

# North Kyme to South Kyme (the long way round)

## Skirth Gates to Chapel Hill



At the point where the Skirth enters the river Witham, turning right along the tarmac road you will see in front of you two bridges. The first is a modern one which now carries the main A153 Sleaford to Horncastle road and opened in 1992. This replaces the much more picturesque old one built of red brick, with three arches built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to carry a turnpike road. The river along the whole of this stretch is the natural boundary between North Kesteven District Council and East Lindsey District Council on the far bank.

*A view of both bridges looking from Chapel Hill*

After passing the bridges continue walking along the road at the side of the river, after about two hundred yards on the right hand side you will come across the old Dogdyke Primary School built in 1882 and closed in the early 1980's. Both the school and the headmaster's residence are now privately owned.

### *Dogdyke Pumping Station*



On the far bank before reaching the outfall of the river Bain you will see a building that houses the old pumping station. The livelihood of many Lincolnshire people depends on the efficient drainage of the fens. Most early pumps were wind powered and one of this type was built at Dogdyke in 1796. In 1856 this was replaced by a steam powered beam engine and a scoop

wheel was installed, these are still in place today. The huge boiler for the steam engine was floated down the river by boat from Lincoln, as did the coal to feed it. This engine was in use until 1940, when it was replaced by a diesel engine housed in the adjacent building. In 1973 a preservation trust was formed and the old steam engine was restored. The station now has open days during the summer months when the engine is in steam and it can be seen working.

Walking further down the road you will see where the river Bain (also part of the Horncastle Canal) joins the Witham. Behind the buildings that front the river is the Belle Island Marina. Joseph Shuttleworth (1819 – 1883) was born and was known to have inherited a boat building business at Dogdyke, this may have been housed where the marina is now situated. Joseph later formed a partnership with Nathaniel Clayton, an iron foundry owner in Lincoln and together they set up and developed a very successful engineering firm. Clayton and Shuttleworth specialised in building steam engines and agricultural machinery.



Continuing along the road you will eventually reach the entrance to the Orchard Caravans, continue along the tarmac road until you reach the grass bank. The footpath continues to run along the side of the river until you reach the junction of the Slea Navigation with the Witham at Chapel Hill.

*A view where the Kyme Eau meets the Witham*