

## In Ore of Our Past



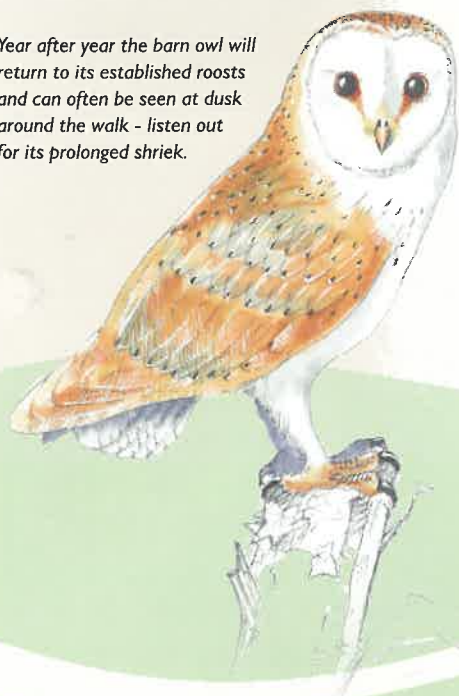
A circular walk of 4½ miles from Nettleton village

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LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS One of the AONB Family

### INTRODUCTION

This walk passes through an area that was, until just a few decades ago, one of the most industrial parts of the Wolds. Today the Nettleton Valley is a grassy, peaceful picturesque place, and from the top there are fine views towards the River Trent and Lincoln.

*Year after year the barn owl will return to its established roosts and can often be seen at dusk around the walk - listen out for its prolonged shriek.*



*Look out for marsh-marigolds near the stream. They are sometimes known as kingcups.*

*This is a varied walk mainly on grassy paths, and along a quiet country lane. There are some stiles and gates, as well as a few slopes. The paths may be muddy so stout shoes or boots are recommended.*

*Allow 2 - 2½ hours walking at a leisurely pace. Buses stop at the Salutation Inn, Nettleton - for times ring Traveline 0871 200 2233  
[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)*

*This walk is on Ordnance Survey maps Explorer 282 and 284*

### NETTLETON

Nettleton was recorded in the Domesday Book, when it was known as 'Neteltone' that meant 'farmstead where nettles grow'. Many insects rely on nettles for their survival, such as the peacock and the small tortoiseshell butterflies - their caterpillars can be seen chewing the leaves in the spring and summer.



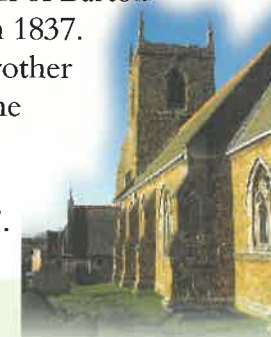
Small tortoiseshell & peacock butterflies

The old mining tunnels from the mines make a great bat roost. Early evening can be a good time to see these small mammals darting between trees eating moths and other insects. A single pipistrelle bat can eat 3000 insects in one evening!



Pipistrelle bat

The church in Nettleton, St. John the Baptist, was partly rebuilt in 1874. A doorway is believed to date back to Saxon times. There are also some cottages in the village built of locally mined ironstone. The church clock was made by the son of James Harrison of Barton upon Humber in 1837. James' famous brother John made marine chronometres as described in the book 'Longitude'.



Nettleton Beck runs through the valley to the village. Dragonflies and damselflies can be seen darting along the water. Some of the ponds are full of frogs and newts and sometimes you can see a heron on the bank patiently waiting for a fish to come within reach.



Common blue damselfly



# THE ROUTE

The route is marked with a nettle leaf symbol



1 Start at the Ramblers car park on the road from Nettleton to Normanby le Wold. From the car park, go left downhill and into Nettleton Village.

2 Turn right down the track marked as the Viking Way by 'Hazeldene' and continue past Nettleton Grange.

3 Turn right off the farm track, leaving the bridleway, and follow the Viking Way with Nettleton Beck on your right through the valley.

The Viking Way is a 147 miles long distance footpath running from the Humber to Oakham in Rutland.



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**Key**  
 - - - Route  
 PH Public House

- 4 At the top of the valley turn right onto a bridleway that leads to the road.
- 5 Turn right at the road, continue along past Nettleton Top and return to the car park.



Arguably some of the best views in Lincolnshire can be seen from Nettleton Top. Look out for Lincoln Cathedral, the Humber Bridge and the cooling towers along the River Trent.

The small drooping 'bunch of keys' yellow flowers of the cowslip



The valley is full of wild flowers. Look out for cowslips and harebells on the higher slopes and ragged robins and marsh-marigolds nearer the stream.

## Ironstone Mining - Nettleton Top



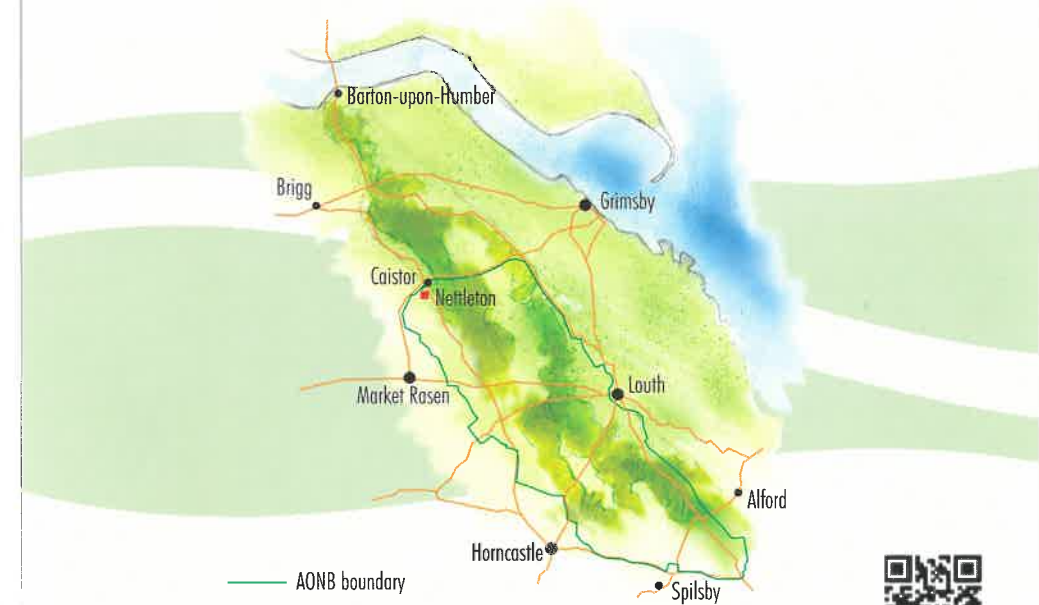
It is hard to imagine how different this landscape used to look. For nearly 40 years from 1929, up to 180 people lived and worked here, mining for ironstone. There were railways, mounds of spoil, concrete and machinery throughout the area. Pit ponies worked bringing trucks full of ore out of the mines. Sadly, many workers lost their lives working in the mines. Some are buried in nearby Claxby churchyard.

## THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape. Most of it was 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, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0DA  
 01507 609740 [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk) [aonb@lincswolds.org.uk](mailto:aonb@lincswolds.org.uk) [@LincsWoldsAONB](https://twitter.com/LincsWoldsAONB)



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