as well as a butcher's shop. The layout of the old skittle alley can still be seen in the pub car park.



Notice the small bungalow opposite with a water pump in the front garden, dating from the times when the village had no piped water (picture inset on map).

Pass Church Lane and the village notice-board, and take note of the houses on both sides of the road, including number 110 built in a quasi-Dutch style, number 112 which was the village bake-house, and the old Fox and Hounds pub on the right, only 3 doors down from the 1871 former Wesleyan Chapel! On the left is The Elm Tree, **I**, a luxury bed-and-breakfast. Numbers 41, 39 and 37 are built on part of the grounds of The Hollies, once a plant nursery. Next to this is the entrance to Spilsby Tennis Club, established here in 1924, with both indoor and outdoor courts and a club-house. The Lincolnshire Championships were held here until World War Two. Its drive was the original carriage entrance to the nursery. During WW2 a group with Bren gun carriers was billeted at the tennis club, with very basic facilities! Next is number 35, Old Mill House, one of three listed properties in the village. This used to have a wind-mill in the grounds until around 1840, and was also the last house in the village at that point. It

Continued overleaf:

Pictures above: Hundleby Church and war memorial. The entrance to The Elm Tree luxury B&B, **I**.

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Picture above: The small bungalow with the white hand water pump in the garden.

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