

13 Winterton, All Saints

The original tower was added to the west wall of the nave and is nearly complete. The uppermost bell-chamber is from 1203 when the original double bell-chamber was abandoned. The four bell-openings in the lower bell-chamber survive in good condition as do the round sound holes in the upper of the two original chambers, the one on the south wall is covered by the clock face. The west door is an oddity and may be a late or post medieval replacement but disturbed masonry suggests the presence of an original central doorway. The current door has a C11 gravestone as a lintel. The ground floor window is modern but may replace a 1203 original inserted when the use of the chamber changed. The tower arch is a fine late C11 example though a little broader than is typical. There are first floor 'keyhole' windows to the north and south walls and a first floor doorway above the tower arch. This tower is distinctive and so similar to Alkborough that they are both regarded as a separate sub-group with Barton, St Peter. It is possible that the same masons built both towers using Barton as a model.



Reconstruction of how All Saints may have appeared in 1100

14 Worlaby, St Clement

Almost all of this tower dates from the 1873-7 rebuilding but the tower arch is typical Early Romanesque. Two views of the tower in 1796 and 1842 suggest that Worlaby did have the lower stage of a Lincolnshire Tower. Perhaps the original bell-chamber was removed during the major restoration of 1672.

Travel around the area of northern Lincolnshire and you will come across many fine examples of Anglo-Norman architecture. Among them are the so called Lincolnshire Towers, a group of church towers which are unique to this part of the country and of which Winterton, All Saints is a fine example. This trail explores fourteen churches. At some, like Winterton, the tower is obvious but at others only a fragment survives.

Locations - O S Map 1: 50,000 Landranger Sheet 112 'Scunthorpe & surrounding area' covers all churches listed

Public Transport -

North Lincolnshire

www.northlincs.gov.uk/ for Alkborough, Barton, Elsham, Roxby, Whitton, Winterton, Worlaby

Lincolnshire

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/public-transport/ for Blyton, Corringham, Glentworth, Grasby, Harpswell, Heapham, Springthorpe

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THE LINCOLNSHIRE TOWERS



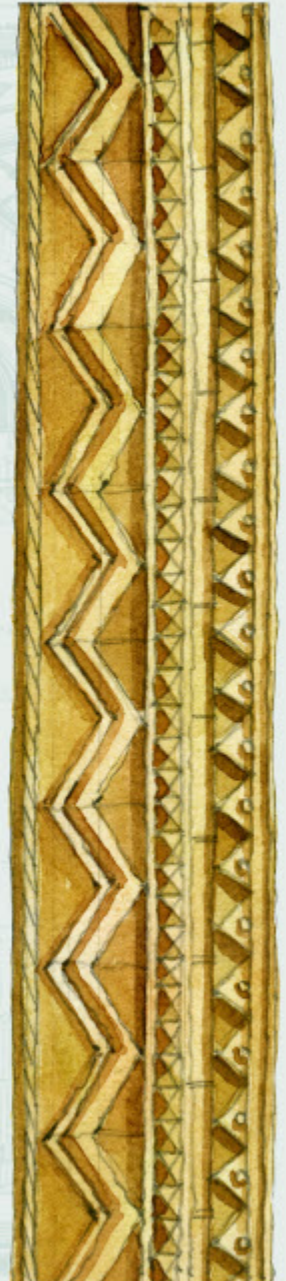
Whitton, St John

**An Architectural Trail
through Northern Lincolnshire**

THE LINCOLNSHIRE TOWERS



- 1 Alkborough, St John the Baptist
- 2 Barton-upon-Humber, St Peter
- 3 Blyton, St Martin
- 4 Corringham, St Laurence
- 5 Elsham, All Saints
- 6 Glentworth, St Michael
- 7 Grasby, All Saints
- 8 Harpswell, St Chad
- 9 Heapham, All Saints
- 10 Roxby, St Mary
- 11 Springthorpe, St Lawrence & St George
- 12 Whitton, St John
- 13 Winterton, All Saints
- 14 Worlaby, St Clement



LINCOLNSHIRE TOWERS

There are **60** Lincolnshire Towers known but only **32** are complete.



The west elevation of the tower of All Saints, Winterton - as it may have appeared soon after completion

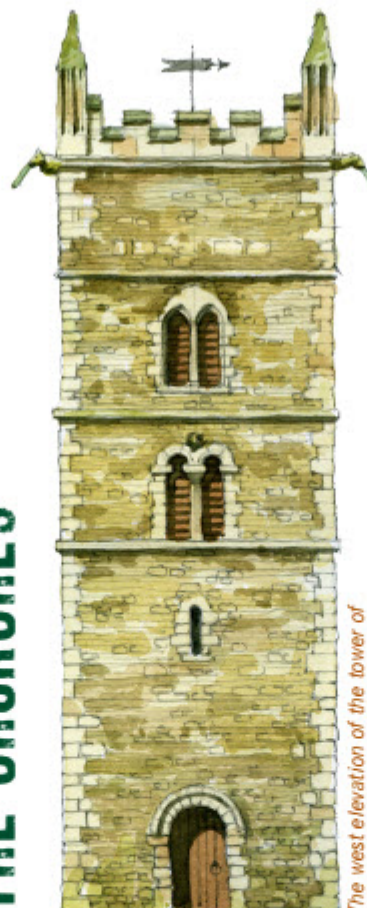
These towers were constructed soon after the Norman conquest of 1066. They were all built in a similar style known as Early Romanesque and for a similar purpose. They have a square plan with unequal stages, separated by a line of decorative stone and often have a simple west doorway.

Many have an undecorated tower arch on the east wall and a lower stage lit by a small window, usually on the first floor. The upper bell chamber generally has large, ornamental, openings divided by a central shaft which is flush with the wall.

FUNERAL RITUAL

The Normans introduced a new funeral service in the Lincoln Diocese which meant that each church needed to have a bell tower. The day before a funeral the coffin would be brought to the tower and placed on a stand for an overnight vigil. The next day the west door was opened and the coffin would be moved to the graveyard while the 'passing bell' tolled drawing God's attention to the prayers of the faithful. The bell ringers would watch the funeral through the first floor windows which overlook the graveyard and toll the bell at the appropriate time. Around 1100 many towers were built by communities eager to show their support for the new liturgy and the Anglo-Norman rulers.

THE CHURCHES



The west elevation of the tower of St John the Baptist, Alkborough

1 Alkborough, St John the Baptist

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave. The topmost storey may be C13 as there are C13 repairs and alterations to the upper bell chamber openings. The tower was undamaged by the siege of the church in 1643. A sketch dated 1794 shows the tower with a lead covered timber spire. The west door, tower arch and lower bell-chamber openings are largely original but the south opening is blocked by the clock-face. This tower is distinctive and so similar to Winterton that they are both regarded as a separate sub-group together with Barton, St Peter. It is possible that the same masons built both towers using Barton as the model.

2 Barton-upon-Humber, St Peter

There is evidence that the lower stages of the tower at Barton, St Peter, are Anglo-Saxon and much older than the main group of Lincolnshire Towers. However, the upper bell chamber was added in the late C11. The original bell-openings survive on the south, east and north sides but the west opening appears to have been restored in the late C14. It is likely that the bell-openings in the lower, earlier bell-chamber were blocked in the late C11 when the new chamber was added above.

ANGLO-SAXON & ROMANESQUE



The south elevation of the tower of St Peter, Barton-upon-Humber

3 Blyton, St Martin

Only the lowest 3-5m of the present tower is original with the blocked west doorway and the arch into the nave. The nave is wider than those adjoining other Lincolnshire Towers and is probably early C12. Although not constructed during the main period of tower building, at the end of the C11, it nevertheless follows the tradition which had become established. The rest of the tower is late C14 or C15.

4 Corringham, St Laurence

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave. In C13 a tall lancet window was inserted in the blocked west doorway. In 1696, when a crenellated parapet was added to the top of the tower, alterations were also made to the bell-openings, shown in a drawing of 1793. In the early 1880s the bell-openings were restored. The tower arch is one of the grandest in Lincolnshire.



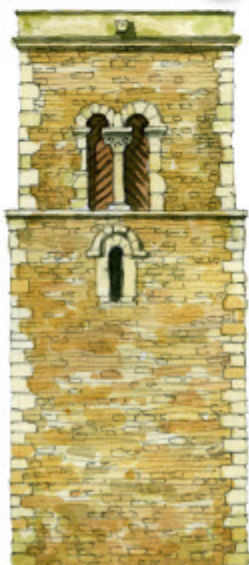
West tower window, Corringham

5 Elsham, All Saints

Only the early C12 tower arch remains within the church which was mainly built between 1871 and 1874. However, the imposing west doorway and buttresses may well have been reused to reconstruct the tower in the late C16 after Elsham Priory had been dissolved and the monastic church demolished. There is also a high level doorway, now blocked, above the tower arch which may be original or may have been created later to give access to a west gallery which was once there.

6 Glentworth, St Michael

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave. A late medieval three light window was added to the west wall of the ground floor chamber. The altered west doorway survived until 1877 but has since been filled in. This allowed the sill of the west window above to be lowered by about 1m. There is a fine tower arch with the expected first floor windows and doorway in the east wall. All four original bell-openings survive.



The south elevation of the tower of Glentworth, St Michael

7 Grasby, All Saints

The only surviving evidence of the tower is a mid-wall shaft from a bell-opening which has been re-cut to form a holy water stoup. The present tower is largely from the 1869 restoration.

8 Harpswell, St Chad

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave. Tower restored in the late C13 or early C14 when the arch was replaced. The west doorway was probably blocked up at the same time and replaced by a tall lancet window. All four original bell-openings survive although the one on the west wall is covered by the clock which was installed in 1746 to commemorate the victory over the Scots.



Harpswell, All Saints

9 Heapham, All Saints

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave. Restored in the late medieval period, when a bell-cage for change ringing was installed and the bell-openings altered. The buttresses may have been added at the same time to give extra support to the tower during change-ringing. The west door is now blocked. The tower arch is typical and there is a keyhole window on the west wall though the restored stonework appears to be from 1869. All four bell-openings survive.

10 Roxby, St Mary

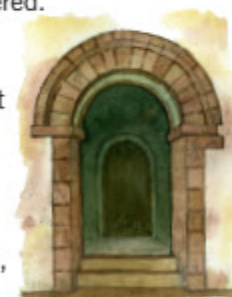
This tower is problematic and is included only because of the first floor window on the south wall. The tower is probably early C12. It was once the lower stage of a two stage Lincolnshire Tower but it has lost the original bell chamber. Later, possibly in 1704, a new bell-chamber was created in the upper part of the original lower stage. The line of stones at the base of this new bell-chamber was inserted at the same time. The tower arch is C14 style but was created in 1905-6 and there is no evidence of a west door. If the door ever existed it would have been removed when the late C14 west window was inserted.

11 Springthorpe, St Lawrence & St George

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave but only the lower stage survives. The present bell-chamber must have been a restoration in the late medieval period when a crenellated parapet and pinnacles were added to the tower roof - shown in a drawing dated 1793. The present bell-openings look Norman but date from the early 1860s. There is a blocked west doorway which has a stone coffin as a lintel. The tower arch is small and altered.

12 Whitton, St John

Original tower exists against the west wall of the nave but only the lower stage survives. The tower has bands of re-used Roman masonry perhaps from York, quite common in C11 and C12 churches around the Humber. The west doorway appears to be a copy of the original which may have been similar to the one at Alkborough. The tower arch is a fine Early Romanesque example and the first floor small window on the south wall is also original. The current bell-chamber with neo-Norman details is from 1892-7.



The nave tower arch, Whitton, St John