



17 : INDUSTRIAL LINES

Mineral Extraction, Milling & Manufacturing

As a rural county with a strong reputation for agriculture, the industrial heritage of Lincolnshire is often overlooked. However, industrial activity has been a part of the landscape since prehistory, when metal working and salt making began, and has added to Lincolnshire's archaeology and built heritage in every period since then to the present day. Classic landscapes of the Industrial Revolution also occur but are largely restricted to Lincolnshire's northernmost quarter, including Scunthorpe with its iron and steel heritage and the varied past and present industries fringing the Humber, including tile making, food processing and petrochemicals.

In this chapter, we are concerned with lines in the landscape that have resulted from this industrial activity, including mineral extraction, milling and manufacturing. Not all of these have left features of strictly linear form, but they mostly occupy sites or zones bounded clearly by the extent of the activity. In some cases like peat cutting and ironstone quarrying, these zones can be linear. From the 1800s onwards, industrial activity is increasingly connected with new transport developments, particularly canals and railways, which have been considered in previous chapters.

FACING PAGE: **chalk quarry, South Ferriby, Wolds**

Prehistoric & Roman industries: peat, salt and quarries

Industrial activity before the Medieval period is one of the most intriguing aspects of Britain's early landscape development. It has to be said, in Lincolnshire at least, that visible remains do not form a significant element in today's countryside, either as linear features or otherwise. Much of the pre-Medieval land surface in the former wetlands and coast has been covered by later deposits – peat in the inner Fens and marine silts around the Wash and Lindsey Marsh coastlines. Thus, remains of early peat extraction and salt making tend to be buried, including Lincolnshire's fascinating early salterns of Bronze Age to Roman date. One exception, however, are the Romano-British turbaries (peat workings) in the Kesteven Fens near Bourne, where parallel lines created by peat extraction can be detected from the air (Malone & Williams, 2005). Much more extensive examples occur in the peat fens in Cambridgeshire, where they are thought to have supplied both domestic use and salterns (*Hall & Coles, 1994).

In the uplands, too, extraction of building stone and iron ore in this period is mainly obscured by later activity. This includes the probable limestone quarries of the Greetwell area, from which the major buildings and walls of Roman Lincoln were constructed.