

CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 6, Billingborough and Sempringham

Billingborough (Below Left): Billingborough's main feature is its graceful C14 spire reaching up to 150 ft supported by elegant flying buttresses. The rest of the church is substantially of the Decorated period (1300-1350) with later clerestory. It is sited near a substantial and attractive duck pond, at least it's attractive when the sun shines and ducks and moorhens are swimming about. Unfortunately it was another target for lead thieves last December.

For photos go to Google and enter Billingborough Church Images. Further information at:

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101317596-church-of-st-andrew-billingborough> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Andrew%27s_Church,_Billingborough



Sempringham (Above Right): Alone in the fields along a dirt track nearly a mile off the road, the church is a remnant of the former Gilbertine Priory Church founded c 1140. Parts of the church and all associated monastic buildings were destroyed after the Reformation but the chancel and transepts remained until 1788, the apsidal chancel being added “unfortunately” (Pevsner) in 1868. But the Norman nave and C14 tower remain. The sites of the “lost” village of Sempringham, the monastic buildings and the C16 mansion subsequently built over the priory site all now lie under the soil to the north of the church just waiting for a revival of Time Team to come along and investigate!

More information and photos at:

<https://www.britainexpress.com/counties/lincs/churches/sempringham.htm>

Information about the Priory and the Gilbertine Order at:

https://www.thecollectionmuseum.com/assets/downloads/IS_arch_17_sempringham_priory.pdf

And if you want even more information (and be warned, it's rather a dry read):

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lincs/vol2/pp179-187>