



Above: Lincolnshire Longwool sheep by Sally Matthews

Right: Curly Coat pigs by Nigel Sardeson



The Water Rail Way, the path beside the River Witham that connects Lincoln to Boston, was named in a competition both for its former life as a railway line but also for the abundant bird life that can be seen in this green corridor. The shy Water Rail has been seen from this path.

For centuries, boats loaded with grain and wood plied between the Cathedral city of Lincoln and the seaport of Boston. Local people travelled on packet boats between the two towns and riverside villages until the railway opened in 1848 when cheaper and faster rail travel saw a decline in the river's fortune. The last goods train to the sugar beet factory at Bardney came though in 1981.

There are services in the villages of Bardney, Southrey, Kirkstead Bridge and, a mile from the path, Woodhall Spa.



It is hoped in the future that the Water Rail Way will continue beside the River Witham in Bardney, but at the present time there is a winter and a summer route (see map). Please take care on the on road sections.

The Water Rail Way consists of 20 miles of off-road path and 13 miles on country lanes. It connects Lincoln and Boston and for much of its length it sits beside the River Witham. The Water Rail Way forms a part of the regeneration work undertaken by the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership and it was project managed by Sustrans on their behalf.

It was funded by the European Union and Lincolnshire County Council.



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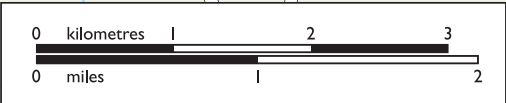
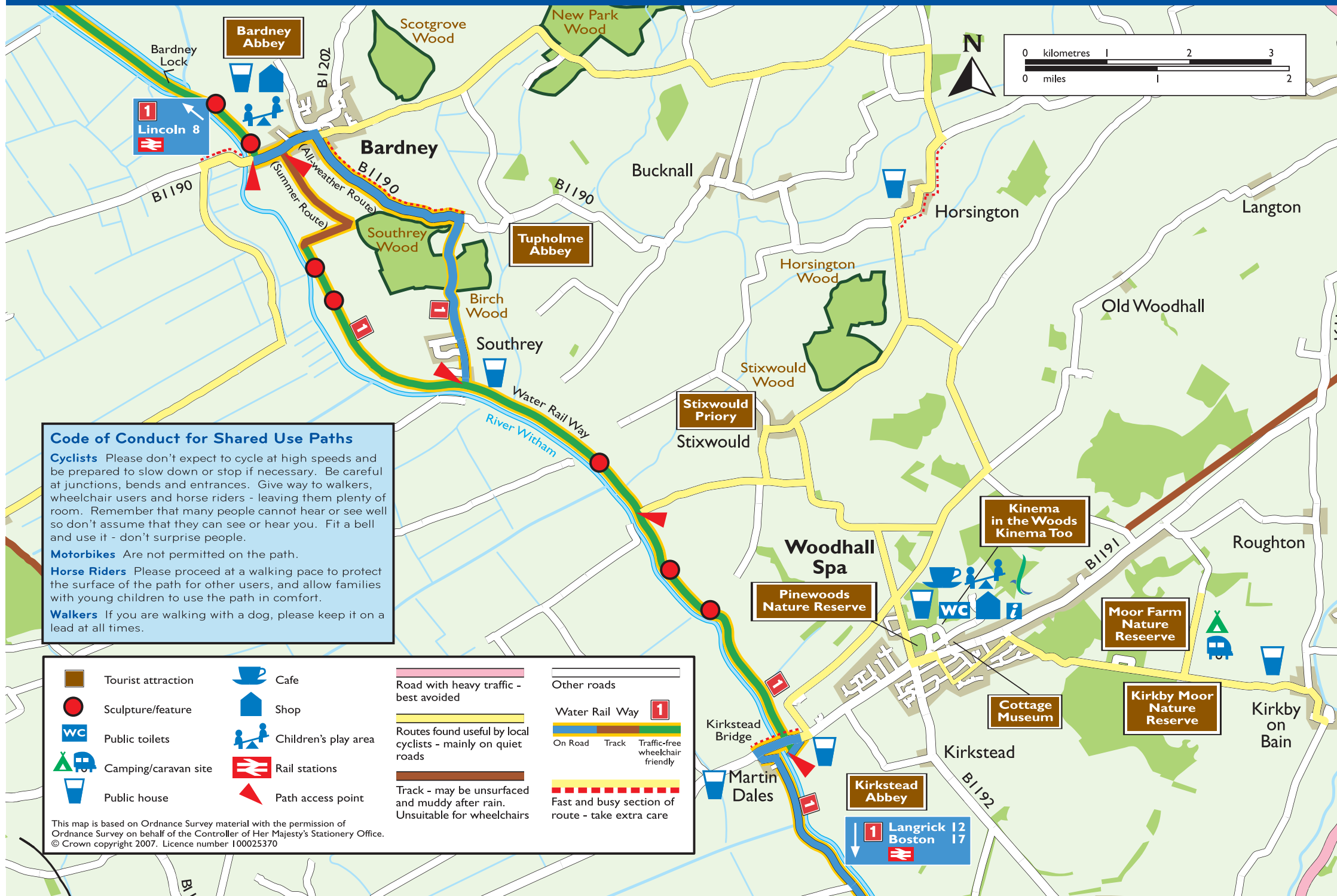
The WATER RAIL WAY

A mainly traffic free route between Lincoln and Boston



Bardney to Woodhall Spa
7 miles of mainly traffic-free paths following the River Witham, for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Water Rail Way Bardney to Woodhall Spa



Code of Conduct for Shared Use Paths

Cyclists Please don't expect to cycle at high speeds and be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary. Be careful at junctions, bends and entrances. Give way to walkers, wheelchair users and horse riders - leaving them plenty of room. Remember that many people cannot hear or see well so don't assume that they can see or hear you. Fit a bell and use it - don't surprise people.

Motorbikes Are not permitted on the path.

Horse Riders Please proceed at a walking pace to protect the surface of the path for other users, and allow families with young children to use the path in comfort.

Walkers If you are walking with a dog, please keep it on a lead at all times.

Tourist attraction	Cafe	Road with heavy traffic - best avoided	Other roads
Sculpture/feature	Shop	Routes found useful by local cyclists - mainly on quiet roads	Water Rail Way
Public toilets	Children's play area	Routes found useful by local cyclists - mainly on quiet roads	On Road
Camping/caravan site	Rail stations	Track - may be unsurfaced and muddy after rain. Unsuitable for wheelchairs	Track
Public house	Path access point	Fast and busy section of route - take extra care	Traffic-free wheelchair friendly

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