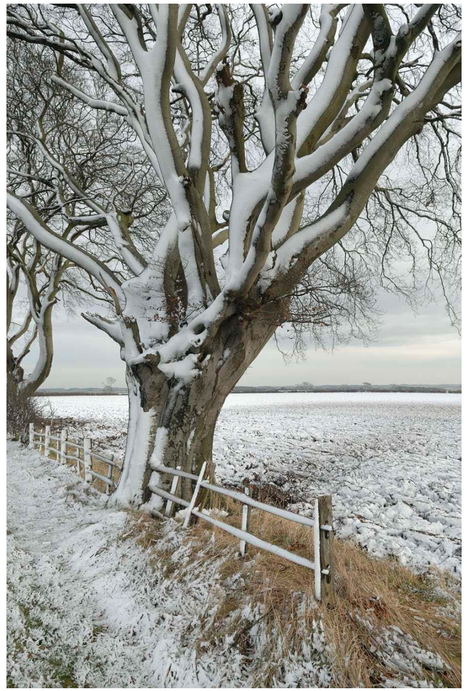

Jurassic limestone upland to the west in being a ‘cuesta’ landform created by tectonic uplift and tilting of sedimentary rocks. This has given rise to a steep western scarp overlooking the Mid Lindsey Vale and an upland plateau that inclines much more gradually eastwards towards the Lincolnshire Marsh. However, the Wolds are more deeply incised by streams than most of the Jurassic limestone belt and consequently have a hillier topography. Conversely, the only complete breach of the Wolds between the Humber and The Wash is the relatively minor Kirmington Gap, which is used by the road and rail routes to Grimsby and Cleethorpes and which separates off the northernmost part of the Wolds.

Within this broad picture the Wolds display considerable variation in geology and character. Chalk is just one of a series of Cretaceous rocks that make up the area, though it is by far the most widely exposed. It forms the surface throughout the northern and central Wolds and also runs continuously along their eastern side. In the southern Wolds and along the western escarpment, however, the chalk has been stripped away by erosion to reveal underlying sandstones, ironstones and clays. As explained below, this variety is manifested in contrasting landscapes.

The characteristic landscape of the chalk is a smooth plateau incised by east-flowing valleys that are dry in their upper part. The classic landforms associated with chalk can all be seen here to some degree including

LEFT: **roadside beech trees near Thoresway**

FACING PAGE: **snowy track, Risby Top**