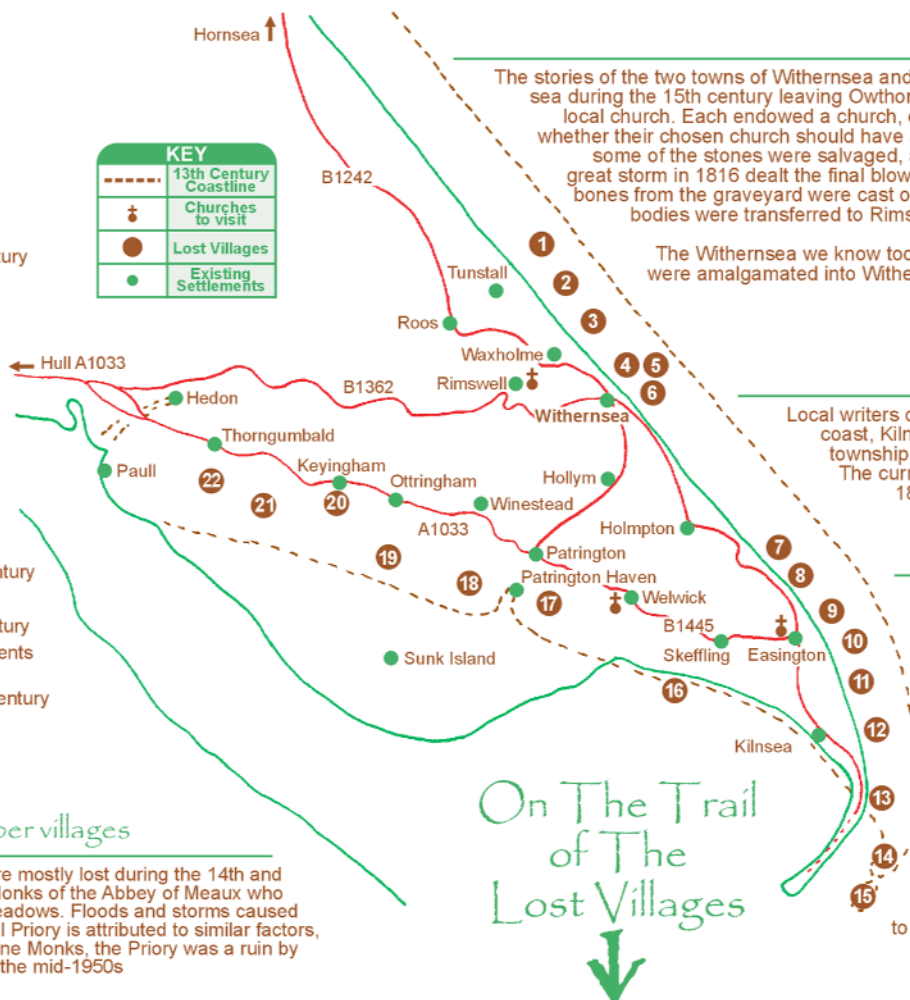


Lost Villages

- 1 Monkwise Lost 1841
- 2 Sand Le Mere Lost by 1086
- 3 Waxholme Lost by 1892
- 4 Owthorne Remains amalgamated into Withernsea 1891
- 5 Newsham Lost by 1783
- 6 Old Withernsea Lost during 15th Century
- 7 Out Newton Lost soon after 1892
- 8 Dimlington Lost around 1850
- 9 Turmarr Lost during 14th Century
- 10 Northorp Lost around 1396
- 11 Hoton also lost around 1396
- 12 Old Kilnsea Lost soon after 1852
- 13 Sunthorp Lost soon after 1367
- 14 Ravenser Lost during 15th Century
- 15 Ravenser Odd Lost late 14th Century
- 16 Burstal Priory Ruin by 1720, remains destroyed by floods mid 1900s
- 17 Penysthorp Vanished during 14th Century
- 18 Frismersk Vanished soon after 1401
- 19 Orwithfleet Vanished during 14th Century
- 20 East Somerte Abandoned to the elements during the 15th Century
- 21 Tharlesthorpe also lost during 15th Century
- 22 Saltaugh Lost during 14th Century

KEY	
-----	13th Century Coastline
⚪	Churches to visit
●	Lost Villages
●	Existing Settlements



On The Trail
of The
Lost Villages

Burstal Priory and the Humber villages

The villages along the Humber estuary were mostly lost during the 14th and 15th centuries. The land was held by the Monks of the Abbey of Meaux who grazed livestock in its rich marshes and meadows. Floods and storms caused the loss of these villages. The fall of Burstal Priory is attributed to similar factors, founded in 1115AD by a colony of Benedictine Monks, the Priory was a ruin by 1721 and finally washed away by floods in the mid-1950s

Owthorne and Withernsea - The Sisterkirkes

The stories of the two towns of Withernsea and Owthorne are closely entwined. Old Withernsea was largely destroyed by the sea during the 15th century leaving Owthorne the major settlement. A local story tells of two sisters who wished to build a local church. Each endowed a church, one at Owthorne and one in Old Withernsea, because they could not agree on whether their chosen church should have a tower or a steeple. Old Withernsea Church was destroyed with the town, but some of the stones were salvaged, and now make up the chancel of St Nicholas' Church in modern Withernsea. A great storm in 1816 dealt the final blow to the stricken Owthorne Church and large areas of the town, and bodies and bones from the graveyard were cast onto the beach. By 1838 most of the churchyard had been washed away. Many bodies were transferred to Rimswell churchyard but it is also said that body-snatchers from London journeyed North to steal corpses washed from their coffins.

The Withernsea we know today grew and expanded during the 19th century, and the remains of Owthorne were amalgamated into Withernsea in 1891. The dried up remnants of the mere, which once stood between the two settlements, remains today as the Valley Gardens.

Braving the Elements - Old Kilnsea

Local writers during the early 19th century remarked that of all the places on the Holderness coast, Kilnsea was suffering the most from the assault of both sea and Humber. The Old township of Kilnsea clung to life close to the volatile Spurn peninsula until around 1850. The current settlement remains at the mercy of the elements. The Blue Bell Inn built in 1847 some 534 yards from the sea is now within 200 yards of the low clay cliffs.

The Romantic Story of Ravenser Odd

The village of Ravenser once stood on the furthest tip of Spurn Point and had a rich history. It was here in 1066 that the defeated Danish forces from the battle of Stamford Bridge camped before fleeing English shores. Henry Bollingbrooke, who became King Henry IV also landed here in 1399 and a stone cross, since removed to Hedon, was erected to celebrate the event. In the 13th century Ravenser acquired a sister village which came to be known as Ravenser Odd. The sand and gravel island at the tip of Spurn first appeared around 1234 and grew rapidly in size until a shipwreck prompted the men of Ravenser to investigate this new land. Dwellings were built from the wreck, and men settled on the island and began to trade with passing ships.

The settlement grew rapidly in size and importance, much to the dismay of Hull and Grimsby who objected strongly to trade being taken away from their ports. By the 1260s it had a mayor and later sent representatives to Parliament. The history of Odd is short however, after only 100 years the sea began to erode the island which it had created. Stories of the last days of Odd speak of bodies being washed from graves and the last villagers fleeing to the mainland. The island became the lair of pirates until it sank again beneath the waves around 1366.

Although all traces of many of the villages have vanished, you can still find places to visit to discover their fascinating history. Within Withernsea itself, the remains of the mere can be seen in the deep depression of the Valley Gardens. A short walk along the nearby promenade will bring you close to the remains of the twin churches of St Peter's, Owthorne and St Mary's, Withernsea. Looking out to sea, the ruins of St Peter's lie beneath the waters only 200 yards from the northernmost promenade steps to the beach. On the central promenade area, St Mary's lies further out to sea in line with the Valley Gardens.

Leaving Withernsea to adventure further by car, follow the B1242 towards Hornsea. Passing the now derelict Owthorne Mill on your right, turn off for the village of Rimswell and its church. For fifteen days men laboured at the grisly task of moving bodies from the stricken Owthorne churchyard to Rimswell churchyard. The graves of two brothers, Matthew and Henry Webster who died in 1780 and 1782 are two of those moved and still stand today. Funds from the

sale of property salvaged from St Peter's Owthorne was used to pay for a new church dedicated to St Mary at Rimswell in 1802. The church is built on stones believed to have come from the Owthorne church or collected from the beach after its spectacular fall into the sea.

Taking a trip from Withernsea in the other direction, along the coast road towards Spurn, take a brief stop at Easington Church. Two of the bells in the church here are said to have been salvaged from the doomed Ravenser church and the stone doorway was taken from Burstal Priory. Driving on to Kilnsea, a stop at the Blue Bell Inn makes it easy to imagine the reality of having the coastline creep closer and closer to your home. A plaque in the wall of the Inn tells that it was 534 yards from the sea when it was built in 1847. It is now less than 200 yards away. Venture down the single track road to Spurn Point (toll road in summer) and the reality of erosion is still more marked. Pause for a moment on the Narrows where both the sea and Humber can be seen at close quarters and experience the sheer force of nature and its impact on this place. Close to the end of the Point the site of the island of Ravenser Odd rose up, and fell again

beneath the waters. Spurn peninsula is moving westwards, losing ground to the sea side and gaining on the Humber side, so the sites of Ravenser and Ravenser Odd are now to the east of the point. Look towards the shipping lanes on the sea side, and imagine the last days of the great port of Ravenser Odd, when pirate ships rather than the modern mix of trawlers and freight carriers would lurk, waiting for the currents to allow them into the Humber. Leaving Spurn, return to Easington and take the B1445 towards Patrington. Stop to enjoy a pleasant walk along the Humber bank to visit a tranquil willow coppice which marks the site of Burstal Priory. Turn left in Skeffling onto Church Road, and then take Humber Lane, past the church to the car park. Walk ¼ mile along the Humber bank to your right, away from the pumping station. Back on the B1445, finish your trail at Welwick where a tomb salvaged from the ruined Priory now lies in the church.