



Historic England

Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Character Statement

A guide to historic farm buildings in the landscape



Summary

This document forms part of the Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Guidance, which aims to inform the sustainable development of historic farmsteads, including their conservation and enhancement. The guidance, which applies to the area of Greater Lincolnshire including Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire, is made up of:

- **Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statement** (this document)
Detailed and illustrated guidance that helps identify the character and significance of Greater Lincolnshire's farmsteads including the contribution they make to landscape character. Part 2 includes a full, illustrated glossary of farm buildings types.
- **The Farmstead Assessment Framework**
A step-by-step approach for owners and applicants considering the reuse and sustainable development of traditional farm buildings based on an understanding of their historic character, significance and potential for change. Annexes include useful information about designation, recording and further research.
- **Local Authority Summaries**
Short summaries for each local planning authority in Greater Lincolnshire providing an overview of historical development, farmstead character, drivers for change and relevant local planning policies. Helpful to both planners and applicants when developing and scrutinising proposals.
- **Farmstead and Landscape Statements**
Informative statements about ten different areas of the county defined according to their landscape character by Natural England (eg The Wolds). Each statement provides information about the historical development of farms in the landscape, landscape character and the types of farmstead found in each area. They are a useful evidence base for decision-making and development in context.

Contents

Introduction.1

1 Historic Development4

2 Landscape and Settlement Context9

2.1 Farmstead location	10
2.2 Farmsteads in their Landscape Setting.....	12
2.3 Dating Buildings in the Landscape.....	13
2.4 Farmstead Function	15
2.5 Farmstead Types.....	16
2.6 The Siting of the Farmhouse.....	22
2.7 Covered Yards.....	22
2.8 Outfarms and Field Barns	23
2.9 Smallholdings	24
2.10 Farmsteads in the Landscape	24

3 Farmstead Building Types 25

3.1 Storing and Processing Crops.....	26
3.2 Transportation	33
3.3 Animal Housing.....	36
3.4 Brewing, Baking and Dairy Products.....	43

4 Materials and Detail 46

4.1 Construction.....	47
4.2 Architectural detail and internal fittings	52

5 Where to Get Advice 54

Acknowledgements 57

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www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/rural-heritage/farm-buildings/

Front cover:

Detached farmhouse at Eagle near Lincoln with cattle sheds and crew yard to the rear.

Introduction

The Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statement provides an overview of the types of traditional farmsteads and farm buildings found in Greater Lincolnshire. It provides a brief history of the ways in which farming practices have changed and how buildings and landscapes have developed into their present forms. Used in conjunction with the Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Assessment Framework, it provides a powerful tool for understanding historic farmsteads and how they can, through their sensitive reuse and redevelopment, continue to contribute to the landscape of Greater Lincolnshire. It is intended as a useful reference for those with an interest in the area's farming landscapes and buildings. It is set out in four main sections, followed by references for further reading:

Section 1 Historical development – the processes that underpinned the development of farmsteads and their buildings

Section 2 Landscape and settlement context – how farmsteads relate to the landscapes around them

Section 3 Farmsteads and building types – how the functions of farmsteads are reflected in a variety of plan forms and building types

Section 4 Materials and detail – the historic development of materials and constructional techniques and fittings

Farmstead Types in Greater Lincolnshire

A farmstead is the place where the farmhouse and the working buildings of a farm are located, although some farms also have field barns or outfarms sited away from the main farm complex. Farmsteads in Greater Lincolnshire share many common features and they can be loosely grouped in different 'types' according to their role as centres of food production within particular farming landscapes (e.g. The Fens or The Wolds). Their individual characters are more complex, influenced by a range of social, economic and environmental factors at both national and local scales. Examples include local building styles and materials, changes in agricultural markets, and the improvement of farming techniques.

Traditional farmsteads and their buildings

Traditional buildings reflect both local traditions and national influences, and include some built to the designs of agents, architects and engineers. They vary in their scale, layout, architectural form and material construction. Depending on their date and type, farm buildings relate to each other, the spaces and yards around them and the surrounding landscape in different ways. Most traditional farm buildings date from the 19th century, with a small number of earlier examples scattered throughout Greater Lincolnshire. In most areas few new farmsteads were built after the 1880s.



Top:
Large detached cart shed range with granary above.
(Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes)

Bottom:
Modern prefabricated Dutch barn near Bourne.
(The Fens)

Farmsteads fall into two clear types: Vernacular and Designed.

Vernacular buildings derive their character from their local area. They typically use locally available materials, but may also include imported brick, slate and other materials as these became available. They will often display evidence of successive episodes of change as farmsteads and buildings were developed and added to over time.

Designed buildings are usually built in a single phase and sometimes in a recognisable architectural style. They are usually marked

by a consistent use of either local or imported materials, and can be designed by renowned architects, agents or engineers. Farmsteads will often be designed according to industrial and scientific principles of the economy of labour and materials. In Greater Lincolnshire, these are often associated with large estates and prominent landowners, such as Christopher Turnor of Stoke Rochford Hall. Planned “model” farmsteads, such as at Kirmond-le-Mire, show the regularity of construction and materials and the sheer scale of planning involved in early industrial farming.

Traditional farm complexes display a remarkable variety of plan form and building type, in contrast to modern mass-produced structures or multi-functional sheds. By the late 19th century mass-produced buildings were becoming available, the Dutch barn being the most commonly seen prefabricated building of the period. This period also saw the first use of mass concrete for walling, and by the end of the First World War there was much greater standardisation in building forms. After the Second World War changing animal welfare standards and increasing use of machinery resulted in the development of larger multi-purpose prefabricated buildings that have no particular regional characteristics.

Modern prefabricated and standardised industrial buildings

These are typically built on the site of older farmsteads or off to one side, often with separate access routes. Dutch barns built of metal or machine-sawn timber, were built from the 1870s and had become common in some areas by the 1930s. Machine-made brick was commonly used in the inter-war period, in combination with metal roofs, windows and concrete floors for dairies conforming to new hygiene standards. Multi-functional sheds and their associated hardstandings for vehicles and moving stock, widely introduced in the 1950s, are a vital feature of the modern farming industry, and are themselves indicative of ongoing changes in farming practices. Greater Lincolnshire has seen great changes in the post-war period and is today at the forefront of new farming practices and technologies.

Landscape Character and Distinctiveness – the National Character Areas

The present-day landscape is a result of the ongoing interaction between human and natural factors. Throughout England these factors combine to create areas of distinctive character known as “**National Character Areas**”. Defined by Natural England, these areas provide a framework for decision-making on a landscape scale. There are ten National Character Areas either wholly or partly within the boundaries of Greater Lincolnshire (see image below). The Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead and Landscape Statements provide summary statements about common types of farmsteads in each area, their landscape character and the historical development of farming practices within them

Greater Lincolnshire’s farming landscapes

The Northern and Southern Lincolnshire Edge

On these open sandy-soiled heaths, wide open arable fields now predominate, with stone walls a common feature.

The Lincolnshire Wolds and the Kesteven Uplands

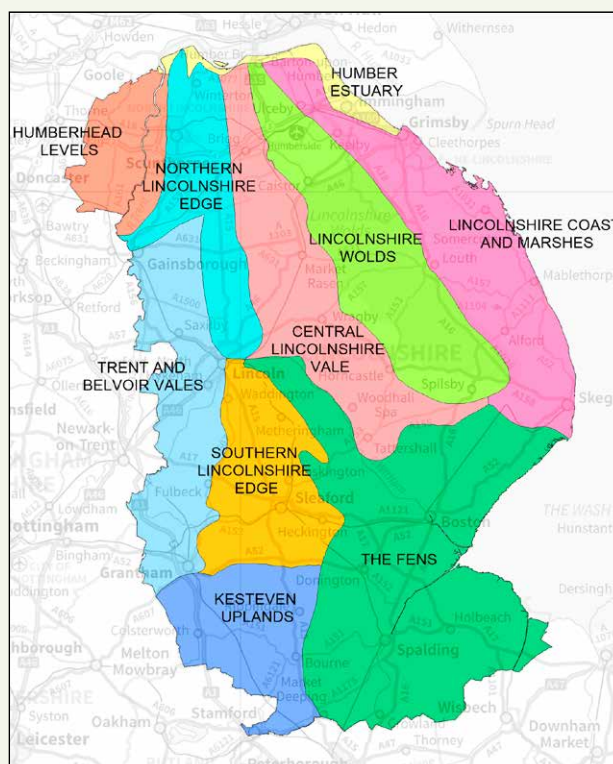
Upland areas historically used for sheep farming and rabbit warrening. 19th century industrialised farming techniques allowed mixed “high” farming to be employed. These areas are notable for their high survival of traditional farm buildings and their high proportion of listed examples.

The Trent and Belvoir Vale and the Central Lincolnshire Vale

Carr land and wet grazing lands were historically found near to rivers such as the Trent and Ancholme. Much of the land was pasture until the advent of steam ploughing and widespread drainage made cultivation more profitable.

The Fens, the Humberhead Levels and the Coastal Marshes

Renowned coastal grazing land used extensively from medieval times for fattening sheep and, later, cattle. 19th century improvements have created areas of productive arable land throughout the former marshes. The Fens are home to wide, open arable landscapes in drained and managed former wetlands. Farmsteads are both more numerous in these areas and also generally smaller, including high proportions of smallholdings.



Map of National Character Areas in Lincolnshire.

1 Historic Development

Greater Lincolnshire is predominantly a rural area. Farming has influenced its development for all of its long history, and continues to do so to this day. The shape of the landscape, from the broad open fields of the Wolds to the heavily drained and engineered fens and marshes, is the result of the interaction between man and nature for the purpose of producing food. The historic farmsteads of the county are both a reflection of these processes and the driving force behind them. This section provides a brief overview of the ways in which farming has changed over time and how it has produced the farm buildings and landscapes we see around us today.

Medieval Farming

Saxon and Danish settlers brought their own systems of agriculture to Greater Lincolnshire, which were eventually formalised in the open-field farming regime common to much of the area.

The primary agricultural system in much of Greater Lincolnshire was one of large open arable fields and common grazing until the end of the medieval period.



Surviving open-field farming, Belton, North Lincolnshire. (Humberhead Levels)

The rural population grew rapidly in the medieval period. In places such as the Lincolnshire Wolds, historically difficult to farm effectively, 'strip-lynchet' earthworks indicate that even these areas were brought into arable cultivation as a result of increasing population.

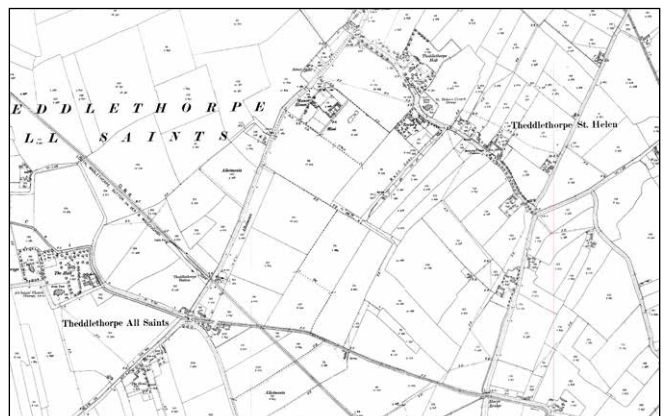
However, these efforts represent a high-water mark of medieval agriculture. The many deserted and shrunken villages of the Wolds and the Ancholme valley demonstrate the difficulty of pre-industrial cultivation and the effects of the waves of plague that struck the nation in the 14th and 15th centuries.

In some deserted villages, an isolated farmstead on the site of a manor house may be all that remains in the present day.

Some areas of medieval commons and open fields across the county were later consolidated into areas of smaller enclosed fields, often adjacent to the centres of villages, by a process of informal agreements between farmers.

In the chalk and limestone uplands, these early enclosures, usually dating from between the 14th and 16th centuries, were typically intended for raising livestock, especially sheep for wool. These were often worked from village farmsteads, some of which represent the emergence of a rural middle-class. Sir Isaac Newton's family home of Woolsthorpe is just such an example. The same process was occasionally undertaken on a much larger scale across the county's chalk and limestone plateau landscapes, resulting in a further wave of settlement desertion.

In low-lying parts of the county, such as the Fens, the Marshes, and the Isle of Axholme, the historic pattern of settlement was governed by the availability of dry land for cultivation. In these areas historic settlements were typically more linear or straggling, following bands of higher ground that were safe from seasonal flooding. Today, these lowland areas are remarkable for their large numbers of small farmsteads, some of which may have their origins as medieval farmsteads founded on small outcrops of high ground.



Top:
Temple Bruer, a former Templar Preceptory with surviving 12th century tower. (Northern Lincolnshire Edge)

Middle:
Woolsthorpe Manor, a 17th century yeoman house and farmstead. (Kesteven Uplands)

Bottom:
Reclaimed and enclosed marshland displaying a typical rectilinear pattern. The linear straggling villages of the former marshland landscape are clearly visible along main roads. (Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes)

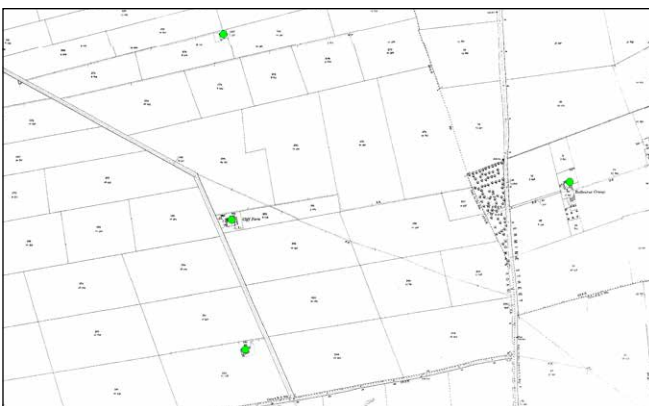
Early Modern Farming

The landscape took on a very different form following the enclosure of open fields and commons between the 16th and 19th centuries. In many areas, common open-field arable farming gave way first to sheep and cattle, and later to industrialised mixed farming.

The historically open rural landscape was divided among its owners by hedges and ditches, while much of the building stock of villages and towns was completely reorganised and rebuilt.

From around 1750, the planned enclosure of the medieval landscape led to new forms of farming practice, including the establishment of new isolated farmsteads set away from the main village centres. These can be found throughout Greater Lincolnshire, and constitute the majority of surviving traditional farmsteads in the county.

The 'High Farming' period of the mid to late 19th century grew out of the new enclosed landscapes, and was characterised by the institution of industrial and scientific farming techniques across Greater Lincolnshire. This involved the processing



Top:
Stable range on a planned 19th century farmstead in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Limewash is a relatively common feature of Wolds farmsteads. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Bottom left:
A typical enclosed heathland area of the Northern Lincolnshire Edge.

Bottom right:
Regular courtyard farmstead of red brick and pantile. (Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman

of crop residues into fodder for cattle and the enrichment of the land with manure, resulting in increased arable yields.

This cycle was enhanced by the investment of capital, new buildings and machinery, and the addition of expensive and high quality animal feeds such as oil cake, and increased expenditure on land improvements such as marling and other treatments. The majority of traditional farm buildings in Greater Lincolnshire date from the 19th century, although in many cases it is possible that structural elements of earlier buildings were absorbed into this phase of rebuilding.

The introduction of early forms of mechanisation, such as steam power for crop processing, allowed still further gains of efficiency. Planned farmsteads of this period were often constructed in high quality red brick, and have linked ranges that were evidently constructed in a single phase. Farmsteads of this type were often constructed to common designs, including 'model farms' which were

celebrated in national 'pattern books' for other improving farmers to follow. Textbooks such as Waistell's Designs for Agricultural Buildings (1827) and Stephens' Book of the Farm (1844) helped to promote more standardised forms of construction.

The Modern Landscape Takes Shape

During the late 19th century the farming economy of Greater Lincolnshire fell into depression due to a number of factors, including increased global competition and falling prices.

This had a variety of effects in the landscape, including the dereliction of hedges and drainage, and the employment of more efficient and less labour intensive techniques for ploughing and threshing, such as moveable steam engines. A secondary effect was a wave of new construction of agricultural buildings such as Dutch barns, in an attempt by landowners to stimulate the rural economy.



Regular L-Plan farmstead subsumed within large 20th century development.
(Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes)



Residential conversion of 19th century cart shed and granary, Eagle Moor. (Trent and Belvoir Vales)

Perhaps the greatest changes to affect the countryside have occurred in the 20th century, especially since the Second World War. Modern farm buildings tend to be much larger in order to accommodate agricultural machines, greater volumes of crops, and herds of livestock during the winter months. As a result, farms in areas such as the Wolds are some of the largest in the country.

Widespread mechanisation has led to the obsolescence of many historic rural buildings, including outfarms and field barns, and the removal of field boundaries to facilitate vehicular access for sowing and fertilising.

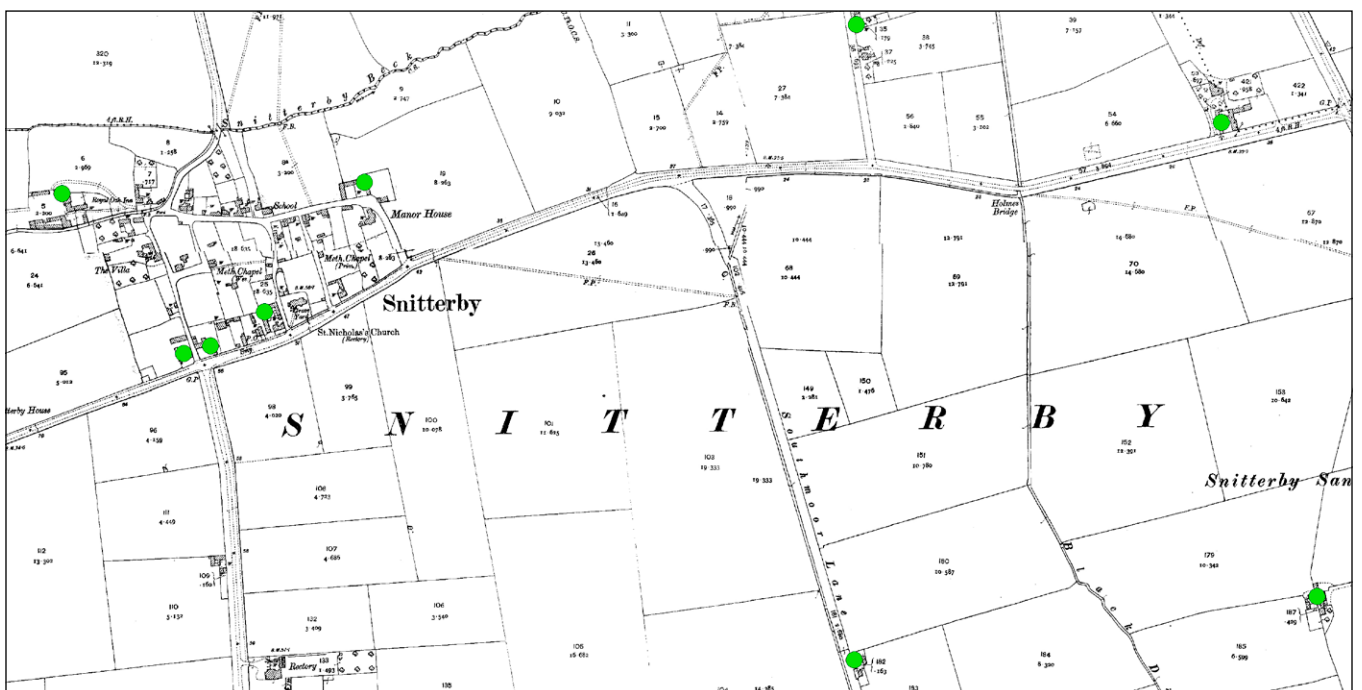
From the 1950s changing animal welfare standards and increasing use of machinery resulted in the development of multi-purpose prefabricated buildings that economise on farm labour and are critical to the modern farming industry.

Historic farmsteads and their buildings have become redundant as new non-agricultural modes of rural living have become increasingly popular, often combined with home-working. Family farms have further shrunk in number, as the intensity of production and the size of farms has increased.

2 Landscape and Settlement Context

Historic farmsteads and their buildings are an integral part of the rural landscape with long historical roles in the way farmland, woodland and other resources have been exploited over centuries. Their relationships with local settlements can be intimate or distant. Within Greater Lincolnshire there are clear differences in settlement patterns within the landscape, broadly divided into areas of historically village-based or nucleated settlement and those parts with more dispersed or isolated settlement, such as the fens or marshes. This is a direct result of the former areas being suitable for medieval open field arable farming, while the latter required drainage and maintenance to be of use for anything but stock-rearing and fattening.

As well as being shaped by the landscapes they inhabit, farmsteads, outfarms and their buildings are also key factors in the development of those landscapes, providing the infrastructure for land management and exploitation. This is further explored in Section 3, along with consideration of how the types of buildings are indicative of historic local farming practices, such as large barns and multi-bay cart sheds in arable areas or extensive cattle sheds in historic pasture lands.





2.1 Farmstead location

Historic farmsteads in Greater Lincolnshire are typically located in the following contexts:

Village

Farm buildings within villages are found throughout Greater Lincolnshire. Within their context they can be appreciated both in relation to other nearby historic buildings and surrounding fields. Farmsteads in villages have typically reduced in number over time, with larger farms established at or beyond the edges of settlements. In other areas, towns and villages may have expanded around individual farmsteads, incorporating them into their townscapes.

Isolated

In areas of traditionally dispersed settlement, such as the Fens or the Coastal Marshes, isolated farms can be of great antiquity. In some cases they reflect the limited availability of land suitable for settlement. More commonly however, isolated farmsteads are indicative of the radical changes in the landscape which followed the enclosure of common land and open fields. Farmsteads of this date were generally established away from village centres to provide more convenient access to newly consolidated land holdings, which could be situated at great distances from historic settlement centres. Farmsteads of this kind are commonly found on the heaths of the Lincolnshire Cliff, the more recently drained fens and marshes, and in the uplands of Kesteven and the Wolds.

High status farmsteads/ archaeological features

Greater Lincolnshire has a strong tradition of aristocratic landowners whose investment into their land and buildings is reflected in showpiece or “model” farmsteads throughout the landscape. These are in many cases situated within or adjacent to formal parkland, such as Brocklesby or Grimsthorpe. Their formal planning and design reflect the wealth and commitment to agricultural improvement of their owners, setting an example to local farmers.

Left:
Village and isolated farmsteads (green) in Snitterby, Lincolnshire. (Northern Lincolnshire Edge)

Top:
Isolated farmsteads in a fenland landscape. (Humberhead Levels)

Middle:
A typical heathland village containing several farmsteads. The large regular courtyard farmstead at the bottom right of the image may be an extension or rebuild of an earlier example. (Northern Lincolnshire Edge)

Bottom:
A planned multi-yard farmstead belonging to the Revesby Abbey Estate. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

In some cases, traditional farmsteads can be seen to have much older origins by their proximity to historic earthworks or from evidence in their names. A small number of traditional farmsteads are sited within or next to the earthworks remaining from medieval and earlier cultivation and land use, and the archaeological remains of shrunken or deserted settlements and field systems. This can provide a local focal point for the farmstead, often in clear visual association with a medieval church or moated site.

Location	Percentage of Farmsteads
Village, Hamlet or Farmstead Cluster	30.03%
Isolated	66.96%
High Status or Archaeological Site	2.94%
Urban	0.07%



Top:
A high status farmstead with a chapel and large country residence, possibly occupying the site of a former manor house. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Left:
Grimsthorpe - Farmsteads in and around a designed landscape. (The Kesteven Uplands)

2.2 Farmsteads in their Landscape Setting

National Character Area	Planned Enclosure	Ancient Enclosure	Modern Fields	Historic Settlement Core
Greater Lincolnshire	22.44%	8.85%	45.01%	5.18%
Humber Estuary	7.48%	11.21%	41.12%	9.35%
Humberhead Levels	21.46%	8.46%	33.07%	8.86%
Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes	23.89%	9.44%	41.75%	6.23%
Lincolnshire Wolds	27.04%	10.25%	41.55%	5.67%
Northern Lincolnshire Edge	25.34%	11.05%	38.61%	5.78%
Southern Lincolnshire Edge	24.23%	7.78%	37.89%	9.84%
Central Lincolnshire Vale	32.65%	8.04%	35.19%	5.41%
The Fens	17.05%	8.03%	57.02%	1.48%
Trent and Belvoir Vales	20.45%	10.89%	38.56%	9.36%
The Kesteven Uplands	25.31%	7.50%	41.56%	7.19%

The table above is derived from a comparison of the results of the Farmstead Mapping with the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project. Key indicators from this process include:

- Farmsteads in the Fens are much more likely to be situated in landscapes of modern fields than is typical for the county as a whole, with over 57% of them as compared to a county rate of 45%. This reflects the drastic changes to the landscape of this highly productive area in the last 60 years
- Fenland farmsteads are also significantly less likely to be found within historic settlements, at a level of 1.48% compared to a county level of 5.18%. While this may be partially related to the difficulty of identifying farmsteads in settlement contexts, it also demonstrates the traditionally dispersed settlement pattern of the landscape around The Wash
- Farmsteads in the Trent and Belvoir Vales, the Northern Lincolnshire Edge and the Humberhead Levels are more likely to be located within historic settlement cores than farmsteads in other areas and in the county as a whole, reflecting the importance of nucleated settlement in the development of these areas
- The planned enclosure landscapes of the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Central Lincolnshire Vale are reflected in the high proportions of farmsteads located in these landscape types. These areas also have correspondingly higher proportions of isolated farmsteads than the county average

- The large numbers of farmsteads in the Northern Lincolnshire Edge Character Area that are situated in landscapes of ancient enclosure are potentially related to the equally high numbers of village based farmsteads in the area, as ancient enclosures are most frequently found around the peripheries of historic settlements. However, there is also the possibility that they relate to older farmsteads that pre-date the planned enclosure of the heath, as indicated by Roberts and Wrathmell’s identification of specialist farms in the area
- There are a number of questions suggested by these figures, including the relationship between the prevailing landscape in which farmsteads sit and their date, type and survival

2.3 Dating Buildings in the Landscape

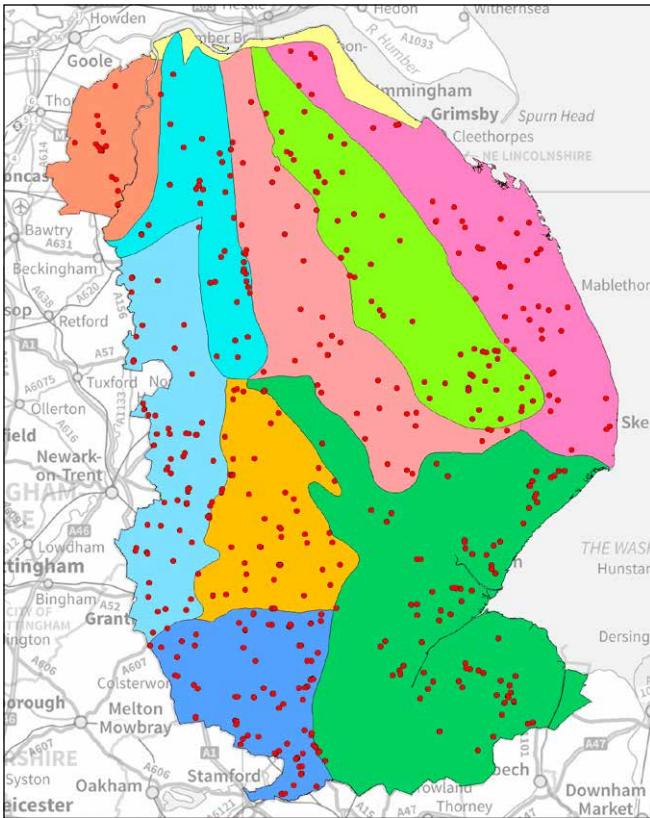
Farm buildings illustrate significant developments in English agricultural and rural history. In Greater Lincolnshire, farm buildings typically date from the 19th century. However, there are particular concentrations of pre-18th century farmhouses in upland landscapes, particularly the Kesteven Uplands and the Southern Lincolnshire Edge. These reflect the early enclosure of these areas for sheep rearing, and the hardy stone-built farmhouses that accompanied this. By contrast, lowland areas have a greater proportion of 18th and 19th century listed buildings, indicative of the later colonisation of fenland and marsh. It should be noted that no physical dating of farm buildings has been undertaken as part of the Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Survey and that analysis has only been undertaken on listed buildings, using dates provided in the listing description.

Date (Listing Description)	Number of Records	Percentage of Dataset
Medieval	17	0.16%
16th Century	29	0.27%
17th Century	125	1.15%
18th Century	297	2.73%
19th Century	168	1.55%

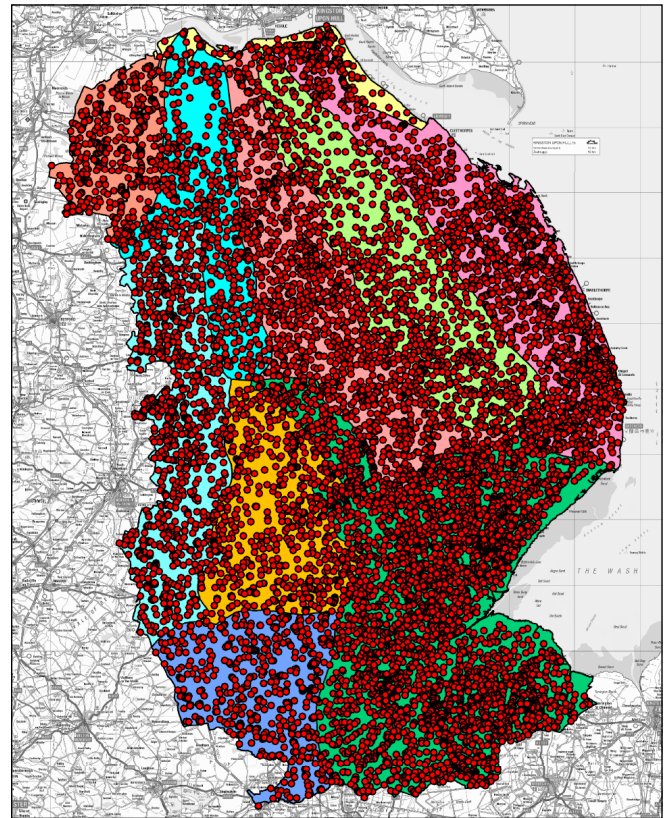
Farmsteads and outfarms dated by listing description

By comparison to the south of England, relatively few pre-19th century farmhouses and working buildings survive in the eastern arable farmlands of England, stretching from north-west Norfolk up to Northumberland. These areas were profoundly affected by improvements to landscapes and farmland, and their associated infrastructure of farmsteads and workers’ housing, from the later 18th century. There are local variations due to developments in farm size and type, landownership, conditions of tenure and other factors. As a general rule, farmhouses pre-date farm buildings, and the larger-scale or high status buildings (in particular, barns), which were consistently used for the same purpose or capable of being adapted to later uses, generally have the greatest chance of survival.

In Greater Lincolnshire, there are particular concentrations of pre-18th century farmhouses in upland landscapes, particularly the Kesteven Uplands and the Southern Lincolnshire Edge. These reflect the early enclosure of these areas for sheep rearing, and the hardy stone-built farmhouses that accompanied this. By contrast, lowland areas have a greater proportion of 18th and 19th century listed buildings, indicative of the later colonisation of fenland and marsh.



Distribution of known Pre-19th Century Farmsteads



Distribution of known 19th Century Farmsteads

The maps above show the vastly greater numbers of farmsteads with origins in the 19th century compared to those of earlier periods. In particular it is clear that older buildings tend to survive best in villages, as can be seen by the concentration of pre-19th century buildings in the townlands of the Fens and the spring line villages of the Wolds, the Lincolnshire Edge, and the Kesteven Uplands. This also demonstrates the wholesale reorganisation of the agricultural landscape in the 19th century following parliamentary and private enclosure. This is a key part of the formation of much of Greater Lincolnshire's present-day landscape,

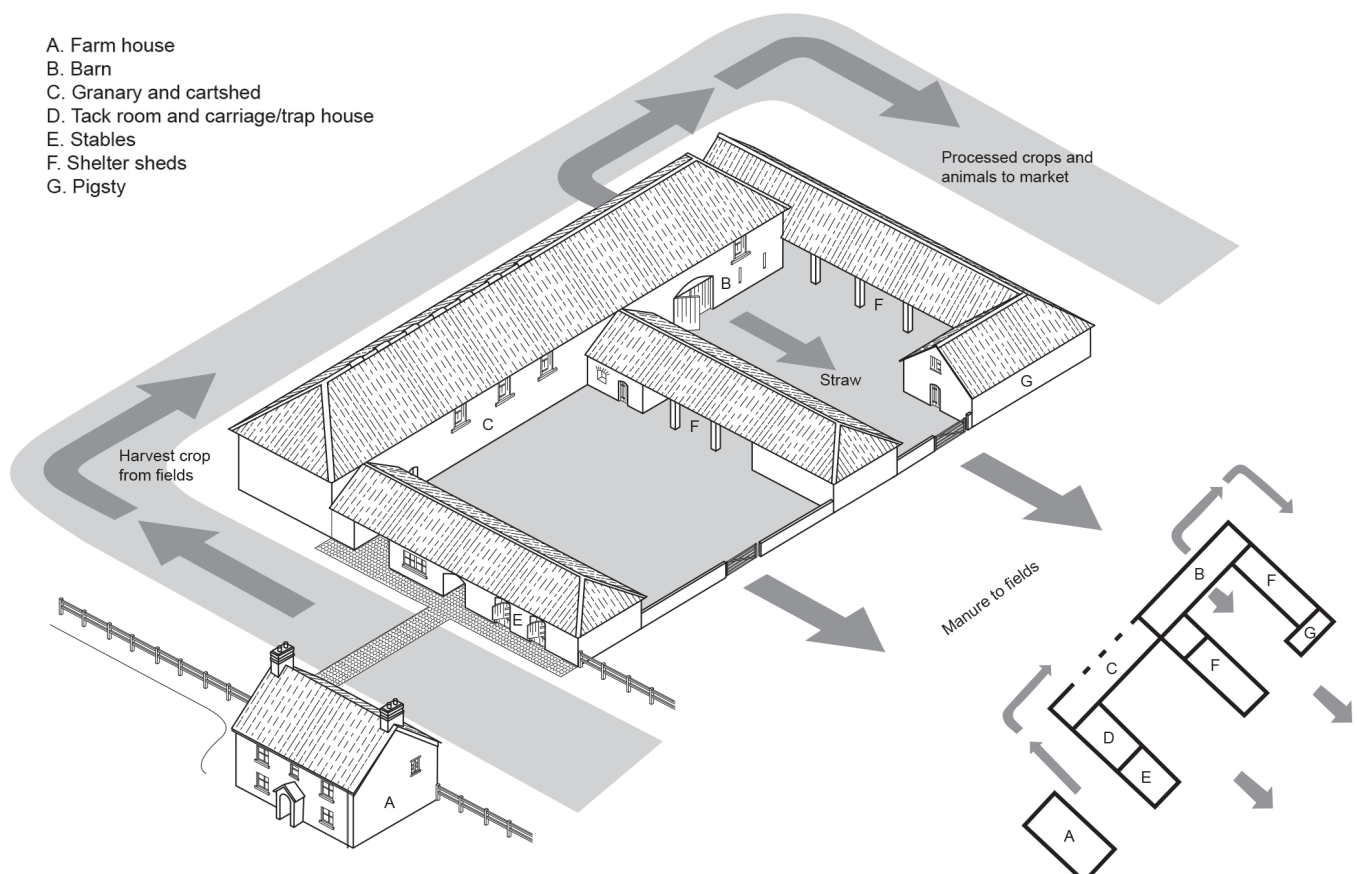
with only small areas of land around villages and near ancient woodland retaining their medieval character.

Farm buildings in Greater Lincolnshire display a great variety of plan forms, design and materials depending on the prevailing character of the areas in which they are situated and the different farming regimes that were practised in each area. More detailed information is available in the accompanying Farmstead and Landscape Statements for each of the National Character Areas.

2.4 Farmstead Function

The size and layout of farmsteads (see Farmstead Types) and the variety of building types encountered results from their status, farm size, the aspirations of the owner or tenant and the farm's regime (mixed, arable or the rearing and fattening of cattle and dairying). They had an array of functions from housing the farming family and workers, storing and processing of harvested crops and dairy products, producing and finishing meat, providing shelter for livestock, carts and implements and processing manure for the surrounding farmland. These required:

- A farmhouse is found attached to the working buildings (commonly found in upland areas), positioned to one side of them, or detached with its own driveways and gardens. This latter arrangement is often seen in larger and high status farmsteads primarily dating from the mid 19th century onwards, with occasional earlier examples
- Access to and from its farmland, communal land, other settlements and markets
- Specialist or combination buildings or ranges
- Open and enclosed yards and other spaces for stacking harvested corn and hay, sorting and containing livestock, milking cattle, gardens or orchards
- In some cases cottages for farm workers or rooms for live-in farm labourers – usually in the attic or back wing of the house. Seasonal workers were often housed in the lofts of farm buildings
- Gardens within or to one side of the farmstead, which were usually developed as private areas with a distinct and separate character.



2.5 Farmstead Types

The layout of the farmhouse and the working buildings are key to understanding how the farmstead worked when in use. Most farmsteads in Greater Lincolnshire have their buildings set around one or more courtyards. A small proportion have their buildings scattered within the boundary of the farmstead, are built as attached farmhouses and working buildings in-line, or reflect other arrangements. This range of plan types or layouts reflect their status, farm size and the extent to which farms mixed or specialised in the growing of corn, the rearing and fattening of cattle and dairying. Large arable farms required more space for stacking, storing and processing corn, and also more space for storing grain and carts, and housing horses for pulling ploughs and other vehicles and machinery, than farmsteads which grew little corn and specialised in the rearing of cattle and dairying.

The surviving plan form of a farmstead can be strongly indicative of the farming practices employed, especially in examples of planned or “model” farmsteads. However, it should be noted that more organically grown farmsteads can be the result of centuries of change and development, with buildings being extended and repurposed as required. Such farmsteads require more detailed appraisal to understand the interrelationships between their buildings and spaces.

Left:

This schematic diagram shows the main features and processes of a typical E-Plan farmstead in Greater Lincolnshire operating a mixed/arable farming regime. The operation was cyclical, with harvested cereal crops providing fodder for cattle, in the form of hay and grain, which was processed in the barn (B). The cattle then produced manure over the winter which was used to fertilise the fields and enhance crop yields. The majority of the crop was sold at market, necessitating the characteristic large cart shed and granary range (C). In the majority of cases the farmer lived in a detached house removed from the agricultural functions of the farmstead (A), although within easy reach of the stables (F) and cart shed, which typically served both agricultural and domestic functions

Courtyard plans are the most common forms of farmstead layout in the county, where the working buildings are arranged around one or more yards. The largest courtyard farms are found on high status sites, estate farms and in the arable vales, wolds and downlands of England, and the smallest in stock-rearing and dairying areas. They may have scatters of other farm buildings relating to routes and tracks, usually cart sheds and other ancillary buildings. The way in which they are arranged falls into two main categories.

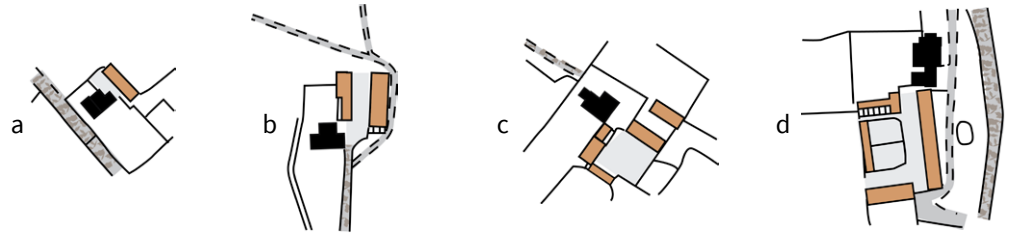
- **Regular or planned courtyard types (75.92%)**, which demonstrate linearity and planning in their design, are indicative of an industrial approach to working the land. Ranges in a planned farmstead are typically of a single phase of construction and are often linked, forming enclosed yard spaces. By comparison to other areas that have been analysed in this fashion, such as the West Midlands, Greater Lincolnshire has a far greater proportion of regular courtyard farmsteads, perhaps indicating a far greater investment in mixed and arable farming practices over neighbouring counties
- **Loose courtyard types (13.69%)**, are typically more organically grown, and retain elements of many phases of change within their fabric. This can include ranges of different ages and materials, extensions, boundary walls and domestic buildings

There are also several other less common types, including:

- **L-plan (2.21%) and Linear (1.04%)** farmsteads, where the farmhouse is linked to a single agricultural range
- **Parallel (2.01%)** types, where the farmstead and a single agricultural range are alongside each other with a narrow yard between
- **Dispersed (1.66%)** types, where there is no clear focus to the farmstead, and agricultural buildings are spread over a wide area

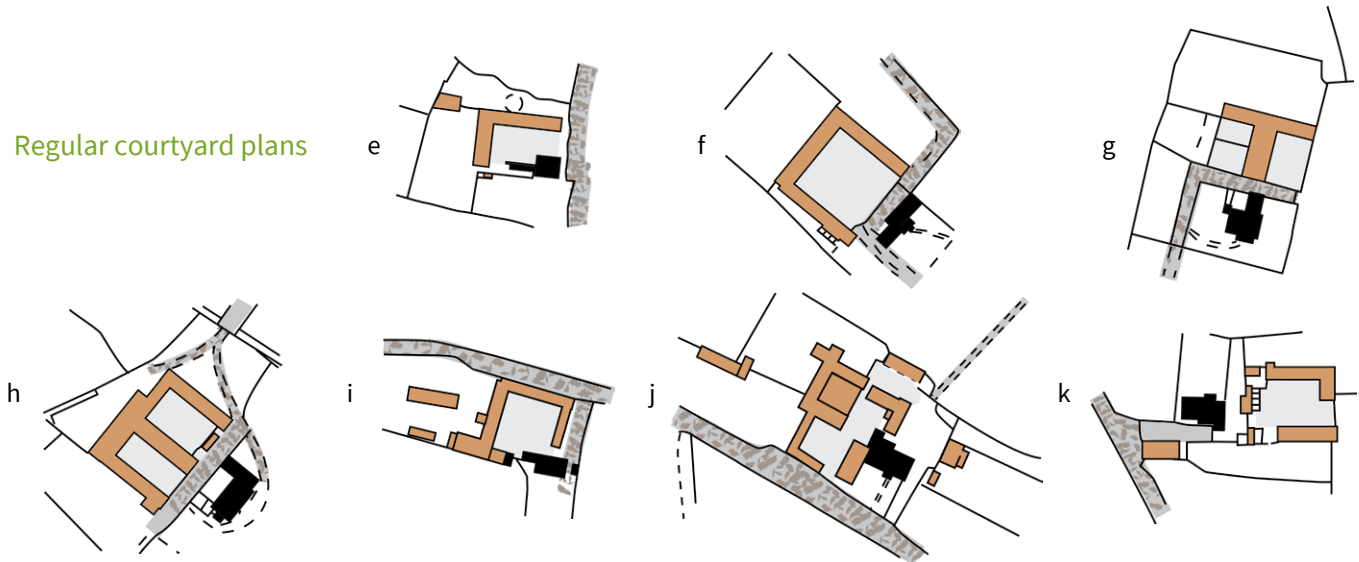
Plan forms of farmsteads in Greater Lincolnshire

Loose courtyard plans



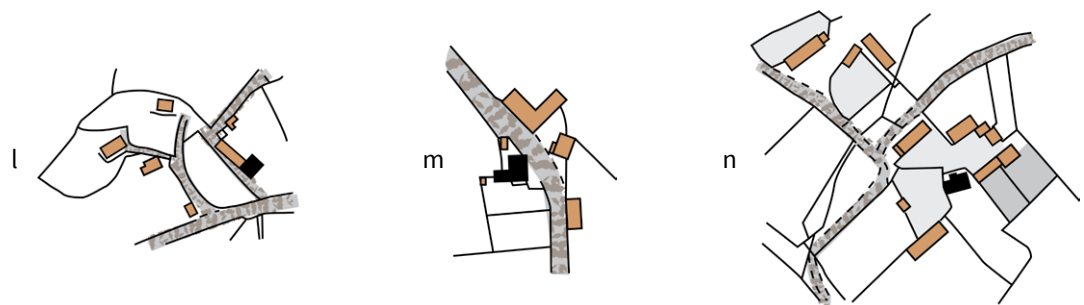
Loose courtyard farmsteads with 1 (a), 2 (b), 3 (c) or 4 (d) detached buildings loosely arranged around a yard.

Regular courtyard plans



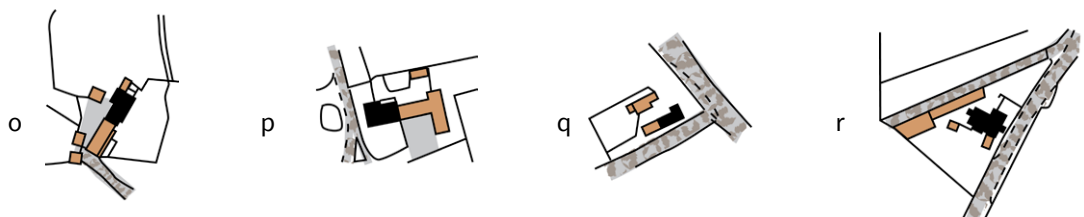
L-plans (e), small-medium in scale with buildings linked to create an L-shape. **U-plans** (f), medium-large scale farmsteads, with linked buildings around three sides of a yard. **F-, E-, T-, H- or Z-shaped plans** (g and h) arranged around two cattle yards. **Full courtyard plans** (i) have working buildings around all four sides of the yard. **Multi-yard plans** (j) have multiple yards grouped together and regularly arranged. **Larger scale L-shaped plans** (k) with detached buildings to the third or fourth side.

Dispersed plans



Dispersed clusters (l) have working buildings dispersed within the boundary of the steading. **Dispersed driftways** (m) are dominated by the routeways to them, often relating to livestock management. **Dispersed multi-yards** (n) are large-scale farmsteads containing two or more detached yards, often with other scattered buildings.

Linear plans and variants



Linear farmsteads (o), where the house and working buildings are attached and in-line. A variant is the **L-shaped range** (p), extended or planned with additional working buildings. **Parallel plans** (q) with the working buildings opposite and parallel to the house with a narrow area between. **Row plans** (r), medium-small in scale, with working buildings attached in-line forming a long row.

Loose courtyard plans

Loose courtyard farmsteads (13.69%) consist of a farmhouse and a yard with detached working buildings. These are often the result of organic growth and development, with buildings added to the complex as required by changes in farming practices over time. In fewer cases the buildings may be of a single development phase. The difference between phases will often be visible in the materials and design of the buildings and perhaps in the regularity of the plan form around the yard.

- Loose courtyard farmsteads with buildings on 2 or 3 sides of the yard are most associated with the former wetland landscapes of the Fens and the Coastal Marshes
- The larger examples of farmsteads with working buildings on all four sides are notably linked to the upland landscapes of the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Kesteven Uplands, and may therefore be associated with historic sheep farming and subsequent development of the farmstead for mixed farming techniques



Top Left:
A small loose courtyard farmstead of the 19th century.
(Humberhead Levels)

Bottom:
Loose courtyard farmstead with the yard formed
by the house, stables and threshing barn, which have
been constructed in a number of phases.
(Kesteven Uplands)

Top Right:
The varied materials used demonstrate the chronology
of development in this linear range of buildings,
including periods of rebuilding and extension.
(Kesteven Uplands)

Regular courtyard plans

Regular courtyard farmsteads (76%) consist of linked ranges formally arranged around one or more yards. Particularly large examples, such as those at Little Ponton and Manor Farm, Kirmond-Le-Mire, often retain their working buildings. Regular, planned courtyards are often associated with planned 18th and 19th century farming landscapes with surveyor-drawn fields and plantation woodland.

- U-plans are the single most common plan form in Greater Lincolnshire and are particularly prevalent in the Central Lincolnshire Vale and the Northern Lincolnshire Edge, both of which lie in the north west of the county
- Full courtyards are also common throughout Greater Lincolnshire, but are especially prominent in the west of the county around the River Trent and the Isle of Axholme
- E-plans are a particular feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds, having almost twice the occurrence of these farmsteads as in the county at large
- It should be noted that regular courtyard plans can in some cases be the result of incremental growth, development and extension, and do not necessarily indicate an origin in a planned or technological farming regime. Instead, they may be indicative of older farmsteads that have been adapted to exploit new techniques



Top:
A regular L-plan farmstead with a single large yard and detached modern agricultural buildings. (Humber Estuary)

Middle:
An E-Plan farmstead with a secondary L-Plan yard, possibly a later expansion. (Central Lincolnshire Vale)

Bottom:
Ground level photograph of a regular courtyard farmstead. (Humberhead Levels)



Top:
Working buildings facing away from the road and into the yard which contrasts with the farmhouse which faces the road. (The Fens)

Bottom:
A rare example of a dispersed driftway plan farmstead, with the house and an attached range to the north of the road and a secondary complex of buildings to the south. (The Fens)



Dispersed plans

Dispersed plan farmsteads (1.66%) have no focal yard area and the working buildings are dispersed along a routeway or within the boundary of the farmstead.

They are very rare in Greater Lincolnshire as a whole and, like other rare plan-form types, are concentrated particularly in the Fens and Coastal Marshes. This matches their distribution in other parts of lowland England where Farmsteads Mapping has taken place, such as Romney Marsh in Kent.



Top :
Working buildings arranged in a row on a developed farmstead. (Kesteven Uplands)

Bottom:
A small linear plan farmstead, Hundred Fen. (The Fens)

Linear and other related farmstead types

Linear and other related farmstead types (8.44%) are nationally most closely associated with upland and common-edge farmsteads. They were either built in a single phase or have developed and extended in a piecemeal manner, and from the medieval period many were incorporated within larger farmsteads as they expanded into courtyard or dispersed plans.

- These small irregular farmstead types are most commonly found in the Fens and the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes, indicating their association with smaller historic farm holdings
- There is a particular concentration of L-Plan farmsteads in the Trent and Belvoir Vales, possibly related to the early enclosure of open fields in parishes

2.6 The Siting of the Farmhouse

The position of the farmhouse in relation to the working buildings can reveal the physical relationship of the owner or tenant to the daily operation of the farmstead. In linear plan farmsteads, the house is always attached to the agricultural range.

In loose courtyard types, the farmhouse is usually a separate building, but can still form part of the layout of the farmyard. Planned regular farmsteads are typically characterised by detached farmhouses set away from the main activity of the farmsteads, marking a clear delineation between the domestic area and the working buildings. In Greater Lincolnshire, this can be indicative of tenanted farms on large estates.

2.7 Covered Yards

These were first used on planned and model farms of the 1850s to 1870s following scientific research which proved that manure stored undercover had improved qualities as a fertiliser. They became increasingly common from the 1880s when formerly open yards were roofed over with timber or metal-framed superstructures.

They are typified by wide-span roofs that are the defining characteristic of these yards. Covered yards needed adequate ventilation, and could be provided with complex systems of louvres and shutters.

Covered yards that form part of coherent planned and model farm complexes of the 1850s to c 1880, and later examples with architectural quality are significant. Conversely, covered yards inserted into pre-existing open cattle yards from the late 19th century are much more common, and may preserve earlier features underneath.



Top:
Farm with detached farmhouse facing away from working buildings.
(Central Lincolnshire Vale)

Left:
Covered yard inserted into a regular multi-yard farmstead.
(The Fens)

2.8 Outfarms and Field Barns

Outfarms and field barns are relatively rare in Greater Lincolnshire, comprising less than 10% of the farms surveyed. They are typically set within the fields away from the main farmstead. They saved on transporting the harvested crop (hay or corn crops) to the farmstead, and enabled manure from the cattle housed in them to be carted back out to the distant fields.

Any intact 16th century or earlier examples are very rare. Some field barns and outfarms may be the remnants of former farmsteads where the house has been lost but the buildings retained as a result of farm amalgamation. There is also the possibility that some of these isolated buildings may have been the principal agricultural ranges for smallholders living in larger communities, especially in the Lincolnshire Fens and the Coastal Marshes.

National Character Area	Number of Outfarms
Central Lincolnshire Vale	50
Humber Estuary	6
Humberhead Levels	12
Kesteven Uplands	29
Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes	34
Lincolnshire Wolds	48
Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands	18
Southern Lincolnshire Edge	23
The Fens	103
Trent and Belvoir Vales	38
Greater Lincolnshire	361



Extended field barn for arable processing and storage.
(Kesteven Uplands)

Field barns

Field barns are single buildings set within or on the edge of a field away from the main farmstead. They are often found in areas where land holdings were intermixed, such as areas of wetland grazing in the fens or marshes, or in association with the pasture landscapes of the Wolds and other areas of heath.

Field barns could be:

- Shelters for sheep, typically with low doors and floor-to-ceiling heights
- Shelters for cattle and their fodder (hay)
- Threshing barns with yards
- Hay barns
- Combination barns with a threshing bay and storage for the crop, and housing for cattle

Outfarms

Outfarms consist of one or more buildings set around a yard away from the main farmstead, typically having shelter sheds for cattle or storage and processing facilities for crops. A cottage for a farm worker could also be sited nearby. They are particularly associated with areas of large farm holdings, such as the drained Carr lands of the Central Lincolnshire Vale or the Trent and Belvoir Vales, which could have fields a long way away from the farmstead. Some outfarms eventually became farmsteads in their own right, and may therefore be subsumed within later examples of developed farmsteads.



Outfarm with stacking yard and two cart shed extensions off a main brick threshing barn. (The Fens)

2.9 Smallholdings

Smallholdings are typically 50 acres or less in size and are farmed as a primary or secondary source of income. Smallholders often combined small-scale subsistence farming to supplement the income derived from other activities such as woodland management, carting, quarrying or metal working.

Smallholdings can often be identified by their location in areas of small fields close to areas of common land, such as the turbaries of Epworth and Haxey on the Isle of Axholme. They should not be confused with farmworkers' cottages, which may be of a similar size, but are usually more clearly associated with larger farmsteads and do not have their own large plots.

2.10 Farmsteads in the Landscape

There can be very strong variations, marked by contrasting farmstead and landscape types, in the densities of farmsteads in small areas. Medium to large-scale courtyard plans are predominant in estate landscapes and across those areas with more productive soils where corn production was prevalent. The largest farmsteads are primarily of the regular multi-yard types, with several particularly large examples of E-Plan farms and dispersed multi-yard types. They are typically found in the Kesteven Uplands and the Lincolnshire Wolds, demonstrating an industrial approach to maximising productivity in these areas during the 19th century.

Linear plans and the smallest-scale and dispersed courtyard plans are concentrated in areas of upland, wooded or common edge landscapes with small-scale enclosed fields, such as the Kesteven Uplands, the Fens or the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes. Smallholders were important in some areas, and in Greater Lincolnshire are typically found in areas of extensive former commons such as the Fens and the Humberhead Levels.

3 Farmstead Building Types

This section provides an illustrated gazetteer of the different farm buildings that may be encountered on farm complexes in Greater Lincolnshire, along with a brief appraisal of their significance and rarity. Internal fixtures and fittings may survive, and examples of these are also given in the descriptions.

Greater Lincolnshire Farm Building Types

Farm buildings were required for the following range of functions, some of which were often combined into a single range rather than specialist individual buildings. Although not exhaustive, the following list indicates the types of buildings most closely associated with farming in Greater Lincolnshire according to their functions on the farmstead.

Storing and processing crops

A **barn** for storing and processing the harvested corn crop over the winter months was the basic requirement of farms. Significant features include large doors, often on both sides of a barn, which allowed winnowing to be assisted by the breeze. Corn could also be **stacked in yards** adjacent to the barn. Grain was stored in a **granary**, which could be detached, sited over another farm building, incorporated in the barn or in the farmhouse. More rarely, the functions of a barn and animal housing were incorporated within a single building, known as a **combination barn**. Storage was also required in hay lofts or hay barns for hay from surrounding fields and meadows. Root crops, primarily turnips, required their own root houses and mixing houses which were incorporated into farmstead plans.

Transport

Cart sheds typically face routes and tracks. Large cart shed ranges are typically associated with arable landscapes, where large quantities of manure and grain required regular transportation around the farm and to market. Dedicated **forges** are rare in Greater Lincolnshire, although examples can be found on larger planned or model farmsteads.

Housing and managing farm animals

Farm animals were highly valued for their flesh, their manure, and often provided motive power for ploughing and carting. They required one or more **yards** to aid free movement and the management of stock, as well as **cattlesheds, cow houses and stables**.

Pigsties were built on most farms, particularly on dairying establishments where there would have been whey – a waste product from cheese making – to feed them on. **Sheep** rarely required buildings in Greater Lincolnshire as flocks were kept outdoors year-round. Farm birds required **hen houses**, **goose houses**, **doveholes** and, more rarely, **dovecotes**.

Brewing, baking and dairy products

Purpose-built dairies are very rare as they were commonly sited within the farmhouse along with cheese rooms in some areas. **Bakehouses** and **brewhouses** were commonly detached.

A range of other buildings can also be found in a farmstead, including **boiling houses** for animal feed; or **dog kennels** incorporated beneath granary steps. Smaller detached buildings within a farmstead complex may well demonstrate evidence for these functions.

3.1 Storing and Processing Crops

Barn

The principal purpose of the barn was to store and process the harvested crop and, after threshing, store straw before it was distributed to yards and buildings for farm animals. This function could also be combined with others, such as storing grain, carts and farm equipment and housing livestock and their fodder. In many areas, including the Lincolnshire Wolds and other upland landscapes, the barn was the principal or only building on the farmstead until the 19th century.

Before widespread mechanisation, barns were typically used for threshing cereal crops as well as storage (see below). However, Greater Lincolnshire was one of the earliest arable areas to benefit from mechanisation, partially due to the presence of large manufacturers in the county, particularly Rustons of Lincoln. Threshing barns were adapted or replaced to take advantage of the new techniques, and large combination barns, combining cart sheds and stables with a large storage barn, became commonplace throughout Greater Lincolnshire at around this time.

Typical features of barns

The most commonly encountered features are:

- Internal subdivision into **'bays'**, marked by roof trusses, wall posts or major partitions. The number of these bays could reflect the size of the farm and its crop, and they could also mark internal subdivision into **stalls** for animals and lofts for storing grain or hay
- Opposing doors to a 'threshing bay' where the harvested crop was beaten out on the threshing floor and then the grain was separated from the lighter chaff in the cross-draught (a process known as winnowing)
- Other openings for forking the crop into storage bays, or hay for animals, and doorways into animal housing or spaces which could be used for a variety of purposes (such as shearing sheep)
- Some barns retain chaff houses – small rooms accessed from the threshing bay for storing husks from the grain crop (chaff), after it has been threshed and winnowed in the barn, for use as animal feed
- Barns were commonly extended with lean-tos (also called outshots) for cattle. From the late 19th century, many barns were converted into **cow houses** and fodder processing and storage buildings. Barns may retain evidence for this change of function in the retention of stalling



Top Left:
Brick and pantile threshing barn with diamond shaped ventilation holes. (Trent and Belvoir Vales)

Top Right:
Large threshing barn, later adapted into a combination barn/granary. Note the former threshing doors now bricked up. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Left:
Coursed limestone hipped roof barn.
(Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman

Bottom:
Cart shed with granary above attached to threshing barn with hayloft. (Lincolnshire Wolds)





Combination barn, with an adjacent stable and granary in the same range. (Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes)

Significance

- Barns are usually the oldest and largest buildings on the farmstead. 18th century or earlier examples are rare in Greater Lincolnshire. Most threshing barns seem to have been replaced by later buildings linked to the mechanised threshing of the crop
- The largest barns were built on large arable and also high status farms, and the need to store more crops can be indicated by the construction of an additional barn, the enlargement and adaptation of earlier barns to house more harvested corn and evidence for internal partitions for animal housing and other functions
- Ritual and tally marks can be found scratched into walls and timbers around the threshing floor
- Evidence for powered processing of crops, most obviously in the form of rare surviving **horse engine houses** and additions with chimney stacks for stationary steam engines. Evidence for water power, in the form of leats to carry water to the barn and for water-powered machinery, is exceptionally rare

Whilst all barns contain a threshing floor and storage bays, there are significant distinctions between:

- **Threshing barns** which contain one or more threshing floors and bays for storing the sheaves of unthreshed crop and often the straw after threshing
- **Combination barns** which were built to also house other functions, notably storing grain and carts or housing animals and their fodder

Evidence for mechanisation

The take-up of mechanised methods of threshing the crop – by horse engines from the 1790s, water power, wind power, and, from the 1820s, steam – was regionally varied. Belt drives and shafting conveyed power to rooms for mixing animal feed elsewhere in the barn. Mechanisation was usually associated with the subdivision of the barn into smaller spaces for housing the threshing machine, the straw, grain and also preparing feed for cattle.

Dutch barn

An open-fronted building roofed in corrugated iron for the shelter of hay or straw. They date from around the mid 1870s, the first examples being built of timber. Iron-framed Dutch barns became standardised from the 1880s when firms began to advertise them along with other prefabricated buildings such as village halls.

Typical features

- Timber frames are usually linked by iron straps
- Metal frames are sometimes accompanied by a manufacturer's nameplate or relief moulding
- Corrugated iron roofing and sometimes side walls

Significance

- These are highly distinctive but typical buildings with a widespread national distribution, most examples being concentrated in the wetter western half of England. Any documented pre-1880s examples will be rare
- Although relatively common, these have typically been superseded by more modern multifunctional sheds and are therefore at risk of decay or demolition

Hay barn

An open-fronted building for the storage of hay. The objective, whether the hay was stacked outside or under a roof, was to prevent moisture entering the centre of the stack or heap of hay.

Typical features

- Most comprise open-sided structures with roofs supported on high brick, stone or timber piers

Significance

- Original roofing material may be rare, as known Greater Lincolnshire examples have been re-roofed in corrugated iron to allow continued use
- The potential flexibility of these large open-sided buildings means that they may have survived more widely than is presently known by being incorporated into later structures



Top Left:
Disused iron framed Dutch barn.
(Kesteven Uplands)

Bottom:
Hay barn with range of stables attached.
(Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman)



Granary raised over a four-bay cart shed.
(Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman)

Granary

A building, or first-floor room in a building, for the dry and secure storage of grain after it has been threshed and winnowed. The size of the granary provides an indication of the arable acreage of the farm

Typical features

- Ventilated openings - either louvres, shutters, sliding vents or grilles
- If the granary was sited in the loft of a working building, it required substantial steps and/or a hoist for pulling up or lowering the heavy sacks of grain
- Close-boarded or plastered and lime-washed walls internally, and a strong load-bearing floor construction with tight-fitting lapped boards to prevent loss of grain
- Grain bins, or the slots in vertical timbers for horizontal planking used to make them, may survive

Significance

- Some very rare surviving evidence for granaries in the floored ends of barns in corn-producing areas
- Granaries were a common building type on arable farmsteads, typically found in association with cart sheds or in combination ranges
- Most examples are of 19th century date, earlier examples being of great rarity

Horse engine house

A round or polygonal building containing a horse engine used for powering threshing machinery following its invention in 1786. These were either attached to existing barns, entailing the insertion of new floors and partitions, or were an integral part of new mechanised farmsteads. The equipment was also used for chopping and crushing fodder.

Typical features

- Horse engine houses comprise semi-circular, polygonal or square projections from barns, on the side facing the stack yard and opposite the cattle yard

Significance

- Horse engines, as found in wheelhouses, and in-situ threshing machines, are exceptionally rare
- Survey work has shown that horse engine houses have been subject to high levels of loss
- The uptake of horse-powered machinery varied across the country. Horse engines were built as an integral part of mechanised farmsteads in north-east England by the 1830s, and they continued to be built in many parts of the country into the 1860s and even later
- Surviving examples in Greater Lincolnshire are typically found around the Humberhead Levels, and are commonly brick-built projections off a main range or building on older village farmsteads



Horse Gin, Brauncewell. The roof was likely thatched rather than tiled. (Southern Lincolnshire Edge)



Despite their rarity, some well-preserved examples of horse engines can still be found, especially in the north of the county. (Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman

Root store

Room or cellar for storing root crops, which were widely introduced as part of improved crop rotations and for the feeding of cattle in farmsteads from the later 18th century.

Typical features

- A room incorporated within the farmstead, usually in cattle housing or a combination barn

Significance

- Significant as an integral part of improved farmyard planning

Stack stand

Raised platform on which hay, corn, peas etc. were raised out of the reach of vermin and thatched to protect from rain. Stacks were termed ricks in some parts of England. Surviving examples are extremely rare, with none recorded in Greater Lincolnshire at the present time.



Root store occupying the end of a planned cow shed range. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

3.2 Transportation

Cart shed

A building used for housing and protecting carts, waggons and farm implements from the weather, often open-fronted.

The cart shed housed not only carts for transporting muck to fields, the harvest to the farmstead and grain to market, but also the implements needed (primarily for arable cultivation) on the farm. It could also accommodate the coach or pony trap.

Typical features

- Open-fronted and sometimes open at each end, positioned facing routeways and often close to the stables. One or two bays may be enclosed with doors for the storage of small implements
- In many areas cart sheds are combined with first-floor granaries, accessed by external steps. These may have evidence for hatches for dropping sacks of grain from granaries into carts; hoists for hauling grain; steps to granaries with internal grain bins and louvred windows
- Trap houses may also form part of the domestic service buildings near the farmhouse
- There is the possibility for confusion between cart sheds and certain types of open-fronted cattle sheds. Contextual clues such as orientation to yards or roads should be used to establish function in these cases

Significance

- The size of cart sheds reflects the size and function of the farm – larger examples are found on large arable-based farms, along with larger barns and stables
- Pre-19th century examples are rare. The majority of those found in Greater Lincolnshire are late 18th or 19th century in date, and relate to the increase in arable farming around that date

Coach house

A building similar to a cart shed used for storing a coach or pony trap, but situated closer to the farmhouse.

Typical features

- Has a large opening, usually with a door
- Coach houses are typically more ornamental than cart or wagon sheds, reflecting their more domestic function

Significance

- Although largely restricted to grander farmsteads, survival of these buildings is quite common as they are easily lent to conversion to a garage



Top Left:
Cart shed and granary range, New York. (The Fens)

Top Right:
Industrialised arable farmstead, Lincolnshire Fens. The large cart shed and granary/processing range indicate a large-scale cereal concern. (The Fens)

Left:
Restored coach house. (The Fens)

Bottom:
Stable range and coach house range set close to its farmhouse. (Lincolnshire Wolds)



Forge

A building housing the ironworking processes of a blacksmith. Iron working forges served the blacksmithing needs of farming and rural communities, and were also built on large estate Home Farms throughout Greater Lincolnshire. In such cases the forge was not in daily use, but rather provided workspace and equipment for itinerant smiths who would visit farmsteads on a regular basis or as needed.

Typical features

- Forges required wide doorways and access to a water supply
- They required bellows for working the forge and benches for working
- Forges usually have good access to main roads and tracks to allow entry from carts and animals

Significance

- Examples with internal fittings (bellows, hearth) are rare, and those with internal racks for forge implements rarer still
- Associated with the forge there may be features such as a wheel clamp for fitting iron tyres to cart wheels
- Forges are often a feature of large or high status farms in Greater Lincolnshire



The Old Forge at Welbourn. (Central Lincolnshire Vale)

3.3 Animal Housing

Cattle housing

Evidence for **cattle housing** is rare before the 19th century, as until this time the importance of maintaining cattle indoors for fattening was not fully understood. Cattle were therefore historically kept in the fields over winter.

Most enclosed cattle housing comprises **cow houses** with stalls, **calf houses** and **loose boxes** for fattening. Open-fronted **shelter sheds** are a common feature, facing onto cattle yards (locally termed crew yards) and sometimes integrated into **covered yards** (see page 25) which were built from the 1850s.



Enclosed cattle housing

Loose boxes are individual cubicles for housing fatstock and sometimes bulls, found in the form of lean-tos attached to barns or other buildings, or as continuous ranges with an optional central or rear feeding passage. They are most common in the eastern arable areas of England, including Greater Lincolnshire. Often the floor of the boxes was sunken and the manure would build up in them during the winter. They reflected a realisation that warm and dry conditions would promote weight gain (through minimising heat loss) and retain the quality of the manure. The ceilings could be lined with thatch, to minimise condensation.

Cow houses are enclosed buildings, or part of a multi-functional building, for stalling cattle (often dairy cattle). They have lower and wider doorways than stables and more limited light and ventilation in the form of ventilation slits. Windows and other features to assist ventilation were widely introduced from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, e.g. hit-and-miss ventilators, and air ducts and ridge ventilators. Cow stalls comprise low partitions of wood, stone or slate. Feeding arrangements can survive in the form of hayracks, water bowls and mangers for feed. Cast iron was used from the late 19th century.



Top:
19th century covered yards, now disused.
(Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes)

Bottom:
Range of cow houses attached to the rear of the
farmhouse. (Trent and Belvoir Vales)
© Jen Deadman

Significance

- Surviving examples of pre-19th century cattle housing are rare in a national context and are of high significance
- Calf houses are similar to, but typically smaller in scale, with lower eaves, than cow houses or loose boxes. They are often located close to the farmhouse
- Hygiene regulations from the early 20th century have resulted in new floors, windows and stall arrangements being inserted, replacing earlier traditional stalling and floors. The latter survive best in the north and west of England



Open-fronted cattle housing

Shelter sheds

These are open-fronted structures for cattle facing onto cattle yards, which is very common in Greater Lincolnshire where cattle valued as fatstock and for their manure were fed in strawed-down yards (locally termed crew yards).

Typical features

- Single storey ranges. Shelter sheds can be detached buildings, attached to the gable end of a barn or built against the side of the barn
- Common internal fittings were mangers and hayracks, and sometimes stalls
- Doors in one or both of the gable ends near the back wall gave access to a feeding passage

Significance

- Very few pre-date the mid-19th century nationally, and shelter sheds of such early date are presently unknown in Greater Lincolnshire



Top:
Shelter shed facing out towards open fields.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)
© Jen Deadman)

Bottom:
Shelter shed facing onto crew yard.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)



Left:
19th century 5 tiered pigeon loft in barn gable.
(Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman)



Right:
Interior of listed dovecote near Donington
showing brick nest-boxes.
(The Fens)

Dovecotes and pigeon lofts

Dovecotes are usually square or circular towers with pyramidal or conical roofs for housing pigeons and their manure. Holes for doves can be incorporated into the walls of other buildings such as stables and barns.

Typical features

- Dovecote doorways were low to discourage the birds from flying out
- Nest boxes, in the earliest examples were formed in the thickness of the wall but usually in stone, brick or wood
- A potence, a central pivoted post with arms supporting a revolving ladder, provided access to the nest boxes for collection of the young birds (squabs) and eggs

Significance

- Timber-framed dovecotes have been subject to the greatest rate of loss over time, and are now extremely rare
- Surviving internal fittings are of great rarity, notably potences and removable wooden nest boxes

Listed dovecotes, most of which are of 17th century or earlier date, are concentrated within the central strip of village England where arable fields covered a greater proportion of the farming landscape and manorial control was strongest. In Greater Lincolnshire, purpose built dovecotes are relatively rare and are typically associated with pre-18th century farmsteads, or, occasionally, with high status planned or model farmsteads of the 19th century. Pigeon lofts built into the gables of other farm buildings are more common, although the openings are often blocked or bricked up.

Field barn

An isolated barn, cow house or shelter shed with a hayloft. Typically found in areas where farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other.

Field barns and outfarms are uncommon in Greater Lincolnshire as a whole. They are most frequently found in areas of marginal or recently reclaimed land where 19th century improvements brought large areas into cultivation over relatively short periods of time.



Kennels

Farm dogs were accommodated in recesses beneath steps that led up to lofts (pictured), and rarely in their own kennels. These are mostly found in upland areas.

Kennels for hunting dogs are found in areas where hunting was practised on estates and are typically low, single-storey buildings with attached individual yards enclosed by metal railings. Complete examples are rare.



Top:
Disused field barn.
(The Fens)

Bottom:
Raised granary with a dog kennel situated beneath the steps to the main entrance. (The Fens)



Top:
Single storey pigsty with later brick extension.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)



Left:
Feeding ports and trough in a pigsty, Hainton. The meal house is typically located on the other side of the ports.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)

Pig housing

On most farms only a few pigs were kept for domestic use and here they were normally fed on kitchen scraps or whey and so pigsties were often placed near the kitchen or dairy. Pigs were most commonly kept in dairying areas or market-gardening areas, such as the Fens, where whey (a by-product of dairying) or potatoes were available for feed. Larger-scale piggeries were found on larger farms where commercial fattening was practised.

Typical features

- Pigsties were typically built as single-storey structures comprising individual boxes with their own individual yards. They were built individually or more commonly in rows and could be served by external feeding chutes
- A pigsty was a covered pen and yard for a pig. Usually one building was divided into two or three individual sties
- A small chimneystack could mark the position of a meal house for boiling swill for pig feed

Significance

- Any pre-19th century examples are very rare
- Industrial scale piggeries, as built in some dairying areas and in the improved farmlands of the Fens and Holderness in eastern England, are rare
- In Greater Lincolnshire, large scale pig herds were typically kept outdoors or in covered yards. Smaller scale pig farming is likely to be associated with labourers' cottages or smallholdings

Poultry

Hens usually ran freely about a farmyard, but were encouraged to nest safely away from predators and so that the eggs could be more easily collected. They were often housed above pigsties. Geese could be housed in free-standing pens or alcoves in farmyard walls.

Typical features

- Hen houses usually include a small pop hole for the hens as well as a full-sized door for human access for feeding and egg-collection
- The walls could be lined with nest boxes
- Geese could be housed in pens, either free-standing or built against a wall, or in recesses built into farmyard walls

Significance

- Hen houses were usually relatively short-lived buildings and there are few survivals that can be described as historic
- Where historic examples do survive they usually form part of another building, such as a pig house: it was thought the chickens would keep the pigs warm and the pigs would frighten foxes away
- Historic pens for geese are also rare and significant



Left:
Interior of poultry house, Haceby.
(Kesteven Uplands)
(Photo from Barnwell and Giles, 1997, p64)

Sheep housing

Sheep have historically been the mainstay of Greater Lincolnshire's livestock farmers. From the medieval period onwards, high wool prices ensured the prosperity of sheep farmers in the county. By the 1870s it is thought that sheep outnumbered humans in Greater Lincolnshire by a factor of three to one.

It does not appear that sheep farming in Greater Lincolnshire has left a specific material legacy of buildings other than the many fine farmhouses built with the profits of the industry. Sheep were typically kept outdoors year-round, with herds grazing on upland heath in the winter and being moved to richer pastures in the fens and marshes during the summer.

Areas associated with sheep husbandry were often provided with sheepfolds, walled or fenced enclosures for containing sheep, and sheepwashes for cleaning the wool prior to shearing.

Farm buildings with other purposes may well have been used to enable aspects of sheep farming:

- Barns, when empty, were sometimes used for shearing and sorting the wool
- Fleeces were often stored in first-floor lofts including in granaries when not in use for storing grain



Right:
Lincolnshire Longwool lamb – the heavy coats of this variety allowed it to be reared outdoors all year round, as well as providing a greater wool yield per animal.
© Martin Dawes

Stable

A building, or part of a building, for housing horses and their harnessing and tackle. The largest stables are concentrated in corn-producing areas such as the Lincolnshire Cliff and the Kesteven Uplands, where farms were larger and more horses were needed for ploughing and many other tasks. Fewer horses were needed in cattle-rearing or dairying areas, or in areas of smaller farms such as the Fens and Coastal Marshes.



Top:
Stable range. (Southern Lincolnshire Edge)

Middle:
Saddle shelves in a disused tack room. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Bottom:
Interior of stable with stalls and mangers still in situ. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Typical features

- Externally distinguishable as they have tall and relatively narrow doors compared to cow houses, and are often well-lit. Single-storey stables, commonly with cast-iron ridge vents, were commonly built from the later 19th century, as were loose boxes for horses
- Early examples have the stalls across the end walls, whereas from the later 18th century onwards the stalls are usually along the side walls, allowing more scope for lengthening the building and thus housing more horses
- Stables can face away from the cattle yard, be positioned to one side, or in some areas (especially in eastern England) be provided with a horse yard
- Wooden or cast-iron (for high status or late examples) stalls with access to manger and hayrack
- Floors of earth, stone flags/cobbles and from the mid-19th century of engineering brick, sloping to a drainage channel
- Riding horse stables typically have high status cast iron fittings and tack rooms. Workhorse stables usually have wooden partitions and pegs by the door for harness
- Pegs for harness and tack, sometimes in a separate harness room with fireplace. Stables might also be provided with cubby-holes for lanterns, grooming brushes, medicines etc

Significance

- After the barn, the stable, either detached or part of larger multifunctional ranges, is often the oldest building on the farmstead. A few stables dating to before 1700 have been identified in local surveys, while many more date from the 18th century. One of the reasons for this rise in number was the decline in the use of oxen
- Examples retaining internal fittings including stall partitions and feed racks are rare and significant

3.4 Brewing, Baking and Dairy Products

Brewhouse/ bakehouse/ detached kitchen

Detached buildings separate but close to the farmhouse for brewing beer and baking bread, often combined into a single building. Detached kitchens are detached buildings sited close to the house. Nationally, surviving examples are very rare and difficult to detect.

Typical features

- A single-storey building, usually with a single entry
- They will always have a chimney stack
- Internally an oven and usually a copper

Significance

- Examples appear to be concentrated in the west of England, extending into Wales. Most are 19th century, and earlier examples are very rare
- Few examples survive as they have usually been subsumed by the farmhouse and converted for other use
- Surviving bread ovens and copper vessels for brewing and washing are rare
- Detached kitchens are extremely rare, with listed examples at Pinchbeck Vicarage and Holywell Quarries Farmhouse. In both cases, the detached kitchen has been converted to storage and no longer fulfils its original function



Farmhouse with an attached domestic range. Internal features include boiling pans and hearths, with rear access to a kitchen garden and pigsty. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Dairies and cheese rooms

A dairy is a building, or more often a room at the rear of the farmhouse, used for the cool storage of milk and its manufacture into butter and/or cheese.

Dairying for urban markets was already a specialised enterprise by the 1750s. Commercial cheese making and foreign imports (from the colonies) made inroads from the 1860s, and by around 1914 very little was being produced and sold from farms. The sale of liquid milk had become massively important in many areas by the early 20th century. The stand for milk churns, and the abandonment of all but a handful of farmhouse dairies and cheese rooms for new milk production plants were the other visible consequences of these developments.

Typical features

- Wide doors. Ventilated and/or shuttered windows and verandas to aid cooling. Internal slate shelves and brick/stone floors to keep milk and interior cool

Significance

- Complete surviving examples with original fixtures, such as slate or stone shelves for cooling the milk, are very rare. This is because changes in hygiene regulations and the centralisation of production through the 20th century had a major impact on dairies, with the majority becoming redundant to their original use
- Ornate dairies may form part of estate home farms



Small dairy extension to a combination barn.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)

Slaughterhouses

Slaughterhouses are uncommon, most documented examples having been built on large farmsteads and the home farms of estates. Examples are therefore more likely to be encountered on planned regular farmsteads, although further research may be required for identification.

Typical features

- These are single-storey buildings, usually detached, which have no distinctive external features other than sufficient access (a single door) and light
- Internally a high ceiling with a pulley wheel to raise the carcass

Significance

- Documented examples are rare, and will have significance as part of complete groups of farm buildings

Well house

A building over a well housing machinery for raising the water, most commonly found in the chalk downs or wolds.

Typical features

- Well houses covering a well head are often simple structures of brick with no notable external features
- They may be identified by their position within a yard, usually near to the house

Significance

- Surviving examples are very rare, with no listed examples in Greater Lincolnshire



St. Helen's Holy Well near Brigg, known to be in use since the Bronze Age. (Central Lincolnshire Vale)
(Taken from R. B. Parish, 2012)

4 Materials and Detail

This section introduces the historical development of building materials, with more detailed notes on the rarity of timber frame, early brick, earth and thatch, followed by notes on the significance of surviving fittings and detail.

The character and fabric of historic farmsteads reflects England's huge diversity in geology, differences in building traditions, wealth, estate policy, access to transport links and the management of local timber and other resources. The use of materials reflects not only the availability of materials but also the status of the farm and its owner. This has contributed to great contrasts and variety in traditional walling and roofing materials and forms of construction, which often survived much longer on working farm buildings than farmhouses. From the later 18th century mass-walled buildings in stone

and brick, roofed with tile or slate, increasingly replaced earlier forms built from earth, timber and thatch. Building materials such as softwood timber, brick, slate and iron could also be imported onto the farm via coastal and river ports, canals and rail. There also appeared in the 19th century a range of standard architectural detail, such as part-glazed and ventilated windows and the use of cast and wrought iron for columns. Prefabricated construction in industrial materials made its way onto farms from the 1850s, but did not become dominant and widespread until after the 1950s.



Range of materials used in different phases of buildings around a crew yard. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

4.1 Construction

From the medieval period, the unit of reference in timber framed and mass-walled buildings became the **bay**, the distance between principal roof trusses. These bays could also mark out different areas of storage within barns and other buildings.

Timber frame

Timber was an important historic building material throughout Greater Lincolnshire until brick and tile became available in large quantities in the 17th and 18th centuries. Although there are relatively few survivals of timber framed agricultural buildings in Greater Lincolnshire, the examples that remain are very significant and fragile.

The basic vocabulary of timber framed construction had been developed by the 13th century – notably the use of sophisticated jointing techniques, particularly at the junction of the main posts and roof trusses (the so-called **bay** divisions), and timber sills raised off the ground on dwarf walls. Timber frame construction is often associated with another traditional Greater Lincolnshire building technique, so-called “mud and stud” walling (see below), which provided the infill between timber frames on smaller buildings. Larger timber framed buildings, such as barns and houses, incorporated brick infill.

Hand-sawn hardwood boarding is now rarely found, as machine-sawn softwood was increasingly used from the late 18th century. External walling and render can also disguise evidence of earlier timber framing, including cruck and aisled construction.

Mass walling

Mass walling indicates walls that are constructed of solid materials such as stone, earth or brick as opposed to timber framed walling. Mass-walled buildings now dominate the traditional farm building stock in Greater Lincolnshire, and are largely constructed of either stone or brick. These materials display a wide variety of treatment, their use reflecting not only the availability of materials but also the status of the farm and its owner.



Top:
17th century timber framed roof in barn.
(Central Lincolnshire Vale)

Bottom:
An 18th century stone farmhouse refronted
and extended in brick in the 19th century.
(Kesteven Uplands)

Brick

Brick is the dominant building material on agricultural buildings throughout Greater Lincolnshire, especially from the 18th century onwards. Red brick was locally produced in several parts of the county, especially on the Humber Estuary and the Isle of Axholme. Yellow gault brick was available to a much lesser extent, and was imported into the county by train from the mid-19th century.

Red brick is also occasionally used for detailing on stone structures in the county, especially in the Central Lincolnshire Vale and Northern Cliff areas.



Top:
Brandon Old Hall, c1640. The decorative pattern is achieved by alternating courses of ironstone and limestone.
(Trent and Belvoir Vales)



Bottom:
Threshing barn and granary range, c.1840. A rare example of a chalk-built farmstead of ashlar construction. (Lincolnshire Wolds)
© David Wright

Stone

There are seams of accessible limestone and ironstone along the length of the Lincolnshire Cliff. Stone is particularly prevalent as a building material in the Kesteven Uplands and Southern Cliff areas, where agricultural buildings of the 17th century onwards were constructed of local honey-coloured Lincolnshire Limestone, often in well-dressed coursed rubble. Although limestone was also available from the North Cliff, it is typically of lesser quality and rubble construction with brick quoins and detailing is more common.

Where ironstone was readily accessible, particularly in the north of the county around

Scunthorpe and the north Wolds, it is often used in the construction of rural buildings. There are also examples of ironstone or marlstone being used decoratively alongside Lincolnshire limestone in bands or string courses.

Although rare, the extensive availability of chalk on the Lincolnshire Wolds allowed the construction of buildings either in white chalk or, more commonly, crushed chalk clunch. There are also a few known examples of cobble construction in farmsteads in the extreme north and south of Lincolnshire, but these are likely to represent use of imported materials from either the Holderness peninsula or north Norfolk.

Earth

Greater Lincolnshire has a particularly characteristic variety of earth walling known locally as “mud and stud”. This is a variation on the historic wattle-and-daub technique. The frame of the building is light timber, typically oak or pine, with vertical lath infill of ash. This is then covered with an application of mud mixed with straw, and washed with lime. Mud and stud buildings are rare and significant, and are highly likely to be listed. It is possible that examples exist of mud and stud construction that has been masked by later facings of brick or stone.

Quoins

Quoins are the stones or brickwork set at the corners of a building. In areas of poor quality local building stone, such as the Northern Cliff, the quoins would be made out of bricks or a better quality stone that could be worked.



Top:
Mud and stud wall construction.
(Central Lincolnshire Vale)



Left:
A recently renovated 18th century mud and stud
farmhouse. (The Fens)

Bottom:
Limestone barn with pantile roof and brick quoins
and detailing. Saxby. (Northern Lincolnshire Edge)



Roofing materials

Tiles and slates

Pantiles are roofing tiles with a wavy profile. They originated in Holland and became popular along the north-east coast and from southern Gloucestershire to Somerset. Initially pantiles were imported through ports in the north of the county such as Grimsby and Hull in the late 17th century. Later, the demand grew so great that pantiles were produced in large quantities on the banks of the Humber and on the Isle of Axholme from around 1730 onwards until in 1770 the region was the main centre for their production in England.

Although pantile is the dominant roofing material around the county, a small seam of local Collyweston slate was available for use in the south of the county, and can be found on rural buildings throughout the Kesteven Uplands

and the Southern Cliff. The use of Welsh slate is more common on later farm buildings of the 19th century, and became increasingly available throughout the county as the railways advanced.

Slate allowed a lower roof pitch to be used, characterising many farm buildings of the late 18th and 19th centuries from earlier thatched or tiled buildings.



Top:
Traditional pantile roof with stone ridge tiles for providing ventilation. (Lincolnshire Wolds)

Bottom:
Collyweston stone roofs on cottages near Stamford. (Kesteven Uplands)

Thatch

Thatch was being replaced by slate and tile in large parts of rural England by the late 18th century, and is now very rare. Farmers used a wide range of locally available materials such as reeds, rushes, grass, turf, straw from oats, barley, wheat and rye.

Before the drainage and enclosure of the fens and marshes of Greater Lincolnshire, the materials required for thatched roofing were much more widely available. Once these sources were removed in the mid-19th century, many roofs were replaced by tile or slate.



Corrugated iron and other prefabricated modern materials

Corrugated iron was used in England from the 1820s, initially for industrial buildings. Although several pioneering firms were producing portable corrugated iron-clad buildings by the 1850s, it did not come into general use for new farm buildings (particularly on **Dutch barns** for protecting harvested hay and corn crops) until the farming depression of the 1880s made cheaper materials desirable.

By the First World War, corrugated iron was in general use for the repair of roofs on farm buildings, particularly thatch, and for smallholders' buildings in areas such as the Fens. Corrugated iron, in some cases even applied directly over the thatch, has saved many farm buildings from dereliction and decay, and is found throughout Greater Lincolnshire, especially on smaller outbuildings.

From the 1940s, asbestos cement cladding and a variety of insulating products found their way onto the farmstead. Hit-and-miss vertical boarding (also known as Yorkshire boarding) has been used as cladding since the 1970s.



Top:
Thatched cottage. (The Fens)

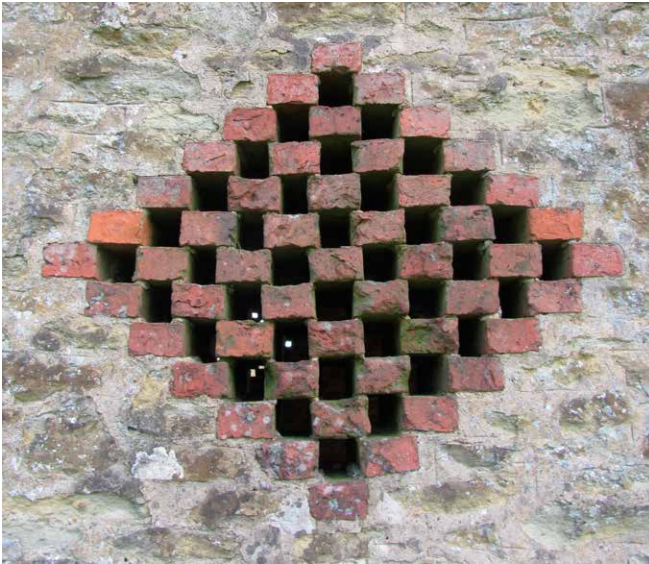
Bottom:
Timber framed roof and remnants of thatch are protected here by a covering of corrugated iron. (Central Lincolnshire Vale)

4.2 Architectural detail and internal fittings

Surviving fittings and details within farm buildings are mostly of 19th and early 20th century date but occasional examples of earlier doors, windows and flooring can be found.

Typical features

- Stalls and other interior features (e.g. mangers, hay racks) in **stables** and **cattle housing** of proven 19th century or earlier date
- Doors (usually planked/ledged and braced, from c 1850 on horizontal sliding rails) with iron strap hinges and handles, and heavy frames
- Windows, often of a standard type nationally, that are half-glazed, shuttered and/or with hit-and-miss ventilators. Horizontal sliding hit-and-miss ventilators achieved wide popularity in the mid to late 19th century
- Historic surfaces such as brick, stone-flag and cobble floors to stables and cattle housing, with drainage channels
- Industrial fittings (iron or concrete stalls, mangers etc.) associated with planned or industrial 19th century farmsteads



Top:
Diamond-shaped ventilation on a large Wolds barn picked out in brick from a stone wall.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)

Left:
Low level brickwork manger.
(Lincolnshire Wolds)

Bottom:
Mangers and stall partitions in a 19th century stable range. (Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman

Significance

- Particularly vulnerable historic floors (e.g. lime ash floors, threshing floors)
- Doors and windows of pre-19th century date (e.g. mullioned windows, sliding shutters to windows)
- **Dairies** with internal shelving etc, **barns** with in situ threshing machines and other processing machines, **horse engine houses** with internal gearing, hop kilns with internal kilns and other detail, **cider houses** with internal mills and/or presses
- Tramways to planned industrial complexes with good survival of other features

Unusual features of historic interest, often difficult to spot, include:

- **Tallies** near threshing floors in barns for noting production of grain, and numbers to grain bins
- **Ritual marks** for protecting produce or livestock, which are usually in the form of 'daisy wheels' or 'Marian marks'
- **Graffiti or artwork**, such as soldiers' graffiti, which is tied in with significant cultural events or occupation or graffiti recording names of workers, sales etc
- **Constructional marks** are those associated with the transport and prefabrication of structural carpentry and timber frames, such as shipping and carpenters' marks. Also laying out marks from the creating of the timber frame in the carpenter's yard



In situ earth closet. (Humberhead Levels)
© Jen Deadman

5 Where to Get Advice

Historic England Guidance

The publications listed below can be downloaded from the Historic England website, which also has further online guidance available on many related heritage issues.

Gaskell, P and Owen, S 2005. [Historic Farm Buildings: Constructing the Evidence Base](#) (EH/Countryside Agency/University of Gloucester)

EH/Countryside Agency 2006. [Living Buildings in a Living Landscape: Finding a Future for Traditional Farm Buildings](#)

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English Heritage 2006. [Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice](#)

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English Heritage 2009. [Historic Farm Buildings: Extending the Evidence Base](#)

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Historic England 2015. [The Setting of Historic Assets](#)

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St Peter's Hill
Grantham NG31 6PZ
01476 406080

East Lindsey District Council

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Manby Park
Louth LN11 8UP
01507 601111

West Lindsey District Council

Guildhall
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City of Lincoln Council

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Heritage Lincolnshire

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