

# Thieves, Templars & Torque!

**Distance:** 11.45 km

**Difficulty:** Moderate

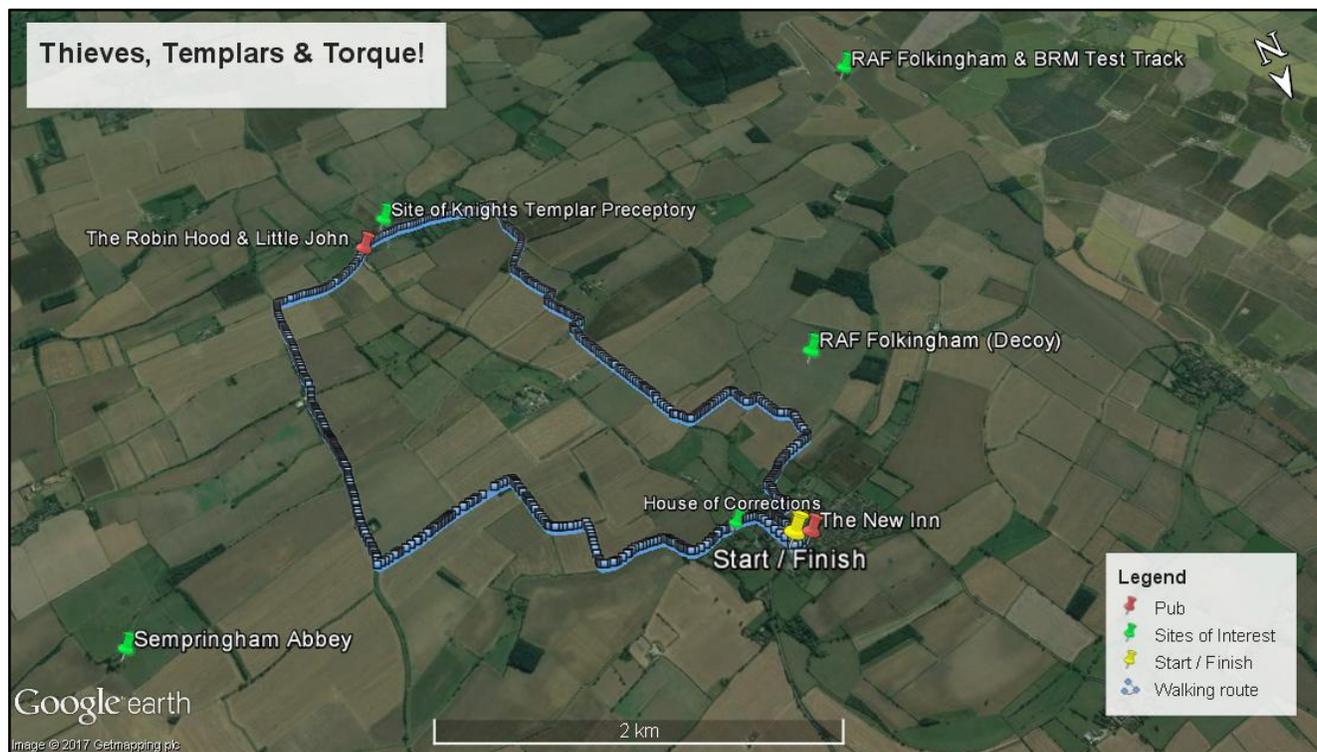
**Dog Friendly:** Yes

**Ascent/Descent:** Easy (+/- 186 metres)

**Toilets:** At the pubs, only

**Wildlife:** Nothing of note

**Endomondo GPS track:** [View/Download here](#)



*The Thieves, Templars & Torque circular walking route (Google Maps)*



**Starting location:** In Folkingham village square, immediately off the A15 (satnav: NG34 0TG), where there is ample free parking.

1. From the main square, set off down West Street, found to the right of the convenience store. Take the next left onto Chapel Lane, then turn right onto Spring Lane at the T-junction, cross the ford and then take the next left to continue along Spring Lane. At the next junction, go right

and follow this lane for 400m. The lane then bears left. Follow it a little further; there should now be an expansive field to your right.

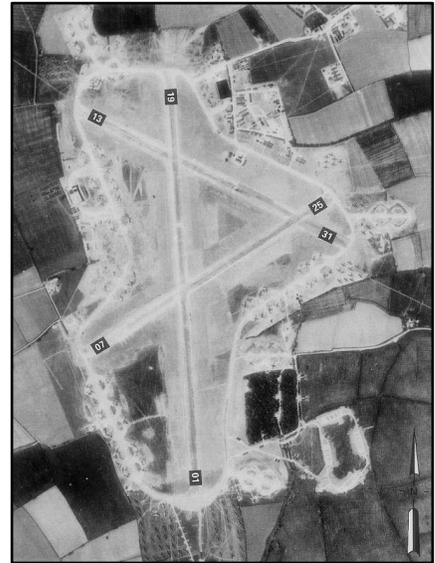


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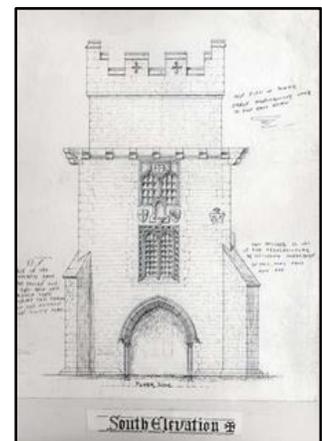
The field to your right was the former site of the decoy RAF Folkington airfield, specifically the technical site. The runways were located to the south-west. RAF Folkington was first used by the military from 1940, when it was a decoy 'Q' site for RAF Spitalfield at Grantham. Originally intended as an RAF station, it was transferred to the US Ninth Air Force, becoming Station 484. The airfield opened in January 1944 and was built to Class 'A' standard. The group stationed at RAF Folkington was trained in glider-towing and dropping parachute troops in preparation for D-Day. The group was active during D-Day and the days following the invasion. They also took part in Operation Market Garden during 17-25<sup>th</sup> September 1944 at Arnhem, Holland. In support of the Allied advance, the Tactical Carrier Groups were deployed to capture European airfields and the 313th Left Folkington for Achiet, France on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1945. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the RAF Bomber Command used Folkington as a PGM-17 Thor Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) base.



2. Continue along the grassy track. Where it then bears right, take the waymarked path to the left (pictured left), which then turns right, before turning left and crossing a field. At the tree line, go right and follow the path across a large field, passing a farm yard to your left. Continue straight on. At the small house ahead, turn right and then go almost immediately left, again keeping to the waymarked path. Follow the path along two field edges, before turning right. Here, the path enters a wooded area; follow it through to the other side.

3. When the path emerges at the other side, bear right and follow the path along a field edge to emerge out onto a road. Go left and follow the road into the village of Aslackby. Once you pass the church, the next building on your right is the site of a former Knights Templar Preceptory.

The Knights Templar Preceptory at Aslackby was founded in 1192. Little of its structure survives, but early descriptions and sketches indicate that its church was like that at Temple Bruer Preceptory, a chancel with an apsidal east end and a round nave to its west. This was a standard design for Templar churches, in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Until about 1891, a tower, possibly of the preceptory church, together with a vaulted undercroft, survived as part of the Temple farmhouse that now sits on the site. Temple farmhouse was subsequently rebuilt and a 15<sup>th</sup>-century window and a stone pinnacle are now all that remain of the Preceptory.



4. Continue on along the road. Cross over the busy A15 road, where you will find the Robin Hood and Little John pub. To continue the walk, continue to head straight-on along the quiet road. At the triangular junction, go left and follow the road, heading straight-on at the crossroads.

*In the distance to your right, you will be able to catch glimpses of Sempringham Priory, where Princess Gwenllïan was captured and held hostage during the English Civil War. See our other route; 'The Sempringham Priory & Princess Gwenllïan Memorial Trail' for a walk there.*

After another kilometre, you will pass a large house on the left. After a further 300m, take the signposted bridleway to the left. After the fenced-off pond, turn right and follow the farm track. At the T-junction of tracks ahead, go left, then bear right across the footbridge and follow the path ahead, along the field edge. The path then bears left to keep to the field edge. Continue to follow the path until you emerge out onto the road, with the House of Corrections just ahead on your right.

*In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Folkingham was part of Quarter Sessions, the higher court that dispensed justice for the area, which explains why a House of Correction, or minor prison, was built. The prison would receive those convicted of less-serious crimes at Lincoln Castle, typically thieves. Folkingham House of Correction had a bad reputation for the deplorable state in which prisoners were kept with inadequate food, clothing or heating, often crammed into small cells for long periods, a harsh routine eased only by short spells around an exercise yard, with even more humiliating conditions in solitary confinement for those who broke the rules, locked in a dark room with only four small air holes in the door. It was constructed on the site of Folkingham Castle. The surviving Grade II listed buildings consist of the original 19th-century governor's house and gateway, dating from 1808 and 1825. It was closed in 1878 but was taken over in about 1980 by the Landmark Trust, who converted the Gateway into a holiday home.*



5. Continue straight-on along the road until you reach the A15 once more. Here, turn right and follow the road and pavement uphill back into Folkingham village Square. If you wish to visit the New Inn, just head down the street you began this walk on.



### **Pub 1: The Robin Hood & Little John**

The Robin Hood & Little John dates from the early 19th century but in more ancient times there was a stopping place for travellers on the old Roman Road. The pub has been modernised and now includes a restaurant but it still retains an old-world charm. Closed for two years, it reopened for business in Jan 2016. View their website [here](#).





## **Pub 2: The New Inn**

The New Inn at Folkingham is a traditional 17<sup>th</sup> Century country pub with an 'olde worlde' bar area, a modern, large and airy dining room, serving homemade food produced on the premises and a large garden. There was a choice of three real ales to choose from and the lunchtime menu was found to be very reasonable with generous portions. You can view their website [here](#).

## **Tips**

There are no tips for this walking route.

