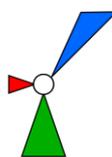


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<89/c>	in John Smith's day. Markby Across the marches, a few miles to the north-east of Willoughby is Markby. Here is Lincolnshire's only thatched church. Built on the site and with some of the stone of an old Augustinian priory, it is a real gem: small, cosy, and tranquil. It retains the font from the old priory church and the bell is thought to have come from the priory refectory. Somehow, perhaps because of the retention of the ancient stones and bell tone, the air of monastic mystery and peace pervades to this day and is easily absorbed in this small environment of stillness and solitude. Motte and Bailey Castles Amongst many ancient earthworks in this area are two remains of Motte and Bailey castles. One at Castle Carlton and one at Tothill. The one at Castle Carlton, is known to have been owned by one, Justicar Bardolph in the twelfth century. The mounds are clearly distinguishable and surrounded by the remains of a moat which still retains water. The Motte is surmounted by five ancient and spreading yew trees in the form of a cross. The entire site is well wooded and a sanctuary for badges and a profusion of primroses, wood anemones and bluebells in the appropriate seasons. At Tothill the mound is known as Toot Hill and is situated behind a lovely seventeenth century Lincolnshire manor house. Little Cawthorpe One of the prettiest villages in the area, right at the foot of the wolds, is Little Cawthorpe. Here, a fast, sparkling fresh stream springs into existence, fords a lane and runs parallel to a wooden pathway. This is the Great Eau and the ford is known locally as the 'splash'. The Royal Oak pub is popular for families as there is a childrens' room and large gardens outside, with tables and chairs in summer. There is a delightful duckpond, in the village, fed from within by more springs and edged by overhanging willows, creating a picturesque scene. Nearby is a gracious and mellow Jacobean manor house . Gunby Hall Between Burgh-le-Marsh and the wolds is one of the area's most lovely country houses , set in outstandingly beautiful gardens. Now a National Trust property, Gunby Hall was built in 1700 by the Massingberd family. The house is approached by a long drive through pastoral fields. The drive is lined all the way by graceful lime trees and provides the first hint as to the verity of Tennyson's description of Gunby Hall in a poem dated 1849, where he describes it was a 'haunt of ancient peace' . These words, in his own hand, are to be found, framed, inside the hall.
 <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	
	<p>The interior of the house</p> <p>is beautifully maintained and has several lovely panelled rooms, bedecked by portraits of virtually the entire family through the generations. Predominantly these are gracious dark oils, some by Sir Joshua Reynolds. But one, hung in the dining room, by a window looking out onto a most majestic ancient cedar tree, is strikingly different to all the others. It is a lovely brightly colourful portrait of Margaret Massingberd, by Arthur Hughes. She stands in the garden with a basket over her arm and white pigeons flying over her head. She is pictured with astonishingly beautiful delphinium blue eyes, matching the delphiniums growing beside her. As this portrait indicates, Margaret Massingberd was largely responsible</p>

for creating much of the garden areas as they still exist today. She died in 1900. Today sweeping lawns, lovely herbaceous borders, flowering trees and extensive walled garden areas, complete with ancient pigeon house effuse a perfect combination of spacious elegance and secret corner, alive with everchanging colours. Old Bolingbroke A few miles from Gunby is a quite unassumingly important site to be found where the marshlands give way to the slightly hilly area in the shadow of the wolds. Old Bolingbroke is situated in an isolated pocket - the valley of a nameless brook. This pretty little village of narrow lanes and attractive cottages is in fact a Royal Village. For here, in 1366, the future King Henry IV was born; the son of John of Gaunt who had inherited Bolingbroke Castle through his wife, who was heiress to the Lancaster estates. Recently the castle remains, neglected for centuries and largely hidden, have been excavated to expose some solid stonework foundations and a few ancient arches. It is sited unusually, on flat land rather than atop one of the encircling hills. Here, like to many other ancient sites mentioned above, there is a provocative stillness. Something gives out a breathtaking aura of timelessness. Perhaps it is the view from beneath an archway of the castle, which takes in the parish church, said to have been built in 1363 by John of Gaunt himself. A few, familiar to those of centuries ago is once more revealed to modern man. ... TO THE WOLDS AND TENNYSON COUNTRY The East Lindsey region of Lincolnshire is blessed with a large portion of the wolds, which are designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. Part of this region is now known as Tennyson Country and is indeed a perfect paradise for a potential poet to have been born and bred in. A landscape which has changed only a little since Tennyson's birth is now, as it was then, quietly, naturally, yet profoundly charged with a sense-awakening atmosphere