

Heckington Village Heritage and Railway Museum

HECKINGTON Village Trust has restored and maintains the Victorian character of this Station building. The once redundant buildings have been restored to their former splendour, housing a small museum of railway artefacts and explaining the importance of railways to rural life. The collection includes artefacts relating to the Great Northern, LNER and some items from other regions. Another room in the building is dedicated to the village heritage, while our third room houses a working layout which belongs to the local Railway Club.

Opening: Sunday and Monday on bank holiday weekends from 12 – 5pm. A small admission charge applies. Further details: www.heckingtonvillage.org.uk

Available for private bookings on request. Contact: heckingtonvillage.org.uk@gmail.com

Heckington 8-sail working windmill

THE windmill is open throughout the year, with the sails turning and milling dependent on wind conditions and demand for flour. Entrance to the windmill site is free, but an admission charge is made to climb the mill tower. The Tea Room will be open during mill opening hours.

Opening times: Daily during school summer holidays from 12 – 5 pm. In autumn, winter and spring the mill is open during the weekend in the afternoon and Bank Holiday Mondays. For more details of opening hours and special events call the mill on 01529 461019, visit our website at www.heckingtonwindmill.org or on Facebook.

8 Sail Brewery and Shop

THE 8 Sail Brewery shop is located adjacent to the Windmill. Dedicated to the retail of Lincolnshire Real Ales and Ciders. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 – 4pm. Saturday & Sunday from 12 – 4pm.

www.8sailbrewery.co.uk
01529 469308



HECKINGTON
OS Grid Ref:
TF 145 435
OS Sheet 130
Windmill
Post Code:
NG34 9JW

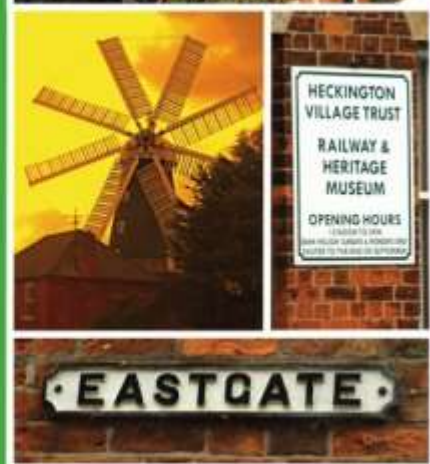
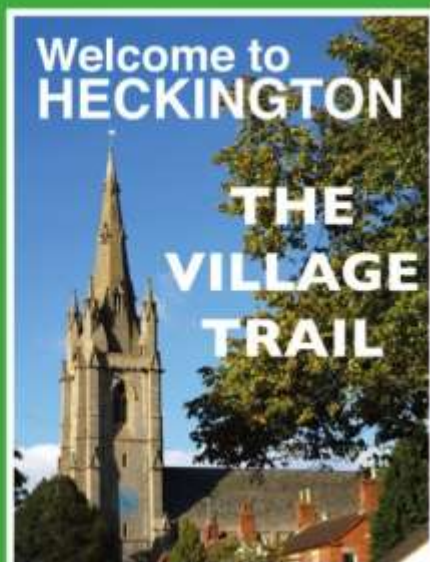
Heckington Welcomes You

HECKINGTON is one of an ancient group of villages on the western edge of the fens. They lie along what was once the North Sea Coast.

People have lived here in the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon times. This seemingly quiet village has played a full part in local and national history and this trail leaflet hopes to give you a chance to share in it. The trail uncovers for you the places and events that lie beneath the surface of an English village.

Heckington is a thriving village of close to 3,000 residents. It possesses a traditional village green with a pub and busy high street with a selection of shops and cafes selling home cooked food.

The grounds of Heckington Hall host England's longest continuously running village show, on the last weekend in July every year.



HECKINGTON'S HERITAGE TRAIL

Start in the Windmill Car Park

The windmill was built in 1830 as a five sail mill, the cap and sails were destroyed in a gale in 1890 and it was John Pocklington who converted it to eight sails in 1892 using machinery from Skirbeck mill in Boston. Now the only eight sail windmill in Western Europe it is fully working and producing flour again. The site comprises the mill, bake house, shop and interpretation centre, tea rooms and a micro-brewery. In 1982 a group of Heckington Village Trust volunteers formed the Friends of Heckington Windmill (now the Heckington Windmill Trust) to care for it and open it to the public.



Turn left over the railway crossing, then right into the station yard

The railway station was opened in 1859 by the Boston, Sleaford and Midlands Counties Railway and comprises a complete set of Victorian buildings including a Ticket Office/Waiting Room, Signal Box and Signalman's house. The main building currently houses the Village Trust Heritage and Railway Museum. The latter is mainly dedicated to the Great Northern and LNER railways, though there are elements from other regions as well. The Museum is run by the Village Trust who restored the buildings and the Victorian First Class waiting room on the south platform. The station is still active today, served by East Midlands Trains.

Opposite the Station

The Pea room was built in 1890 by Charles Sharpe & Co and was used until 1962 as a seed pea sorting complex, with its own dedicated siding, using horse drawn wagons to prevent smoke and steam contaminating the produce inside and because they were cheaper. It sent seed peas all over the country. The Pea room would have employed many of the village women in its heyday. It was restored by the Village Trust in 1979 and was used as a tourist information, local craft centre and tearooms for many years, though it is now a residential building.

Over the road

The Railway Hotel, with its associated stables, was built in 1860 by Robert Taylor to exploit the coming of the new railway. He ran a coal delivery business and railway parcel delivery service from the hotel. The large rooms were popular with the various village organisations such as the Society for the Prosecution of Felons and the Heckington Foul Show Society, who all held meetings there. The Pea room workers also held their Christmas parties there. It was one of eight public houses in the village until it closed down in 1962. It is now a private residence.

Proceed up Station Road

When passing New Street if you glance to your left you will see a row of ten terraced houses. These were built by John Pocklington reputedly to spoil the countryside view from the local doctor's house, after the doctor had once committed John to a local asylum for a short period.

At the crossroads

On your left is the village blacksmith, located at Cook's Corner; so called because the Cook family ran the blacksmiths on this site for many years. The business still thrives carrying out repairs to farm machinery and other agricultural engineering work.

The High Street, crossing in front of you, was the main A17 trunk road until 1982 when the village's current bypass was opened. On the opposite corner is the former Royal Oak pub, which was once a stage coach stop on the Newark to Norwich route.

Cross over the High Street and proceed down Eastgate

On the right you can look through the wrought iron gates at Heckington Hall. This was bought in 1862 by William Little who, with his brother-in-law Herbert Ingram, founded the Illustrated London News in 1842. Little was a model of Victorian energy and philanthropy who invented a patent sheep dip and type of stone tile that the Hall is clad with.

As you continue down Eastgate you pass numbers 35-39 which are the three oldest cottages in the village, built some 500 years ago. Originally one large, and for its time, grand house it was thatched until the 1970's. Under the pebbledash the building is built of mud and stud.

Opposite the junction of Eastgate and Cameron Street you can see the old village primary school. Built in 1842, it closed in 1978. Now headquarters of Heritage Lincolnshire.

Cross Cameron Street and follow the footpath around the old school to the cross roads. Turn left into Cowgate. The two bungalows to your left are on the site of Heckington's gas works. Opened in 1860, gas was produced from coal brought into the village on the newly opened railway. Before that the only lights were candles or oil lamps. The works were demolished in 1964 and gas was piped in from Sleaford until North Sea gas was introduced in the 1970's.

One hundred years ago most of the houses in Cowgate, as in the rest of the village, were small timber framed cottages infilled with clay, known as mud and stud. Right on the corner of Cowgate, behind the iron gates, stands one of the great houses of Heckington. The Manor House was originally called Boston Garth and was home of the Boston or St Botolph family in the 12-1500s.

Follow the road round into Church Street. Toby cottage, on the left, remains as one of the last mud and stud cottages. It was also the last building in the village to retain its thatch, which was removed in the early 1980's.

Look left into Cameron Street to see Simpson's Butchers which was once another of the village pubs, called the Red Cow. This was also the Sergeants' Mess during World War Two. Next to this is a small row of four Alms Houses established in 1904 by Edward Godson.

You can now appreciate the full splendour of St Andrew's Parish Church. Built between 1305 and 1333, it was largely financed by the then rector Richard de Potesgrave. He was a wealthy member of the royal household, being chaplain to Edward I, II and III. In that capacity he collected the body of Edward II from Berkleys Castle where he had been murdered. Edward III actually visited the church to inspect the works in August 1330. The church is often described as the Cathedral of the Fens. Apart from its size, it is also the finest and most complete example of the 'Decorated' style of church architecture prevalent during the fourteenth century. It is also fairly unique as the vicar was promoted to 'Rector' in 2013, the only previous rector being Richard de Potesgrave in 1309. St. Andrew's church is a Grade 1 listed building, and is unusual in having two Grade 2 listed grave memorials in the churchyard. Also by the small north door is the gravestone, paid for by public subscription, of William Burbank, formerly a seaman on board HMS Centaur. He was murdered on 9th March 1833. Twenty-one year old William Taylor of Heckington was convicted of the killing and hanged nine days later at Lincoln Castle.

Opposite the church is Number 61 Church Street. The inscribed stone in the wall records the building as the 'House of Industry', a workhouse. It burned down in 1813 when an elderly lady took a lit candle upstairs to bed. It was rebuilt, but was sold in 1837 and then became the White Horse Inn, which was popular with villagers leaving the church after Sunday services, though it closed in 1991 and the house is now a private residence.

At this point you may like to take a short detour down St Andrew's Street

The first house on the right was originally the village police station. It was built in the year 1844 and it was one of the first police stations in the country. The arched window which can be seen from the driveway of the adjacent Heckington Parish Council Chambers is all that remains of the original cells. These were heated via a transfer from the constable's own house fireplace. This would have been particularly useful during the war years when the constable allegedly kept his chickens in one cell and his seed potatoes in the other.

The red brick building next door is known as Church House. It was originally built in 1835 as a Methodist Chapel and during World War Two became the NAAFI for all the servicemen billeted in the local area. It is now the Heckington Parish Council Chambers. Next door is a large stone house set back from the road and hidden by new developments. This was the old tithe barn where the tithes of one tenth of all crops were stored as tax by the church.

From here return to Church Street. Turn left towards the village green.

The present Methodist Chapel was built in 1905 to replace the previous chapel (No 18 above). It is an imposing building.

Until the end of the 19th Century many houses in Heckington had thatched roofs and fire was an ever present problem. The coffee shop and hairdressers stand on the site of the Six Bells Inn, a lovely thatched building destroyed by fire in 1958.

The red village telephone box, on the edge of the Village Green, is now protected as a grade 2 listed building.

The Victorian Alms Houses were built in 1866 with a bequest from Henry Godson, a wealthy village bachelor, to provide decent homes for widows of the parish. They replaced a row of thatched cottages given by the Taylor family in the 18th century, two of which burned down in 1833.

The last remaining pub in the village is the Nags Head, in the gable end of which is a date stone marked T.H. Ireland 1684. It is reputed that the infamous highwayman Dick Turpin slept here and was active in the parish. He was eventually hanged in York for stealing three horses from Thomas Cressy of Heckington. At his trial he said he frequented an inn called the Nags Head one mile from the centre of the village. Was this it?

At this point you might wish to detour down Banks lane. The Diamond Jubilee Cottages on your right were built on the site of an earlier Heckington Hall and its gardens. The lane is named after the Banks family. They were the last occupants of the hall.

Near this point is the site of Cobham Hall, a mansion dating from Elizabethan or earlier times. The Cobham family became Lords of the Manor of Heckington. In 1643, during the English Civil War, Henry Lord Cobham and his brother George were implicated in a plot against King James I. George was beheaded, but Henry survived after pleading that James' father was his godfather. The family died out at the end of the 17th century when the hall was dismantled. The stone from the hall may have been recycled to build the Nags Head and a house in St. Andrew's Street.

Burns Hill. So named as this was the site for compulsory archery practice. This area was cleared in 1815, destroying some Bronze Age burial mounds which contained spears and skeletons.

Return to the High Street and turn right

The Stone House on your left, at 24 High Street, was the home of Samuel Jessop, who at the time of his death in 1817, held the world record for pill taking. According to the Guinness book of Records, he took 226,934 pills over twenty-one years between 1791 and 1816. In 1814 he swallowed no less than 51,590 (about 140 every day). This, together with 40,000 bottles of medicine, kept him alive to the ripe old age of 65!!

On the opposite side of the road is the large, yellow-bricked frontage of the Village Hall. In the centre can be seen the date stone. Moses Franks MRCS, the village surgeon, built the hall at his sole expense on land given from his garden. As seen at the Railway Hotel, many organisations met in pubs. Frank's hall was built as a Temperance Hall where meetings could be held without drinking.

From here you can return to the Windmill for a cup of tea in the tearooms.

