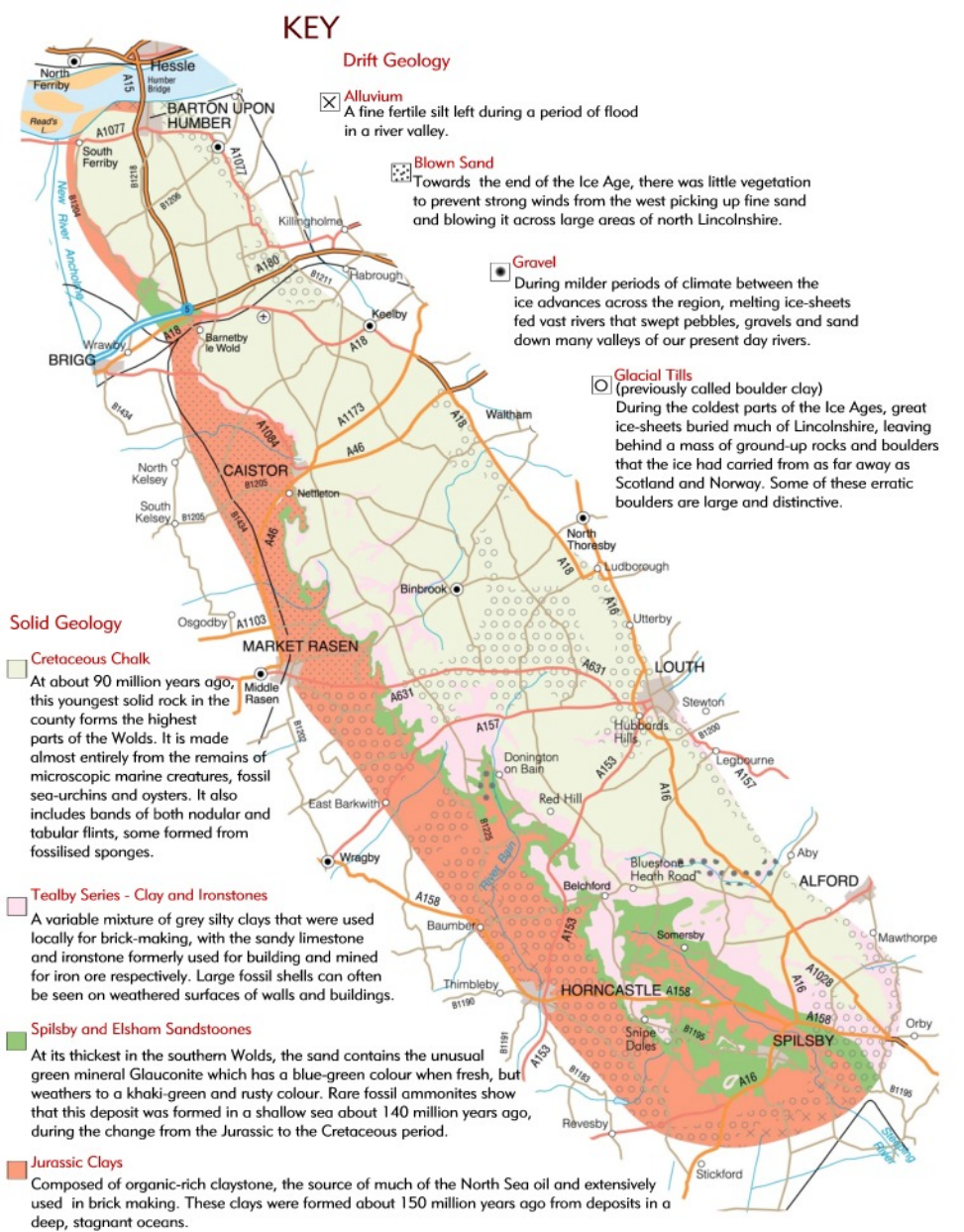
# KEY




## Drift Geology

**Alluvium**
A fine fertile silt left during a period of flood in a river valley.

**Blown Sand**
Towards the end of the Ice Age, there was little vegetation to prevent strong winds from the west picking up fine sand and blowing it across large areas of north Lincolnshire.

**Gravel**
During milder periods of climate between the ice advances across the region, melting ice-sheets fed vast rivers that swept pebbles, gravels and sand down many valleys of our present day rivers.

**Glacial Tills**
(previously called boulder clay)
During the coldest parts of the Ice Ages, great ice-sheets buried much of Lincolnshire, leaving behind a mass of ground-up rocks and boulders that the ice had carried from as far away as Scotland and Norway. Some of these erratic boulders are large and distinctive.

## Solid Geology

**Cretaceous Chalk**
At about 90 million years ago, this youngest solid rock in the county forms the highest parts of the Wolds. It is made almost entirely from the remains of microscopic marine creatures, fossil sea-urchins and oysters. It also includes bands of both nodular and tabular flints, some formed from fossilised sponges.

**Tealby Series - Clay and Ironstones**
A variable mixture of grey silty clays that were used locally for brick-making, with the sandy limestone and ironstone formerly used for building and mined for iron ore respectively. Large fossil shells can often be seen on weathered surfaces of walls and buildings.

**Spilsby and Elsham Sandstoones**
At its thickest in the southern Wolds, the sand contains the unusual green mineral Glauconite which has a blue-green colour when fresh, but weathers to a khaki-green and rusty colour. Rare fossil ammonites show that this deposit was formed in a shallow sea about 140 million years ago, during the change from the Jurassic to the Cretaceous period.

**Jurassic Clays**
Composed of organic-rich claystone, the source of much of the North Sea oil and extensively used in brick making. These clays were formed about 150 million years ago from deposits in a deep, stagnant oceans.