

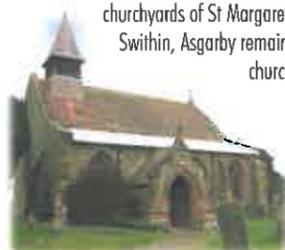
POINTS OF INTEREST

This part of the Lincolnshire Wolds countryside is gently undulating at heights of between about 85 and 120 metres.

The solid geology is Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay overlain at Winceby and Asgarby by the western edge of the Spilsby Sandstone and Claxby Ironstone formations. Spring lines follow the junction of the porous sandstone with the underlying impermeable clay, and it is probable that these attracted the early settlement that developed into the villages we have today. An ice sheet deposited a veneer of chalky till full of distinctive milky grey Wolds flint over much of this area, which can be seen in ploughed fields along the walk route.

The archaeology of the area shows that people have lived here for thousands of years. Worked flints from prehistoric times have been found at Asgarby, and Anglo-Saxon burials at Winceby and Asgarby. There are the remains of deserted medieval settlements and farming methods at Winceby, Asgarby and Hameringham, and at Dunsthorpe to the south of Hameringham. Medieval and later churches have served the parishes for centuries. The churchyards of St Margaret, Winceby and St Swithin, Asgarby remain even though the churches have disappeared. All Saints church, Hameringham is still in regular use.

Hameringham church



The English Civil War Battle of Winceby took place on 11th October 1643. It began when a body of Parliamentary troops under the command of Oliver Cromwell and Sir Thomas Fairfax intercepted Royalist forces led by Sir John Henderson on their way to relieve a garrison of their men who were besieged at Bolingbroke Castle about 3 miles to the south-east.

The two armies met on the hill to the north-west of Winceby. The fighting lasted for little more than half an hour but was decisive in securing Parliamentary dominance of Lincolnshire. During the battle Oliver Cromwell fell from his horse and could have been killed, but he managed to remount and carry on. The Royalist defeat came due to a misunderstanding over an order, which led to some of the men retreating, leaving the rest of their army outnumbered and unable to carry on. The remaining men had no option but to follow the retreat. Pursued by the Parliamentarians, they were trapped against a boundary at Slash Hollow where a gate opened towards them and huge numbers were slaughtered. Following their defeat, the Royalist cause in the county was largely lost.

INTRODUCTION

This walk at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds offers some fine hilltop views and takes in the scene of the Civil War Battle of Winceby, and the hamlets of Winceby, Hameringham and Asgarby. There has been human settlement in this area since prehistoric times, and the marks that generations of people have left upon the landscape are still visible today.

An information board in the lay-by on the B1195 to the north-west of Winceby village describes the Battle of Winceby.



A re-enactment of the Battle of Winceby (based on a photo from Mr Dave Hitchbourne)



Lychgate at Asgarby Church

LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Stagecoach service 6. Tel: 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.stagecoachbus.com/lincolnshire



WOLDS WALKS

Lost Churches and a Battlefield



A circular walk of 3½ miles (5½ km) from Winceby, through Hameringham and Asgarby

The route is waymarked with a crossed swords symbol. 

Start the walk at Snipe Dales Nature Reserve car park.

1 Begin by walking down the track to the nature reserve entrance. At this point you are standing in the churchyard of St Margaret's church, Winceby.

Hidden Churchyard



The churchyard is not immediately obvious, especially in summer, as the gravestones can be obscured by undergrowth. The church itself was demolished in 1964. It was built in 1860 and replaced an earlier thatched building.

The deserted medieval village of Winceby lies to the north of the main road. The remains of ridge and furrow, field boundaries, enclosures and trackways have been recorded, and some burials, possibly of Anglo-Saxon origin, have been discovered.

2 Return to the car park, carefully cross the B1195 and take the footpath through the small wood. Carry on down the field edge. Turn right at the bottom of the field and continue until you reach the stile.

3 Cross the stile and head diagonally across the field towards Hameringham, aiming for the farm on the brow of the hill. Continue until you reach the lane.

On a clear day you can see Lincoln Cathedral towards the west and Boston Stump towards the south from here. At this point there is an information board that tells you about this part of the Wolds.



4 Go straight across the lane and take the path to the right of the farm. Carry on down the slope until the path joins with another at right angles.

The remains of medieval farming in the form of crofts and ridge and furrow are recorded nearby, and from this point there is a good view north-west across Slash Hollow where the Battle of Winceby reached its bloody conclusion in October 1643.



View toward Slash Hollow

5 Turn to the left and head up the hill to Hameringham. After about 150 metres the path crosses a small paddock on the right and takes you into All Saints churchyard.

The church collapsed in the 19th century and was rebuilt using the old stones. The brick chancel is older than the nave. An original arcade dating from around the early 13th century survives inside, and the medieval font dates from the 14th-15th century. The stained glass in the west window is by Kempe & Co and was installed in 1924.

6 Leave the churchyard by the front gate and turn left. Follow the lane with care through the village until you reach the T-junction.

The remains of the deserted medieval settlements of Hameringham and Dunsthorpe lie to the south of the village. The two parishes were combined in 1437 due to lack of parishioners. Dunsthorpe church was already in ruins by this date

7 At the T-junction turn left and after a short distance take the signposted track on the right. The track leads downhill before eventually crossing a dike and climbing towards Asgarby. Continue towards the village keeping the field boundaries on your right. When you reach the lake, pass to the right of it and head towards the copse at the top of the hill.

At the edge of the copse cross the stile to the right of the lychgate to enter another lost churchyard.

The church of St Swithin, Asgarby was declared redundant in 1984 and subsequently demolished. It was an early 19th century building built of brick on a green sandstone base. The churchyard is now overgrown but the tombstones are still discernible amongst the vegetation.



Asgarby churchyard

8 Follow the path through the churchyard and leave it via the stile at the far side. Continue past the derelict farmhouse on your right. Keep to the footpath as it enters the grounds of a modern house and then follows the driveway to reach the Winceby to Old Bolingbroke lane.

9 Turn left and follow this quiet lane back towards Winceby. Rejoin the B1195 near Winceby House, cross the road with care, turn left and walk along the wide verge back to the car park.

Outside Winceby House Farm you pass the stone commemorating the Battle of Winceby.



Hares and rabbits are a common sight along the walk.

Lincolnshire County Council reproduced from OS mapping with the permission of The Controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to civil proceedings OS licence 100025370.

ROUTE INFORMATION

Distance: 3½ miles, 5½ km

Time: Approx. 2 - 2½ hours at a leisurely pace

Maps: OS Explorer 273

Parking: Usually available at Snipe Dales Nature Reserve car park (the west car park) by permission of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Please note that the car park may occasionally be closed.

Terrain: Along paths and tracks across open farmland and quiet country lanes. Paths can be muddy at times. Stout shoes or boots recommended.

Toilets: Public toilets at Snipe Dales Country Park car park

Stiles: A few. Some are stock proof and therefore may be difficult for dogs.



Tourist Information Centre:
14 Bull Ring, Horncastle - Tel: 01507 526636
Email: horncastle@e-lindsey.gov.uk

THE HERITAGE TRUST OF LINCOLNSHIRE

The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire is a charity that exists to protect, preserve, promote and present the rich heritage of the county for the benefit of local people and visitors. Its purpose is to:

Investigate and record the county's historic and archaeological heritage and make it available to all.

Save and renovate threatened historic buildings and make them suitable for new uses.

Encourage private individuals, local societies and the business and commercial sector to work with the Trust on imaginative heritage projects.

Help the people of Lincolnshire, young and old, to understand and take pride in their county.

East Lindsey District Council commissioned this walk and provided funding for the production of this leaflet.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important landscape. Part of it was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973.



For more information contact: Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire,
The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9RW
Tel: 01529 461499 Fax: 01529 461001 Email: info@lincsheritage.org Website: www.lincsheritage.org

