

Discover the birthplace of Matthew Flinders around DONINGTON



Discover the birthplace of explorer Matthew Flinders

Directions

Walk through the village, taking in the sights and sounds of a traditional Lincolnshire village, once a thriving Market town, and perhaps visit the exhibition on display in the church. Maybe you will catch some of the spirit of adventure and exploration that touched Matthew Flinders in his day. Enjoy your time in Donington!

- 1** From the Market Place, go eastward along High Street. After passing the shops and directly across from the garage follow the public footpath to the right until reaching a country lane (Town Dam Lane).
- 2** Turn left onto the road and almost immediately right onto a public footpath, passing the primary school and playing fields on the left.
- 3** At the end of the footpath, turn left onto the track (Southing Drove). Follow this track some 300m (1/5 mile) until reaching a road. Join the road and continue straight on for approximately 300m (1/5 mile), then bear left onto Haws Lane.
- 4** At the main road turn left, take care crossing over the road, after 300m (1/5 mile) turn right into the country lane, bear left at the fork with Wykes Lane and continue along road until reaching a T-junction.
- 5** At T-junction turn right onto Caythorpe Road. Follow this road for 900m (1/2 mile) passing Caythorpe Farm on the left. Bear left after Caythorpe Farm and continue along the road for another 900m (1/2 mile) until reaching the public bridleway.
- 6** Turn left onto the public bridleway until reaching a T-junction, turn right along the track for 100 metres to the main road (A52).
- 7** At the road, turn left. Take care crossing over. Stay on the footpath for 300m (1/5 mile).
- 8** Turn right onto Days Lane, follow this lane until reaching a T-junction.
- 9** Turn right onto Northorpe Road for about 200m and then turn left onto a public footpath. Take this path and continue over footbridge, bearing left as footpaths join until reaching a lay-by on the main road (A52).
- 10** Cross over the main road, joining Church Street. Follow this road back to the Market Place passing the church on the right.

The village of Donington lays claim to one of the greatest explorers, who sailed the seas with Captain Bligh, and charted unknown territories more than 200 years ago.

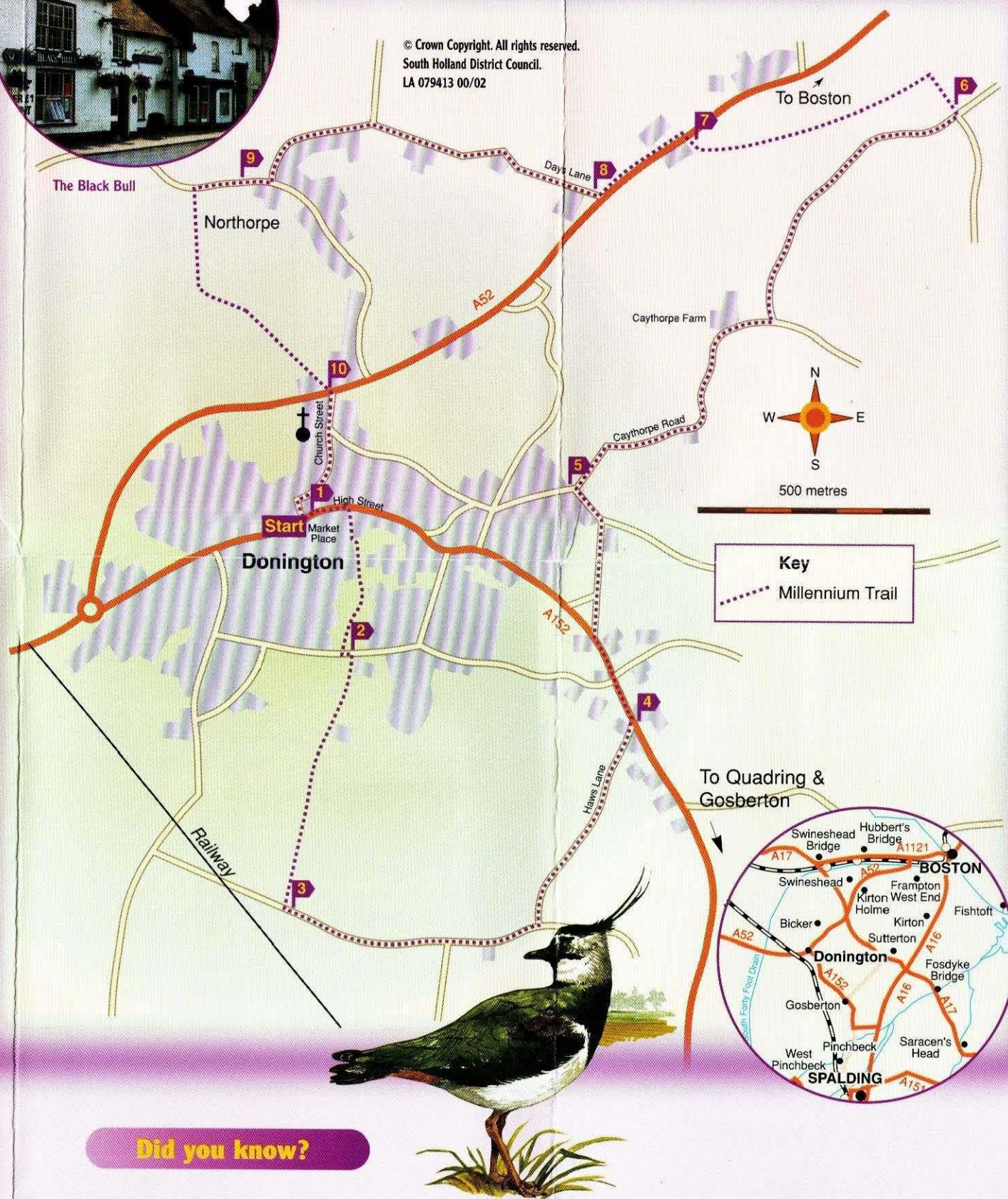
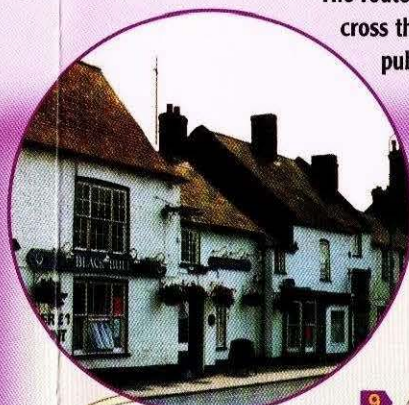
Matthew Flinders (1774-1814), the son of a village doctor, entered the navy in the adventurous days of Cook and Hornblower. On his ship, the HMS Investigator, he was the first man ever to sail round Australia. In fact, it was he who first used the name 'Australia', in a letter to his brother. Flinders was, in his short life, a sailor, explorer, map-maker, prisoner and author. Places and monuments all over Australia bear his name today, and many come from that country to visit the birthplace of its greatest explorer.

Walk options

Although the walk is intended as a single walk of 5 1/2 miles, you can if you wish cut the route into two. Follow Church Lane from St Mary and the Holy Rood Church down to Cowley's School playing field and then bear left onto Badgate. This will bring you to point 5 of the directions, then turn left or right, depending upon which part of the route you would like to discover!

Waymarkers

The route follows, in the main, public footpaths, bridleways and quiet country roads. Please be aware that you do have to cross the busy A52 main road twice to complete the walk, be careful. Follow the Millennium Trails waymarkers on the public footpaths and bridleways.



Did you know?

- a Place names**
During Saxon times, places were often named after leaders or chiefs. Donington probably owes its name to the leader Dunnas - Dunnas Tun. It grew from a hamlet on the edge of the fen to a thriving market settlement.
- b By the sea**
Around the 13th century the nearby village of Bicker was a coastal settlement. With constant inundation from the sea and inland waters, fen and marshland has continually been reclaimed since the Roman times. Bicker Haven, to the east of Donington, now entirely reclaimed and drained was until the 17th century a large tidal inlet. Remains of the old sea bank still exist just a mile to the east of this walk.
- c A violent past**
In medieval times archery was very important in England and boys were trained from an early age. During the reign of Edward III (1327-77), the boys of Donington practised on the south side of the church on Sunday afternoons. In the main doorway of the church there are some small worn grooves in the stonework which are probably due to the arrows being sharpened there.
- d Draining the Fens**
Between 1764 and 1768 Acts of Parliament were passed for Donington for the purpose of drainage and land enclosure. The Forty-foot drain to the west of Donington, primarily a drain was also used for transporting produce to market. Commodities, particularly coal and timber were ferried between Boston and Bourne. Also close by is the Car Dyke, constructed by the Romans in 125 AD, it was used for drainage and also for transporting supplies and Roman soldiers to the north.

