

# The Market Towns of the Wolds

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a National Landscape, designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973. Covering an area of 558 square kilometres or 216 square miles, the AONB contains the highest ground in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent, rising to over 150m along its western edge. Rolling chalk hills and areas of sandstone and clay underlie this attractive landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the appearance of the countryside today has been greatly influenced by past and present agricultural practices.



A Countryside Service helps to protect and enhance the landscape through partnership projects with local landowners, farmers, parish councils, businesses and residents of the Wolds.

## Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service

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Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that information is correct at the time of going to press, circumstances can and do change. It is recommended that details are checked with a tourist information centre before a journey is made.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

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# The Market Towns of the Wolds

Making the most

of the **Lincolnshire Wolds**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Your guide to the villages & local facilities in the Wolds

Revised 2024



**Lincolnshire Wolds**  
National Landscape

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**Spilsby** (map ref: H8) [www.spilsby.info](http://www.spilsby.info)

Spilsby is host to a lively market, chartered in 1302, selling everything from fish to household goods and hosts a famous 'Stones' auction. Britain's famous Arctic explorer and naval officer, Sir John Franklin was born in Spilsby in 1786. A bronze statue of him stands in the town. The town boasts 35 Grade I and II listed buildings.

Market day: Monday

Other highlights include: Franklin Trail & other walks, Theatre, Gunby Hall nearby (National Trust), Medieval Buttercross in Market Place, Aviation Heritage Centre nearby.

Tourist Information: Franklin Hall, (open Mon-Fri 10am-12.30pm) or ring 01507 601111

**Market Rasen** (map ref: C5) <https://market-rasen.parish.lincs.gov.uk>

Market Rasen is a small, picturesque market town, situated on the western edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. It was originally known as East Rasen, with Middle Rasen being the more important location and West Rasen following on. Market Rasen became more prominent when it was granted the right to a market, holding the first in the 14th century.

Market days: Tuesday

Other highlights include: Horse racing, Centenary Wesleyan Church, Willingham Woods, train service to Lincoln and Cleethorpes, Wolds Gateway Walks. Heritage & Exhibition Centre and Walks.

MRTC Festival Hall, Market Rasen 01673 842479 (Mon - Fri)

**Louth** (map ref: F5) [www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Set on the eastern edge of the Wolds, Louth is an historic, bustling market town that still retains a natural charm. St James' Church boasts the highest spire on a parish church in England. Climb the tower on a clear day for great views of the coast and Wolds!

Market days: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Farmers market: 4th Wednesday

Food Friday Market: 2nd Friday of each month

Other highlights include: Hubbard's Hills, Museum, Wolds Gateway Walks, Cycle Routes, theatre, Sport Yard, sports facilities, Georgian Westgate.

Tourist Information: St James' Church, Westgate - Christmas to Easter, Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10:00 - 13:00, Easter to Christmas, Mon to Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Or Ring ELDC on 01507 601111

**Horncastle** (map ref: E8) <https://horncastlejbc.info/>

Horncastle is a thriving market town nestled between the River Bain and River Waring. Cobble streets, thatched houses, Roman ruins and a 13th century church make it a gem to explore. The town has a wide selection of antique and artisan shops, coffee houses, restaurants and cosy pubs. Visit the Joseph Banks Centre to discover more about the famous explorer and botanist, and to visit the town's archives which are also housed there.

Market days: Thursday and Saturday

Early closing: Wednesday

Farmers market: 2nd Thursday

Other highlights include: Horncastle Community Woodland, 18th and 19th century architecture, Viking Way, Cycle Routes, Interconnect 56 bus walks and Spa Trail linking with Woodhall Spa.

Tourist Information: Joseph Banks Centre, Bridge St, Horncastle - 01507 700012

**Caistor** (map ref: C3) <https://caistor.parish.lincs.gov.uk/>

Caistor is an attractive small town on the western escarpment of the Wolds, which has retained much of its Georgian character. The largest sheep fairs in England were held in Caistor in 1858 when 60,000 sheep were sold!

Market day: Saturday

Other highlights include: Caistor Arts & Heritage Centre, Roman wall, interconnecting market squares, equestrian centre, Walks, Viking Way, Interconnect 53 bus walks, guided walks. Caistor events leaflet.

Tourist Information: Caistor Arts & Heritage Centre, Plough Hill - 01472 851605

**Alford** (map ref: H7) [www.alford.info](http://www.alford.info)

Alford is famous for the popular and entertaining craft markets that are regularly held here throughout the year. There is a 19th century five sailed windmill, currently being renovated, which recently produced organic flour and cereals.

Market days: Tuesday and Friday

Early closing: Thursday

Craft market: Bank Holidays

from Easter.

Other highlights include: Alford Manor House, St. Wilfrid's Church, Alford Pottery, Wolds Gateway Walks.

Tourist Information: 01507 601111





# Making the most of the Wolds

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is some of the most beautiful, unspoilt scenery in the East Midlands. Explore its rolling hills and hidden valleys, gentle streams and fine views.



There are villages to discover, with friendly tea rooms and traditional pubs. Visit one of the market towns' vibrant centres to enjoy good service from an independent supplier. Whether you are visiting for a day or live here, this leaflet will help you to make the most of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The Wolds is a living, working landscape, and by making use of local facilities you can help keep the area that way.

Buying local has many benefits:

*You are supporting local jobs and helping to sustain communities*

*Buying local produce can help reduce energy use and long distance transport (factors contributing towards climate change)*

*You are helping to maintain important amenities for local people and visitors alike*

*Buying local farm, woodland and craft products can help to maintain the landscape you came to enjoy*

*You are able to buy products which contribute to the area's 'local distinctiveness'*

Wherever you eat or stay, look out for the Select Lincolnshire mark, which shows that quality local produce is



# Wolds Villages & Facilities

p/t = part time only

Map Ref	Location	Public House	Post Office	Shop	Tea Room	Other
H7	Aby, Claythorpe nr Alford	●			●	Watermill, Fishing
E3	Barnoldby le Beck nr Waltham	●				
B2	Barnetby le Wold nr Brigg	●	●	●		Railway Station
F7	Belchford nr Horncastle	●				Drinks available in church, Walks
E4	Binbrook	●	●	●	●	Garage, Take-away, Fern Nursery, Toilets, Walks
E4	Brookenby nr Binbrook					RAF/RAAF Display, Play Area
E6	Burgh on Bain and Girsby					Walks (The Viking Way)
F6	Cadwell nr Louth					Motor Racing Circuit & café (free entry non race days)
H8	Candlesby nr Spilsby	●				Fishing, Walks
C4	Claxby nr Caistor					Play area, Hostel, Fishing, Equestrian Centre
E6	Donington on Bain nr Louth	●	●	●	●	Multi-sports facility, Toilets, Play Area
D6	East & West Barkwith nr Market Rasen	●	●	●		Garage, Caravan Site, Walks, Play Area
G9	East Keal nr Spilsby		●	●		Walks
G9	East Kirkby nr Spilsby	●				Aviation Heritage Centre, Garage
F5	Fotherby nr Louth		p/t		p/t	Walks
F7	Fulletby nr Horncastle					Drinks available in Church, Garage, Walks
E7	Goulceby & Asterby nr Horncastle	●				Campsite, Walks
C3	Grasby nr Caistor	●				
C2	Great Limber nr Caistor	●	●	●		Ruins of Knights Templar Hall, Summer walks at Mausoleum Woods
H8	Great Steeping nr Spilsby					Heavy Horse Centre, Walks
I8	Gunby nr Spilsby					National Trust House and Parklands, Farm Shop
G8	Hagworthingham nr Horncastle	●		●	●	Fleamarket Shop, Walks
D6	Hainton nr Market Rasen	●				Art Studio, Jewellery Open Workshop
H8	Halton Holegate nr Spilsby	●				Walks
E7	Hemingby nr Horncastle	●				
C4	Holton le Moor nr Caistor	●				Fish Farm & Shop, Walks
G8	Hundleby nr Spilsby	●				Walks
D2	Keelby	●	●	●	●	Garage, Take-away, Multi-sports Facility
D2	Laceby nr Grimsby		●	●	●	Horse Riding, Take-away, Golf Course, Walks Open church with toilet, Garden Centre
G8	Langton-by-Spilsby					Walks
G6	Legbourne nr Louth	●		●		Fishing & Café, Toilets, Leisure Complex, Cycle Routes, Walks
G6	Little Cawthorpe nr Louth	●				Walks
F4	Ludborough nr Louth	●				Heritage Railway, Farm Shop, Cycle Hire
D5	Ludford nr Market Rasen	●			●	Farm Shop, Walks, Play Area
F5	Maltby/Raithby nr Louth					Koi and Pond Centre
G6	Muckton nr Louth					Horse Riding, Nature Reserve
C3	Nettleton nr Caistor	●		●		Walks, Horse Riding, Alpine Plant Nursery
G8	Old Bolingbroke nr Spilsby	●				Castle ruins, nature reserve, walks, Play Area
H8	Partney nr Spilsby	●	●	●		Garage, Toilets, Garden Centre & Farm Shop
G8	Raithby nr Spilsby	●				
D3	Rothwell nr Caistor	●				Walks
F7	Salmonby nr Horncastle					Fishing, Caravan Site
F7	Scamblesby nr Louth					Horse Riding, Walks
H8	Skendleby nr Spilsby	●				
G7	South Ormsby nr Alford	●				
F5	South Elkington nr Louth			●		
H7	South Thoresby nr Alford					Walks, Local Nature Reserve, Caravan Site, Garage
H7	Swaby nr Alford					Caravan Site, Walks
D3	Swallow nr Caistor	●				Cycling Route
E4	Swinhope nr Binbrook	●				
D5	Tealby nr Market Rasen	●	●	●	●	Garage, Horse Riding, Play Area
F7	Tetford nr Horncastle	●	p/t	p/t	●	Caravan & Camp Site, Fishing, Play Area
D5	Thorpe le Vale nr Ludford					Fishing
H7	Ulceby nr Alford			●		Garage
F5	Utterby					Church interp panel, Packhorse Bridge, Walks
C5	Walesby nr Market Rasen					Ramblers' Church, Caravan & Campsite, Fishing
G9	West Keal and Keal Cotes					Fishing, Walks, Toilets
I8	Welton le Marsh nr Spilsby	●				Walks, Caravan Site
F5	Welton le Wold					Chalk stream, walks, open church with toilet
E7	West Ashby nr Horncastle	●				Camping, Golf, Fishing
I7	Willoughby nr Alford	●				Garage with Shop, Walks, Cycle Route
F8	Winceby nr Horncastle					Snipe Dales Country Park, Garage, Walks

More information is available on our website [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk) or [www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com](http://www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com)

