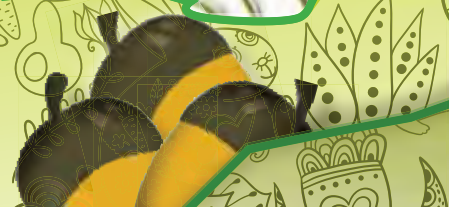




Heritage Spotters' Handbook

Stories about our past are hidden all around us, in the buildings we live in and the landscape which surrounds us. This handbook will help you to discover some of the hidden heritage in the Lincolnshire Wolds, while visiting some great places along the way!



Hello heritage spotter!

The rich archaeological and built heritage helped the Lincolnshire Wolds become a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973.

AONBs are landscapes which have been deemed so precious that it is in our national interest to protect them. The Lincolnshire Wolds is the only AONB in the whole of the East Midlands, some of the rolling hills form the highest area of land in the East of England between Yorkshire and Kent.

So, what do we mean by heritage?

The Cambridge Dictionary states that heritage is: 'features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages, or buildings, that were created in the past and still have historical importance.'

In simple terms, heritage tells us the story of who we are and how our surroundings have developed around us.

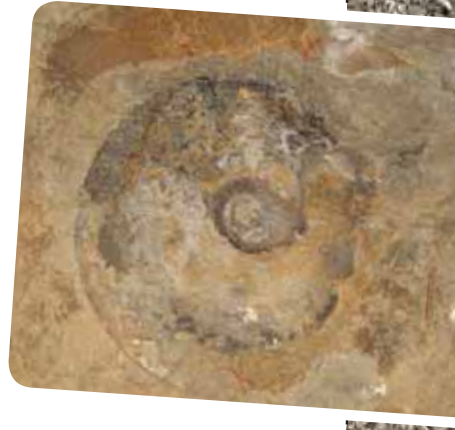


If you accept the challenge to become a heritage detective then read on...



The Lincolnshire Wolds rock!

Let's start at the beginning by looking at the geology of the Lincolnshire Wolds (geology is the study of our planet, Earth). Geologists study rocks to uncover information about how the planet was made, what it is made from and how it has changed over time.



Chalking it up...

Formed about 90 million years ago, chalk is made almost entirely of microscopic marine creatures, fossil sea urchins and oysters.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is home to several chalk streams which are a rare habitat formed by rain water being filtered through chalk in the land.

The water comes out of the ground from springs and blow wells, crystal clear and with a constant temperature of 10°C. This makes them ideal to provide clean drinking water and a home to some of the most rare and threatened plants and animals, such as the water crowfoot, water vole, otter, European eel and brown trout.

These chalk streams also attracted ancient settlements as they acted as a vital water source. Take a trip to Hubbards Hills or Biscathorpe to visit a chalk stream; see what signs of life you can spot there.



The Lincolnshire Wolds has 3 main local rocks which were laid down during the Cretaceous period a whopping 145 – 65 million years ago!



Tealby Limestone

This is a distinctive orange colour. Pay a visit to Tealby and take a look at the church and some of the old cottages in the village. You will notice they are all made from Tealby Limestone.



Spilsby Sandstone

This stone is green in colour. It is made up of fossils and pebbles. A visit to Tefford church will help you to see what the stone looks like.

Claxby Ironstone

When freshly cut this is a greenish colour but weathers overtime to a reddish orange. Examples of this stone can be found at Nettleton church and other buildings in the area. This ironstone was once mined at Nettleton and Claxby for its iron ore.



Life in the Wolds

From geology we move on to archaeology which is the study of past human life and activities as shown by objects (such as pottery, tools, and statues) left by ancient people.

The Lincolnshire Wolds have been lived in for thousands of years. Flint hand axes found at Welton le Wold show that people were there over 300,000 years ago.

Evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlements have been found in the Wolds but the best archaeological evidence we have for settlements is from the medieval period. You can see lumps and bumps in fields which can be evidence of deserted or shrunken medieval villages.



There are over 100 deserted medieval villages within the Lincolnshire Wolds but they can be hard to spot - looking at the landscape from above can give you a better idea of where they are so Google Earth can be a useful tool.

Take a visit to Walesby, Biscathorpe or Gunby as these all have well preserved earthworks which mark out where villages once stood.

Ridge and furrow earthworks are also evidence of medieval village life. These marks in the landscape were formed by a ploughing system which was prominent in the middle ages.

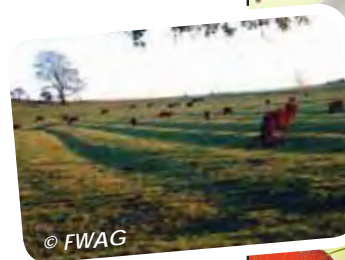
There are also several places in the Wolds with examples of medieval moats - Brinkhill has three.

Many of the medieval settlements were abandoned in the 14th and 15th centuries due to changes in climate, the Black Death, famine and changes in agriculture, especially the rise of the woollen industry, that require less labour.



© Paul Everson

Brinkhill Moat



© FWAG

Nettleton Ridge and Furrow

MESOLITHIC		NEOLITHIC		BRONZE AGE	
8000bc	5000bc	4000bc	3000bc	2000bc	1000bc
End of the Ice Age					
Scatters of stone tools are evidence of early human activity		Long barrows were Neolithic man's burial sites with many still visible		Several hundred Bronze Age round barrows (burial sites) are within the Wolds	

Places to visit or see...

- Hubbards Hills (Louth) for the geology and Chalk Stream
- Biscathorpe for Chalk Stream and deserted medieval village site
- Tealby for Mills and limestone
- Binbrook and Brookenby for RAF Heritage
- Tetford for Spilsby Sandstone church
- Kelstern and Ludford airfields
- Nettleton and Claxby for Nettleton's Claxby Ironstone church, and ironstone mining heritage
- Walesby for deserted medieval village site alongside ridge and furrow earthworks
- Gunby for National Trust's Gunby Hall and deserted medieval village earthworks
- Brinkhill Moats
- Scamblesby for signs of mills
- Old Bolingbroke for Castle ruins
- Stenigot - World War II communications/radar tower



IRON AGE BC 0 AD	ROMANO-BRITISH	EARLY MEDIEVAL 500 1000	LATER MEDIEVAL 1500	POST MEDIEVAL 1900
Communities continued to clear land, leaving it almost as open as it is today	Romans left their mark on settlements such as Caistor, Horncastle and Louth, and important trade routes are still used today	Settlement patterns established. Anglo-Saxon names evident in villages ending with 'ham' and 'ton'. For the Scandinavian influences in names, look for ending in 'by' and 'thorp'. The first census in 1086 – the Domesday Book	Norman Plantagenet Tudor Changes in farming, climate, disease and famine were all factors leading to many settlements being abandoned	Stuart Hanoverian Victorian Modern Further changes in farming, and creation of field enclosures Some mining and military activity before being restored to agriculture

© Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service



Farming through the ages...

The rich fertile soils of the Lincolnshire Wolds have attracted farmers for centuries. Today 80% of the Lincolnshire Wolds is in arable use:

- **Arable:** Where farmers plough the land, sow seeds and grow plants to harvest.
- **Pastoral:** Animal farming "Putting the cows out to pasture"

In medieval times the open field system was used. Lords of the Manor paid peasants to farm fields which had been divided up into strips.

During the 17th Century the Enclosure Act began to be used which meant that people could go to Parliament to be given landownership rights. This brought a real change to the landscape; big open communal fields became fenced and hedged off.

Look out for historic farm buildings, often in the form of a crew yard. These farmsteads often date to the Victorian high farming period when mechanisation and crop rotation patterns led to increased efficiency.

The landscape would have looked very different then as areas of rough grazing and warrens developed during the 19th century. Farms were highly effective in sheep, rabbits and arable farming production.

Think about which foods you eat today that are made from these crops

Traditional medieval crops would have been

Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Oilseed Rape (grown for lamp oil)

Many of these can still be seen today – can you spot any?

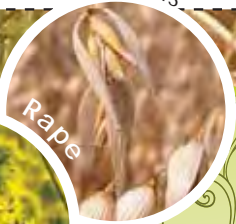
Wheat

Barley

Oats

Rye

Rape



Signs of the mines...

Farming isn't the only industry which has been established in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The rich ironstone of Claxby and Nettleton was mined from the 1860s right through to the 1960s.

Claxby mine was often referred to as 'That gloomy cavern of disaster', this was long before health and safety rules had come along, so accidents in the workplace were rife. The mine closed in 1891, making way for its sister site in Nettleton to open in the late 1920s.

Up to 180 people at a time lived and worked at Nettleton mining for ironstone. There were railways, mounds of spoil, concrete and machinery throughout the area. Pit ponies worked bringing trucks full of ore out of the mines. The ironstone was taken to Scunthorpe to be smelted, a process which involves heating the ore to melting point to obtain iron.

Today's countryside still contains many clues to its working past such as blocked off mine entrances, pit ponies names on stable doors and remains of aerial ropeways. There are even rumours of locomotives being buried under collapsed mines!



Former mine worker John Corcoran on shift and visiting the same spot in 2015

Evidence of industrial heritage can be seen across the Lincolnshire Wolds. Almost every parish would have had a watermill, windmill and a blacksmiths shop, though not many still exist today. The watermills not only ground corn, some produced paper whilst others were involved in the leather, wood and timber industries.

Spot the signs of the past by looking at street names, as many can give clues to what might have been there in the past e.g. Mill Lane in Scamblesby used to be home to the village mill.

Did you know? In the late 18th century Tealby was once the hub of a thriving paper making industry and had at least three paper mills. Look out for clues in the village for signs of its past, such as Papermill Cottages where many of the workers used to live.

Scamblesby mill



Stumble upon a church, step back in time...

Many churches in the Lincolnshire Wolds originated in the 12th century, though many have received repairs and maintenance updates throughout the centuries. Churches were often the centre of community life and can tell a real story of the villages and hamlets they are located in.

It is fascinating to think that the building you are looking at may have stood for almost 1000 years!

Can you spot?

Masons marks and other ancient markings? Such as crosses, pin wheels and pentagrams.

The Green Man? A face surrounded by or made of leaves, which is thought to represent the cycle of rebirth in the spring.

Gargoyles? Often looking like ugly human heads, animals and mythical or imaginary creatures, they originated in the 13th century as a waterspout on the upper part of a building or a roof gutter to throw water clear of walls or foundations.

Lichens? Lichens are made up of two tiny living things: a fungus and an algae, each can only survive if the other one is there. They can live for hundreds of years and are often spotted on some of the older gravestones in a churchyard, on rocks and ancient trees. They vary in form and colour including orange, yellow, green, brown, grey, or black.

Did you know? Many crusty lichens grow less than 1mm per year! They can also be a good sign of air quality as they are sensitive to pollution.



Bolingbroke Castle earthworks



Times of conflict

There are reminders of times of conflict in most parts of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The hexagonal remains of Bolingbroke Castle, built in the 13th century, are a strong reminder of the importance of the area. The castle was the birthplace of King Henry IV and was besieged and taken by Cromwell's Parliamentarians in 1643 following the Battle of Winceby. You can still visit the earthworks today.

This is thought to be the only battle to be fought in the Lincolnshire Wolds and lasted less than an hour! There is an area known locally as Slash Hollow, where the Royalists were defeated.

More recently the Wolds has been an important area for military history. The landscape was markedly changed by the impact of both World Wars.

Examples of military heritage include communications towers such as at Stenigot and redundant airfields including Binbrook (at Brookenby), Kelstern and Ludford.





Where to find out more...

This leaflet has been produced by the community heritage project Down Your Wold. The initiative is a partnership between Heritage Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding the project has helped to develop community groups and run events to help people discover more of the hidden heritage found within the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This booklet is a taster to encourage both young and old to get out and explore the landscape. If its whetted your appetite to learn more then please visit www.down-your-wold.co.uk for How To guides to help with your next stage of discovery.

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