

A BOOT UP THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

Hugh Marrows

The Lincolnshire Wolds comprise an area of approximately 216 square miles / 558 square kilometres. In recent years the delights of its quiet, unspoilt countryside which offer great walking opportunities have become better known and appreciated.

The Wolds were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB) in 1973. They are made up of Cretaceous rocks, primarily chalk but with some limestone in the south. These dip towards the east, where many glacial valleys divide the gentler slopes, but conversely create a steep scarp slope to the west. The Wolds therefore present an extremely attractive walking environment that is rarely very demanding given that the highest point is 551 feet (168 metres). The hills do however appear higher in places for the Wolds are surrounded by the low-lying land of the coastal marshes to the east and the "fen-like" valleys of the Rivers Witham and Ancholme to the west.

All the walks have been carefully selected to give as wide as possible an overview of this lovely part of Lincolnshire balanced with an attempt to explore some of its lesser-known areas. They range in distance from 4 to 10 miles and are ideal for families and groups of friends.

The 10 walks included are centred on:
Caistor and Nettleton • Swallow and Irby
Dales • Tealby and Risby • Fotherby and North
Elkington • Donington-on-Bain and Biscathorpe •
Aby, Haugh and South Thoresby • Tetford,
Bag Enderby and Somersby • Horncastle
and Mareham-on-the-Hill • Partney, Dalby and
Langton • Rothwell to Normanby-le-Wold.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the Lincolnshire Wolds.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hugh Marrows has lived in Lincolnshire all his life. He is married with two grown up children.

He spent his working life in the civil service where for many years his job involved much travel throughout the county of Lincolnshire and from his experiences sprang an interest in the county's diverse landscape, architecture and history.

His love of the outdoors and country walking readily combined with an interest in photography and the recording of the visible heritage of Lincolnshire's archaeological remains, churches, vernacular buildings and remnants of its industrial past such as canals and railways. He had the good fortune (as he will readily admit) to retire early, something that allowed him both the time and opportunity to pursue these interests more fully and to begin writing about them in various county magazines and local newspapers.

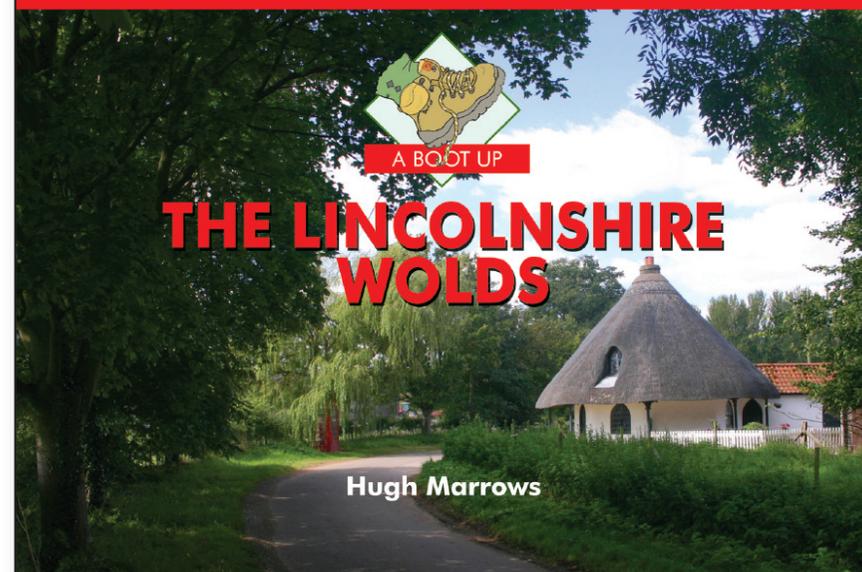
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Nettleton village.



The lake at Biscathorpe.



Somersby village.



The Viking Way near Castle Farm.

2
Swallow & Iby Dales

Iby Dales Wood to join a farm track. Keep ahead as the views open up to the northeast across the Humber to Yorkshire and continue until the track descends into a valley with Riky Grove Farm to your right.

4 Just before the farm leave the track going through the hedge gap in front of you and then immediately turn left. You will soon enter "The Vale" or a sown track and should walk straight through the valley woods ignoring any side paths or tracks. At the far end exit through a bridge and walk ahead over a pasture to another bridge at a farm road.

5 Turn right along this end on reaching a "T" junction go left to arrive back at the "new" A46. Cross this again and walk down to the "old" crossroads by the church. Finally turn right back to the inn.

3 Tealby & Risby (Optional Extension To Walesby)

With a long-held reputation as one of Lincolnshire's prettiest villages Tealby is the starting point for many fine Wolds walks.

Tealby village has a long history. The "Tweelbs" of the Domesday Book was quite an industrial centre for there were fourteen mills powered by local streams. At one time paper was produced here and there is still a Papermill Lane!

The village is famous for its association with the Tompson family. It was Charles Tompson O'Erment, uncle of Alfred Lord Tompson the Victorian poet laureate, who had succeeded to the family fortunes instead of Alfred's father George. Charles built Boyan's Manor (now demolished) in the nearby park between 1836 and 1842 as a replica medieval castle and

Level: easy (or easy if extension taken)
Length: 4 or 5 1/2 miles / 6.5 or 8.5 Kilometres.
Terrain: Pasture, farm tracks and some rough ground.
Peak & Storm King's Head, Tealby
Maps: OS Landranger 113 (Barnby) Explorer 202.
Start: Bull's Head at N 71754904, Postcode LN8 3BA.
Refreshments: King's Head.
NOTE: The walk extension involves steep climbs and descents.

also paid for the restoration of All Saints' church in the 1870s. Much of the "old" church tower still remains

Example of a double-page spread.



Horncastle Market Place.