



The original village was based around its church, comprising the High Street, Drury Street, Middle Street and Back Street (now Fen Road) as can be seen on this map of 1886. refer to their village as Meg.

Even today the name is undergoing evolution as locals refer to their village as Meg. The village became Metheringham sometime in the second half of the 13th century during the reign of Edward I and is first mentioned in a document dated 24 June 1314, when Edward II ruled England.

A map has indicated a Romano - British site suggesting that the villa or settlement site was taken over after the Romans had gone. Roman coins found here support this view. A moated area now developed for housing, also suggests the existence of a medieval manor house. There is some evidence that the area may have been settled by the Romans. It is suggested that the nearby village of Nocton stood between the sites of two of seven forts which the Romans built to protect their waterway, the Carr Dyke, which runs from Lincoln to Peterborough.

Medrichesham was already an established settlement when the Domesday Book was compiled and had a church, homestead, manor, watermills and farms with many people involved in working the land and caring for livestock. Earl Hugh of Chester was Lord of the manor and his under tenant was Walter D'Alincourt who lived at Blanchene (Blanca's Island) or Blankney as it is known today.

Welcome to Metheringham or Medrichesham as it was referred to in 1086 in the Domesday book. This name is probably Saxon in origin relating to 'Medrich', a first name used by the Alamanni people from Germany. Medrich made his homestead here - 'ham' (es) ham - or Medrich's homestead.



## History of Metheringham

## Metheringham in the 21st Century

Present day Metheringham has a population of some 4,000 inhabitants and is well served by the High Street and Caroline Road shops, two doctor's surgeries, pubs, restaurants and food outlets.

The well used Village Hall with its adjoining public car park is located off Middle Street. In addition the Methodist Church Hall and St Wilfrid's Church Hall provide venues for local organisations. There are over 30 active groups for all ages of the community and other facilities include a Bowls Club, open air swimming pool (summer only) and playing fields. Both the latter are close to the Primary School, which has been extended and updated and takes children from both the village and surrounding area. Secondary education is provided at Branston and Sleaford. Road and rail links to Lincoln, Boston and Sleaford are good and well used by school children, students, retired and those going to work. The main employer is Eros Laboratories and other employment is found in agriculture whilst an industrial/commercial estate is adjacent to the railway.

Both Church and Chapel play their part in village life and the annual Feast and Fayre takes place in October, when both villagers and visitors take over the High Street with stalls and entertainment.

Each evening the War Memorial is illuminated and looks out towards Cross Hill where a new cross has been installed similar in design to the original.

The village lies at the centre of the Spires and Steeples Arts and Heritage trail and we welcome visitors, walkers and cyclists to our thriving village. We hope that you will wish to pause and explore the history and heritage of which we, in Metheringham, are so proud.

## Further Information

The Metheringham Village Trail is just one of many walks and trails among the Spires & Steeples Arts and Heritage trail which runs from Lincoln to Sleaford and is split into 12 shorter walks. To find out more log onto [www.spiresandsteeples.com](http://www.spiresandsteeples.com)



The original leaflet was produced by Mrs Heather Morrison and Metheringham History Group, to whom we are grateful.

This leaflet has been revised and amended by Metheringham Parish Council in conjunction with artsNK and countrysideNK.

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# Metheringham Arts & Heritage Trail



[www.spiresandsteeples.com](http://www.spiresandsteeples.com)





**1. Parker's Store and the Wesleyan School \*\***

Parker's store was originally an old Wesleyan Chapel built between 1840 and 1880. Above the door is a space for the date stone although this no longer remains. The ornate doorway is rather a puzzle, featuring pillar tops with 'dentals'. Behind the old chapel is the Wesleyan School whose records began in 1862.

**2. Methodist Chapel \*\***

Built on the site of the old village pond, the chapel was opened in 1908. Built in Gothic Style with two transepts the stained glass window over the rostrum depicts 'The Good Shepherd' whilst the west window was replaced in 1941 by a window named 'The Sower' with John and Charles Wesley on either side.

**3. The Old Post Office**

This building is often reputed to be the oldest in Metheringham with a tunnel running to the old hall! Features to note are the steeply pitched roof which would have been thatched and the Gothic style window, an early Victorian addition.

**4. Nook (or Corner) House\*\***

A prominent building fronting onto Cross Hill, Nook House is believed to date back to 1752. Although now a private dwelling, the building has been used by vets, blacksmiths, a plumber and glazier. At the entrance to the two buildings is a Lion Head Hydrant, fitted c1933 to provide a source of clean drinking water.

**5. Metheringham War Memorial**

Metheringham War Memorial is one of the finest in Lincolnshire and a splendid tribute to the men killed in two world wars. Carved from Italian marble, the Memorial was unveiled in 1920 and depicts a soldier in the uniform of the Lincolnshire Regiment with his rifle reversed and head bowed.

**6. The Village Cross**

A village cross has stood on Cross Hill since the 14th century. The ancient cross was replaced by a new one in 1835 but, by the turn of the twentieth century had become decayed. In 1911 it was dismantled and built into an adjacent stone wall, along with the original base. A new cross was erected to mark the Coronation of King George V however this was badly damaged in 1945 by a United States Army lorry. This was replaced in 1947 with a lamp but now the cross has been restored to its 1911 design.

**7. Townsend Store**

This three storey building with a flagged yard was formerly Cooling's, later Townsend's Ironmongers shop. In 1885 the store was visited by the Prince Of Wales (later King Edward VII) whilst a guest of Henry Chaplin of Blankney Hall. The store was then allowed to display the Prince of Wales feather and Mill Lane became Prince's Street in honour of the Royal guest.

**8. Star and Garter\*\***

The Star and Garter is an old coaching inn and once had extensive stables to the rear. It also served as a Posting House before the advent of the mail service, attended by carrier carts from the local area.

**9. The Old School**

The Old School dates from the Victorian period and is made of local stone. Features of interest include a Victorian footscape by the door and an original fan light. An engraved stone at the top of the building bears the inscription 'Metheringham Church of England School'.

**10. The White Hart\*\***

The White Hart is estimated to date from the late 1600's and is reputed to be an old coaching inn. A ridge line on the west wall shows where the original, single storey roof would have been before being extended around 1810 - 1820. The upstairs windows are an unusual feature being vertical sliding nine pane sash windows; a rare sight in Lincolnshire.



**Village Centre convenience shops and eating places**

- A. Co-op Food store
- B. Pizza Plus
- C. Mowgli Indian Restaurant & Takeaway
- D. Star & Garter Public House (Bed & Breakfast)
- E. White Hart Public House
- F. Kelly's Catch (Fish and Chips)
- G. Scarf & Goggles Public House & Restaurant
- H. Top Wok (Chinese Takeaway)
- J. Londesborough Arms Public House
- K. D & K News
- L. Petrol Station
- M. Caroline Road shops
- N. Great Barrier Reef (Fish and Chips)

**Key**

- ..... Spires & Steeples Route
- Post Office
- Cycle Storage
- Info Links
- Railway Station
- Route to Railway Station

**Other Places of Historical Interest**

- o The Vicarage, dating from 1777
- o Metheringham Manor, built in the 17th Century
- o Metheringham Windmill, in use until the 1930's
- o Metheringham Railway Station, built in 1882

For more information on these buildings visit [www.maca.co.uk](http://www.maca.co.uk)

**11. St Wilfrid's Church Hall or Parish Room**

Built in 1906, the Church Hall has a date stone bearing a shield with the inscription 'Pro ecclesia De' meaning 'For the congregation of God'.

**12. St Wilfrid's Church \*\* and Churchyard**

The Church has changed through the ages, from the round leaved Norman windows in the tower to the major re-furbishment carried out in Victorian times. In 1599 a fire severely damaged the church and signs of fire damage can still be seen on the medieval arches. The middle portion of the tower is dated 1601 and would have been built as part of the repair work following the fire. Features to look for include the high roof line and blocked early English doorway on the west side of the tower. There are many fine windows in the church including three above the clerestory depicting six apostles and one near the font, commemorating the village blacksmith and his wife.

**13. New Churchyard and World War I Graves**

The new cemetery was opened in the late 1880's and contains two war graves from the Great War. Both died in 1917; Corporal Arthur Hannath at Passchendaele and Private Joseph Wright, after being seriously wounded and taken prisoner in Germany. Both were members of the 8th Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment and were buried with full military honours. Joseph Wright's tombstone is also dedicated to his brother, Corporal K Wright of the Leicestershire Regiment who died in December 1923.

**14. Thompson's Grocery Store**

Owned by the Thompson family since the mid nineteenth century, the shop sold all sorts ranging from the preparation and dispensing of drugs to haberdashery and groceries. Inside were thick mahogany counters and pharmacy drawers with names of potions in Latin.

When the shop closed in the 1970's, the two large picture windows were removed from the outside and the inside modernised, first as a bakery and then as the Chinese take away we see today.

**15. The People's Hall**

Built as a meeting place by the Wesleyan Reformists, the building stone above the door gives a date of 1853. A feature to note is the original window on the right hand side; the left window has been removed to make way for a garage door.

**16. Londesborough Arms**

The Londesborough Arms is estimated to have been built between 1690-1710 and was probably a small farm. The position of the chimney on the oldest part of the building on the left is a centralised chimney indicating that the original building would have had one room on either side. At the rear, an original window can still be seen in the bottom left hand corner and the further separate buildings are Victorian stables, probably built during 1820-1830.

**17. The Fire Station**

The original fire engine was at Blankney Hall and was a horse drawn vehicle with a steam operated pump. It was then moved to a commercial garage on Lincoln Lane (now Lincoln Road) and eventually to a building on Fen Road. If it was needed a Mrs Jack Chapman of Station Road received the call and cycled to Fen Road to raise the alarm. Later the station became a Pentecostal Chapel and has had many uses. Today the new modern Fire Station is on Fen Road.

**18. Village Hall**

This was the site of the Reading Room built in 1891 at the expense of the 1st Viscount Chaplin PC, the 2nd Viscount Chaplin and WD Gilpin Brown JP. The Parish Room now the Village Hall was built in 1906 and is well used by a variety of parish and local groups.



**Note: \*\* (Grade II Listed Buildings)**