

Community Rail
Accredited Partnership

NORTH NOTTS AND LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

EXPLORE NORTH NOTTS AND LINCS BY RAIL



HELLO

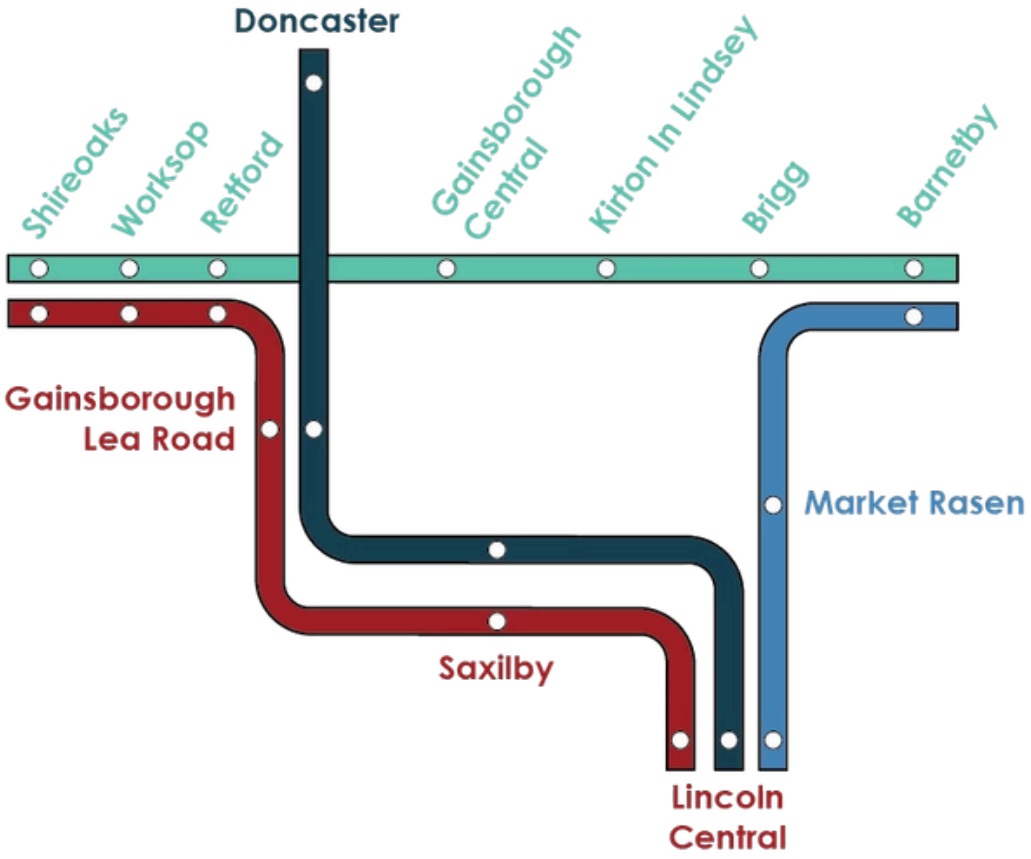
The North Notts & Lincs Community Rail Partnership works to connect communities across our region by promoting and supporting the local rail network. Covering routes through North Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, and out to Doncaster, we work with local people, businesses, and rail operators to enhance stations, encourage sustainable travel, and help more people discover the rich heritage, countryside, and hidden gems along our lines. You can learn more about what we do by visiting www.nnlcrp.com.

This guide highlights some of the fantastic places you can explore using the train, from historic market towns such as Retford and Brigg, to cities such as Lincoln, steeped in heritage. Whether you're a local rediscovering your area or a visitor looking for inspiration, travelling by rail is a scenic, relaxing, and environmentally friendly way to explore everything our region has to offer.

Information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing, but please check with individual venues before visiting for details of opening hours and costs.

Image: Doncaster Rail Heritage Centre

OUR ROUTES



SHIREOAKS



Located North-West of Worksop, Shireoaks has a rich mining heritage. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy scenic canal-side strolls or boat watching at the Shireoaks Marina, wandering along towpaths and riverside trails. With easy rail links to Sheffield and Lincoln, Shireoaks is accessible for day-trippers and a perfect gateway to countryside walks including the 'Cuckoo Way', wildlife spotting and local history. Ale enthusiasts will also enjoy a visit to the Ticking Clock Brewery, a short walk from the station.

WORKSOP

WHAT'S ON?



WORKSOP MARKET

Worksop is a market town, and the market has a long history dating back to 1296, when King Edward I gave a charter for a market for the Feast of St Cuthbert. Markets are held on Wednesday (Charter Market), Friday and Saturday of each week. Regular stall holders include fresh produce, baked goods, fishmongers, and flowers, as well as soft furnishings, clothes, and books, offering something for everyone.

MR STRAW'S HOUSE

Mr Straw's House is a National Trust property, near to Worksop Station. Step back in time and visit the preserved 1920s home of a grocer's family - where nothing has been thrown away in more than sixty years! Located at 7 Blyth Grove, the house contains over 30,000 items left behind by the Straw Family. Please check the National Trust for opening times and admission fees.





CRESWELL CRAGS

A short train ride from Worksop on the Robin Hood Line, Creswell Crags is an enclosed limestone gorge on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Take the train from Worksop to Creswell and enjoy a picturesque walk to one of the most important prehistoric archaeological sites in the UK. Cave tours can be booked via creswell-crags.org.uk.

Needing to change trains at Worksop? Enjoy a drink at the station pub, The Mallard, while you wait!

RETFORD

WHAT'S ON?



BASSETLAW MUSEUM

Located on Grove Street, Bassetlaw Museum documents the history of North Nottinghamshire from now until the present day. Collections include local history, archaeology, fine art, agriculture, costumes and textiles. Highlights include Pilgrims Gallery, and a wetu in the museum grounds. A varied schedule of events for children is held throughout the year.

KINGS' PARK

In the centre of Retford, the award-winning Kings' Park covers an area of 10 hectares, and is divided into two parts by the River Idle. Enjoy a stroll along the river and through the Rose Gardens, or take the children to enjoy the splash park (open during the summer) located by the chidren's play area.





SHOPPING

Retford offers a diverse selection of independent shops, including boutiques, a pottery, a children's bookshop, and a table-top cafe. Markets are held on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and the town has a large selection of independent eateries, suitable for all tastebuds and dietary requirements. On the third Saturday of every month, Retford hosts the popular Farmers' Market.

GAINSBOROUGH

WHAT'S ON?



GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL

Gainsborough Old Hall, owned by English Heritage, is over five hundred years old and is one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England. A hidden gem, it offers a variety of events and exhibitions, as well as a cafe set in the 15th century Parlour, offering a selection of locally sourced treats.

GAINSBOROUGH HERITAGE CENTRE

The Gainsborough Heritage Centre opens on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and boasts an extensive archive of local history information, as well as exhibitions to promote Gainsborough's heritage. The 'Telephone Exchange' tea room is the perfect way to round off your visit. Visit gainsboroughheritage.co.uk for further information.





THE PILGRIM WOMAN

Located beside the River Trent, The Pilgrim Woman is a bronze statue celebrating the women and children linked to the Mayflower story. It recognises the Separatists (thought to have worshipped in secret at Gainsborough Old Hall) who fled England in 1608 seeking religious freedom, travelling from Gainsborough along the Trent towards Holland before some sailed to America on the Mayflower. Created by Nottinghamshire sculptor Rachel Carter as part of the Spirit of the Mayflower project, the statue carries the inscription "Steering our Future Informed by Our Past."

KIRTON IN LINDSAY



"Saint Andrew's Church tower, Kirton in Lindsey" by Jules & Jenny, licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

Kirton in Lindsey is a charming historic market town perched partly atop the Lincoln Cliff in North Lincolnshire, halfway between Scunthorpe and Lincoln. The medieval Market Place is the heart of the town, over looked by the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall. For those who enjoy countryside walks and outdoor adventures, there are scenic footpaths, cycling routes and panoramic views across the Trent Valley from the cliff edge. Meanwhile, KLASSIC Park and local green spaces provide recreation and play areas for families and sports enthusiasts. Accessible via rail on weekdays, Kirton in Lindsey combines architectural heritage, rural charm and community spirit.

BRIGG

Brigg is a historic North Lincolnshire market town, nestled along the River Ancholme, offering a blend of heritage, weekly markets, independent shops, and countryside trails. At its heart lies the elegant Buttercross, a Grade II listed Georgian-era building, and the Brigg Heritage Centre that serves as the town's tourist information centre, as well as hosting exhibitions all year round. Brigg Heritage Centre is also home to the famous Bronze Age sewn-together Plank Boat or 'Brigg Raft' - one of only two examples on display in the country. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy riverside walks or cycle along the Ancholme Valley Trail, or explore the well-preserved Wrawby Post Mill.



BARNETBY



"St Mary's Church" by Julian P Guffogg, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 via Geograph.

Barnetby, a charming village in North Lincolnshire, is a great stopping point for visitors arriving by train. Known for its historic railway connections, Barnetby station provides easy access to nearby attractions. Nature lovers can enjoy the rolling Lincolnshire Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, offering scenic walking and cycling routes. Keen walkers can also join the Viking Way, which passes through the village and is marked with a Viking symbol. Those with an interest in architecture will want to view the redundant Church of St Mary, a building of Saxon origin. With excellent rail links and plenty of countryside charm, Barnetby makes an ideal base for discovering Lincolnshire.

MARKET RASEN

Market Rasen is a friendly market town on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, surrounded by beautiful countryside and woodland. Explore the traditional market place, independent shops and cafés, or follow the town's heritage trail to discover historic buildings such as the 12th-century Church of St Thomas and the old Corn Exchange. Nearby, Willingham Woods offers peaceful walks, cycling and picnicking among the pines, while Wild Pines Park provides high-ropes adventure in the treetops. Market Rasen Racecourse hosts year-round meetings and events, making the town a lively destination for a day out by train. Don't forget to explore the station; beautifully maintained by local volunteers, it's a destination in its own right!



LINCOLN

WHAT'S ON?



MUSEUM OF LINCOLNSHIRE LIFE

Discover Lincolnshire's story from 1750 to the present day, with vintage farm machinery and military exhibitions, including a WWI tank. Hands-on displays, children's trails and regular events make it the perfect free day out, although donations are welcomed to support the museum's upkeep.

INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE

Overlooking the city, this poignant centre serves as a point of remembrance for Bomber Command. Explore interactive displays and exhibits, then stroll among the beautiful Peace Gardens. The Memorial Spire and Wall of Names offer a moving place for reflection. With cafe facilities, and Free Family Fun Days during school holidays, this is a learning experience for the whole family.





SHOPPING

Lincoln is a shopper's delight, combining big-name brands with unique independents. Explore Steep Hill, stop to admire the Cathedral, and then visit Bailgate for quirky boutiques, vintage finds, crafts and local food, or head to the High Street and Waterside for popular shops and riverside cafés. Markets, seasonal fairs, and specialist shops make Lincoln perfect for browsing, before enjoying a meal at one of the many local eateries.

SHEFFIELD TO RETFORD
RAIL ALE TRAIL

Discover the amazing
"SHEFFIELD TO RETFORD RAIL ALE TRAIL"
Our website includes detailed information
about the featured pubs, opening times,
available beverages and lots more...

www.sheffieldretfordaletrail.co.uk

Retford
Worksop
Shireoaks
Kiveton Bridge
Woodhouse
Sheffield

SHEFFIELD TO RETFORD RAIL ALE TRAIL

SCAN OUR
QR CODE
TO GO DIRECT
TO OUR WEBSITE

SAXILBY



Picturesque Saxilby, named Saxebi in the 1086 Domesday Book is a historical village located a few miles from Lincoln. Visitors can enjoy a peaceful day out exploring the local countryside on foot or by bike, stop for lunch in local venues, and wander along The Foss Dyke, thought to be the oldest canal in England still in use. Don't forget to take a look at The Flying Scotsman mural on Station Approach, painted on the side of Smiths Fish & Chips.

DONCASTER

WHAT'S ON?



RAIL HERITAGE CENTRE

Located inside the Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, the Rail Heritage Centre celebrates Doncaster's proud railway past. See two Doncaster-built locomotives, Green Arrow and No. 251, alongside thousands of artefacts from the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection., an absolute must for rail enthusiasts!

DONCASTER MINSTER

Doncaster Minster of St George is a stunning Grade I listed Victorian Gothic church, located in the heart of Doncaster, where it is thought that a church has stood since the 11th century. Step inside to admire soaring architecture, intricate stained glass, a famous Schulze organ and a clock by Dent, maker of Big Ben's mechanism. The Minster also hosts concerts, services and heritage events throughout the year.





"Frontage of the Mansion House, Doncaster" by Rcsprinter123, licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

DONCASTER MANSION HOUSE

Dominating the High Street for over 250 years, Doncaster's elegant Georgian Mansion House is one of only three remaining in the UK. Once the focus of civic banquets and balls, it now opens for tours, open days and special events. Explore grand state rooms, historic kitchens and exhibitions, and enjoy this remarkable symbol of civic pride on one of their monthly Friday open days. Visit https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/mansion-house/ for more information.



THE MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD & LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY (MSLR)

Many of the stations in North Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire formed part of the MSLR, which was central to opening up North Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire to the wider world. Its cross-country route linked the collieries, market towns and farming communities of the two counties with the industries of Manchester and Sheffield and the docks at Grimsby. In North Nottinghamshire, places like Worksop and Retford became key intermediate stations, handling coal, goods and passengers, and helping to shape the growth and character of the towns we know today.

Across Lincolnshire, the MSLR brought new opportunities for trade and travel, connecting villages and market centres to coastal resorts and ports. Stations along the line became gateways to work, holidays and the wider country, with the railway knitting together rural communities that had once felt remote. Much of today's network in North Notts and Lincs still follows the paths first laid out by the MSLR, so every journey offers a chance to experience living railway history. Look our for the heritage story boards installed along the route to learn more!

Image: Mayor Claire Ward, Jo White MP and volunteers with MSLR board at Worksop Station.