

Background to the Lincolnshire Wolds:

Information for Teachers

Where are the Lincolnshire Wolds?

- The Wolds lie in the north east of the county, midway between Lincoln and the North Sea coast.
- At over 150m above sea level at the western edge, the Wolds represent the highest ground in Eastern England between Kent and Yorkshire.
- <http://www.lincswolds.org.uk>

Landscape of the Wolds:

- A sparsely settled area. Many villages appear to be almost hidden in the landscape. Simple and nucleated villages in the north, rectangular in plan in the south. There are no major settlements in the Wolds AONB.
- Much intensive arable farming, (much taking place on hilltop plateaux). Following the Enclosures Act huge open fields and common pasture were divided up and miles of hawthorn hedge planted (1760 – 1850).
- There are strong escarpments, deep dry valleys with beech woods.
- Sweeping views of the landscape have inspired poets and artists throughout the years. Much of the area known as the Wolds is also designated as an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
- http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/DL/aonbs/aonb_lincolnwolds.asp

Geology of the Wolds:

- The geology of the Wolds is what gives it its distinct characteristics and allows the intensive arable farming to take place.
- The area is comprised of mainly sedimentary rocks.
- Rolling chalk uplands form the main and highest part of the Wolds.
- The geology of the drainage basin of the River Lymn in the south of the Wolds is different.
- The Lymn flows over Spilsby sandstone, (formed in a shallow sea around 140 million years ago), overlying Jurassic clays, (formed in a stagnant, deep ocean around 150 million years ago). This combination of rocks gives rise to the formation of many springs in the source area of the Lymn.
- <http://www.lincswolds.org.uk>
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service also produces 'Geology of the Lincolnshire Wolds' leaflet.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:

- AONB partnerships are formed between local authorities and local communities.
- The partnership works to ensure the outstanding natural beauty survives for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.
- This done by ensuring the rural way of life in these areas continues, as it is that ensures the survival of the natural landscape.