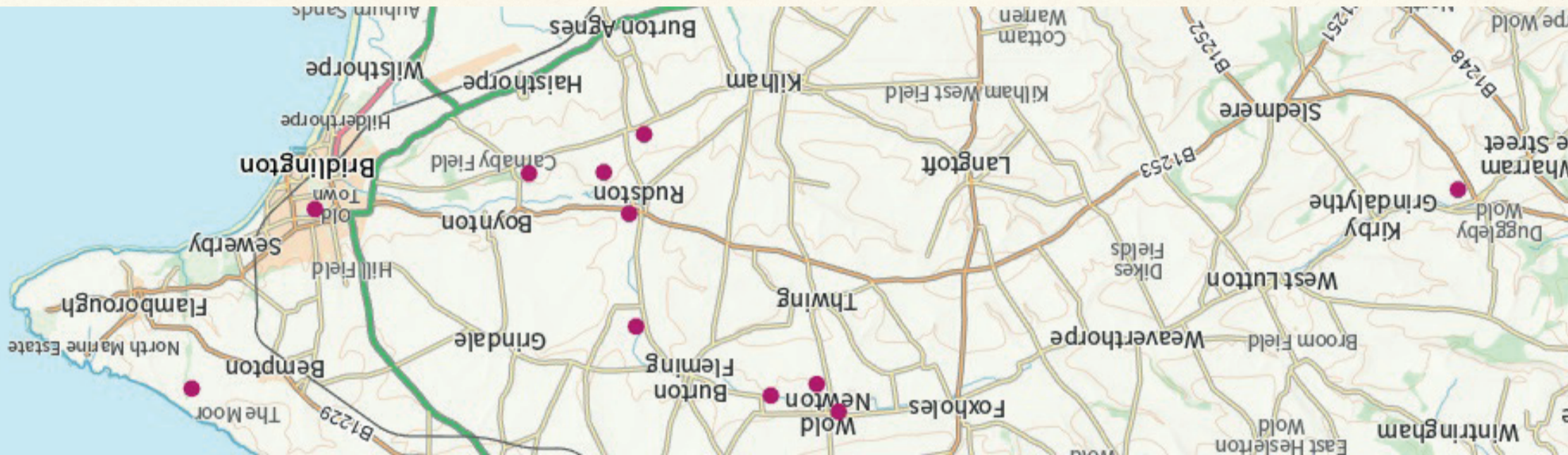




Follow the trail as it charts the course of the Gypsy Race from its source to the sea and highlights our prehistoric monuments which punctuate its route down the Great Wold Valley.

The Gypsy Race is the northern most of the chalk streams and the only water course on the high Wolds. It rises from a spring between Whartram-le-Street and Dugleby and flows steadily eastwards down the Great Wold Valley for over twenty miles to the sea at Bridlington. Because it flows on chalk, the Gypsy Race is a winterbourne stream which means it is intermittent, sometimes disappearing for miles only to reappear unexpectedly. Between West Lutton and Weaverthorpe the stream disappears underground and again at Butterwick; only from Burton Fleming onwards is the Gypsy Race a permanent feature in this magical landscape. This 'will-o'-the-wisp' quality of the water confers an air of mystery which our Neolithic and Bronze Age ancestors sought to celebrate. The stream was venerated, revered and honoured with many monuments purposely sited close by it thus creating a ritual landscape to memorialise those in the next life with ceremonial rites by the living.



Begin the trail at Dugleby Howe very close to the source of the Gypsy Race and the start of the Great Wold Valley in the Yorkshire Wolds.

These rolling hills and dry valleys are the northernmost chalklands in England laid down gradually over 65 million years ago. They are a distinct geological feature of East Riding of Yorkshire forming a crescent shape from the Humber sweeping up the county and then eastwards to terminate at Flamborough Head.

Leaving Dugleby Howe head towards Kirby Grindalythe on Low Road, the Gypsy Race flows just south of the road, onwards to West Lutton where it becomes intermittent until Foxholes and Wold Newton.

This village boasts the twin barrows known as Butt Hills and Wold Newton Mound, with Willy Howe only a short distance away on the road to Burton Fleming. The Gypsy Race changes course just after the village and heads south to Rudston past the sites of now disappeared monuments until it reaches the village where it changes again and heads east.

Rudston is the site of the 24' high monolith and other now disappeared monuments, by heading down Long Street to eventually alight on Woldgate. This ancient track re-purposed by the Romans is the site of several prehistoric monuments. The Gypsy Race is almost parallel just to the north as it heads for the sea at Bridlington Harbour over looked by Danes Dyke and the end of the trail.

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THE PREHISTORIC GYPSEY RACE TRAIL: East Riding of Yorkshire's Valley of the Kings



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DUGGLEBY HOWE

One of Yorkshire's most significant prehistoric monuments is Duggleby Howe. It is clearly visible from the road as it sits just east of the B1253 and just metres away from the Gypsey Race. The stream rises in fields between Wharram and Duggleby and begins to chart its course eastwards through the Great Wold Valley. Duggleby Howe is an impressive Neolithic round barrow from circa 3500BC which was found to have multiple interments and cremation burials within it indicating the mound was in use by successive generations. Modern archaeological techniques have revealed the barrow was enclosed by two circular ditches, a wide outer one some 370 metres in circumference with a smaller one around the mound itself.



BUTT HILLS, WOLD NEWTON

Butt Hills are a pair of Bronze Age bowl barrows visible in a field close to the pond in the middle of the village; the Gypsey Race flows south of the barrows. Butt Hills are so called to reflect their re-purposing as archery butts for Sunday target practise in the Medieval era. Surviving evidence of medieval strip fields in the village can be seen to go round, rather than under, the monuments showing that they predate the medieval field system and their use as archery butts.



WOLD NEWTON MOUND

Heading south towards Thwing lies one of the Wold Valley's 'big four' prehistoric monuments, Wold Newton Mound; the other three are Duggleby Howe, Willy Howe and Southside Mount. Often overlooked by its proximity to its more famous neighbour – Willy Howe, Wold Newton mound remains an impressive monument, even though the ditch that once surrounded it has now gone. Its presence underscores again the significance of the Great Wold Valley and the Gypsey Race as a prehistoric ritual landscape.



WILLY HOWE, WEST OF BURTON FLEMING

Continuing its course eastwards, the Gypsey Race heads towards Burton Fleming and at a bend in the road stands the magnificent Willy Howe, one of the valley's 'big four' prehistoric monuments. It is a Neolithic round barrow sited due south of the water course. Its prominence in the landscape has made it a target for prospectors and antiquarians for centuries and the scene of folkloric legends; it bears the scars of these excavations. Sadly, despite having been investigated several times in the 19th century, there are no surviving finds from the monument.



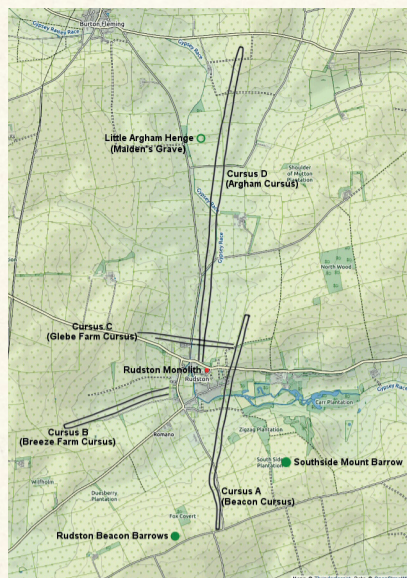
MAIDEN'S GRAVE/LITTLE ARGHAM HENGE MONUMENT

At Burton Fleming, the Gypsey Race makes a dramatic right turn and heads south to Rudston. Following the same course, mid-way between the villages lies Maiden's Grave, a late Neolithic henge monument. Invisible at ground level due to plough damage, from the air a circular earthwork of bank and ditch with two opposed entrance points is clearly discernible as a cropmark. The site is very close to the Gypsey Race underscoring the continued ritual significance of the stream and the Great Wold Valley to successive generations during prehistory.



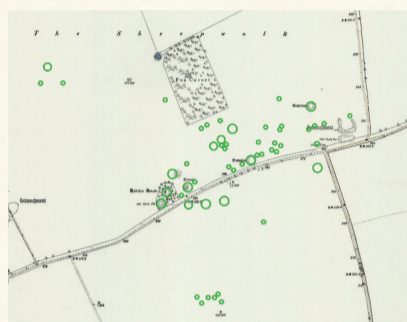
RUDSTON MONOLITH, LATE NEOLITHIC-BRONZE AGE STANDING STONE

Standing to a height of over 24 feet and with an estimated weight of 40 tons, Rudston Monolith, in what is now All Saints churchyard, is the largest single standing stone in England. The monolith is only a short distance from the Gypsey Race where it makes its second dramatic turn, this time eastwards. Made of gritstone, the nearest source for the rock is Cayton Bay, about 10 miles to the north, although it may have been deposited far closer to Rudston by the actions of glaciers in the last ice age. The decision by the Normans to build Rudston Church next to the Monolith underscores the site's original ritual and ceremonial significance.



THE FOUR NEOLITHIC CURSUS MONUMENTS

The exact function of the four cursus monuments which cross or converge at Rudston is unknown. They predate many of the round barrows, henges and square barrow cemeteries which cover the Great Wold Valley. Today, only visible as crop marks, Cursus monuments consist of a pair of linear ditches with internal banks and closed ends. Their name originates from the 18th century when they were thought to be ancient racetracks. It has been suggested that they may have formed processional or ceremonial routeways. They would certainly have been significant features in the prehistoric landscape. Of the four cursus monuments it is only possible to identify both ends of two, Cursus A and Cursus D.



RUDSTON BEACON CEMETERY

High on the Wold overlooking Rudston to the north and Burton Agnes to the south lies the vestiges of what was an impressive barrow cemetery. Most of the monuments visible on the 1890 OS map have been ploughed out, but two remain discernible just north of Woldgate. Also visible on the map are the earthworks of the southern terminus of Cursus A (Beacon Cursus) monument.



SOUTHSIDE MOUNT, RUDSTON-BOYNTON

In between Woldgate and the Gypsey Race, east of Zigzag Plantation, lies Southside Mount, the eastern-most of the valley's 'big four' barrows. Dating evidence for this mound is not conclusive and a Neolithic or Bronze Age date is possible. The range of grave goods excavated here reveal the barrow's continued use as funerary site over many centuries. 19th century antiquarians found cremated interments as well as crouched inhumations with flint implements and Bronze Age pottery; towards the top of the mound were found five male corpses from the Anglo Saxon period.



SANDS WOOD MOUND, BOYNTON

Located in the west end of Sands Wood on Woldgate stands a late Neolithic or Bronze Age bowl barrow and a largely infilled ditch with a berm in between. The barrow shows no signs of excavation attempts and remains upstanding with no plough damage. The Gypsey Race flows to the north of the barrow as in heads to the sea at Bridlington harbour.



BUTT HILLS, BRIDLINGTON

In the playing field of East Riding College are what survives of two Neolithic-Bronze Age bowl barrows. They are known locally as Butt Hills which may reflect their medieval re-purposing as targets for archery practice. There is a vestigial ditch encircling one of the barrows visible as a slight depression in the ground.



DANES DYKE, SEWERBY-FLAMBOROUGH

The Gypsey Race flows into the sea at Bridlington harbour but just to the north is the monumental bank and ditch earthwork known as Danes Dyke, seen at its best to the north of Flamborough Road. It is thought to date from the Bronze Age serving as linear boundary marker – there are many such markers across the Wolds; the steep bank effectively cuts Flamborough village off from the rest of the promontory. Its name suggests a Viking association and it may be that it was re-purposed in the 8th-9th centuries as a defensive earthwork.

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