

Including Town Map Walk

Discover Crowland's Ancient Monuments

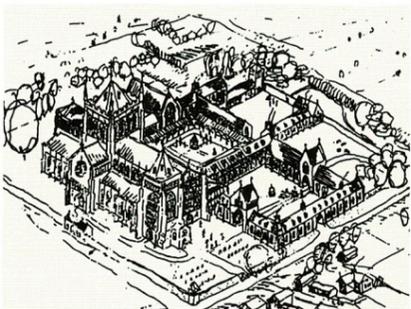
Your invitation to visit the heart of the Fenland's monastic

# CROWLAND

## Welcome to Crowland

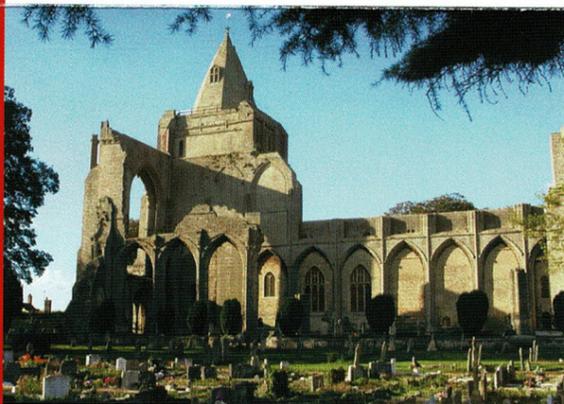
As you travel across the flatness of the South Lincolnshire Fens, it is difficult to imagine that the whole area, which is now some of Britain's most fertile arable land, was once entirely marsh and wetland with a series of isolated and inhospitable islands.

On one such island, known as Croyland, a small church and hermitage was established, almost thirteen centuries ago. It was later to become one of the nation's most important Benedictine monasteries.



Part of the Abbey is still open as the Parish Church. Although still magnificent and impressive, it is only a small part of the great edifice which could be seen here in the past. During past centuries, Croyland Abbey has had many fortunes, both good and bad, and its history makes a fascinating story.\*

\*(from Croyland Abbey Guide Book £1.50 from the Abbey).



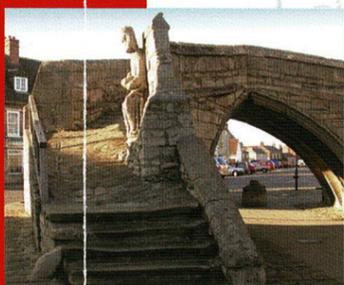
### Crowland Abbey

The Abbey is open every day to welcome visitors. An exhibition tells the story of the Abbey, which now covers only a third of its former extent. The ruins, especially the dog tooth arch, give a real sense of the size of the Abbey in medieval times.

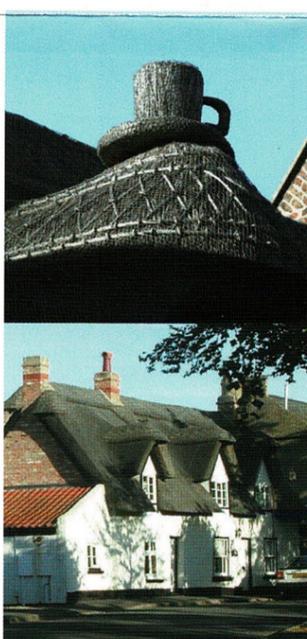
### Trinity Bridge

Crowland's unusual ancient monument is possibly unique. The Triangular (or Trinity) Bridge stands in the centre of the town on dry land. Built between 1360 and 1390, the bridge has 3 arches but one over arching structure, a 3 in 1 bridge, hence the term Trinity Bridge.

The present bridge appears to have replaced a wooden bridge referred to in earlier times by the Charter of King Ethelbald (AD716) and by King Edred's Charter (AD943) as "*the triangular bridge of Croyland*".



Prior to the draining of the Fens the main streets were waterways and it was at this point that the River Welland divided into two streams\*. The Antiquarian, Richard Gough, said that the bridge was "*The greatest curiosity in Britain, if not in Europe*".



War Memorial



Horse mounting stone

CROWLAND CHAMBER OF TRADE



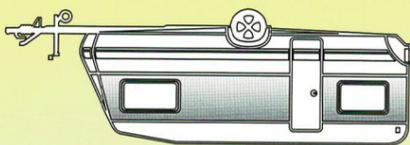
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Like all monasteries in England, Croyland Abbey was suppressed by King Henry VIII. Much of the great abbey was probably demolished soon after the suppression along with the monastery's living quarters. The nave was preserved as the parish church.

During the Middle Ages, Croyland became one of the largest and most important abbeys in Lincolnshire with an immense cathedral sized church and spacious monastic living quarters. The Abbey housed up to 40 Benedictine monks. Much of its wealth came from reclaiming and farming the Fenland

already owned wide estates given by pious benefactors. In 1066 it was the only monastery in Lincolnshire, and when the Domesday Book was written in 1086 it Conquest.

Certainly the Abbey existed well before the Norman Mercia and refounded c.950 after viking destruction. founded in 716 by Guthlac's friend King Aethelbald of to an unconfirmed tradition, the first monastery was

dubious land claims. According to later monks in pursuit of forged chronicles fabricated by the early history of Croyland Abbey is bedevilled by the

from the exhibition in the Abbey  
**History of Crowland's**  
"In Holland, in the fenny lands Be sure you mark where Croyland stands".  
Crowland: Saint Guthlac of

### Guided Tours of Crowland

Discover Crowland with a guided tours of the Abbey and town. Tours, by a team of trained volunteers, are at very reasonable rates for parties large or small in aid of Croyland Abbey.

Contact: Ron Cooke,  
71 Broadway.  
Tel: 01733 210500

The Crowland Tourist Information map has been reproduced by the

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**CROWLAND**  
Town Walk

**West Street** follows the course of the river which was eventually covered in 1847.

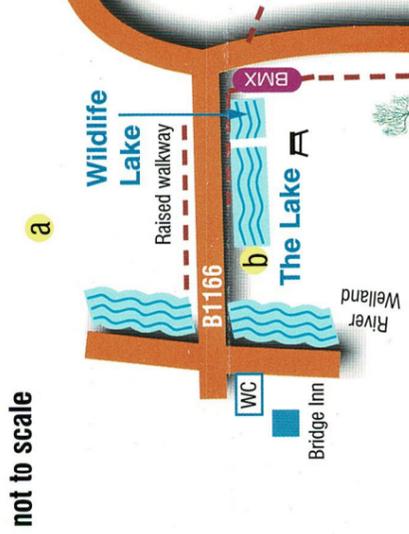
**North Street** is so wide because of the river that flowed between the rows of cottages. It was finally covered in 1860. Look for signs of the Abbey stone in the cottages, barns and walls.

**Public houses**  
There used to be 34 public houses in the town, there are now five. The George and Angel is the only pub in England with that name.

**Key**

- Footpath
- Parking
- Toilets
- Doctor
- Post Office
- Picnic area
- BMX track

**Crowland Town Centre**



**Snowden Field**  
Snowden Field was purchased by Crowland Parish Council in 1912 it was used for fetes and fairs. Locals paid a small fee to graze their animals there. The annual Crowland Show is held here in June. The kissing ground is so called because of a kissing gate that was once part of the Abbey.

**Thatched Buildings**  
The greens used to have cottages and an old barn on until earlier this century, in some cases until 1968. Many of Crowland's thatched houses seem to date from 1700-1730. Notice the cup and saucer in the thatch of the Market Café Tearooms.

**not to scale**

- a** This is the southern section of **Cowbit Wash**, and is the area of washland which absorbs the floods when the Welland overflows its banks.
- b** **The Lake** is all that is remaining of a channel which was cut to link the River Welland to Crowland.
- c** **The Willows** - having recently been cut back, after years of neglect, it should be possible to pollard them again in the future. In the past the harvested branches were used for things such as thatching pegs by local craftsmen.
- d** **The Manse** was the Methodist Preacher's house and is dated 1775.
- e** **The Parish Rooms** - since 1894 have been used for Parish Council meetings and formerly housed the Fire Station and a small prison cell.
- f** **Ye Olde Abbey Hostel** was formerly "The George", built in 1730. Lord Normanton, the major local landowner and patron of the Abbey in the last 19th century, used to hold Rent Audit Dinners where many local tenants were required to pay their rents for the year.
- g** **17th Century Manor House** - it is believed that the Normans imprisoned Hereward the Wake's mother in an earlier manor on this site. The style is possibly that of William Sands Jr. Of Spalding.
- h** **Priory Building** next to the manor house is thought to have been the site of the entrance to the Abbey.

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