

Beautiful places to visit...



Inside Ely Cathedral



Brick works and King's dyke nature reserve – Whittlesey and Peterborough



Beautiful street in March

How to travel along the Hereward Line?

There are three railway companies that travel along the Hereward Line: **Cross Country** – Birmingham – Stansted Airport, **East Midlands Railway** – Liverpool Lime Street/Derby – Norwich and **Greater Anglia** – Local Services from Peterborough – Ipswich.

These railway services go via Whittlesea, March and Manea, between Peterborough and Ely.

Tickets can be bought online or at the station.

For more information please contact the service operator:

Cross Country: Telephone: (0844) 811 0124
Website: www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk/specialoffers

East Midlands: Telephone: (03457) 125 678
Website: www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/tickets-deals

Greater Anglia: Telephone: (0345) 600 7245
Website: www.greateranglia.co.uk/offers

Or for route planning and tickets for all routes please contact:

National Rail Enquiries: (03457) 48 49 50
Website: www.nationalrail.co.uk

For more information about the Hereward Community Rail Partnership please contact us at:

Hereward Community Rail Partnership,
Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road,
MARCH, PE15 8NQ

Website: www.fenland.gov.uk/herewardcrp
Email: HerewardCRP@fenland.gov.uk
Telephone: (01354) 654321



Journey into tales of Hereward the Wake

On the Hereward Line railway from Peterborough to Ely, via March



www.fenland.gov.uk/herewardcrp

greateranglia





Inside Peterborough Cathedral

The Hereward Line

The Hereward Line runs between Peterborough to Ely with connections at either end to other destinations right across the rail network.

Hereward CRP is a Community Rail Partnership, consisting of train operators, councils, railway user groups, station adoption groups and the general public.

The Hereward CRP look after the Hereward Line and aims to:

- Promote local rail services and stations
- Make small improvements to local stations
- Help station adopter groups (such as Friends of March Station and Street Pride)
- Enable local people to have their say about railways in their area
- Regularly engage with train operating companies to identify improvements that could be made
- Help achieve priorities in the Fenland Rail Development Strategy and Station Masterplans

It was formed to encourage greater use of the railway by local people and to give residents the opportunity to speak with the company representatives who operate the line.

The Hereward Line and the Hereward CRP are named after 'Hereward the Wake' who was reputed to be an 11th Century 'action hero', who spent the best years of his life fighting 'William the Conqueror'. To this day, there is still an historic footpath named Hereward Way marking his route through the Fens, linking Peterborough and Ely as does the Hereward Line.

Who was Hereward the Wake?

Hero, myth, legend – and, perhaps, “the last true Englishman”?

Hereward the Wake was an Anglo-Saxon nobleman from Lincolnshire who became part of the resistance to the Norman Conquest in the 11th Century.

As a young man he'd already gained a fearsome reputation as a hell-raiser, gang member, and challenger to his father's authority who generally upset the neighbouring nobility.

At this time, Lincolnshire and parts of East Anglia were densely populated. Their rich and fruitful soils meant that landowners fought hard to retain their property and their rights during the conquest.

The neighbouring Isle of Ely became the headquarters of the resistance against the Normans. Then a real island completely cut off by water, it was a great hiding place with its swamps and marshy terrain providing an almost impenetrable fortress to William the Conqueror's army.

Learning of a band of resistance fighters holed up there, Hereward swiftly joined their fight, won their respect and became their leader, heading a series of damaging attacks against the Normans.

One of their most famous victories involved the plunder of Peterborough Abbey. The Abbot (possibly Hereward's uncle) had died and word got out that William intended to replace him with the Norman, Turolde, reputed to have a stern reputation and strong military leanings. Hearing of this, Hereward led his men onto the Abbey to plunder its many riches, escaping with hordes of loot.

In true 'Robin Hood' style, they defended their actions by declaring that they were protecting the religious artefacts from the sacrilegious Norman hands, and acting on behalf of their people.



Hereward the Wake

Despite the strong resistance effort, eventually the Norman and French invaders took over from their Anglo-Saxon and Danish counterparts in all positions of power across the land. The new rulers spoke a different language, brought new customs and a new legal system which heavily favoured the invaders.

Eventually, the church shifted their allegiance and lost the support of their hero, Hereward.

Little more is reported of him other than that he escaped from the stranglehold around the Isle of Ely, earned a begrudging respect from the King (who was well aware of Hereward's reputation as a first-class strategist and soldier) and lived the rest of his life resisting the Normans in battles carried out near Peterborough.

As one of the area's most famous sons, we've named our rail line after him to help keep his story, and the area's history, alive for future generations.

Some text used by permission of the BBC



Riverside at Ely