

LINCOLNSHIRE – The Glorious County

Peter and Janet Roworth

The historical county of Lincolnshire is the second largest in the country, stretching from the banks of the Humber estuary in the north to the limestone uplands around Stamford in the south. And within the county there is a range of contrasting scenic areas from the rolling hills and dry valleys of the Wolds to the flat fen and marshland landscapes around the Wash.

At the heart of the county is the historic city of Lincoln with the magnificent Cathedral and Castle perched high on the cliff. Descend from the Cathedral Quarter down the aptly named Steep Hill and The Strait with their quirky vintage and retro shops, to arrive in the High Street, home to leading brand retailers. There are further shopping centres in Watergate and at St Marks, while Brayford Waterfront is home to the University of Lincoln and many restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. For those interested in the heritage of the county there is The Collection Museum and Usher Gallery, and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life; but the history of the city is evident in its buildings from the Roman Newport Arch to the medieval Stonebow and the grand Victorian civic institutions.

So come and explore Lincolnshire through the pages of this book; enjoy the beautiful photographs that guide you around the city of Lincoln and highlight the wonderful landscapes and picturesque towns and villages of the county.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

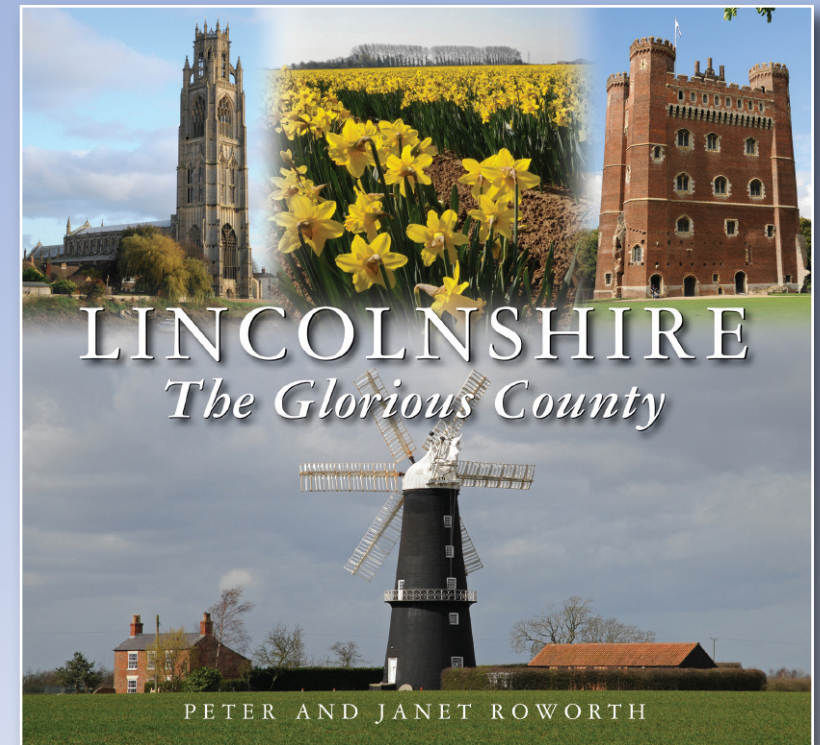
Peter and Janet Roworth live in their adopted county of Lincolnshire. After a long career working in nature conservation and managing nature reserves for the RSPB, National Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and latterly Natural England, Peter has now retired, and is able to devote more time to his photographic interests, particularly in landscape and agricultural subjects. Peter is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and he is currently working towards his Fellowship. Janet has an interest in history, and enjoys participating in a group of local historians who meet regularly in Lincoln, and working as a research volunteer with the National Trust. The couple's photographs have been widely used and they have a number of books published by Halsgrove including *Lincolnshire Moods* and *Spirit of Lincoln*.



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Example of a double-page spread.

Lincoln

LINCOLN IS SITED where a gap in the limestone cliff allows the River Witham to flow through and so on to the sea at Boston. The Romans recognised the strategic importance of the site and founded a legendary fortress on the level ground on top of the northern slope; traces of the walls and the northern gate still survive. But an earlier Iron Age community already existed on the banks of the Brayford Pool. The north-south limestone ridge provided a natural roadway that became the Roman Ermine Way and further development of the town spread southwards down the slope to the river where there was a crossing point. The Romans were also responsible for the Foss Dyke, a canal that connects the Witham to the River Trent.

In the centuries after the Roman occupation Lincoln suffered a period of depopulation and much of the grid system of roads was lost. However reoccupation and growth began by 900 and many of the city's parishes originated in the following century. By 1066 the town was once again flourishing with evidence of some industrial activity and trade along the waterways. William the Conqueror had a castle erected in a dominant position within the old Roman fort; the castle bailey took over the remainder of the fort and this became The Bail, a name that continues in use to this day in Saltgate. Building of the Norman Cathedral began in 1072 and there were further phases of enlargement

throughout the medieval period. The Bishop of Lincoln controlled a vast diocese that stretched from the Humber to the Thames, and Lincoln became one of the largest towns outside London, its wealth largely based on the cloth and wool trades.

The city played a part in the Magna Carta story and it still holds one of the four remaining original charters, displayed in a new vault in Lincoln Castle. The city may have declined after the Middle Ages but it remained the cultural capital of the county and many of the gentry families had their town houses where they could come to attend the assizes, the assemblies and balls, and the Lincoln Races.

By the mid nineteenth century the city was undergoing a revival as a commercial centre; the railways arrived and Lincoln became a great centre of heavy engineering, manufacturing steam engines, agricultural implements, threshing machines and excavators. In the twentieth century aeroplanes were built and the tank was developed, all part of the war effort; but in the post-war era there was a steady decline in large-scale engineering in the city, leaving just the production and servicing of gas-turbine engines. But Lincoln has continued to grow and diversify, new housing projects have been undertaken, new retail parks created, and the opening of the university has brought considerable investment and had a major influence on the life of the city.

Opposite: View of Lincoln and the Cathedral from Carwick; Jews Court Books sign; The Steep Hill Tea Rooms and Chocolaterie sign; The Magna Carta public house sign



Above left: The Fishermen's Memorial, Grimsby

Above right: Riseholme Hall

Left: Steep Hill



Below left: Lincoln Cathedral
Below right: Boston Stump overlooking The Haven, the tidal section of the River Witham



Below: Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve

