

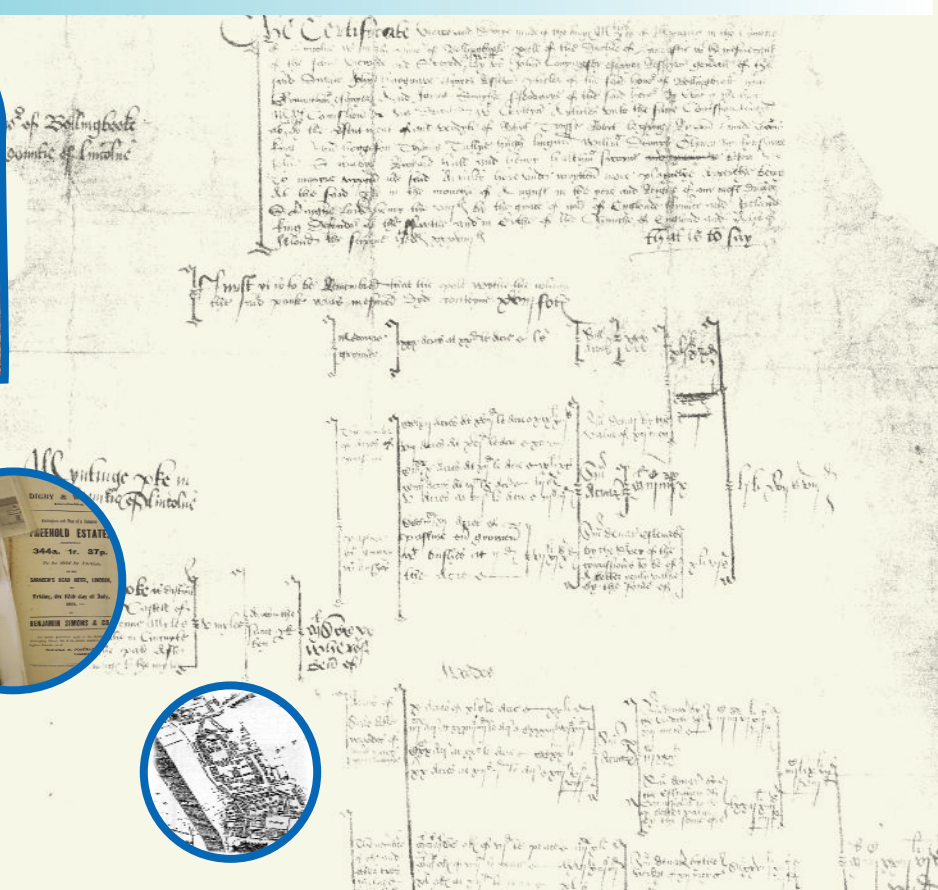


Lincolnshire
Limewoods

Community Heritage in the Lincolnshire Limewoods

Using Written and Spoken History

A Limewoods Guide to Running Heritage Projects No. 3





The Lincolnshire Limewoods Project

The Lincolnshire Limewoods area is set within a unique landscape offering a diversity of flora, fauna, heritage and opportunities for recreation. The Lincolnshire Limewoods Project is a partnership working to protect, enhance and promote the natural and historic landscape and features of this important area.

Limewoods Community Heritage Scheme

A major part of achieving these objectives has been the Limewoods Community Heritage Scheme. This initiative aims to proactively encourage local communities in the Limewoods area to undertake heritage projects through provision of advice, mentoring and direct funding.

The Lincolnshire Limewoods Project wishes to thank all of the volunteers who developed community projects in the Limewoods, whose experiences have greatly shaped this set of guides: Bardney Development Trust, Fiskerton History & Archaeology Group, Wragby Heritage Group, Minting and Gautby Heritage Society.

How to use these guides

This guide is one of a series that uses the experiences of the Limewoods Community Heritage Scheme to offer guidance to other voluntary groups who are looking to undertake their own heritage project. Some information is specific to Lincolnshire but the guides have been developed for use by any group.

The guides are not comprehensive but taken together will provide some inspiration and targeted guidance for those thinking of undertaking a heritage project.

Guides in this series include:

Getting Your Project Started **Archaeology in Heritage Projects** **Using Written and Spoken History** **Presenting your Project**

Contact the Limewoods Project to find out about other publications for the area.





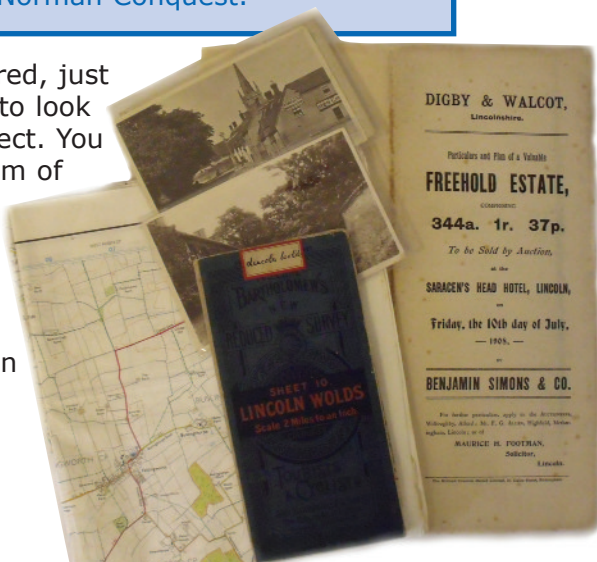
Why Use Documents?

You may be surprised at just how much documentary evidence there is for your town or parish. It is probable that the sources you are aware of only scratch the surface. A brief look through any archive catalogue for your area or even a search on the internet will identify a range of sources, some reliable, some not so. Even if documents have been researched they may have been examined for very different reasons from your own. There may also be other documents which shed light on those subjects already 'researched'.

The potential of documents for research is virtually limitless but among other things they can provide information on:

- property ownership, sale, inheritance and divisions.
- names, dates, places, even faces.
- events, stories, traditions.
- statistics on life and death.
- crime, punishment and travel.
- plans, maps and surveys.
- how communities coped through national crises.
- a trail back beyond the Norman Conquest.

Little or no training is required, just an understanding of where to look and a passion for your subject. You can research with a minimum of expenditure but you must be willing to expend considerable time. A little tenacity also goes a long way. You may also find that your searches lead you off in unforeseen directions.





Sources and ...

Knowing where and how to look for documents will save you a great deal of wasted effort and make your research more efficient. Also understanding the nature of your sources will help to put the information into context. Broadly sources fall into two types.

Primary

These are the original documents, or copied images of the same, written at the time. This would include wills, surveys, letters or newspaper reports. For help in reading primary sources see page 12.

Secondary

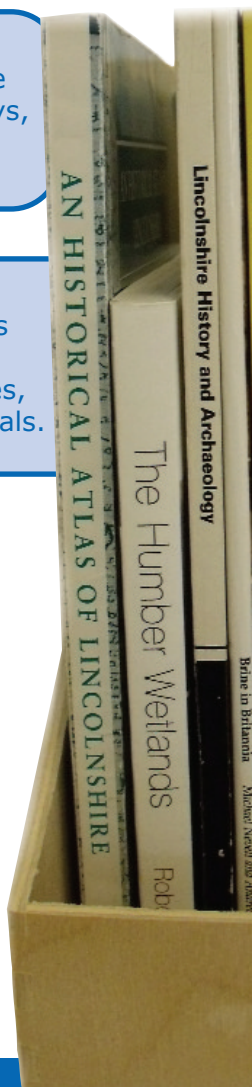
These are descriptions, discussions or interpretations of information from primary or other secondary sources. They will take the form of books and articles, newspapers or even transcriptions made from originals.

Secondary sources

General reading to provide you with an historical or archaeological background will help you to contextualise the information you uncover in your research. You might try the *History of Lincolnshire Series* (from Prehistory to the 20th century) and *An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*.

Biographies, directories and other published research will help establish what is already known but take note of when material was published, it may be out of date. Always note down and index the source of information you use. It will help when trying to find it again.

You will need to critically assess anything you read, particularly on the internet.





... Archives

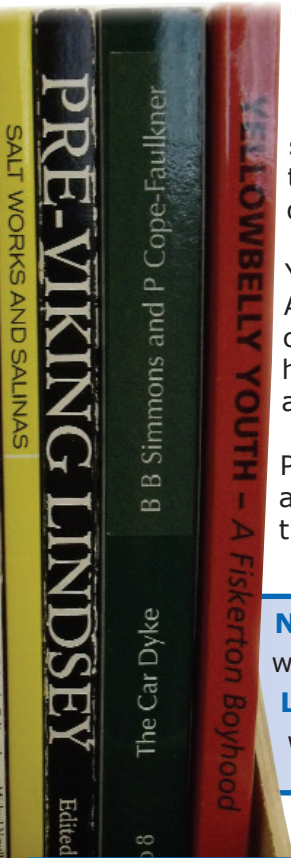
Archives and Collections

The first place you may want to start your search is in the local studies library. Here you will find many secondary sources as well as some primary sources. For primary documents your main source will be the Local Records or Archive Office. You will need

to check whether you need a reader's ticket to book a table and whether you can order documents in advance. Some, like the Lincolnshire Archives will have the majority of their catalogue online. Make sure you check the restrictions on what you can take into the reading rooms and how you can copy documents; some charges may apply.

Your other major source will be the National Archives at Kew. You can consult the online catalogue which holds information on documents held at other archives around the country as well as at Kew.

Private collections may also be available to view by appointment but, of course, conditions for consulting them may vary.



National Archives

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Archives

www.lincstothepast.com

As well as catalogues there are other online sources you can use including:

British History online: www.british-history.ac.uk/

Old Bailey court proceedings: www.oldbaileyonline.org/

Census records www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/census-records.htm



Cartography

Research would be much simpler if we had more maps. However, our ancestors tended to envisage their world in other ways and you will find few maps pre-dating the 17th century. Most surveys before this were written documents. There are a variety of maps that you can use. They will vary in accuracy and detail and not all kinds of map will be available for your area. Maps can provide information about:

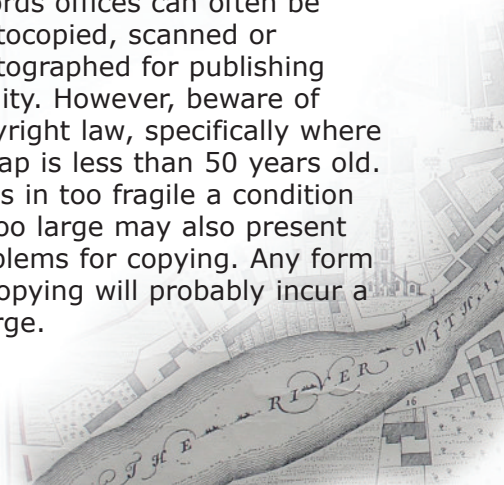
- topographical features such as hills or marsh.
- boundaries both physical and conceptual, e.g. parish boundaries.
- man-made structures, such as buildings and roads.
- natural or semi-natural features such as woodland and ponds.
- field and place names recording previous land use, ownership or topography.

You might carry out a **map regression** exercise. This involves comparing how an area is depicted on increasingly early maps. This builds up a picture of how an area has changed and developed and will help to date features within the landscape. In towns it can show how properties and street plans have changed. Some maps will provide details of ownership including names.

When looking for maps you will find that some areas are better represented than others in archive collections. Some maps may be located solely in private collections. Those in public records offices can often be photocopied, scanned or photographed for publishing quality. However, beware of copyright law, specifically where a map is less than 50 years old. Maps in too fragile a condition or too large may also present problems for copying. Any form of copying will probably incur a charge.



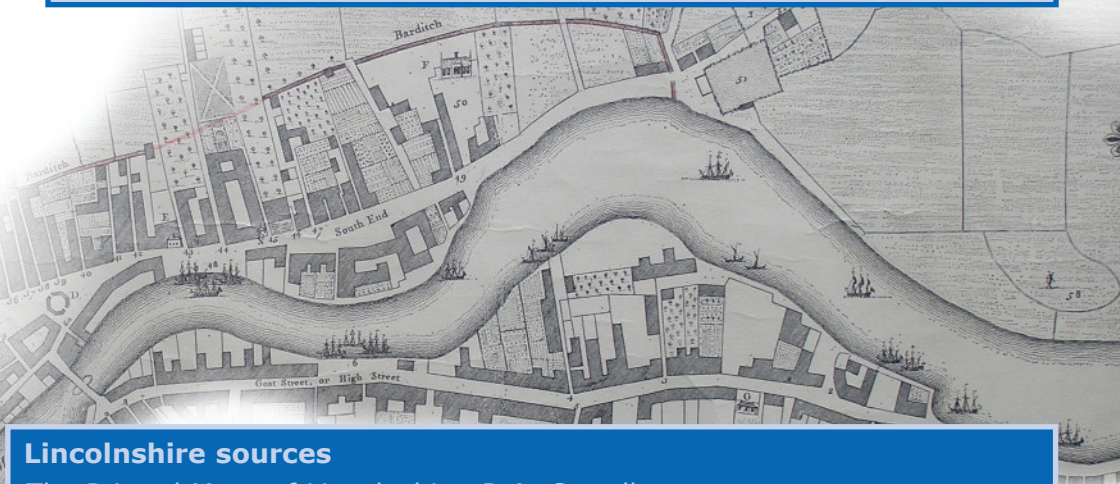
It is always best to confirm detail from other sources if you can.





Maps

- **County** maps - such as those by John Speed in the early 17th century and Bryant's map of 1822; OS 1st edition county maps of 1824 and small scale strip maps of principal roads by Ogildby in the late 1600s.
- **Tithe** maps - drawn up under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836-60.
- **Enclosure** (Inclosure) maps and awards - drawn up by Acts of Parliament or by private landowners from the 1780s.
- **Estate** maps and bills of sale - increasingly include maps from the 16th to 19th centuries.
- **Ordnance Survey** (OS) maps - established during the Napoleonic period, the OS started producing detailed surveys country wide in the 1870s. See www.old-maps.co.uk.
- **Town** plans - there are some very detailed OS maps for urban areas from the 1850s. Private surveys were made from the late 1500s.
- **Deposited** plans from 1792 and **Drainage** maps produced for engineering works such as transport and navigation, including docks.



Lincolnshire sources

The Printed Maps of Lincolnshire, R.A. Carroll

Catalogue of Lincolnshire Maps and Plans, R.A. Carroll

Old Lincolnshire Maps and Plans, E. Goshawk in *Lincs Historian* 3; 1948

An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire, S. & N. Bennett

Early Sources

Documents pre-dating Domesday Survey of AD 1086 are scarce and best consulted through secondary sources. From the medieval period the following primary sources can be useful:



- **Domesday Survey/Lindsey Survey** - a starting point for land ownership and an insight into the late Saxon landscape.
- **Charters** - record grants of rights and land, starting in the Saxon period. Commonly granted borough status to towns and rights to hold markets and fairs.
- **Placenames** - betray cultural origins, personal names and topographic features.
- **Monastic documents** - much information has been compiled into the Victoria County History volumes as well as archives. See also records of distant monasteries holding land locally.
- **Manorial records** - include information on estate management and local court proceedings.
- **Royal records** - rolls of many kinds, including courts, personal correspondence and finances can be found in the National Archives and some online.
- **Estate surveys** - sometimes undertaken where ownership or management changed.

Local resources ...

Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, Peter Sawyer

Where in Lincolnshire: An Alphabetical List of Place Names in Lincolnshire, A.J. Wilkinson

Victoria County History: Lincolnshire Volume 2

... as well as the local and national archives.



Online resources

English Monastic Archives Databases:

www.ucl.ac.uk/history2/englishmonasticarchives

Patent Rolls: <http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/>



Properties

Sources already mentioned can inform about estates and properties. Using maps and surveys, clues in a building's fabric, secondary sources such as Pevsner's *Buildings of England* and the Listed Building descriptions from the Historic Environment Record, National Monuments Record or local authority conservation department will also help. You may find some of these other sources useful.

- **Title deeds** (indentures) record ownership and descriptions for private properties.
- **Census returns** have been collected every ten years since 1801. They can record occupants (1841 onwards) and uses of a building. Check the National Archives for links to online facilities.
- **Sales particulars** will give descriptions of properties and details of ownership. They are often accompanied by plans.
- **Mortgage documents** can help trace ownership.
- **Architectural plans and images** can record ownership or changes to buildings.
- **Probate records** such as wills (or letters of administration where no will existed). After 1858 probate became a secular, rather than an ecclesiastical, matter.
- **Hearth Tax assessments** for the 17th century can provide information on householders and the number of hearths.
- **Surveys** can identify properties and owners.
- **Manorial records** can mention properties.

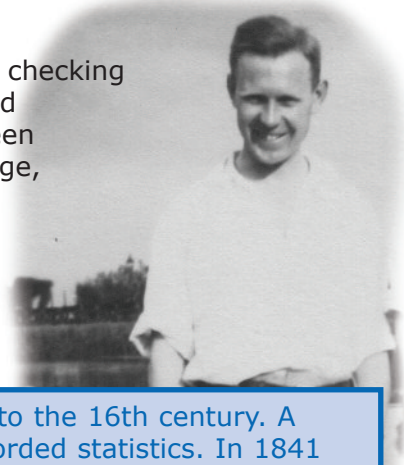
Pishey Thompson, the 19th century historian of Boston, recorded many buildings that no longer exist. Some were even included as engravings in his *History and Antiquities of Boston* of 1856. This building stood on the corner of Archer Lane in Wormgate and was only demolished in living memory.





People

When looking for people it is always worth checking secondary sources, such as biographies and websites, to see if research has already been done. As well as titles, profession, parentage, birth and death you may be led to other sources: public offices held or professions pursued. You might then check municipal records, letters or newspapers. General sources include:



- **Census records** - limited forms date back to the 16th century. A national census began in 1801 but only recorded statistics. In 1841 individuals began to be listed by household.
- **Parish registers** - generally from 1558 onwards, record births, marriages, banns and burials at the church/chapel where they occurred. Civil Registration began in 1837, centralising records. Ship log books can contain similar information.
- **Wills** and other probate records as mentioned on page 9 above.
- **School log books** can hold very interesting information regarding childhood habits or misdemeanours.
- **Electoral registers** from 1832 onwards give the names and addresses of those entitled to vote; tax lists or assessments can hold similar information. Some names are traceable to the Poll Tax of the 14th century.



The murder of Frederick Vyner by Greek bandits in 1870 was researched by Joanna Heselwood using letters, the Gautby church records and memorial, newspaper articles of the day and the book *The Dilessi Murders*, published in 1961.

Gautby Church

Profession, Punishment and Poverty

There are other sources of information that will relate to a person's condition, lifestyle or profession. Institutional and professional records can be searched to learn more about how people lived, where they travelled or how they died. You may want to know more about the organisations that cared for, or employed people, or the events in which they took part. The use of various buildings can also be investigated in this way.

Roy and Karen Griffiths traced men of Minting who served in the World Wars using newspapers, Lincolnshire Archives, War Graves Commission, museums, electoral registers and personal recollections. They proved Minting to be a 'Thankful Village' (no WWI war dead) and erected Rolls of Honour to those who served.

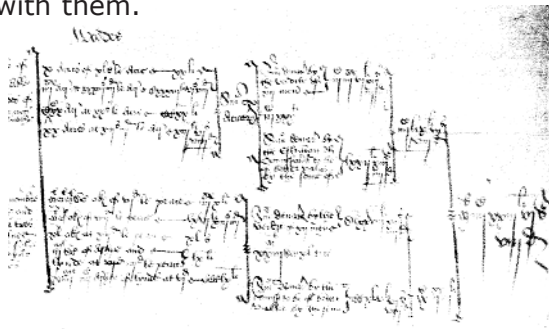


- **Armed Services** records can be traced either through the National Archives, museums (such as the RAF Museum in Hendon, London) or organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Militia records, 1757-1914, are held at the National Archives as are the earlier muster rolls. Medieval rolls will also contain military information.
- **Police archives** can trace bobbies or burglars. Criminals are recorded in the Assizes and later court records. Prison records often hold details of the person, crime, trial and transportation ships.
- **Poor relief** was supplied by the parish vestry from 1598. Parishes were grouped into unions in 1834 and workhouses established until abolition in 1948. Books were kept of minutes, admissions, accounts and punishments.
- **Schools** will appear in census records and in their own and government records.

Reading Primary Sources

Reading and understanding old documents can present its own problems. There is good advice available from the National Archives website (see page 5). Here is a summary of issues you may encounter and how to cope with them.

Until 1733 Latin was the dominant written language in England. You can get a working understanding from tutorials (National Archives website). Some documents will require a more advanced understanding of Latin and you may find you need someone who is experienced in translation.



- Use tutorials or practice on documents that have already been transcribed to get your eye in.
- Transcribe letter by letter. Leave a gap and move on if you are stuck, the whole word meaning may appear.
- Some letters will differ - the most obvious example being the letter 's' which can look like an 'f'.
- Always use the original spelling even if very different from today.
- Understand the nature of the document and be aware of the stock words or phrases that might be used e.g. 'Item' is often used in a list.
- Be aware of abbreviations such as *Pson* for 'person'.
- Superscript letters may also be used e.g. w^{ch} for 'which'.



Check your dates

Before 1752, years started March 25th (Lady Day). September 1752 misses 11 days between 2nd and 14th to catch up with the European calendar. Michaelmas was 29th September.

Some dates will be written in terms of the length of a monarch's reign (Regnal years) and special care should be taken with Charles II (he ignored the Commonwealth). Dates will have superscript letters but note xxiiith reads 'three and twentieth'.

Weights and Measures

It is useful to know how to calculate values, areas and distances from old documents. This demands a knowledge of the systems of measurement and how they were conveyed and written.

Consider ...

- pounds (£/li), shillings (s) and pence (d).
- Roman numerals and note the use of j rather than i as the last digit. Large numbers may be written as multiples, the larger multiple on top.
- areas measured in acres, roods, perches, virgates, oxgangs and carucates.
- distances measured in feet, yards, rods, chains, perches (yes, perches again) and miles.

The 'old English' mile is generally believed to be c.6864ft or 1.3 times that of the statute mile. In AD 1500 the mile is recorded at 5000ft, 8 furlongs (at 625ft) - the same as a Roman mile. The **statute mile** was introduced in AD 1592 and set the length of 8 furlongs at 5280ft or 1609m. In a survey of Minting Park in AD 1546/47 the mile was set at 13 furlongs!



Sources

Colin Chapman, *How heavy, how much and how long?: weights, money and other measures used by our ancestors* (Lochin,1995).

National Archives, *Reading old documents. Where to start:*

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/where_to_start.htm

Using Old Images

Old engravings, drawings, paintings and photographs, even film footage can give valuable information on people, buildings or events. These can be found in secondary sources, family collections, archives, even as postcards in shops or on the internet. They can make useful additions to your interpretation but you will need to resolve any copyright issues attached to them. They might even be the focus of your project in their own right.



Images can be a source of information on changes to the layout and appearance of settlements. They may provide signs of waxing and waning of prosperity or evidence of events, such as the installation of gas or electricity. Frequently, images will record buildings that have since disappeared or reveal evidence for dating those that still exist.

Illustrated or photographed portraits can add faces to names on lists and reveal associations. Old photographs may record events, such as plough plays and provide insights into traditions, customs and costumes.

Plough plays are traditional village plays, like mummers plays, usually themed on death and resurrection and involving a set stock of characters.





Oral History

Oral history is only one step back from written documents. It is the collection and recording of people's thoughts, experiences and stories, particularly those that might otherwise be lost if not written down. Collecting the information can be a sensitive business as you are dealing with people who might be frail, unused to speaking and for whom some of the subjects may be painful. You will need to plan your project carefully.

Consider...

- what is it that you want to know?
- how you will use the results?
- how you will record the results?
- who you will interview and how can you put them at their ease?
- what equipment you will need?
- what questions you will ask and how you will phrase them?
- how you will store and reference the results?



Consider also the context of the results and verify the information from other sources; memories can be unreliable or events altered for personal reasons. You should develop an interview technique that puts people at ease and still elicits the information.



Ensure the person knows what the information is to be used for and has given permission to do so.

Make sure that your recording equipment is working and delivering decent sound; you will not want to do it again.

Take advice and use guidance through books and online guides. Oral History Society: www.oralhistory.org.uk





For further information on the Lincolnshire
Limewoods Project please contact the Project
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Unit 13 Witham Park House
Waterside South
Lincoln LN5 7JN

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E-mail: limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk

www.limewoods.co.uk

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SC12/10/59 (cover - Survey of Minting Park).

If this leaflet is not in a format that meets your needs
please contact the Lincolnshire Limewoods Project.



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Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL



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