

**Route location:** Woodhall Spa is 43 km (27 miles) south-east of Lincoln.

**Route summary:** Woodhall Spa, Kirkby on Bain, Roughton, Stixwould, Kirkstead, Woodhall Spa.

**Route length:** 25½ km (16 miles) or 14½ km (9 miles).

**Route description:** Circular, on quiet roads and a surfaced disused railway line, now the Water Rail Way and NCN route 1. The route is mostly level.

**Starting and finishing point:** Royal Square Gardens, at the junction of Station Road and Tattershall Road, Woodhall Spa. Grid Ref: TF 192 630.

**Ordnance survey maps:** Landranger 122 Skegness and 121 Lincoln & Newark. Explorer 273 Lincolnshire Wolds South.

**Parking:** Car parks on Station Road, Woodhall Spa.

**Tourist Information Centre:** The Cottage Museum, Iddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa (seasonal), Tel: 01526 353775 or 14 The Bullring, Horncastle, Tel: 01507 526636.

**Public toilets:** Spa Road, Woodhall Spa.

**Shops:** Wide selection in Woodhall Spa.

**Pubs:** Selection in Woodhall Spa. The Ebrington Arms, Kirkby on Bain.



# Woodhall Spa



**Lincolnshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL



Aggregates and quarry products are essential to our standard of living and quality of life. The industry is committed to making a positive environmental and economic contribution and to working in partnership with national and local stakeholders wherever possible.

Published March 2008

A circular route of 25½ km (16 miles) or 14½ km (9 miles)



Enjoy the peace and quiet of this rural area by bike and discover woodlands, heathland, wetlands and a river as well as the attractive resort village of Woodhall Spa.

**Directions**

= Pub/Refreshments = Shops = Toilets = Places to look out for

**Royal Square Gardens**

- 1 Leave the Royal Square Gardens, at the junction of Station Road and Tattershall Road, and cycle through Woodhall Spa along Station Road which becomes The Broadway.

**Cottage Museum & Tourist Information Centre**

Cycle past The Golf Hotel and National Golf Centre.

- 2 Turn right (signed Kirkby on Bain).

Look out for the nature reserves and woodlands along this stretch of road. Roughton Moor Wood on the left and Ostler's Plantation and Kirkby Moor on the right.

**Roughton Moor Wood**

**Ostler's Plantation**

**Kirkby Moor**

- 3 At T-junction in Kirkby on Bain turn left (signed Roughton).

*To visit Kirkby Gravel Pit nature reserve turn right at the T-junction. The entrance to the reserve is approximately 2 km (1¼ miles) on the left.*

**Kirkby Gravel Pit**

- 4 In Roughton turn left (signed Woodhall Spa).
- 5 At the T-junction turn left (signed Woodhall Spa).
- 6 Turn right (signed Horsington).
- 7 At the T-junction turn right and then almost immediately left (signed Poolham).

*For the short cut to return to Woodhall Spa turn left at the T-junction and at the next T-junction turn left and rejoin the directions at 16.*

**Wellington Monument**

- 8 Turn left (signed Horsington).
- 9 At the T-junction turn left (signed Stixwoud) past Stixwoud Wood.



Wellington Monument

**Stixwoud Wood**

- 10 In Stixwoud turn right (signed Bucknall).  
Turn left (signed Stixwoud Station).

- 11 At the T-junction turn right (no through road).

- 12 At the end of the road, at the former Stixwoud Station, turn left through the car park and join the Water Rail Way (National Cycle Network, NCN, route 1).

**Stixwoud station and former railway line**

- 13 Go under the bridge at Woodhall and turn left off the old railway line (signed NCN 1).

At the T-junction turn right.

- 14 Turn left along Mill Lane.
- 15 At the crossroads turn right (signed Woodhall Spa).

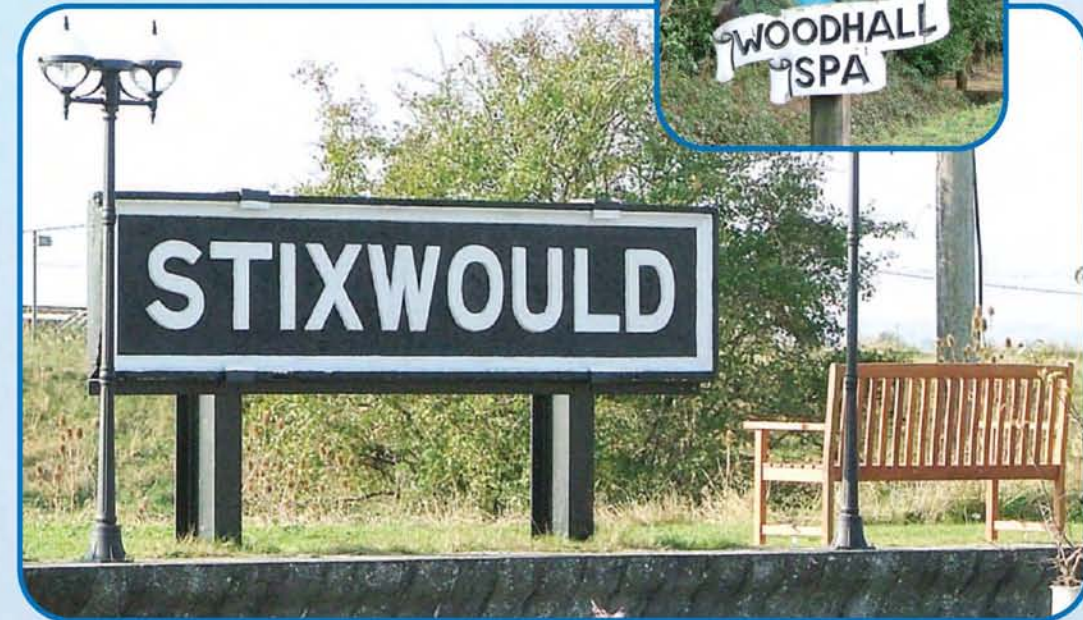
- 16 Turn left along Coronation Road (signed Kinema in the woods).

Turn right along King George Avenue.

**The Pinewoods**

At the T-junction turn right.

- 17 At the T-junction with Station Road turn right to return to the Royal Square Gardens.





# Map

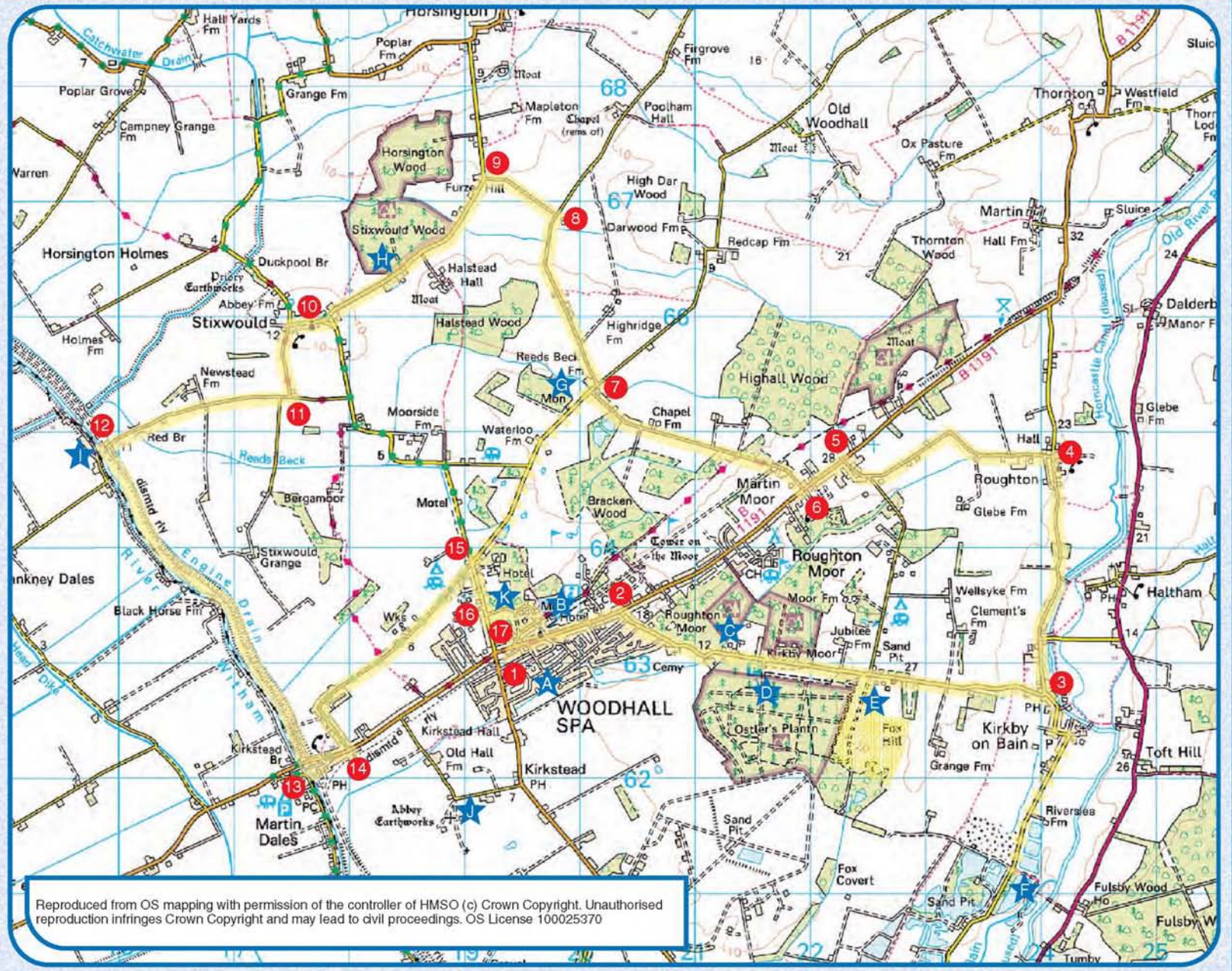
Map Scale: 1km 1mile 1:50 000



Roughton Church



Kirkstead Abbey



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The letters used here correspond to those shown on the map and in the directions.

- A Royal Square Gardens**  
Site of the Royal Hydro Hotel which was destroyed by a bomb in 1943. The gardens now contain a memorial to the Dambuster 617 Squadron which had its mess locally.
- B Cottage Museum and Tourist Information Centre (seasonal)**  
Tel: 01526 353775  
Find out more about Woodhall Spa's fascinating history.
- C Roughton Moor Wood**  
This Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust woodland contains oak, birch, rowan, Scots pine and some areas of heathland. Look out for woodpeckers and tree creepers. Please do not cycle around the reserve. Enjoy it on foot following the waymarked route.
- D Ostlers Plantation**  
Between 1942 and 1945 the area was an air base and a surviving airfield building is used as a bat roost. The conifers were planted after the war and there are also areas of oak and birch.
- E Kirkby Moor**  
This Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The sandy acidic soil promotes a heathland landscape of shrubs such as heather and bracken with some birch and pine trees. Again please do not cycle on the reserve but follow the waymarked routes on foot.
- F Kirkby Gravel Pit**  
Once an area of sand and gravel extraction the area is now a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve and an excellent place for a break and some birdwatching. There is a hide and in spring and summer you might see oystercatchers, ringed plovers and common tern. In winter look out for greylag geese and a variety of ducks.
- G Wellington monument**  
A bust of the Duke of Wellington sits on top of a granite obelisk. The woodland behind was planted from acorns sown immediately after the battle of Waterloo.

**H Stixwold Wood**  
Owned and managed by the Forestry Commission this woodland forms one of a group that make up the Lincolnshire Limewoods. These woods are the most important examples of small-leaved lime woodland in Britain and some are designated a National Nature Reserve. The Lincolnshire Limewoods project is a partnership working to protect, enhance and promote the natural and historic landscapes of this area. To find out more visit [www.limewoods.co.uk](http://www.limewoods.co.uk)

**I Stixwold Station and the Water Rail Way.**  
The railway line between Lincoln and Boston was opened in 1848 by the Great Northern Railway and the station dates to then. The disused railway line between Lincoln and Kirkstead now forms part of the Water Rail Way, a multi-user path running alongside the river Witham.

**J Kirkstead Abbey**  
Although not on the route it is worth a short detour. Kirkstead is one of the Witham Abbeys, and was founded in 1139 and moved to this site in 1187. All that remains of the Cistercian Abbey church is part of the south transept and extensive earthworks.

**K The Pinewoods**  
This area of woodland on the doorstep of Woodhall Spa is owned by the Woodland Trust. It was originally planted in 1811 to provide a supply of timber for pit props for the adjacent coal mine. However the mine flooded before coal was reached. Today the woodland is dominated by silver birch. Some exotic tree species can be seen in the area which was once the gardens of the Victoria Hotel.



The Pinewoods

- Always follow the highway code.
- Always follow the countryside code.
- Be courteous to other users and vehicles.
- Use a bell to let people know you are there.
- Be seen – where high visibility clothing and use lights in poor visibility.
- Wear a helmet.
- Keep your bike roadworthy.
- Please do not cycle around the nature reserves – take time to enjoy them on foot.

This is just one in a series of cycle routes produced by Lincolnshire County Council. For others please contact us or visit the website.

We would welcome your comments and suggestions on this route and leaflet to help us improve future editions.

**If you require this leaflet in another format or language please contact us.**

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The Water Rail Way