

Thornton Abbey Station

Thornton Abbey station is located close to the historic ruins of the 12th century Thornton Abbey, which lies to the East. The station serves the village of Thornton Curtis which lies a mile and a half to the West. It was originally part of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, which was formed in 1847. It opened in 1849 a year after the line between Grimsby and New Holland opened, replacing the original station of Thornton Curtis which lay half a mile to the South. The station has changed vastly over the years, originally it was serviced by a Signal Box and sidings, and during the Second World War due to its proximity to the nearby American Airbase at Goxhill it saw an upsurge in business. This was not to last however. All that remains now are the two platforms. However the original LNER station names have survived and are quite rare on the old LNER rail network.

Thornton Abbey

The Abbey of St Mary, known as Thornton Abbey was founded in 1139 by William le Gros, Earl of Yorkshire and was raised to the status of Abbey in 1148. It was one of the wealthiest Augustinian monasteries in England. Today the ornate 14th century fortified gatehouse, one of the finest in England, dominates the landscape with the Chapter House and Great Church now just ruins behind it. The Abbey, and Gatehouse, now a museum, is cared for by English Heritage. For information regarding opening times and prices please ring 0870 333 1181.

Thornton Curtis Village

Thornton Curtis was known as Torentune in 1086 at the time of the Domesday Book. The origin of Curtis within the village's name is unknown but the Thornton section means 'the farmstead or village where thorn trees grow'. Dominating the main road through the village is the fine Norman Church of St. Lawrence. It is regarded as one of North Lincolnshire's great ecclesiastical treasures, enhanced by a rare splendid 12th century Tournai black marble font, one of only six in the country. John Harrison (1693 – 1776) the English clockmaker who invented the Marine Chronometer, was from nearby Barrow upon Humber, and repaired the church bells in his youth.

Church opening times.

1st Wednesday and 3rd Saturday in month 9am – 4pm. 4th Sunday 10am – 4pm.

Disabled access with prior notice.

Contact 01469 531226/531326

Today the Village is served by the 18th century grade II listed Thornton Hunt Inn, serving traditional ales, hot food, and during the summer month's afternoon teas. 4 star accommodations are also available. Tel: 01469531252.

Accommodation is also available at the 4 star Pine Lodge. Tel: 01469531226 or 07880601476.



American servicemen from nearby Goxhill airfield awaiting Grimsby train at Thornton Abbey Station during World War 2.