

# TUPHOLME ABBEY

## Introduction to Tugholme Abbey

Tugholme Abbey lies between the villages of Bardney and Bucknall. It is about 16km (10 miles) from Lincoln and 2½ km (1½ miles) from the River Witham.

This part of the Witham Valley is remarkable for the concentration of monasteries that once lay alongside it. On the eastern bank there were six: Barlings, Stainfield, Bardney, Tugholme, Stixwold and Kirkstead, with three more, Nocton, Catley and Kyme on the west bank. The monasteries were probably founded here because of the power and importance of Lincoln, and because the River Witham provided a busy trade link between Lincoln and Boston for the export of the wool which made up an important part of their income.



Tugholme Abbey was founded in about 1160 by an abbot and twelve canons who came from Newsham in North Lincolnshire. They were from the **Premonstratensian Order** which had been established in 1121 by St Norbert at Prémontré in northern France. The Premonstratensians were sometimes known as Norbertines after St Norbert, or white canons because they wore white habits and caps. Newsham was their first English monastery. They were given the land for Tugholme Abbey by Alan and Gilbert de Neville. The name 'Tugholme' means 'the island of the sheep'. 'Tup' is a country word for sheep, and 'holme' is a Saxon word for an island or raised piece of ground.



White canon

It would have taken some years to construct all of the abbey buildings, but the canons' first priority would have been to build a church and somewhere to live. When they first arrived at Tugholme they may have built some temporary buildings out of timber until they could replace them with permanent stone ones.

