

Waddington Heritage Trail

Known as a Lincolnshire Cliff Village, Waddington is situated on a ridge of Jurassic limestone called the Lincoln Edge or Lincoln Cliff and has commanding views over the River Witham valley.

During the Ice Age, most of the region surrounding Waddington was covered by ice sheets leaving deposits of rock and clay which can be seen in the construction of the older village buildings.

Built on the site of a plentiful supply of clean, fresh water, the late Waddington historian Jean Towers noted the sites of more than 20 wells and pumps in the village.

Waddington Heath, on which the RAF base now stands, was a former site of Lincoln Races which were, it has been suggested, a continuation of jousts held by the Knights Templar from Temple Bruer.

Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to Lincoln, is believed to have run across the heath. Although it cannot be verified, it is noted that the road there is known as High Dyke and that Ermine Street as it passes Byards Leap, to the south, is also called High Dyke. The two are so exactly aligned that it is unlikely to be a coincidence.

George Boole, the acclaimed mathematician taught in Waddington in the 1880s, and the village was also the birthplace, in 1793, of William 'Tulip' Wright who was transported to Australia for theft and later became a celebrated and flamboyant Chief Constable of Melbourne.

In the early to mid-twentieth century the village grew to incorporate RAF Waddington – which itself has changed from being a base for Sopwith Camels for the Royal Flying Corps to become the RAF's main ISTAR* base. Local work is no longer mainly based around agriculture, brick-making and stone-quarrying. In more recent years the village has expanded rapidly with new housing in both the upper and lower area, while still retaining the feel of a traditional Lincolnshire Cliff village.

** Intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance.*

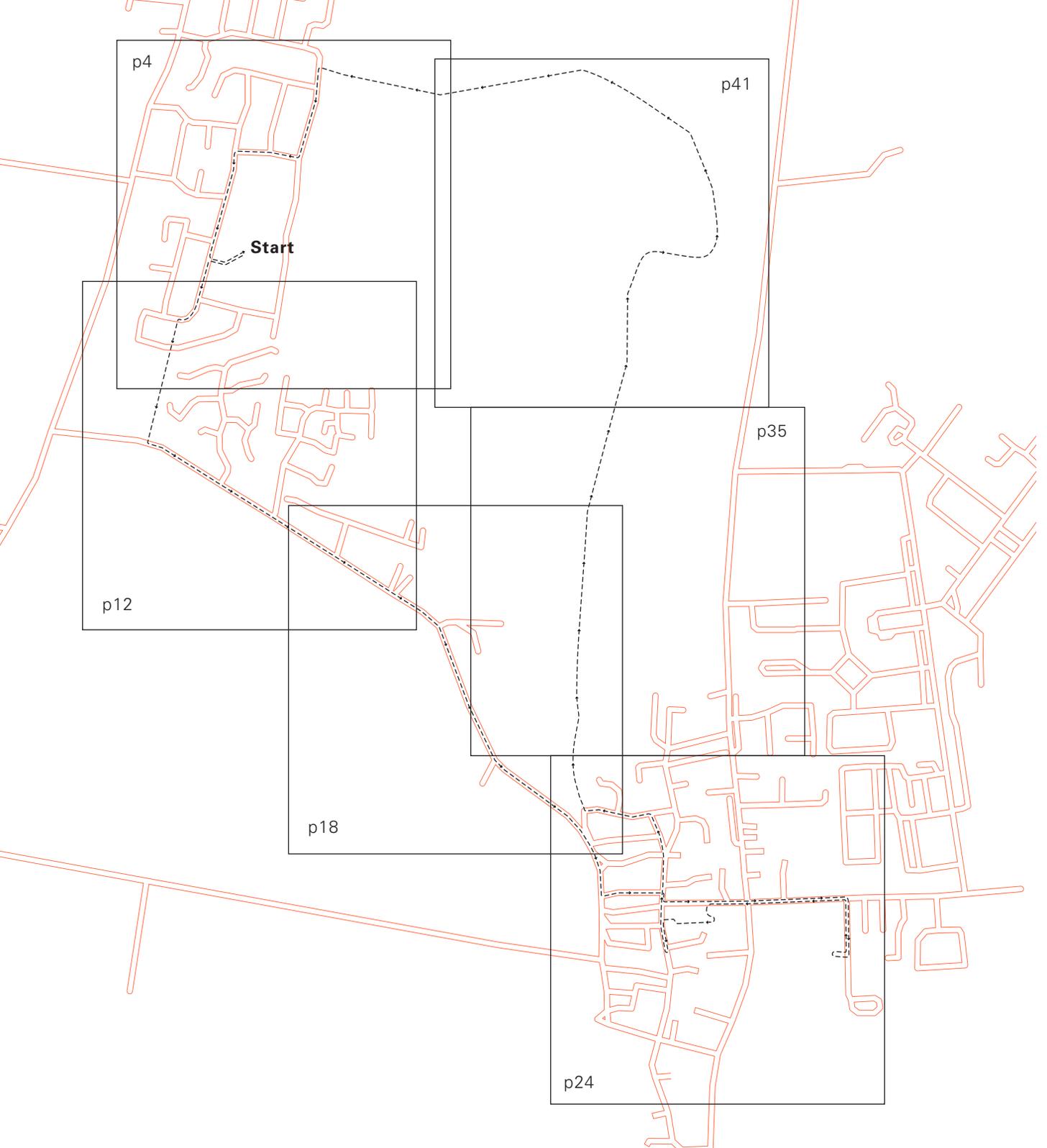
For more photographs and information about Waddington's artworks and history please visit:
www.ridgesandfurrowstrail.org

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Mr. Bill Peatman, baker, standing next to well behind the old village hall.
Waddington History Group Collection.



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Waddington Carnival, 1927.

Waddington Carnival 1927.
Maureen Sutton / Waddington History Group Collection.



17 The Flood Defences (p37)

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Waddington Redwood Primary School

1 Redwood Drive Community Centre (p6)
A Emblem

Emblem B

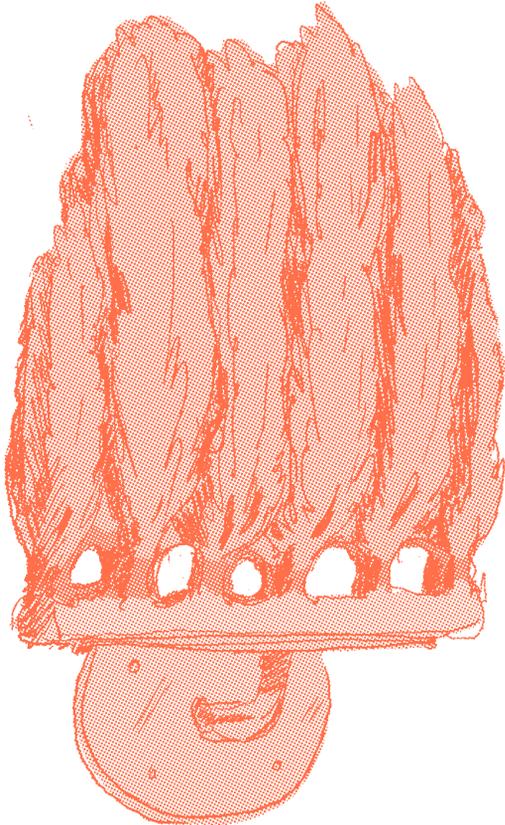
p12

1 Redwood Drive Community Centre (Map p4)

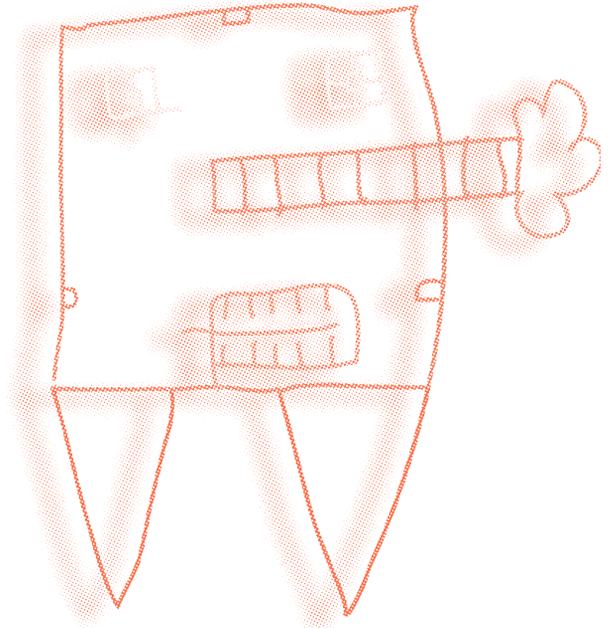
The Redwood Estate is the newer part of Waddington, with houses of brick and tile construction. It contains a primary school, built in 1967, a community centre and a small row of shops.

A (Map p4) Redwood Drive Community Centre hosts one of six permanent sculptures for Waddington, by international artist duo Simon Grennan and Christopher Sperandio. Titled *Emblems*, they are situated on buildings along this trail. They were commissioned by Waddington Parish Council, in partnership with artsNK, as part of the Ridges & Furrows arts and heritage trail.

As with emblems, each of the sculptures refers to something that is known but is unseen. In the heart of the lower village, the artwork for the community centre is an image of the watery landscape all around – a stand of poplar trees in painted sweet chestnut wood and steel.



B (Map p4) On the way to Sidney Hall Memorial Field & Skate Park, and before you take the cut through between the houses, you can find another of the six sculptural *Emblems* on the gable end of 2 Greenwood Close. Waddington is a family village with two primary schools. Alongside almost 300 other pupils, Joseph, a pupil at Redwood Primary School, drew a picture of his house as a character. It forms the basis for this sculpture in painted steel.



2 Sidney Hall Memorial Field & Skate Park (Map p12)

Sidney Hall Memorial Field was gifted to Waddington Parish Council for recreation and sport in memory of a Serviceman who lost his life during the Second World War.

The field was left to the Parish Council in 1948 by Charles and Derek Thorp Hall in memory of their brother Lance Corporal Sidney Thorp Hall. LCpl Hall served with the Field Security Police of the Intelligence Corps. On 5th July 1941 he was reported missing, believed killed, when on board a ship sunk by enemy action. He was 33 years of age.

The field was officially opened on 19th September 2015 as 'a community space where the residents of Waddington can come together to enjoy sports and leisure activities'.



*Miss Clara Cobb fetching water from parish pump, Hill Top, 1905.
Waddington History Group Collection.*

3 Station Road (Map p13)

At the junction of Rutland Avenue look at the building on your left, on the corner, and you will see that it is named The Old Gate House - a clear reference to this having been a level crossing for the LNER Barkston & Lincoln Line. The station itself closed in 1962 but the line remained open until 1965.

Alongside this was also the entrance to the Waddington Brick Works which operated until 1975. The clay for the bricks was dug out on site, the excavation now providing the water feature in Lakeside housing estate.

One of the older terraced houses that you encounter next on Station Road was bought and furnished by public subscription for the housing of Hungarian refugees during the 1956 uprising. The positive response to those who fled during the Hungarian Uprising is still 'considered one of the most successful demonstrations of international solidarity to find solutions to forced migration'.

4 Hill Top (Map p19 & 24)

At Hill Top, with its wonderful view, was once to be found the horse pond. The Hill Top pump, near to the horse pond became the only place that the authorities advised that water should be collected during the typhoid epidemic of 1905.

It was also a gathering place for local events as this extract from the notebooks of Horace Dudley, village photographer (1890-1946) shows: 'April 11th 1909 - Photographed the village band outside the Wesleyan chapel today ... the band known locally as the 'band o'musics' are kept busy with the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday, Empire Day with its patriotic songs, usually accompanied by Yankee Gilyatt on his fiddle and a maypole on hilltop'.

More recently we have recollections of winter sledging from here down the hillside and even, when there was less traffic on the roads, down Somerton Gate Lane, also formerly the site of a brickyard, shown on a 1904 map as Waddington Pottery.



Motor hill climbing, Hill Top, 1913.
Waddington History Group Collection.



p4

Emblem B

REDWOOD BR

FIR TREE AVENUE

PINE CLOSE

MELBOURNE WAY

2
Sidney Hall
Memorial Field
& Skate Park
(p7)

STATION ROAD

3 Station Road (p9)

RUTLAND AVENUE

SOMERVILLE CLOSE

p18

5 Manor Lane (Map p24)

Opposite Hill Top are a number of narrow lanes which lead to the centre of the upper part of Waddington. In Manor Lane is the former Manor House, and the building that once served as Hall's Academy, a school where the mathematician George Boole was head teacher from 1838 to 1840. Having published widely in the field of mathematics, in 1849 Boole was appointed as the first professor of mathematics at Queen's College, Cork, recognising his growing status as a mathematician.

Boole's theories were used to optimise the design of electromechanical relays used in telephone routing switches and Boolean algebra became the foundation of practical digital circuit design; hence, Boolean logic is credited with laying the foundations for the information age.

Born in Lincoln, Boole remained involved with social causes in the area throughout his life.

6 Timms Lane (Map p24)

In Timms Lane we see an example of one of the many water pumps that were once sited around the village. Mr & Mrs William Slater lived in this lane – he was the village well digger and grave digger, and there are still a number of wells to be found in Waddington. Once common property, or serving a yard of buildings, they tend to now be situated on private land. It is likely that the village originally developed here because of the plentiful clean water supply.

7 Bar Lane (Map p24)

Walking along Bar Lane from High Street, on the right hand side was Leaper's blacksmiths. A traditional blacksmith's business which, evolving to accommodate the economic opportunities offered by the modernisation of farming, is described in 1885 as 'the steel fabricators JC Leaper'. Modern cottages now stand on this site. Opposite the blacksmith's was a wheelwrights business.

On the left is Zoo Ceramics – look in the wall in front of the showroom for some small, intricate surprises. The current Co-op building which houses the library is on the site of the first Methodist chapel in the village, eventually sold and purchased by the Lincoln Co-operative Society. The original building has been replaced by a modern purpose built commercial building still retained by the Co-op. The building is also the current location of Waddington's Post Office.



Mr & Mrs William Slater, the village well digger and grave digger and his wife. Waddington History Group Collection.

8 The Wheatsheaf Inn (Map p25)

Crossing the A607, Lincoln to Grantham road at the traffic lights we come to the Wheatsheaf Inn, said to be the venue for the post-harvest village meal.

C (Map p25) The Wheatsheaf Inn is the location of another of the six sculptural *Emblems*, made for the village by artists Grennan & Sperandio. The sculpture draws attention to the agricultural history of the village by repeating the harvest image. This sculpture of gilded sweet chestnut wood and steel is a wheatsheaf ON the Wheatsheaf. It restores the old function of the pub's name "at the sign of the Wheatsheaf".

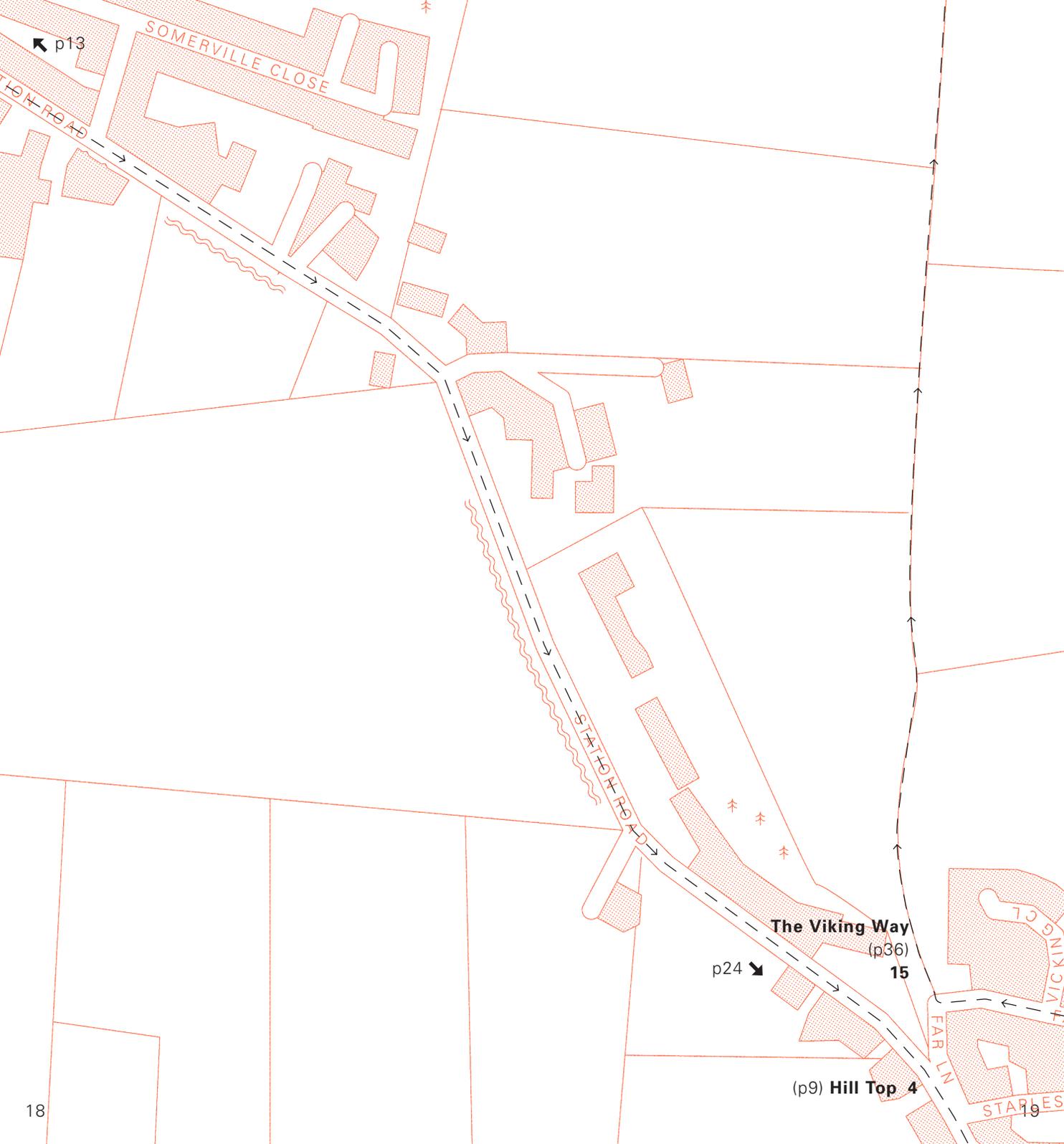


Along this road were also lime workings.

Lime Kilns in Waddington

'... lime burning was an important industry. Kilns were started in 1872 by Mr Simpson. Five kilns in all were operative. The lime they produced, using stone from pits around the kilns, was used in building, including the Lincoln Gas Works, it is said. Mr Simpson also supplied lime to the local farmers for their fields. The site of the lime workings was Stonefield House on the Grantham Road. The kilns finished in the 1914-18 war, although one remains, a reminder of this early industry.'

From Waddington by Ian Beckwith (1977) p.11.



◀ p13

SOMERVILLE CLOSE

STATION ROAD

STATION ROAD

The Viking Way
(p36)

p24 ▼

15

(p9) **Hill Top 4**

EARLINTON

STAPES

9 Village Hall and RAF Waddington (Map p25)

Over on Mere Road, we find the entrance to the Village Hall on our right, the alternative starting point for the upper village loop. Built by the Parish Council in 1964, there is daytime parking available here. At the rear of the Village Hall is Waddington Burial Ground. Here are 9 graves maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Beyond this, you can see Waddington Air Field which occupies some of the land of the heath. RAF Waddington is one of the oldest and most significant airfields in the UK, opening in November 1916 for the Royal Flying Corps when 47 and 48 Training Squadrons arrived. RAF Waddington was then enlarged just before WWII, with many buildings constructed, including some of the hangars which remain in use today.

It was the location for a scene in the James Bond film *Thunderball* (1965) where four Avro Vulcans were being prepared for take-off.

RAF Waddington is now home to a state-of-the-art military unit operating the latest in ISTAR technology (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance), and a command centre controlling drones located overseas.

There is a Heritage Centre on the base which can be visited by booking an appointment through the RAF Waddington website. Planes can be observed taking off and landing on the far side of the airfield at Waddington Airfield Viewing Experience located on the A15. There is parking, toilets, and the Sentry Post Snack Bar.

Racing on the Heath

The first horse races in the area are thought to have been held by the Knights Templar at Temple Bruer as a break from jousting and tournaments, when they would wager on the results of races between themselves. When the order was dissolved farm workers would hold races at the end of harvest. Horse racing was held on Waddington Heath until 1770.

In Canon Peter Blannin Gibbons Binnall's (1907-1980) collection of newspaper cuttings there is an item headed 'Lincoln's Institutions No10. The Races' which contains the following: "*Racing at Lincoln after the September harvest could have had its origins in the Jousting Tournaments held on the Heath by The Knights Templar of Temple Bruer and the local young nobility. During the reign of Edward III, John de Comil, Sheriff of the County, received orders to suppress irregularities attendant on the tournaments. But the races and cockfights continued to be part of the celebrations for the harvests*".

Taken from the collection of Maureen Sutton.

10 Waddington War Memorial, Bar Lane (Map p25)

Waddington War Memorial is the design of Tracy Wright of Zoo Ceramics, opposite. Replacing a mimosa tree which formerly grew in this spot, planted in memory of military personnel from Australasia, the design references the various nationalities that can be found on the Commonwealth War Graves, visible in the graveyard behind, with a Canadian Maple Leaf, mimosa flowers, a kiwi and a kangaroo as well as four well-known aircraft designs. The phrase 'through adversity to the stars' which appears in Latin is the motto of air forces throughout the Commonwealth and dates to 1912 when it was used by the newly formed Royal Flying Corps.



*Church bells on church ruins, 1941.
Waddington History Group Collection.*



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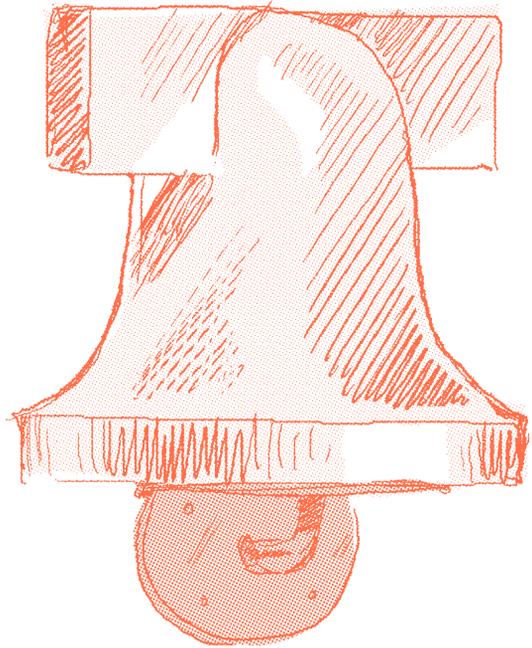
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11 St Michael's Church (Map p24)

The current St Michael's Church was consecrated in 1954 following the destruction of the older, 12th century church during an air raid on the night of the 8th May 1941. Destroying the church and causing damage to other buildings in the village, there was sadly one casualty, a young girl named Eva Hall who had chosen to spend the night at her grandmother's house, feeling it too far and dangerous to walk home alone after a dance she had attended. The landmine is thought to have been intended for the nearby airfield but was blown off course by the wind. All that survived of the church were the bells.

As stated on the Commonwealth Graves Commission website, in the graveyard there 'are two burials from the 1914-18 war in the churchyard and 31 war graves of the 1939-45 war, all of whom served with the air forces of the Commonwealth. All the airmen are buried in a war graves plot set aside for casualties from the nearby airfield at Waddington during the Second World War'.

D (Map p24) Saint Michael's Church is the location of another of the six sculptural *Emblems*, by Grennan & Sperandio. The sculpture of gilded sweet chestnut and steel is a simple image of one of the three 17th century bells that make the peal in the Church – a good example of an important part of the village that remains unseen, though not unheard. The bells are the only remaining survivors of the air raid and gave their name to the Three Horseshoes pub next to the church. The pub used to be called The Bells (and is still sometimes referred to as 'the clangers'), until the bells depicted on the pub's sign gradually started to look like horseshoes.



12 Church Lane (Map p24)

Church Lane, opposite, was formerly known as Cross Lane, as can be seen on maps from 1905, and the point where it joins High Street was possibly the site of the 'Old Village Cross'.

On the corner of Church Lane and High Street, you will see a barber's shop. It was previously a tailor's shop. Locals still remember the doll in military uniform which sat in the window, and they tell the story of its uniform being ordered by an airman at the local airfield, who intended to give the doll to his beloved when he proposed to her. Unfortunately, he never returned from his next mission and the doll remained in the window, uncollected.

13 The Hub (Map p24)

Formerly the village school, The Community Hub contains the offices of the Parish Council and a number of community resources, including the archive of Waddington Local History group, and the long-running Waddington Youth Club, which holds fond memories for many local residents. A community café can be found here on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and is a regular stopping point for walkers on these days. There are also toilets that can be used when the building is open.

In summer 2015, the Hub hosted another Ridges & Furrows project by photographer Jonathan Turner, when

local residents dressed up in period costume to create three photographic reconstructions of a 'Ran Tan Tan'. This form of social justice, carried out by villagers against those guilty of committing socially unacceptable crimes such as wife beating, involved making a racket outside the house of the offender, sometimes for three nights running. A case in Waddington recorded that, after ducking the guilty man in the horse pond, an effigy of him was taken to the Gambles top field and set alight.

Ahead of you, along the High Street, you will see on your right a play park and, facing it, on the junction of High Street and Rectory Lane, the former maltings.



Ran Tan Tan (II) by Jonathan Turner.

14 The Square (Map p24)

On the High Street we find the other two village pubs, the Three Horseshoes, known locally as the Clangers, and the Horse and Jockey, so named from its involvement in the races once held on Waddington Heath, for which it was the 'weighing-in' point.

The first Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Waddington opened in 1817. High Street chapel opened in 1905 and closed in 2005.

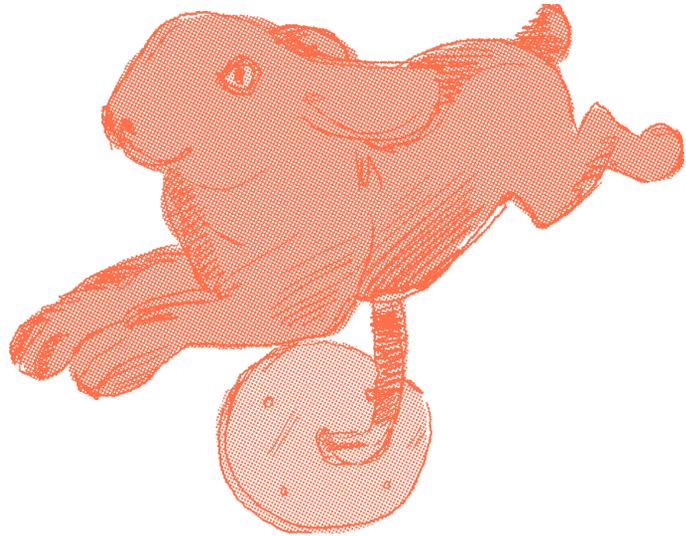
The Broadcaster

There are two notice boards located locally outside converted chapels – one here in Waddington and the other in nearby Wellingore. The boards display a quarterly changing art exhibition designed to place contemporary art in the every day.

In an older version of the Waddington Trail it is noted that Waddington was the birthplace of William 'Tulip' Wright a member of the 'notorious Kesteven Gang'. It seems that Wright was born in The Square on 1st June 1793, and was a Corporal and Staff Sergeant in the Royal South Lincoln Militia, before being transported for theft to Tasmania. He later became a renowned Melbourne Chief of Police from 1838 to 1841 and, subsequently, the flamboyant owner of the Lincolnshire Arms public house. He was described thus: 'Tulip, with his furry white topper, low crowned and curly brimmed, olive green tail coat, red plush waistcoat, snuff-coloured breeches, with pearl buttons, and yellow-topped boots, was a perfect John Bull.'

Skaith's drapers shop was on the corner where High Street becomes Lower High Street. A story associated with Skaith's, is the inspiration for the *Emblem* sculpture in this location (see E). Again from the writings of the village photographer, Horace Dudley, who claims that the aforementioned Yankee Gilyatt, said to be both a fiddle player and poacher, used to meet with Skaith in the rear of the shop to cook rabbit which he had 'obtained'.

E (Map p24) The building on the north side of the Square is the location of another of the six sculptural *Emblems* by Grennan & Sperandio. The painted sweet chestnut wood and steel sculpture shows one of Yankee's skinned, poached rabbits on the building next to Skaith's. Lower High Street becomes Stone Lane at the point that it bears right, so named because there was previously a quarry on either side of the road as it met the A607, Lincoln to Grantham road.



June 17th 1905

This morning I photographed Yankee Gilyatt with his daughter and motorcycle outside 'High House' in Rectory Lane. Apparently in 1861 Tom and Fred Gilyatt, two brothers, left Waddington to fight in the American Civil War and in fact were awarded land for reclamation. Tom returned with a mysterious Mexican wife and a baby son. Just as mysteriously as they had arrived, they left, leaving the baby to be brought up by old Jim Kelsey – The child was nicknamed 'Yankee' and it has stuck with him.

Yankee is a known poacher and along with Mr Skaith cooks rabbit in the back of Skaith's shop in the market place, probably drinking methylated spirit with the meat.

At the local farthing dances held in a tap room at the Horse and Jockey, he accompanies popular songs on his cherished fiddle. He wears his cap back to front and it's rumoured that he sleep on a bed of gold sovereigns.

Excerpt from the notebooks of Horace Dudley, Village Photographer, Waddington 1890-1946 copied from the archive of the late Rob Sutton.



Frank Skaith, outside shop, Village Square, c.1914.
Waddington History Group Collection.

↑ p41

GRANTHAM ROAD

↓ p24

34
HID R

35



15 The Viking Way (Map p19 & 24)

The Viking Way is a long distance trail running 147 miles (237 km) between the Humber Bridge in North Lincolnshire and Oakham in Rutland - most of the route is part of the European long distance path E2; by following it in one direction you could end up in Galway, and by following it the other, in Nice.

As we emerge from high hedges to open fields, on our right would have stood Waddington Windmill.

Consisting at this point of arable land occupying the flat top of the limestone escarpment, we walk north towards Lincoln. The fine views over the escarpment edge, to the left, are unfortunately sometimes blocked by a dense hedge. In that direction, towards the River Witham, one could once look down on the nurseries of Pennells, who still trade in North Hykeham today, described as 'a sea of glasshouses in the valley below'.

"When I was still at school, about 1957 or '58, I used to work for Pennells who had their nurseries on Brant Road. All the land down to the river belonged to Pennells, and it used to flood. You were given slices of rose plant which you put onto a stock plant and tied with raffia. Your legs were ripped to shreds bending down among the larger plants!"

Jane Haddock (née Wheeldon).

Along this escarpment were the ironstone quarries which were also used as a tank testing ground during wartime. An overhead railway once carried the quarried stone down the hill. On your right there is a good view of the communications masts of RAF Waddington.

16 Pool (Map p41)

The wood that we pass as we prepare to drop down from the ridge is named as Fox Covert on maps as late as 1953. It is only on later versions that the pond is shown. This is believed to have been excavated by a local farmer to provide improved field irrigation.

17 The Flood Defences (Map p5)

At the bottom of the hill we cross a large ditch which is, in fact, a flood defence for the lower part of Waddington. In November 2000, water poured down the hillside and flooded buildings, including Redwood Primary School. Residents remember coming home to find the fire services had laid hoses along Hollywell Road to pump out the field drains. The current flood defences were created as a direct result of this incident and designed to redirect the flood water away from the residential area.

During snowy winters, this hillside is a popular sledding spot, mirroring the image of Hill Top in the memory of older residents.



*Waddington station from north (with Lincoln bound train at platform).
Waddington History Group Collection.*

18 LNER Railway (Map p5)

Looking right and left, we can see the route of the former Lincoln-Grantham railway line. Following closure of the line, residents of adjoining properties were offered the opportunity of extending their gardens so that much of the route is now within private gardens. This is formerly one of the routes that the Royal Train would take, to avoid travelling on east coast main line, possibly on its way to Balmoral. This has prompted one resident to contend that 'the queen has been through my garden'.

The line was still active when the houses in Hollywell Road were built.

F (Map p5) Next to the front door of 54 Hollywell Road is another of the six sculptural *Emblems*, made for the village by artists Grennan & Sperandio. The silvered wrought iron sculpture is an evocation of the torrent of water that flooded the lower village in November 2000.



Pantiles

The colour of this guide was inspired by the colour of the local roofing pantiles.

Pantiles are a distinctive feature of Lincolnshire houses (see image below) and their use in the area is due, in part, to the long trading connection with the Netherlands, where they are referred to as dakpan or roof tile (which means that the word 'pantile' actually means tile-tile). Their somewhat Mediterranean appearance is explained by the fact that they are a variant of the tile introduced to Holland by the Spanish who ruled there in the 16th century. The origin of the over-and-under tiles so prevalent in Spain can itself be traced to introduction by the Moors in the 8th century.

Originally a talking point for large houses and public buildings, once pantiles began to be made locally, and prices fell, they came into more common usage. In 1798, the price of pantiles was around half that of using Welsh slate, or of using reed thatch: in fact only straw thatch was cheaper. As pantiles have only one overlap, they are a much lighter roof covering and so require less roof timber, another factor contributing to their popularity in the east of England where timber was scarce.



Robert Burrows and Edgar Skaith making bricks, with Pantile roof behind, c.1912. Waddington History Group Collection.

Notable Dates

1230 King Henry III, returning from spending Christmas 1229 in York with the King of Scotland, lodged at the 'vill of Waddington'. Probably the guest of Randolph, Earl of Chester, who then had a manor place in the village, he set his signature to a protective charter obtained from him by the Lepers of Lincoln, dated 10th January 1230.

15 April 1867 – 30 October 1965 The branch railway line built by GNR runs through Waddington.

1882 William White's directory lists three public houses (which are all still there with unchanged names); two bakers; two brewers; three butchers; two coal merchants; two drapers; five grocers; two saddlers; two shoemakers; a tailor; two blacksmiths; a joiner; two millers and a wheelwright.

1905 Typhoid outbreak caused most of the water sources in the village to be declared unfit for humans. The only pump that the authorities suggested should be used was the one at Hill Top.

1905 Methodist Chapel in the High Street opens. It remains open for 100 years.

13 November 1916 47 & 48 Training Squadrons of the Royal Flying Corps arrive in Waddington. Their aircraft included Avro 504s, BE2s, FE2s, DH6s, Morris-Farnham Shorthorns, Graham White 15s and RE8s. There were up to 40 crashes per month in those early days.

19 October 1935 The Waddington branch of the Lincoln Co-op was officially opened in the former Methodist Chapel and school room.

10 September 1962 Closure of Waddington Railway Stn

1976 The Viking Way was established, The name of the route was suggested by the Ramblers Association to reflect the influence of the Danelaw in the eastern counties of Britain.

November 2000 Water rushed down from the cliff into Redwood estate and flooded Redwood Primary School.

This trail guide was produced for the Ridges & Furrows arts and heritage project, which worked with artists, historians, schools and communities in Sleaford, Welbourn, Waddington and North Hykeham during 2015-2017, celebrating local heritage through workshops, events and artworks.

Ridges & Furrows was delivered by artsNK, Design Factory, The National Centre for Craft & Design and Terry O'Toole Theatre.

Many thanks to the people of Waddington for their involvement in the Ridges & Furrows project.

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Special thank you also to Waddington Parish Council and all the building owners for hosting the Emblems sculptures.

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Editors: Dave Reeves, Lucy Lumb & Charlotte Pedley

Design: Maddison Graphic

This village guide forms part of the Ridges & Furrows arts and heritage trail, which extends from The National Centre for Craft & Design in Sleaford to Whisby Nature Park, travelling along the Lincoln Edge, visiting numerous villages and places of interest including:

South Rauceby

North Rauceby and Cranwell Aviation Heritage Museum

Temple Bruer and the Knight's Templar Preceptory

Welbourn

Wellingore

Navenby and Mrs Smith's Cottage

Boothby Graffoe

Coleby

Harmston

Waddington

North Hykeham and the Terry O'Toole Theatre.

Please look out for the other guides available in this series for Welbourn and North Hykeham.

www.ridgesandfurrowstrail.org



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