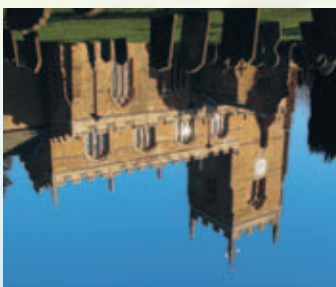


Gunby Hall © NPA/Rupert Turnham



Tealby



A great way to get to know the Lincolnshire Wolds is to go along to an event, local show or take part in the Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival. For more information, visit [www.woldsoutdoorfestival.co.uk](http://www.woldsoutdoorfestival.co.uk).

Originally designated in 1973, 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. Discover the Wonders of the Wolds through our series of special leaflets.

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. For further information, visit [www.lincolnshirechalkstreams.org](http://www.lincolnshirechalkstreams.org).

## The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB



[www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk)

For more information visit Ireland, covering 1/5 of the UK. 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Britain's finest countryside. Today there are that they, with the National Parks, form AONBs was re-emphasised, acknowledging Beauty (AONBs). In 2000 the importance of generations as Areas of Outstanding Natural the countryside should be protected for future

## What is an AONB?



The Wolds are surrounded by small towns, full of independent shops and markets in their centres. In addition to the regular market days, many have specialist events such as farmers', craft and artisan markets – the perfect way to sample local produce and support local crafts and artists. Download our 'Making the Most of the Lincolnshire Wolds' leaflet for further details [www.lincswoods.org.uk](http://www.lincswoods.org.uk)

All protected landscapes need people to live and work in them to keep them viable. You can help keep the Lincolnshire Wolds a special, vibrant place by using local shops and services and supporting produce grown, made and distributed locally – whether from a shop, cafe or pub.

## Stay local, eat local, buy local

Afford, Focal Point & Library, South Market Place 01522 782010  
Caistor, Arts & Heritage Centre, Plough Hill 01472 851605  
Cleethorpes, The Resort Hub 01472 323356  
Horncastle, Sir Joseph Banks Ctr, Bridge Street 01507 526065  
Louth, St James' Church, Upgate 01673 844556  
Market Rasen, Festival Hall 01790 752913  
Spilsby, Franklin Hall, Halton Road

For events or accommodation in the area, visit [www.lincswoods.org.uk](http://www.lincswoods.org.uk), [www.loveilincswoods.com](http://www.loveilincswoods.com) and [www.visitilincswoods.com](http://www.visitilincswoods.com). Many of the market towns have tourist information points, some run by local volunteers.

## What's on?



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. Alternatively use the local bus services to explore the area or enjoy a car free walk – contact Traveline 0871 200 2233 or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## Enjoying the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

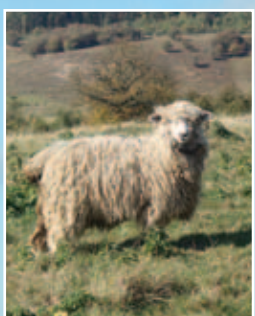
# Welcome To The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

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 through the different seasons.

Whatever you are interested in, this leaflet will help you enjoy your time in this corner of the country.



Maps for the area are:  
273 - Lincolnshire Wolds South  
274 - Skegness, Afford & Spilsby  
282 - Lincolnshire Wolds North  
283 - Louth & Mablethorpe  
284 - Grimsby & Cleethorpes

## On the map



Don't forget to follow the Countryside Code wherever you go – respect everyone, protect the environment, enjoy the outdoors.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service produce a range of leaflets available at [www.lincswoods.org.uk](http://www.lincswoods.org.uk). Follow our walks and cycle routes on the mobile app [www.visorando.co.uk](http://www.visorando.co.uk)



## Looking after the Wolds

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service works in partnership with its Joint Advisory Committee and other groups and individuals to:

- 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

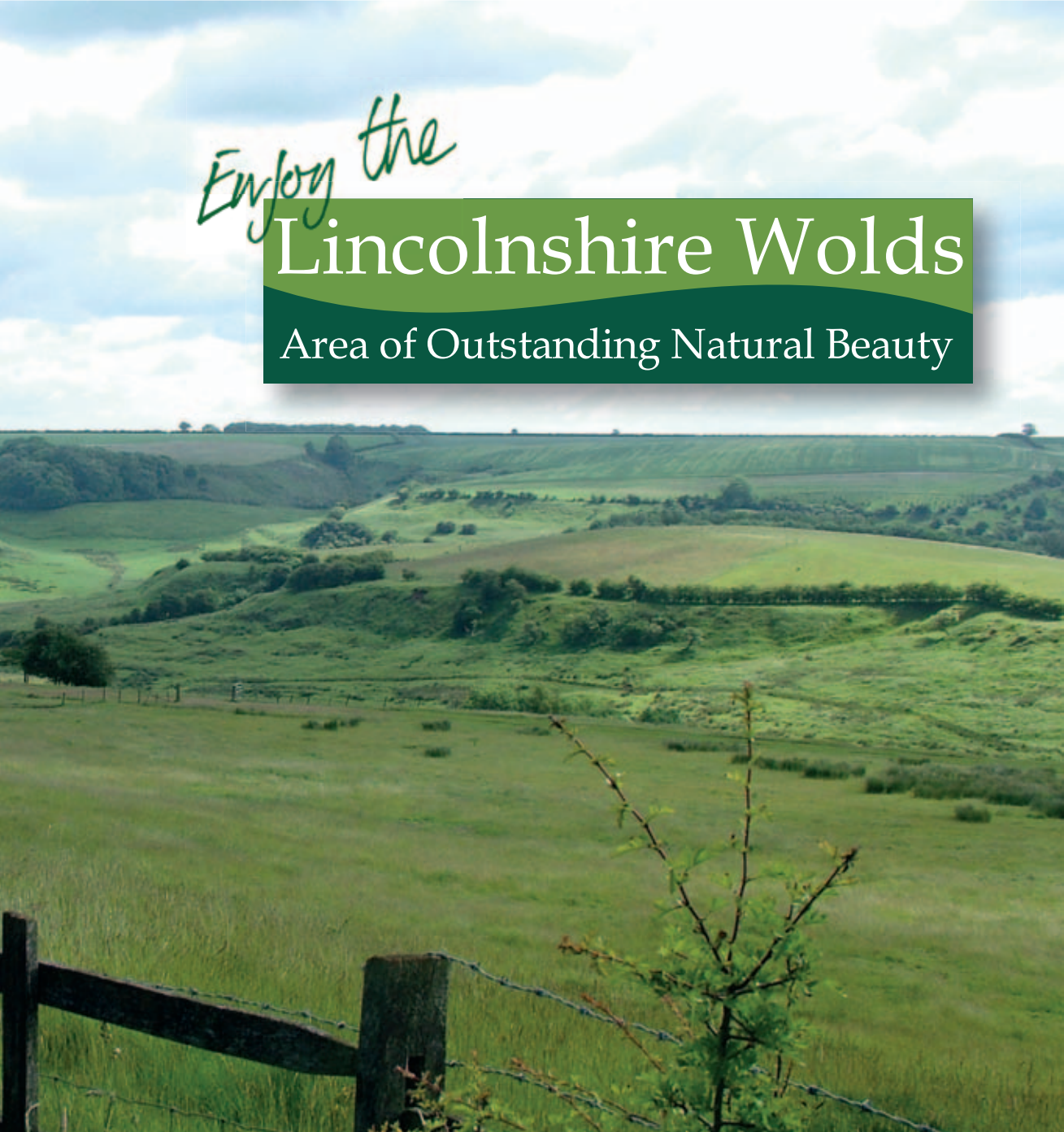
For more information please contact:  
Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service  
Navigation Warehouse  
Riverhead Road  
Louth  
Lincolnshire  
LN11 0DA  
01522 555780  
[aonb@lincswoods.org.uk](mailto:aonb@lincswoods.org.uk)  
[www.lincswoods.org.uk](http://www.lincswoods.org.uk)  
Twitter: @LincsWoldsAONB  
Facebook: @LincsWoldsAONB

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

Photographs kindly supplied by:  
©LWCS,  
Derrick Furlong,  
Nev Gurnhill,  
Richard Enderby,  
Lincolnshire County Council,  
West Lindsey District Council,  
Peter Richardson,  
Peter Thompson,  
Jon Watson



Designed & Produced by: [www.dedgraphics.co.uk](http://www.dedgraphics.co.uk) 5/8/22



Landscapes for life  
.org.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS  
One of the AONB Family



## Feet, pedals & hooves 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 trails 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.



### 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.



Ruckland

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 a prehistoric 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 timeworn 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 100 years, up to 1968, the area around Claxby and Nettleton was a hive of industrial activity. Today, all that is visible of the mining heritage are the entrances to tunnels.



Spilsby Sandstone outcrop



Ramblers' Church - Walesby



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

# The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Things to see & do

## 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.

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.



Lincoln Red Cattle



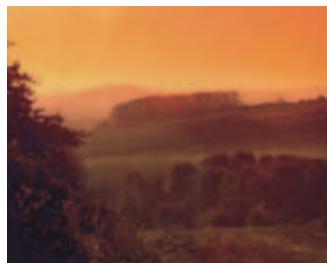
Cultivation terraces



Medieval moated village

## 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 A.H.H.* and *The Brook*. More recently, A.S. 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, whilst today the landscape still inspires artists, writers and poets.



Map Key	
Viking Way	— — — — —
Sustrans Cycle Route	— — — — —
AONB Boundary	— — — — —
Lay-bys/Parking	■
Woodland	■

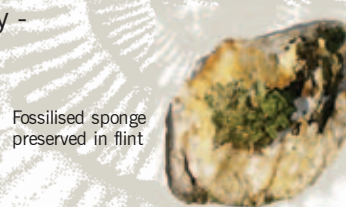
MAP ©Lincolnshire and South Humberside Tourist  
Cartography by Lovell Johns Ltd. Oxford 1993

## Beneath us all

Whilst enjoying views to the coast from the eastern edge of the Wolds, it is hard to imagine that this was once a sea cliff. This area was at one time a tropical sea when much of the bedrock was formed then subsequently covered and shaped by ice and meltwater. 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



Kestrel

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

## Bustling market towns

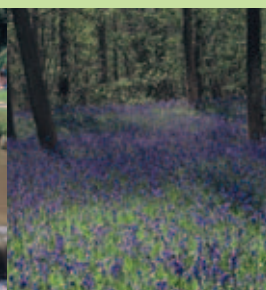
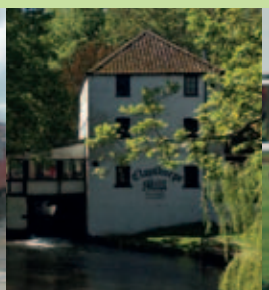
The market towns on the edge of the Wolds were traditionally the centres of the rural life as places to meet, greet, buy and sell. Today they still play that role with their active markets and lively centres. They are a great place to spend some time, with interesting buildings and independent shops.



Horncastle market

## Family fun in and around the Lincolnshire Wolds

**Cadwell Park** is home to some great motor racing. **Gunby Hall**, near Candlesby is a fine National Trust property with house and gardens open to the public. Take a journey back in time on a real steam train at the **Lincolnshire Wolds Railway**, near Ludborough. **Claythorpe Watermill** is a beautiful watermill on the banks of the Great Eau. Try your luck at **Market Rasen Races**, an excellent national hunt course.



For walks and picnics, visit **Hubbard's Hills** near Louth or **Willingham Woods** near Market Rasen. During your stay, why not visit a local fair or show, or take part in one of the many festivals throughout the year. The Lincolnshire Wolds is a great base to explore the county, discover the coastal nature reserves or enjoy a beach walk and don't forget historic Lincoln to see the inspiring Castle and Cathedral. For more information, visit [www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com](http://www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com) and [www.visitlincolnshire.com](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)