



The Haven below Boston was re-engineered in the 19th century when the river's winding course was replaced in stages by a straight channel from Skirbeck church in Boston to Western Point. From there a completely new gently-curving channel was created further north to the coastal inlet of Clay Hole on the Wash, cutting off a saltmarsh portion of Fishtoft parish south of the river called The Scalp. Vestiges of the relict channel of the river below Western Point survive in part as a tidal creek which still defines the parish boundary between Wyberton and Fishtoft, also marking the old boundary between Kirton and Skirbeck wapentakes.

FACING PAGE: **the Haven looking towards Boston.** The Stump can be seen in the centre of the picture, illustrating its importance as a landmark for shipping approaching Boston.

RIGHT: **fishing boat in the Haven, Scalp End**



Medieval Sea Bank is still functional today, but the modern embankment is mostly closer to the river and dates to the straightening work. Also on the northern bank are the Hobhole Sluice – the outfall of the fen drain of the same name – and the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial.

This final stretch of the Haven passes through the marine silt ridge of Holland that fringes the Wash. The line of Anglo-Danish settlements and their farmlands that developed here in this relatively safe location is known within Lincolnshire as the Townlands. The ridge also extends along the

south side of the Wash through Elloe Wapentake to the Nene estuary at Wisbech (Cambs) and on through Norfolk's Marshland district. The Townlands landscape is one of the most intriguing in Lincolnshire, having considerable historical depth compared to the relatively recently-drained Fens inland. The settlements began reclaiming land by embanking from coastal marshes and estuaries to expand their farmland in the 9th or 10th century and continued to do so until about 1300, resulting in a succession of Medieval sea banks and the establishment of daughter settlements. New saltmarsh continued to develop along the coastline in the context of