

The Old Farmhouse Glebe Farm

The Old Farmhouse at Glebe Farm is of great importance as an example of a farmhouse on the Yorkshire Wolds built before the mid-18th century. It is especially important because it is of 'cruck' construction, and represents a type of building that was once common throughout the East Riding from the Middle Ages onwards. Very few of these buildings now remain, and none is as complete or unaltered as the Old Farmhouse at Octon.

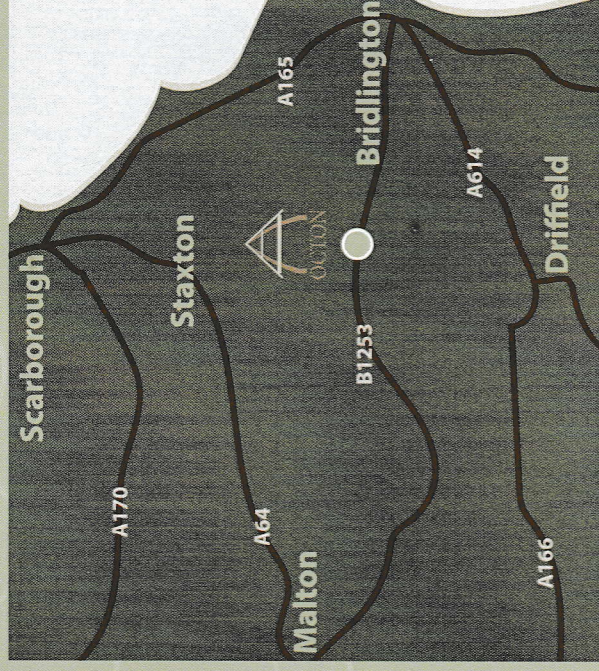
Cruck-built farmhouses contain pairs of huge, curving oak beams standing upright, supporting the whole weight of the roof. At Octon, each of the crucks is held together by two cross-pieces (the 'saddle' at the top and the 'collar' below), giving each cruck the appearance of a giant letter 'A'. As the walls of these buildings do not carry its weight, they can be altered with relative ease: wattle and daub, chalk and brick have all been used at various times in the farmhouse at Octon.

The timbers used in the Octon crucks were felled in 1670. The building underwent extensive restoration in 2013.

This trail is designed to introduce you to the historic landscape around Octon. A minimum of two hours is recommended for the completion of the trail. The distance for the walk is approximately five and a half miles.



How to find us



Visitor Information

The cruck farmhouse remains part of a working farm, but individuals and small groups may arrange to view its interior by prior appointment.

Please call 01904 615505 for more information.

Octon is approximately 10 miles from Driffield and Bridlington. It is accessed off the B1253 between North Grimston and Bridlington (signposted Octon and Thwing). Parking at the site is on-road and limited. Glebe Farm, Octon, Driffield, YO25 3EB.

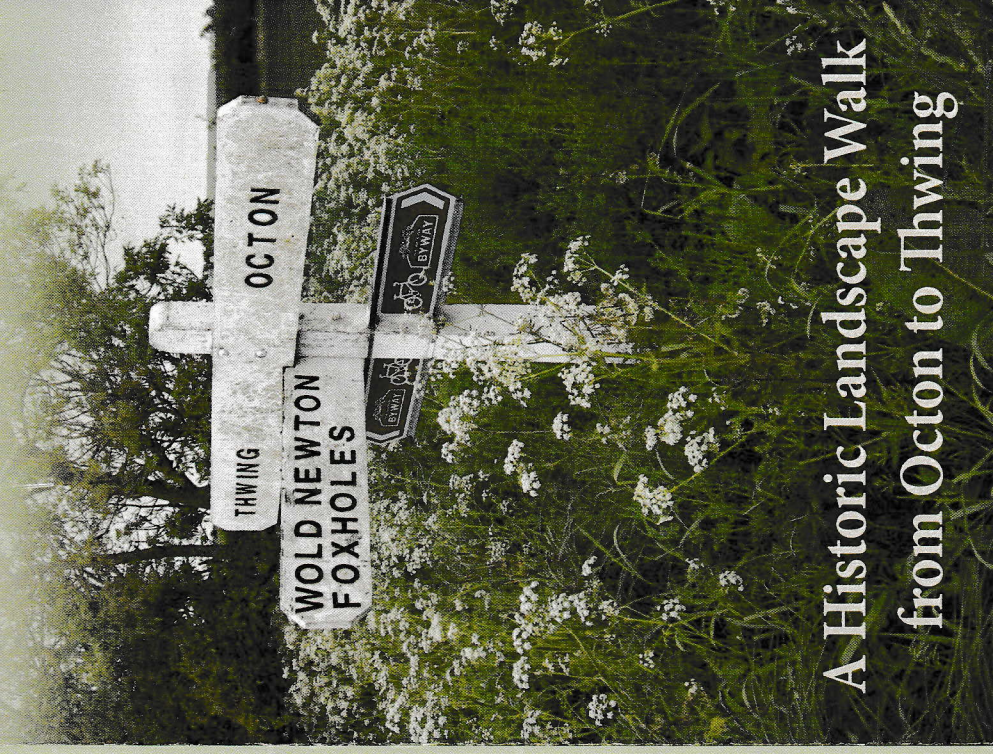
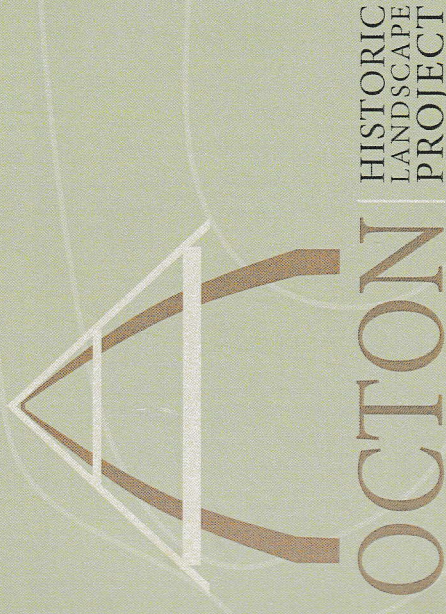
- Please keep dogs under control.
- Take all litter home with you.
- This route passes private land containing scheduled monuments where the use of metal detectors is strictly prohibited.
- We recommend that walkers following this trail wear outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear: the route uses country lanes without footways and crosses rough terrain.

THE **JORVIK**
GROUP



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The JORVIK Group is owned by York Archaeological Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SC042846)



A Historic Landscape Walk from Octon to Thwing

TRAIL

1 | Stand facing the road with the cruck farmhouse directly behind you.

The field in front of you contains the distinctive lumps and hollows of vanished medieval village buildings.

Octon is first recorded (as 'Ocheton') in the Domesday Book of 1086, and grew to include a chapel, dedicated to St Michael, whose rectangular outline can still be traced. There are many deserted medieval villages in the Wolds: a combination of factors may have led to their decline, including depopulation during the Black Death of 1348-49 and the conversion of farmland to pasture in the later Middle Ages, as landowners evicted tenant farmers to graze sheep for the profitable wool trade. To the right of this field is a holloway, an ancient track running roughly east-west: heavy use over the centuries has eroded the surface of the track so that it is now at a level well below that of the fields that flank it on either side.

2 | Turn to your right. The road heads in a north-westerly direction, passing the holloway on the left and climbing Paddock Hill. As you approach the top of the hill the village of Wold Newton comes into view to the north-east. You will see a field boundary to your right and a small wood to your left.

Paddock Hill has produced evidence for human occupation since Mesolithic times (c. 10,000BC - c. 4500BC). As you pass the field boundary on your right, look back and count five trees along.

In this field and just in front of these trees is the site of a circular prehistoric henge, occupied between the early Neolithic and late Bronze Ages (c. 4500BC - c. 600BC). At its largest it comprised ditches and ramparts, fortified with timber posts, with entrances on either side, enclosing a large timber building. The site was also in use during the Anglo-Saxon era (c. 410AD - 1000AD), and seems to have included several large timber buildings. Archaeological

excavations in the 1970s and 80s uncovered 130 human burials from this period.

3 | At the crest of Paddock Hill you can enjoy views over the peaceful scenery of the Wolds. The road gently descends here, bringing the village of Foxholes into view to the north-west. Continue downhill until you reach a small road junction.

In front of you is the Great Wold Valley, and at its bottom is the Gypsey Race, an intermittent stream which rises in the village of Wharram-le-Street and flows into the sea at Bridlington. It has attracted settlement since prehistoric times, as shown by the many earthworks along its length, as well as the villages that have survived to the present day, like Foxholes and Wold Newton.

Partway down the hill and to the left of the road junction is Octon Grange, the site of a sheep farm belonging to Meaux Abbey, a Cistercian monastery just outside Beverley. The land was purchased by the monks in the 1150s from the son of Robert de Octon, a sheriff of York who had become a monk at Meaux.

4 | Turn right at the crossroads and follow the road towards Thwing. Stay on this road, ignoring the left-hand turn for Wold Newton and Foxholes.

The road here curves gently to the right, heading roughly south-east towards Thwing. It crosses the dry valley of Syn Dale, past a chalk pit on the left: quarries of this sort would have supplied the building material found in the cruck farmhouse at Octon and elsewhere locally.

5 | Turn left towards Lamplugh House, following the public footpath, which leads across the fields towards All Saints church, Thwing.

All Saints sits at the western edge of the village of Thwing, whose name comes from a Viking-era word meaning a narrow strip of land. Many place names in the Wolds are derived from Old Norse, indicating settlement by Vikings and their descendants in the 9th and 10th centuries. The

oldest parts of All Saints date from the 12th century, and include the south doorway, with its carving of an *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), and the chancel arch. Also of note is a fine stone effigy of a priest, carved in the late 14th century: there is a tradition that this represents a brother of St John of Bridlington. Born in Thwing in c. 1320, John rose to become head of Bridlington Priory, which later housed his shrine. In the chancel is a memorial to Thomas Lamplugh, Archbishop of York, born at Octon in 1615.

After visiting the church, you have the option to follow the road back to Octon, or to take the public footpath (retracing your route past Lamplugh House, crossing the road and entering the footpath opposite) that runs parallel to the road. Please be advised that the footpath can be extremely rough underfoot and very overgrown at certain times of the year. It eventually crosses the road at Octon to join the holloway seen at the start of the trail.

If following the road, look to your right as you pass the village sign for Thwing: walkers with sharp eyes or binoculars will be able to make out a brick monument in the middle distance, marking the spot where a meteorite fell on 13th December 1795.

