



Today the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is one of only two nationally protected landscapes in the East Midlands, the other being the Peak District National Park.

A great way to get to know the Lincolnshire Wolds is to go along to an event, local show or take part in the annual Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival in the spring.

For more information visit www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk.



As well as the rolling hills, within the Lincolnshire Wolds are chalk streams and springs. These special habitats are internationally and nationally rare and are home to native species such as water-crowfoot, water vole, otter and trout.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB



In 1949 it was decided that unspoilt areas of the countryside should be protected for future generations as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). In 2000 the importance of AONBs was re-emphasised, acknowledging that they, with the National Parks, form Britain's finest countryside. Today there are 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For more information visit www.landscapeforlife.org.uk or phone 01451 862007.

What is an AONB?

For more information visit www.landscapeforlife.org.uk or phone 01451 862007.



County Hall © NPA/Robert Hurman

Enjoy the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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 Jon Watson



Looking after the Wolds

- Protect and enhance the landscape and its distinctive features
- Encourage community interest and involvement
- Raise awareness of the Wolds
- Promote sustainable development and appropriate enjoyment

For more information please contact:
 Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
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 Riverhead Road
 Louth
 Lincolnshire
 LN11 ODA
 01507 609740
aonb@lincswolds.org.uk
www.lincswolds.org.uk



If you would like this leaflet in an alternative format, please contact us.

The market towns all have markets in the town centres. In addition to the regular market days, Louth and Horncastle have farmer's markets – the perfect way to sample local produce.

Louth – 4th Wednesday & 2nd Friday
 Horncastle – 2nd Thursday

Look out for the Walkers are Welcome signs in some of the market towns for an extra warm welcome!

Wherever you eat or stay, look out for the Tastes of Lincolnshire logo - a sign that good local produce is on the menu.

You can help keep the Wolds a special place by using the local shops and services, and by choosing local produce. This helps sustain local jobs and facilities. All landscapes need people to live and work in them to keep them viable.

Stay local, eat local, buy local

Louth, Cannon Street, LN11 9NW
 Horncastle, Wharf Road, LN9 5HL
 Market Rasen, Festival Hall, LN8 3HT
 Castor, Multi Use Centre, South Street, LN7 6UB
 Cleethorpes, Alexandra Road, DN35 8LG

01507 601111
 01507 601111
 01427 676666
 01472 859017
 01472 323111



If you are using your car to explore the area, there are many lay-bys and parking areas (some with information panels) marked on the map inside.

What's on?

For events or accommodation in the area log on to visitlincolnshire.com or contact the local tourist information centres.

Welcome To The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

This is a wonderful area of countryside with some of the most beautiful, unspoilt scenery in the East Midlands. There are rolling hills and hidden valleys, gentle streams and nestling villages.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is the highest land in eastern England between Kent and Yorkshire - enjoy fine views to the Pennines in the west and to the coast in the east. Man has settled in this area since prehistoric times; follow ancient trackways, see distant spires of medieval churches and absorb the landscape that has inspired writers and artists for generations.

The Wolds is a living, working landscape with woodland, grassland and abandoned chalk pits providing important habitats for rare flowers and wildlife. Enjoy the big skies, tranquillity and the changing colours of the landscape with the different seasons.



Don't forget to follow the Countryside Code wherever you go - respect, protect, enjoy.



The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service produce a range of leaflets and information available at www.lincswolds.org.uk



The Ordnance Survey Explorer (orange) Explorer Maps for the area are:
 273 - Lincolnshire Wolds South
 274 - Skegness, Aford & Spilsby
 282 - Lincolnshire Wolds North
 283 - Louth & Mablethorpe
 284 - Grimsby & Cleethorpes

On the map



The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Things to see & do

Feet first

With great footpaths and bridleways, the Wolds is a fantastic place to stretch your legs, enjoy unspoilt countryside and get some fresh air. Whether you enjoy longer walks or simply want to stroll, there are walks for everyone. The Viking Way is a 147 mile long distance footpath, or the Lindsey Loop is a 95 mile walk linking market towns around the AONB. There are also a number of leaflets available for walks from 2 miles upwards. These are available from Tourist Information Centres.



Two wheels or four legs?

With quiet lanes and bridleways this is a fantastic riding area. There are plenty of circular routes of varying lengths for every ability. The National Cycle network route from Hull to Harwich passes through the AONB, whilst the 69 mile Lindsey Trail is suitable for carriage drivers, horse riders, cyclists and walkers.



River Bain - Biscathorpe



A sculpture on the National Cycle Route

Hunt for history



Brinkhill moat



Stenigot mast

Roman roads existed over the Wolds

People have been living and working here for thousands of years; it is our ancestors who have shaped the landscape we enjoy today. Look out for 'lumps and bumps' in fields - these may be evidence of a deserted medieval village or an old burial mound. There are also ancient trackways and roman roads which were often used as salt routes to the coast. More recent influences include military history - the mast at RAF Stenigot is now a protected structure. There used to be many air bases situated in the Wolds, including Brookenby and Ludford. To discover more, follow the ancient Bluestone Heath Road or walk through a medieval settlement at Brinkhill.

Building foundations

The local church and village could be a clue to what lies beneath the soil throughout the area - local stone or bricks were often used to build homes and churches. Spilsby Sandstone has been used at Somersby Church; locally quarried ironstone was used in Walesby and at Calceby there is a ruined chalk church. Local ironstone was mined for its iron ore and used at steelworks in Scunthorpe. For 40 years, up to 1968, the Nettleton area was a hive of industrial activity. Today, all that is visible of the mining are the entrances to tunnels.



Spilsby Sandstone outcrop



Rambler's Church - Walesby



Remains of the chalk church of St Andrew's - Calceby

Take in the view

Being the highest land between Kent and Yorkshire in eastern England, there are plenty of places for fine views especially on a clear day. From the western scarp, look out for views of Lincoln, with the cathedral high on the skyline and see the cooling towers marching down the Trent Valley.



A view of Lincoln

Out to the east watch ships heading north to the Humber. To the south you may see the cliffs of Hunstanton in Norfolk.

For fine views, go for a walk near Nettleton or Donington on Bain; or climb high along the eastern edge.



Living landscape

The characteristic Wolds landscape has been shaped by the activities of man for millennia. Neolithic farmers settled in the wooded Wolds around 4000BC. Their primitive tools enabled them and their descendants to clear the trees. By the time the Romans arrived the landscape was almost as open as today. See cultivation terraces at Kirmond le Mire; watch the colours and textures of today's landscape change with farming activities and the seasons.



Cultivation terraces



Medieval moated village



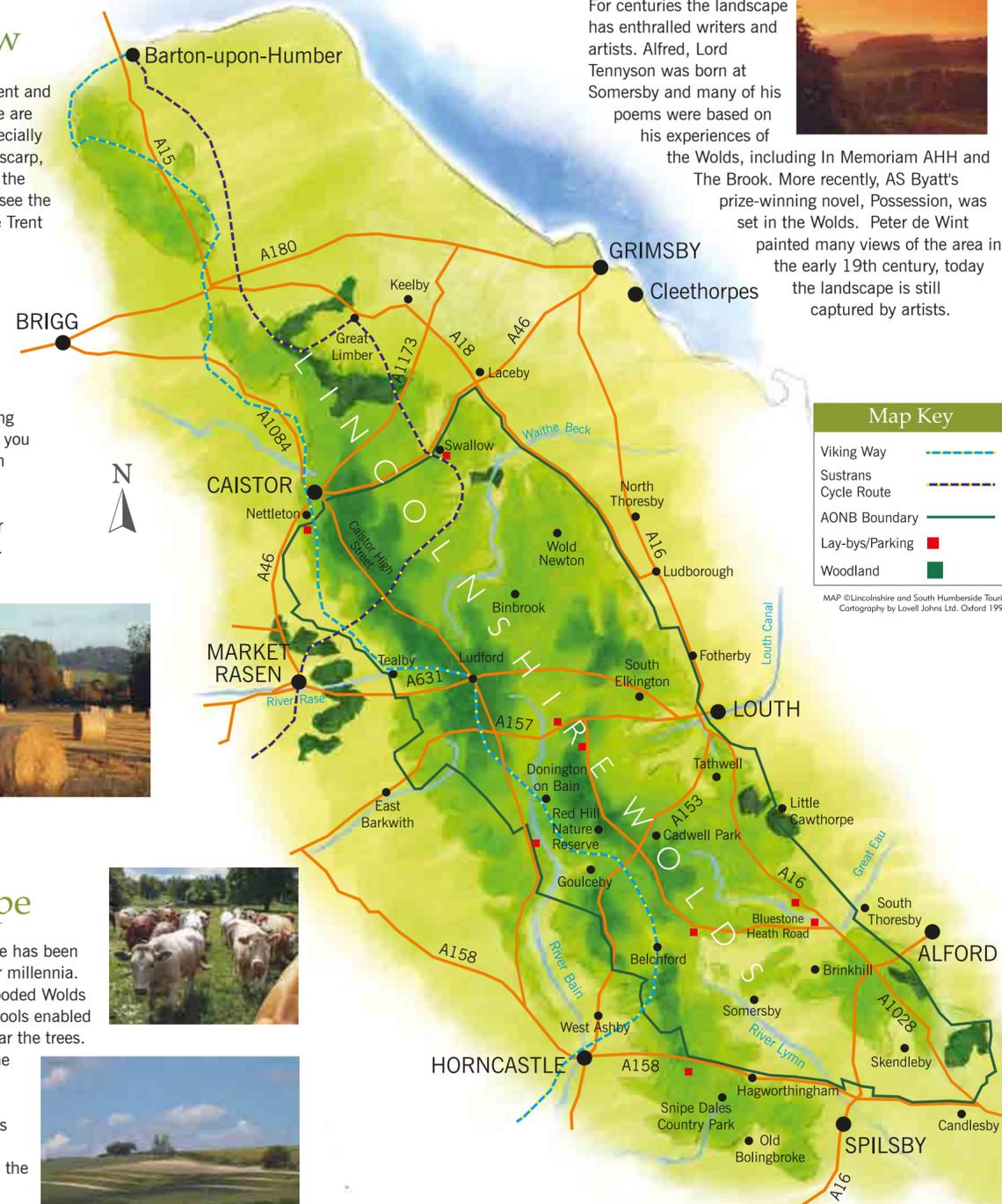
Baling and wrapping

Inspirational Wolds

For centuries the landscape has enthralled writers and artists. Alfred, Lord Tennyson was born at Somersby and many of his poems were based on his experiences of



the Wolds, including In Memoriam AHH and The Brook. More recently, AS Byatt's prize-winning novel, Possession, was set in the Wolds. Peter de Wint painted many views of the area in the early 19th century, today the landscape is still captured by artists.



Beneath us all

Whilst enjoying views to the coast from the eastern edge of the Wolds, it is hard to imagine that this once was a sea cliff. This area was once a tropical sea and then covered in ice. These extremes all influence the Wolds we see today - the plateau tops have thin, chalky soils, whilst in the south-east there are the heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils.



Red Hill Nature Reserve



Fossilised sponge preserved in flint

Cultivated for creatures



Brown hare



Bee orchid

Much of the Wolds is cultivated farmland and whilst many people feel this is not an obvious place for wildlife, look again. The Wolds have chalk streams with clear waters and a special range of wildlife from plants and insects to water voles and otters. Hedgerows are a distinctive feature of the area and are a great place for insects and birds. Farmland is important for rare arable flowers and ground nesting birds such as skylarks. To discover it for yourself, go for a quiet walk in the countryside. An excellent place to start is Snipe Dales Country Park, near Spilsby.

Vibrant villages

Attractive hamlets and villages are scattered throughout the area, adding to the charm of the landscape. Some villages organise events for everyone to enjoy. Have a look on the notice board to see what is going on. Many have a shop, tea room or pub - an ideal place for a break. Look out for village names ending in -ton or -ham which have Saxon origins, or names ending in -by or -thorpe, suggesting Danish influences.



Belchford Downhill soapbox cart race

Bustling market towns

The market towns on the edge of the Wolds were traditionally the centres of the rural life as places to meet, greet, buy and sell. Today they still play that role with their active markets and lively centres. They are a great place to spend some time, with interesting buildings and independent shops.



Horncastle market

Family fun in and around the Wolds

A fun day out is guaranteed for everyone...

Cadwell Park is home to some great motor racing. Gunby Hall, near Candlesby - is a fine stately home and gardens open to the public. Lincolnshire Wolds Railway near Ludborough - take a journey back in time on a real steam train. Alford Windmill is a five-sailed windmill, still producing flour in the traditional way.



Market Rasen Races - try your luck at this excellent national hunt course. For walks and picnics, visit Hubbard's Hills near Louth or Willingham Woods near Market Rasen. During the summer visit a local fair or show for a feel of rural Lincolnshire life. The Lincolnshire Wolds is a great base for exploring the county. Why not visit the coast, historic Lincoln or the Limewoods? To find out more - visitlincolnshire.com