

County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

23 April 2018

**Executive**

A meeting of the Executive will be held on **Tuesday, 1 May 2018** in **Committee Room One, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL** at **10.30 am** for the transaction of business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely



Richard Wills  
Head of Paid Service

**Membership of the Executive**  
**(8 Members of the Council)**

Councillor M J Hill OBE, Executive Councillor for Resources and Communications (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services (Deputy Leader)

Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for Economy and Place

Councillor R G Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT

Councillor E J Poll, Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management

Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement

Councillor C N Worth, Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services

Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management



**EXECUTIVE AGENDA  
TUESDAY, 1 MAY 2018**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Forward Plan Decision Reference</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>		
2	<b>Declarations of Councillors' Interests</b>		
3	<b>Announcements by the Leader, Executive Councillors and Executive Directors</b>		
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 4 April 2018</b>		5 - 8

**KEY DECISIONS - ITEMS TO BE RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE**

5	<b>Corporate Support Services re-provision</b> <i>(To receive a report from the Executive Director of Children's Services, which summarises the work done to date in reviewing the way forward for those services delivered by Serco under the Corporate Support Services contract when the initial term expires at the end of March 2020. The report recommends a way forward)</i>	<b>I015576</b>	9 - 52
6	<b>Formal Adoption of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023</b> <i>(To receive a report from the Executive Director of Environment and Economy, which notes the outcome of the review of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2013-2018 and the changes proposed to the Plan as set out in the report. The report also invites the Executive to formally adopt the document attached at Appendix A, which incorporates the said changes as the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023)</i>	<b>I015013</b>	53 - 276

**NON KEY DECISIONS - ITEMS TO BE RESOLVED BY  
THE EXECUTIVE**

- 7 NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan**  
*(To receive a report from the Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Paid Service, which clarifies the County Council's relationship at this time with the NHS in Lincolnshire, both in terms of the services that are already delivered in partnership and the ongoing transformation and integration of health and care. In particular, the report sets out the current position with respect to the County Council's role in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan)*

**I015711**

277 - 288

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**Please Note:** for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

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**EXECUTIVE  
4 APRIL 2018**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M J HILL OBE (LEADER OF THE COUNCIL)**

Councillors Mrs P A Bradwell (Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services) (Deputy Leader), C J Davie (Executive Councillor for Economy and Place), R G Davies (Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT), Mrs S Woolley (Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement) and C N Worth (Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services)

Councillors: R D Butroid (Executive Support Councillor for Community Safety and People Management), R B Parker (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board) and A H Turner MBE JP (Executive Support Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management) were also in attendance.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director, Children's Services), Bev Finnegan (Programme Manager), Glen Garrod (Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing), Cheryl Hall (Democratic Services Officer), Nicole Hilton (Chief Community Engagement Officer), Pete Moore (Executive Director, Finance and Public Protection), Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer) and Richard Wills (Head of Paid Service and Executive Director, Environment and Economy).

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E J Poll (Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management) and B Young (Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management).

67 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests at this point in the meeting.

68 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection was pleased to announce that Mark Conway, an employee of Lincolnshire County Council, would be competing in the para-triathlon events at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia for Team England. The Executive requested that its best wishes for Mark be recorded.

69 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 6 MARCH 2018

## RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 6 March 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

70 DRAFT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018 - 2023

Consideration was given to a report from Richard Wills (Executive Director for Environment and Economy), which presented a Draft Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2023 which outlined plans on how Lincolnshire County Council would engage over the next five years.

The Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement presented the report to the Executive and in doing so invited the Chief Community Engagement Officer to provide an overview of the work of the Community Engagement Team.

As part of the overview it was confirmed that the local county councillor/s would be notified of any community engagement events taking place within their electoral division. Further to this, it was suggested that the Community Engagement Team should promote the work of its Team with County Councillors so that they gained an understanding of the support that was on offer.

The Chief Community Engagement Officer in presenting the Draft Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2023 advised that the draft strategy had been co-produced following a workshop with sixteen councillors and based on their feedback. The draft strategy included aims, objectives, commitments and an action plan to ensure it provided context and influenced real change.

It was highlighted that the report sought support from the Executive to amend the Community Engagement Policy to reflect the Strategy so that all teams carrying out engagement activity and consultation must approach the Community Engagement Team for guidance and support. Further to this, it was confirmed that a member of the Community Engagement Team could be made available for high profile community engagement events to offer support, if required.

In response to a question, the Executive was advised that there was a single point of contact within the Community Engagement Team for parish and town councils, including representatives of Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee had considered a report concerning the Draft Engagement Strategy 2018-2023 at its meeting on 13 March 2018. The Committee agreed to support the recommendation to the Executive.

The Executive supported the work of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee in committing to reviewing the activity of the Community Engagement Team at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the draft Engagement Strategy, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be recommended for approval by the County Council and adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- (2) That support be given to an amendment to the Community Engagement Policy to reflect the Strategy that all teams carrying out engagement activity and consultation must approach the Community Engagement Team.
- (3) That the work of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee in reviewing the activity of the Community Engagement Team be noted and supported.

The meeting closed at 11.15 am.

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**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>01 May 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Corporate Support Services re-provision</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I015576</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

This report summarises the work done to date in reviewing the way forward for those services delivered by Serco under the Corporate Support Services contract when the initial term expires at the end of March 2020. The report recommends a way forward.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive;

- (i) Notes the report
- (ii) Approves the entering into of a shared service arrangement under section 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 for the exercise by Herefordshire County Council or, as the case may be, the executive of Herefordshire County Council of the Council's payroll and People Management Administration function from 1 April 2020; and
- (iii) Approves the entering into of a public-public co-operation with Herefordshire County Council to provide access to Hoople Limited's Business World ERP for LCC's Finance function, accountancy, financial, administration and Adult Care Finance services from the 1 April 2020.
- (iv) Delegates to the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management authority

to take all decisions necessary to ensure the entering into of the above shared service arrangements described in (ii) and (iii) to include the entering into of the shared service agreement itself and delivery of services from the 1 April 2020 but only once the requirements of paragraph 40 of the Report have been met.

- (v) Approves the carrying out of market engagement and all ancillary activity with IT providers.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Decide to commence a repeat procurement for another Business Process Outsourcing contract. This would enable much of the work done on the Serco procurement to be re-used having been revised to update/make improvements. That would reduce the cost of re-provision and repeat a procurement procedure that the Council is familiar with. However that would require the continued use of a model which is falling out of favour with Councils and providers alike and which has not always delivered across all service streams.
2. Decide now not to award a contract or enter into a shared service arrangement and in-source all of the services – this would enable the Council to take more control of the day to day delivery of the services but would require the insourcing of staff on what are primarily back office support services potentially diverting resource and attention away from front line services. It would also pass the employment, service delivery and cost risk back to the Council. This raises the Council's risk profile particularly in the more complex service areas, Payroll and IT, where the Council has limited experience to mitigate that risk and where experienced employees are hard to recruit and where other providers such as the shared service referred to may be better positioned to manage that risk.
3. Identify a re-commissioning strategy that divides up the services differently from Payroll/PM Administration; IT and the other services. This would allow more flexibility and therefore less reliance on a few providers. But it would not make the best of the available providers, would probably mean that the service bundle would be too small to encourage Serco or other providers to bid, would increase fragmentation and contract management costs.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Council has undergone a thorough review of the current contract performance and the commercial and shared service markets to identify the source of expert provision in those areas where performance has not always been

strong.

In the case of Payroll and PM Administration much of the necessary due diligence has been completed and it is anticipated that it should be possible to come to a good value arrangement with a provider whose core business is local authority payroll, increasing confidence in both the payroll system and service whilst enabling us to retain Business World On (formerly known as Agresso) as the Council's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

In terms of IT, whilst there are frameworks in place with providers who will be able to meet the Council's requirements the Council needs further information through market engagement before it can decide whether to go down the procurement route.

In terms of the other services (i.e. not payroll and IT) no decision needs to be made imminently because in broad terms given the extent of the external market (outside of a business process outsourcing contract) the choice available to the Council is likely to be an extension of the existing contract with Serco or an in-sourcing, both of which would secure on-going local service delivery. Either of these options have a shorter lead in time than entering into arrangements with a provider other than Serco. The Council will have more information upon which to decide the way forward in the summer when we will understand Serco terms for an extension and when we have seen how Serco has continued to perform.

## **Background**

### **General**

1. On 21 March 2014 the Council entered into a contract with Serco Limited for a range of back-office services. The price offered by Serco was competitive and at the time equated to savings of nearly £10m or 16% budget savings over the 5 year term across IT, People Management (PM) and Finance with a further circa £5m (or 26%) in respect of the CSC. These savings are priced into the contract rates paid by the Council. Serco's margins were low.
2. Serco commenced service delivery on 1 April 2015 for 5 years. The services covered are People Management including Payroll; Financial Administration including Adult Care income collection and assessment; CSC Services and IT Services. Under its contract with the Council Serco is required to provide PM professional advice and administration, Payroll and IT to those maintained schools who wish to buy the services. Additionally Serco supports the Council's financial services offer to schools by providing the necessary financial administration.

3. It became clear that Serco very significantly underestimated its costs of delivering the service and it made an onerous contract provision in respect of the Lincolnshire contract in the sum of £34m over the first five years of the contract in 2015/16. Much of that overspend has been on transformation work being under budgeted and an under-resourced staffing model overestimating Business World On's ability to reduce activity, the Council's delayed implementation of Mosaic (anticipated to be in place by December 2014) and a failure to understand this was a second generation outsourcing where efficiencies had already been made. As a result whom-ever the future provider, the cost of service provision is likely to go up.
4. As part of its solution Serco adopted Business World On as an integrated financial and people management system or ERP system. Serco contracted with Unit 4 - developer/owner of the software - to implement the system and as part of its bid price Serco has purchased Business World On licences for the Council's use in the Council's name throughout and after the contract for a total period of 25 years. It is the implementation of Business World On that has been the biggest single issue in the contract to date. See paragraphs 25 to 29 below for a further discussion of this.
5. The Council is past the mid -way point of the initial 5 years in its corporate support services contract with Serco which will expire on the 31 March 2020 if not extended (by up to two years in the first instance and then potentially by a further two years). The Council must issue a notice of extension to Serco no later than the 30 March 2019 if it wishes to extend the contract.
6. Should the Council wish to extend then Serco will set the terms on which they would be prepared to extend. Without Serco's agreement there can be no extension. Serco have indicated that they would be keen to extend in the right circumstances. Local government continues to be a chosen market and for the future Serco would like Lincolnshire to be a reference site. It would be possible for the Council to extend all or some of the services currently delivered. It would also be possible for additional services to be added so long as they were within the original scope of the contract notice. Serco has been asked to price an extension but in any event the Council must consider its alternatives as either it or Serco may not wish to extend or be able to agree the terms of an extension.
7. Realistically decisions must be taken sooner than the 31 March 2019 because the lead in time to other arrangements including the transition from one provider to another will be long when third parties are involved. As a consequence work looking at future options is underway. That has included looking at Serco's performance under the contract, reviewing the possibility of procuring another Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Contract and looking at the alternatives to another BPO. There has been particular focus on the

payroll function and IT being the areas which have given most cause for concern.

8. A programme board has been set up to deliver the further development and implementation work required. Debbie Barnes is the Sponsoring Director with Andrew McLean acting as the Chief Commissioning Officer. Service Leads lead projects in their service area and report regularly to the Board. The Sponsoring Director and Chief Commissioning Officer will report as required to the Sounding Board consisting of the Leader and relevant Executive Councillors. The Commercial Team will provide the necessary project management support and external advice will be procured as required.

## **Performance**

### *Overview*

9. The first year of operations (April 2015-March 2016) was particularly difficult because the implementation of the Council's ERP, Business World On did not go as well as expected. The Council and schools were left without timely, accurate and complete financial records and with significant problems paying suppliers and staff. Business World On is used for different functions across the Council. The main function is to maintain the ledger so the Council can account for its spending in accordance with strict accounting and reporting rules. The ERP also includes payroll functionality.
10. Business World On has been improved over the last couple of years and successfully upgraded so that it is able to operate payroll with 18/19 HMRC changes but it is still not user friendly; relies too heavily for payroll on manual work arounds and continues to struggle with the demands of year-end. A lack of proper commitment accounting remains an issue. The issues go back to the implementation and cannot be easily remedied. See paragraphs 25 to 29 below for further information.
11. Elements of the IT and CSC transformation are delayed these include Telephone Enablement (Upgrade), Identity Management and channel shift. The scale of payroll errors is such that a project has been set up to review all 3 payrolls (Fire, Schools, Corporate).
12. In broad terms the PM professional advisory services are and have been good throughout the contract; the CSC performs and works well with the Council with the issue of abandoned calls being resolved in October 2017. The relationship with and delivery of Adult Care Finance and Finance services is now generally good and better than delivered by the previous provider. The Council is working well with Serco on Mosaic and the recruitment service has been redesigned. As a result the dropout rates during the job application process has decreased. Effective systems are now in place to reduce the likelihood of duplicate payments.

13. In spite of notable failures to deliver on IT related projects there has been significant IT project delivery. As at December 2017, 154 projects had been delivered out of a possible 309 and 100 more were active and in the delivery process. The IT estate is in a better place now than it was in 2015 in terms of email security, Web browsing security and resilience.

#### *KPIs*

14. The contract has 41 Key Performance Indicators which are measured monthly and together cover most of Serco's service delivery. They are challenging and where directly comparable, require the same level or better performance than that previously delivered. The intention was that Serco would have to work hard to meet them and as a result it was expected that Serco might not meet all of them all of the time. The contract provides for a total of 1000 abatement points to be distributed amongst the Key Performance Indicators, with each KPI generally attracting between 10-50 points. These points translate into service deductions from the monthly payment to Serco for delivering the services.
15. In the first two years of the contract performance as measured against the Key Performance Indicators was poor and as a result service deductions in excess of £2million over this time were made from Serco's contract payment. The continuing lack of performance was subject to regular scrutiny by the Council through the Value for Money Committee and subsequently through Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. This coupled with Serco's remedial plan over time has resulted in a successful recovery.
16. Performance against the Key Performance Indicators has been strong since October 2017 culminating in no service credits in January 2018. In February only one Key Performance Indicator failed to meet its target service level extending the period of stable performance. Table 1 below shows the number of abatement points accrued since the start of the contract to February 2018.

#### *Market Alternatives to an Extension of the Contract*

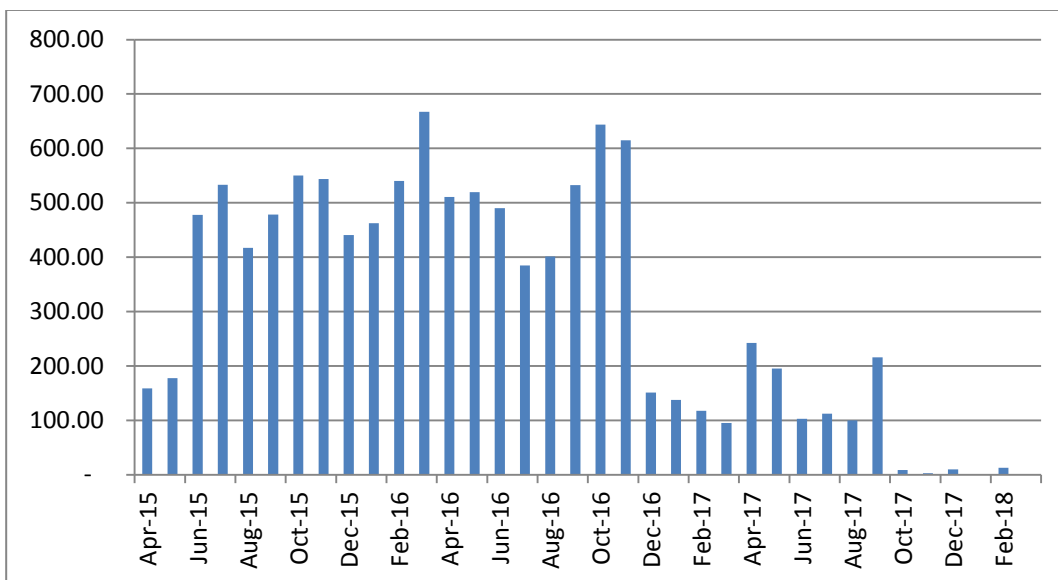
##### *Business Process Outsourcing Contracts*

17. The annual Arvato report analysed all outsourcing contracts procured in local government during 2016. It shows a big increase in outsourcing in IT and Digital Transformation and a move away from the business process outsourcing and/ or back office support services like the contract with Serco.
18. Similarly a market review by Ashford's has indicated that the large business process outsourcing contracts are decreasing because of (i) a mismatch of expectation-local authorities have selected providers mainly on price where the providers are concerned with generating profit and (ii) the large public

sector providers are becoming less financially secure in the face of their customers' austerity. It is of note that the big outsourcers G4S, Capita and Serco share prices have all fallen since 2013 see Table 2 below. Carillion has recently gone into liquidation.

19. Increasingly, local authorities are not extending their BPO contracts and, in some cases, the authorities have terminated contracts early (e.g. Somerset, Essex) and in other cases, providers are choosing not to extend the contract (e.g. BT and South Tyneside Council). In the CSC market, Capita chose not to join the Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) new Framework (2017). Serco has restructured because of less local government business and in December 2017, BT opted not to extend its 10 year shared service in South Tyneside except for IT services as its core business.

**Table 1 Abatement Points**



**Table 2 Outsourcer's Share Price**

Company	Share price in pence April 2018	Share price in pence April 2013
Capita plc	138	880
G4S plc	249	297
Interserve plc	119	355
Kier Group plc	1,093	1,256
Serco Group plc	102	355

20. A benefit of the big outsourcing contracts used to be that the Council could transfer the operational and financial risk of delivering activity to the outsourcer. As Carillion demonstrates the limit of risk transfer is only up to the value of the balance sheet of the outsourcing company.
21. For the above reasons it would be better not to re-procure on the same business process outsourcing model but instead proceed on a multiple provider model to achieve the required performance standards.

#### *Insourcing*

22. The Council is a Commissioning Council. Whilst it does not follow that the Council is keen to outsource all of its activity it is not primarily a deliverer of back office services. Consequently a decision must be taken on a case by case basis as to whether or not to deliver services from within or outside the Council on contract expiry. This will depend to a large extent on whether other providers are available, the type of service required and the Council's service delivery experience. Commissioning guidelines used in 2012 indicated services of a primarily transactional/standard professional and routine advisory nature, rather than of a transformational nature, could be outsourced.
23. Conversely insourcing make more sense for those activities which would increase the Council's strategic capability; or where savings could be had or where it is necessary to make up for market deficiency.
24. The areas which have caused the most difficulty have been the ERP system, the payroll function and IT. These are looked at in more detail below.

#### *Business World On (formerly known as Agresso)*

25. In the light of ongoing difficulties UNIT4 has undertaken a systematic review of the Council's current deployment of Business World On. In addition, an independent Business Consultant has reviewed the payroll issues and traced their root causes. These include poor configuration of the PM/Payroll system; poor quality data held within the system; lack of experience of Business World On; overly complex legacy pay arrangements; user input issues triggering errors later in the process and a lack of payroll expertise during the first 2 years of the contract. There was little evidence to suggest a fundamental weakness in Business World On itself.
26. UNIT4 say they have improved Business World On with each milestone release and that their build methodology and revised partner network ensure a more uniform approach to the build process which is where it went wrong for the Council. The City of Wolverhampton is happy with Milestone 6 as are Hoople Limited which delivers Herefordshire County Council's payroll. Whilst



there are still only a few councils using Business World On to deliver their PM/Payroll, UNIT4 report increasing public sector business which is encouraging.

27. Business World On configuration issues in Lincolnshire cannot easily be fixed by undertaking iterative fixes in a live environment because of the risk of harm to the live payroll. There is doubt that all the current issues can be remedied as some of the issues are core system components that become increasingly difficult to resolve the longer the system remains live. As a result a fundamental rebuild from scratch is the only effective solution to continue to use the Council's version of Business World On allowing us to use the existing Council build to deliver payroll until the new build has been through its acceptance tests It is a significant undertaking and neither Serco nor the Council are experienced or well placed to carry it out.
28. An alternative is to retain Business World On for the finance function replacing only the payroll system. But this would still require a re-build so that the Finance system became a separate standalone accounting system and it would lose the benefits of an ERP. An interface transferring the payroll data into the accounting system would need to be built and this is unproven, untested, technically risky, and probably expensive. So separating the two systems is not an attractive option.
29. The Council would usually expect its ERP to last over 20 years but it could choose to replace Business World On with another ERP. However the larger systems such as SAP and Oracle are too complex and expensive. Business World On is the only smaller ERP built with the public sector in mind. As a result there is no obvious replacement ERP. Further, investment in Business World On has been significant both in officer time and money. The Council is getting used to the system. The expert technical advice is that it can be made fit for purpose and it is used elsewhere successfully. A further significant system change with its attendant risks would impact adversely on the Council's business and resources. The preferred position therefore would be to retain Business World On if the Council is able to get access to a better build.
30. At the same time it is clear that in addition to system problems, payroll issues have also arisen because of a lack of experienced local government payroll capacity. The Council itself has very limited payroll expertise as the service has been outsourced for 18 years. Local government payroll is a complex and highly specialised service. Public sector payroll experts are in short supply. In the above circumstances the best way forward is to find a payroll provider whose core business it is to process local government payroll. Ideally itself using Business World On so that a rebuild of the current system i.e.

Lincolnshire's Business World On maintained by Serco becomes unnecessary.

#### *Payroll and PM Administration Services*

31. PM Administration is very closely related to payroll. Operational teams are either integrated or work very closely together. Payroll systems also offer PM Administration functionality.
32. A review of the market identified that there were no private sector providers of local government Payroll/PM Administration outside of the big business process outsourcing contracts like the Council's contract with Serco. The only expertise available is within a shared service arrangement with local government. This offers an established, experienced and resilient pooled resource; using a mature system they are familiar with and presenting an opportunity to secure both services and a system without undertaking procurement.
33. Two viable shared service partners were identified including Herefordshire County Council through Hoople Limited. (A third was discounted because of an imminent system change). Due diligence activities have been carried out comprising of site visits by key Council officers, as well as scenario based questions, inspection of audit reports, and review of Information Governance and IT management arrangements. All supported by Jason Davenport a payroll expert commissioned by the Council to provide specialist knowledge and support.
34. Jason Davenport has advised that based on the reviews undertaken, the reference calls conducted, and the responses received to the scenario testing, he strongly recommended Herefordshire County Council's Hoople as the partner to take forward for payroll services. A risk assessment of Herefordshire County Council's Hoople focussed solely on payroll considerations is attached at Appendix A. This scored Herefordshire County Council's Hoople most highly of the 3 potential partners considered.
35. Further, from the due diligence carried out to date PM and Finance supported by the Council's external payroll expert are satisfied that Herefordshire County Council (Hoople's) Business World On system can support the Council's Finance and PM/Payroll functions, if configured correctly. Fortunately, Hoople has developed significant internal expertise in relation to the configuration of Business World On and have experience in managing it on behalf of others. For the above reasons on the work carried out to date a shared service arrangement with Herefordshire County Council giving access to Hoople's payroll and PM administration expertise and a public-public collaboration with Herefordshire for access to the Hoople Business World On system is the Council's preferred solution.

## *Hoople Limited*

36. If the Council enters into a shared service arrangement with Herefordshire, then Herefordshire would fulfil its role within that arrangement through a contract with Hoople Limited Herefordshire County Council's Teckal company. It provides payroll and PM administration services to Herefordshire County Council, Wye Valley NHS Trust and Rutland Council. Herefordshire County Council's Hoople operate with very low error rates and is experienced in a number of the Council's current payrolls. Its processes are efficient and effective so few errors are made. Jason Davenport has confirmed that Hoople could deliver a safe payroll, so long as the necessary data cleansing is completed and the configuration of the systems is correct at the point of go-live. The audit reports carried out by Herefordshire County Council on Hoople identified some early issues with the payroll control environment in 2015/16 and 2016/17. As a result Hoople changed the payroll management arrangements. In a 2017/18 follow up audit all but one of the recommended actions had been completed and the overall level of assurance for payroll was 'Reasonable'.
37. Hoople's IT and Information Governance arrangements have been reviewed by the Councils IT department and no issues have been raised, providing the Council with assurance that Hoople is technically able to run the Council's payroll system.
38. Herefordshire County Council and Hoople are keen to partner with the Council. An indicative cost has been provided which is in the same ball park as the Serco charges once adjusted. Detailed design workshops have been set up for May to develop the technical work streams following which the Council will negotiate a shared service agreement with Herefordshire County Council. That negotiation will include a discussion about the possibility of locating transferring Serco staff in County Offices. We will also discuss how the Fire Service Payroll will be managed as Herefordshire County Council's Hoople has limited experience of delivering this payroll. It may be therefore, that the terms and conditions input is maintained and delivered within Lincolnshire County Council. This would require local onsite Payroll and PM Administration expertise.
39. It should be noted that currently the Council decides the configuration and future direction of its build of Business World On. If the Council were to partner for payroll with Herefordshire County Council via Hoople any changes to the Hoople standard build to accommodate the Council's existing processes would have to be agreed by Hoople.
40. The impact of this will be explored in the design workshops in May and it is possible that significant and material issues will be discovered which might

question whether Hoople's Business World On can meet Lincolnshire's needs either because it does not meet regulatory or good practice requirements, or because of the scale of change required to our existing processes. As Hoople's main customer is Herefordshire County Council who has to abide by the same strict financial regulations as the Council it is hoped that this is not the case. However no commitment can be made in respect of the shared service until this further due diligence has been completed and reasonable shared service terms have been agreed.

41. The shared service will take the form of the Council arranging for the exercise of its payroll function by Herefordshire County Council. As the delivery of payroll is an executive function within the County Council the decision whether to make such arrangements lies with the Executive. It is expected that payroll will be an executive function for Herefordshire as well and so the Council will arrange for those functions to be exercised by Herefordshire County Council's Executive. Such an arrangement is a strong form of public-public partnership involving the Executive delegating its functions and therefore its decision-making and discretions in relation to the payroll service to Herefordshire County Council.
42. There is much to be done ahead of any transfer of function to Herefordshire County Council including the need for data cleansing, system configuration/work arounds to the current Council build, process improvements including documenting a payroll specification and the new Hoople build. This will require close collaboration between Serco, Herefordshire, Hoople, UNIT4, the Council and its advisers. Serco has already provided assurance that it will support the Council. Because of the long lead in time that work must start now. Additionally the Council will want to review its in-house expertise in Payroll and PM Administration to ensure it can provide effective management including a quality control function of the shared service arrangements. This may need to be recruited to.
43. To avoid multiple payroll providers (potentially up to 200) having access to the Council's bank and feeding into the general ledger and PM Administration system Herefordshire recognise that the payroll and PM Administration partnering solution would also have to be extended to maintained schools. This is not an issue for them as they currently deliver schools payroll and PM administration.

*IT*

44. In addition to the issues experienced with Business World On, the Council has experienced some dissatisfaction with the IT service received from Serco to date in particular the delivery of transformation activity has been slow and user experience has not been good.

45. There are non-Serco factors which are relevant to the IT problems being experienced such as the lack of investment/improvement in the Council's infrastructure pre 2015, the lack of integration between business need and IT strategy, legacy applications which are being used in a way that they were not designed and insufficient Council IT resource for assurance and contract management. However Serco's performance is also a factor.
46. Market research has shown that IT is the one service area of the existing corporate support services contract where there is a market for IT services with well - developed service delivery models. There is the possibility therefore that the Council could benefit from this through an improved service from a specialist IT provider, compared to Serco a larger multi-service supplier.
47. These IT providers can be accessed through suitable Crown Commercial Service procurement frameworks which are available to the Council. This will reduce procurement time. Providers are willing to bid on the framework terms and conditions. They will not bid for work on terms they are not comfortable with and this means the Council would need to structure its requirements in a way which was attractive to the market.
48. The advice received is that the Council could see a reduction in onsite capacity with more delivery and maintenance occurring remotely. This would result in a loss in knowledge about the local infrastructure. The indication is that framework providers would also require the Council to plan and commission projects well in advance (at least 30 days) and provide Council approvals within tightly defined time periods. It might be possible to mitigate these potential difficulties and this could be raised in market engagement.
49. There are two IT service models multi-sourcing and a single supplier. Multi-sourcing is where 'best of breed' suppliers are engaged directly by the Council for different towers of service, e.g. network, storage, support desk etc. The Council would commission and co-ordinate the work from these providers and contract manage each of them. This service integration function is more complex when dealing with multiple projects with several technological or business interdependencies, and where each project is competing for resources from each tower. Co-ordinating this function will require a larger client function. In contrast in a single supplier model a single supplier is responsible for the 'Cross Tower Services' function and has responsibility for delivering all of the services that sit in the 'Towers'. The multi-sourcing approach takes longer to achieve as it has to be phased in over the various towers.

50. The Council believes that the only procurement model achievable to enable a service transition by April 2020 is the single supplier model but it would be helpful to test this further in discussion with suppliers. There are other considerations, for example the migration of servers from Orchard House to Sungard is nearing completion and there is no wish to move these servers again in the short term. It is unclear at the moment what impact this would have on market interest. In short little further progress can be made without detailed market engagement to better understand the acceptable contract terms, model, service towers and general level of interest.

*Customer Services Centre, Finance and PM services*

51. People Management, Exchequer Services and much of Adult Care Finance and Assessments has been outsourced for 18 years. The Customer Services Centre was outsourced in 2015. Service delivery in these areas in general terms is good. Market research has shown that in the absence of a large Business Processing Outsourcing contract there are no experienced local government providers of these services in the market. In some service areas there may be some scope for shared service arrangements but there is nothing very much already established that would give confidence. Instead the viable options would seem to be an extension of the contract with Serco or an insourcing. It is likely that a combination of all of these services together would be of a sufficient scale for Serco to agree to extend. Anything less would probably not be.
52. The services need to be in experienced hands (this may favour Serco over the Council, though TUPE would apply) and/or local because;
- the Customer Service Centre services are more complex than most and CSC employees are usually a citizen's first point of contact with the Council;
  - understanding the locality and local Adult Care policies is necessary as is the ability to carry out home visits to complete financial assessments. The service is key to managing Adult Care spend and is specialised and complex.
53. The lead in time for an insourcing is shorter and so no decision needs to be made on these services for some time. The better approach is to see whether Serco continue to improve on performance and what the nature of an extension with Serco might look like before taking any decisions. With this in mind the recommended approach is to bring a further report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Executive reporting on progress in the late summer.

## **Legal Issues:**

### **Procurement Considerations**

Under Regulation 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Council has the power to enter into a public-public collaboration with another local authority without being caught by procurement law where:-

- The arrangement implements a co-operation between the two authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;
- The implementation of the co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and
- The two authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned in the co-operation.

In this case the co-operation between authorities occurs in a context where there is no market for local authority payroll provision or local authority financial administration which is particularly complex and specialist. A co-operation with another local authority in principle achieves a common public interest objective of helping to secure the availability and sustainability of specialist local authority payroll and financial recording provision to secure the payment by the Councils of the staff that they have to employ to fulfil their functions and the proper maintenance of each Council's financial records.

The use of a delegation of function under section 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000 is a strong form of public-public co-operation with Herefordshire County Council taking on the exercise of the Council's function. This goes beyond a simple service delivery model and is a form of co-operation which can only be undertaken by public bodies. It is considered that the Council can rely on Regulation 12 in these circumstances and this will be kept under review to ensure that the detailed implementation of a shared service arrangement continues to meet these requirements.

### **Equality Act 2010**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- \* Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- \* Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- \* Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected

characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- \* Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- \* Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- \* Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

An Impact Analysis is attached at Appendix C and identifies the potential for some impact on persons with a protected characteristic in the case of any transfer of employment. The mitigating factors are set out in the impact analysis and relate to channels of communication. The analysis results in a number of actions for the Council as set out in Appendix C. The Impact Analysis and the conclusions drawn from it will be kept under review so that as issues arise any potential for differential impact can be mitigated.

The legal duty is simply to have due regard to the need to advance equality and as a consequence so long as the Executive carefully consider the Impact Analysis at



Appendix C it is entitled to adopt the recommendations or one of the alternatives considered.

## **Best Value**

The Local Government Act 1999 imposes a “best value duty” on the Council. This creates two legal obligations on the Council. Firstly;

"A best value authority must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness."

Consequently, when making its decision the Executive is under a legal duty to consider which option best secures continuous improvement bearing in mind that the commissioning approach commended is to secure improved performance in Payroll and PM Administration rather than to secure savings.

Secondly for the purpose of deciding how to fulfil the duty an authority must consult;

- (i) Representatives of persons liable to pay any tax, precept or levy to or in respect of the authority,
- (ii) Representatives of persons liable to pay non-domestic rates in respect of any area within which the authority carries out functions,
- (iii) Representatives of persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority, and
- (iv) Representatives of persons appearing to the authority to have an interest in any area within which the authority carries out functions.

In deciding how to fulfil the best value duty; who to consult and the form, content and timing of consultations an authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The most recent guidance was issued in September 2011. The passage relating to consultation reads:

“To achieve the right balance – and before deciding how to fulfil their Best Value Duty – authorities are under a Duty to Consult representatives of a wide range of local persons; this is not optional. Authorities must consult representatives of council tax payers, those who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority, and those appearing to the authority to have an interest in any area within which the authority carries out functions. Authorities should include local voluntary and community organisations and small businesses in such consultation. This should apply at all stages of the commissioning cycle, including when considering the decommissioning of services.”

There is case law that states that consultation should be on high-level choices about how, as a matter of principle and approach, an authority goes about

performing its functions and that it would include a major outsourcing. In these circumstances the Council has not consulted on the possible re-provision of the Payroll and PM Administration service as this at most is simply a change in the way a small back office service area of little relevance to citizens and council tax payers is arranged by the Council. As a consequence this change should it occur does not amount to "high level choice" as a matter of principle and approach, as to how an authority goes about performing its functions.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy [JHWS])**

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The JSNA for Lincolnshire is an overarching needs assessment. A wide range of data and information was reviewed to identify key issues for the population to be used in planning, commissioning and providing programmes and services to meet identified needs. This assessment underpins the JHWS 2013-18 which has the following themes:-

Promoting healthier lifestyles;

Improving the health and wellbeing of older people;

Delivering high quality systematic care for major causes of ill health and disability;

Improving health and social outcomes and reducing inequalities for children

Tackling the social determinants of health;

The additional theme of mental health runs throughout the document.

Again there is not an immediate direct connection between the back-office services under the corporate support services contract and the themes of the strategy but the following connections can be identified:

Pursuing good value solutions for back office support services will enable a high proportion of the Council's resources to be allocated to front line services directly relevant to the achievement of the strategy.

The proposed approach is likely to maintain local delivery for much of the services thus helping to maintain local jobs and creating the potential for further employment which would tackle social determinants of ill health.

## **Crime and Disorder**

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The specific nature of the services are not of direct relevance to Crime and Disorder. However the ongoing securing of good value back office support services will ensure that a greater proportion of the Council's available resources can be allocated to front line services including those aimed at reducing crime and disorder.

## **Conclusion**

Driven by the expiry of the initial term of the corporate support services contract the Council has carried out a review to re-provision services resulting in the recommendations in this report. More work will be required which will result in a further report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and to the Executive in the late summer.

### **Legal Comments:**

The Council has the power to enter into the arrangements set out in the Report and can do so consistent with its procurement obligations.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

### **Resource Comments:**

There are both short and long term financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendations in this report.

In the short term funding is required to resource project teams and facilitate any transfers of service provision resulting from acceptance of the recommendations in this report. Such funding will be required for, at least, 2018/19 and 2019/20. Funding of around £1.5m is presently available in reserves having been primarily sourced from service credits under the Serco contract. This funding can be applied to this initiative. Consideration will also be given as part of the finalisation of the 2017/18 revenue budget outturn position of the Council as to the extent and source of any additional funding required.

In the long term there will be an increase in the cost of delivery of the support services presently within scope of the Serco contract. The increase will generally only impact on the revenue budget from 2020/21 onwards and, once quantified, those additional costs will be considered as part of the budget setting process for those years.

## **Consultation**

### **Has The Local Member Been Consulted?**

n/a

### **Has The Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Councillor Hill Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Policy, Finance, Property, Communications Procurement and Commissioning; Councillor Davies Executive Councillor Highways Transport and IT; Councillor Young Executive Councillor People Management and Councillor Whittington Support Councillor to Councillor Hill are on the project Sounding Board and have been updated.

## **Scrutiny Comments**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will undertake an examination of the Corporate Support Services re-provision at a meeting of the Board on the 26 April 2018. Its comments will be presented to the Executive.

### **Has a Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

A thorough risk log has been completed it is attached at Appendix B. The key risks have been identified along with the relevant mitigations. The risks are then scored in terms of probability and impact. The risk log will be reviewed monthly by the Programme Board which will report on an exception basis to CMB and to the Sounding Board as appropriate.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at Appendix C.

## **Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Payroll Risk Assessment
Appendix B	Risk Log
Appendix C	Equality Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

No Background Papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this Report.

This report was written by Sophie Reeve who can be contacted on 01522 552578.

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Appendix A - Payroll Risk Assessment

Worth 1 point
Worth 0 points
Worth -1 point

Total payroll resource

Current payroll size

Payroll experience / complexity

Service delivery maturity

Scalability

F&R experience

School experience

NHS experience

Current error rate

System capabilities (payroll)

Transition / Implementation Risk (payroll)

Legacy data issues (future risks associated with current issues)

Hoople
#NAME?
#NAME?
#NAME?
#NAME?

Hoople  
Approx 20 experienced FTEs

c10,000

High / 30+ years

Effective service delivery. Emphasis is on the system to ensure that the payroll is accurate, rather than completing substantial manual checking. Focuses on continual improvement and driving out efficiencies through best use of the system, which justifies the smaller resource footprint. Technical system team work very closely with payroll delivery team to achieve this.

Have good set of self-service forms, but have not yet launched for schools. Client references taken were very positive with demonstrable examples provided which would de-risk and LCC implementation (e.g. go-live floorwalking).

Not sufficiently large enough team to avoid having to scale up. Would recruit an extra circa 19 FTE which appears more achievable in the time available, and would move existing resources on to LCC work and backfill with new resources. Smaller resource footprint because of the different approach to service delivery.

No current F&R expertise (but has relationship with Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service). Are very experienced with Agresso so have the technical skills to understand the current configuration issues and address them - this was demonstrated in their specific response within the scenario testing review (especially test 5). Would recruit additional F&R experience.

Around 55 schools

Yes

0.3%  
(1.01% UK 2015 Average)

Integrated ERP. Currently not proven for F&R but significant assurance given through scenario testing response. Agresso is not generally recognised as best of breed payroll solution however currently operates very well and have implemented experience packs in Agresso so usability is improved which should address some of the data entry errors. Some new functionality built for schools and looks good but not yet implemented.

Approach appears to be sound, full ERP so reduced number of separate implementations. Overall risk reduced through using an existing production build, and being another Agresso implementation transition would be more of a mapping and validation exercise than a 'data transformation' task. Hoople are located 3 hours away making collaboration and build process slightly more complicated.

Would be very focussed on ensuring the build is right from the start, and reviewing processes, procedures and data quality. Depth of Agresso experience would largely mitigate this, although should significant issues be found and migrate to the live environment, they don't currently have the same depth of checking and resourcing as another to tackle the issue.

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APPENDIX B - RISK LOG

Lincolnshire County Council - PROJECT TITLE: CSSC Programme



Risk No	Risk Type	Risk Description	Impact Type	Risk Owner	Raised By	Date Raised	Existing Controls	Current Risk Score			Developing Controls	Action Owner	Due Date	Status	Risk Progress	Target Risk Score			Date of last update	Comment	Actual closure date
								Probability	Impact	Score						Probability	Impact	Score			
001	Economic / Financial / Market	Budget pressures due to insufficient funding available to cover transition costs	Cost	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	AMC to develop an initial forecast of pressures in fulfilling the transition to a new service to P Moore.	4	3	12	Costed option and resource plans being developed	Andrew McLean	31.03.18	Active	Static	3	2	6	26.03.18		
002	Economic / Financial / Market	Budget pressures due to Insufficient revenue budget available to cover the cost of services from April 2020	Cost	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	To ensure CMB/ Executive are informed of the risk and to identify accurate forecasts of costs once future commissioning arrangements are confirmed.	4	3	12	Costed option and resource plans being developed	Andrew McLean	30.09.18	Active	Static	3	3	9	26.03.18		
003	Organisational / Management / Human Factors	Insufficient LCC capacity and capability within project teams	People/Resources	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Service Leads to identify known capacity risks, seeking to utilise existing resource of the corporate programme team wherever possible.	2	3	6	Resource plans being developed	Jane Maddison/ Service Leads	30.06.18	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
004	Political	Options for proposed future delivery model are rejected by the Executive	Time	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	CMB & Sounding Board used for future options and model	1	3	3	Reports are being presented to CMB & Sounding Board for consideration.	Andrew McLean/ Service Leads	30.09.18	Active	Static	1	2	2	26.03.18		
005	Organisational / Management / Human Factors	Insufficient time to deliver the programme	Time	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Timeline in place up to formal decision making	3	3	9	Reports are being presented to Informal Executive for consideration and initial decision making to take place by Executive on 01.05.18	Andrew McLean/ Sophie Reeve	13.04.18	Active	Static	2	3	6	26.03.18		
006	Economic / Financial / Market	Financial and social impact to local economy with services not being delivered from Lincoln	People/Resources	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	CMB & Informal Executive aware within option reports	4	3	12	To continue working with Serco and potential partners to sustain jobs in Lincoln wherever possible.	Andrew McLean/ Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	4	2	8	26.03.18		
007	Strategic / Commercial	Multiple suppliers result in services become fragmented impacting on cost and quality	Cost	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Seeking to keep the number of supplier relationships with the Council for each service type to a minimum.	3	3	9	Ongoing dialogue with Serco and potential shared service suppliers whilst considering options for insourcing.	Andrew McLean/ Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	3	2	6	26.03.18		
008	Strategic / Commercial	Alternative services not available from April 2020	People/Resources	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Ongoing dialogue with Serco and potential shared service suppliers whilst considering options for insourcing.	2	4	8	Ongoing discussions with Serco and engaging in development activity with preferred shared service supplier.	Andrew McLean/ Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
009	Strategic / Commercial	Serco unwilling or lack of capacity to co-operate during transition and exit period	People/Resources	Sophie Reeve	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Relationship managed through existing contract with Serco	4	3	12	Relationship managed through existing contract with Serco	Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
010	Strategic / Commercial	Serco terminate contact prior to March 2020	People/Resources	Sophie Reeve	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Relationship managed through existing contract with Serco	1	4	4	Relationship managed through existing contract with Serco	Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
011	Strategic / Commercial	Unsatisfactory level and quality of services received from Serco up to the termination of their contract	Quality	Sophie Reeve	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Ongoing contract management with Serco.	4	3	12	Relationship managed through existing contract with Serco and where necessary application of service credits	Sophie Reeve	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
012	Technical / Operational / Infrastructure	Impact on future suppliers capability whereby LCC is unable / does not implement the required changes to business processes	Quality	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Change Management workstream established as part of the programme.	4	3	12	Design Authority Change management programme to support changes in culture to adapt to new ways of working.	Wendy Henry	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
013	Organisational / Management / Human Factors	Interdependences between individual workstreams are not identified.	Scope	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Programme governance is established and Board meetings are in place with key representatives.	2	3	6	Individual Project Board meetings are established with project tasks/timelines developed to feed into programme oversight.	Andrew McLean	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
014	Strategic / Commercial	Unsuccessful market engagement for IMT services	Scope	Sophie Reeve	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Engagement of IMT market engagement specialist	3	3	9	Scoping of market engagement requirements to begin w/c 26/03/18 with MNTC, IMT and Commercial Team. Project Board being established	Andrew McLean	30.09.18	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
015	Organisational / Management / Human Factors	Insufficient contingency plans built within the programme	Time	Andrew McLean	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	Programme governance is established and Board meetings are in place with key representatives.	3	3	9	Contingency requirements are factored into individual project workstreams and are escalated to the Programme Board.	Andrew McLean	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
016	Political	Adverse publicity and damage to Council reputations if future suppliers commissioned deliver an expensive and poor quality service	People/Resources	Debbie Barnes	Jane Maddison	26.02.18	CMB engaged and the Executive to take the formal decision on the future commissioning arrangement.	3	3	9	Corporate Comm.'s team to be engaged during the appropriate stages to support engagement with the media.	Andrew McLean	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	2	4	26.03.18		
017	Organisational / Management / Human Factors	Loss of existing supplier staff to maintain BAU during any proposed transition to a new supplier.	Quality	Sophie Reeve	Andrew McLean	26.03.18	Identifying those staff deemed as critical to the business and the need to develop the intelligent client function.	3	3	9	To explore means of incentivising staff to remain and fulfil the work required.	Sophie Reeve/ Service Leads	Ongoing	Active	Static	2	3	6	26.03.18		
018	Strategic / Commercial	Ability to effectively manage any future shared service supplier as part of a s101 LGA agreement.	People/Resources	Sophie Reeve	Andrew McLean	26.03.18	Develop mitigating factors into the draft s101 agreement.	2	3	6	Implement robust contract management controls to ensure effective service delivery.	Sophie Reeve	30.09.18	Active	Static	1	3	3	26.03.18		

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**Validation**

	Score	Probability
<b>Scale</b>	4	Almost certain
	3	Probable
	2	Possible
	1	Hardly Ever

	Score	Impact	Service Delivery	Delay	Finance	Reputation	People
<b>Impact</b>	4	Critical	Very significant	>1month	>£1m	National media story	Loss of life
	3	Major	Significant	1week - 1month	£500k - £1m.	Local media story	Serious Injuries
	2	Minor	Major	1day - 1week	£100k - £500k	Limited Local publicity	Minor injuries
	1	Negligible	Minor	<1day	<£100k	Little/No publicity	-

<b>Workstream</b>	

Impact Type    Time  
                     Cost  
                     Quality  
                     Scope  
                     Benefit  
                     People/Resources

Status            Regressing  
                       Static  
                       Improving

Risk Type        Strategic / Commercial  
                       Economic / Financial / Market  
                       Legal and Regulatory

Organisational / Management / Human Factors  
Political  
Environmental  
Technical / Operational / Infrastructure

## Equality Impact Analysis to enable informed decisions

### The purpose of this document is to:-

- I. help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- II. for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

### Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence on a proposal for a project/service change/policy/commissioning of a service or decommissioning of a service evolves taking into account any consultation feedback, significant changes to the proposals and data to support impacts of proposed changes. The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker and the Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision making report.

**\*\*Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010\*\***

### Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under a personal duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

### Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

### Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by/or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics and by evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

### **Decision makers duty under the Act**

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a personal duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:-

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms,
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct,
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics,
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

## **Conducting an Impact Analysis**

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision making process.

### **The Lead Officer responsibility**

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

### **Summary of findings**

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

## Impact – definition

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

### How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this asking simple questions “Who might be affected by this decision?” “Which protected characteristics might be affected?” and “How might they be affected?” will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data, and where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to arrive at a view as to where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such, with an explanation as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

Page 39

**Proposals for more than one option** If more than one option is being proposed you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

**The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.**

<b>Background Information</b>			
<b>Title of the policy / project / service being considered</b>	Corporate Support Services Commissioning	<b>Person / people completing analysis</b>	Andrew McLean, Programme Manager
<b>Service Area</b>	Corporate Services	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Debbie Barnes, Executive Director and Programme Sponsor
<b>Who is the decision maker?</b>	LCC Executive	<b>How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?</b>	A desk top review.
<b>Date of meeting when decision will be made</b>	Initial decision to be made on the 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2018	<b>Version control</b>	Version 0.1
<b>Is this proposed change to an existing policy/service/project or is it new?</b>	Existing policy/service/project	<b>LCC directly delivered, commissioned, re-commissioned or de-commissioned?</b>	Commissioned
<b>Describe the proposed change</b>	<p>To carry out a full commissioning review of the existing Corporate Support Services contract held between LCC and Serco in order to determine the future commissioning arrangements when the existing agreement comes to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Existing services affected by this review include Payroll, People Management, Exchequer services, Adult Care Finance, IT and the Customer Service Centre. The Council's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is also subject to this review.</p> <p>The services are all essential back office support and there is no intention to de-commission any of the service areas covered by the existing contract. Instead the Council is reviewing how the services can best be commissioned from April 2020. The possible outcomes are an extension of the contract with Serco, insourcing some or all of the services or finding a third party provider for some or all of the services or a combination of the above. Once the preferred option is identified then the objective of the programme will be to implement that preferred approach.</p>		



At this stage of the review, the Council is recommending entering into a shared service arrangement with Herefordshire County Council, for the exercise of the Council's payroll and HR administration functions through its wholly owned supplier Hoople and to provide access to Hoople's Business World ERP for the Council's finance functions from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 subject to a satisfactory conclusion to some additional outstanding work that is still to be done including the negotiation of a shared services agreement. The key drivers are to secure a safe and effective Payroll with a low error rate; to retain the benefits of an ERP system and to secure an ERP which is fit for purpose, flexible, cost effective and easy to use. These drivers will be kept under review by the Programme Board.

In addition, a recommendation will be made for the Council to carry out market engagement with IT providers.

Serco have also been asked to price for an extension of the contract as a result it is possible that in fact there will be no or minimal change to the existing arrangements with Serco.

### **Evidencing the impacts**

In this section you will explain the difference that proposed changes are likely to make on people with protected characteristics. To help you do this first consider the impacts the proposed changes may have on people without protected characteristics before then considering the impacts the proposed changes may have on people with protected characteristics.

You must evidence here who will benefit and how they will benefit. If there are no benefits that you can identify please state 'No perceived benefit' under the relevant protected characteristic. You can add sub categories under the protected characteristics to make clear the impacts. For example under Age you may have considered the impact on 0-5 year olds or people aged 65 and over, under Race you may have considered Eastern European migrants, under Sex you may have considered specific impacts on men.

### **Data to support impacts of proposed changes**

When considering the equality impact of a decision it is important to know who the people are that will be affected by any change.

#### Population data and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO) holds a range of population data by the protected characteristics. This can help put a decision into context. Visit the LRO website and its population theme page by following this link: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk> If you cannot find what you are looking for, or need more information, please contact the LRO team. You will also find information about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on the LRO website.

#### Workforce profiles

You can obtain information by many of the protected characteristics for the Council's workforce and comparisons with the labour market on the [Council's website](#). As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, managers can obtain workforce profile data by the protected characteristics for their specific areas using Agresso.

**Positive impacts**

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics – If no positive impact, please state 'no positive impact'.

<b>Age</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit old and young employees alike though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.
<b>Disability</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit disabled employees though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit those employees who have undergone gender reassignment though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit those who are married or in a civil partnership though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit pregnant employees or those on maternity leave though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.
<b>Race</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit employees whatever their race.
<b>Religion or belief</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit those employees with religious or other beliefs though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.

<b>Sex</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit all employees whatever their gender though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	There is no known positive impact identified save that Council and school staff may receive more reliably accurate salary payments. This will benefit all employees and in that sense has the potential to positively benefit employees whatever their sexual orientation though not differentially in terms of employees with non-protected characteristics.

**If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.**

### **Adverse/negative impacts**

You must evidence how people with protected characteristics will be adversely impacted and any proposed mitigation to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. An adverse impact causes disadvantage or exclusion. If such an impact is identified please state how, as far as possible, it is justified; eliminated; minimised or counter balanced by other measures.

If there are no adverse impacts that you can identify please state 'No perceived adverse impact' under the relevant protected characteristic.

**Negative impacts of the proposed change and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences on people with protected characteristics are detailed below. If you have not identified any mitigating action to reduce an adverse impact please state 'No mitigating action identified'.**

<b>Age</b>	<p>The only potential adverse impact identified would arise for staff currently delivering the services if they were in future to be delivered a significant distance outside of Lincolnshire. This may impact differentially on older staff due to the relatively greater inflexibility of their domestic arrangements impacting on their ability to relocate.</p> <p>At the appropriate time, we will undertake further analysis to the extent possible given that the staff affected are employed by Serco and the Council may not be entitled to relevant personal data. We will liaise with Serco throughout the process to ensure that they are having regard to equalities implications and are aware of the Council's impact analysis</p> <p>Regular communication with staff affected will be carried out by the Council and Serco to minimise the impact. Negotiations with Herefordshire County Council will include exploration of the scope for payroll and PM Administration staff to be out-posted to a Lincolnshire office.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p>The only potential adverse impact identified would arise for staff currently delivering the services if they were in future to be delivered a significant distance outside of Lincolnshire. This may impact differentially on staff with specific disabilities due to the relatively greater difficulty they may experience in relocating.</p> <p>At the appropriate time, we will undertake further analysis to the extent possible given that the staff affected are employed by Serco and the Council may not be entitled to relevant personal data. We will liaise with Serco throughout the process to ensure that they are having regard to equalities implications and are aware of the Council's impact analysis.</p>

	<p>Regular communication with staff affected will be carried out by the Council and Serco to minimise the impact. Negotiations with Herefordshire County Council will include exploration of the scope for payroll and PM Administration staff to be out-posted to a Lincolnshire office.</p>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	No perceived adverse impact
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	No perceived adverse impact
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p>Staff may feel adversely affected by changes because of their absence from the workplace. Further impact may arise if the services were in future to be delivered a significant distance outside of Lincolnshire. This may impact differentially on pregnant staff due to the impact on their ability to relocate.</p> <p>At the appropriate time, we will undertake further analysis to the extent possible given that the staff affected are employed by Serco and the Council may not be entitled to relevant personal data. We will liaise with Serco throughout the process to ensure that they are having regard to equalities implications and are aware of the Council's impact analysis.</p> <p>Regular communication with staff affected will be carried out by both the Council and Serco to minimise the impact.</p> <p>Negotiations with Herefordshire County Council will include exploration of the scope for payroll and PM Administration staff to be out-posted to a Lincolnshire office.</p>
<b>Race</b>	No perceived adverse impact
<b>Religion or belief</b>	No perceived adverse impact

<b>Sex</b>	<p>Given the services in scope, we believe there may be greater female employees likely to be affected by TUPE. Further impact may arise if the services were in future to be delivered a significant distance outside of Lincolnshire. This may impact differentially on female staff as the disproportionate likelihood that they may be single parents of children or have other caring responsibilities will have a greater impact on their ability to relocate.</p> <p>At the appropriate time, we will undertake further analysis to the extent possible given that the staff affected are employed by Serco and the Council may not be entitled to relevant personal data. We will liaise with Serco throughout the process to ensure that they are having regard to equalities implications and are aware of the Council's impact analysis. Regular communication with staff affected will be carried out by both the Council and Serco to minimise the impact. Negotiations with Herefordshire County Council will include exploration of the scope for payroll and PM Administration staff to be out-posted to a Lincolnshire office.</p>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p>No perceived adverse impact</p>

**If you have identified negative impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.**

All staff currently providing the services could feel negatively impacted by a potential change of employer. The TUPE Regulations, however, will give transferring staff protection for their existing terms and conditions.

## Stakeholders

Stake holders are people or groups who may be directly affected (primary stakeholders) and indirectly affected (secondary stakeholders)

You must evidence here who you involved in gathering your evidence about benefits, adverse impacts and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences. You must be confident that any engagement was meaningful. The Community engagement team can help you to do this and you can contact them at [consultation@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

State clearly what (if any) consultation or engagement activity took place by stating who you involved when compiling this EIA under the protected characteristics. Include organisations you invited and organisations who attended, the date(s) they were involved and method of involvement i.e. Equality Impact Analysis workshop/email/telephone conversation/meeting/consultation. State clearly the objectives of the EIA consultation and findings from the EIA consultation under each of the protected characteristics. If you have not covered any of the protected characteristics please state the reasons why they were not consulted/engaged.

Page 48

### Objective(s) of the EIA consultation/engagement activity

There has been no specific stakeholder consultation or engagement activity at this stage of the review.



**Who was involved in the EIA consultation/engagement activity? Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic**

<b>Age</b>	N/A
<b>Disability</b>	N/A
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	N/A
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	N/A
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	N/A
<b>Race</b>	N/A
<b>Religion or belief</b>	N/A

Sex	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
<p><b>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way?</b></p> <p>The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.</p>	<p>Yes at this stage of the review. Going forward the programme will with the co-operation of Serco seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse Serco HR data in order to understand and analyse the make-up of staff with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Identify the potential impacts and any mitigating actions required</li> <li>• Ensure Serco address equalities implications and are aware of the Council's impact analysis.</li> </ul> <p>Consultation or engagement exercises will be undertaken at the appropriate stage, if any changes to employment are considered and comments from staff will be taken into account.</p> <p>We will work with Serco and any transferee to ensure that staff who are pregnant or on maternity or paternity leave receive the same information, support and guidance as those staff who are not pregnant or on maternity or paternity leave. Staff will not be treated differently if they become pregnant.</p> <p>A person's disability should not act as a barrier to employment if the person is able to demonstrate that they can undertake the work.</p> <p>In the event of any transfers from one employer to another we will work with Serco and the transferee with a view to there being counselling opportunities available for staff who may experience stress.</p>
<p><b>Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?</b></p>	<p>Workforce statistical data will continue to be monitored throughout the implementation of the programme to the extent that this is made available by Serco.</p>

## Further Details

<b>Are you handling personal data?</b>	<p>Yes</p> <p>If yes, please give details.</p> <p>Going forward we will be potentially be handling HR data on Serco employees identifying protected characteristics.</p>
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<b>Actions required</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Include any actions identified in this analysis for on-going monitoring of impacts.	Seek to secure access to workforce information and if so undertake analysis by protected characteristics – particularly gender, disability and pregnancy/maternity.	Wendy Henry	31 May 2018
	Continued iteration of the impact analysis throughout the programme	Wendy Henry	Ongoing
	In the event of any change in employer ensure consultation requirements are followed at the appropriate time.	Appropriate Service Leads as required.	TBC

Page 51

<b>Version</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Created/amended by</b>	<b>Date created/amended</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
v0.1	Issued following establishment of the CSSC programme.	Andrew McLean	04/04/2018	Debbie Barnes	

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**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,  
Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>01 May 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Formal Adoption of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I015013</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) was designated in 1973 on account of the area's outstanding landscape, cultural heritage and unique sense of place. AONB's are nationally protected – there are currently 46 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and in planning terms, their scenic beauty is on a par with National Parks (as expressed through para's 115 and 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 reaffirmed the national status of AONBs and the need for all relevant local authorities to have "due regard" for the designation when performing all of their duties. The Act provided an added responsibility on all local authorities with AONBs, to produce and review a Management Plan, including: 1) Statement of significant attributes, 2) State of the AONB Report, 3) Vision, Objectives and Policies for the area, 4) A resulting partnership Action Plan. Under the relevant EU Directive an accompanying SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) report may be required, depending upon the extent of the review.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS), hosted by Lincolnshire County Council's Environment Team, has worked closely with the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership) to review the previously adopted 2013-2018 Management Plan. The Partnership's initial steer was that only a light review was necessary and in the light of the extent of the review undertaken it is not necessary to prepare an SEA.

The Council has supported the LWCS and the wider AONB Partnership through active engagement via both the JAC and the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group (JMG – funding partnership) - helping to develop the Draft AONB Management Plan 2018-23, and guide its closing review. A significant proportion of LWCS time has been undertaken in updating, and extending, the range of baseline data and reviewing relevant trends and issues, as documented within the State of the AONB Report (2017), and Peer Review

commentary. A Revised Draft Management Plan was subsequently circulated for comments during Dec '17 - Jan '18, meeting the statutory six week period of public consultation. The LCC's Environment and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Public Consultation Draft on the 16th January 2018. The Plan was broadly welcomed by all Elected Members present and was duly endorsed, acknowledging that there would be some minor editing to follow as part of the ongoing public consultation.

Further revisions have taken place and a closing Plan recently endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC (AONB Partnership) and validated by Natural England, enabling its final adoption by all the relevant local planning authorities – Lincolnshire County Council, and also East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive

1 notes the outcome of the review of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2013-2018 and the changes proposed to the Plan as set out in the Report;

2 formally adopts the document attached to this Report at Appendix A which incorporates the said changes as the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023.

**Alternatives Considered:**

The Lincolnshire Wolds is the sole protected AONB within the East Midlands. Not supporting the formal adoption of the AONB Management Plan would be a breach of the Council's statutory obligations as specified via the CRoW Act 2000 legislation, in particular Part IV, Sections 82-89 which reaffirmed the purposes and functions of AONBs. Section 89 of the Act specifically highlights the requirement for appropriate local authorities to prepare, publish and regularly review a Management Plan. The Act also confirmed the powers of local authorities to have a "duty of regard" and to take appropriate action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONBs.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

As detailed, members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee have reviewed and endorsed the earlier Public Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan (2018-23) and have recommended the Plan's subsequent adoption.

The closing Plan has been endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC at their recent meeting on 12th April 2018. Natural England is the statutory government consultee on all AONB and National Park matters and they have confirmed their

approval and validation of the closing documentation – thus releasing the Plan for its formal adoption from all of relevant local planning authorities – the County Council, and also East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. (Additional note: The Environment Agency and Historic England are two of a number of organisations that have also been actively involved in the preparation of the Plan through their engagement with the JAC and other topic groups including the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project and the Wolds Heritage Working Group).

The Officer recommendation is to adopt the revised Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-23, thus confirming the Council's endorsement of the collaborative Vision, Strategy and Action Plan. The primary aim is to help protect and enhance the nationally protected landscape of the AONB, whilst also recognising and supporting the needs of those living, working or visiting the area.

## **1. Background**

Under the Countryside of Rights of Way Legislation (CROW Act 2000) the Council has a statutory duty to produce and review a five yearly management plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The legislation is clear in stating that all relevant local authorities must produce a single collaborative Plan in partnership following national guidance originally published by Countryside Agency, and subsequently updated by Natural England and the National Association for AONBs (e.g. CA23, CA 221 and NAAONB Guidance documents).

The Draft Plan has received wide media interest, including two breakfast show features on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. A total of thirty eight responses were received during the public consultation, including a number of very detailed observations from a wide range of interested parties, typically from partner organisations, local community representatives, landowners and the wider public. The consultation has been complemented by additional public feedback from the "Have Your Say" questionnaire, providing results from 160+ participants on the value of AONB designation and the issues facing the area. The review has also assessed wider unsolicited comments on the Wolds from electronic forums, notably the Wolds AONB website, Google Maps and Trip Advisor postings (over 500+ reviews). Staff attendance at a wide range of local community events, as well as the County Show, has also been very helpful in terms of providing a barometer on local views and opinions on the Lincolnshire Wolds – there is one overriding message, the Wolds AONB is a very treasured and valued place.

Lincolnshire County Council Elected Members and Officers have been regularly consulted throughout the Management Plan review process, including the opportunity for dialogue at workshop and peer review stages, as well as ongoing JAC and JMG updates. The Plan has now undergone its final consultation providing partner organisations, local landowners, local businesses and the wider public with further opportunities to help shape and influence the collaborative aspirations for safeguarding and enhancing the area.

The document is seen as a Plan for everyone with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, and is holistic in scope. The Strategy (objectives and policies) and the resulting five year Action Plan is seeking to develop and support a wide range of collaborative projects to help secure sustainable development in the context of a nationally protected landscape. In short, protecting and enhancing the area's natural beauty whilst also delivering on social and economic aspirations – the Plan recognises that the Wolds AONB should not be preserved in aspic, but that the area is very much a living and working landscape with integral connections to its surrounding market towns and the wider area of Greater Lincolnshire.

The Government's aspirations for future environmental management are detailed in the recently published Defra 25 Year Plan – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018). This publication recognises the importance of the UK's protected landscapes, including AONBs, and highlights its desire to make sure that these areas are not only conserved but enhanced for generations to come. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Plan accords with the Government's future goals for these areas, which includes developing opportunities to connect more people to their natural environment and furthering "natural and cultural capital".

#### Changes since the last Plan review:

The over-arching twenty five year Vision for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has remained relatively unchanged; although the accompanying Landscape Management Statement has the addition of exploring innovative approaches to land management that can help to demonstrate the area's contributions to wider goods and services, including opportunities to explore and further links with natural capital, health and well-being. This chimes with the Government's current recommendations to develop and utilise "natural capital" – recognising that our living landscapes and ecosystems provide a wide range of public goods and services.

In reviewing the previous objectives and policies some of the new expected forces for change include:

- Brexit uncertainties and its likely impact upon RDPE, agri-environment funding and general farming patterns.
- Increased focus on tourism and its contribution to the local economy e.g. linking with wider Love Lincolnshire Wolds businesses.
- An ongoing drive to secure sustainable growth, helping to positively influence future land management in planning decisions both within and immediately adjacent to the AONB.
- An increasing drive on health and well-being matters – including greater provision of multi-functional land.
- Emergence of new pests and diseases, including for example Chalara (ash dieback), Acute Oak Decline and Signal Crayfish.
- Possible implications and resourcing for a review of the current AONB boundary.



Since the last Plan there has been a significant improvement to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB evidence base across a range of environmental, social and economic measures as evidenced within the State of the AONB - 2017 report. A number of indicators have been suggested to help monitor future progress. This work has been helped, in part, by an increase in availability of some national datasets specific to protected landscape boundaries (both AONBs and National Parks).

Objectives and policies have been reviewed thoroughly and there have been minor modifications to several, including in summary:

**Natural heritage – Biodiversity Objective BO;** updated to highlight links to the latest Lincolnshire Nature Strategy, Biodiversity 2020 and emerging UK environmental plans.

**Biodiversity Policies BP3/BP4;** slight rewording to reflect the local nature tourism offer.

**Woodland Policy WP1;** added the need for considering climate change adaptability in new planting options.

**Arable Farmland Policy AFP3;** rewording to aid clarification on future surveys for arable wildlife.

**Built Heritage Policies BHP1 and BHP4;** previous policies merged, revised BHP1 better reflects the need to work with all stakeholders to encourage sympathetic and innovative design (in keeping with local character).

**Farming and Field Sports Policy FWP2;** slight rewording to emphasise the importance of monitoring and influencing national agriculture policy.

**Interpretation Objective IO;** additional phrase included to highlight the benefits of raising the profile of the AONB to help support the local economy.

**Planning and Development Management Policy PP1;** amendments to highlight the requirement for making space for nature and tackling climate change when pushing for the highest quality of design in the context of the AONB. Likewise, similar additions to **Policy PP2** in respect of sensitive conversions to traditional buildings.

**Planning and Development Management Policy PP4;** minor change to wording of mineral and waste policy to help support implementation of the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy.

**Planning and Development Management Policy PP8;** in terms of waste management/reduction, additional recognition made of helping the shift towards a circular economy.

The Action Plan has been updated for the period 2018-23, currently with a suite of proposed AONB partnership actions that align with the relevant overarching objectives and resulting policies. These are typically subjected to a more detailed

review on an annual basis by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC); enabling some flexibility and fleet-of-foot adjustments, taking for example changes to legislation or the emergence of new funding streams over the life of the Plan. This approach will also enable post Brexit adjustments to take place, if for example there is significant change to the current land and resource management grant systems, although many schemes will be continuing until 2023.

#### Summary of public consultation:

Appendix 7b of the AONB Management Plan summarises all comments formally received during the public consultation. Overall the layout, content and objectives of the Plan were very well received and there was a broad consensus that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is a unique and special landscape.

Some of the more pertinent issues that were highlighted within the responses included:

- Links to the new Defra 25 Year Environment Plan, including furthering future "natural capital" benefits.
- Developing and applying landscape-scale approaches to wider land management to help build resilience to future changes from Brexit, climate change etc.
- A request from several parties to develop a more robust position on future oil drilling and fracking operations.
- The challenge of successfully meeting and promoting future recreation and tourism opportunities whilst safeguarding the intrinsic special qualities of the AONB.
- Some mixed views in terms of future housing supply in settlements and the wider rural area – with a need to utilise appropriate and high quality designs, including opportunities for upgrading/conversions of redundant farm buildings.
- A call from some, for increased rural services to include public transport, and access to decent broadband and mobile phone coverage.

The consultation log sheet (Appendix 7b) details the responses to all comments made and any final changes to the Plan.

## **2. Legal Issues:**

### Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- \* Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- \* Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- \* Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- \* Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
- \* Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
- \* Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process

The Management Plan is seeking to provide an inclusive Strategy and Action Plan for everyone – including all specialist groups living, working or visiting the area and regardless of protected characteristics. The Plan aims to successfully balance land management interests to help support economic, social and environmental objectives for all. The AONB Partnership continues to welcome ongoing input from all members of the public as well as specialist interest groups.

Particular attention has been made to invite comments from the local communities during the review process, through for example attending a range of events, promoting an open and indiscriminate Have Your Say survey, as well as more formal contacts via parish councils and town councils, (for communities both within and adjacent to the Lincolnshire Wolds) and wider press coverage.

The Plan's objectives include greater access and interest in the Wolds AONB from both local residents and all sections of the wider public regardless of protected characteristics. There is an opportunity to help provide increased green infrastructure in the future, which is especially valuable for the more dispersed and isolated settlements. Further promotion and enhancement of the public rights of way network is also sought, including improvements to the Interconnect Bus Walks, helping in turn to support transport services. The recreation and tourism

objectives include utilising the market towns as gateways to the Wolds, and increasing visitor numbers to help support local businesses and local services, including village shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants. The public consultation has highlighted the need to secure sustainable tourism and infrastructure development e.g. development and promotion of recreation that is appropriate to the character of the AONB.

Ways in which these objectives can be met in such a way as to enhance and promote equality of access for people with a protected characteristic will be explored in pursuing the objectives of the Plan.

Specific objectives and policies actively supporting inclusiveness include: Interpretation Policy IP1 and IP3; Transport Objective TWO; Transport Policies TWP2 and TWP5 and Planning Policy Objective PP3.

### Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision

The plan recognises the importance of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this is recognised as a key related strategy. Currently the JHWS statistics are available at ward level so a direct comparison with the AONB census population figures cannot be made. We have requested postcode data to help inform the Plan and in particular the ongoing State of the AONB report.

The need to link with the health and wellbeing agenda is included within the Partnership's Landscape Management Statement, Thriving Communities Policy TCP2 includes the aspiration to promote healthier lifestyles and Action TCA8 includes the objective of exploring and developing further links to the JHWS.

### Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area

The Plan seeks to generate and inspire a sense of place and community cohesion for the Lincolnshire Wolds and its deeply rural communities. There is a realisation that various forms of rural crime take place, especially involving night-hawking and lamping activities. Further guidance has been sought from the local Inspector to help to develop future links with the Rural Community Safety Strategy 2017-20; advice also extends to seeking to reduce the incidents of fly-tipping, especially from known hot-spots.

### 3. Conclusion

This Report informs the Executive of the outcome of a review of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan and sets out the recommended changes to the Plan.

The new Plan has four sections 1) Protecting the Wolds, 2) Discovering the Wolds, 3) Sustaining the Wolds and 4) Making it Happen. There are 19 objectives, 78 policies and 180+ actions to help protect, enhance and promote the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The Plan recognises that the area is an important living and working landscape.

The AONB Partnership is keen to thank the many organisations, local groups, farmers and landowners and individuals that have been involved in its development. The Partnership is working hard to ensure that the new Plan provides a stimulus for the further protection and enhancement of our unique landscape - the Lincolnshire Wolds – including a wide range of collaborative initiatives embracing public, private and third sector engagement.

#### 4. Legal Comments:

The Report fulfils the Council's statutory duty under section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to review its AONB Management Plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds on a five yearly basis and report on the changes proposed.

Approval of the revised Management Plan as the Council's adopted AONB Management Plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

#### 5. Resource Comments:

There are no additional financial implications in excess of the current budget provision arising from acceptance of the recommendation in this report.

### 6. Consultation

#### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Councillor E J Poll and Councillor C L Strange have been involved in the development of the Management Plan through their involvement in the AONB Partnership (LCC's representatives on the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee and Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group).

#### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Councillor E J Poll has been consulted as set out above.

### c) Scrutiny Comments

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee considered the draft AONB Management Plan at its meeting held on 16 January 2018 and endorsed the draft Management Plan with an acknowledgement that there were still some further changes to take account of additional observations and recommendations as part of the ongoing public consultation.

### d) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

### e) Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the Report

## 7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023 – Text only version for LA adoption. <b>(NOTE – Owing to its size, this document is only available to view electronically via <a href="http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&amp;MIId=4968&amp;Ver=4">http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&amp;MIId=4968&amp;Ver=4</a> )</b>  Including addendum Appendix 7b – Summary of Written Responses to the Public Consultation.

## 8. Background Papers

The following Background Papers within the meaning of section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this Report

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
AONB Management Plans – Support for their revision in England (Steve Preston Associates with the NAAONB, June 2017)	Available as pdf
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2013-2018 (previous adopted Plan)	<a href="http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/looking-after/lincolnshire-wolds-aonb-management-plan">http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/looking-after/lincolnshire-wolds-aonb-management-plan</a>
Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans (CA 221 - The Countryside Agency, 2006)	Bound copy available on request
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, A Guide (CA 23 - The Countryside Agency, 2001)	Bound copy available on request

This report was written by Stephen Jack, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or [stephen.jack@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.jack@lincolnshire.gov.uk) .

**Lincolnshire Wolds  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Management Plan**

**2018 – 2023**

**Text Only Version**

Produced on behalf of  
Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council,  
West Lindsey District Council, North East Lincolnshire Council  
and partners

by

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and  
Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership)

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## Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan which sets out the proposed updated Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2018-2023. The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated as an AONB in 1973, recognising it as one of the country's finest landscapes, a designation on a par with our National Parks.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a hidden jewel of the English countryside and one of only two nationally protected landscapes in the East Midlands region, the other being the Peak District National Park. During the 45 years since its designation as an AONB, the continued modernisation of farming, demands of modern living and development of new technologies have imposed continued pressures on the landscape. However these are both threats and opportunities. Our overarching goal is to ensure that the Wolds retains its unique landscape and undeniable special character, whilst maintaining and supporting its communities.

We are keen to thank the many organisations, local groups, farmers, landowners and individuals that have been involved in the development of this document. A public consultation questionnaire took place during the summer of 2016 with extensive coverage in the local press and social media. We received responses from a wide range of interested individuals, organisations, local businesses and parish councils. A detailed peer review was subsequently undertaken to update the Strategy (aims, objectives and policies) and make recommendations for the Action Plan (which proposes a range of specific actions for the five year period from April 2018). A formal six week consultation of the Revised Management Plan took place during the winter of 2017-18 with further coverage in the local media. Detailed responses and constructive suggestions were received from a wide range of parties including local landowners, community groups, parish councils, and representatives from many organisations including our local authorities.

The published Plan seeks to continue to build on our original shared vision for the future of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB with a continuing emphasis on balancing environmental, social and economic interests. Change is an intrinsic characteristic of the Wolds, but the type, scale and pace of change does need to be carefully managed. The challenge has never been greater, with pressures from the global economy, food production, energy use and climate change becoming increasingly evident. On account of Brexit, there is clearly considerable uncertainty for the UK's rural economy and more specifically the food, farming and environmental sectors. This Plan will remain flexible to respond to these ongoing challenges.

The Plan is not just a document for use by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS), or the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), but rather a Plan for everyone. It is a place-based Plan derived through consensus and built on partnerships - local and national - and this is vital if we are to continue to move towards our shared vision for the AONB.

We will endeavour to ensure that the new Plan provides an ongoing catalyst for protecting and enhancing our unique asset – the Lincolnshire Wolds. The Partnership looks forward to working with you to this end.

Stuart Parker  
Chairman,  
Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee  
(AONB Partnership; working collaboratively with the National Association for AONBs).



## **Ministerial Foreword or National Association for AONBs Foreword for AONB Management Plans 2018**

*Awaiting news from the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) in respect of securing an introduction/overview from Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Undersecretary for the Environment with responsibility for protected landscapes. This would be a collective statement for all of England's AONBs.*

*Currently awaiting news from CEO, NAAONB*

## How to read and use the Management Plan

**Section 1 (pages 9 - 12)** sets the scene for the Plan, providing an overview of the statutory background to AONB designation and summary of the legal requirements to produce and review Management Plans through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) and more recent relevant legislation.

**Section 2 (pages 13 - 34)** describes the Lincolnshire Wolds and highlights the reasons for its designation as an AONB. Tables 1 - 2 and Appendix 3 complement this section, identifying the special qualities of the area, and the resulting threats/pressures and opportunities. The LWCS has completed a Draft State of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Report for 2017 (see Appendix 4) to establish a new baseline across a wide range of environmental, social and economic parameters. The report is not exhaustive, but commonly focuses on the more robust and readily available sources of data. It seeks to provide context, collate evidence and summarise findings across a number of proposed State of the AONB indicators.

**Section 3 (pages 35 – 37)** sets out the vision, aims and guiding influences for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and identifies five overarching themes: Protecting the Wolds; Living and Working in the Wolds; Discovering the Wolds; Developing the Wolds and Partnerships in the Wolds. These themes provide the overarching structure for the Plan.

**Sections 4 – 8 (pages 38 - 79)** provide the Strategy for the future management of the AONB detailing a series of objectives, policies and management statements across the five themes: Protecting the Wolds; Living and Working in the Wolds; Discovering the Wolds; Developing the Wolds; and Partnerships in the Wolds. These themes have been utilised to help group individual topics. Each topic is tackled succinctly with an introduction and overview of the current management issues. Each of these sections and individual topics are not mutually exclusive and in many cases there is both overlap and interdependence between them. This reflects the complex nature of AONB management in respect of the need to balance environmental, social and economic factors – the major drivers of landscape change in the AONB.

The objectives set out the overarching goals of the Plan, with policies providing clear specific and measurable areas of management for delivering the Strategy. Management statements have been endorsed for both the Wolds' landscape and partnerships as these are seen as integral to the overall delivery of the vision.

**Section 9 (pages 80 - 110)** contains the AONB Action Plan (Table 3) identifying and suggesting what needs to be done, by whom and when, to help implement the overarching objectives and policies. It is clearly an ambitious and challenging programme, even more so in the current financial climate and the many uncertainties emanating from Brexit.

The Plan's successful implementation will depend on everyone's continued hard work. Monitoring progress on the Action Plan and the condition of the AONB is included in Section 9, with Table 4 setting out a range of monitoring indicators.

**Appendices and maps (pages 111 - 165)** are included at the end of the document and provide a wide range of supporting information including additional baseline data, an index of key related plans and strategies, summaries of the questionnaire survey, peer review and public consultation, and a bibliography including useful website addresses. There is also a detailed glossary of technical terms and acronyms to aid the reader.

## How was the Plan produced?

This revised statutory Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2018-23) has been produced by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS), in partnership and close consultation with the relevant local authorities, Natural England, other members of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and many other organisations and interest groups.

The JAC, on behalf of the relevant local authorities, advised the LWCS of the need to conduct a light review to minimise public cost and avoid undermining the extensive work undertaken to help inform the previous 2013-18 Management Plan and its twenty-five year vision for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. This approach concurs with the recommendation in the recently published AONB Management Plans - Support for their revision in England (Steve Preston Associates with the NAAONB, June 2017) that recommends that the current round of Plan Reviews should be concentrating on both continuity and consistency of management objectives.

Key elements in the production of this Plan have included:

- An initial public questionnaire survey undertaken during the summer of 2016 (Appendix 5).
- A Management Plan Review Workshop for the Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership) facilitated in October 2016.
- A subsequent detailed Peer Review from key partners and organisations with an active interest in the AONB (Appendix 6).
- Attendance from the LWCS staff and display at a range of local shows and events during the summer of 2017 - inviting informal discussions and comments on the current issues facing the area.
- Ongoing evidence gathering to aid compilation of the Lincolnshire Wolds State of the AONB Report - 2017 (Appendix 4).
- Production and circulation of the Draft Management Plan and formal six week public consultation (Dec 2017 – Jan 2018).
- An endorsement of the pre-publication of the Plan from the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC and key statutory consultees including Natural England and Historic England.
- Local authority adoption and publication of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2018-23) setting out the Strategy and Action Plan for the five year period from April 2018.

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# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Setting the Scene</b>	<b>9</b>
	1.1 What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	9
	1.2 Why have AONBs?	9
	1.3 What are the statutory obligations for managing AONBs?	10
	1.4 What is an AONB Management Plan and why is it needed?	11
	1.5 The Management Plan in context	11
	1.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan	11
	1.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and how is the partnership funded?	12
<b>2.</b>	<b>The Lincolnshire Wolds - A Special Landscape</b>	<b>13</b>
	2.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds – Introduction	13
	2.2 The Wolds’ General Character	13
	2.3 Why is the Lincolnshire Wolds an AONB?	13
	2.3.1 Outstanding Qualities	13
	2.3.2 National Landscape Character Assessments	14
	2.3.3 District Landscape Character Assessments	14
	2.3.4 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Character Assessment	15
	2.3.5 Local Landscape Character Areas	15
	2.4 The Lincolnshire Wolds State of the AONB Report ( <i>see also Appendix 4 &amp; Table 4</i> )	16
	2.5 The Special Qualities of the AONB	16
	Table 1: Special Qualities (summary)	17
	2.5 Threats/Issues/Pressures on the Wolds’ Natural Beauty	28
	Table 2 - Forces for Change (summary)	29
	2.6 Public Survey – Have Your Say ( <i>see also Appendix 5</i> )	34
<b>3.</b>	<b>The Vision and Guiding Influences</b>	<b>35</b>
	3.1 The Vision	35
	3.2 The Aims	35
	3.3 Cross-cutting influences – national drivers	36
	3.4 Delivery themes	37
<b>4.</b>	<b>Protecting the Wolds - Theme 1</b>	<b>38</b>
	4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement	38
	4.2 Natural Heritage – Biodiversity	
	4.2.1 Context setting for nature conservation	40
	4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland	43
	4.2.3 Grass Verges and Green Lanes	45
	4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards	47
	4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees	49
	4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds	51
	4.2.7 Arable Farmland	53
	4.3 Earth Heritage	
	4.3.1 Geodiversity	55
	4.3.2 Soils	57
	4.4 Cultural Heritage – Historic Landscapes	
	4.4.1 Archaeology	59
	4.4.2 Built Heritage	61

<b>5.</b>	<b>Living and Working in the Wolds - Theme 2</b>	<b>63</b>
	5.1 Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds	63
	5.2 Thriving Communities	66
<b>6.</b>	<b>Discovering the Wolds - Theme 3</b>	<b>68</b>
	6.1 Overview for Discovering the Wolds	68
	6.2 Interpretation – Awareness Raising	68
	6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism	69
<b>7.</b>	<b>Developing the Wolds - Theme 4</b>	<b>71</b>
	7.1 Planning and Development Management	71
	7.2 Transport in the Wolds	74
	7.3 Climate Change and Energy	76
<b>8.</b>	<b>Partnerships in the Wolds - Theme 5</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Making it Happen – Implementation, Monitoring and Review</b>	<b>79</b>
	9.1 Implementation	79
	9.1.1 Table 3 – AONB 5 Year Action Plan	80
	9.2 Monitoring	
	9.2.1 Condition Monitoring	100
	9.2.2 Performance Monitoring	100
	9.2.3 Table 4 - State of the AONB Indicators (Draft)	101
	9.3 Management Plan Review	104
<b>10.</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Membership	105
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Role of the Joint Advisory Committee and Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and sub-groups	106
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Local Landscape Character Areas	107
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Lincolnshire Wolds State of AONB Report 2017	109
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Public Questionnaire - Have Your Say (2016); Results Summary	140
<b>Appendix 6</b>	AONB Partnership Peer Review – A summary of Responses	<b>XX</b>
<b>Appendix 7a</b>	Public Consultation Proforma - 2017	143
<b>Appendix 7b</b>	Summary of Written Responses to Public Consultation	145
<b>Appendix 8a</b>	Glossary for Acronyms	153
<b>Appendix 8b</b>	Technical Terms	155
<b>Appendix 9</b>	Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives	156
<b>Appendix 10</b>	Bibliography/Further Information	158

<b>Appendix 11</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Maps</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Map 1</b>	National Map of AONBs	161
<b>Map 2</b>	Local Authority Boundary Map	162
<b>Map 3</b>	County Map of the AONB	163
<b>Map 4</b>	AONB/Character Area Map	164
<b>Map 5</b>	Local Landscape Character Map	165

# 1. Setting the Scene

## 1.1 What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape most of which was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973 on account of its high scenic beauty. AONBs, together with National Parks, make up the finest landscapes in England and Wales. The AONBs are a national asset containing a wide variety of attractive landscapes including wolds, downlands, woodlands, moorlands and heaths, rivers and streams, estuaries and marshes, and coast (Map 1). Like National Parks, our AONBs are very much living and working landscapes that have been, and continue to be, shaped by nature and human activity.

## 1.2 Why have AONBs?

### International context:

AONBs are one of a group of globally protected landscapes. They fall within a worldwide category of Protected Landscapes, established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) where they are classed as 'Category V – Protected Landscapes'.

The European Landscape Convention, the ELC (2000), has been ratified by the United Kingdom and came into effect in March 2007. It sets out a comprehensive strategic agreement for the consideration of landscape matters within all relevant decision making across the European Community. The UK government's position on the Landscape Convention in the light of Brexit is currently unclear, although likely to be retained as saved legislation.

### National context:

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC Act) established powers to create AONBs, with the overriding objective of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. 'Natural beauty' is not just the visual element of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries (Countryside Agency – now Natural England, CA24, 2001). Whilst the original reasons for protection still hold true today, with the landscape quality of overriding importance, there has been increasing recognition of the multiple benefits that these dynamic areas bring. Our national AONB resource provides vibrant places that help to underpin the economy and the health and wellbeing of UK society, offering a wealth of opportunities for everyone to enjoy and also to help in looking after them.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is one of a family of 46 designated AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that work closely through the shared aims, objectives and work programme of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB). The NAAONB was formed in 1998 and now operates as a Charitable Company limited by guarantee with its membership comprising AONB partnerships, some local authorities and other voluntary bodies, businesses and individuals with an interest in the future of these nationally important and iconic landscapes. Through the guidance of its Trustees, Management Board and wider membership, the NAAONB aims to sustain and enhance the funding arrangements, management and public awareness for all AONBs. In addition to the clear links with other AONBs the Lincolnshire Wolds is part of a wider national protected landscape family that includes the UK's National Parks and Heritage Coasts.

The close working relationship with our family of AONBs and sister group of protected landscapes remains vital to help share expertise, good practice and encourage innovation. The NAAONB revised its Strategic Plan in 2016, reaffirming the shared objectives and aims for AONBs under the branding of Landscapes for Life seeking to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future.



- Support the economic and social wellbeing of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation.
- Value, sustain and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and wellbeing.

Over the past 20 years, the NAAONB has established itself as the collective voice of AONB partnerships in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and in so doing, represents those involved in the planning and management of over 8,000 square miles of the UK's finest landscapes. Its "modus operandi" is "Leading, Sharing, Learning and Inspiring" to enable everyone who can help care for our AONBs to do so, now and for future generations (NAAONB Communication Strategy 2017-20).

(visit [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk) - for further details on the Strategy, Business Plan and wider work of the NAAONB – see also cross cutting themes).

### **1.3 What are the statutory obligations for managing AONBs?**

In 1991 the Countryside Commission (now Natural England) published a policy statement about AONBs (CCP 356) which clarified the following obligations for their management:

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. In pursuing this aim account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be made to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves help to conserve and enhance the environment.

Unlike our National Parks, recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) introduced significant measures to improve the protection and management of AONBs. As summarised by the Countryside Agency (CA 23, 2001), the CRoW Act:

- Consolidates the provisions regarding the designation and purposes of AONBs previously contained in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC Act) as modified by subsequent legislation. (Section 82, CRoW Act)
- Confirms the powers of local authorities to take appropriate action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONBs. (Section 84, CRoW Act)
- Places a duty on 'relevant authorities' when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. (Section 85, CRoW Act)
- Provides for the creation of conservation boards for selected individual AONBs by means of an establishment order made by the Secretary of State. (Section 86, CRoW Act)
- Requires the preparation and publication of a Management Plan and its periodic review by the appropriate local authorities, or by an AONB conservation board where one is established. (Section 89, CRoW Act)

## **1.4 What is an AONB Management Plan and why is it needed?**

The objective of AONB Management Plans is to ensure both consistency and continuity of management over time, conserving and enhancing these nationally important landscapes for their use and enjoyment over future generations. The production of five yearly management plans is a statutory duty for all local authorities that have AONBs, or part of an AONB, within their administrative boundaries and one plan must be produced in partnership with other local authorities and relevant statutory bodies.

The review of the previous Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2013-18) has provided a fresh opportunity for everyone with an interest in the area to help reassess the issues, revise objectives and set fresh priorities for protecting and enhancing the Wolds AONB. Additional to safeguarding our nationally protected scenic landscape the Plan can help to integrate strategic objectives and partnership actions to help secure a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits for those living, working and visiting the area.

## **1.5 The Management Plan in context**

The total area of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is 558 km<sup>2</sup> (55,800 hectares): Map 2 shows the administrative areas which includes East Lindsey District Council (397 km<sup>2</sup>); West Lindsey District Council (119.5 km<sup>2</sup>); and North East Lincolnshire Council (41.5 km<sup>2</sup>) with 516.5 km<sup>2</sup> within Lincolnshire County Council.

The Management Plan cannot be viewed in isolation and its strategic objectives, policies and resulting actions represent the collaborative local authority, AONB Partnership and wider public aspirations for the area. This publication seeks to complement the planning and development management framework provided under the current National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (2012) and the accompanying suite of local plans. The NPPF recognises the importance of AONBs as national assets as detailed through paragraphs 115-116 and makes it clear that relevant planning decisions must give great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in these areas.

The local plans of relevance to the Lincolnshire Wolds are: the East Lindsey Local Plan (Emerging Local Plan 2016-2031); the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted Local Plan, 2012-2036) which includes the joint policies for West Lindsey District Council (WLDC); Planning for Growth – North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Pre-Submission Draft, 2016); together with the additional Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council plans for highways, minerals and waste matters. There is currently one neighbourhood plan which extends into the AONB and was produced by the market town of Caistor and subsequently adopted by WLDC. The Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, and their accompanying strategies, are further important drivers for change.

## **1.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan**

In accordance with Section 89 of the CRoW Act and the various "how to write and review plans" AONB guidance (CA23, CA221, the 2012 Defra/Natural England/NAAONB advice note and the most recent AONB Management Plans – Support for their revision in England 2017 publication) the revised Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2018-23) will be forwarded to Natural England for final observations prior to its formal adoption by Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council.

## **1.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and how is the partnership funded?**

The care of the AONB has been entrusted to the local authorities, organisations, community groups and those who live and work in the area. Much of the area is in private ownership, with few publicly owned and managed sites. Private landowners, particularly farmers and land managers, have a crucial role to play in continuing to safeguard this unique landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has an established Joint Advisory Committee (Appendix 1): a partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations and representatives who have a special interest or working knowledge of the area. The JAC acts as a forum to advise and guide activity on a wide range of issues across the Wolds and will be instrumental in developing, implementing and monitoring the revised AONB Management Plan.

The LWCS currently implements a varied work programme on behalf of the JAC and its core funders, who meet quarterly as part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group (Appendix 2). The LWCS works alongside a wide range of organisations, local landowners, community groups and volunteers advising on policy and undertaking activity that furthers the interests of the AONB and wider Wolds Character Area. The LWCS will help to coordinate both the delivery and future statutory review of the Plan and will play a key role in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities that can aid its implementation. The success of the Plan will ultimately depend on integrated stakeholder action involving all organisations, landowners and communities with an influence and/or interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

The LWCS provides the dedicated staff unit for the AONB and is hosted by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) on behalf of the JAC. The current national government has pledged its continuing financial commitment to AONBs; with a 75% core grant supplied direct from Defra and a local Memorandum of Agreement in place with all relevant local authorities including LCC, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council – whom together help to cover the additional 25% core and selected project funding. The national funding arrangements for AONBs are likely to be under further review in 2020.

There is a wide range of available grant programmes for assisting landowners, local communities and businesses to protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds. Natural England's Mid Tier Stewardship (MT) and High Tier Stewardship (HT) schemes, together with the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), provide continuing support to the area's landowners and rural businesses. The RDPE also supports the Lindsey Action Zone (LEADER) programme which operates across and beyond the AONB boundaries and provides an added source of funding for local landowners, businesses and community groups and organisations.

Ongoing pressures on public finances and the need to reduce both central and local authority budgets will continue to have a direct impact upon future partnership work activity and grant programmes, creating challenging but fresh opportunities over the lifetime of the Plan. The JAC wishes to build on the many successes enjoyed by those living, working and visiting the Wolds: continuing to liaise with all to help towards the prudent management of resources and the exploration and implementation of innovative ideas for future sustainable development.

## **2. The Lincolnshire Wolds - A Special Landscape**

### **2.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds - Introduction**

The Lincolnshire Wolds lie in the north-eastern quarter of the county of Lincolnshire (Map 3), mid-way between Lincoln and the coast, surrounded by the relatively flat fens, coastal marsh and the Lincoln Clay Vale. As detailed, the AONB comprises an area of 558 km<sup>2</sup> (216 miles<sup>2</sup>), while the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Character/Natural Area incorporates the two neighbouring areas of the 'Spilsby Crescent' to the south and the remaining chalk uplands to the north (Map 4).

### **2.2 The Wolds' General Character**

The Wolds has a strong unity of visual character, characterised by open plateau hilltops, sweeping views, strong escarpments, wide grass verges and ridge-top routeways, dramatic wooded slopes and valleys, beech clumps, attractive villages often nestled in hill folds and natural and historic features of great interest including visual remnants of ancient tumuli and deserted/shrunken medieval villages.

The Landscape Character Assessment for the Wolds undertaken by the Countryside Commission (CCP 414, 1993), recognises the landscape as strikingly different from most other chalk and limestone landscapes in the extent of arable cultivation, made possible by the area's fertile chalk and glacial tills. The 'typical' chalk downland features of calcareous grassland and sheep walk were probably never widespread in the Wolds due to the thinness of the chalk and the fact that much of the area is covered by glacial till. The area subsequently has a long association with cultivated farming practices. The surviving areas of semi-natural habitats, including grassland and ancient woodland, are very limited in extent, but are nonetheless of particular importance, and are supported by more recent introductions of hunting and shooting plantations and hedgerows indicative of an Enclosure Landscape.

In addition to the distinctive and widely nucleated villages and hamlets within the Wolds, the surrounding market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby have integral connections with the area. The Wolds remains relatively sparsely populated and the roles of the market towns are very important in providing a wide range of social and economic services for the wider community, whilst also operating as important gateways to the surrounding countryside. The AONB remains a relatively tranquil place for residents and visitors alike and the aim of the Management Plan is to promote and enhance the area's special qualities, whilst also supporting and managing future recreational and tourism demands across a living and working landscape.

### **2.3 Why is the Lincolnshire Wolds an AONB?**

#### **2.3.1 Outstanding Qualities**

The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated an AONB in 1973 following a period of considerable local campaigning. This recognised the area's unique landscape and distinctive 'sense of place'. The Landscape Character Assessment (CCP414, 1993), acknowledged the following outstanding qualities as detailed in support of our current vision statement (see Section 3):

- A unique physiography (geology and topography) – The physical geography of the Lincolnshire Wolds is unusual and distinctive. The Wolds is the highest upland landscape in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent and has a complex geology; nowhere else in Britain has a chalk landscape been so extensively modified by glaciations. These have given rise to some of its most striking features including numerous steep-sided and open-ended combes (valley systems).
- A scenic, working landscape – The high scenic quality of the Wolds depends almost entirely upon the area's use for agriculture. Much of its charm is derived from the seasonally

changing field and cropping patterns; the rural scenes of farming activity; and the traditional villages and farmsteads in brick and pantile. Overall approximately 76% of the AONB is in arable cultivation, with 14.5% as pasture or rough grazing and 5.4% woodland cover (Defra Agricultural Census 2013 & Forestry Commission stats, 2015). It is widely recognised that much of the attractiveness of the Wolds today is a result of the activities of generations of landowners and farmers.

- A major archaeological resource – The Wolds has a rich legacy of prehistoric sites and a wealth of historic landscape features. Most of Lincolnshire’s long barrows are in the Wolds, with a high concentration of round barrows, together with many important ancient trackways including the ridge top routes of the Bluestone Heath Road and the Caistor High Street. The Wolds also has one of the largest densities of deserted and shrunken medieval villages (DMVs & SMVs) in the country.
- A valued cultural landscape – The Wolds’ landscape has been a source of cultural inspiration. The Tennyson family has a strong association with the area. Alfred, Lord Tennyson - the Poet Laureate - spent much of his formative years in the Wolds and it is featured in many of his works including ‘The Brook’. The landscape has offered inspiration to many artists and writers over the years including the mid-19th century landscape painter Peter de Wint and more recently the author A. S. Byatt in the Booker Prize-winning novel ‘Possession’.

### **2.3.2 National Landscape Character Assessments**

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is part of the more extensive Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area (NCA Number 43) as mapped originally by the Countryside Agency, now Natural England. The national Countryside Quality Counts project has helped to collate landscape trends for all of the NCAs and provides useful historic data for the wider Wolds area. This project has been updated by the Character and Quality of England’s Landscapes initiative, also known as CQuEL. This programme aims to provide a series of integrated datasets focusing on place-based evidence for the character and function of landscapes, and the provision of relevant ecosystem services.

Natural England (NE) has led on a national programme to update, expand and strengthen the suite of England’s 159 NCA profiles. This work has sought to encompass the recommendations of the Government’s White Paper on the Natural Environment including the development of a Strategic set of Statements of Environmental Opportunities (SEOs) for each area.

### **2.3.3 District Landscape Character Assessments**

Finer-grained landscape character studies have been undertaken via the West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment (2009). The West Lindsey study recognised two distinct sub-areas the ‘North West Wolds Escarpment’ and ‘Lincolnshire Wolds’ within the AONB. The East Lindsey study highlighted three sub-areas, two directly in the AONB: ‘G1-Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland’ and ‘G2-Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby’ and a third ‘G3 Hainton to Toynton All Saints Wolds Farmland’ extending south-eastwards beyond the AONB boundary. A further landscape character assessment is considering the north-east corner of the Wolds as part of the wider North East Lincolnshire Council landscape character assessment. Alongside the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) study for Greater Lincolnshire these studies help to illustrate the highly regarded and distinctive qualities of the Wolds’ landscape and its relationship with neighbouring areas.

### **2.3.4 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment**

The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Character Assessment (CCP414, 1993) identified and described the key features that make the area special and contribute to its overall 'sense of place'. These features are:

- A rolling upland landscape of strongly cohesive identity.
- A pronounced scarp edge to the west comprising rough pasture and scrub, affording fine panoramic views to the Central Lincolnshire Vale.
- A combination of elevated plateau and deep-sided valleys.
- Large rectilinear fields with wide hedgerows from the late enclosure.
- Archaeologically rich, with ancient trackways, deserted villages and burial mounds.
- Sparse settlements of small-nucleated villages, often in sheltered valleys and associated with modest country houses and small parklands. The diverse geology gives rise to a variety of building materials.
- Broad verges to some roads and tracks providing valuable flower-rich habitats.
- Occasional shelterbelts concentrated on steeper-sided valley and scarp slopes emphasising landform.
- Broader south-west valleys of the Rivers Lymn and Bain. Associated alder carr woodland and tree lined watercourses.

### **2.3.5 Local Landscape Character Areas**

There are clear variations in scenic character across the Wolds with topography and geology appearing to be the most dominant factors. The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Character Assessment (CCP414, 1993) recognised four Landscape Character Areas within the AONB (Map 5) identified by their distinct group of special features (Appendix 3):

- The north-west scarp
- The chalk wolds
- The ridges and valleys of the south-west
- The south-eastern claylands.

The Management Plan uses the local landscape classification as the most practical tool within the AONB, with the other district and national classifications providing useful information at the relevant mapping layer.

## **2.4 The Lincolnshire Wolds State of the AONB Report: 2017**

The Draft Lincolnshire Wolds State of the AONB Report: 2017 (Appendix 4) has been compiled by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) and identifies and reviews a number of indices to help update and extend the baseline data for the protected landscape. There has been a notable increase in available data since the preparation of the previous AONB Plan in 2012-13, including provision of a wider range of national datasets made available via the Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework (PLMF).

A number of indicators are proposed and these have been grouped in-line with the overarching themes of the Management Plan. The Report includes the context, findings and a concise analysis of the results, either for an individual indicator, or a cluster of closely linked indicators. As evidenced in the report, both quantitative and qualitative information has been utilised. Wherever possible AONB specific data has been gathered, however in some cases estimates from wider data coverage have been necessary to generate a proxy measure. This report is ongoing, with some limited data searches still being pursued, for example in respect of health measures, and broadband/mobile phone coverage specific to the AONB.

The report provides a snapshot of the Wolds to help assess the overall condition of the protected landscape, both its special qualities and also the area's important wider environmental, social and economic attributes. As mentioned, it establishes a detailed baseline of evidence to help evaluate both the current and the future success of the AONB Management Plan. The AONB Partnership (JAC) has always stressed that the objective of the Plan should be to provide a working document to help inspire and steer future positive partnership action.

## **2.5 Special Qualities of the AONB**

Table 1 summarises the special landscape features that typify the Lincolnshire Wolds 'natural beauty' and 'sense of place'. These include features relating to landscape, farmland, geology, topography, biodiversity, archaeology, built heritage and culture. Appendix 3 provides an additional summary of the special qualities of each of the four Landscape Character Areas.

The table includes estimates of the extent or coverage of any feature and where possible an indication of its condition. This information is by no means comprehensive and has identified areas for further survey work (e.g. habitats in the wider countryside including woodland and grassland sites). The table provides a useful overview to accompany the more detailed State of the AONB report (Appendix 4). The source organisation is abbreviated in the left hand column. Table 2 complements Table 1 in highlighting specific threats and management options that relate to the individual qualities of the AONB.

**Table 1: The Special Qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB**

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Landscape Character	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Scenic beauty & rural charm	General component (a rolling upland landscape of strongly cohesive identity with farming as an underlying component).				Most of AONB	Good, but needs quantitative survey (see monitoring section)	Changes in land management and the future use of farm buildings; decoupling from CAP; quarrying; telecommunication masts; wind farm developments including periphery of AONB; oil exploration; light pollution; solar, anaerobic and other alternative energy schemes.	Planning and development management; interpretation & education; liaison with community & visitors; national and local funding opportunities through agri-environment schemes, Lottery funding etc.
Expansive, sweeping views	General component (views from scarp edge, High Street and Bluestone Heath road are particularly dramatic).				Most of AONB	Good, as above	As above, but particularly potential for intrusion from hilltop or skyline developments including overhead powerlines.	Planning and development management; high quality design and build; landscaping. Undergrounding overhead wires initiative.
Peace & Tranquillity	General component (once away from the main roads there is a wide sense of remoteness and rural isolation accentuated by the combination of elevated plateau and sheltered coombes).				Most of AONB	Good, away from main roads such as A16, A18 and High Street.	Continued increase in road freight & possible increase in air traffic (via Humberside Airport and armed services); light pollution; unmanaged visitor pressure.	Integrated public transport initiatives.



<p><b>Farmed Land</b> (scenic quality, biodiversity, socio-economic)  (NE)</p>	<p>Primary land-use component of the AONB landscape.</p> <p>Almost 65% of the AONB is in regular cultivation, including over 45% for cereals.</p> <p>A further 14.5 % of the AONB is in grassland – a figure which has increased in recent years through agri-environment targeting of Countryside, Entry and Higher Level, and Mid and High Tier Stewardship Schemes.</p>	<p>Most of AONB</p>	<p>Varied, but essential element of the AONB character (see component features below).</p>	<p>New cropping regimes; changes to national/EU farm policy via Brexit reforms; demands for ever larger farm sheds, outside stores, grain silos; climate change.</p>	<p>Re-directing new funding streams for landscape, biodiversity, access and recreation. Opportunities via game conservation. High quality design for farmed buildings via land agents, design guides and LPAs good practice.</p>
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Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Earth Heritage	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Chalk upland – plateau & valley landscape  (Geodiversity Group)	General component (series of sandstones, ironstones and clay underlie the chalk capping and form the essential character of the Wolds. The area has been shaped by at least two periods of glaciation).				Most of AONB	Varied	Modern development (visual intrusion e.g. telecom masts and wind turbines both within and adjacent to the AONB); farm infrastructure developments (as above); chalk quarrying.	Planning and development management; interpretation & education.
Glacial/periglacial features including remnant lakes/spillways  (Geodiversity Group)		Key feature  1 SSSI 4 LGS 1 RIGS 1 LWT Reserve	Key feature  1 SSSI 1 LGS	Key feature  1 LGS 1 RIGS	2 SSSI 6 LGS 2 RIGS	Varied  2 SSSIs all in favourable condition	Change in land use e.g. tree planting.	Improved access, interpretation & education; landowner liaison; restoration schemes.
Geological qualities  (Geodiversity Group)	1 SSSI 1 LGS	4 LGS 2 RIGS	Key feature  3 SSSI 2 LGS 1 RIGS	1 RIGS	4 SSSI 7 LGS 4 RIGS	Varied, some small pits overgrown or infilled. 4 SSSIs all in favourable condition	Change in land use; lack of awareness; erosion; secondary activity including landfill; illegal activities.	Improved access, interpretation & education; landowner liaison; restoration schemes.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Biodiversity	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Calcareous, meadow, pasture & wet grasslands  (NE, LWT & LWCS)	Key feature Nettleton Valley and western scarp face.	Local feature within the chalk valleys.  1 SSSI (bats in disused railway tunnels)	Key feature  4 SSSI 2 LWT Reserves	Local feature  5 SSSI 3 LWT Reserves	Estimated 13% of AONB - Over 80 sites with grassland interest have been proposed as Local Wildlife Sites. 10 SSSI	54% decline in grasslands between 1975 and 1994 (EN stats. from MAFF agriculture annual census). Situation now improving with agri-environment support.  2 SSSIs in declining condition.	Threat to livestock farming; intensive agricultural practices including land drainage; potential conflict with woodland planting; loss via woodland/scrub encroachment.	Grazing support schemes; shifts in national/EU policy favouring environmental farming schemes; landowner liaison.
Beech clumps (BeC)  (LWCS)		Key feature  28 BeC	Local feature  12 BeC	Local feature  8 BeC	Important landscape feature.	Many of similar age & structure. The LWCS Beech Clump project has helped to create/restore 38 clumps since 2004, with the planting of over 6,630 trees & shrubs.	Wide neglect & lack of management, climate change.	AONB specific grants & advice. Landowner liaison. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
Woodlands (largely 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century plantings)  (FC)	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature	Key feature	2,454 ha, <4.4% of AONB  Approx. 80% b'leaved 10% coniferous 10% mixed w'land/ young trees	At least 56% of woodland is now deemed to be in positive management from 27% in 2001/02.  Remaining 44% unknown.	Further decline in management; lack of potential markets although improving with increasing demand for local wood fuels; conifer planting; fragility owing to small size; climate change; fly tipping.	Further surveys; targeted planting & woodland restoration schemes; development of woodland markets; TPOs.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Biodiversity (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Ancient woodlands (NE, LWT, CA & LWCS)	Oak & ash	Hazel, ash & wych elm  1 SSSI	Alder carr  1 SSSI	Oak & ash  2 SSSI 1 LWT Reserve	604 ha, <1.08% of AONB Localised, but highly visible feature. 4 SSSI	2 SSSI in favourable condition.	As above; with isolation of the woodland of particular concern.	As above.
River, streams and ponds (EA & LWCS)	Key feature	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature  1 LWT Reserve	9 principal river systems many are SNCI and LWS. Total estimated length = 258 km.  Ponds unknown	Poor – good  89 km classed as moderate to good condition.  7 km in poor condition (Laceby Beck catchment)  Approximately 12 km of chalk stream restoration achieved since 2004.	Low flow issues; poor water quality including sedimentation; restricted or inappropriate riverside habitats; invasive alien spaces – signal crayfish, Himalayan Balsam etc.	Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project; Catchment Restoration Fund; Catchment Characterisation Studies; River Basin Management Plans under WFD. Anglian Water's Resources Management Plan. Future Facilitation Fund.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Biodiversity (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south- west	South- eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Hedgerows  (LCC; State of the Environment Report)	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature	Local feature	Unknown Mainly enclosure hedges, small areas of pre- enclosure (species rich) hedgerows survive in pockets.	Unknown.  Between 1970s and 1990s over 1000m per km square believed to have been lost in the Wolds. Situation improving especially with grant support for new/restored hedges.	Decline in grant support for hedgerow restoration. Loss of traditional practices; poor management; spray drift.	Further surveys; landowner liaison, advice and specific grant aid; links to other habitats; development control (planning conditions) and Hedgerow Regulations.
Roadside verges and green lanes  (LWCS & LWT) Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)	Local feature	Local feature  7 RNRs	Key feature  3 RNRs	Key feature  7 RNRs	Overall key component of area.  17 RNRs within the AONB	Variable.  17 verges subsequently reclassified as Local Wildlife Sites	Loss of traditional management, e.g. grazing & hay making; inappropriate use; road run off & vehicle encroachment; fly tipping.	Increased volunteer engagement via Life on the Verge project; suitable future management; interconnected network of sites.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Archaeology	North- west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south- west	South- eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Ancient route-ways  (LWCS)	Key feature  Caistor High Street	Key feature  Barton Street	Key feature  Bluestone Heath Road	Key feature  Barton Street	Roman roads and salter routes, many as byways etc.	Generally degraded, esp. on byways.	Loss of character through road widening; modern signage; increased traffic flows; lack of appropriate management (e.g. byways); increased traffic flows.	Sympathetic/ traditional signage; education & awareness.
Scheduled Monuments (SMs)  (LCC - MapInfo) (HE)	Local feature  13 barrow sites	Key feature  48 sites: 17 DMVs; 3 moated sites; 1 hillfort; 25 barrows 3 structures;	Key feature  26 sites: 2 DMVs; 2 moated sites; 16 barrows; 6 structures	Local feature  10 sites: 1 DMV; 9 barrows	98 SMs within AONB  One new listing in 2016 – DMV.	30 SMs at high risk from cultivation (HE, 2017) - a downward trend from 37 in 2013 and 47 in 2004.	Change of land use or management; farming operations.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access interpretation & education; agri- environment schemes.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Archaeology (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Burial mounds & monuments  (LCC - MapInfo)	Local feature  Long barrows and round barrows.  2 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Key feature  Long barrows and round barrows.  3 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Key feature  Long barrows and round barrows.  7 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local feature  Long barrows and round barrows.  1 Anglo-Saxon cemetery	Visible on chalk tops & adjoining routeways 56 long barrow & up to 350 round barrow sites recorded for the Wolds. 13 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Vulnerable feature. Many now only visible as crop & soil marks.  Several important key sites remain e.g. Giants' Hill long barrow.	Farming operations; development pressures.	Planning and development management; landowner liaison; agri-environment schemes.  HE & HL ongoing Long Barrow survey – results pending.
Deserted medieval villages (DMVs) & shrunken medieval villages (SMVs)	Local feature Nettleton Parish - Hardwick, West Wykeham & Draycot	Key feature Around North Ormsby, Calcethorp e, Withcall & Maltby	Key feature Around Wykeham, Biscathorpe and Calceby		High density of DMVs on plateau & spring line locations (Approx 80 DMVs /SMVs.)	Vulnerable feature.	Farming operations; development pressures.	Planning and development management; landowner liaison & advice; increased access interpretation & education.
Roman villas and settlements  (LCC - MapInfo)	5 sites	Local feature  12 sites	3 sites	1 site	21 known	Variable condition, (but no data for all).  Vulnerable features. Many are only visible as crop marks.	Change of land use; farming operations; development pressures.	Planning and development management; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, education & interpretation; agri-environment schemes.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Cultural associations (community value)	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Literary/artistic  (CCP414 pg 24-26)	General component, especially Chalk Wolds & Ridges and Valleys of the South-West.  Local and AONB-wide cultural associations.  Vernacular idiom/dialect.				Most of AONB	Strong.  Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate; Peter de Wint, landscape painter; A.S. Byatt, Booker Prize - winner novelist.	Change in ownership; loss of records or information; lack of interest or awareness.	Interpretation & education; improved access to cultural sites; landowner liaison; support specialist interest groups.



Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Historic Landscapes & Buildings	North-west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south-west	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Village character, including churches  (LWCS) Conservation areas (LCC - MapInfo)	Key feature  Local ironstone & limestone buildings.  Conservation area in 2 villages (Tealby).	Key feature  Villages hidden from view. Conservation area in 1 village; conservation area of part of 1 town (Binbrook).	Key feature  Local sandstone buildings, with rectangular plan villages.  Conservation area of part of 1 village. (South Willingham).	Key feature  Linear villages	72 villages with distinctive churches.  16 villages without a church.  Many houses of brick and pantile.	Variable  Total of 343 building & heritage features listed at grade I, II* & II.  3 Listed buildings deemed to be at risk in the AONB.  2 Conservation areas deemed to be at risk (South Willingham and Binbrook).	Insensitive development including infill; change of use; visitor pressure.	Planning and development management, e.g. Design Guides as SPG; interpretation & education.
Traditional farm buildings  (HE & LWCS)	Local feature  Built of local stone, many still house livestock.  Farmsteads 43  Outfarms 3	Key feature  Victorian planned farmsteads mainly built of brick.  Farmsteads 196  Outfarms 11	Key feature  Victorian planned farmsteads, mainly built of brick and housing livestock.  Farmsteads 262  Outfarms 20	  Farmsteads 48  Outfarms 3	A feature, esp. the planned Victorian farmstead e.g. Turnor buildings at Kirmond le Mire.  Farmstead 549  Outfarms 37	Variable  Traditional Farmsteads Study completed in 2017 by Locus Consulting supported by LWCS and HE. Results included:  Extant - 13% Partial loss - 36% Significant loss - 23% Farm house only – 6% Total loss – 22% Heritage potential 48%	Change of agricultural practices and legislation demand larger buildings for livestock and machinery; insensitive developments.	Planning and development management e.g. Design Guides as SPG; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Pressures and trends	Management options
Historic Landscapes & Buildings (continued)	North- west scarp	Chalk Wolds	Ridges and valleys of the south- west	South- eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Industrial heritage, airfields, railways mine workings	Local feature  Ironstone mining.	Local feature.  3 former RAF airfields, old railway line and buildings.	Local feature  Old railway line. Key feature - Stenigot Mast.		Small pockets of interest throughout inc. 9 historic military sites; 10 cuttings & embankment s.	Airfield heritage in declining condition, although memorials well maintained.	General neglect; previous lack of awareness has been improving e.g. Down Your Wold community heritage project.	Landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education.  Growing interest in ironstone mining heritage.
Moated sites  (LWCS)		1	Key feature  4		5 known	Vulnerable feature	Farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison; improved access, education & interpretation
Watermills & Windmills  (LWCS)	Local feature  Paper making industry at Tealby utilised watermills  7	Local feature  Thoresway and Binbrook watermills remain  11	Local feature  Stockwith Mill is best remaining in Wolds. Ketsby Mill has potential  6	Local feature  Windmills at Hagworthing -ham and Grebby	A localised feature within the Wolds, many have no surviving remains (all records have been counted). 24 known	Only half (12) have bricks/evidence on the ground of the site.	Many now lost through changes into private residence with watercourses often diverted; neglected feature under threat.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; improved access, interpretation & education.
Dry stone walls  (LWCS)	Key feature				Limited to the north-west scarp.	Variable condition but improving in places e.g. Tealby church wall.	Neglected feature; lack of building material.	Further surveys; landowner liaison AONB specific grants/advice including agri- environ schemes.

## **2.5 Threats/Issues/Pressures on the Wolds' Natural Beauty**

Table 2 complements Table 1 in providing an overview of the threats and pressures on the Wolds and future opportunities that may exist for minimising any potential impact on the natural beauty of the AONB. The opportunities also provide a basis for developing much needed positive action to improve the Wolds' landscape quality and biodiversity. Appendix 3 provides an additional summary of the threats/pressures for each of the four AONB specific Landscape Character Areas.

There is much action by landowners, local authorities and others to help influence and encourage positive landscape management. A wide range of partnership achievements are documented in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB's Annual Reviews which have been published since 2004-05. These reports show the success of the Partnership in encouraging and supporting a wide range of projects, very often inspired by local communities, and delivering environmental and socio-economic benefits for the area.

Whilst there may be a number of continuing threats to the landscape, there are also many opportunities for conservation and enhancement of the AONB. The task for everyone is to ensure that efforts can be coordinated in the best interest of the Wolds' landscape whilst meeting the needs of those living, working or visiting the AONB. The Management Plan seeks to provide a framework and stimulus for such integrated action.

**Table 2: Forces for Change on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (summary)**

Land Management	Pressures/Threats:	Opportunities:
<p><b>Agriculture</b> (see also economic section)</p>	<p>Uncertainties within agriculture linked to Brexit and de-coupling from CAP.</p> <p>Financial viability of future farming with increasing pressures from open market forces.</p> <p>Reducing and aging work force and possible restrictions on the mobility of seasonal labour from overseas.</p> <p>Extreme weather events, locally &amp; globally, increasing volatility in market prices.</p> <p>Intensification in farm practices, coupled with emerging pests and diseases and future threats to biosecurity.</p> <p>Demand for ever larger working/storage facilities to maintain profitability &amp; meet bio-control standards.</p> <p>Continued pressure on livestock farming &amp; implications to the Wolds' landscape &amp; biodiversity.</p> <p>Increasing financial costs of arable and livestock production and consistency in energy supply.</p> <p>Loss of cross compliance funding to help aid corridor management e.g. ditch and hedgerow boundary maintenance etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing Brexit and UK farming policy reform is a significant factor.</p> <p>Rationalisation of future government support mechanisms (Countryside Stewardship) providing a smart system of support with increasing emphasis on wider public goods and services – commonly expressed as "natural capital".</p> <p>Utilise links with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, quality assurance schemes &amp; other Lincolnshire branding initiatives including local rare breed groups.</p> <p>Catchment sensitive farming and integrated pest management systems.</p> <p>Increased collaborative working via Lincs Agri-Horticulture Forum, Natural England's forthcoming facilitation fund and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership &amp; Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.</p> <p>A greater role for research and innovation and sharing good practice within and between sectors to enhance the knowledge bank and ensure food security.</p> <p>A shift towards sustainable farming that can work in harmony with landscape/natural forces as well as offering resilience to market pressures.</p>
<p><b>Forestry</b> (also economic section)</p>	<p>Continued decline in management &amp; isolation of woodland.</p> <p>Inappropriate location/species mix.</p> <p>Traditionally a lack of markets for local timber, although trends reversing.</p> <p>Climate change impacts, including emergence of new pests &amp; diseases including Ash Die-Back (<i>Chalara</i>) and Acute Oak Decline.</p> <p>Future impacts from an increasing deer population.</p> <p>Resilience tree felling by power companies.</p>	<p>Woodland surveys &amp; audits. Farm woodland plans.</p> <p>Woodland support schemes.</p> <p>Woodland fuel products.</p> <p>Promoting/supporting appropriate management practices and raising awareness of licencing obligations.</p> <p>Tailored advice and guidance to landowners and managers including timber markets.</p>

<b>Land Management (continued)</b>	<b>Pressures/Threats:</b>	<b>Opportunities:</b>
<p><b>Recreation</b> (also economic section)</p>	<p>Private ownership often restricts public access.</p> <p>Need to manage any potential increase in recreation pressures and visitor numbers, especially to avoid harm to the AONB, including tranquillity.</p> <p>Need to balance the various user group requirements to minimise conflict, including safeguarding farmer, landowner and local community interests.</p> <p>Declining access payments available through agri-environment schemes will continue to impact upon and restrict the future levels of permissive access.</p>	<p>Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism network and the emerging Destination Management Plan for wider Lincolnshire Wolds and its market towns.</p> <p>Viking Way regional footpath and connections with the wider Walkers are Welcome market towns network.</p> <p>Increased number of promoted circular walks.</p> <p>Continued potential for cycling &amp; promoted cycle routes.</p> <p>Access for all &amp; multi-access opportunities e.g. the Lindsey Trail, all-terrain mobility scooters etc.</p> <p>Promotion of the wider benefits of recreation &amp; countryside tourism; including to the local economy, environment, public health &amp; well-being.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p>	<p>Increasing demands for rural products to be produced from sustainable sources &amp; demonstrate 'green credentials'.</p> <p>Implications for species and habitats e.g. woodland species mix may change.</p> <p>Increased fluctuations in water flows &amp; possible increase in flooding, drought &amp; soil erosion.</p> <p>Temperature changes for ground &amp; surface water &amp; impact upon chalk stream species.</p> <p>More extreme weather events likely to place increased stresses on nature conservation, farming and heritage resources including archaeology.</p>	<p>Potential for new crops - new species &amp; habitats may equally become viable.</p> <p>Increasing emphasis on multi-functional land management to help aid protection and enhancement of natural resources, including flood mitigation and the locking up of greenhouse gasses.</p> <p>Greater drive for energy efficiencies, including the opportunities to shift towards a more local "circular economy".</p>
<p><b>Pollution</b></p>	<p>Air quality – elevated levels of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollutants from surrounding power stations along the Trent.</p> <p>Agro-chemical pollution exacerbated by low flows – water abstractions. Risk of diffuse runoff or point source discharges of pollutants, including potential risks from ammonia, pesticides (including neonicotinoids) and high sediment loads.</p> <p>Increasing light &amp; noise pollution impacts upon dark night skies &amp; tranquillity respectively.</p>	<p>Legislation, technical advances and alternative sustainable energies should improve air quality.</p> <p>Water quality protection via Water Framework Directive &amp; Anglian Water's AMP6 targets.</p> <p>Technological improvements in farm spraying applications &amp; LERAP regulations.</p> <p>Agri-environment &amp; catchment sensitive farming schemes including buffering of water courses.</p> <p>Energy efficient lighting design.</p>

<b>Economic (continued)</b>	<b>Pressures/Threats:</b>	<b>Opportunities:</b>
<b>Agriculture/Forestry Industries</b>	<p>Wolds' economy historically heavily reliant upon farming.</p> <p>Pronounced period of uncertainty.</p> <p>Fewer people employed directly in farming than at any other period.</p> <p>Livestock farming particularly vulnerable along with infrastructure &amp; skills to support a local livestock industry.</p> <p>Concerns that many of the younger generation are not attracted to a career in farming/forestry; additional impacts from the potential loss of the agricultural college.</p>	<p>Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture &amp; Horticulture.</p> <p>Local branding schemes – Tastes of Lincolnshire &amp; Select Lincolnshire. Niche selling and promotions via farmers/rural markets.</p> <p>Farm diversification initiatives including links with tourism &amp; conservation.</p> <p>Opportunities via the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership &amp; Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.</p> <p>Utilising the shooting/field sports sector and its links to the wider local economy.</p> <p>Cluster farming approaches to aid collaboration and promote and share good practice.</p>
<b>Tourism Industry</b>	<p>Developing tourism is currently restricted by a weak infrastructure (e.g. limited accommodation and attractions; restricted highways and public transport).</p> <p>Threat to peace &amp; solitude of the Wolds caused by additional visitors to various attractions, especially to honey-pot villages and nature reserves.</p> <p>Limited resources for collaborative countywide tourism promotions.</p> <p>Greater investment required to support sympathetic innovative developments to help enhance the visitor experience.</p>	<p>Partnership promotion under the Love Lincolnshire Wolds banner and enhanced development of the Destination Management services to help grow and enhance the visitor economy.</p> <p>Need for improved and well managed range of accommodation &amp; visitor attractions appropriate to the Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Scope to further develop the green tourism product.</p> <p>Ongoing innovation of the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival and promotion of other local cultural events.</p> <p>Utilise countywide tourism initiatives, including links to visitors to Lincoln and the east coast.</p> <p>Explore further links to the Wolds unique sense of place and its range of local shops, pubs and tearooms.</p> <p>Segmentation of the market promotions to reflect varying demographics and interests – opportunities to expand the year-round and weekend offers.</p> <p>Utilise links to Cadwell Motor Park to secure fresh interest in the AONB from wider audience groups.</p>
<b>Mineral Extraction</b>	<p>A number of chalk quarries and sand/gravel pits are actively worked within or adjacent to the Wolds.</p> <p>Secondary uses e.g. land fill, recycling facilities, tarmacadam works.</p> <p>Hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration is ongoing. There is a perceived threat from "unconventional" drilling operations (i.e. fracking) but the UK</p>	<p>Reclamation schemes for landscape, wildlife, access, interpretation &amp; education.</p> <p>Ongoing active management of key sites to maintain geodiversity features of interest.</p>

	Infrastructure Act (2015) does not permit hydraulic fracturing at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath nationally protected areas, including AONBs.	
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<b>Economic (continued)</b>	<b>Pressures/Threats:</b>	<b>Opportunities:</b>
<b>Radio, Telecommunications Masts &amp; Powerlines</b>	<p>Incomplete broadband coverage.</p> <p>Proliferation of skyline masts including the latest generation masts for non-spots.</p> <p>Visual impact of medium and low voltage powerlines including potentially over-aggressive tree thinning operations.</p>	<p>Improved technology/design.</p> <p>Increased sharing of masts &amp; sites by operators.</p> <p>Removal of redundant masts.</p> <p>Increased use of underground powerlines especially with OFGEM financial incentives.</p>
<b>Alternative Energies</b>	<p>Wind energy seen as both a threat and an opportunity.</p> <p>Several wind farm scheme applications have been permitted both within and adjacent to the AONB; other proposals have been rejected largely on landscape intrusion grounds.</p> <p>Potential solar farms and anaerobic digestion plants within and close to the AONB need careful planning &amp; design.</p>	<p>Anaerobic digestion generation and bio-fuels, including miscanthus, maize &amp; willow coppice, could aid farm diversification &amp; woodland management.</p> <p>Potential for appropriate small scale wind turbines, appropriate on-farm composting schemes &amp; increased use of photovoltaics &amp; other emerging renewable energy technologies.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>Expansion of IT resources is increasing business mobility – impacting upon social fabric of Wolds.</p> <p>Landscape threats due to new IT installations.</p>	<p>Secondary income to farm businesses through diversification &amp; increased opportunities for local employment.</p> <p>Re-use of redundant/derelict buildings including farm buildings &amp; former military installations.</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Visual impact of road signage.</p> <p>Heavy goods vehicles impact on road verges and impacts from winter salting on verge habitats.</p> <p>Out of character road developments in village settlements following urban planning guidelines.</p> <p>Some village traffic calming measures potentially out of character with settlement entranceways.</p>	<p>Local Transport Plans and integrated initiatives.</p> <p>Every Street Matters initiative supporting public realm enhancements and aiding Village Design Statements.</p> <p>Promote opportunities for community and public transport provision such as Call Connect/Wheels to Work.</p>

<b>Social</b>	<b>Pressures/Threats:</b>	<b>Opportunities:</b>
<b>Local Services</b>	<p>Local services are under threat owing to the general rural isolation of many of the communities within the Wolds and the limited social infrastructure.</p> <p>Public transport service variable, often poor with weekend services particularly limited.</p> <p>Minimal services/facilities for the younger generation aiding outward migration of workforce.</p>	<p>Local Transport Plans.</p> <p>Community strategies including neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Community-run facilities such as village shops and multi-use centres.</p> <p>Furthering connections with the market towns for wider service provision – a two-way pathway for wider links with parishes across the Wolds.</p>
<b>Local Housing</b>	<p>General lack of affordable housing, with the Wolds invariably enabling a premium market price for high quality larger homes.</p> <p>National building corporations using standard building designs with formulaic architecture.</p>	<p>Village Design Statements.</p> <p>Local Development Frameworks and accompanying Housing Strategies to help aid social housing.</p> <p>Sympathetic re-development opportunities for farmsteads.</p>
<b>Social Fabric</b>	<p>The rural communities have suffered from economic deprivation aggravated by an ongoing decline in agriculture and the defence industry.</p> <p>Continued rural isolation, loss of local services, small size of many settlements &amp; influx of both commuters and retired people is impacting upon traditional communities.</p> <p>Some parts of the AONB currently have very limited mobile phone and/or broadband coverage.</p> <p>Concerns with the potential decline in police protection and increase in rural crime.</p>	<p>Community Strategies &amp; resulting community development schemes, rural support networks etc.</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for public engagement and social cohesion via volunteering.</p> <p>Support sustainable communities through fostering environmental/place shaping activity.</p> <p>Market town initiatives &amp; links with the AONB as physical and information gateways to the Wolds.</p> <p>New enterprise possibilities via recreation, tourism, educational &amp; other specialist industry sectors.</p> <p>Broadband &amp; other IT improvements, especially with opportunities via the OnLincolnshire Broadband Project, UK wide Rural Broadband Partnership and future development of Wi-Fi technologies.</p>



## **2.6 Public Survey – Have Your Say**

During March to September 2016, residents and visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB were invited to complete the Lincolnshire Wolds "Have Your Say" survey. The questionnaire was promoted via the LWCS and AONB Partnership's E-Newsletter Higher Ground, through direct mail and via social media. The survey provided a very useful snapshot of views in respect of the importance of the Lincolnshire Wolds and in particular perspectives on its recognition as a nationally protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The results are detailed in Appendix 5 and provide interesting comparisons with the public questionnaire survey coordinated by the Partnership in 2003. In terms of providing a barometer of local views and opinions the results complement the generally very positive findings from Google and Trip Advisor (500+ responses) as evidenced within the State of the AONB Report. The results were reported to the AONB Partnership and have helped to inform and shape the review of the Plan.

Going forward, the AONB Partnership will continue to place a high value on listening and seeking to understand and appreciate the views and aspirations of local residents, landowners, communities and visitors to the area. This helps us to identify the relevance of the AONB and the natural environment to peoples' day to day lives and the choices they make, and to help inspire imaginative and ambitious local engagement. We envisage conducting a similar Have Your Say survey during the summer of 2021 to inform the ongoing Action Plan and kick-start the next formal Management Plan review.

## 3. The Vision and Guiding Influences

### 3.1 The Vision

The Lincolnshire Wolds should not be preserved in aspic and is continually evolving in response to the many human and natural forces that are placed upon it and it is evident that the pressures on the AONB are set to continue to increase further. However, these pressures can be offset by new opportunities to manage the process, and the production of this Plan serves to highlight that there is a continuing pressing need for everyone to work in partnership - to positively influence the Wolds through appropriate future development and land management - recognising the vital contributions from local landowners, and the community living, working and visiting the area.

Subject to further public consultation, the area's proposed vision for the twenty-five year period from 2018 is as follows:-

***The Lincolnshire Wolds will continue to be a vibrant living and working landscape through the primary influence of sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management. It will retain its unique and nationally important sense of place: an area of open rolling hills, dramatic views, farmed fields changing with the seasons, tranquil valleys, woodland, pasture, streams and attractive villages.***

***The Wolds natural and cultural heritage will be well known, enjoyed and widely respected by both residents and visitors. It will continue to provide a place of tranquillity and inspiration for those fortunate enough to visit the area, whilst meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of those who live and work there.***

***A sustainable approach to management activity will be normal practice with an emphasis on integrated farming and land management providing a wide range of innovative solutions to tackling the issues of climate change (through mitigation and adaptation), food production, water quality and supply, recreation provision, and energy demands. Enhanced connectivity between healthy, resilient landscapes and green infrastructure will help to provide and cater for an increasingly dynamic environment and help to contribute to a good quality of life for all.***

The vision acknowledges the challenge of securing social, economic and environmental progress that can protect and enhance the special and intrinsic qualities that define the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (as introduced in Section 2). The Plan sets out a framework of objectives, policies and actions that collectively strive towards achieving this vision through local partnership action.

### 3.2 The Aims

The five key aims of the Management Plan are to sustain and enhance:

- the Lincolnshire Wolds' natural beauty and its landscape character
- farming and land management in the Wolds as the primary activities in maintaining its character, landscape and biodiversity
- recreational, tourism and interpretive activities and opportunities appropriate to the area
- the economic and social base of the Wolds including the development and diversification of enterprises appropriate to the area
- partnerships between organisations, the local community, landowners and others with an interest in the Wolds.

### 3.3 Cross-cutting influences – national drivers

The recent publication, AONB Management Plans – Support for their revision in England (June 2017) has served to highlight the following national context to the fresh round of reviews:

**Partnership working:** *The AONB Management Plan is a place-based plan derived through local consensus. It seeks to define the approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB through the application of local solutions to local challenges that also respect the national and international importance of the AONB. It is a plan for the AONB, not just the Partnership or (where relevant) Conservation Board.*

**Local participation:** *AONB staff actively listens to their local communities. Using their skills, knowledge and empathy they are able to plan and support the delivery of practical solutions to local land management and planning issues that reflect local interests and concerns. These solutions often help support a sustainable rural economy and improve the health and well-being of those that live in, work in, and visit the AONB.*

**Economic value of AONBs:** *The AONB designation has helped to conserve and enhance some of England's finest landscapes. These landscapes are highly valued by business as economic assets in their own right and as settings which add value to business. Well managed landscapes offer a wealth of natural resources that serve as the foundations of rural business, including farming and forestry. Their beauty and international appeal also offers opportunities for tourism related businesses. AONBs are living, working landscapes that contribute some £16 billion GVA (Gross Value Added) to the national economy.*

**Planning and the wider goods and services:** *The natural environment underpins the economy through the provision of goods and services, more specifically its use in farming, forestry, housing, business, transport, energy, tourism and recreation. However, space and natural resources are limited and increasingly contested. The land use planning system is designed to help achieve optimal outcomes for society when decisions on land use priorities must be made.*

*AONB teams can provide specialist advice to help public bodies and statutory undertakers make decisions on planning matters. In doing so, they can help these bodies meet their legal duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs, and ultimately help ensure that planning decisions result in sustainable outcomes.*

**Agri Environment Support:** *Farming requires a profitable future to sustain farming families, safeguard the environment, mitigate climate change and maintain vitality and employment in rural communities. Land managers play a crucial role in helping to look after the environment including its soil and water quality and the provision for open air recreation.*

*The AONB designation provides a platform for integrating the support provided to the sector with wider environmental, social and economic opportunities. In doing so, AONB teams are vital in helping develop a more sustainable approach to agriculture in the UK.*

**State of the Environment:** *Monitoring and review is an essential part of management planning, with each review of the plan building on the results of the monitoring of the previous plan. In this way, successive plans can be modified to achieve better results, and the performance of those tasked with delivery can be measured. Robust state of the environment reporting is the foundation for all AONB management plans and is both qualitative and quantitative.*

**Health and Well-being:** *AONBs are vitally important for the health and well-being of the nation. 156 million people visit AONBs in England annually, many to make the most of the free opportunities on offer for outdoor recreation, exercise, rest and relaxation. Likewise, many of the 1 million people who live in AONBs express an appreciation for living in an area with a clear sense of place and local identity. As the link between greenspace and reduced depression, anxiety, anger and sadness becomes better understood, AONBs have become increasingly important for providing outdoor opportunities for improving the health of the nation.*

### 3.4 Delivery Themes

Considering both the aims and cross-cutting influences, five themes have been identified to help deliver the vision for the Wolds. These are:

- Theme 1. Protecting the Wolds**
- Theme 2. Living and Working in the Wolds**
- Theme 3. Discovering the Wolds**
- Theme 4. Developing the Wolds**
- Theme 5. Partnerships in the Wolds**

These themes provide the overall Strategy for the document. The sections are not mutually exclusive and in many cases there is both overlap and interdependence between themes. This reflects the complex nature of AONB management in respect of the need to harmonise environmental, social and economic forces, which are the major drivers for landscape change in the AONB. A set of objectives, policies and actions have been developed on a topic by topic basis within these themes, acknowledging both threats and opportunities.

Section 1.7 (p12) explains in more detail the resourcing of the wider AONB partnership. There is general recognition of the challenging financial climate which is continually likely to impact upon all sectors of the national and local economy, especially public and third sector organisations. This places an ever greater need for prudent and effective partnership working, increasingly utilising the services of willing landowners, volunteers, and local communities to help aid project delivery. The Strategy and Action Plan is ambitious, but the relevant local authorities and wider AONB partnership strongly believe that the document will serve as a catalyst for further innovative delivery.

## 4. Protecting the Wolds - Theme 1

### 4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement

As detailed previously, the Wolds Landscape Character Assessment identified four landscape character areas within the AONB and highlighted the important landscape qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Table 1 and Appendix 3 have been collated for this Plan, and together outline the special qualities of the AONB, where possible listing their current extent and condition. These are the principal elements of the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.

The Wolds scenery is subtle and complex, but has a clear identity resulting from physical and human influences over many generations. It has a very open character with extensive outward views both eastwards to the coast and westwards across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The views within the AONB are equally dramatic and are shaped by the open rolling hills, hidden valleys and continually changing patterns of farming. The ridge-top locations provided by the Bluestone Heath Road, the Caistor High Street and the west-east drovers roads provide some of the area's best known and most frequented viewing points.

#### Threats/Pressures

There are many threats and pressures that have affected, and are likely to continue to impact upon the fine landscape character of the AONB. These are detailed in Tables 1 & 2, within the State of the AONB Report (Appendix 4) and are also summarised within the corresponding topic sections. The key landscape/character issues include:

- Impact of changing farming practices through any decline or switch in future agri-environment subsidies, especially as a result of Brexit and the current uncertainties in the future markets for UK agricultural and horticultural goods.
- Inappropriate or insensitive development both within and adjacent to the AONB including potential pressures from quarrying activity, wind farms, telecommunication infrastructure, new overhead electrical wires.
- Safeguarding the dramatic escarpment and ridge top views.
- Meeting the needs of the local community for new economic development and service provision whilst protecting the natural beauty and landscape character.
- Strongly linked to above, the need to maintain the area's special qualities and unique tranquillity whilst supporting/promoting development of appropriate type and scale to help secure access, recreation and tourism benefits.
- Impact upon views within, from and to the AONB, including cumulative impacts from neighbouring developments.
- Assessing future impacts from climate change including effects upon the area's ecosystem goods and services – including future agriculture, biodiversity, heritage and water assets.

The expansive views make the area particularly sensitive to landscape changes. Escarpment, ridge and plateau-top locations are especially vulnerable to inappropriate land-use or development. Similarly, the peaceful and highly attractive valleys that can be found throughout the Wolds are a key component of landscape character and are sensitive to change.

Sir John Lawton's report 'Making Space for Nature' (2010) remains relevant, and makes the case for 'more, bigger, better and joined' habitats to help ensure ecological recovery for our terrestrial wildlife sites, arguing that we must:

- improve the quality of current wildlife sites by better habitat management;
- increase the size of existing wildlife sites;
- enhance connections between sites, either through physical corridors or through 'stepping stones';
- create new sites;
- reduce the pressure on wildlife by improving the wider environment.

The report highlights that National Parks and AONBs should be exemplars of coherent and resilient ecological networks. The adoption of a landscape scale approach to land management provides an important mechanism for achieving such delivery, recognising the links between economic, social and natural forces.

The Lawton report recommendations, together with the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA, 2011) have helped to inform the Government's Natural Environment White Paper – 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature' launched in June 2011. The White Paper recognises the importance of landscapes and local nature partnerships for protecting and improving our natural environment and highlights the value of working together at a strategic level. The AONB Partnership is well placed to lead on such initiatives in the future to help deliver the multiple benefits (goods and services) received from exemplary land management. In taking forward such a collaborative approach there is clearly a need to understand landowners' interests and requirements and to work closely with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) and other key partners.

#### **Landscape Management Statement:**

**The many partners supporting the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will, through aiding and delivering the objectives, policies and resulting actions in this Management Plan, ensure that the natural beauty and special landscape character of the Wolds are protected and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.**

**As expressed within the vision; in addition, the Partnership will seek to explore innovative approaches to land management that can help to demonstrate the area's contributions to wider goods and services, including opportunities to explore and further links with natural capital (ecosystem services), health and well-being.**

This landscape management statement is an overall statement of intent for all partners and is delivered by the objectives, policies and resulting actions across this Plan.

## 4.2 Natural Heritage – Biodiversity

### 4.2.1 Introduction – context setting for nature conservation

The value and importance of biodiversity has been recognised nationally through the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy (2011) which sets out ambitious targets for halting the overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020. The most recent State of Nature Report 2016 highlighted that although there have been some success stories, the general trend in loss of nature continues largely unabated. Defra's 25 Year Plan for the Environment was launched in January 2018 and reaffirms the importance of embracing landscape scale protection and enhancement to support adaptation to climate change and the delivery of wider ecosystem benefits through the embodiment of a "natural capital" approach.

As documented in previous Management Plans wildlife is a key component of the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (2015) and the Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area profile recognise farmland, grassland, roadside verges, woodland, beech clumps, rivers and streams and hedgerows as important habitat types within the AONB.

The Lincolnshire Wolds State of the AONB report provides a number of indicators that will help to monitor the nature conservation and biodiversity interests across the Wolds protected landscape – this includes GLNP collated data for a number of nationally and locally important species (UK BAP, Red List and Lincolnshire BAP Species) and a range of national datasets including those available from the PLMF programme (Section 2.4).

As evidenced, there are a limited number of nationally protected sites in the AONB, with 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) designated on account of their wildlife interest. Invariably these sites are located on the steeper valley sides or wetter valley bottoms and typically include important semi-natural grassland or marshland habitat and ancient woodland.

Historically there have been over 300 non-statutory wildlife sites recorded across the AONB. Many were originally listed as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), but following more recent surveys some 208 of these sites have now been reclassified as Lincolnshire Wildlife Sites (LWSs). Of the remaining 95 original SNCIs, some still require resurveying, whilst some have failed to reach the more robust criteria for successful LWS listing. Additional to the above sites; the AONB has a further nine Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserves and 17 Roadside Nature Reserves.

Clearly looking ahead, the pressures on the wildlife of the Wolds look set to continue, however there has been considerable work in recent years to help increase our knowledge and understanding of the flora and fauna resource. Additional to important agri-environment, forestry and riparian enhancement schemes, a wide range of collaborative projects have been undertaken with local landowners. The Partnership continues to seek to strive towards securing a diverse, abundant and accessible biodiversity resource – not just focusing on the rare and special - but also the wider network of habitats found across a heavily farmed, but nationally protected landscape.

Key issues for the future wildlife management of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB include:

- Continuing loss of biodiversity exacerbated by small size and isolation of priority wildlife habitats.
- Wide neglect and absence of traditional management especially of woodland, hedgerow, grassland and grass verge habitats.
- Lack of comprehensive up-to-date information, especially for remaining SNCIs that were not surveyed in 2005.
- Future trends in farming, including continued threat to livestock farming and subsequent loss in pasture, increasing pressure for intensification and new crops, and the ongoing uncertainties to future farming markets and subsidies through the Brexit negotiations.
- Need to develop 'good practice' land management in the wider countryside, including development of local case studies to assist landowners in protecting and enhancing wildlife.

- Conflicts between sites for new woodland planting and increasingly energy crops versus the retention of grassland/wetland habitats.
- Inappropriate or insensitive developments especially farmstead and barn conversions which may impact upon protected species such as bats, barn owls, swifts, swallows and house martins.
- Water resource issues including threat of diffuse pollution, sedimentation and low flow rates.
- Wider issues including global warming and the ongoing and future threats to biosecurity from invasive species. Common concerns include the spread of Himalayan balsam, signal crayfish, mink, ragwort and other exotics. Increasing pressures from badger and deer populations is an issue for some landowners.
- Increasing need for a new land management system post Brexit that can support an ecosystems services approach and encourage and support innovation through local ownership and governance. *(new issue)*

**Objective:**

**BO To protect, enhance and where appropriate, restore the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire Nature Strategy, Biodiversity 2020, Natural England's Conservation 21 Strategy, and emerging UK environmental plans (post Brexit) including A Green Future.**

**Policies:**

**BP1 To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in-line with Lincolnshire, national and international aspirations for biodiversity.**

**BP2 To develop and promote a landscape-scale approach to habitat conservation, restoration and creation, helping habitats and species to develop resilience to future climate change through increasing habitat linkages and providing for enhanced ecosystem service networks.**

**BP3 To support and encourage agricultural guidance and good practices that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the AONB, helping to minimise the need for regulatory enforcement.**

**BP4 Utilising the concept of natural capital to develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and maximise the benefits of wider socio-economic gains including utilising wider links to the local nature tourism offer.**

**Actions: See BA1-6 in Table 3**



## Key Related Plans and Strategies (Landscape and Biodiversity)

Anglian River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2015)  
Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (2015)  
Anglian Water Asset Management Plan (2015-20)  
Biodiversity Strategy (2011)  
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services  
Conservation 21 – Natural England's Conservation Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2017)  
Countryside Stewardship Statement of Priorities – Lincolnshire Wolds (NCA043)  
Creating a Great Place for Living; Defra's Strategy to 2020 (2016)  
Defra 25 Year Plan – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)  
Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (2013)  
Future Water (2008) Defra  
Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership (GLLEP) Water for Growth - Water Management Plan 2015-2040  
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Strategy 2015-20 (2015)  
Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2015)  
Landscapes for Everyone; Creating a Better Future (Consortium Publication, 2016)  
Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Strategic Action Plan (2014-19)  
Lincolnshire County Council Natural Environment Strategy 2012-2018 (2012)  
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016)  
Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area 43  
Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies (see Developing in the Wolds)  
Local Development Plans – Saved Policies  
Local Wildlife Sites: Guidelines for the Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire 3rd Edition (2013)  
Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (The Lawton Report, 2010)  
Making Space for Water (2005): HA6 Catchment Scale Land-Use Management & HA7 Land Management Practices  
Natural Environment White Paper (2011)  
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)  
National Pollinator Strategy (2014)  
National Trust - Land, Outdoors and Nature Strategy (2017)  
Planning for Ancient Woodland: Planners' Manual for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree (2017)  
State of Nature UK Report (Consortium Publication, 2016)  
Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2008)  
The Anglian and The Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)  
The European Landscape Convention (ratified by the UK in 2006)  
The European Water Framework Directive (2000)  
The Geodiversity Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (2017)  
The Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2009)  
The Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)  
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (2011)  
The Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (revised 2015)  
The Water Environment (England & Wales) Regulations (2003)  
The Witham and Louth Coastal Catchment Flood Management Plans (2009)  
The Witham Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2004)  
Think Big: Ecological Recovery – National Association for AONBs joint partnership statement  
Vision for Nature; Young People's Vision for the Natural World in 2050 (2016)  
Water Resources Strategy for the Anglian Region (2009)  
Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2010)  
Water White Paper; Water for Life (2011)  
Woodland for Water: woodland measures for meeting WFD objectives (2011)

#### 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland

Although much of the Wolds has long been under the plough, grassland habitats remain a very important landscape, wildlife and farming resource. The majority of the Wolds' grasslands and rough pastures are found on the steeper slopes (where soils are thin and the ground hard to cultivate), in the valley bottoms as lush pastures and wet flushes, and in disused quarries and chalk pits.

Unfortunately unimproved grassland has been very scarce in the AONB with less than 1.5% coverage. Much of this semi-natural grassland remains isolated and fragmented in habitat terms, although invariably protected through a range of designations, with added management support from agri-environment measures. The agricultural census figures for 2013 revealed total grassland coverage of just over 8,000 hectares (14.5% of the AONB); this includes permanent and temporary grassland and rough grazing. In more recent years some landowners have taken up the option of reversion to unfertilised and low inputs grassland, often for added benefits including heritage protection, reducing runoff and soil erosion.

Grassland is important in both landscape and biodiversity terms, with species rich swards often supporting a wide range of insects, pollinators and bird species. There has been a drive to improve management of the Wold's grassland for nature conservation, primarily by encouraging and supporting low-input fertiliser and balancing the grazing or hay and silage cutting regimes to aid self-pollination and maximise species diversity. The challenges look set to continue not least the uncertainties from Brexit that may impact (positively and negatively) upon the livestock industry. There is clearly a need for continued collaboration, supporting grazer networks at both local and strategic levels to help maintain and enhance the grassland resource.

Key issues for the future grassland management include:

- Loss of local livestock and the infrastructure and expertise to support a thriving local livestock industry.
- Resulting loss of traditional grazing management and threat to unimproved pastures, especially a decline in biodiversity from the encroachment of invasive species (e.g. ragwort, competitive grasses and scrub).
- Continued pressures of intensive farming practices, including a more recent shift to the take-up of poultry farming.
- Potential conflict with other habitat types, e.g. new woodland planting schemes.
- The need for identifying and encouraging appropriate grassland restoration.
- Increase in energy crop planting at the expense of wet grassland and grazing marsh.
- Potentially, more limited uptake of Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme options in the future.
- Development and effective implementation of new land management policy post Brexit. (*new issue*)
- A need to maximise opportunities for wildlife and public services – multifunctional land for flood risk management, climate change resilience, and biodiversity gains within a productive food environment. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**GO** To increase the extent and quality of wildlife-friendly grasslands across the AONB, targeting areas close to Local Wildlife Sites, watercourses, important road verges, archaeological sites, historic parkland and settlements.

**Policies:**

**GP1** To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate, restore, extend or connect grasslands of high wildlife, historic and landscape value.

**GP2** To raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland. (See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)

**GP3** To support initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands, including calcareous grassland.

**GP4** To promote to land managers the additional benefits of good grassland management including carbon sink, climate change and flood alleviation impacts.

**Actions:** See GA1-6 in Table 3

### 4.2.3 Grass Verges and Green Lanes

A further important grassland resource is provided by the road verge and green lane network that characterises the Wolds, many of which are on historic routeways including Roman roads and the traditional salters tracks and drovers routes. On account of their history of development, a number of the verges are very distinctive in landscape terms, often with a straight roadway dividing broad verges and adjacent hedgerows.

A significant number of verges and green lanes are botanically rich, proving important refuges for grasses, sedges and flowering plants such as yarrow and devil's bit scabious. A large number serve as important links between otherwise fragmented habitats including grassland, churchyards, veteran trees, small copses and more substantial woodlands. Our green lanes and verges can also be very advantageous in terms of the two-way buffering from both field and road runoff, helping to minimise siltation and potentially the pollution of neighbouring water courses.

There are currently 17 Roadside Nature Reserves in the AONB, comprising over 16 kilometres of verge habitat. The Life on the Verge partnership project has done much to raise the profile of this resource; work included delivering training for volunteers who then went on to help in the extensive surveying of the verge network. Information subsequently compiled on-line contributed to the review and classification of 55 roadside verges/green lanes as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). *See case study.*

More recently partnership efforts have focused on working closely with Highways, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and other interest groups to secure good practice from a management perspective. This has comprised guidance on the appropriate levels of cutting, ideally lifting the arisings to avoid the ongoing build-up of nutrients. There is however often a balance to be struck, e.g. in terms of health and safety requirements to ensure both adequate visual splays and sight lines, and undertake salting during winter conditions, all of which can also impact detrimentally upon the neighbouring plant communities. A trial has been conducted (*LCC - Peakhill Associates*) from a study site buffering the Wolds to explore the potential for using verge cuttings to provide material for a local anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, generating both electricity and biogas. There is an opportunity to review further opportunities, especially in the context of Highway Authorities seeking financial savings from their future verge cutting programmes.

#### Threats/Pressures

Key issues for grass verge management include:

- Loss of traditional grazing and hay-cutting practises with a trend toward inappropriate mechanical cutting (over-cutting or poor timing), although often in response to road safety or amenity pressures.
- General neglect and/or poor management including inappropriate tree planting, scrub encroachment and introductions of other non-native plants, especially garden bulbs.
- Road run-off, particularly salt wash, resulting in long term damage to neighbouring plant communities.
- Illegal uses including litter and fly-tipping direct onto the verges and vehicle encroachments.
- Highway authorities' reductions in budgets for verge management – both an opportunity and a threat. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**VLO To retain, restore and encourage, positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadsides and green lanes. (See also Section 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)**

**Policies:**

**VLP1 To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore, extend or connect, grass verges for their wildlife and landscape value.**

**VLP2 To raise awareness and local engagement in the natural and cultural heritage of grass verges and their contribution to green infrastructure and climate change adaptation.**

**Actions: See VLA1-8 in Table 3**

#### 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards

The woodland cover of the Wolds AONB is low, at just over 3,000 hectares (less than 5%), but remains an essential habitat and landscape component. Much of the original woodland cover was cleared by the 11<sup>th</sup> century to make way for the grazing and mixed arable landscapes of the early middle-ages. However significant replanting occurred during the parliamentary enclosures from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – often for game shoots, landscaping in the vicinity of country halls and manors and the provision of shelter belts.

The remaining native deciduous woods (just over 600 hectares) typically still provide the most diverse ecosystems, especially those with aged veteran trees, wet springs, and open glades and rides. Woodlands in particular are an important resource for wider goods and services and natural capital. They commonly provide a source of timber (soft and hard woods), shelter, and with careful management and planning, climate change resilience benefits (e.g. buffering from storm events and minimising rapid runoff problems such as soil erosion and subsequent stream sedimentation).

Defra's new 25 Year Environment Plan also recognises that ancient woodland and veteran trees are of significant heritage value and irreplaceable character and seeks to work with partners to help support their future sustainable management. As documented in previous Management Plans, our local woods can be a real asset to the local community in offering wider socio-economic benefits through forestry employment, field sports and game management, as well as many opportunities for wider public engagement through access, education, recreation and tourism.

The Forestry Commission has highlighted that future woodland and estate plans must recognise that small blocks of woodland are invariably less economic to manage and have less resilience in the face of climate change. They are advocating that the extension of woodlands, carried out sensitively and in the right places, should be promoted. They have proposed that in some locations it may be recommended that up to 20% of "honorary-natives" and 20% of "non-native" stock be incorporated within new woodland planting schemes.

There is a small but important orchard resource in the Wolds, many located within the grounds, or in close proximity to country manors and halls. Previous studies have highlighted a potential of 48 traditional orchards in the AONB (People's Trust for Endangered Species, 2009) and surveys have been initiated to further assess our orchard resource. Many are now relics, where active management and pruning has ceased, however those remaining often harbour local/rare varieties of fruit trees and provide further opportunities for biodiversity (often including lichen and specialist insects and pollinators) and wider cultural gains.

#### Threats/Pressures

Key issues for future woodland management include:

- Lack of current data on the woodlands/copses (especially those under 0.5 hectares).
- General neglect and lack of woodland management with many of the smaller plantations, typically the overly mature 'beech clumps', with few trees of an age to replace them - although the situation is now improving with more recent planting.
- Often general isolation of small and ancient/semi-natural woodland.
- Inappropriate planting schemes including species mix and locations.
- Illegal fly-tipping in some areas.
- Climate change and impacts upon the future viability of some native species potentially resulting from both more extreme/unpredictable weather patterns and new pests and diseases.
- A need to raise awareness of the need for felling licences and hedgerow removal notices, where appropriate.
- The need to review woodland management and planting in the light of Chalara and Acute Oak Decline.
- An increasing and expanding deer population.

### **Shared Priorities Statement - currently under review...**

*Through the Joint Accord, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and the Forestry Commission (FC) East Midlands Region will continue to work together to enhance the contribution that trees and woodlands can make within this special landscape. The Government Forestry Policy Statement and the revised Management Plan for the AONB support the creation and sustainable management of woodland within the Lincolnshire Wolds. Most of the woodland within the area is in private ownership, and working closely with landowners will continue to be a key driver for success. As evidenced below, positive partnership activity has increased significantly since the signing of this accord.*

#### **Objective:**

**WBO** To protect, enhance and where appropriate extend, the woodland and tree cover within the AONB, maximising their contribution to the AONB by integrating landscape, biodiversity and socio-economic benefits.

#### **Policies:**

**WBP1** To reinforce the existing pattern of woodland, seeking to increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland), accepting some non-native planting for climate change adaptability.

**WBP2** To re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands. (See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland and 4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees)

**WBP3** To record the extent and location of small ancient woodlands as part of an integrated digital resource database for the Lincolnshire Wolds woodlands.

**WBP4** To encourage and support woodland business schemes, of an appropriate scale, within the AONB.

**WBP5** To establish the extent and quality of traditional orchards and encourage suitable restoration, creation and management.

**Actions:** See WBA1-8 in Table 3

#### 4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees

The oldest hedgerows found in the Wolds are often markers of parish boundaries, or those located near to existing or deserted/shrunken settlements. As evidenced in previous Management Plans, a large proportion of the hedgerows found in the Lincolnshire Wolds today were actually planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in response to the national Enclosure Acts. Previously existing open fields, commons and rabbit warrens were subsequently parcelled into more regimented field systems. Many hedges were planted in uniform lines, adjacent to new roadways and wide verges with hawthorn the dominant species. Very often natural contours were ignored and the resulting patterns of hedgerows contrast markedly with the previous older, narrow and winding hedges that were species-rich, albeit with minimal verges.

Like much of lowland UK a significant number of hedgerows have been lost during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has for example been estimated that between the 1970's and 1990's an average of over 1,000 metres of hedgerow were lost for every square kilometre of farmland due to agricultural intensification and the government grants of the day. However there has been a realisation of the importance of hedgerows both in their own right for biodiversity (providing shelter, nesting and foraging opportunities for a wide range of wildlife), but also their wider role as landscape and ecosystem corridors often linking fragmented habitats and helping to provide livestock and soil protection.

The hedgerow resource found across the Lincolnshire Wolds provides an important refuge for many of the area's mature and veteran trees. The AONB Partnership's Trees of Our Time project enabled community groups to review and highlight individual trees, or groups of trees, that were prominent for wildlife and landscape reasons, or had a wider cultural significance. The pressure on our veteran trees look set to continue, not least with the new threats from climate change and spread of new pests and diseases. Post-Brexit changes to agri-environment schemes could also bring significant changes in terms of the future support for boundary and field edge enhancements.

#### Threats/Pressures

Key issues for future woodland management include:

- Lack of collated hedgerows surveys and limited information on landmark trees.
- Previously loss of traditional management techniques, for example hedge laying and rotational cutting, although situation has been improving via assistance from agri-environment schemes.
- Previously poor maintenance, particularly inappropriate timing and over frequency of cuts, however situation also improving via assistance from agri-environment schemes.
- The pressure on landowners to remove roadside trees on health and safety grounds.
- Balancing tree planting and maintenance needs with heritage and geodiversity protection.
- Resilience tree felling by powerline maintenance companies. (*new issue*)
- Tree health issues such as Chalara and Acute Oak Decline. (*new issue*)
- Potential loss of cross compliance options linked to CAP Pillar 1 payments which currently helps to protect hedgerow/ditch boundaries. (*new issue*)



**Objective:**

**HTO** To protect, manage, enhance and where appropriate increase, the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB.

**Policies:**

**HTP1** To help record, maintain, and where appropriate restore all species rich and ancient hedgerows, encouraging planting and management of hedgerows and trees to benefit landscape and habitat connectivity. (See also Section 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards)

**HTP2** To raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows and landmark trees for wildlife, landscape and cultural values and encourage future community engagement.

**Actions:** See HTA1-5 in Table 3

#### 4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds

There are nine principal river systems within the AONB, which north to south comprise Nettleton Beck, Waithe Beck, River Rase, River Bain, River Lud (Louth Canal), Great Eau and Long Eau, River Waring and the River Lymn. These catchments are predominantly fed through the chalk aquifer and understandably chalk stream characteristics dominate; however due to the complex geology, which includes the Spilsby Sandstone aquifer in the southern Wolds, some of the streams are classed as 'mixed geology' chalk streams. Mapping records a total stream network of 258 kilometres within the AONB, both as main-river and smaller tributaries, often fed by fluctuating spring-heads and occasional swallow holes.

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) was established in 2004 and through committed partnership support continues to work closely with farmers, land managers, statutory bodies and residents of the Wolds to help support and enhance the quality of the chalk streams. Work has also focussed on raising awareness and interest in the special qualities of this unique resource, both through volunteering, surveying and an educational programme with local schools and colleges.

The LCSP has developed and kept under close review the partnership's Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Strategic Action Plan and has sought to develop innovative catchment-wide approaches to the challenges and opportunities facing both water quality and supply – including balancing nature conservation, farming, industry and domestic household requirements. The project is ongoing and has helped to deliver over 19 kilometres of riparian habitat enhancements, securing over 45 kilometres of adjacent habitat restoration. In addition to improving water quality and species conservation there have been wider benefits to the local communities, including reducing flood risk and enhancing the opportunities for leisure and tourism (e.g. improving the quality of the visitors experience, enhancing local fishing syndicates etc).

Currently over 76% of main river in the AONB is deemed to be in moderate to good ecological condition. Partners continue to be committed to working with landowners and managers to explore further opportunities for developing and maximising environmental enhancements alongside natural flood risk mitigation – helping for example to support and complement "hard-engineered" solutions such as the Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme on the River Lud. There may be further opportunities for integrated water management solutions with the potential increase in on-farm reservoir schemes as climate change takes hold (e.g. likelihood of restrictions of water supply during the summer months, but more plentiful water supplies during winter and via more extreme rainfall events) and also utilising the principals of SUDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage), as per the National Planning Policy Framework guidance for securing sustainable water resources - meeting the many water demands whilst safeguarding the environment throughout our river catchments.

#### Threats/Pressures

Current issues include:

- Low water table and flow rates primarily through abstraction, but also anticipated future variability in rainfall through climate change.
- Diffuse pollution - arable runoff of nitrate, phosphates, organic effluent and silts.
- Loss of riverside and other marginal habitats through intensive farming practices and development.
- Increasing water demands from agriculture, industrial/commercial and residential usage.
- Flooding and prevention measures including flood alleviation schemes, and active bank maintenance.
- Non-native and invasive species especially influx of signal crayfish, mink, farmed fish and Himalayan balsam.
- Loss of small and fragile wetland habitats (spring feeds and ponds) through insensitive development and/or undesirable management practices. (*new issue*)
- Rising water temperatures in the absence of some waterside tree cover. (*new issue*)
- Potential loss of cross compliance linked to CAP Pillar 1 payments. (*new issue*)
- Diffuse runoff or point source discharges of pesticides - especially neonicotinoids. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**RSPO To improve, where appropriate, the function and natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated landscape character and wetland habitats.**

**Policies:**

**RSPP1 To maximise the extent of low-input land management adjacent to all rivers and streams and utilise floodplains to minimise impact of flooding in residential areas. (See also Section 4.2.7 Arable Farmland)**

**RSPP2 To rehabilitate streams and rivers to enhance their biodiversity and ecological status where appropriate and consistent with flood defence requirements and Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets.**

**RSPP3 To raise community awareness and where possible, community involvement of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource. (See also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)**

**RSPP4 To continue to further our understanding of the springs and pond resource found across the Wolds.**

**RSPP5 To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds and other wetland habitats for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.**

**RSPP6 Influence any future water storage schemes to encourage multiple benefits for biodiversity, landscape, flood prevention and wider ecosystem goods and services.**

**RSPP7 To seek to maintain groundwater levels and their seasonal fluctuations wherever possible to safeguard rivers, streams, springs and blow-wells sufficient to retain characteristic wildlife communities.**

**Actions: See RSPA1-18 in Table 3**

#### 4.2.7 Arable farmland

Unlike many of the chalk downland landscapes of southern England, much of the Lincolnshire Wolds sheep-walks, common land and warrens were extensively cultivated in the early 1800's, a pattern which continued apace with the Victorian High Farming Period which witnessed significant investment and the development of highly organised mixed rotational farming.

The generally high quality and permeable soils found across the Wolds, including for example loamy deposits from glacial tills, together with the area's generally drier climate (in comparison with western Britain) has favoured the ongoing intensification of arable cropping. The 1960's and 1970's saw some of the most dramatic changes to the tilling practices; and aided by mechanisation large fields took hold, the labour force shrank and many small farms and farmsteads were amalgamated.

Today, modern and commercial farming dominates much of the Wolds, invariably with a focus on a small handful of crops. Spray interventions, in the form of nutrient, pesticide and herbicide applications, together with the introduction of autumn sowing, has had a significant impact on the wildlife associated with the farmed landscape. There is increasing concern over the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and potential harmful impacts upon bees and other pollinators – the Plan seeks to support approaches to minimise pesticide and fertiliser applications. The once common cornfield weeds, including poppies, yellow charlock (ketlocks), thistles and docks were driven from the fields under the relentless drive for increased yields. A similar trend has been evidenced in the decline of many of our once common farmland birds including species such as lapwing, native partridge, tree sparrow, turtle dove and yellow hammer. However some opportunistic birds have favoured better and increased in number, including for example gold finch, stock dove, wood pigeon, and rook. It is also recognised that in more recent years a number of farmers and land managers across the Wolds have utilised a range of agri-environment schemes, local grants and voluntary measures to help protect and enhance the plant, bird and wider biodiversity across their holdings.

The future for domestic agriculture is uncertain, with current methods for farm support and cross compliance measures likely to change following de-coupling from the European payment support systems under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 (Common Agriculture Policy – Rural Payments) and the move to more open market forces. Stakeholders are recommending that the Plan seeks to secure sustainable farming across the Wolds; in the context of arable cropping that means a type and level of cultivation that can secure a profit for the landowner/farmer, improving farm efficiencies to secure high quality food and produce, whilst also delivering on a wide range of public benefits (natural capital) including innovative projects to enhance arable wildlife, explore and develop integrated pest management and minimise inputs.

#### Threats/Pressures

- Increasing pressure for intensification to maintain economies of scale in production.
- Continuing applications of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers reducing opportunities for arable wildlife, however ongoing innovations and integrated pest management can aid good practice to help to minimise undesirable impacts and maximise economic returns.
- Changing influences (positive and negative) on biodiversity through emerging field crops e.g. flax, borage, sunflowers, and energy crops such as maize and miscanthus.
- Brexit and changes to domestic land management policies (including potentially no cross compliance) and increasing market pressures including the increasing influence of wider global forces. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**AFO** To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape. (See also Section 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)

**Policies:**

**AFP1** To encourage maximum take-up of agri-environment scheme options that provide enhanced conditions for arable farmland wildlife.

**AFP2** To improve awareness of commercial farming's good practices that can bring additional wildlife and landscape benefits, including greater use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and low-input systems.

**AFP3** To encourage surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife (e.g. native herbs and grasses, pollinators and farmland birds), helping to provide a wider evidence base to inform future land management for the area.

**Actions:** See AFA1-5 in Table 3

## 4.3 Earth Heritage

### 4.3.1 Geodiversity

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a complex geology and geomorphology that has been extensively modified by a number of ice advances. Chalk from the Cretaceous period (140 million – 75 million years ago) forms the dominant bedrock for the area and is part of the strata that extends from the Chilterns north to the Yorkshire Wolds. However the chalk is typically less than 50 metres thick in places with glacial tills and gravels overlaying much of the area. The bedding planes of the Wolds dip gently eastwards, thus periodically exposing older rocks from the Lower Cretaceous (Carstone, Sutterby Marl, Roach, Upper Tealby Clay, Tealby Limestone, Lower Tealby Clay, Claxby Ironstones, Spilsby Sandstones). These deposits of sands, clays and ironstones are commonly revealed on the western facing scarp slopes and within the numerous river valley systems that cut through the Wolds. The picture is further complicated by the increasing dominance of the sandstone beds as you move southwards from the Bluestone Heath escarpment.

As indicated, the Wold's topography has been greatly modified by glacial and periglacial activity and this is one of the outstanding qualities of the area. No other upland chalk landscape in Britain has undergone such a dramatic modification on account of an extensive series of glaciations. Ancient coastal cliffs, glacial spillways, ponded-lake systems, dry valley combs cut by meltwaters, and complex glacial deposits (tills and gravels) are in abundance. One of the overriding legacies of the ice-age is the areas highly distinctive rolling plateau and incised steep valleys which are most evident in the Chalk Wolds character area.

The AONB currently has 15 registered Local Geological Sites (LGS's) with six sites still recognised as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) and awaiting further review. There are a further six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) on account of providing nationally important striking and memorable geological/geomorphological features. Four of these sites are disused quarries and two of the sites are cuttings. Many of the LGS exposures occur within redundant pits and quarries, typically where stone or chalk was extracted for local building stone, road aggregates or as a local source of lime.

There is an ongoing role for the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Group, as part of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP), to work closely with landowners to raise awareness and interest in the geological and geomorphological interest of the Wolds. No new sites have been put forward for future stone quarrying under the current Mineral Plan, so only land with historic or existing permissions will be potentially used for the purposes of future extraction. However there are alternative uses for quarry pits including recycling, road aggregate, and highway storage that clearly need careful consideration through the formal planning system. As well as retaining important bedrock exposures for the purposes of research and education there is also a balance to be struck in terms of wider reclamation interests - in some cases there may well be pressures to provide a re-supply of land for future farming, recreation or wider landscape or environmental gains. The most advantageous enhancement schemes are invariably those that have undergone careful collaborative planning and can offer multiple future benefits whilst safeguarding the intrinsic geological/geomorphological interests of the Wolds.

### Threats/Pressures

Key issues for managing the Wolds' geodiversity include:

- Threats to geological sites from disuse, neglect or fly-tipping.
- Continued quarrying/mineral extraction and secondary development pressures (e.g. landfill, recycling of aggregates etc.).
- Possible threat to important localities from fossil collecting.
- Restricted or poor access to many of the RIGS/LGS sites.
- General lack of awareness and understanding.
- Unauthorised use for recreation (e.g. from quad bikes, motorcycles and other vehicles).
- Ongoing management of geodiversity sites to maintain their interest/condition. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**GDO** To protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological features of the AONB for enjoyment, education and research.

**Policies:**

**GDP1** To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the intrinsic interest of geological and geomorphological sites, including improved access. (See also Section 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism)

**GDP2** To maintain and enhance awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological interest through general and site specific interpretation. (See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)

**Actions:** See GDA1-6 in Table 3

### 4.3.2 Soils

Soil can often be overlooked, however it is clearly a vital resource, not only providing the essential substrate for our farming industry (arable, livestock, dairy and horticulture) but also serving as the base medium for our many and varied ecosystems including woodland, grassland, hedgerows, verges, parkland and gardens. Soils play an essential role in terms of capturing and protecting our water resources and also in their ability to buffer and protect the wider environment from extreme climatic events and unfortunate pollution incidents. Soil properties are dynamic, responding to a wide array of chemical, physical and biological processes as well as local conditions such as land-use, the type and extent of vegetation cover, topography and the prevailing weather conditions.

In response to the complex geology and topography of the Lincolnshire Wolds it is no surprise that some 25 individual soil types have been identified across the AONB. (Cranfield University, Soil Report 2009). Light chalky soils of varying colour and texture extend over much of the central and northern plateau tops and often provide well drained high grade agricultural land. By contrast, many of the valley bottoms in the Wolds comprise pockets of heavier and often impermeable clay soils where wet pastures, marshland and woodland carrs dominate the landscape. Similar waterlogged soils are extensive in the south-east claylands where glacial tills and moraine deposits are widespread. In turn more extensive glacial till has been deposited west of Belchford in the Bain valley. Further variety of soils is provided by Spilsby Sandstone which give rise to the more sandy substrates commonly found in a narrow westerly band and within the wider Lymn valley.

The partnership recognises the essential contribution of the Wolds soil resource to the farming sector but also its importance in safe guarding wider environmental goods and services (natural capital). There is clearly scope to explore and develop our understanding of soil management. This should include identifying and supporting good practice that can help ensure soil protection, minimising erosion and sedimentation and retaining, where needed, nutrients and organic matter (there are some circumstances where thin soils or an absence of soil is beneficial, for example geological/geomorphological exposures and plant communities that favour shallow/low fertility substrates). Such actions will help to secure sustainable and efficient levels of farming whilst aiding the wider protection of ecosystems and heritage assets and assisting in the future availability of fresh clean water within our aquifers, streams and rivers.

#### **Threats/Pressures:**

Key issues for managing the Wolds' soils include:

- Erosion from wind and water run-off.
- Appropriate land management practices to prevent the risk of erosion and subsequent diffuse pollution.
- Maintaining good soil structure and nutrient content.
- The reinstatement of grassland or use of winter cover crops or stubble to conserve the resource.
- Potential impact from uncertainties and changes relating to Brexit, global market forces and climate change. (*new issue*)
- Potential increased risks to soil structure and water run-off (diffuse pollution) through new cropping patterns, for example, depending on location and topography, increasing maize production for anaerobic digestion. (*new issue*)



**Objective:**

**SO To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management, biodiversity, and carbon storage.**

**Policies:**

**SP1 To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the soil resource, anticipating future pressures from climate change**

**SP2 To increase awareness and understanding amongst landowners, land managers and other practitioners, of the different soil types and their relationship to the wider landscape and other environmental and socio-economic services.**

**Actions: See SPA1-4 in Table 3**

**Key Related Plans & Strategies (Geodiversity & Soils)**

Defra 25 Year Plan – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)

Earth Heritage Conservation in England: A Natural Areas Perspective (1996)

Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016)

Geodiversity Charter for England 2014

Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile (1997)

Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies (see Developing in the Wolds)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Natural Foundations: Geodiversity for People, Places and Nature (2006)

RIGS Handbook - UK RIGS (1999 onwards)

UK Geodiversity Action Plan (UKGAP) - A Framework for Action (2009)

Local Geological Sites: Guidelines for their Identification & Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (2009)

Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2011)

Soils Report for Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (2009)

The Geodiversity Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (2017)

## 4.4 Cultural Heritage - Historic Landscapes

A key component of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is undoubtedly its rich and vibrant rural heritage, which itself is a further important contributor to our wider natural and cultural capital. We are continuing to discover and enhance our understanding of the areas heritage assets today, both through specialist surveys and in some cases excavation, and through community projects such as the award winning Down Your Wold and the subsequent Layers of History initiatives.

Some of the oldest human remains in Britain have been found here and every period of habitation has left its mark on the landscape. A great variety of cultural features can be traced throughout the area, from ancient tumuli, long departed monastic sites, distinctive stone churches and more recent industrial heritage (ironstone mining) and our abandoned (but not forgotten) wartime airfields. There is evidence of many small parklands and a number of smaller estates, which often include modest Tudor or Georgian country houses, together with a large number of Georgian and Victorian farmsteads and more isolated farm dwellings. The setting of heritage assets within the wider landscape is also significant and in the case of more prominent country houses there are often elements of designed garden and parkland landscapes which necessitate careful and sympathetic management.

The landscape has inspired many artists and writers, the most famous being Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892). Born in Somersby and educated in Louth, he left the Wolds in 1837, but its landscape provided a source for many of his poems including 'In Memorium A.H.H.', 'Maud' and 'The Brook'. At the time of the enclosures, the well-known painter Peter de Wint (1784 -1849) produced a number of popular canvases of the Wolds. In the late 20th century, the area again provided a setting for literature in A.S. Byatt's Booker Prize-winning novel 'Possession' and continues to provide inspiration for local artists and writers.

### 4.4.1 Archaeology

The Wolds has a wealth of archaeological and historic landscape features. There are over 2,000 archaeological sites, of which 98 are classed as Scheduled Monuments (SMs) on account of their national interest. There is longevity of settlement which makes the Wolds a premier archaeological landscape (CCP414, 1993) and during early Medieval times it was one of the most densely populated parts of England with a thriving wool industry which helped in the development of the surrounding market towns.

The oldest remains date from the Palaeolithic period, with an important and well researched stratified site at Welton le Wold. The southern Wolds has significant Mesolithic remains, particularly in the Lymn valley and by the Neolithic period the Wolds had become a cultural focal point. The Wolds has an exceptional ritual landscape including the densest distribution of long barrows in the country and an important grouping of round barrows. Significant settlement and burial landscapes can be traced through the Bronze and Iron Ages and analysis of prehistoric and Roman remains shows that many Iron Age centres were superseded as Roman settlements. The Caistor High Street, the Bluestone Heath Road and Barton Street provided an important network of ancient trackways. The line of a Roman road between Lincoln Eastgate and Burgh le Marsh can still be traced through Tetford and north of Skendleby.

A large number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, such as the one at South Elkington, show the continued importance of the area for ritual purposes. The Wolds was important in the formative years of Christianity in the county with a very early monastery at Partney. Substantial numbers of remains date from the Medieval period, with numerous monasteries and nunneries and one of the highest concentrations of deserted and shrunken medieval villages in England.

The Wolds archaeology is an important resource in need of ongoing protection and enhancement. In 2004 English Heritage, now Historic England, identified 47 (51%) of the SMs at high risk and a further nine at medium risk. However by 2011 the number of sites at high risk was reduced to 33 (34%) with nine still remaining at medium risk. The most recent figures from 2017 highlighted that the number of SMs at high risk has once again been further reduced to 27 (28%).

A Joint Accord between HE and the NAAONB is in place and recognises the need for future integrated action to help safeguard, manage and raise awareness of the heritage assets widely evident in all of

England's AONBs. A partnership approach between local landowners and respective organisations is essential for the future protection and enhancement of the archaeological assets across the Wolds. The Plan seeks to encourage increased opportunities for voluntary input and community engagement, which very much aligns with the Government's more recent strategies for protecting the historic environment (Cultural White Paper, 2016) whilst supporting sustainable development. The local Partnership recognises that there is a continued need for further holistic research and study, especially in respect of the important archaeological features found across the Wolds. Such studies will undoubtedly further our understanding of the AONB's cultural capital and the links between people, place and landscapes and in so doing aid future protection, interpretation and management of both protected and unprotected heritage sites and features of interest.

### **Threats/Pressures**

- Change of land use especially conversion of pasture to arable - although the increasing use of 'min-till' (minimum tillage) and 'no-till' techniques will help to minimise future disturbances from deep ploughing which has previously been a concern.
- Potential for damage through poorly executed woodland management and inappropriate planting – tree root and wind-throw damage.
- General lack of awareness and understanding.
- Future impacts from climate change.

### **Objective:**

**AO To protect, appropriately manage and enhance archaeological and historic features, and their wider landscape setting, within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.**

### **Policies:**

**AP1 To work with a range of partners and community groups to encourage and support research projects to help increase our knowledge of the Wolds' heritage, identifying sites of key importance and promoting better understanding of the complexity of risk, particularly from climate change.**

**AP2 To raise awareness of archaeological heritage in the Wolds, working with local communities, farmers, landowners, land managers, utility companies and relevant contract workers to support positive management.** (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 6.2 Interpretation)

**AP3 To increase and enhance appropriate public access to sites of archaeological and historic interest, in consultation with landowners.** (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds, 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.2 Interpretation and 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism)

**Actions: See AA1-12 in Table 3**

#### 4.4.2 Built Heritage

Attractive farmsteads, country houses, hamlets and distinctive (often nucleated) villages all contribute to the special character of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. There is no one unified pattern of architecture in the area, but rather a wide range of rural buildings that often reflects the diversity of local building stones and local bricks.

Claxby Ironstone, with its rich ochre and the paler Tealby Limestone, are used extensively in the traditional church and cottage buildings in the north-west of the Wolds – for example at Nettleton, Walesby, Claxby and Tealby. In contrast, Spilsby Sandstone was the dominant building material in the southern Wolds, often providing a distinctive dark brown/greenish hue on account of the presence of the mineral glauconite (widely associated with greensand). Some churches, farm buildings and cottages have also made use of local chalk, usually blocks from the firmest Totternhoe Beds. When used, the chalk was usually incorporated in the main facades of the building, often on top and within more resistant foundation and cornering stones and hard wood timbers.

Brick became available from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and with the presence of local clays encouraged the development of local brick pits. Brick buildings, initially with thatch roofs, became much more dominant over the preceding centuries for domestic properties. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pantiles were the preferred roofing material, although imported slates were also being used, increasingly for more prestigious buildings including country houses such as Harrington Hall, Hainton Hall and South Ormsby Hall. Other important buildings in the Wolds include the now rare 'mud and stud' cottages within the southern Wolds, water and windmills, and Georgian and Victorian farmstead buildings and cottages.

As highlighted in previous plans, many of current stock of rural buildings can provide important roost opportunities for protected species including barn owls and bats, and any future renovation plans need to be managed sensitively. There are currently some 325 Listed Buildings found across the Wolds with less than 1% deemed at risk. The recent farmstead study for the AONB has identified 586 traditional farmsteads, some 8% of which include either a farmhouse or work building that is listed. Nearly half of the farmsteads recorded still retain over 50% of their original features and clearly provide an important resource. Restoration and enhancement of redundant historic buildings, thoughtfully planned and carefully implemented, can support further development and diversification of the local economy, and can add real value to the local built fabric and distinctive sense of place evident across the AONB.

#### Threats/Pressures

- Abandonment/dereliction of farm, cottage and watermill buildings – although the situation is improving through more recent renovation opportunities.
- Previously poorly planned and constructed development/renovation/conversion, especially within some of the Wolds' villages, leading to loss of local distinctiveness – the situation is improving through local planning authorities increased attention to quality of design.
- Limited sources for local materials.
- Loss of traditional building expertise.

**Objective:**

**BHO To protect and enhance the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings, and features within the AONB. (See also Section 7.1 Planning)**

**Policies:**

**BHP1 To work with property owners, residents, owner occupiers and developers to encourage sympathetic and innovative design and management of buildings in keeping with local distinctiveness and character.**

**BHP2 To work with a range of partners and community groups, to raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds and increase understanding of its contribution to the AONB.**

**BHP3 To encourage and support sympathetic repair and sustainable re-use of redundant buildings for uses directly supportive of the local economy, encouraging use of local materials. (see also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)**

**BHP4 To embrace appropriate technologies that promotes sustainability and energy efficiency whilst complementing the AONB's special character.**

**Actions: See BHA1-8 in Table 3**

**Key Related Plans & Strategies (Archaeology and Built Heritage)**

Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings; Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse (Historic England, 2017)  
Adaptive Reuse of Traditional Farm Buildings; Historic England Advice Note 9 (2017)  
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for Sustainable Management of the Historic County Archaeology Manual - Lincolnshire County Council (2016)  
Cultural Heritage - Government White Paper (2016)  
Defra 25 Year Plan – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)  
English Heritage National Heritage Protection Plan (Version 1: May 2011)  
Every Street Matters (2006)  
Heritage Counts 2016: Heritage and the Economy (2016)  
Heritage White Paper - Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (2007)  
Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: English Heritage, CADW and National Association for AONBs (2004)  
Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas (1996)  
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Traditional Farmstead and Landscape Statement (2017)  
Local Development Frameworks & Core Strategies (emerging)  
Local Development Plans – Saved Policies  
Looking After Our Landscapes Post Brexit (Heritage Alliance, 2017)  
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)  
Our Lincolnshire, Our Past - The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Strategy 2017-22 (2017)  
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (2010)  
Power of Place: The Future of the Historic Environment (2000)  
Streets for All (2005)  
Streetscape Design Manual - Lincolnshire County Council (2016)  
Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans  
The Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Assessment Framework - Guidelines for Best Practice (2015)  
The Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statements (2015)  
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (2010)  
The Maintenance and Repair of Traditional Farm Buildings; A Guide to Good Practice (Historic England, 2017)

## 5. Living and Working in the Wolds - Theme 2

The Lincolnshire Wolds is sparsely populated, comprising small villages and hamlets and dispersed farm dwellings, surrounded by a number of small market towns. The area is deeply rural in character, and although characterised with some of the finest landscapes in the East Midlands, some communities still suffer from economic deprivation and rural isolation. Limited public transport connections beyond the primary main roads means many individuals are heavily dependent upon personal transport to access wider employment and service hubs.

It is important that there are sufficient local employment opportunities to enable people not only to continue living in the Wolds but also to have the opportunity of working close to home. As well as the important service and cultural links to the larger market towns, local residents are very aware of the need to utilise future benefits from new technologies (e.g. via the ongoing roll-out of mobile phone and broadband). There is also community awareness and understanding of the need to help maintain and support a wide range of local services including the village shop, post office, pub and tea room. Such facilities remain invaluable at a local level and often provide opportunities for important social connections, especially for the more isolated and vulnerable in our communities. As detailed within Natural England's Conservation 21 Strategy, a healthy local natural environment is a central part of health, wealth and prosperity - it is important that both residents and visitors to the Wolds are given every opportunity to become actively involved in both the enjoyment and management of the area's natural and cultural environments (natural beauty).

### 5.1 Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds

The character of the Lincolnshire Wolds remains heavily shaped by farming, with field sizes and cropping patterns reinforcing local landscapes and having an ever changing impact upon the visual character of the area. With over 75% of the AONB in cultivation any market changes through Brexit, and the potential decoupling from subsidies and move towards WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules, has the potential for wide reaching impact upon not only the farming community but also on the character and landscape of the Wolds.

Some 16% of employment in the AONB is in the farming sector, supporting a workforce of almost 800 individuals, including a significant number of full-time workers, farmers and farm managers. Almost half of the 231 farms registered in the area are primarily cereal producers (2013 Defra Agricultural Census). However approximately a quarter of the total number of Wolds farms continue to operate as mixed or lowland grazing units. These are commonly smaller holdings, but nevertheless also make an important contribution to the local economy and help to maintain the grassland pastures.

The current rural landscape of the Wolds, including its woodland copses, field headlands and winter cover crops owes much of its existence to both the previous and ongoing pursuit of various country field sports, including legal hunts and game shooting. The AONB Partnership continues to recognise that hunting, shooting and fishing interests can generate significant local income and employment to help support the local rural economy. There is a balance to be struck in terms of managing potential conflict with the wider public, for example potential noise and disturbance issues. Many landowners are equally aware of the need to sensitively stock and manage reared game birds, including the careful siting of release pens and game feeding stations to minimise impacts upon the local woodland and hedgerows and maximise the opportunities for wider environmental benefits. As indicated, many of the Wolds woodlands, copses, hedgerows and field margins continue to be actively managed to help support game rearing habitats and in

so doing also provide very important habitat diversity in support of wider wildlife interests, including small mammals, farmland birds and insects.

Returning to general farming matters, there has been a reported reluctance for landowners and tenants to commit to fresh Countryside Stewardship Schemes; common concerns include both the high levels of bureaucracy and the perceived difficulties from locking into fresh long-term agreements at this point in time. The current messages from Government suggest that any future agri-environment schemes beyond the current EU arrangements will more than likely have to demonstrate clear public benefit - above and beyond food production - to include for example an emphasis on natural capital and wider goods and services. Future collaboration across the farming, environmental and economic sectors are essential not only to help support individual farmers but also encourage increased catchment-scale approaches to land management.

### **Threats/Pressures**

The majority of farmland in the Wolds is used for agricultural purposes and any market changes have the potential for wide reaching impact upon the landscape and character of the Wolds.

- Increasing uncertainty and continuing pressure for higher yields and increasing economies of scale through intensification to compete in the global market and resist declining incomes, although farm sizes predicted to stay fairly static.
- Potentially significant impacts and future uncertainties from both Brexit and the subsequent reform of domestic farming policy, including possible implications on farm subsidies for future agri-environment options.
- Continuing decline in livestock farming and associated infrastructure with its likely degradation of landscape character.
- Changing cropping patterns in response to climate change issues, weed/chemical control and market forces.

### **Objective:**

**FW0 To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets.**

### **Policies:**

**FWP1 To develop and promote agricultural good practice to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.**

**FWP2 To monitor and proactively influence changes in local, regional and national agriculture policy to maximise benefits to farmers in the Wolds.**

**FWP3 To encourage and support initiatives to sustain livestock farming in the AONB.** (See also Section 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland)

**FWP4 To support farm diversification schemes appropriate to the AONB and which accord with planning policy.** (See also Section 7.1 Planning)

**FWP5 To seek to maintain traditional rural skills and activities that can protect, appropriately manage and enhance the landscape.** (See also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)

**FWP6 To recognise and support the contribution of well managed field sport activities for the benefits of wildlife, rural character and the local economy.**

**FWP7 To raise awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management.**

**Actions: See FWA1-15 in Table 3**

**Key Related Plans & Strategies (Farming in the Wolds)**

Creating a Great Place for Living; Defra's Strategy to 2020 (2016)  
Defra 25 Year Plan – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)  
Greater Lincolnshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2030 (refreshed 2016)  
Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies (see Developing in the Wolds)  
Local Development Plans – Saved Policies  
National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF (2012)  
New Model Farming: resilience through diversity (2016)  
Rural Business 2030: Unlocking Investment-Unlocking Potential (2016)  
Rural Development Programme for England (2015-2020)  
Uncertain Harvest: does the loss of farms matter (2017)



## 5.2 Thriving Communities

As indicated previously, the Lincolnshire Wolds is deeply rural, with a much dispersed infrastructure. Using 2011 census data, the LWCS estimates a population of 10,701 for the AONB, with a further 36,316 living in the surrounding market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby. There are 74 parishes within the protected landscape, only five of which have more than 450 residents. There are some 89 settlements, the larger ones being Brookenby, Tealby and Walesby within West Lindsey; Belchford, Binbrook, Ludford and Tetford within East Lindsey; and Hatcliffe within North East Lincolnshire.

The Wolds' communities are generally small, and often physically isolated, and their connections with the surrounding market towns remain essential to maintain the socio-economic vitality of the area. Equally important are the role of the many local facilities across the AONB. An LWCS audit in 2017 highlighted the following: 20 public houses; 6 post offices; 12 local stores; 9 tea rooms and 5 fishing lakes. The AONB Partnership is increasingly aware of the importance that such amenities provide, both within and between communities at the local level, providing a wide range of services for both residents and visitors to the area.

There is often a common perception that the Wolds is dominated by an elderly population with an influx of retirees and an outward movement of young adults. However closer examination of the population figures indicates that currently there is a fairly even distribution across all of the age categories, although the largest grouping is the 45-59 years old group. The LWCS estimates that in 2011 some 4,890 people were in employment, with 258 unemployed, the latter at 5% is slightly above the current UK unemployment average (4.3% - Oct 2017). As evidenced in the recent State of the AONB Report there are some 375 rateable businesses in the AONB including 70 workshops/factory premises, 54 warehouses/stores and 52 tourism accommodation providers including self-catering. Employment is varied across sectors with approximately 42% in professional, managerial or technical fields and 17% working in a skilled trade.

There is currently some concern at the local level in terms of recent housing applications both within and immediately adjacent to the AONB. Clearly a balance needs to be struck to maintain sustainable and viable communities by ensuring for example that any new housing proposed is in the right location, of the right size and of the right design and wherever possible can provide affordable homes. The respective Local Authorities and their formal Local Plans provide the mechanisms and legal policy frameworks for robustly assessing housing needs and supply and allocating accordingly future parcels of land for housing. Local engagement in all levels of the process should be actively sought, including the further support and encouragement of community Neighbourhood Plans.

There is recognition of the increasing importance of communication technologies and the ongoing need to upgrade and enhance the provision of IT and broadband services to many of our rural communities and businesses. The AONB Partnership respects this position and has sought to support and encourage the roll-out of both broadband and mobile phone coverage that is sympathetic and can ideally complement the landscape of the Wolds, through for example the careful siting, design, and landscaping of any critical infrastructure. Where ever possible, there should be an additional emphasis on encouraging mast sharing and the subsequent removal of any redundant infrastructure.

Returning to wider access to services, this also extends into green space provision, and although there is an extensive network of public rights of way many settlements have limited access to more formal areas of open space such as country parks, allotments and playing fields. With increasing awareness of the public health benefits from leading/experiencing active lifestyles there is considerable potential to enhance physical and mental wellbeing for all ages utilising the Wolds resource - supporting, promoting and enhancing the opportunities for local communities and the wider public to enjoy, experience and connect to the AONB's unique sense of place, tranquillity and rural charm.

Ongoing issues highlighted during the peer review:

- A sense of unease over the future of many rural services and facilities, typically the post office and village shop.
- Impact of unsightly development (buildings, wind turbines etc.)
- Loss of scenic beauty through changes to landscape.
- A generally poor public transport system because of the sparse settlement pattern.
- Concern over the decline in the rural economy and the need to sustain local employment
- The increasing housing difficulties for the young.
- The limited access to public open space.
- The ongoing EU review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and development of a possible British Agricultural Policy
- Vulnerabilities to communities and the business sector through the continuing outward migration of young people. (*new issue*)

## Objective

**TCO To support and promote partnership activity to help safeguard and enhance the prosperity and well-being (quality of life) of communities within the Wolds AONB, ensuring the Wolds remain a place to live, work, invest in, and visit, whilst meeting the needs of this unique landscape.** (See also Section 7 Developing the Wolds)

## Policies:

**TCP1 To foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities, working with relevant agencies to support local businesses and communities, encouraging both innovation and wider good practice.** (See also Sections 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards and 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)

**TCP2 To encourage measures to reverse the declines in rural services and facilities and promote healthier lifestyles.**

**TCP3 To encourage existing and new businesses to have a high regard for environmental sustainability and an active engagement in enhancing natural capital, especially in the context of the AONB.**

**TCP4 To sensitively utilise the Wolds as a recreational resource, in particular promoting accessible 'green infrastructure' close to communities within and adjacent to the AONB.** (See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland, 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards and 6 Discovering the Wolds)

**Actions: See TCA1-13 in Table 3**

## Key Related Plans and Strategies (Thriving Communities)

Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (2013)

Greater Lincolnshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2030 (refreshed 2016)

Health and Wellbeing in Lincolnshire; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2017)

Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies (see Developing in the Wolds)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

## 6. Discovering the Wolds - Theme 3 (Interpretation, Access, Recreation and Tourism)

### 6.1 Overview for discovering the Wolds

The primary purpose of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation is the protection and enhancement of the area's natural beauty and unlike National Parks there is no statutory duty placed on the relevant authorities to actively promote the area for the purposes of recreation and tourism. However since the publication of the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy (2000) and subsequent AONB Management Plans there has been an increasing awareness and recognition of the value of supporting and encouraging "appropriate" recreation and tourism. The AONB Partnership's understanding of "appropriate" in this context, is a level of promotion and management of access, recreation and tourism that can help to support "quiet enjoyment" of the area and foster interest and respect in the natural beauty of the Wolds.

The superb views, attractive villages and hamlets, and unique natural and cultural heritage assets provide considerable opportunities for future recreation and tourism development. As evidenced in the State of the AONB Report, there is an increasing awareness of the tourism sector's contribution to the local economy, including wider visitor expenditure which can often assist local ancillary services important to the social fabric of the area. There is however a widespread view that promotion of the Wolds needs to be respectful of the protected landscapes special qualities, which include its deeply rural sense of place and tranquillity.

#### Key issues for the managing interpretation, access, recreation and tourism:

- Raising the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds - its unique landscape and natural/heritage/cultural assets - as a place to visit, enjoy and appreciate.
- Balancing an increase in visitors with the Wolds sense of tranquillity and isolation.
- Developing an appropriate access, recreation and tourism infrastructure, including suitable facilities for specialist interests.
- Exploring opportunities to develop links with the surrounding market towns and neighbouring venues.
- Enhancing partnership working to aid the promotion and interpretation of the Wolds.
- Promoting walking, cycling, horse riding and carriage driving.
- Promoting access for all and the principle of least restrictive access.
- Promoting appropriate specialist leisure interests, exploring further opportunities for field sports activity, 'energetic/high adrenalin' pursuits and other emerging markets.
- Supporting and promoting established festivals and events programmes that can help to maintain and encourage the vitality and cultural interest of the Wolds area. (*new issue*)
- The need to be aware and sensitive to landowner and farmer interests, especially in respect of unwarranted trespass and the dangers of working farms and machinery, similarly the concerns with livestock disturbance and wider anti-social behaviour. (*new issue*)

### 6.2 Interpretation – Awareness Raising

There is an important role for the ongoing roll-out of high quality interpretation: as well as helping to direct and inform visitors, utilising a wide range of interpretive media has been shown to be a very important tool in engaging local residents and encouraging active interest and participation in the protection and enhancement of the Wolds AONB.

A people-focused approach to interpretation has always been fully supported and encouraged by the AONB Partnership, helping communities to discover and share in the understanding of local sites, places and the wider AONB – depending on levels of interest and expertise, outcomes will often be across a wide range of environmental and heritage topics. This approach recognises and builds on the wealth of local knowledge and local voices for exploring and promoting the area – including the area's local character, history, wildlife, folklore and cultural strengths. Local engagement links with wider national strategies, for example Defra's A Green Future and Natural England's Conservation 21 Strategy, will be encouraged, with

both documents advocating putting people at the heart of the environment to help encourage and support future "natural capital" place-shaping. Such endeavours can get more people connected, involved and inspired in their natural environment, local landscapes and cultural heritage (i.e. The Wolds natural beauty and its special qualities).

The future Management Plan will continue to recognise the important connections between the Wolds and the surrounding market towns, all of which, to varying degrees, act as both physical and intellectual "gateways" into the AONB. The future emphasis will be on the further development of a coordinated approach to interpretation, helping to promote the special attributes of the area through a diverse range of media. This should in turn help provide an enhanced sense of place and improve the visitor experience for not only those travelling into the Wolds but also for the benefit of our local residents.

**Objective:**

- IO** To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities, in turn helping to support the local economy. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism and 7.2 Transport in the Wolds)

**Policy:**

- IP1** To provide visitors and residents with a greater understanding and appreciation of what makes the Lincolnshire Wolds a special place, encouraging interpretation facilities and services that can be utilised by all.
- IP2** To strengthen the profile of the AONB as a visitor destination by highlighting the area's unique landscape character and sense of place to the general public.
- IP3** To encourage residents and landowners to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.

**Actions:** See IPA1-9 in Table 3

### 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism

As highlighted earlier in the Plan, although there is a limited number of country parks and recreational open space immediate to many of the settlements in the Lincolnshire Wolds there is an extensive network of public rights of way. There are six well established long distance routes, including most notably the Viking Way, and also a wide range of walking, cycling and wider promotional literature that has been produced by the AONB Partnership.

The Partnership has more recently linked up with the relevant local authorities and local businesses to help support and promote the work of the new "Love Lincolnshire Wolds" tourism partnership; a group which seeks the careful promotion of both the Wolds and its surrounding network of market towns to aid the delivery of its Destination Management Plan (Lincolnshire Wolds and Market Towns). This Strategy has specific actions aimed at increasing visitors, identifying gaps in provision and further developing partnerships to help enhance facilities and bring additional economic benefits into the area.

The Love Lincolnshire Wolds group has highlighted the benefits of utilising wider countywide tourism initiatives, including the more recent success of the Lincoln Castle renovation programme and its national/international promotion of the Magna Carta. As highlighted in the State of the AONB report, the STEAM data analysis for the wider Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area and the Wolds surrounding market towns estimates the total number of annual visitor days for 2016 as 4.05 million, bringing in an estimated £166.58 million in tourism income.

Clearly there is scope to further promote the area as an all-round destination and to continue to support the enhancement of the tourism and recreation offer to help attract new visitors and extend overnight stays. There is also an opportunity to make additional positive connections with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, in this context, working to secure and enhance engagement with "green tourism" initiatives to help build on the wider nature conservation /natural environment infrastructure.

A collaborative approach to recreation and tourism management involving public, private and third sector organisations is being actively encouraged for the area and is very much work in progress. An objective review of unsolicited comments from Trip Advisor and Google Maps (see Appendix 4 – State of the AONB Report), demonstrates the generally high regard held for the Wolds AONB as a recreation/tourism destination and its value to local residents and visitors for enjoyment, discovery, health and wellbeing - these widespread views echo the general findings from the Wolds Have Your Say Surveys (Section 2.6 and Appendix 5). The AONB Partnership recognises that the area is very much a living and working landscape and all visitors need to be mindful and respectful of both landowner and local resident interests.

#### **Objective:**

**ARTO To develop, promote and seek implementation of a wide range of sustainable access, recreation and tourism initiatives appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.**

#### **Policies:**

**ARTP1 To maximise access opportunities for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation.** (See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland, 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards, 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 5.2 Thriving Communities)

**ARTP2 To provide coordinated, accurate and up-to-date information on the access, recreation and tourism opportunities within the Wolds AONB.** (See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)

**ARTP3 To develop joint promotion and marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, including utilising the surrounding market towns as gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds.** (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 6.2 Interpretation)

**ARTP4 To review current access, recreation and tourism provision and support new measures and good practice to improve the infrastructure where compatible with the AONB.**

**Actions: See ARTA1-18 in Table 3**

**Key Related Plans and Strategies (Interpretation, Access, Recreation and Tourism)**

Creating a Great Place for Living – Defra's strategy to 2020  
Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy - Dept. for Transport (2016)  
Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Lincolnshire (2012)  
Delivering a Golden Legacy; A growth strategy for inbound tourism to Britain from 2012 to 2020 (2012)  
Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (2013)  
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy (2001)  
Local Authorities Tourism / Economic Development Strategies (various)  
Love Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Plan (2016)  
Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans

## 7. Developing the Wolds - Theme 4

As highlighted in the scene setting chapters, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is a nationally recognised and protected landscape on account of its high scenic quality and its unusual combination of features. Originally designated in 1973, there have been continual efforts and action by the AONB Partnership - including local authorities, the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, government agencies, and other third sector organisations - to work closely with landowners, local communities and businesses to help direct, influence and manage landscape change and future development in a positive way.

The Wolds scenery is subtle and complex, with many different facets combining to create the area's overall intrinsic character and distinctive sense of place. As is often said, the more one comes to know the area the greater its appeal. However there is a widespread view that the Wolds are very much a living and working landscape and should not be preserved in aspic. A key challenge remains in terms of fostering and supporting development that can work with, not against, the grain of the Wolds and its people. The Plan recognises that there may be some differences of opinions in terms of securing future sustainable development appropriate to the AONB. The strength of the JAC Partnership is in its power to convene, to listen and appreciate the varying viewpoints and work to secure a collaborative and positive outcome for the designation – this encompasses taking account of and respecting the various (and sometimes differing) needs of local residents, landowners, businesses and visitors.

### 7.1 Planning and Development Management

The Wolds AONB is particularly vulnerable to inappropriate development on account of its strong rural character and tranquillity, its extensive plateau tops and open views, and its dark night skies. Furthermore there is wide spread recognition that the topography of the Wolds is subtle and complex and its juxtaposition with the low lying coastal grazing marshes to the east and the equally flat clay vale to the west make the area especially sensitive to neighbouring development which can potentially impact upon both the setting and the expansive views to and from the AONB.

As highlighted previously, individual planning decisions are taken by the relevant local planning authorities based upon national guidance and legislation as expressed through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the corresponding suite of Local Plan, Highways, and Mineral and Waste policies. The Management Plan seeks to complement these strategies and not oppose them; it has been demonstrated through national planning appeals that AONB Management Plan policies are a material consideration in the decision making process for securing sustainable development. The NPPF makes it clear that there should be a general presumption in favour of granting development, however through Paragraphs 115 and 116 there is a duty on relevant decision making bodies to apply great weight to the protection and enhancement of our nationally protected landscapes (our National Parks and AONBs).

New development, of the right type, of the right scale, and in the right location should be actively supported. This should include thoughtfully designed and well-constructed development that seeks to complement and enrich local distinctiveness and the natural beauty of the AONB. The active use of relevant and up-to-date site surveys (including flora, fauna, heritage assets), relevant design guides and best practice should be the norm, accompanied by the comprehensive use of LVIA's (landscape and visual impact assessments) to help shape and assess both formal and informal proposals. The new 25 year Government plan for the environment has reaffirmed the importance of our nationally protected landscapes - AONBs and National Parks - and highlighted the need to explore and develop natural capital approaches to help secure positive outcomes for the universal benefit of people, places and wildlife.

### **Key issues highlighted included:**

- Proliferation of often unsightly telecommunication masts and their associated infrastructure (similarly with overhead powerlines).
- Poor design and build of some developments, including village infilling and farm and cottage renovations.
- Growing impact of light pollution.
- Negative view of planning restrictions which are seen to be limiting socio-economic development.
- Lack of affordable housing for local people and key workers.
- Renovation/development of redundant farm buildings.
- Potential impact of development and land use change on sites adjacent to the AONB.
- Wind farms – pros and cons.
- House builders/developers utilising formulaic national designs.
- Potential for future increase in future hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration, together with increasing public concern with fracking. (*new issue*)

### **Objective:**

**PO To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and special character.** (See also Sections 4.4.2 Built Heritage and 5 Living and Working in the Wolds)

### **Policies:**

- PP1 To protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality design in new development and re-development, including making space for biodiversity, being sensitive to the considerations of heritage assets and tackling climate change.**
- PP2 To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support the local economy and community, including making space for biodiversity and tackling climate change.**
- PP3 To support the development of local needs/affordable housing provision which is appropriate to local character and consistent with AONB objectives and LA planning policies.**
- PP4 To minimise damage to the AONB's landscape and natural beauty as a result of mineral working and associated activity and help implement the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy.**
- PP5 To promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.**
- PP6 To recognise and protect the AONB night skies and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.**
- PP7 To ensure a general presumption against wind energy schemes in any location which could cause significant and demonstrably detrimental effects upon the natural beauty and intrinsic characteristics of the AONB.**
- PP8 To support general waste reduction measures and recycling initiatives that are in accordance with the special requirements of the AONB and help the shift towards a circular economy.**



**PP9 To ensure that where larger scale development must proceed within or adjacent to the AONB, because of other national interests, the highest regard is placed on minimising any impacts upon the primary purpose of the designation – the area’s natural beauty.**

**PP10 To develop a comprehensive assessment approach to securing opportunities for renewable energy provision across the AONB and its wider setting.**

**Actions: See PA1-16 in Table 3**

### **Key Related Plans and Strategies (Planning)**

A New Vernacular for the Countryside (2004)

EC Rural Development Regulations (2007 onwards)

Fixing our Broken Housing Market - Dept. for Communities and Local Government (2017)

Greater Lincolnshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2030 (refreshed 2016)

Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Landscape Institute (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed, 2013)

Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas (1996)

Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan (2003)

Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2016)

Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Planning Act 2008

Streetscape Design Manual - Lincolnshire County Council (2016)

The Lindsey Action Zone Local Development Strategy 2014-2020

The Localism Act (2011)

The Infrastructure Act (2015)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

## 7.2 Transport and Signage in the Wolds

The Partnership recognises that a good transport network is essential to the future well-being and prosperity of those living in the Wolds, helping to ensure that local residents and visitors have good access to a wide range of amenities both within and adjacent to the AONB. These include links to the essentials for modern living – connections to commerce, retail, education, finance and health services - in addition to regular access to the wider countryside and its various rural attractions.

There is an expectation on developing and maintaining a good road infrastructure that can support the needs of local farming, forestry, tourism, recreation and the needs of other rural businesses. Whilst there is a network of arterial roads linking the surrounding market towns many of the Wolds interior routes are narrow and rural in nature. Currently over 90% of the highway network is managed directly by Lincolnshire County Council, the remainder by North East Lincolnshire Council. Comparing the average annual average daily traffic flow counts (AADT) for all vehicles using the principal A and B roads in the Wolds the average vehicle movements for A roads was 7,433 (2017 counts) with 2,078 vehicle movements for B roads (2016 counts). As evidenced in the State of the AONB report, the detailed picture is more complicated, but there has clearly been a net increase in road vehicle movements since 2010.

The AONB partnership has sought to encourage and develop local transport solutions to aid traffic management including the regular review of road signage, including the Lincolnshire Wolds gateway/entrance signs found on most of the principal routes. Whilst being mindful of the need to minimise roadside furniture and visual clutter the group has actively supported the ongoing renovation and maintenance of the AONBs locally distinctive, black and white, traditional road signs.

As noted in earlier chapters the settlement pattern across the Wolds is highly scattered and dispersed making the efficient running of a fully integrated transport network challenging. The InterConnect and CallConnect Services remain very important to the area, in particular providing vital links for those that are totally reliant upon public transport or private taxi services. Most of the arterial routes are covered by a scheduled bus route but the number of journeys can be fairly limited.

With an increasing partnership emphasis on encouraging sustainable recreation and tourism there will be ongoing pressures on the transport infrastructure and the need to review both services and the signage across the Wolds. There will also be fresh opportunities to explore the linkages with recreation and active lifestyles, helping for example to review and develop the InterConnect Bus Walks. Further provision for other user groups - cyclists, horse-riders and those with particular special needs - will also be important, including exploring and developing innovative good practice through public, private and community sector engagement.

### Key issues highlighted included:

- Limited transport infrastructure.
- Sparse public transport links, especially in the northern half of the AONB.
- Lack of integrated public transport network.
- Increasing loss of rural character through proliferation of urban style road development.
- Road safety issues, particularly dangerous driving.
- Increase in commuting from the Wolds.
- In isolated cases, village signage that fail to capture adequately the links with the local character and distinctiveness of the Wolds. (*new issue*)

**Objective:**

**TWO** To encourage and support the development and promotion of a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character and addresses local community and visitor needs.

**Policies:**

**TWP1** To encourage integrated public and community-based transport schemes that can help to improve the links between communities within the AONB and the surrounding market towns. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities and 6.2 Interpretation)

**TWP2** To support and encourage traffic management that will promote safe and attractive walking, cycling and riding in the AONB.

**TWP3** To encourage transport infrastructure improvements to support appropriate tourism development, ensuring schemes are sympathetic to the landscape and character of the AONB.

**TWP4** To encourage a consistent approach to the use of road signage, furniture and maintenance to promote and respect the character of the AONB.

**TWP5** To support and encourage the development of an integrated and well maintained public rights of way network, maximising the opportunities for achieving access for all.

**TWP6** To encourage the Highway Authorities to adopt traffic management measures and schemes commensurate with AONB designation and rural environments.

**Actions:** See TWA1-14 in Table 3

**Key Related Plans and Strategies (Transport in the Wolds)**

Community Strategies

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Lincolnshire (2012)

Every Street Matters (2006)

Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 4 - (2013)

Lincolnshire Streetscape Design Manual (2012)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

Local Transport Act (2008)

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan (2011)

### 7.3 Climate Change and Energy

There remains a requirement to increase our understanding of the full suite of pressures from climate change, the anticipated type, scale and rate of change and the steps that can be taken to both mitigate and adapt to "climate-proof" our precious natural and developed landscapes. The worldwide understanding of climatic changes are continually improving, and although there are still sceptics to global warming, it is clearly evident that weather patterns are changing markedly, both home and abroad. Climate change, in addition to the spread of plastics, is now widely recognised as posing one of the most serious long-term threats to both global and UK ecosystems, with a host of direct and indirect impacts upon our landscapes, wildlife and habitats and the wider goods and services they provide – including provision of water, food and outdoor environments for recreation and tourism.

The Partnership continues to recognise that the problems associated with climate change have the potential to have a significant impact upon the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Anticipated long term changes include a likely change to future cropping and farming patterns across the Wolds, as farmers increasingly review and adapt their growing regimes to help maximise their future commercial returns. There is likely to be increased pressure on wildlife and habitats, although some species may adapt well and expand their ranges, others will struggle and their coverage could become further restricted. Pressures on both farmed and indigenous plants and animals are likely to increase through the emergence and spread of new pests and diseases. Extreme and more unpredictable weather events are anticipated to become more frequent, including severe storms with high winds and intense rainfall. This has the potential to cause harm and disruption to crops, wildlife (including notably woodlands, parklands, landscape trees and our rivers and streams), historic buildings, infrastructure (transport, communications and utilities) and our communities, especially those residential and commercial properties within/adjacent to flood plains and historic spring-lines.

As well as working to reduce emissions (most notably fossil fuels), including the shift towards a circular economy and reduced 'carbon footprint', a landscape scale /catchment scale collaborative approach is highly advantageous to help build long term resilience and aid adaptations. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB can clearly provide a test-bed for more innovative multiple land management. An obvious example is the review and development of further green networks and habitat corridors to crucially connect isolated and fragmented habitats. Such an approach would be in-line with current Government thinking expressed within Natural England's Conservation 21 Strategy. For example, encouraging a mosaic of varying and connected habitats can aid the future migration of our native plant and animal species, whilst aiding natural pest control and crop pollination for adjoining cultivated land, and safeguarding our water resources through increasing infiltration rates in the upper catchments.

Key issues will be:

- Predicting and managing the increasing burdens on our natural and built resources, including impacts upon our water, food, biodiversity, housing and recreation interests.
- Securing energy conservation measures and reducing reliance upon fossil fuels.
- Ensuring that future sustainable energy technologies minimise their impact upon the Wolds' landscape and other environmental assets.
- Water availability and quality issues, including lower river flows, temperature changes, reduced water tables and expected increased demand for flood alleviation and water storage areas.
- Changes to future cropping patterns and impacts (positive and negative) upon local distinctiveness.
- Wildlife migration pressures and the mobility of habitats and species through adaptation.
- Likely emergence of new pests, diseases and invasive species.
- Increasingly integrating solutions to climate change through applying a landscape scale and ecosystems approach to land management including the provision of breathing spaces for nature.
- Encouraging sustainable forms of recreation and tourism to help enhance the local environment and economy.
- Increased pressure on woodlands to supply woodfuel to meet Renewable Heat Incentive requirements.

- Potential impacts from anaerobic digestion plants – including issues with design, infrastructure, transportation and future cropping patterns (increasing demand on monocultures).

**Objective:**

**CCO To seek to develop and implement a long-term climate change strategy to help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation.**

**Policies:**

**CCP1 To establish, monitor and review key indices for monitoring the possible effects of climate change.**

**CCP2 To develop practices that promote a sustainable landscape approach to tackle and respond to climate change pressures through a range of mitigation and adaptation measures.**

**CCP3 To support and develop practices that promote healthy, well-connected and managed landscapes and ecosystems resilient and flexible to the effects of climate change.**

**CCP4 To encourage and promote innovative low carbon energy reduction/generation schemes that are conducive to the requirements of the AONB designation and complement local landscape character.**

**Actions: See CCA1-8 in Table 3**

**Key Related Plans and Strategies (Climate Change and Energy)**

Community Strategies

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act (HMSO, 2006)

Climate Change – The UK Programme (Defra, 2006)

Energy White Paper – Meeting the Energy Challenge (DBERR, 2007)

Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)

Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies (see Developing in the Wolds)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Natural England's Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan (2015)

The Economics of Climate Change – The Stern Review (2006)

The Kyoto Protocol – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992 & 1998)

The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the Future (Defra, 2005)

## 8. Partnerships in the Wolds - Theme 5

### Partnership Management Aspiration:

**All agencies, organisations, communities, landowners/managers and local businesses will work in partnership to protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.**

This partnership management aspiration is an overall statement of intent for all partners involved in the ongoing delivery of the objectives, policies and resulting actions of this Plan.

We wish to thank once again everyone who has contributed their thoughts and views to aid the formulation of the revised Management Plan for the period 2018-23. This has included - through the Have Your Say Survey, Peer Review and Public Consultations - comments and suggestions from local farmers and landowners, local residents and communities, visitors, and a wide range of organisations with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds inclusive of those formally represented on the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC, The AONB Partnership).

The Partnership, including all of our relevant local authorities, continues to welcome help and support in taking forward the new collaborative Strategy and Action Plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, one that can best protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, both now and for generations to come. Future success continues to remain dependent upon understanding, appreciating and collaborating both within and across sectors and interest groups. There are many pressures and issues that continue to face the area, against a backdrop of ever increasing demand on resources and budget pressures. The Management Plan aims to operate as both a strategic guide for the area (complementing the suite of relevant Local Plans and national AONB guidance) but also crucially operating as a stimulus for future positive action, identifying common points of synergy and encouraging innovation, at local, strategic, national and international levels.

Our links to the wider family of protected landscapes, including both AONBs and National Parks, remain important. The Partnership will continue with its active engagement with the National Association for AONB (NAAONB), helping for example to review and share good practice, and explore new ways of working within and beyond the protected landscapes family. Our collaborative goal is to continue to help conserve and enhance these nationally treasured landscapes, safeguarding their natural beauty for future generations through fostering sustainable social, economic and environmental enhancements.

## 9. Making it Happen – Implementation, Monitoring and Review

### 9.1 Implementation

It is intended that the objectives and policies set out in the revised Management Plan will be embraced and acted upon by all those organisations and individuals that have a role to play in the management of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – in short, everyone. This includes landowners, voluntary organisations and interest groups, local authorities, parish councils, statutory agencies, regional bodies and government agencies.

The fundamental purpose of the Plan is to encourage integrated action by all who have an active interest in the management of the area. The subsequent Action Plan sets out a detailed five year proposed programme of work activity to help in the delivery of our policies and overriding objectives across the five themes:

1. **Protecting the Wolds**
2. **Living and Working in the Wolds**
3. **Discovering the Wolds**
4. **Developing the Wolds**
5. **Partnerships in the Wolds**

The Lincolnshire Wolds JAC has a key role to play in conjunction with the LWCS and the relevant local authorities in overseeing the promotion and implementation of the Plan and the Action Plan (Table 3). The monitoring procedures will enable us to measure the success of the Plan where it matters most – on the ground. Lead partners will help support the JAC, LWCS and the local authorities with the co-ordination of the Action Plan. The Action Plan details a comprehensive suite of tasks relevant to the strategic policies and the wider objectives of the Plan. As far as possible these are intended to be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound in order to deliver a set of clear outcomes. They will be the subject of a regular annual review to help prioritise and target actions as resources and wider partnerships allow.

**Item 9.1.1: Table 3 - The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB 5 Year Action Plan 2018-2023**

**Theme 1: Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds**

**Biodiversity Objectives – Overarching**

<b>Objective BO</b> To protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire Nature Strategy, Biodiversity 2020, Natural England's Conservation 21 Strategy and emerging UK environmental plans (post Brexit) including A Green Future.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>BP1</b> To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in-line with Lincolnshire national and international aspirations for biodiversity.	<b>BA1</b> Review and develop further baseline data to increase understanding and improve monitoring of the biodiversity of the AONB.	LWCS	Other relevant JAC partners GLNP	Ongoing
	<b>BA2</b> Encourage community/voluntary biodiversity recording.	LNU LWCS LWT	Other relevant JAC partners	Ongoing
	<b>BA3</b> Continue to research the spread and impact of invasive species on the biodiversity of the AONB.	EA	Other relevant JAC partners GLNP LWT NE	Ongoing
<b>BP2</b> (see also Policy CCP3) To develop and promote a landscape-scale approach to habitat conservation, restoration and creation, helping habitats and species to develop resilience to future climate change through increased habitat linkages and providing for enhanced ecosystem service networks.	<b>BA4</b> Build upon agri-environment scheme/s to promote uptake in Wild Pollinator and Farmland Wildlife Packages specifically designed to link and extend habitat corridors and protect watercourses.	LWCS LWT NE	Other relevant JAC partners	Ongoing
<b>BP3</b> To support and encourage agricultural guidance and good practices that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the AONB, helping to minimise the need for regulatory enforcement.	<b>BA5</b> Continued promotion through agri-environment scheme/s and Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) initiatives.	NE	CLA Defra LWCS	Ongoing
<b>BP4</b> Utilising the concept of natural capital to develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and maximise the benefits of wider socio-economic gains including utilising wider links to the local nature tourism offer.	<b>BA6</b> Seek to influence and shape appropriate targeting via future agri-environment scheme/s.	NE	GLNP LWCS	Ongoing



## Biodiversity – Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (section 4.2.2)

<b>Objective GO</b> To increase the extent and quality of wildlife friendly grasslands across the AONB, targeting areas close to Local Wildlife Sites, watercourses, important road verges, archaeological sites, historic parkland and settlements. (See also Linc's Nature Strategy - LNS – for links with wider lowland grassland habitat targets)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>GP1</b> To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore, extend or connect grasslands of high wildlife, historic and landscape value.	<b>GA1</b> Restore and maintain favourable conservation status to all grassland SSSI sites in the AONB supporting landowners with pro-active management.	NE	Landowners	50% (in area) by 2023
	<b>GA2</b> Restore and maintain positive conservation management across all grassland Local Wildlife Sites.	GLNP LWCS	Landowners LWT NE	70% by 2023
	<b>GA3</b> (see also FWA1 & FWA7) Promote, advise and encourage farmers and landowners uptake in agri-environment measures to increase the extent of biodiversity rich grasslands.	NE	Landowners LWCS	15 ha by 2023
<b>GP2</b> To raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland.	<b>GA4</b> (see also VLA6 & TCA13) Facilitate local events to increase awareness of the Wolds' grassland including via the Campaign for the Farmed Environment network.	LWCS	GLNP LWT NE	5 events by 2023
	<b>GA5</b> Review and support further training opportunities to widen the voluntary skill base for ecological surveying, including utilising the LWT's Love Lincs Plants and exploring Plant Life campaigns.	LWT	GLNP LWCS Local specialist volunteers Plant Life	50+ volunteers by 2023
<b>GP3</b> To support initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands, including calcareous grassland.	<b>GA6</b> (as FWA6) Review and develop support networks for local graziers to aid future livestock management, including access to specialist advice on rare breeds.	NE	Defra LWCS LWT	Ongoing
<b>GP4</b> To promote to land managers the additional benefits of good grassland management including carbon sink, climate change and flood alleviation impacts.	<b>GA7</b> (see also GA4, VLA6-7 & SA3) Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities in tandem with GA4 including utilising the agri-environment scheme/s and the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) focusing on grassland management advice and support for land managers in the AONB.	LWCS NE	GLNP LCC LWT	3 events by 2023

## Biodiversity – Grass Verges and Green Lanes (section 4.2.3)

<b>Objective VL</b> To retain, restore and encourage positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadsides and green lanes. (See also LNS for links with wider lowland grassland habitat targets)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>VLP1</b> To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore, extend, or connect grass verges for their wildlife and landscape value.	<b>VLA1</b> Continue to survey and monitor all Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) in the AONB, utilising online recording systems.	LWT	Local specialist LCC LNU NE	Ongoing on a 3 year cycle
	<b>VLA2</b> Restore all RNRs to favourable conservation status.	LWT	LCC NELC Landowners	100% by 2023
	<b>VLA3</b> Review and encourage suitable verge cutting management to enhance biodiversity, avoiding compromising vehicle sight lines.	LCC NELC	LWT LWCS Landowners Specialist contractors	50 km by 2023
	<b>VLA4</b> Minimise litter and fly-tipping on road verges and green lanes with an awareness campaign and deal with any incidents promptly.	ELDC NELC WLDC	LCC EA	Ongoing+ 1 x publicity campaign by 2023
	<b>VLA5</b> Maintain liaison between highway authorities, landowners, interest groups and local communities to minimise illegal vehicle encroachments.	LCC NELC	Parish Councils Landowners Interest Groups	Ongoing
<b>VLP2</b> To raise awareness and local engagement in the natural and cultural heritage of grass verges and their contribution to green infrastructure and climate change adaption.	<b>VLA6</b> (see also GA4 & GA7) Research and coordinate specialist awareness raising opportunities linking with wider grassland management issues.	LWCS	GLNP LCC LWT  NE	1 event by 2023
	<b>VLA7</b> Promote and implement appropriate recommendations from the AD Biomass Trial to support verge management for nature conservation and wider gains.	LCC NELC	LWT LWCS Landowners Specialist contractors	Ongoing

## Biodiversity - Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (section 4.2.4)

<b>Objective WBO</b> To protect, enhance, and where appropriate extend the woodland and tree cover within the AONB, maximising their contribution to the AONB by integrating landscape, biodiversity and socio-economic benefits. (See also LNS for wider links with Trees and woodland; Lowland mixed deciduous woodland; Traditional orchards; Wet woodland HAP; and Wood-pasture and parkland targets)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>WBP1</b> To reinforce the existing pattern of woodland, seeking to increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland), accepting some non-native planting for climate change adaptability.	<b>WBA1</b> Encourage uptake of grants and specialist advice to aid sustainable management of existing woodlands for biodiversity.	FC	CLA Landowners LCC LWCS NE NFU	10 ha by 2023
	<b>WBA2</b> Promote uptake of grants to encourage appropriate new planting schemes, particularly adjacent to existing ancient semi-natural woodlands, and linking areas of existing habitats.	FC	CLA Landowners LWCS NE NFU	10 ha by 2023
<b>WBP2</b> To re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands.	<b>WBA3</b> Promote uptake of grants and specialist advice to encourage complementary neighbouring biodiversity habitats, including pasture and in-field crop options.	NE	CLA Landowners LWCS NFU	10 ha by 2023
<b>WBP3</b> To record the extent and location of small ancient woodlands as part of an integrated digital database for the Lincolnshire Wolds woodlands.	<b>WBA4</b> Encourage continued mapping of the small woodland resource across the AONB including beech clumps.	LWCS GLNP	FC NE	Ongoing
<b>WBP4</b> To encourage and support woodland business schemes, of an appropriate scale, within the AONB.	<b>WBA5</b> Encourage uptake of grants (FC, LAZ-LEADER, RDPE & SDF) and specialist advice to support local woodland/timber businesses.	FC	CLA Landowners LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<b>WBA6</b> (see also FWA11) Organise and promote an autumn festival event to help market locally produced timber, enhancing links between businesses and potential customers.	Business Operators	FC LWCS	1 event by 2023
<b>WBP5</b> To establish the extent and quality of traditional orchards and encourage suitable restoration, creation and management.	<b>WBA7</b> Review the results of the pilot voluntary orchard surveying project (ground-truthing the PTES inventory) with a view to aiding a wider roll-out of evidence gathering, including the type and frequency of local varieties.	LWCS GLNP	EoEAO Landowners LCC NE PTES	Ongoing
	<b>WBA8</b> (see also FWA11) Promote annual Apple Day and other local events to encourage wider awareness of the orchards in the AONB and their management requirements.	LWCS NT GLNP	CG EoEAO LCC	3 events promoted by 2023

## Biodiversity – Hedgerows and Landmark Trees (section 4.2.5)

<b>Objective HTO</b> To protect, manage, enhance and where appropriate increase the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB. (See also LNS for wider links with Hedgerows and hedgerow trees targets)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>HTP1</b> To help record, maintain, and where appropriate restore all species-rich and ancient hedgerows, encouraging planting and management of hedgerows and trees to benefit landscape and habitat connectivity.	<b>HTA1</b> Explore and develop funding applications to help support landscape scale enhancement projects; (to include potentially the Lincolnshire Wolds Greenway and Bluestone Heath Road initiatives).	LWT LWCS	EH GLNP Parish Councils	Review by 2019
	<b>HTA2</b> Provide specialist advice and encourage uptake of agri-environment grants and the AONB Grant Scheme to support species-rich/ancient hedgerows and landmark trees.	LWCS NE	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	5+ schemes supported per annum
<b>HTP2</b> To raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows and landmark trees for wildlife, landscape and cultural values and encourage future community engagement.	<b>HTA3</b> Continue to promote and encourage the tree warden scheme and training programme throughout the area.	ELDC LCC NELC TCV WLDC	Parish Councils	Ongoing
	<b>HTA4</b> Continue to review and promote various tree advisory notes, including those pertaining to new and emerging pests and diseases (e.g. Chalara and Acute Oak Decline).	FC LWCS	ELDC LCC LWT NELC NFU WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>HTA5</b> Encourage and support local cultural events to celebrate and inspire interest in the special values of our hedgerow and tree resource.	LWCS LWT	ELDC LCC NELC Parish Councils WLDC	3 events by 2023

## Biodiversity – Rivers, Streams and Ponds (section 4.2.6)

<b>Objective RSPO</b> To improve, where appropriate, the function and natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated landscape character and wetland habitats. (See also LNS for wider links with Rivers and wetlands; Chalk streams and blow wells; Ponds, lakes and reservoirs; Rivers, canals and drains; Springs and flushes targets)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>RSPP1</b> To maximise the extent of low-input land management adjacent to all rivers and streams and utilise floodplains to minimise impact of flooding in residential areas.	<b>RSPA1</b> Promote and develop agri-environment schemes and woodland planting schemes to enhance the AONB's river valley landscapes where appropriate.	FC LCSP NE	EA Landowners LCC LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>RSPA2</b> (see also AFA2 and SA4) Create low-input managed land adjacent to the area's streams and rivers.	LCSP	NE	50 km by 2023
<b>RSPP2</b> To rehabilitate streams and rivers to enhance their biodiversity and ecological status where appropriate and consistent with flood defence requirements and Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets.	<b>RSPA3</b> Facilitate, support and promote the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) under the guidance of its Steering Group.	AW EA NE LWCS	LWT WTT	Ongoing work programme review – 4 meetings per annum
	<b>RSPA4</b> Influence and work with landowners to introduce a variety of in-stream and bankside enhancement measures.	LCSP	EA GLNP	5 km of river restoration by 2023
	<b>RSPA5</b> (see also SA3) Coordinate delivery of the partnership Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) working with landowners in the Great Eau catchment.	LCSP	AW EA NE	3 events by 2021
<b>RSPP3</b> To raise community awareness and where possible, community involvement, of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource.	<b>RSPA6</b> Facilitate a series of local events to increase public awareness of the Wolds' wetland heritage.	LCSP	LWT	5 events by 2023
	<b>RSPA7</b> Provide a range of specialist talks, demonstration events and guided walks under the LWCS/LCSP banner.	LCSP	LWCS	12 activities by 2023
	<b>RSPA8</b> Facilitate a range of practical volunteering activities, seeking engagement from the local communities.	LCSP	AW EA WTT	6 activities by 2023
	<b>RSPA9</b> Develop and support a network of volunteer recorders under the riverfly monitoring project banner; utilising future opportunities via the Citizen Science initiative.	EA LCSP	AW LWT	2 further specialist training events + ongoing support.
<b>RSPP4</b> To continue to further our understanding of the springs and pond resource found across the Wolds.	<b>RSPA10</b> Encourage continued mapping of the small wetland resource across the AONB, utilising volunteer assistance where possible.	GLNP LWT	LCSP LWCS	Ongoing
<b>RSPP5</b> To encourage the enhancement of ponds and other wetland habitats for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.	<b>RSPA11</b> Provide advice and encourage practical enhancements for pond, lake and wetland management and where appropriate creation.	LCSP LWCS	EA LWT NE TCV	3 sites by 2023

<b>RSPP6</b> Influence any future water storage schemes to encourage multiple benefits for biodiversity, landscape, flood prevention and wider ecosystem goods and services.	<b>RSPA12</b> Provide relevant advice and support on any forthcoming storage or flood alleviation schemes.	EA LCC	LCSP LWCS LWT NE	Ongoing
<b>RSPP7</b> To seek to maintain groundwater levels and their seasonal fluctuations wherever possible to safeguard rivers, streams, springs and blow-wells sufficient to retain characteristic wildlife communities.	<b>RSPA13</b> Monitor, maintain and enhance the biological grading and flow rates of streams and rivers in the AONB.	EA	LCSP	<b>95%</b> to be in moderate/good condition by 2023
	<b>RSPA14</b> Seek to influence the development and implementation of all relevant Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) and Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) programmes to safeguard AONB interests.	EA LCSP NE	AW JAC LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>RSPA15</b> Comment, monitor and respond to new implications from the Water Framework Directive.	EA	AW JAC LCSP	Ongoing
	<b>RSPA16</b> Advise and support future chalk and Spilsby Sandstone groundwater modelling studies including impacts of siltation and diffuse pollution.	EA	LCSP NE	Abstraction models reviewed by 2023
	<b>RSPA17</b> Review and where possible, minimise the presence of stream/river barriers to natural fish/aquatic migrations.	LCSP EA	AW	Ongoing
	<b>RSPA18</b> Explore and encourage the practical applications of SUD (Sustainable Urban Drainage) systems to help support sustainable water management.	EA	LAs	Ongoing

## Biodiversity – Arable Farmland – (section 4.2.7)

<b>Objective AFO</b> To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape. <i>(See also LNS for wider links with Farmland birds targets)</i>				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>AFP1</b> To encourage maximum take-up of agri-environment scheme options that provide enhanced conditions for arable farmland wildlife.	<b>AFA1</b> (see also FWA1) Promote, advise and assist farmers and landowners on relevant agri-environment stewardship measures including utilising the CS Wild Pollinator and Farmland Wildlife Package (WPFWP).	Defra NE	CLA Landowners LWCS NFU	Ongoing
<b>AFP2</b> To improve awareness of commercial farming's 'good practices' that can bring additional wildlife and landscape benefits including greater use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and low input systems.	<b>AFA2</b> (see also RSPA2 and SA4) Utilise farmers' networks to explore and promote environmental management systems for farms to share good practice.	CLA NFU	Defra Landowners LWCS NE	Ongoing
	<b>AFA3</b> Continue to support and promote Open Farm Sunday events in the Wolds, encouraging engagement with harder to reach groups.	CLA NFU LEAF	Landowners LWCS	1 event per annum
<b>AFP3</b> To encourage surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife (e.g. native herbs and grasses, pollinators and farmland birds), helping to provide a wider evidence base to inform future land management for the area.	<b>AFA4</b> Continue to identify selection of key sites for future monitoring of arable farmland – where possible linking with GLNP arable plants report on trends and distribution.	LWCS LNU	Landowners GLNP NE	5 new sites by 2023
	<b>AFA5</b> Develop a subsequent monitoring programme utilising volunteers where possible.	LNU	GLNP LWCS	Review and amend baselines by 2023

## Earth Heritage – Geodiversity (section 4.3.1)

<b>Objective GDO</b> To protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological features of the AONB for enjoyment, education and research				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>GDP1</b> To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the intrinsic interest of geological and geomorphological sites, including improved access.	<b>GDA1</b> Work with partners to deliver, monitor and review the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy.	GLNP	LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>GDA2</b> Encourage and support the review and reclassification of RIGS sites to Local Geological Sites.	GLNP ELDC NELC WLDC	LWCS NE	Review the four remaining RIGS by 2020
	<b>GDA3</b> Maintain support and engagement with the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Group and GeoConservationUK.	LWCS	GLNP LWT NE	Ongoing
<b>GDP2</b> To maintain and enhance awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological interest through general and site specific interpretation.	<b>GDA4</b> Encourage and support appropriate on-site interpretation.	LGG	Landowners LWCS NE	3 further sites by 2023
	<b>GDA5</b> Continue to review and promote the Wonder of the Wolds Geology leaflet and relevant partner publications.	LWCS	LGG	Ongoing
	<b>GDA6</b> Organise and support public events and field trips to promote the geodiversity resource in the Wolds.	LWCS	LGG	3 events by 2023



## Earth Heritage – Soils (section 4.3.2)

<b>Objective SO</b> To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management, biodiversity and carbon storage				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>SP1</b> To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the soil resource, anticipating future pressures from climate change.	<b>SA1</b> Monitor the application of measures to safeguard and protect the soil resource.	CSF EA LCSP	IDB ELDC WLDC NELC	Annually
	<b>SA2</b> Encourage and support voluntary measures to further improve and protect the resource via agri-environment schemes, CFE and planting schemes.	CFE CLA NFU	EA FC GLNP LWCS NE	A further 6 schemes by 2023
<b>SP2</b> To increase awareness and understanding amongst landowners, land managers and other practitioners of the different soil types and their relationship to the wider landscape and other environmental and socio-economic issues and services.	<b>SA3</b> (see also GA7, RSPA5 and FWP1) Organise and support events that raise awareness of different soil types and good practice for their management, utilising links with the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF).	GLNP LWCS	LGG NFU CLA NE	3 by 2023
	<b>SA4</b> (see also RSPA2 and AFA2) Explore land management techniques to aid soil protection and minimise water course sedimentation.	EA IDB	AW CSF FC LCSP LWCS NE NFU	Ongoing

## Archaeology (section 4.4.1)

<b>Objective AO</b> To protect, appropriately manage and enhance archaeological and historic features, and their wider landscape setting within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>AP1</b> To encourage and support research projects, working with a range of partners and community groups to help increase our knowledge of the Wolds' heritage, identifying sites of key importance and promoting better understanding of the complexity of risk, particularly from climate change.	<b>AA1</b> Continue to coordinate a specialist sub-group (the Heritage Working Group - HWG) to address the issues of archaeological sites and SMs at risk in the Wolds.	LWCS	HE HL LCC NELC	3 meetings per annum
	<b>AA2</b> Review the findings and recommendations of the Long Barrows research project to help aid and inform future management practice.	HE NE HTL	HWG LCC LWCS NELC	Ongoing
	<b>AA3</b> Continue to offer support to local history groups for survey, information gathering and interpretation material, including projects to aid what and how features are at risk.	LCC LWCS	HL HWG NELC	Support on request
	<b>AA4</b> Seek to explore and understand direct and secondary climate change impacts upon the archaeological heritage of the AONB by engagement with current and future research.	HE	HL HWG LCC LWCS NELC	Ongoing
	<b>AA5</b> Continue to support and guide the use of the countywide Historic Landscape Characterisation as a management tool.	LCC	HE HL HWG NELC	Ongoing
	<b>AA6</b> Continue to utilise opportunities from the countywide Layers of History Project to develop and support further Wolds' community heritage projects.	HL LWCS	LCC HaR HWG NELC	By 2023
<b>AP2</b> To raise awareness of archaeological heritage in the Wolds, working with local communities, farmers, landowners, land managers, utility companies and relevant contract workers to support positive management.	<b>AA7</b> Promote opportunities for funding support for key sites including SMs identified as high risk by Historic England.	HE	HL LCC LWCS NELC	Ongoing
	<b>AA8</b> Promote and encourage maximum take up of agri-environment scheme options that maintain & enhance archaeological sites, including those at risk.	LCC NELC	HE LWCS Landowners NE	Ongoing via CS agreements
	<b>AA9</b> (see also BHA5) Utilise the Layers of History training programme to encourage voluntary stewards and local groups to undertake surveys across the Wolds.	HL	HWG LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>AA10</b> (see also MA3) Support AONB focused data collection and review as part of the wider Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) and the Defra monitoring programmes.	NE Defra	HE HL LCC LWCS NELC	By 2020
<b>AP3</b>	<b>AA11</b>	LCC	HE	3 sites by

To increase and enhance appropriate public access and interpretation to sites of archaeological and historic interest, in consultation with landowners.	In consultation with landowners and tenants, provide new access opportunities to suitable archaeological sites in the Wolds.	NELC	HL Landowners LWCS	2023
	<b>AA12</b> Provide regular data to aid monitoring of the heritage interests and features of the AONB.	HE LCC NELC	HL LWCS	Annually

<b>Objective BHO</b> To protect and enhance the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings and features within the AONB. (See also Section 7.1 Planning)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>BHP1</b> To work with property owners, residents, owner occupiers and developers to encourage sympathetic and innovative design and management of buildings in keeping with local distinctiveness and character.	<b>BHA1</b> Continue to coordinate the specialist Heritage Working Group (HWG) to advise and support built heritage interests in the AONB including a focus on Listed Buildings deemed to be "at risk".	LWCS	HE HL LCC NELC	3 meetings per annum
	<b>BHA2</b> (see also TCA1 & PA2) Promote the development and use of Village Design Statements, Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans and Place Check surveys.	CL CPRE	ELDC LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>BHA3</b> (see also BHA7) Seek funding and external support to develop a design guide to help aid and inform future sympathetic design and management of buildings.	HE HWG LWCS	ELDC HL LCC NELC WLDC	Reviewed by 2020
	<b>BHA4</b> Explore and utilise future good practice for public realm design via promotion and implementation of the Lincolnshire Streetscape Design Manual (Every Street Matters).	LCC NELC	HL LWCS	Ongoing
<b>BHP2</b> To work with a range of partners and community groups to raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds and increase understanding of its contribution to the AONB.	<b>BHA5</b> (see also AA9) Actively promote the Layers of History project encouraging wide community uptake in the voluntary Heritage Stewards scheme.	HL	ELDC HE LCC LWCS	By 2021
	<b>BHA6</b> In consultation with landowners and/or property owners encourage and support on-site access and interpretation.	HL	HE LCC LWCS NE NELC	3 sites by 2023
<b>BHP3</b> To encourage and support sympathetic repair and sustainable re-use of redundant buildings for uses directly supportive of the local economy encouraging use of local materials.	<b>BHA7</b> (see also BHA3) Identify buildings which are redundant and have potential for refurbishment/re-use, and develop linkages with appropriate funding mechanisms e.g. Higher Tier, Leader-LAZ, RDPE.	HWG LCC	ELDC HL LAZ LWCS NE NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>BHP4</b> To embrace appropriate technologies that promote sustainability and energy efficiency whilst complementing the AONB's special character.	<b>BHA8</b> To offer specialist advice and signposting to encourage wider use of relevant technologies and innovative design solutions.	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	HL LWCS	Ongoing

## Theme 2: Living and Working in the Wolds

## Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds (section 5.1)

<b>Objective FWO</b> To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>FWP1</b> To develop and promote agricultural good practice to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.	<b>FWA1</b> (see also AFA1) Continue to promote, advise and assist farmers and landowners on relevant agri-environment stewardship measures.	NE	CLA Landowners LCSP LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<b>FWA2</b> (see also GA7, RSPA5 and SA3) Continue to encourage and support farmers' awareness raising and networking events to help share good practice utilising links with the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF).	NFU CLA	Landowners LWCS NE	3 by 2023
	<b>FWA3</b> Explore and develop a series of case studies to help demonstrate and promote examples of good practice.	NFU CLA	Landowners LWCS NE	Ongoing
<b>FWP2</b> To monitor and proactively influence changes in local, regional and national agriculture policy to maximise benefits to farmers in the Wolds.	<b>FWA4</b> In the light of Brexit, seek to influence national rural development policies to bring positive benefit to farmers in the Wolds.	JAC NAAONB	Defra CLA GLNP NFU	Ongoing
	<b>FWA5</b> Explore and utilise current initiatives (such as the Facilitation Fund), to encourage continuing financial incentives for 'on-farm' environmental measures.	CLA CFE NE NFU	GLNP LWCS LWT	Ongoing
<b>FWP3</b> To encourage and support initiatives to sustain livestock farming in the AONB.	<b>FWA6</b> (as GA6) Review and develop support networks for local graziers to aid future livestock management, including access to specialist advice on rare breeds.	NE	CLA LWCS LWT NFU	Ongoing
	<b>FWA7</b> (see also GA3) Support, promote and encourage arable reversion to pasture where appropriate and multiple benefits can result (e.g. species rich grasslands, heritage and soil protection, new habitat links).	NE	Defra CLA LWCS LWT	35 ha by 2023
	<b>FWA8</b> Promote and encourage opportunities for niche branding and local co-operative ventures to help market a wide range of Wolds based livestock products.	CLA LCC	Landowners LWCS NELC NFU	Review by 2019
<b>FWP4</b> To support farm diversification schemes appropriate to the AONB and which accord with planning policy.	<b>FWA9</b> Work with landowners to promote and encourage high quality diversification projects utilising Lindsey Action Zone, RDPE and the Sustainable Development Fund for financial assistance.	Defra LAZ LWCS	CLA NFU	Ongoing
	<b>FWA10</b> Recognise and support the role of local, small-scale and appropriate ventures to support the economy, seeking multiple	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	CLA NFU	Ongoing

	benefits to the special qualities of the Wolds.			
<b>FWP5</b> To seek to maintain traditional rural skills and activities that can protect, appropriately manage and enhance the landscape.	<b>FWA11</b> (see also WBA8, TCA3 & TCA11-12) Encourage promotional opportunities for a wide range of rural businesses, developing contacts to support local markets, cultural events and aid rural skills development.	CLA LCC NFU	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>FWA12</b> (see also TCA 11-12 & ARTA14) Promote common links with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and the range of local producers to support the local economy, including opportunities for aiding skills development.	LCC	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC NFU	Ongoing
<b>FWP6</b> To recognise and support the contribution of well managed field sport activities for the benefits to wildlife, rural character and the local economy.	<b>FWA13</b> (see also ARTA8) Support and promote existing initiatives that contribute towards sustainable field sports activities.	CLA	LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<b>FWA14</b> Quantify the benefits of sustainable field sports activities to the AONB and raise awareness of these benefits.	CLA	LWCS NFU	Ongoing
<b>FWP7</b> To raise awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management.	<b>FWA15</b> Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities to explore whole farm approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.	LWCS NE	CLA Defra EA GLNP NFU	1 event by 2023

## Thriving Communities (section 5.2)

<b>Objective TCO</b> To support and promote partnership activity to help safeguard and enhance the prosperity and well-being (quality of life) of communities within the Wolds AONB, ensuring the Wolds remain a place to live, work, invest in, and visit, whilst meeting the needs of this unique landscape. (See also Section 7 Developing the Wolds)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>TCP1</b> To foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities, working with relevant agencies to support local businesses and communities, encouraging both innovation and wider good practice.	<b>TCA1</b> (see also BHA2 & PA2) Seek to encourage, influence and support Parish and Neighbourhood Plans, including opportunities for engagement with hard to reach groups.	CL CPRE LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>TCA2</b> Develop innovative projects via the AONB Grant Schemes to support local businesses, communities and landowners.	LWCS	CL Defra ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	5 schemes supported per annum
	<b>TCA3</b> (see also PA4) Continue to support, assist and promote a wide range of local community events, projects and voluntary activity.	CL LWCS TCV	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>TCA4</b> Promote and encourage where appropriate affordable housing schemes within the Wolds.	CL	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>TCP2</b> To encourage measures to reverse the declines in rural services and facilities and promote healthier lifestyles.	<b>TCA5</b> Provide specialist advice and support to promote uptake of the various community grant schemes - Big Lottery Fund, local community grants etc.	CL ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>TCA6</b> Identify and promote fast broadband internet development appropriate to the AONB utilising various rural community broadband schemes.	LCC	ELDC NELC WLDC Internet service providers	Ongoing
	<b>TCA7</b> (see also ARTA9) Support and promote local services via website links and 'Making the Most of' leaflet updates.	LWCS	Parish & Town Councils	Annual updates
	<b>TCA8</b> Explore and develop links to the Lincolnshire Health and Well-being commissioning plans especially targets in respect of tackling obesity, physical activity and mental health.	ELDC LCC GLNP NELC WLDC	Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing Board	Ongoing
<b>TCP3</b> To encourage existing and new businesses to have a high regard for environmental sustainability and an active engagement in enhancing natural capital, especially in the context of the AONB.	<b>TCA9</b> (see also FWA11-12 & ARTA14) All partners to help promote the positive benefits of the unique AONB landscape to the local business sector, including exploring opportunities for funding, sponsorship and active practical engagement, including volunteering.	JAC	Parish & Town Councils	Ongoing
	<b>TCA10</b> (see also ARTA14) Seek to maximise opportunities for environmental gains via the AONB Grant Schemes, Lindsey Action Zone and the Rural Development Programme for England, including the post Brexit Shared Prosperity Fund.	LWCS	LAZ LCC	Ongoing
<b>TCP4</b> To sensitively utilise the Wolds	<b>TCA11</b> (see also ARTA6) Influence and link with Green	ELDC LCC	CLJPU LWT	Ongoing

as a recreational resource, in particular promoting accessible 'green infrastructure' close to communities within and adjacent to the AONB.	Infrastructure Strategic Plans to assist in the future development of multi-functional community green space.	NELC WLDC	LWCS NE	
	<b>TCA12</b> (see also ARTA6 & TWA9) Help to identify and support new community facilities and access, especially those adjacent to settlements, utilising Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife and Geological Sites, woodland and community grant schemes.	LWCS Parish Councils	ELDC FC LCC LWT NELC WLDC	3 sites by 2023
	<b>TCA13</b> (see also GA4) Continue to support and develop the God's Acre project to utilise the multiple benefits of the church and churchyard resource across the Wolds - including opportunities to link with the Citizen Science initiative.	CT LWCS	CCT GLNP LCC LWT PCCs Parish Councils	Ongoing



## Theme 3: Discovering the Wolds

### Interpretation – Awareness raising (section 6.2)

**Objective IO** To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities, in turn helping to support the local economy. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism and 7.2 Transport in the Wolds)

Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<b>IP1</b> To provide visitors and residents with a greater understanding and appreciation of what makes the Lincolnshire Wolds a special place, encouraging interpretation facilities and services that can be utilised by all.	<b>IPA1</b> Facilitate an interpretive walks and events programme across the Wolds linking with local partnership initiatives.	LCSP LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC RA WLDC	12 walks/ events per annum
	<b>IPA2</b> Coordinate the production and distribution of the community focused AONB e-newsletter 'Higher Ground'.	LWCS	Community- groups CL JAC Parish Councils	4 e-news circulations per annum
	<b>IPA3</b> Influence and utilise a wide range of partnership events, (e.g. Heritage Open Days, Wolds Words Festival and Church Festivals), to help celebrate the special qualities of the AONB.	ELDC LWCS HL WLDC	Parish Councils	Ongoing
<b>IP2</b> To strengthen the profile of the AONB as a visitor destination by highlighting the area's unique landscape character and sense of place to the general public.	<b>IPA4</b> Actively engage with businesses to help aid the review and mutual delivery of the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Plan (Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism group).	ELDC LLW LWCS WLDC	LCC Local businesses	Ongoing
	<b>IPA5</b> (see also IPA7) Use range of local, regional and national press and publications to highlight the special qualities of Wolds.	LWCS	JAC NAAONB	4 postings per annum
	<b>IPA6</b> Promote and develop further the Wonders of the Wolds series and the Enjoy the Lincolnshire Wolds leaflet.	LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>IPA7</b> (see also IPA5) Work collaboratively with the National Association for AONBs and wider protected landscapes family (National Parks and Heritage Coasts) to promote the Lincolnshire Wolds - including utilising Outstanding Week.	LWCS	JAC NAAONB	Ongoing
	<b>IPA8</b> (see also MA1) Highlight and celebrate the collective achievements of the AONB partnership through publication and distribution of an Annual Review to inspire further local action.	LWCS	JAC	1 per annum
<b>IP3</b> To encourage residents and landowners to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.	<b>IPA9</b> (see also ARTA3) Encourage and support research and delivery of local community interpretation, supported by AONB Grant Schemes and other funding avenues.	CL HL LWCS	ELDC NELC LCC WLDC	3 by 2023

### Access, Recreation and Tourism (section 6.3)

<b>Objective ARTO</b> To develop, promote and seek implementation of a wide range of sustainable access, recreation and tourism initiatives appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>ARTP1</b> To maximise access opportunities for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation.	<b>ARTA1</b> (see also TWA12) To advise and assist the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum (LAF) and Rights of Way Improvement Plan in respect of AONB objectives.	LCC NELC	JAC LAF LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA2</b> Seek to ensure no net loss to the existing Definitive Public Rights of Way network and maximise opportunities for access for all via permissive arrangements.	LCC NELC RL	CLA LAF Landowners LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA3</b> (see also IPA9) Work with landowners, residents and local businesses to review, develop and promote further Wolds self-guided trails for walking and cycling.	LWCS	Landowners LCC Parish Councils HL	A further 3 new publications by 2023
	<b>ARTA4</b> Work with partners to review and promote the Lincolnshire Wolds Cycle Routes, North Wolds and South Wolds Cycling Maps and other Wolds public transport maps.	LCC NELC LWCS	Local businesses Parish Councils	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA5</b> Continue to support and promote the annual Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, including reviewing funding and governance beyond 2018.	HL RL	LAZ LWCS Steering Group Volunteers	1 Festival per annum
	<b>ARTA6</b> (see also TCA11-12) Seek to establish new multifunctional green space (including grassland and woodland) where possible close to main settlements and existing wildlife habitats.	LCC LWCS Parish Councils	CL FC Landowners Local Businesses NE	3 sites by 2023
<b>ARTP2</b> To provide coordinated, accurate and up-to-date information on the access, recreation and tourism opportunities within the Wolds AONB.	<b>ARTA7</b> Regularly review and maintain visitor information via the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB website ( <a href="http://www.lincswolds.org.uk">www.lincswolds.org.uk</a> ), Love Lincolnshire Wolds ( <a href="http://www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com">www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com</a> ), and Visit Lincolnshire websites ( <a href="http://www.visitlincolnshire.com">www.visitlincolnshire.com</a> ) including relevant signposting to tourist destination services.	LCC LWCS LLW	ELDC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA8</b> (see also FWA13) Link with landowners and other interest groups to provide information on more specialist recreational activity, including opportunities for legal hunting, shooting and fishing.	CLA NFU	ELDC LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA9</b> (see also TCA7) Maintain and update the 'Making the Most of' leaflet and webpage and utilise links with partnership websites including the Love Lincolnshire Wolds interactive portal.	LWCS LLW	ELDC NELC Parish & Town Councils WLDC	Ongoing

	<b>ARTA10</b> Work with the National Association for AONBs on promotional initiatives using combination of local and national branding, including relevant coordinated promotions through social media channels.	NAAONB LWCS	JAC	Ongoing
<b>ARTP3</b> To develop joint promotion and marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the AONB, including utilising the surrounding market towns as gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds.	<b>ARTA11</b> Jointly promote the Wolds through collaborative visitor guides and marketing schemes including connections via the Love Lincolnshire Wolds network.	LCC LLW LWCS NELC	ELDC WLDC Town Councils	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA12</b> Explore further opportunities to develop and promote the Wolds Gateway Walks series and cycle routes.	LWCS	ELDC LCC LNT NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA13</b> Support and assist market towns in working towards Walkers are Welcome status and maintaining the award once achieved.	LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC RL WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA14</b> (see also FWA12 & TCA10) Explore common links with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to enhance the visitor experience and support the local economy through green tourism.	LCC	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC NFU WLDC	Ongoing
<b>ARTP4</b> To review current access, recreation and tourism provision and support new measures and good practice to improve the infrastructure where compatible with the AONB.	<b>ARTA15</b> Continue to enhance baseline information on visitor numbers, profiles and distribution across the AONB.	LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA16</b> Encourage and support more access, recreational and tourism studies especially to supply information on local visitor experiences and specialised interest groups.	LCC	ELDC GLNP LWCS NELC WLDC	By 2020
	<b>ARTA17</b> (see also TWA8) Promote and support the Lindsey Trail horse carriage route for both specialist and general use.	LCC	BDS BHS LAF Landowners LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA18</b> (see also TCA12 & TWA9) Resources permitting, explore provision for appropriate and sensitively planned car parking and viewing points in consultation with relevant landowners, highway authorities and community groups.	LCC NELC Parish Councils	ELDC LWCS WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>ARTA19</b> Engage with the local Disability Access Forum and other relevant contacts to review and explore future countryside access provision for hard to reach groups – including those with potential mobility or other specialist health issues.	LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	By 2020

## Theme 4: Developing the Wolds

### Planning and Development Management (section 7.1)

<b>Objective PO</b> To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and special character. (See also Sections 4.4.2 Built Heritage and 5 Living and Working in the Wolds)				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>PP1</b> To protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness in the highest quality of design for new development and re-development, including making space for biodiversity, being sensitive to the considerations of heritage assets and tackling climate change.	<b>PA1</b> Comment on significant planning applications or those likely to set a precedent on sites within and adjacent to the AONB.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA2</b> (see also BHA2 & TCA1) Encourage and support the production and use of Parish and Neighbourhood Plans, recognising and reinforcing local character and distinctiveness in design.	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	CL EH LWCS NE Parish Councils	Ongoing
<b>PP2</b> To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support the local economy and community, including making space for biodiversity and tackling climate change.	<b>PA3</b> Develop wider partnership interest in the development of a tailored design guide to help aid future high quality development in the AONB.	CLJPU ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	EH LWCS NE Parish Councils	By 2020
<b>PP3</b> To support the development of local need/affordable housing provision which is appropriate to local character and consistent with AONB objectives and LA planning policies.	<b>PA4</b> (see also TCA3) Support the work of local authorities and housing associations in AONB communities.	CL	CLJPU ELDC LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>PP4</b> To minimise damage to the AONB's landscape and natural beauty as a result of mineral working and associated activity and help implement the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy.	<b>PA5</b> Comment on potentially significant mineral application proposals likely to impact upon the AONB.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA6</b> Provide specialist advice and support for landscape restoration and alternative uses following the cessation of mineral extraction.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>PP5</b> Promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.	<b>PA7</b> Continue to liaise with planning authorities and relevant companies regarding those developments adjacent and visible from the Wolds that may impact upon the setting of the AONB.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>PP6</b> To recognise and protect the AONB night sky and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.	<b>PA8</b> Raise awareness and continue to review the baseline data for tranquillity and dark night skies across the Wolds.	CPRE LWCS NE	CLJPU Defra ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA9</b> Liaise with planning authorities and relevant developers regarding proposals that may impact upon general high levels of tranquillity and night skies.	CPRE LWCS NE	CLJPU ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing

<b>PP7</b> To ensure a general presumption against wind energy schemes in any location which would cause significant and demonstrably detrimental effects upon the natural beauty and intrinsic characteristics of the AONB.	<b>PA10</b> Seek to influence Local Development Frameworks (Local Plans) to recommend the general presumption against wind energy schemes likely to have a significant impact upon the AONB.	LWCS JAC NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA11</b> To provide specialist comments on any wind farm/turbine applications to the relevant planning authority on a case by case basis, reviewing accompanying reports as relevant, but especially Landscape and Visual Assessment Studies and wider Environmental Assessments.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>PP8</b> To support general waste reduction measures and recycling initiatives that are in accordance with the special requirements of the AONB and help the shift towards a circular economy.	<b>PA12</b> To advise and assist the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership in respect of AONB objectives.	LCC LWCS NE NELC	CLJPU CPRE ELDC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA13</b> Seek to encourage innovative community-led waste reduction, management and recycling projects.	LCC NELC	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LWCS NE WLDC	Ongoing
<b>PP9</b> To ensure that where larger scale development must proceed within or adjacent to the AONB, because of other national interests, the highest regard is placed on minimising any impacts upon the primary purpose of the designation – the area’s natural beauty.	<b>PA14</b> Provide specialist comments on any large scale development on a case by case basis, reviewing accompanying reports as relevant, but especially any accompanying Landscape and Visual Assessment Studies and wider Environmental Assessments.	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>PA15</b> In consultation with all statutory agencies, relevant local planning authorities and local communities investigate the options of a further Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary review.	Defra JAC NE	CLJPU ELDC LCC NAAONB NLC NELC WLDC	By 2020
<b>PP10</b> (see also Policy CCP4) To develop a comprehensive assessment approach to securing opportunities for renewable energy provision across the AONB and its wider setting.	<b>PA16</b> Explore and encourage innovative sustainable energy projects that are compatible with the special landscape qualities of the AONB.	CLJPU ELDC WLDC NELC LCC	LWCS	Ongoing

## Transport in the Wolds (section 7.2)

<b>Objective TWO</b> To encourage and support the development and promotion of a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character and addresses local community and visitor needs.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>TWP1</b> To encourage integrated public and community-based transport schemes that can help to improve the links between communities within the AONB and the surrounding market towns.	<b>TWA1</b> (as CCA8) Explore and support a programme of partnership activity to encourage public transport and community transport initiatives including shared bus schemes.	LCC Bus Operators NELC	ELDC LWCS NELC Parish - Councils RL WLDC	By 2020
	<b>TWA2</b> Maximise public transport opportunities when organising and promoting events and walks.	HL LWCS RL	ELDC NELC Parish Councils WLDC	12 events by 2023
	<b>TWA3</b> Review and influence future Local Transport Plans and Transport Strategies supporting sustainable transport solutions.	LCC NELC	ELDC LWCS Parish Councils WLDC	As required
<b>TWP2</b> To support and encourage traffic management that will promote safe and attractive walking, cycling and riding in the AONB.	<b>TWA4</b> Review and update the InterConnect Bus Walk Series using Lincoln - Skegness & Lincoln - Grimsby services.	Stage Coach LCC NELC	LWCS ELDC WLDC Parish Councils	10 refreshed routes in place by 2020
	<b>TWA5</b> In consultation with local landowners and communities, promote and encourage safe walking, cycling and riding routes across the AONB, with an emphasis on community led/supported trails.	LWCS Parish Councils LCC NELC	CLA Landowners LCC NELC	5 new or updated routes by 2023
<b>TWP3</b> To encourage transport infrastructure improvements to support appropriate tourism development, ensuring schemes are sympathetic to the landscape and character of the AONB.	<b>TWA7</b> Work with local businesses and communities to explore and encourage development of cycle hire and bike loan schemes.	LAZ LCC NELC	ELDC LWCS WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>TWA8</b> (see also ARTA17) Encourage appropriate equestrian tourism, including opportunities from the Lindsey Trail horse carriage route.	LCC LAZ	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>TWA9</b> (see also TCA12 & ARTA18) Work with landowners and local communities to identify and establish suitable and appropriate small scale car parking facilities for local and visitor use.	Parish Councils	ELDC Landowners LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
<b>TWP4</b> To encourage a consistent approach to the use of road signage, furniture, and maintenance to promote and respect the character of the AONB.	<b>TWA10</b> Seek to ensure that any road improvements are of a design and scale that will minimise their impact upon the landscape and character of the AONB.	LCC NELC	ELDC LWCS WLDC	When required
	<b>TWA11</b> Continue to support, promote and develop the Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire Project to enhance historic signage across the AONB.	LCC LWCS NELC	HL Local Volunteers Parish Councils	Ongoing

<p><b>TWP5</b> To support and encourage the development of an integrated, well maintained public rights of way network, maximising the opportunities for achieving access for all.</p>	<p><b>TWA12</b> (see also ARTA1) Advise and assist Mid-Lincolnshire Access Forum and Rights of Way Improvement Plans in respect of AONB objectives.</p>	LCC NELC	LAF LWCS JAC	Ongoing
	<p><b>TWA13</b> Engage positively to help support and promote permissive and official public rights of way improvements to help enhance the network.</p>	LCC NELC	LAF LWCS JAC	When required
<p><b>TWP6</b> To encourage the Highway Authorities to adopt traffic management measures and schemes commensurate with AONB designation and rural environments.</p>	<p><b>TWA14</b> Liaise with highway authorities to minimise the urbanisation of country and village roads in the AONB – utilising Streets for All and similar guidance.</p>	LCC NELC	LWCS Parish Councils	Ongoing

### Climate Change and Energy (section 7.3)

<b>Objective CCO</b> To seek to develop and implement a long-term climate change strategy to help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation.				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>CCP1</b> To establish, monitor and review key indices for monitoring the possible effects of climate change.	<b>CCA1</b> Review and utilise research and monitoring for environmental/landscape resources linking with proposed actions...	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS	Ongoing
<b>CCP2</b> To develop practices that promote a sustainable landscape approach to tackle and respond to climate change pressures through a range of mitigation and adaptation measures.	<b>CCA2</b> Research, encourage and support landscape scale enhancements linking with proposed actions...	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS	Ongoing
	<b>CCA3</b> (see also CCA5) Research, support and encourage changes to land management practices to help aid the AONB's resilience to climate change impacts.	FC NE	EA LWCS GLNP	Ongoing
<b>CCP3</b> To support and develop practices that promote healthy, well-connected and managed landscapes and ecosystems resilient and flexible to the effects of climate change.	<b>CCA4</b> Explore opportunities for landscape scale habitat restoration via HLF and other strategic grant funded packages.	LWCS Defra	EA LCC JAC NELC NE	Ongoing
	<b>CCA5</b> (see also CCA3) Encourage and support landscape scale habitat enhancements that can provide economic, social and environmental benefits.	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS NE	Ongoing
<b>CCP4</b> (see also PP10) To encourage and promote innovative low carbon energy reduction/generation schemes that are conducive to the requirements of the AONB designation and complement local landscape character.	<b>CCA6</b> (see also BHA8 & TWA1-3) To raise awareness of the benefits of carbon reduction plans for organisations, local communities and businesses active across the AONB.	LCC NELC	CL JAC Local Business Owners	Ongoing
	<b>CCA7</b> Support low carbon micro-energy generation schemes and community energy reduction measures that are in-keeping with the special qualities of the nationally protected AONB.	JAC LCC NELC	CL ELDC Local Businesses WLDC	Ongoing
	<b>CCA8</b> (as TWA1) Explore and support a programme of partnership activity to encourage public transport and community transport initiatives.	LCC Bus Operator s NELC	ELDC LWCS NELC RL WLDC	Ongoing



## Monitoring (section 9.2)

<b>Objective MO</b> To monitor the Management Plan activities and condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB				
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Potential Lead Partners</b>	<b>Potential Others</b>	<b>Proposed Target</b>
<b>MP1</b> To monitor the performance of the Action Plan.	<b>MA1</b> Collate, report and review information against annual work programmes for LWCS and JAC partners.	JAC LWCS	GLNP	Annually
	<b>MA2</b> (see also IPA8) Utilise electronic reporting tools to support and encourage returns from all partners.	LWCS JAC	Parish Councils GLNP	Annually
<b>MP2</b> To monitor the condition of the AONB.	<b>MA3</b> (see also AA10) Continue to develop the Wolds AONB baseline evidence for key condition indicators – linking with key national protected landscapes monitoring datasets.	LWCS	Defra EA NE All LAs	Ongoing
	<b>MA4</b> Actively engage with the NAAONB key performance reporting for the headline indicators: Landscapes for Nature, Landscapes for People, Landscapes for Culture and Landscapes for Business.	LWCS	NAAONB	Annually

## **9.2 Monitoring**

The publication of the revised Plan is not the end of the process but marks a continuous commitment to manage the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Monitoring both the condition of the AONB and the implementation of the Plan will be essential if we are to assess its success.

The previous evidence-bases for the area have been fairly limited, with datasets usually available at either the administrative boundaries (parish council, electoral wards, district/unitary and county levels) or the more extensive Lincolnshire Wolds Character Area. The volume of AONB specific data has been more abundant since 2005 with assistance from the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre and nationally via the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes for Protected Landscapes project. However there is still a tendency for most information to be gathered at an administrative level; with further time and resources usually required to refine to the AONB boundary, with estimates and interpretation of information often necessary. A sound and robust evidence-base remains essential for making informed strategic decisions and ensuring the best use of limited resources to protect and enhance the area.

### **9.2.1 Condition Monitoring**

A variety of 'condition indicators' have been identified in the accompanying State of the AONB Report 2017. These have been selected from a nationally recommended list of monitoring indicators recommended by Natural England and will enable comparisons with similar areas on a regional and national scale. The indicators will help to develop and refine baseline data over the following areas: countryside and landcover; cultural and vernacular; ecology and environment; and socio-economic and quality of life themes.

### **9.2.2 Performance Monitoring**

Performance monitoring is necessary to monitor progress of the Plan. A more detailed annual work programme will be established from the five-year Action Plan for both the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC and LWCS. These will be reviewed annually, reporting progress on specific actions and identifying where additional resources may be required.

#### **Objective:**

**MO To monitor the Management Plan activities and condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.**

#### **Policies:**

**MP1 To monitor the performance of the Action Plan.**

**MP2 To monitor the condition of the AONB.**

**Actions: See MA1-4 on Table 3**

**Table 4: Monitoring Indicators & Summary Findings (for ongoing review)**

Indicator	Description	Summary findings
<b>Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1) – Landscape, Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b>		
<b>Landscape</b>		
1	To review the fixed point photographs established across the AONB as a proxy measure for monitoring changes to key viewpoints and local character.	Under review
2	The investment and length of powerlines undergrounded since 2004 within the AONB.	Northern Power – 13kms undergrounded with an investment of £1.7 million. (2016) Western Power – 12 kms undergrounded with an investment of £1.2 million. (2016)
3	A visual tranquillity map of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	See relevant map p112 – State of the AONB Report
4	A dark night skies map of the Lincolnshire Wolds.	See relevant map p113 – State of the AONB Report
<b>Nature Conservation</b>		
5	UK BAP Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	165 species from known records. (2017)
6	Red List Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	244 species from known records. (2017)
7	Lincolnshire BAP Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	41 species from known records. (2017)
8	Condition of SSSIs within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	50% (52 hectares) of SSSIs are in favourable condition. (2016)
<b>Woodland Resource</b>		
9	Area of ancient and semi-natural woodland the AONB.	604 hectares recorded as ancient woodland. (2017)
10	Area of the AONB's woodland in positive management	At least 56% of woodland in positive management. (2015)
11	Uptake of Woodland Managed and Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES).	234.79 hectares of total woodland was managed and/or created via Environmental Stewardship - 18 agreements. (2017)
<b>Grassland Resource</b>		
12	Uptake of Low input Grassland, Managed, Restored or Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES)	1883.22 hectares of low input grassland created, managed and/or restored. (2017)
13	Number, length and condition of Roadside Nature Reserves	17 Roadside Nature Reserves - condition info pending. (2017)
<b>Rivers and streams resource</b>		
14	The length of river in moderate or good ecological condition.	89.28 kms of main river was classified as being in moderate or good condition. (2017)
15	The length of Lincolnshire Chalk Streams and their adjacent habitat restored through active management.	Since 2006 over 19 kms of chalk stream resorted, with management enhancements to a further 45 kms of adjacent habitat. (2016)
<b>Land Management</b>		
16	Number and area of land in formal stewardship agreements.	31,990 hectares (57%) of the AONB in Environmental Stewardship with 136 live agreements with an investment of £2.17 million. (2017)
17	Environmental Stewardship (ES Options) number and area.	See relevant table in State of the AONB Report 2017.
<b>Soils and Earth Heritage</b>		
18	Area of the Lincolnshire Wolds retaining good soil structure and nutrient content for sustainable	25 soil types identified across the AONB - series of vulnerability maps produced in 2009 now in need of renewal.

	<b>productive farming (or the area of the Lincolnshire Wolds providing high grade agricultural land).</b>	
19	<b>Condition of registered SSSI geological sites</b>	Six SSSIs sites all in favourable condition. (2017)
20	<b>% of Local Geological Sites and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) that are in favourable condition.</b>	15 LGS sites and a further 6 RIGS – condition to be confirmed (2017)
<b>Cultural Heritage – Archaeology and Built Heritage</b>		
21	<b>Condition of heritage assets deemed to be 'At Risk'.</b>	27.6 % of Scheduled Monuments and 5.9% of Grade II* buildings are deemed to be at risk. One place of worship (Grade II*) is also at risk. (2017)
22	<b>The number of Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL) within the AONB in good condition.</b>	89 TRiLs within the AONB, 95% estimated to be in good condition. (2017)
23	<b>The number of AONB traditional farmsteads deemed to have "high heritage potential".</b>	568 traditional farmsteads have been identified in the AONB; 48% are deemed to have heritage potential on account of 50%+ retention of historic buildings. (2017)
<b>Living and Working in the Wolds (Theme 2)</b>		
24	<b>Population patterns in the AONB and adjacent market towns.</b>	19% under 19 years, 21% 20-44, 26% 45-59, 25% 60-74 and 9% over 75 years. (2011)
25	<b>Number of rateable businesses in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</b>	375 rateable businesses. (2017)
26	<b>Employment levels in the Lincolnshire Wolds.</b>	4,890 people currently employed in the Wolds (2017); unemployment currently approx. 5%
27	<b>Business activity in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</b>	The rateable businesses (2017) include: 70 workshops, 54 warehouses, 52 guest houses etc, 27 comm's stations, 21 shops/showrooms, 20 pubs, 14 offices, 12 equestrian facilities.
28	<b>Access to basic services.</b>	See table p125 - LWCS audit (2017)
29	<b>The annual average daily traffic flow (AADT) range for Lincolnshire Wolds A and B roads.</b>	In 2016 the mean AADT from A road counts was 7,313 vehicles; 2,078 for B roads.
30	<b>Public transport services</b>	<b>Under review</b>
31	<b>Broadband/Mobile Phone Coverage</b>	<b>Under review</b>
32	<b>Farm Types - Lincolnshire Wolds AONB</b>	64% of farms are in cereals or general cropping, 18% livestock grazing. (2013)
33	<b>Farm Sizes Classification</b>	Over 53% of farms are over 100 hectares. (2013)
34	<b>Land Use in hectares (% listings in respect of the total area of the AONB)</b>	Over 76% of AONB was in cropping or bare fallow, 11% in permanent grassland and 3.2% as registered woodland. (2013)
35	<b>Breakdown of Farm Labour (number of personnel)</b>	798 people were in agricultural sector employment – 52% full-time. (2013)
36	<b>Additional Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and LEADER investment in landowner, business and community partnership projects across the Lincolnshire Wolds.</b>	Between 2014–16, four farming/forestry projects completed utilising RDPE Countryside Productivity small grants programme.  £451,273 of Leader grants was approved in support of seven projects in the AONB pre-2014. Schemes continue to come forward under the new programme.
<b>Discovering the Wolds (Theme 3)</b>		
37	<b>The total number of visitors to the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Plan Area.</b>	In 2016 over 3.4 million visitors visited. (2017 STEAM data)
38	<b>The total number of day and staying visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Plan Area.</b>	In 2016 there were 3.18 million day visitors and 250,000+ staying visitors. (2017 STEAM data)
39	<b>The estimated economic contribution from tourism across the Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Plan Area.</b>	In 2016 the economic contribution from tourism to the area is in excess of £166.5 million. (2017 STEAM data)

40	<b>Number and condition of gateway roadsigns for the Lincolnshire Wolds</b>	20 boundary signs originally installed in 2001 – one missing, one moved. JAC has deemed to renew any future damaged signs on a like-for-like basis. (2016 audit)
41	<b>Number of Promoted Circular Walking Routes</b>	Over 37 promoted walks available as "Wolds Walks" or "Gateway Walks". Further 11 Interconnect Bus Walks available. (2017)
42	<b>Number of Long Distance Trails</b>	Five long distance routes take in the AONB including The Viking Way. (2017)
43	<b>Number of special feature maps and leaflets.</b>	Five special feature leaflets (Wonders of...) available promoting AONB's points of interest + other specific leaflets inc. Making the Most of, Enjoy the... (2017)
44	<b>Number of AONB specific interpretation panels</b>	Seven panels were renewed in 2014-15. 11 panels were renewed in 2015-16. Four panels were renewed in 2017-18.
45	<b>Number of people engaged in AONB activity through guided walks, events, shows and volunteering.</b>	During 2016-17 over 11,250 people were actively engaged via AONB walks, events, shows and volunteering. (2017)
46	<b>Number of visits to the Wolds AONB website.</b>	During 2016-17 the LWCS's dedicated AONB website was visited 57,749 times, > 79% were first time visitors. (2017)
47	<b>Google Maps Rating for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</b>	449 independent postings - average score four and a half out of five. (2017)
48	<b>Trip Advisor Rating for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</b>	63 independent postings - average score five out of five. (2017)
<b>Developing the Wolds (Theme 4)</b>		
49	<b>Total investment and projects supported via the Wolds AONB Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Small Grants Scheme (SGS) to aid delivery of wide range of goods and services.</b>	Since April 2013 the SDF and SGS programmes have supported 78 projects across the Wolds with an investment of £106,987 securing match funding of £126,611.
50	<b>Number of neighbourhood plans</b>	None for any AONB settlements
51	<b>Number of local design guides</b>	Older guides exist e.g. Tealby
52	<b>Number of new affordable homes</b>	<b>Under review</b>
53	<b>Number of new flood management schemes to aid water management and climate change adaptations.</b>	New flood alleviation scheme constructed on the River Lud, helping to protect Louth.
54	<b>Number of planning applications or appeals approved contrary to the advice of the LWCS and NE.</b>	<i>New measure proposed for monitoring from May 2018. (Currently LWCS comments on a wide range of planning applications that may impact upon the AONB).</i>
<b>Partnerships in the Wolds (Theme 5)</b>		
55	<b>The LWCS will compile and publish an annual review summarising activities undertaken.</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Wolds AONB Annual Review 2016-17 published and circulated. (2017)
56	<b>All JAC partners will complete annual updates against key M. Plan policies and objectives as detailed within the five year indicative Action Plan.</b>	Last recording request April 2017.
57	<b>The key local authorities will review and sign a local Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to help ensure continuing financial support.</b>	Local MoA recently signed and in place until spring 2020.
58	<b>The JAC will continue to support, influence and promote the wider family of AONBs – primarily via the work of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), under the Landscapes for Life banner.</b>	Attendance at Chairman's Conference (autumn 2017); active participation in the NAAONB Strategic Business Plan review.

### **9.3 Management Plan Review**

In addition to the annual review of the Action Plan, the CRoW Act legislation requires that AONB Management Plans be reviewed at regular five year intervals. A formal review of the Plan will commence during 2022 to enable effective participation and consultation with partners and stakeholders.

## Appendix 1: Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Membership

Membership as of March 2018

<b>Joint Management Group</b>
Natural England (NE) - <i>statutory advisor</i>
Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) - <i>core funder</i>
East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) - <i>core funder</i>
West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) - <i>core funder</i>
North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) - <i>core funder</i>
<b>Other Members:</b>
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Churches Together (CT)
Community Lincs (CL)
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Historic England (HE)
Environment Agency (EA)
Forestry Commission (FC)
Heritage Lincolnshire (HL)
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)
National Farmers Union – East Midlands (NFU)
National Trust (NT)
Ramblers - Lincolnshire (RL)
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
<b>Advisory Members:</b>
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) - core funder under the terms of the local Memorandum of Agreement.

## **Appendix 2: Role of the Joint Advisory Committee, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and sub-groups**

### **Role of the Joint Advisory Committee - JAC**

- To develop as an active partnership.
- To pool resources and expertise including National and Regional Agendas.
- To coordinate activities delivered across the Wolds including identifying adverse activities.
- Joined up delivery of members' services by advising their constituent authorities on proposals/policies for the Wolds.
- To oversee the production of the management plan, aiding its formal adoption and regular review.
- To identify opportunities and make recommendations for new initiatives.
- To agree and adopt the annual work programme.
- To receive, adopt and distribute the annual report.

### **Role of the Joint Management Group - JMG**

- To identify and review the statutory duties placed on the local authorities in relation to the AONB, and where appropriate to ensure the LWCS delivers against these duties on behalf of the local authorities.
- To core fund the LWCS (in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement).
- To oversee the LWCS accounts.
- To identify the local Authority conditions attached to funding for incorporation into Management Plan and annual work programme.

### **Role of the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service - LWCS**

- To give the AONB an identity, positive image and increased status.
- To obtain increased funding and resources for the AONB.
- To keep under review and refine the Management Plan.
- To coordinate the monitoring of change and development in the AONB.
- To establish a database for the AONB.
- To prepare technical and planning reports and act as secretariat to constituent local authorities and JAC for the Wolds.
- To liaise with local community and interested individuals in respect of 'AONB-related' issues, providing practical and specialist advice where appropriate.

### **Role of the specialist sub-groups**

- To be set up as and when required with a clear remit and a set of outcomes to achieve.

A range of groups currently provide specialist advice, and assistance in reviewing and aiding the delivery of specific areas of the AONB Management Plan including the Heritage Working Group (HWG), Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP), and the Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL) Project.



## Appendix 3: Local Landscape Character Area Statements (AONB specific)

### North-West Scarp

The prominent North West Scarp is a dramatic feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds affording distant views across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The slopes provide a steep and hummocky appearance with attractive spring-line villages at the foot of the scarp. The area is rich in wildlife with rough pasture, scrub and woodland dominant within the valleys.

#### Key local AONB features identified:

- Prominent scarp slope with extensive views west
- Rough pasture with some wet flushes
- Picturesque villages sited along the spring-line (e.g. Claxby, Nettleton, Tealby, Walesby)
- Industrial heritage (e.g. Ironstone mining in Claxby and Nettleton; paper making in Tealby)
- The Caistor High Street ancient trackway and associated tumuli
- Ridge-top clumps of beech
- Ornate late medieval churches and other distinctive buildings using Claxby Ironstone (e.g. Nettleton) and Tealby Limestone (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Sparse farm settlements.

#### Key local issues identified:

- Proliferation of telecommunication masts on the highly visible ridgeline
- Impact of large agricultural structures
- Impact of chalk quarrying
- Threats to nature conservation, especially rough pasture and wet flushes
- Parking and visitor pressure in villages close to the Viking Way (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Decline in woodland and beech clumps.

### Chalk Wolds

The Chalk Wolds is a large open plateau of rolling hills and secluded valleys. The topography of this part of the Wolds is striking and is testimony to the last glaciation when ice sheets and meltwater dramatically altered the landscape. Large arable fields and characteristic changing crop patterns dominate the plateau top and contrasts markedly with the numerous valleys with their lush pastures and wooded slopes. The area has the highest concentration of deserted and shrunken medieval villages within the AONB.

#### Key local AONB features identified:

- Open rolling arable farmland on gently dipping plateau
- Wooded and lush inward-facing valleys and dry valleys
- Attractive nucleated villages, often of Saxon or medieval origin (e.g. Rothwell, Hatcliffe, Thoresway)
- Enclosure roads (drovers roads) with wide verges and characteristic hedgerows
- Small plantation woodlands and beech clumps of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Isolated chalk grassland
- Deserted medieval villages (e.g. Beesby, East Wykeham)
- Archaeological sites on the plateau (e.g. tumuli, barrows)
- Manors and parkland (e.g. East Ravendale)
- Geomorphological and geological sites (e.g. Hubbard's Hills, Welton le Wold)
- Localised old enclosed landscape (e.g. north-eastern corner of the AONB).

#### Key local issues identified:

- Impact of disused wartime airfields, transmission lines, radio masts and huge straw stacks
- Loss and decline of chalk grassland
- Loss and decline in quality of hedgerows
- Decline in quality of beech clumps and other woodland
- Impact of arable practices on archaeological features
- Abandonment of some of the more remote farms and cottages
- Lack of awareness of the unique geomorphology
- Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments).

## Ridges and Valleys of the South-West

The ridges and valleys landscape is enormously complex with prominent chalk ridges bisected by deep combs and wide river valleys. The area is one of the most attractive within the Wolds with a patchwork of pastoral and arable fields, woodland, hedgerows, country estates and parkland, and attractive rivers and streams.

### Key local AONB features identified:

- Dramatic views south from the Bluestone Heath Road and Nab Hill - Hoe Hill ridge
- Mixed pattern of arable and pastoral farming
- Herb rich roadside verges
- Rich marginal and aquatic habitats of the River Bain, Lymn, and Waring.
- Old mixed hedgerows
- Sole example of a semi-natural chalk woodland (e.g. Tetford Wood)
- Characteristic villages - often rectangular in form and houses widely built of brick (e.g. Tetford)
- Historic parkland and country houses (e.g. Harrington, Langton and Stenigot)
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson birthplace and childhood home at Somersby
- Archaeological interest on the ridges and slopes (e.g. barrows, tumuli, cultivation terraces)
- Early medieval churches and moated sites (e.g. Bag Enderby, Brinkhill, Langton and Somersby)
- Wet alder carr woodlands (e.g. New England Valley, Salmonby Carr).

### Key local Issues identified:

- Lack of awareness about historic and cultural associations
- Development issues including telecommunications masts and oil exploration
- Threat to grassland habitats
- Inappropriate management of roadside verges
- Loss of local village services
- Heavy coastal traffic and potential road modernisation schemes (e.g. A158, Gunby Corner).

## South-Eastern Claylands

The gentle ridge of the south-eastern claylands dips gently west before merging with the flat marshlands beyond the AONB. This is the most heavily wooded part of the Wolds where large blocks of woodland are interspersed with cultivated fields. The area has an isolated and remote feel. Ridge-top salters' roads, spring-line villages and archaeological features are evident here.

### Key local AONB features identified:

- Views across the Middle Marsh to the coast
- Extensive oak-ash woodland (e.g. Maltby, Haugham, Burwell, Willoughby, Welton Woods)
- Attractive spring-line villages (e.g. Little Cawthorpe, Muckton, South Thoresby, Welton le Marsh)
- Rich mixed geology/chalk stream habitats typified by the Long Eau, Calceby Beck and Great Eau.
- Ancient sea cliff on eastern ridge, broken by glacial meltwater valleys (e.g. Skendelby Psalter, Well Vale)
- Ridge-top roads and their associated archaeology (e.g. long and round barrows)
- West-east salters' roads
- Wetland flushes and springs.

### Key local Issues identified:

- Sand, gravel and chalk extraction
- Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments, grain silos)
- Impact of conifer planting
- Development issues on prominent ridgelines (e.g. telecommunication masts).

**Appendix 4: State of the AONB Report - compiled Sept-Oct 2017**

*Context, indicators and data summaries for the  
Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

*Further case studies pending.*

produced by  
**Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service**  
**(AONB Staffing Unit)**



Table 1 within the AONB Management Plan (2018-23) summarises the special landscape features that typify the Lincolnshire Wolds natural beauty and sense of place – these include attributes that relate to the area's landscape, farmland, geology, topography, biodiversity, archaeology, built heritage and culture. Appendix 3 provides an additional summary of the special qualities of each of the four Local Landscape Character Areas.

This supplementary report identifies and reviews a number of indices to help aid future condition monitoring for the AONB and the development of subsequent Management Plans. These proposed indicators are grouped in-line with the overriding themes of the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan (2018-23):

- Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1)
- Living and Working in the Wolds (Theme 2)
- Discovering the Wolds (Theme 3)
- Developing the Wolds (Theme 4)
- Partnerships in the Wolds (Theme 5).

## **Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1) – Landscape, Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

### **Landscape character – conservation and enhancement:**

**INDICATOR 1: To review the fixed point photographs established across the AONB as a proxy measure for monitoring changes to key viewpoints and local character.**

**Context:** Additional to detailed landscape character assessments undertaken at each of the local administrative areas (ELDC, NELC, and WLDC) the original Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Character Assessment identified four distinctive landscape character areas: The North-West Scarp, the Chalk Wolds, the Ridges and Valleys of the South-West and the South-East Claylands.

**Status:** Resources dependent, a detailed study and reassessment of fixed point photographs is recommended over the next plan period.

### **Visual Amenity:**

**INDICATOR 2: The investment and length of powerlines undergrounded since 2004 within the AONB.**

**Context:** OFGEM (the Government Office of Gas and Electricity Markets) has a target of supporting the undergrounding up to 5% of powerlines across nationally protected landscapes (AONBs and National Parks) to enhance scenic quality. Two district network operators; Northern Powergrid and Western Power Distribution have linked up with the LWCS, local communities and landowners to assist in undergrounding schemes across the Wolds.

### **Results:**

- As of April 2016, Northern Powergrid has removed over 13 kilometres of overhead line and associated infrastructure with an investment of over £1.7 million.
- As of April 2016, Western Power has removed nearly 12 kilometres of overhead line with an investment of over £1.2 million.

### **Review of undergrounding data:**

Most of the schemes have focused on low voltage schemes within or close to settlements – a total of 15 villages/hamlets have benefitted directly from the projects, improving not only visual amenity but often power outage and consistency in future supply.

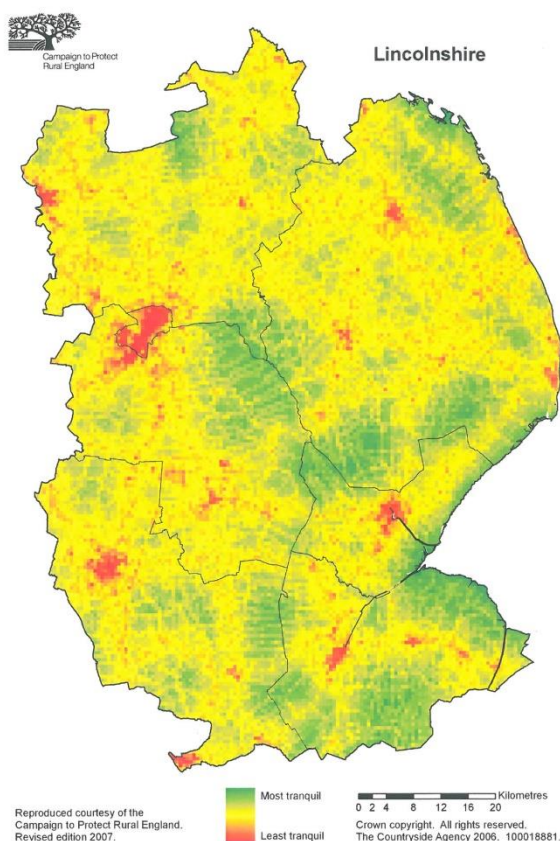
### **Tranquillity and Dark Night Skies:**

**Context:** Tranquillity is stimulated by sight, sound and other senses either directly or as a trigger to memories. We aspire to it as it brings on or increases our feelings of peace and well-being with resulting positive effects on health and quality of life. It both benefits us as individuals and more widely society and the economy as a whole. In a densely populated country pressured by development and the pressures of modern living it is increasingly important to find the qualities of places which generate such tranquil feelings and to protect those locations and their attributes for the future (adapted from CPRE Tranquillity Mapping Report, 2008). The AONB family can make a major contribution in terms of safe guarding the tranquillity and sense of place that we find across some of our most special and often unique landscapes.

Revised national tranquillity maps were published by the CPRE in 2007 – the study did not seek to determine outright if an area is tranquil or non-tranquil by zoning but sought to provide continuous surface maps based on a combination of GIS mapping and Participatory Appraisal Consultation (PA). The integrated PA analysis reviewed peoples' perceptions, values and beliefs across a wide range of seeing and hearing attributes that would either contribute or detract from tranquillity (21 positive and 23 negative measures). The integration of the PA study applies modern thinking, recognising that as well as a resource, judgements on tranquillity are ultimately personal depending upon a complex set of factors.

**INDICATOR 3: A visual tranquillity map of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:**

**Lincolnshire County Tranquillity Map (2007):**

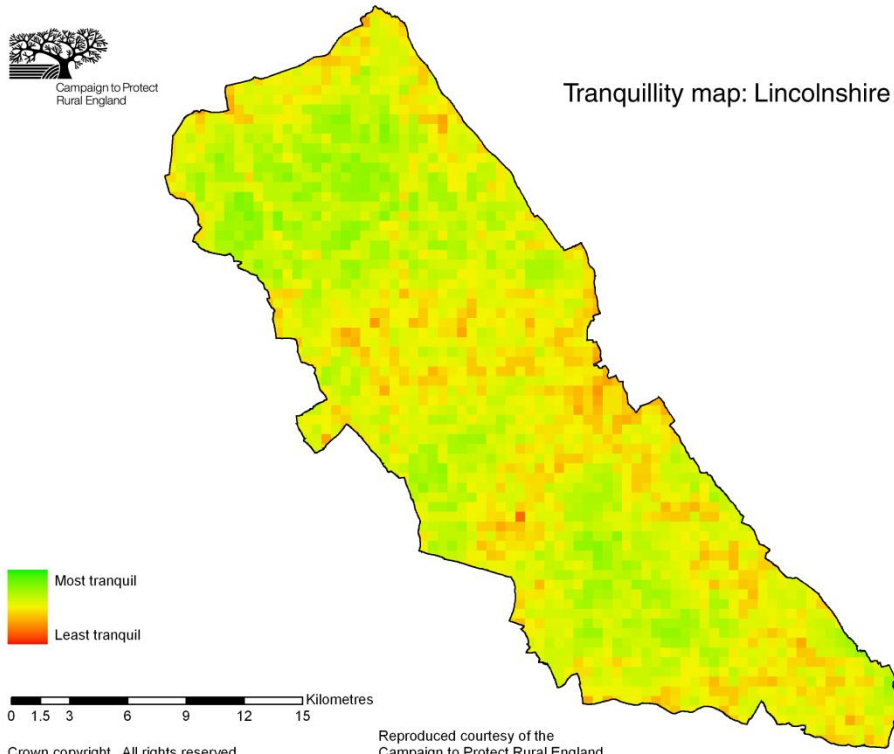


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**Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Tranquillity Map (2007):**



### Tranquillity map: Lincolnshire Wolds

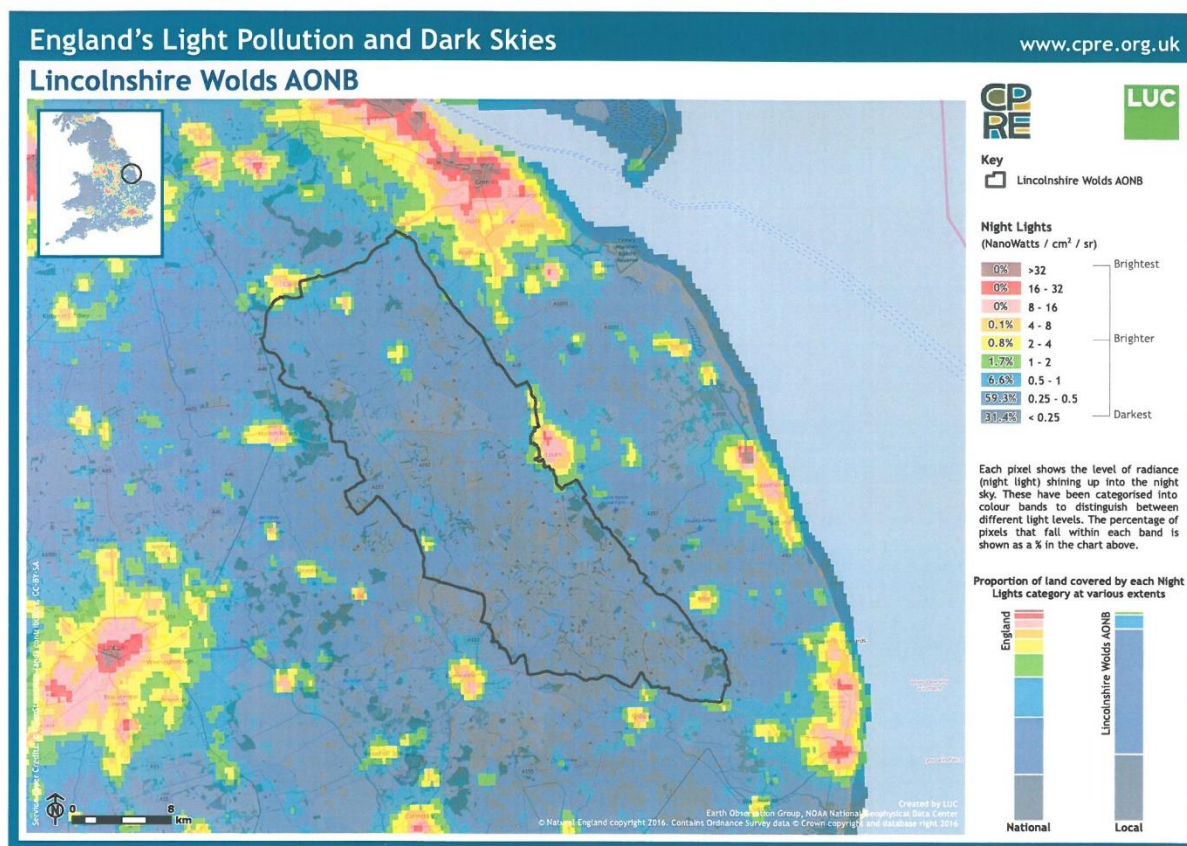


0 1.5 3 6 9 12 15 Kilometres

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The Countryside Agency 2006. 100018881.

Reproduced courtesy of the  
Campaign to Protect Rural England.  
Revised edition 2007.

Visibility at night has been integrated into the national tranquillity mapping work. This has applied the measure of "skyglow" which is defined as the brightness of the night sky as a function of distance from varying sizes of urban areas – applying the assumption that settlement size correlates directly to light pollution (the ability to see the stars at night).



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### Review of tranquillity and night skies maps:

As highlighted, both maps indicate the importance of the Lincolnshire Wolds for retaining a high degree of both tranquillity and night sky visibility, with fairly minimal negative receptors. The influence of adjacent market towns, Cadwell Motor Circuit and the major roadways are clearly evident on the tranquillity map. There is also a mapping cluster suggesting a loss of tranquillity/increase in light intrusion in the area of Binbrook and Brookenby, largely on account of the industrial business park.

### Natural Heritage:

**Context:** The value and importance of biodiversity has been reaffirmed at a global and UK levels with the continuing aims to halt the loss of habitat degradation and species loss and help mitigate and adapt to climate change pressures. The wildlife of the Lincolnshire Wolds has been heavily shaped by living and working practices through the generations and is a key element of the natural beauty of the AONB. As detailed in the main Plan, habitats of particular relevance to the Wolds include: 1) grassland – meadow, pasture and wet grassland; 2) grass verges and green lanes; 3) woodlands, beech clumps and traditional orchards; 4) hedgerows and landmark trees; 5) rivers, streams and ponds; 6) arable farmland.

### INDICATOR 5: UK BAP Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:

165 species listed from records, of which 51 were recorded post 2014.

**INDICATOR 6. Red List Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:**

244 species listed from records, of which 33 were recorded post 2014.

**INDICATOR 7. Lincolnshire BAP Species present within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:**

41 species listed, of which 33 were recorded post 2014.

Source: Indicator 1 – 3: Lincolnshire Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership Records Centre

**INDICATOR 8. Condition of SSSIs within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:**

**Context:** Sites of Special Scientific Interest are nationally protected areas which provide a representative sample of some of the best wildlife and geologically important sites in England. Most SSSIs are in private ownership and their management is a shared responsibility with Natural England, the body responsible for their designation and subsequent condition monitoring.

As directed through 'Biodiversity 2020', Natural England has a target to ensure that at least 50% of SSSIs are in favourable condition and at least 95% are in favourable or recovering condition by 2020.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has a total of 14 SSSIs designated on account of their wildlife interest with many located on the steeper slopes of the Wolds, or within the valley bottoms. The sites include nine SSSIs of alkaline-acidic grassland/marshland, four SSSIs of ancient and semi-natural woodland and one nationally important bat colony, protected on account of both the number and the range of species present.

**Results:**

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB - SSSI Condition</b> (figures = area in hectares)	2004	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
Favourable Condition	57	43	45	53	52	52
Unfavourable, Recovering	13	37	41	41	45	45
Unfavourable, No Change	30	13	10	10	5	5
Unfavourable, Declining	4	11	8	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>

Source: Natural England (April 2017)

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB SSSI Detailed Categories</b> (figures = area in hectares)	Acid Grassland	Broadleaved woodland	Built up areas/ gardens	Calcareous Grassland (lowland)	Neutral Grassland (lowland)	Earth Heritage
<b>2017</b>						
Favourable Condition		29.5	3.8	4.4		14.1
Unfavourable, Recovering	2.4	14.1		13.3	14.9	
Unfavourable, No Change		5.4				
Unfavourable, Declining				2		
<b>2014</b>						
Favourable Condition	2.54	29.6	3.8	4.5	15	14.1
Unfavourable, Recovering		14.2				



Unfavourable, No Change		5.4				
Unfavourable, Declining				2		

Source: Natural England (April 2017)

**Review of biodiversity data:** The Lincolnshire Wolds SSSIs comprise a total of 104 hectares of land, with some 14.1 hectares designated on account of the earth heritage interests (see below). Including the latter, 92.8% of the total SSSI resource is currently deemed to be either in a favourable or recovering condition, with some 5% classed as unfavourable no change (within the woodland component), with just 2% unfavourable and declining (calcareous grassland). In terms of timeline changes there has been a slight reduction in the favourable condition of SSSIs over the past ten years, but a significant increase in the total hectares classed as unfavourable but recovering. Two SSSI sites, which include part of Swaby Valley and Skendleby Psalter Banks, have been declining largely on account of reduced grazing and the subsequent encroachment from dominant grasses and scrub.

### Woodland Resource and Management

**Context:** The woodland cover of the Wolds is low (< 5.5% coverage) but remains a vital habitat and landscape component, and an important source of local timber. Additional to the wildlife benefits, especially of mixed and deciduous woods, these habitats aid water management and soil protection through reducing runoff, make a major contribution to green infrastructure connectivity and provide further opportunities for access and recreation. Many woodlands remain in active management on account of their use for supporting the rearing of game birds.

The mosaic of differing habitats within any given woodland can help to maximise plant and animal diversity, including for example woodland springs, streams, glades, rides and field edge layers. Agri-forestry grant enhancements and forestry/woodland plans commonly aim to enhance biodiversity and timber productivity, supporting species of local provenance and seeking to minimise the risks from future pests and diseases.

### Extent and type of woodland cover:

Lincolnshire Wolds AONB	2014 (hectares)	2015 (hectares)
Total area of woodland	3,058	3,060
Broadleaved	2,478	2,478
Conifer	300	300
Mixed	80	80
Felled	4	4
Ground prepared for planting	46	27
Shrub land	1	1
Young trees	169	171

Source: National Forestry Inventory – Forestry Commission.

This measure is based upon Natural England's Ancient Woodland Data which seeks to establish the area of woodland recorded as ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and the area of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – Ancient Woodland</b>	2017 (hectares)
Ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	233
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).	1,392
<b>Total area of ancient woodland</b>	<b>604</b>

#### **INDICATOR 10: Area of the AONB's woodland in positive management**

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB</b>	2014 (hectares)	2015 (hectares)
<b>Actively managed woodland</b>	1,723	1,741
<b>Unmanaged woodland</b>	1,392	1,394
<b>% of woodland managed</b>	55%	56%

#### **INDICATOR 11: Uptake of Woodland Managed and Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES).**

As of March 2017, 18 woodland agreements were in place across the Lincolnshire Wolds through the ES programme, aiding management of some 235 hectares of woodland/woodland edge resource.

<b>Woodland Managed and Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES)</b>	2017 (hectares)
Management of Woodland Edge – EC4 Option	1.98
Creation of Woodland Outside the SDA & ML – HC10 Option	5.23
Management of Woodland Edges – HC4 Option	0
Maintenance of Woodland Edges – HC7 Option	225.47
Restoration of Woodland – HC8 Option	2.11
Creation of Woodland in the SDA – HC9 Option	0
Management of Wood Edges – OC4 Option	0
Management of Woodland Edges – OHC4 Option	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>234.79</b>

#### **Review of woodland data:**

Many of the Wolds woodlands are small and fragmented and are often found on the steeper slopes of the escarpments or coombes, or in the wetter valley bottoms where cultivation is difficult. Some 80% of the woodland resource is broad-leaved, approximately 20% of which is ancient, semi-natural woodland. There are also a significant proportion of plantation woodlands, many are broad-leaved and also used for shelter belts and game cover. The results show that the current uptake for new woodland creation is low, but just over half of the woodlands are actively managed.

#### **Grassland Resource and Management**

**Context:** Although much of the Wolds is currently under cultivation, grassland habitats remain an important landscape and wildlife resource, comprising a wide range of semi-natural to permanent pastures. The composition of the grassland swards are variable, typically ranging from calcareous chalk grassland to neutral grassland depending on local soils and geology, with very small pockets of acidic grassland also present.

#### **INDICATOR 12: Uptake of Low input Grassland, Managed, Restored or Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES)**

<b>Low input Grassland, Managed, Restored or Created Under Environmental Stewardship (ES)</b>	2017 (hectares)
Permanent Grassland with Low Inputs – EK2 Option	281.67
Permanent Grassland with Very Low Inputs outside SDA & ML – EK3 Option	438.47
Reversion to Unfertilised Grassland to Prevent Erosion/Runoff – HJ3 Option	186.68
Reversion to Low Input Grassland to Prevent Erosion/Runoff – HJ4 Option	4.93
Permanent Grassland with Low Inputs – Hk2 Option	5.41
Permanent Grassland with Very Low Inputs – HK3 Option	104.87
Maintenance of Species-Rich, Semi-Natural Grassland – HK6 Option	306.53
Restoration of Species-Rich, Semi-Natural Grassland – HK7 Option	501.39
Permanent grassland with low inputs; outside SDA & ML (organic) – OK2 Option	1.38
Permanent grassland with very low inputs; outside SDA & ML (organic) – OK3 Option	51.89

**Review of grassland data:** Many of the Wolds' grasslands and rough pastures are found on steep slopes (where the soils are thin and the ground hard to till), in the valley bottoms as wet flushes and pastures, and in abandoned quarries and pits. Maintenance and restoration of species rich grassland remains important and currently includes some 800 hectares; a further 700 hectares of permanent grassland is managed with low or very low inputs and is also a significant resource for wider wildlife and landscape benefits.

### **INDICATOR 13: Number, length and condition of Protected Roadside Nature Reserves and roadside Local Wildlife Sites.**

**Context:** Grassed roadside verges and the wider network of green lanes are a distinctive landscape feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds, with many found alongside ancient drovers trackways.

**Results:** There are currently 17 Protected Roadside Nature Reserves in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, totalling over 16 kilometres in length. Over 55 roadside verges and green lanes are currently classified as Local Wildlife Sites.

**Review of grass verge data:** The Life on the Verge partnership project with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust aided the wider mapping of the verge network through training and supporting voluntary recording across the Lincolnshire Wolds. This two year project acted as a drive for improved maintenance of verge ways and the opportunities for utilising cuttings for bio-energy ([Peakhill Associates](#)).

### **Water Quality in Rivers**

**Context:** Under the European Water Framework Directive the ecological status of rivers and canals is classified as High, Good, Moderate, Poor and Bad. All main river (116.25 kilometres) within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB forms part of the areas internationally important chalk stream resource and is fed from nine principal catchment systems within the area, namely from north to south; Nettleton Beck, Waithe Beck, River Rase, River Lud, River Bain, Long Eau, Great Eau, River Waring and the River Lymn. The upper catchments comprise an important network of minor streams (a further 141 kilometres across the AONB), calcareous marshes and spring-line flushes and ponds providing further ecological and wider benefits.

### **INDICATOR 14: The length of river in moderate or good ecological condition.**

In April 2015:

- 22.48 kilometres (19.3%) of main river was classified as being in good ecological condition.
- 86.36 kilometres (74.3%) of main river was classified as being in moderate ecological condition.
- 7.41 kilometres (6.4%) of main river was classified as being in bad ecological condition.

In April 2016:

- 14.89 kilometres (12.83%) of main river was classified as being in good ecological condition.
- 74.39 kilometres (64.13%) of main river was classified as being in moderate ecological condition.
- 26.97 kilometres (23.25%) of main river was classified as being in poor ecological condition.

**Review of river quality data:** Over 76% of the rivers in the AONB are deemed to be in moderate to good ecological condition. However there are still notable stretches in poor condition; it is believed that both sedimentation and agri-chemical runoff are major factors on local water quality, exacerbated by the relatively large areas of the Wolds that are actively cultivated (>75% of land area cropped).

**INDICATOR 15: The length of Lincolnshire Chalk Streams and their adjacent habitat restored through active management.**

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) is a group of organisations that have actively worked together since 2003 to conserve and enhance this Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat. Since 2006 staff and volunteers have been employed to undertake work on behalf of the partnership, both monitoring riparian species and planning and organising a wide range of restoration.

**Results:**

Since 2004 over 12 kilometres of chalk stream has been restored through in-stream and or bankside restoration, with further management enhancements to over 45 kilometres of adjacent habitat.

**CASE STUDY – RIVERFLY MONITORING PROJECT**

*The LCSP partnership has established and coordinated a programme of detailed riverfly monitoring, training up 46 volunteers in total to assist in surveying a number of sites across the project area. A total of 13 sites have been established across the AONB, with a further 16 locations downstream from the chalk stream headwaters.*

See page 135.

**Land in Environmental Management**

**Context:** Natural England (NE) is a key partner in the AONB Partnership (Lincolnshire Wolds AONB) and a member of the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs family (Defra). NE administers agri-environment schemes which provide funding to farmers and land managers for undertaking a wide range of environmental enhancements. In 2005 the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) was replaced by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme providing both Entry Level and Higher Level agreements. Further modifications have been undertaken with the national roll-out of the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme in the period from 2014. The impacts of the new changes will take a number of years to evaluate as the current live schemes are at various phases of their five or ten year cycles - depending on the date of any individual agreements.

**INDICATOR 16: Number and area of land in formal stewardship agreements.**

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>	<b>Number of agreements</b>	<b>Cost</b>
AONB GIS area	55,898	-	-
Area of AONB under ES	31,990 (57%)	-	-
Total UAA (Utilisable Agricultural Area)	48,985	-	-
Proportion of UAA under stewardship	65%	-	-
Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship	20,149	78	£1,546,870
Entry Level Stewardship	7,950	52	£192,236
Higher Level Stewardship	3	2	£1,145
Organic Entry Level + Stewardship	3,486	3	£403,236
Organic Entry Level Stewardship	403	1	£24,131
Total Stewardship	31,990	136	£2,167,618*

Note: The total investment for Environmental Stewardship across the AONB = £1.96 million in 2011 (including £1.26 million for those Entry Level Stewardship schemes with additional HLS options).

Source: Natural England (March 2017)

## INDICATOR 17: Environmental Stewardship (ES Options) number and area

There are six theme groups of ES options that contribute to conserving and enhancing landscape character – more specifically measures to help enhance the management and protection of archaeological features. These serve as a proxy measure for landscape quality and natural beauty.

Lincolnshire Wolds AONB ES Options Uptake	May 2017
Options measured in hectares	6,336.2
Number of parcels	2176
Options measured in metres	38,539
Number of parcels	96
Number of trees	234
Number of parcels	28

Source: Natural England (March 2017)

**Review of Environmental Stewardship Data:** As indicated, there is currently in excess of £2 million investment supporting over 135 stewardship schemes across the Lincolnshire Wolds, with over 57% of the AONB in a scheme. In more recent years a number of incentives have been especially important in protecting both wildlife and heritage interests through for example encouraging grassland restoration and minimising cropping in or immediately adjacent to Scheduled Monuments.

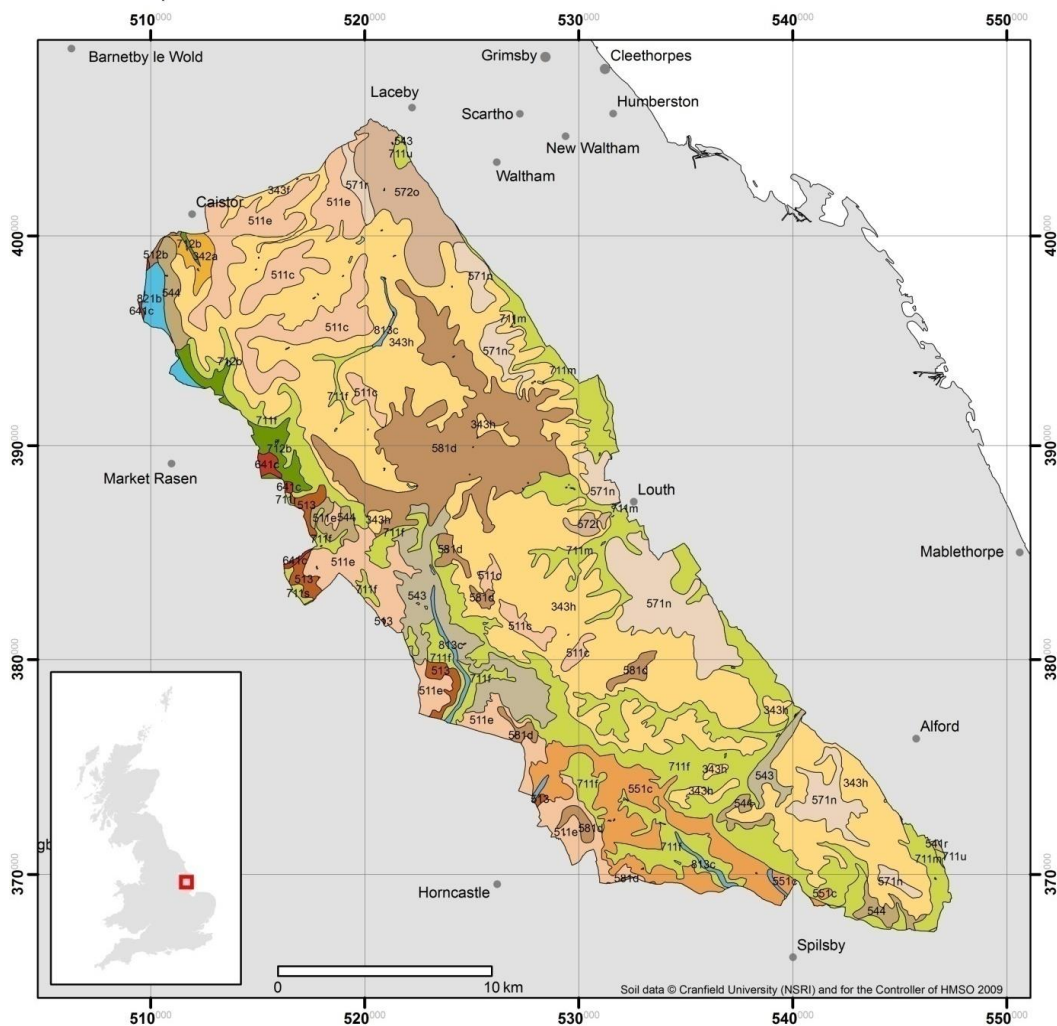
With the current uncertainties in the future agri-environment measures we are envisaging a likely downward trend as there is anecdotal evidence emerging that some landowners are currently holding off renewing their schemes due in-part to uncertainties stemming from Brexit.

## INDICATOR 18: Area of the Lincolnshire Wolds retaining good soil structure and nutrient content for sustainable productive farming (or the area of the Lincolnshire Wolds providing high grade agricultural land).

**Context:** Over 20 soil types have been identified across the AONB, including light chalky soils on the plateau tops interspersed with heavy glacial drift deposits, impermeable clays in the valley bottoms and the lighter sandy and wind-blown loams often found to the south and west. Many of the more unworkable soils and nutrient poor ground has not been cropped and has been widely used for pasture and woodland – e.g. the valley bottoms, steeper valleys and the Wolds escarpments.

**Review of Soil Data:** The Lincolnshire Wolds Soil Report (Cranfield University, 2009) provides some more detailed soil maps for the AONB, including thematic mapping for leachate and soil erosion vulnerabilities. See below map for the spatial distribution of soils across the area. (*Further information available on request at [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk)*)

## Soils - Spatial Distribution



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### Earth Heritage

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has a complex geology and topography. Chalk from the Cretaceous period (140 million - 65 million years old) forms the dominant bedrock, however the bedding dips gently eastwards, which often exposes the underlying Lower Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic beds in the western and southern areas of the Wolds (e.g. bands of Tealby Ironstones and Limestones, Spilsby Sandstone and Kimmeridge Clay). The geology and topography is further complicated by the extensive glaciation and periglacial modification which helped to create the areas distinctive pattern of rolling plateaus, deeply incised valley systems (coombes) and its glacial tills and gravel deposits.

### INDICATOR 19: Condition of registered SSSI geological sites

Natural England has commenced recording and monitoring of important geological features, collating both the number and condition of geological SSSIs across the protected landscapes family. This information is commonly, but not always, indicative of prominent visible geological features or other earth heritage elements that may be striking or memorable. Exceptions can include hidden/underground features including in the Lincolnshire Wolds case glacial/periglacial deposits.

**Recent data for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB SSSI Level 2 Geological Features records 6 sites all in favourable condition, and classed as: Disused quarries – 4 sites; Cuttings – 2 sites.**

Source: Natural England (April 2017)

**INDICATOR 20: % of Local Geological Sites (LGS) and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) that are in favourable condition.**

**Context:** In Lincolnshire RIGS are being re-assessed under new Local Geological Site criteria to evaluate their interest, condition and future management on a site by site basis. This work links with the Greater Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy 2017-21 and the GLNP's Geodiversity Group aspirations, which are striving to ensure that all of the county's geodiversity assets can be conserved, recorded, promoted, understood and enjoyed by all.

**In the Lincolnshire Wolds there are 15 geodiversity sites which have been notified as LGS's and a further six sites which are currently still classed as RIGS.**

**Review of geodiversity data:** A large number of these sites occur as redundant pits and quarries where there are typically exposures that have been created by mineral extraction, often as chalk pits or for local building stone. As indicated, the re-classification of RIGS as LGS's is a good proxy measure for the general condition of the sites as all of the notified LGS's will have undergone a recent survey and review process.

**Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1) – Archaeology and Built Heritage**

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is a rich archaeological resource with a wealth of historic landscape features including a high concentration of long and round barrows, ancient trackways and one of the highest densities of deserted and shrunken medieval villages (DMVs & SMVs) in the country. The area also has a number of distinctive farmsteads, county houses, and hamlets and nucleated villages, with a number of prominent churches. There is no one unified style of buildings across the Wolds – many reflect the local building materials of the day, including local stone, brick, and often wide spread use of slate and pantiles.

**INDICATOR 21: Condition of heritage assets deemed to be 'At Risk'.**

**30 heritage sites within the AONB were deemed to be at risk in 2017, including over 27% of Scheduled Monuments (SMs).**

**Historic England Statutory Sites**

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds AONB</b>	<b>March 2017</b>	<b>At Risk</b>	<b>% of category at Risk</b>
<b>Scheduled Monuments</b>	98	27	27.6
<b>Listed buildings</b>			
Grade I	14		
Grade II*	34	2	5.9
Grade II	277		
Total listed buildings	325		
<b>Registered Parks and Gardens</b>			
Grade II	3		
<b>Registered Battlefields</b>	1		
<b>Places of Worship</b>			
Grade II	-	1	-

Source: Historic England

**Review of Scheduled Monument data:** The proportion of Scheduled Monuments (SMs) classed at risk is high (over ¼), although an improvement on the situation in 2004 when over 49% of SMs in the AONB were deemed to be at risk. The situation for the stock of Listed Buildings found across the Wolds is considerably more positive with less than 1% considered to be at risk. In terms of heritage buildings Historic England has deemed to be at risk, due to their deteriorating condition, are the Church of St Andrew (Utterby) and

Church of St Helen, Biscathorpe, along with the Conservation Areas of Binbrook and South Thoresby (on the boundary of the AONB).

A large number of SMs comprise ancient Neolithic long barrows and bowl barrows, typically located on prominent ridges and plateau tops – they often occur within or juxtapose areas of cultivated ground where arable ploughing and clipping can cause significant problems. In some cases however localised disturbance of SM's has been the result of animal burrowing and tree/shrub growth. The current Long Barrows project, commissioned by Historic England, and being undertaken by Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, is ongoing and seeks to review and inform our future understanding of these sites. The final results from this two year study will help inform and aid the further management of these nationally important sites.

**INDICATOR 22: The number of Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL) within the AONB in good condition.**

**Context:** Since 2003 the TRiL partnership group was established to survey, monitor and aid the repair of the very distinctive black and white road signs, which are a combination of concrete post, wooden finger signs and cast iron lettering. The LWCS has linked up with the County Council Highway's team and local volunteers.

As of September 2017, there are 89 TRiL signs in the AONB – the LWCS estimates that 95% of signs are currently in good condition.

**Review of TRiL data:** A minor maintenance programme is commissioned annually, clearly targeting those signs in most need of repair. There are also occasional requests from local parish councils or residents to install replacement signs – there is a protocol for assessing these requests, including the need for supporting evidence. Such requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**INDICATOR 23: The number of AONB traditional farmsteads deemed to have high heritage potential.**

**Context:** Traditional farmsteads and their outlier farm buildings are an important heritage resource found across the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, and are integral to the landscape and cultural character of the area.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership commissioned Locus Consulting to undertake a research project to provide guidance to support the future sustainable development and conservation of the historic farming landscapes of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The study builds on the Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Guidance for Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire published in 2015 which included:

- A Farmstead Assessment Framework
- Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statements.

**Data:** The 2017 study recorded a total number of 586 traditional farmsteads within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. 45 (8%) of these include a statutory listed (protected) farmhouse or working building. Of the farm buildings listed 78% were classed 18<sup>th</sup> Century farmsteads, 22% were classed as 19<sup>th</sup> Century farmsteads.

**Locus Consulting's 2017 report classed nearly half (48%) of all of the identified farmsteads as having heritage potential on account of retaining close to 50% of their historic buildings within today's landscape. See below table:**

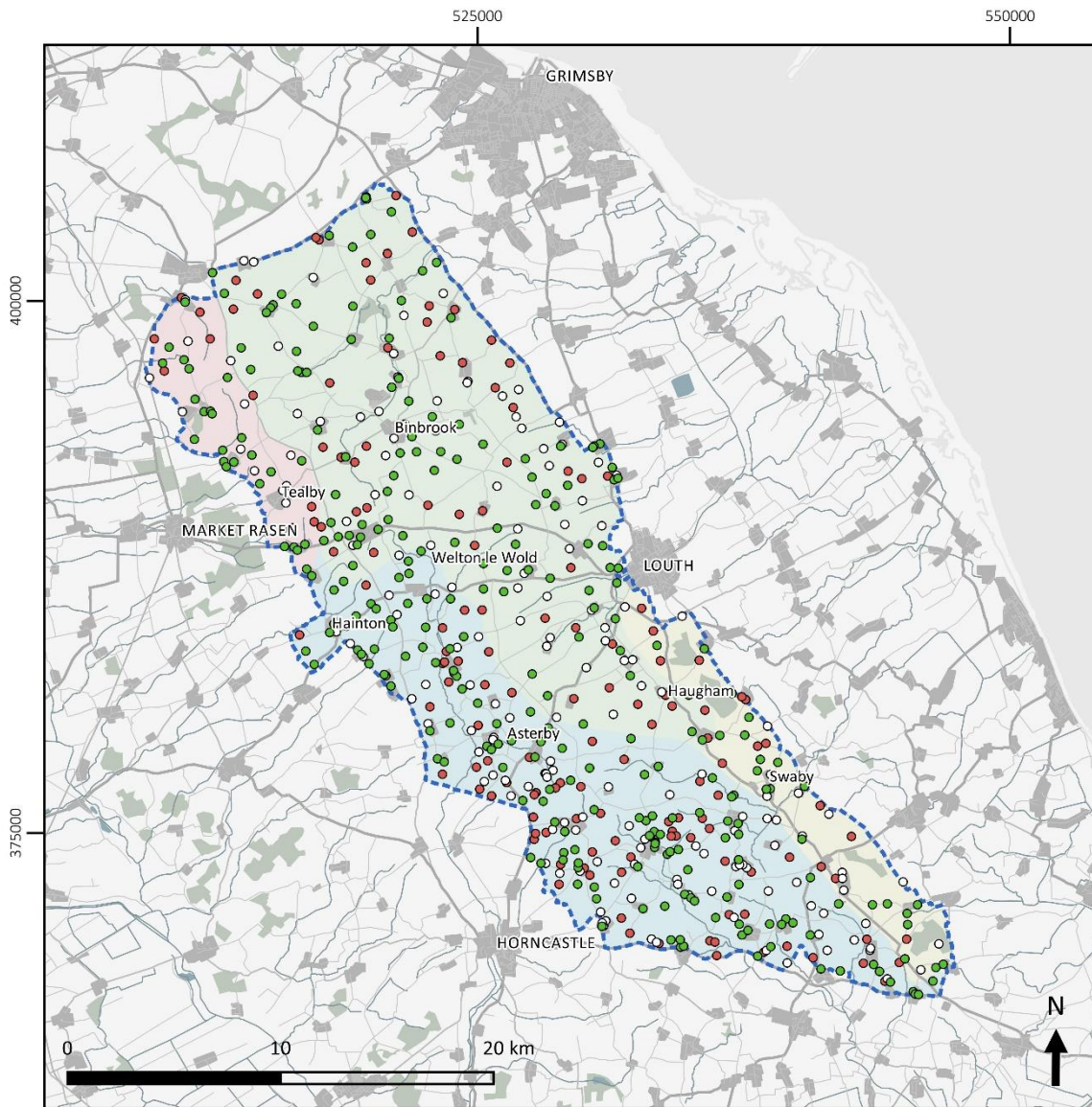
<b>Levels of Survival of Traditional Farmsteads:</b>	Number in the AONB	% in the AONB	% in Greater Lincolnshire
Extant - no apparent alterations	63	11%	10%
Partial loss - less than 50%	203	37%	33%
Significant loss - more than 50% change	139	25%	19%
Farmhouse only survives	24	4%	9%
Total Loss or demolition of traditional buildings and plan	120	21%	29%



Source: Locus Consulting

**Review of Traditional Farmstead Data:** The more recent survey has indicated that the total number of known farmstead out buildings is larger than first envisaged (2013-18 AONB M. Plan recognises 300+). Current figures show that although many of the most important farmsteads and workshops are protected through listing, there is a small proportion of buildings which are currently not listed but have future heritage potential through sensitive restoration and enhancement.

**Below map produced by Locus Consulting showing the "Heritage Potential" of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Farmstead Resource.**



- Higher heritage potential
  - Moderate heritage potential
  - Lower heritage potential
- ▭ Lincolnshire Wolds AONB
  - ▭ Landscape Character Area

## Living and Working in the Wolds (Theme 2)

### Population patterns and distribution:

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is sparsely populated with a deeply rural fabric, traditionally heavily dependent upon the farming and defence sectors, although the latter's influence diminished with the closure of RAF Binbrook (Brookenby). The infrastructure across the AONB is dispersed and although there is a reasonable network of A and B roads public transport remains fairly limited. The AONB's links with its surrounding market towns remain important for the provision of retail, health, secondary school/college education, financial and other administrative services. Like many rural areas in the UK both mobile phone and IT service provision across the AONB is variable, with some notable areas of poor coverage.

Due to administrative and ward boundaries not always following the boundary of the AONB designation we must rely on census figures as an estimate for providing a range of socio-economic data for the area.

### INDICATOR 24: Population patterns in the AONB and adjacent market towns.

Using the 2011 census the LWCS estimates that the population of the AONB at this time was 10,701, with a further 36,316 people living in the surrounding market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby. There are 89 settlements within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, and a further 49 settlements (including the market towns) within a wider five kilometre envelope.

### INDICATOR 25: Age distribution in the Lincolnshire Wolds

#### In 2011 in the AONB:

- 19% of the population were <19 years old
- 21% were aged 20-44
- 26% were aged 45-59
- 25% were aged 60-74
- 9% were over 75 years old.

**Review of population data:** As indicated, the population within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is comparatively sparse, typically on average less than 20 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. There are 74 parishes but only five parishes have more than four hundred and fifty residents; Binbrook (892), Brookenby (665), Tealby-Walesby (551), Teford-Salmonby (464) and Ludford (460). There is also however a significant population (over 36,000) distributed across the six market towns that surround the Wolds, providing integral people and service links. The current age distribution for the AONB population is fairly even across the age categories; across Lincolnshire as a whole there has been a pattern of an aging population with an influx of those of middle-age or retirees, set against a trend of an outward movement of young adults, often pursuing further education and career opportunities in other areas of the UK.

### Employment and economic performance:

### INDICATOR 26: Number of rateable businesses located in the AONB

In 2017 there were 375 rateable businesses in the AONB. In terms of categories the ten highest listings were as follows:

- 70 workshops, factories and premises
- 54 warehouses/stores or land used for storage
- 52 guest houses, hotels, hostels or self-catering units
- 27 communication stations/premises
- 21 shops or showrooms
- 20 public houses
- 14 offices
- 12 equestrian or racing facilities
- 11 village or community halls
- 10 café, tea room or kitchens.

**Review of rateable business data:** The above groupings are an estimate from the LWCS based on local authority datasets and provides a useful proxy measure on the number and location of businesses that have a rateable value. Figures are not readily comparable with previous records as the criteria for the collection of business rates has recently changed. The actual number of enterprises based in the AONB will be higher as some micro-business activity will be exempt from business rates. The rankings indicate the importance of smaller workshop and warehouse facilities which are often located within rural farm buildings, or village settlements with a significant cluster at the Brookenby Industrial Park.

**INDICATOR 27: Employment levels in the Lincolnshire Wolds – 4,890 people from the total census are in employment.**

**In 2011 the in-work distribution by occupation in the AONB estimated from census figures is as follows:**

- 17% Professional
- 17% Skilled trades
- 15% Managers, Directors and Senior Officials
- 11% Elementary
- 10% Assoc. Professional and Technical
- 9% Caring, Leisure and other Services
- 9% Administration and Secretarial
- 7% Process Plant and machine Operatives
- 5% Sales and Customer Service.

**In 2011 the not-in-work number in the AONB estimated from census figures is 5,811 people, distributed as follows:**

- 70% Other - unpaid carers, students, parental etc (3,345 people)
- 23% Retired (1,886 people)
- 4% Long term sick or disabled (322 people)
- 3% Unemployed (258 people)

**Review of general employment data:** The current UK unemployment rate is 4.3% (UK Office for National Statistics, Sept '17) – this includes all persons aged 16 to 64 years of age. Census figures from 2011 suggested an unemployment rate slightly above the average at 5.01% for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Employment is varied across the economic sectors; with over 42% working in professional, managerial or technical fields with a further 17% classed as skilled labour. Looking at more detailed figures for the farming labour market (INDICATOR 35 – Breakdown of Farm Labour (number of personnel) 16% of employment in the AONB is in this sector, including many full-time workers, and a significant number of farmers and farm managers.

**INDICATOR 28: Access to basic services**

**Context:** Traditionally the provision of services for both the local residents and visitors to the AONB has been variable and heavily dependent upon location and access to transport. Increasingly there has been a realisation of the value and importance of increased mobile phone and IT (broadband) coverage as a means of enhancing access to wider goods and services e.g. for finance, education and home-retail purchasing. Additional to the vital role played by the surrounding market towns and larger "service villages" of the Wolds (e.g. Binbrook and Tetford) there are a wide range of local facilities - both community and business focused – that are found across the AONB.

<b>Lincolnshire Wolds Audit of services 2017</b>	Facilities within/adjacent to the AONB	Facilities within the AONB + the wider offer (excluding market towns)
Local stores/shops	12	24
Tea /coffee rooms	9	15
Public houses	20	42
Post offices	6	13
Car service centres	6	11

**Review of basic services data:** Additional to the vital role played by the surrounding market towns and larger "service villages" of the Wolds (e.g. Binbrook and Tetford) there are a wide range of local facilities - both community and business focused – that are found across the AONB. The shops, pubs, tea rooms provide important facilities for local residents and help to provide further infra-structure to help support the visitor economy (both day time and staying). The facilities listed are especially important in the context of a generally sparse and dispersed population and several venues often provide a multiple range of services.

**Road infrastructure and public transport services:**

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds JAC (Joint Advisory Committee) recognises that a good transport network is essential to the future well-being of those living in the AONB, to enable continued sustainable and sensitive development of the local economy. This should include a road infrastructure that can support the needs of local farming, forestry, tourism, recreation and other rural businesses. Currently 92.5% of the highway infrastructure is managed directly by Lincolnshire County Council, with 7.5% within the jurisdiction of North East Lincolnshire Council.

**INDICATOR 29: The average annual average daily traffic flow (AADT) range for all vehicles and commercial vehicles on the Lincolnshire Wolds A and B roads.**

**Results:**

<b>A Roads</b>	<b>Lowest range</b>	<b>Highest range</b>	<b>Average % CV</b>	<b>Mean AADT</b>	<b>B Roads</b>	<b>Lowest range</b>	<b>Highest range</b>	<b>Average % CV</b>	<b>Mean AADT</b>
2010	3,170	7,670	-	5,420	2010	1,340	4,320	-	2,830
2013	6,235	7,965	7%	7,100	2013	2,330	-	3%	2,330
2015	4,255	8,465	8%	6,360	2015	-	-	-	-
2016	3,510	11,115	9.5%	7,313	2016	1,355	2,800	9%	2,078
2017	3,435	11,430	9%	7,433	2017	-	-	-	-

*(Note: Figures supplied from LCC; typically comprising data from between 3 to 7 counting stations within or immediately adjacent to the AONB).*

**Review of road traffic data:** The above figures indicates that there has been a significant increase in road traffic through the AONB on the A Roads, with a >35% increase in annual average daily traffic flows since 2010. This reverse pattern would appear to be the case for B roads through the Wolds with the median figure showing a <30% drop in vehicle movements, although less surveys have been conducted on these roads. Taking the results as a whole the total number of vehicle journeys on the Wolds AONB roads has increased over the seven year period from 2010.

**INDICATOR 30: The number and frequency of bus services through the AONB.**

*Further evidence required - there are currently four InterConnect routes (Nos. 3, 6, 9 and 51) which run within or very close to the Wolds. There are further additional bus routes radiating from Louth and a service linking Alford and Spilsby (part of a wider Skegness-Boston service). CallConnect services continue to remain very important for more bespoke journeys.*

### INDICATOR 31: Broadband/Mobile phone coverage:

Further evidence required – the AONB Partnership has sought to support and encourage the appropriate roll-out of both broadband and mobile phone coverage across the Lincolnshire Wolds. Digital and mobile phone services are clearly very important for both local residents and visitors to the area and a clear constraint for developing and enhancing our rural businesses. Government guidance highlights a presumption in favour of approving telecommunication applications – however in the context of the AONB impact upon the area's natural beauty must be reviewed on a case by case basis as planning applications come forward. The Partnership advocates the need to minimise potential harm to the designation through a range of measures, including maximising infrastructure (mast) sharing, careful site selection, robust justification statement, high quality design and landscaping for schemes. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) provide an important tool to aid and assist the decision making process and help inform subsequent recommendations and conditions.

Several schemes have come forward under the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) to help tackle areas of particularly poor telecommunications coverage. Post 2014-15 eight new mast sites were proposed, five of which were within the AONB. Four sites were deemed to be broadly acceptable but one site was in a very exposed location, immediately adjacent to the Viking Way, and was subsequently withdrawn.

### INDICATOR 32: Farm types – Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:

**Context:** The character of the Lincolnshire Wolds remains heavily shaped by farming, with field sizes and cropping patterns reinforcing local landscapes and having an intrinsic impact upon the visual landscape character. Farming practices in turn, be they cultivation or livestock management, can often have a dominating impact upon the wider health of the AONB environment - its soils, water, biodiversity, heritage assets, carbon storage and climate change resilience.

The annual census of farming, carried out each June provides a range of data for protected landscapes – the latest figures currently available are for 2013 which showed 231 registered farm holdings for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Due to changes in various collection and grouping methodologies from 2010, applying comparisons with earlier census data can be misleading, although still useful as a proxy measure.

#### Farm Types - Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

Farm Types (number of farms) 2013				
Cereals	General cropping	Specialist Poultry	Grazing Livestock (lowland)	Mixed
113 (48.9%)	36 (15.6%)	10 (4.3%)	42 (18.2%)	20 (8.7%)
Farm Types (number of farms) 2010				
Cereals	General cropping	Specialist Poultry	Grazing Livestock (lowland)	Mixed
117 (50.6%)	39 (16.8%)	8 (3.5%)	39 (16.8%)	19 (8.2%)

Defra metadata - June Agricultural Census 2010 & 2013.

### INDICATOR 33: Farm sizes – Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:

#### Farm Sizes Classification

Farm Sizes (number of farms) 2013				
<5 ha	5 - <20	20 - <50	50 - <100	>100
15 (6.5%)	36 (15.6%)	26 (6%)	31 (13.4%)	123 (53.3%)
Farm Sizes (number of farms) 2010				

<5 ha	5 - <20	20 - <100	50 - <100	>100
11 (4.8%)	43 (18.6%)	24 (10.4%)	32 (13.9%)	121 (52.4%)

Defra metadata - June Agricultural Census 2010 & 2013.

#### INDICATOR 34: Land Use in hectares (% listings in respect of the total area of the AONB)

Land Use	2007	2010	2013
Total cereals	24,950 (44.6%)	24,889 (44.5%)	26,428 (47.3%)
All other arable crops	11,998 (21.5%)	11,784 (21.1%)	13,150 (23.5%)
Horticultural crops	1,375 (2.5%)	811 (1.4%)	898 (1.6%)
Crops & bare fallow	38,900 (69.6%)	38,918 (69.6%)	42,973 (76.9%)
Permanent grass	6,195 (11.1%)	6,334 (11.3%)	6,358 (11.4%)
Temporary grass	1,190 (2.1%)	1,539 (2.8%)	1,507 (2.7%)
Rough grazing (sole right)	277 (0.5%)	278 (0.5%)	198 (0.4%)
Woodland	1,372 (2.5%)	1,529 (2.7%)	1,786 (3.2%)
Other land	1,330 (2.4%)	1,140 (2%)	1,151 (2.1%)
Set-aside	3,295 (5.9%)	-	-
Total Area (Defra registered)	52,558 (94%)	49,750 (89%)	53,962 (96.5%)
Total GIS area for AONB	55,898 (100%)	55,898 (100%)	55,898 (100%)

Defra metadata - June Agricultural Census 2010 & 2013.

#### INDICATOR 35: Breakdown of Farm Labour (number of personnel)

	2007	2010	2013
Farmers full-time	180	191	195
Farmers part-time	235	183	186
Salaried managers full-time	56	32	39
Salaried managers part-time	39	14	11
Employees full-time	192	203	226
Employees part-time	81	73	79
Casual workers	45	38	61
Total Labour	828	734	798

Defra metadata - June Agricultural Census 2010 & 2013.

**Review of farmland data:** Almost half of the 231 registered farms in the Wolds AONB are focused on cereal production, with over 75% of the area in cultivation. There remains an important proportion (>25%) of typically smaller farm units, that operate primarily as either mixed farming or lowland grazing units. These holdings are very important for their contribution to the local economy, environment and wider landscape, helping for example to maintain the lowland and rougher grazing pastures that characterise steep hillsides or the wetter valley bottoms. Some 16% of employment in the AONB is in the farming sector, which helps to support many full-time workers, and a significant number of farmers and farm managers.

#### INDICATOR 36: The total Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and LEADER investment in landowner, business and community partnership projects across the Lincolnshire Wolds.

**Context:** The RDPE has provided a wide range of financial support to the agri-environment businesses in and around the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – typically providing support to landowners to help raise productivity, support employment and help aid farm diversification projects. The Wolds are also within the wider Lindsey Action Zone (LAZ) which has operated as the Local Action Group for the LEADER programme since its inception in 2007. The LAZ is made up of local representatives from the public, private and civic sectors and has provided funding for local businesses, farmers, foresters, land managers and communities for projects that create jobs and benefit the rural economy.

**Results – RDPE additional investment:** Within/adjacent to the AONB the RDPE has supported four Countryside Productivity small grant projects to enable farmers to purchase equipment to improve on-farm nutrient management, animal health and welfare and forestry productivity. A further £75,000 has recently been awarded for a national 'best practice and innovation' project funded via the European Innovation Partnerships, also under the RDPE. This project aims to undertake trials and analysis to investigate the effects of cover crops in vining pea rotations to improve soil health, soil structure and soil organic matter content; ultimately to improve productivity and yields in a sustainable manner.

**Leader investment:** The Lindsey Action Zone funding mechanism is ongoing, and projects from businesses both within and adjacent to the Lincolnshire Wolds are continuing to come forward with eligible schemes. From the previous programme (closed in 2014) some £451,273 of grants were provided in support of seven projects that directly benefited the AONBs economy, communities and environment. Three of the projects were directly aiding farm diversification, three were concerned with tourism enhancements and one was an international collaboration project with a Normandy Leader scheme with a focus on water management. This investment figure excludes a number of projects which were supporting businesses in the adjacent market towns of the Wolds, and thus understates the full benefits of the LAZ support to the area.

**Review of RDPE and Leader investment:** As suggested above, both of these Defra funding mechanisms have been very important in providing an added grant incentive for farm and rural enterprises. It has often made the difference in terms of a local business or third party organisation deciding to take the risk in extending and or diversifying their business operations through for example renewing or enhancing various capital assets. The end result has been enhanced sustainable development appropriate to the special character of the Wolds.

### Discovering the Wolds (Theme 3)

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds plays an important role in providing opportunities for access, recreation and tourism. The special qualities of the AONB include its rich cultural heritage and inspiring scenic rural landscapes, and the pervading ambience of peace and solitude which in itself is widely appreciated by local communities and visitors. The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area, so unlike our National Parks, there is no statutory duty to promote the area for the purposes of recreation. However in recent years there has been an increasing recognition from the Partnership of the benefits of supporting appropriate infrastructure to help inform and assist both residents and visitors who wish to experience, enjoy and further their understanding of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The tourism profile for the area needs to be carefully balanced, but clearly enhancing the range and quality of the offer in a sustainable way (e.g. enhancing and not detracting from the area's special qualities) can bring added benefits to the local communities notably through helping to support local businesses and services and encouraging participation in outdoor recreation with resulting health benefits for the general public. The AONB Partnership has linked up with relevant local authorities and local businesses to help develop and promote the new Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership and its accompanying Destination Management Plan. A key aim of the group is to help promote the area as an all-year-round destination.

#### INDICATOR 37: The total number of visitors to the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Plan Area\*

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total number of visitors</b>	3.26 million	3.46 m	3.44 m

#### INDICATOR 38: The total number of day and staying visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds\*

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total number of day visitors</b>	3.02 million	3.21 m	3.19 m
<b>Total number of overnight visitors</b>	243,000	250,800	250,200

### INDICATOR 39: The estimated economic contribution from tourism across the Lincolnshire Wolds\*

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total number of visitor days</b>	3,825,000	4,053,000	4,055,000
<b>Estimated Economic impact on tourism to the Wolds</b>	£153 million	£163.83 m	£166.58 m

**Review of tourism data:** Indicators 37 - 39 have been collected through the 2017 STEAM Trend Report undertaken by consultants Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd, commissioned by East Lindsey District Council.

The STEAM analysis data search area includes all of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and the wider hinterland areas recognised as the Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Plan Area\*; significantly this includes all of the surrounding Wolds' market towns, the area known as the Spilsby Crescent which includes visitor sites such as Snipe Dales Country Park and Old Bolingbroke Castle, and the northern Wold extending to the M18-Humberside Airport zone.

The study reveals the important contribution that tourism makes to the Wolds economy with a modest upward trend in visitor days per annum to in excess of 4.05 million in 2016. There is an opportunity, with careful marketing and further sustainable infrastructure enhancements, to further develop the over-night stay offer – which currently represents just over 7% of the total visitor numbers.

*The Love Lincolnshire Wolds partnership has highlighted the following key messages from the report:*

- *Between 2014 and 2016 the visitor economy has grown by 8.87%*
- *More visitors are opting for non-serviced accommodation for their breaks*
- *There has been a 5% increase in visitor numbers between 2014 and 2016.*

### INDICATOR 40: Number and condition of gateway roadsigns for the Lincolnshire Wolds

The LWCS undertook an audit in 2016 to review the conditions of the Lincolnshire Wolds boundary signs that had been installed as part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy Pilot Projects. Of the 20 signs installed over 15 years ago, 18 were found to still be in their original location, one had been moved and one had been lost. Most of the signs remain in a good physical condition (i.e. still sound), although some were not particularly prominent on account of overhanging vegetation and a small number were found to be in a general shabby condition.

**Review of signage:** The current stock of boundary signs are subject to renewal - with designs, funding and permissions pending. The design agreed and adopted at the time was of a basic style to ensure compliance with the Highway regulations. The style of the signs in their current form clearly does not include the revised LWCS logo, or the additional link to the wider National Association for AONBs.

### INDICATOR 41: Number of Promoted Circular Walking Routes

**Context:** Since the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy in 2001, the AONB team has focused on the development of a wide range of circular walk and rides across the Wolds. Many have been subsequently produced with the direct involvement and support from a wide range of community and interest groups. These are available both in leaflet and electronic formats and are regularly reviewed and updated.

**Results:** As of September 2017 the LWCS has in print, or available electronically 15 Wolds Walk routes; 22 Gateway Walk routes from the Market Towns of Market Rasen, Louth and Alford. Lincolnshire County Council has produced a further series of walks for the town of Horncastle. There are a further 11 routes available that link directly with the Interconnect Bus Services (Lincoln < > Grimsby and Lincoln < > Skegness respectively).



#### **INDICATOR 42: Number of Long Distance Trails**

**Results:** There are seven long distance routes that pass through the AONB: The Viking Way, National Sustrans Cycle Way, SilverLincs Way, Lindsey Loop, Lindsey Trail, Lincs Wolds Way and the Greenwich Meridian Trail.

#### **INDICATOR 43: Number of special feature maps and leaflets**

- As of September 2017 the LWCS has in print five Wonders of the Wolds Leaflets – namely for Geology, Heritage, Water, Ritual & Religion, and the very latest on Wildlife.
- The LWCS has also produced two very popular general leaflets promoting the AONB and its attractions and facilities e.g. Enjoy the... and Making the Most of... the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- Louth Cycle Routes - a pack of six cycling routes (on and off-road)
- North and South Wolds Cycling Maps
- The Lindsey Trail - specialist horse-carriage route (on and off-road)

**Review of recreational resource data:** As evidenced, there is currently a wide range of walking and to a lesser extent cycling literature available across the Wolds that has been produced by the LWCS on behalf of the AONB Partnership. These are widely available in both leaflet and pdf forms and are in a clear and professional format. The Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism group are currently developing an online resource, summarising key routes on an electronic map that will be accessible through Smart technology, and supplementing existing website access. With further local support and engagement there may be further opportunities to develop further routes, and there is a known demand for new off-road cycling and horse-riding trails.

#### **INDICATOR 44: Number of AONB specific interpretation panels**

Over 15 years ago Lincolnshire County Council coordinated the installation of a suite of interpretation panels on behalf of the AONB Partnership. Many were showing signs of general wear and tear so during 2014-15 seven were replaced in a new house style. A further 11 panels were updated in 2015-16. Three additional panels have been installed in collaboration with local community groups and relevant partners including sites at Nettleton, Utterby and Walesby. Four more site panels are being refurbished in 2017-18.

**Review of interpretation data:** As detailed, a modest investment has been undertaken to help refresh the interpretation panels across the AONB for the benefit of residents and visitors. The panels are located at some of the more popular vantage points across the Wolds – they are frequently used to highlight the area's national designation and raise awareness of the Wolds special qualities, its 'natural beauty' and sense of place.

#### **INDICATOR 45: Number of people engaged in AONB activity through guided walks, events, shows and volunteering.**

Throughout 2016-17 approximately 11,250 people were engaged in AONB walks, events, shows and volunteering including the annual Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival (3,000+ in attendance) and Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Festivals (250+ in attendance).

**Review of practical engagement data:** Year-on-year the LWCS and partners commonly makes direct contact with over 10,000 people through event and activity programmes and also through support and involvement in a number of locally organised community events. The challenge has always been to reach out to new audiences and to widen debate and interest in rural issues among the wider population.

#### **INDICATOR 46: Number of visits to the Wolds AONB website.**

During 2016-17 the LWCS website was visited 57,749 times of which 79% were new visitors to the site. 94% of visits were from the UK followed by the USA, Germany, Netherlands and Australia.

#### **INDICATOR 47: Google Maps Rating for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.**

As of September '17 the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB had received 453 independent review postings with an average score rating of four and a half out of five.

- 70.6% had scored as five
- 18.9% had scored as four
- 6.4% had scored as three
- 1.9% had scored as two
- 1.9% had scored as one.

#### **INDICATOR 48: Trip Advisor Rating for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.**

As of September 2017 the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB had received 59 independent review postings and had an average score rating of five out of five stars.

- 52 had scored as excellent
- 6 had scored as very good
- 1 had scored as average.

**Review of website data:** The LWCS operates a dedicated website and this has been a very useful tool for disseminating information, increasing interest and ultimately enabling participation in the wider work of the AONB Partnership. Further on-line activity via Google Maps and Trip Advisor is also providing a very useful tool for the recording of independent and unprompted feedback.

These outlets are commonly frequented by first time visitors to the area and as summarised, on the whole the responses have been very positive – many enjoy the views, tranquillity and special charm of the area. The more critical comments see the Wolds as a sleepy back-water with few attractions and facilities and a poor transport infrastructure.

#### **Developing the Wolds (Theme 4)**

**Context:** The AONB Partnership recognises that the Lincolnshire Wolds, whilst affording national protection on account of its high scenic natural beauty, should not be preserved in aspic – the visual character is clearly a combination of generations of interaction between people, communities and the natural environment – it is very much a living and working landscape. The challenge for strategic planners, developers, land managers, land owners and local communities is to continue to ensure that future development is sustainable.

In essence we must successfully balance the need for economic and social growth and cohesion with the highest quality of protection and enhancement for the natural beauty of the AONB. A constant should be to ensure that we secure the right type of development, of the right size and in the right location – whilst upholding the highest regard for the designation and also importantly its setting. The views both to and from the AONB are highly prized, but are especially vulnerable to development on account of the areas low profile and its juxtaposition with very flat and low lying ground, especially to the east (Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes) and to the west (Lincolnshire Clay Vale).

#### **INDICATOR 49: Total investment and projects supported via the Wolds AONB Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Small Grants Scheme (SGS):**

**Results:** The Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) administered by LWCS staff was launched initially in 2004-05 with support from East Midlands Development Agency. With Defra's continuing core grant support for the AONB, partnership funding has continued to support the programme. To date the SDF has successfully awarded over £600,000, supporting 113 local projects across the Wolds and helping to bring in over 1.1 million in match-funding.

Since April 2013 the SDF has supported 21 projects – with an investment of £68,624 securing match-funding of £73,022. Over the same period the SGS has supported 57 projects – with an investment of £38,363 securing match-funding of £53,589.

**Review of SDF/SGS data:** The SDF has sought to sustain and enhance the social wellbeing and economic viability of communities and local businesses within the Lincolnshire Wolds, along with seeking to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of farming, land management, culture, wildlife, and ultimately landscape. The programme remains important in providing a catalyst to enable innovative sustainable development at the grass-roots level.

The SGS has sought to encourage and support projects that protect, enhance and encourage interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds landscape and its special features and has helped to kick-start numerous local projects across the AONB, with many farmers, landowners and businesses utilising the scheme with guidance and support from the LWCS team.

Further details on individual SDF and SGS projects are detailed within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Annual Reviews. (available at [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk))

#### **INDICATOR 50: Number of neighbourhood plans**

There are currently no known neighbourhood plans for settlements directly within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Several have been produced for the neighbouring settlements of Caistor and Horncastle and also more recently the smaller settlement of Legbourne.

#### **INDICATOR 51: Number of local design guides**

Local village design guides and local histories have been produced on a regular basis by a number of Wolds communities, often under the auspices of local history groups.

There are currently very few local design guides – Tealby is one example.

#### **INDICATOR 52: Number of new affordable homes**

*Further evidence required.*

#### **INDICATOR 53: Number of new flood management schemes to aid water management and /climate change**

- Major new flood alleviation scheme installed within the River Lud catchment in 2017, to help protect the town of Louth from extreme rainfall events.

#### **INDICATOR 54: Number of planning applications or appeals approved contrary to the advice of the LWCS (AONB Staffing Unit) and Natural England.**

Indicator 54 is a new measure initially suggested by ELDC, and would be monitored from May 2018. Currently LWCS comments on a wide range of planning applications at the invitation of the respective planning authority. This has included AONB Partnership representation at the appeal stage. Natural England is more likely to get involved in applications for major developments within or adjacent to the Wolds. LWCS worked closely to support the relevant authorities in upholding WLDC's decision to refuse two large single wind turbine applications, both in close proximity to the western edge of the Wolds – the impact upon the views and setting of the AONB were significant reasons for the ongoing refusal of the applications on appeal.

### **Partnerships in the Wolds (Theme 5)**

**Context:** The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is managed through the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) body - a partnership of public, private and third sector (voluntary) bodies. The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) operates as the AONB staffing unit and works on behalf of the JAC, helping to coordinate and facilitate the partnership's production, review and implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The Plan is a statutory document which sets out both the Strategy and Action Plan for protecting and enhancing the Lincolnshire Wolds through a programme of collaboration.

Additional guidance and scrutiny is provided via the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group, which comprises the key local authority funding partners and Natural England.

**INDICATOR 55: The LWCS will compile and publish an annual review summarising AONB Partnership activity undertaken.**

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Annual Review (2016-17), the 13<sup>th</sup> annual report, has been completed and well received both locally and nationally.

**INDICATOR 56: All JAC partners will complete annual updates against key Management Plan policies and objectives as detailed within the five year indicative Action Plan.**

The last review was undertaken in April-May 2017. The next review will commence in March 2018 in advance of the adoption of the Revised Management Plan.

**INDICATOR 57: The key local authorities will review and sign a local Memorandum of Agreement to help ensure continuing financial support.**

- A three year MoA agreement is currently in place and due for renewal in March 2018.

**INDICATOR 58: The JAC will continue to support, influence and promote the wider family of AONBs – primarily via the work of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), under the Landscapes for Life banner.**

- National updates on relevant performance indicators are submitted annually.
- Submissions are provided to aid development of the NAAONB Strategic Plan.
- AONB staff continue to maintain active links with Basecamp as a e-sharing tool to aid learning.

**Review of local and national partnership management data:** The five-yearly Management Plan continues to provide a key focus for collaborative engagement across environmental, social and economic interests. As well as looking ahead, the LWCS Annual Review continues to be published to celebrate the many achievements and highlight the positive work being undertaken on the ground. A large number of projects are reliant upon ongoing partnership and community engagement. With continuing pressures on public resources the challenge remains on securing active involvement from all stakeholders, including key government agencies.

## **CASE STUDY 1 – RIVERFLY MONITORING PROJECT**

The Riverfly surveying scheme is a national aquatic invertebrate surveying scheme involving standardised training and the use of standard equipment. Volunteers are trained to identify 8 key indicator species of aquatic invertebrates e.g. mayfly larvae and freshwater shrimp. Numbers are estimated and then totals are given a score of 1, 2, 3 or 4 for each species based on abundance. These totals are added up to give an overall score. A 'trigger' level is calculated by the relevant river authority (in this case the Environment Agency). If the overall score of a sample is below the trigger level the Environment Agency is told and relevant action taken. The surveys are carried out on a recommended monthly basis at allocated sites. Each volunteer surveys the same allocated site every time. The data is fed into a national database.

### **Environment Agency + Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project + Pilot Project**

LCSP Partners at the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Environment Agency, Chris Extence and Richard Chadd, have developed a new scoring system based on an augmented list of aquatic invertebrates to extend the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative surveying model.

To implement the new system the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project with their partners at the Environment Agency have been working with their existing Riverfly volunteers to pilot the project on Lincolnshire's chalk streams in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Existing volunteers were given a day's training by Richard Chadd and Chris Extence hosted by the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, first to emphasise the key problems with local rivers, then to demonstrate how the identification of particular invertebrates can highlight issues such as poor water quality, sedimentation and low flows.

The surveying method remains the same, a kick sample is taken at an allocated river section every month by volunteers and invertebrates are collected, numbers estimated and recorded. The list of invertebrates has been extended to 26 from 8 to give a more in depth evaluation of the issues within the river. The 8 key invertebrates on the standard Riverfly Partnership list are included on the new list.

Standard Riverfly sites: Nos 3, 5 -7, 10 & 11.

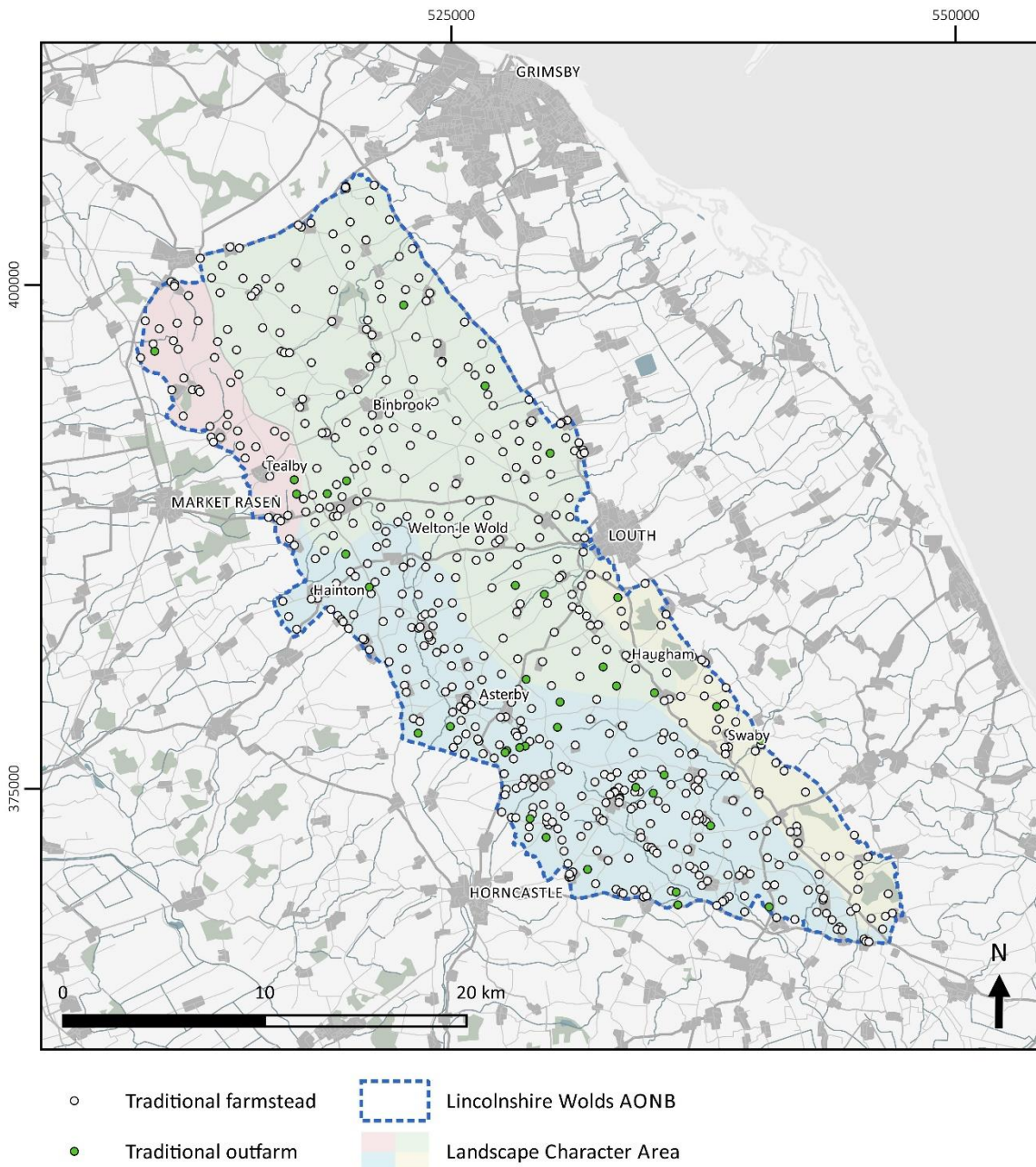
Pilot Project sites: Nos 1-2, 4, 8-9.

### **Survey Sites in the AONB:**

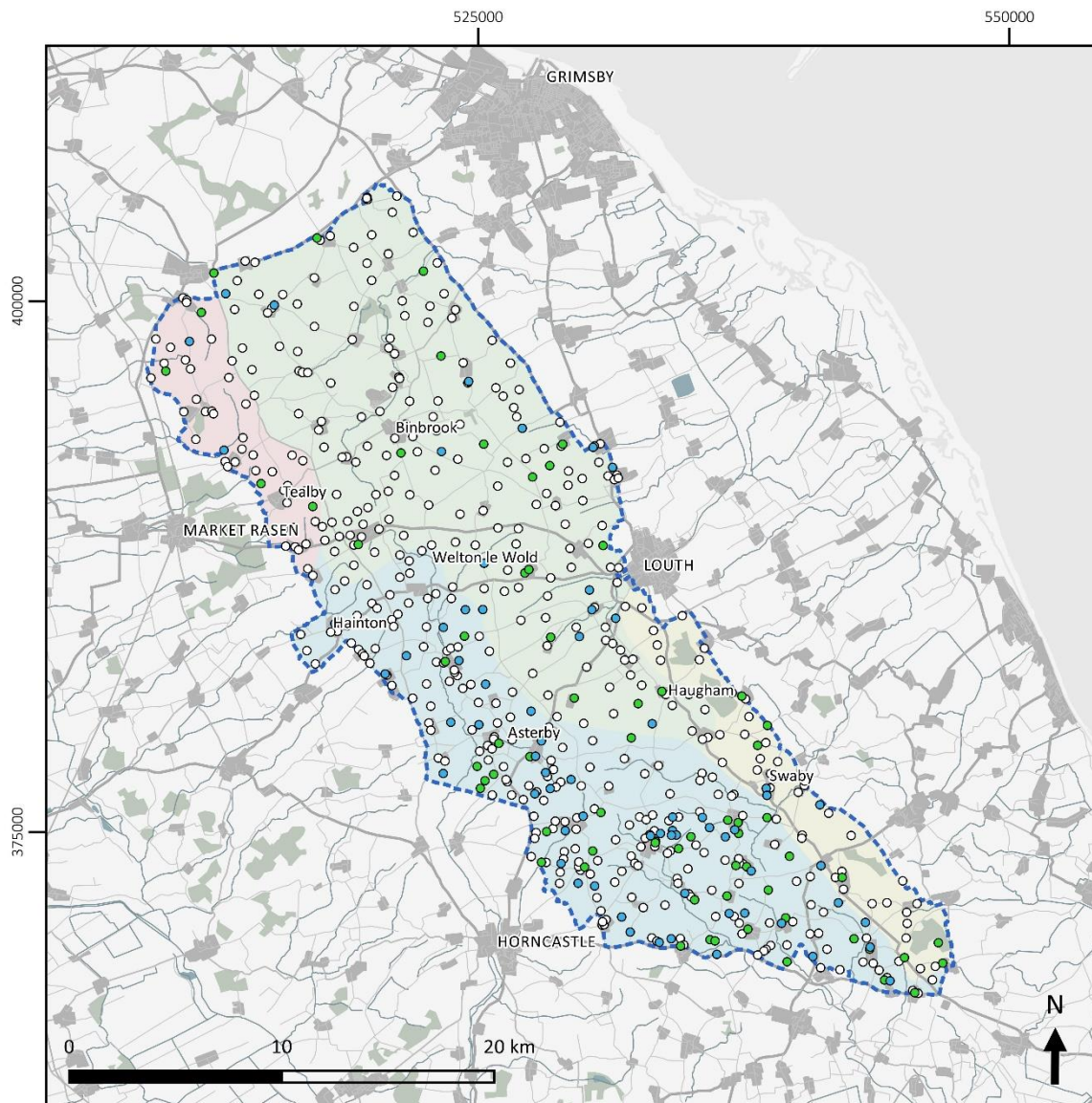
1. Mid Bain - Mill Donington on Bain
2. Upper Bain - Biscathorpe 1 (Upper)
3. Upper Bain - Biscathorpe 2 (Lower)
4. Upper Waithe Beck - Kirmond le Mire
5. Upper Waithe Beck - Swinhope Church
6. Upper Waithe Beck - Moorhouse Farm
7. Upper River Lud - Welton Beck, Welton le wold
8. Nettleton Beck - Dunn Deal Tea Rooms
9. River Lymn - Salmonby bridge
10. Long Eau - Ketsby near Mill Farm
11. Burwell Beck - Burwell headwaters
12. Rain Beck/Double Dyke - Tetford
13. River Rase - Bully Hill. Tealby.

**Case Study 2 – Traditional Farmstead and Landscape Assessment Report (Locus Consulting, 2017).**

The Locus Consulting report provides guidance to support the sustainable development and conservation of the historic farming landscapes of the Lincolnshire Wolds. With direct links to the original Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Guidance (for Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire) the study provided greater detail and clarity on the AONB farmstead resource. In addition to a review of the evidence base the report produced a Farmstead and Landscape Statement for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB which seeks to enhance understanding of the local distinctiveness and significance of traditional rural building in the AONB. *(Further information available on request via [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk))*



**Figure 1: Farmstead classifications**



- Regular courtyards
- Loose courtyards
- Other plan-types
- ▭ Lincolnshire Wolds AONB
- ▭ Landscape Character Area

**Figure 2 - Farmstead Types**

FARMSTEAD TYPES			
Layout	# in AONB	% in AONB	Greater Lincs' avg.
Regular courtyards	434	79%	76%
Loose courtyards	59	11%	14%
Others (including dispersed and linear arrangements)	56	10%	10%

**LOCAL VARIATION IN FARMSTEAD CHARACTER ACROSS THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS**

<b>Greater Lincolnshire</b>	<b>AONB</b>	<b>North West Scarp</b>	<b>Ridge and Valleys SW</b>	<b>South East Claylands</b>	<b>Chalk Wolds</b>	
<b>Numbers of traditional farmsteads and outfarms identified during the Greater Lincolnshire Traditional Farmstead project</b>						
Traditional farmsteads	10497	549	43	262	48	196
Traditional outfarms	361	37	3	20	3	11
<b>Farmstead types</b>						
Regular courtyard	76%	79%	88%	73%	79%	85%
Loose courtyard	14%	11%	5%	13%	13%	9%
Others (including dispersed and linear arrangements)	10%	10%	7%	14%	8%	7%
<b>Regular courtyard arrangements</b>						
L-Plan	50%	37%	32%	43%	37%	30%
E-Plan	7%	16%	21%	6%	17%	29%
U-Plan	33%	40%	42%	40%	46%	38%
Others (including F, H, T and Z)	10%	7%	5%	11%	0%	1%
<b>Farmstead location within the landscape</b>						
In an isolated position	67%	71%	67%	74%	83%	75%
Within or associated to a high-status group, church or manor	3%	6%	0%	6%	8%	9%
Within or associated to a village or hamlet	21%	18%	33%	18%	15%	16%
Within a cluster of farmsteads	9%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%
<b>Levels of survival of traditional farmsteads</b>						
Extant – no apparent alterations	10%	11%	19%	10%	8%	13%
Partial loss – less than 50% change	33%	37%	40%	37%	35%	36%
Significant loss – more than 50%	19%	25%	26%	27%	23%	23%



change						
Farmhouse only survives	9%	4%	2%	3%	6%	6%
Total loss or demolition of traditional buildings and plans	29%	21%	14%	22%	27%	22%
<b>Scale of traditional farmsteads</b>						
<i>(measured in metres, diagonally across the farmstead plan)</i>						
Average	42.8	52	51.7	47.6	48.8	58.8
Median	39	47	50	41	43.5	57

## Appendix 5: Questionnaire Results (summary) – 2016

During March - September 2016, residents and visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds completed our 'Have Your Say' Questionnaire. There were a total of 146 respondents.

<b>Which of the following special features of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB contribute most to its natural beauty? (maximum of 3 selections per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Open hill tops and sweeping views	1 <sup>st</sup>	123
Wooded slopes and valleys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	55
Attractive villages	3 <sup>rd</sup>	51
Farmed landscape	4 <sup>th</sup>	50
Ancient lanes and trackways	5 <sup>th</sup>	41
Downland and grassland meadows	6 <sup>th</sup>	31
Archaeological and historic features	7 <sup>th</sup>	26
Wide grass verges	8 <sup>th</sup>	23
River valleys	9 <sup>th</sup>	21
Geological features	10 <sup>th</sup>	14

<b>What do you value most about the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB? (maximum of 3 selections per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Scenery and views	1 <sup>st</sup>	102
Peace and quiet	2 <sup>nd</sup>	81
Opportunities for Walking, Cycling, Horse-riding etc	3 <sup>rd</sup>	68
Wildlife	4 <sup>th</sup>	39
All of these	5 <sup>th</sup>	32
Farming life	6 <sup>th</sup>	26
Historic features	=7 <sup>th</sup>	16
Attractive villages	=7 <sup>th</sup>	16
Surrounding market towns	9 <sup>th</sup>	15
Locally sourced food and drink	10 <sup>th</sup>	10
Cultural connections	11 <sup>th</sup>	3
Visitor attractions	12 <sup>th</sup>	1

<b>Which of the following current issues should be of most concern to the AONB Partnership? (maximum of 3 selections per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Impact of unsightly development (Buildings, Wind Turbines etc.)	1 <sup>st</sup>	86
Loss of scenic beauty through changes to landscape	2 <sup>nd</sup>	70
Decline in village services, including public transport	3 <sup>rd</sup>	53
Decline in wild plants and animals	4 <sup>th</sup>	45
Uncertainties in farming - poss. impact on landscape	5 <sup>th</sup>	36
Low regional/national profile as a tourist venue	6 <sup>th</sup>	30
Increased intrusion from noise and light pollution	7 <sup>th</sup>	29
Threats to rural way of life	8 <sup>th</sup>	28
Lack of information about places to visit and facilities	9 <sup>th</sup>	14
Loss of historic and archaeological features	10 <sup>th</sup>	10
Visitor pressure in popular locations	11 <sup>th</sup>	9

<b>Which of the following activities do you undertake most frequently within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB? (A maximum of three features per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Walking	1 <sup>st</sup>	120
Eating out at pubs and tea rooms	2 <sup>nd</sup>	69
Visiting villages and churches	3 <sup>rd</sup>	53
Looking at wildlife	4 <sup>th</sup>	50
Cycling	5 <sup>th</sup>	36
Organised walks and rides	6 <sup>th</sup>	23
Car tours	7 <sup>th</sup>	21
Hunting/shooting	8 <sup>th</sup>	14
Horse riding	9 <sup>th</sup>	10
Visiting local attractions	10 <sup>th</sup>	5
Fishing	11 <sup>th</sup>	2

<b>How often do you visit the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Daily	47%	69
Weekly	29%	42
Monthly	17%	24
Six monthly	6%	8
Annually	1%	1
1st time		

<b>Has the AONB designation and/or high quality of the landscape encouraged your visit?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Yes	76%	103
No	24%	32

<b>What can be done to protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB? (A maximum of three features per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Prevent unsightly development	1 <sup>st</sup>	67
Support sustainable farming	2 <sup>nd</sup>	65
Develop environmental/landscape enhancement projects	3 <sup>rd</sup>	61
Support the rural communities	4 <sup>th</sup>	58
Raise awareness of the Lincolnshire Wolds	5 <sup>th</sup>	52
Promote appropriate tourism and recreation	6 <sup>th</sup>	44
Improve public transport and other rural services	7 <sup>th</sup>	39
Encourage farm diversification	8 <sup>th</sup>	34

<b>What are the most important social and economic issues for the Wolds communities? (A maximum of three features per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Local services (schools, shops, public transport)	1 <sup>st</sup>	97
Local business and employment opportunities	2 <sup>nd</sup>	93
Threat to rural way of life	3 <sup>rd</sup>	63
Affordable housing	=4 <sup>th</sup>	60
General ageing population	=4 <sup>th</sup>	60
Loss of traditional rural crafts	6 <sup>th</sup>	18
Public health	7 <sup>th</sup>	9

<b>What do you value most about the Wolds surrounding market towns? (A maximum of three features per respondent)</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Locally distinctive shops	1 <sup>st</sup>	119
Regular markets	2 <sup>nd</sup>	90
Cultural events	3 <sup>rd</sup>	54
Health facilities	4 <sup>th</sup>	31
Schools/educational opportunities	5 <sup>th</sup>	29
Sports/leisure facilities	6 <sup>th</sup>	21
Entertainment	7 <sup>th</sup>	12

<b>Do you think the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary needs to be reviewed?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
No	74%	99
Yes	26%	35

<b>Would you like to be kept informed of progress on the Management Plan review?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
No	43%	57
Yes	57%	77

<b>Would you like the opportunity to provide further input into the management of the AONB?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
No	57%	75
Yes	43%	56

<b>Are you completing the questionnaire on behalf of a Parish Council or another group?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
No	85%	120
Yes	15%	21

<b>Do you?</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
Live in the AONB	41%	57
Live adjacent to the AONB	38%	53
Live within the wider Lincolnshire area	18%	26
Live out of County	3%	4
Work in the AONB	46%	44
Work adjacent to the AONB	26%	25
Work within the wider Lincolnshire area	23%	22
Work out of County	5%	5

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Selections</b>
45 – 64	50%	68
65+	38%	52
26 – 44	11%	16
0 – 17	1%	1
18 - 25		

## Appendix 6: Public Consultation Proforma 2017

### Response Form – please return comments by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Please feel free to use this form to comment on the Lincolnshire Wolds Draft AONB Management Plan 2018-23 – save it to your computer, add your comments and return to [aonb@lincswolds.org.uk](mailto:aonb@lincswolds.org.uk) or print it off and post to:

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service  
Freepost RTJA-KKJU-XXH  
Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road,  
Louth LN11 0BR

If you have any queries please contact [aonb@lincswolds.org.uk](mailto:aonb@lincswolds.org.uk) or 01522 555780

#### Your details:

Name  
Organisation/business (if applicable)  
Address

Postcode  
Email  
Telephone

Do you have any comments on the general style of the revised AONB Management Plan? Please note the final AONB Management Plan will have a limited print run but will be widely available in CD and PDF formats.

Do you have any comments on 'Section 4: Protecting the Wolds'?

Do you have any comments on 'Section 5: Living and Working in the Wolds'?

Do you have any comments on 'Section 6: Discovering the Wolds'?

Do you have any comments on 'Section 7: Developing the Wolds'?

Do you have any comments on 'Section 8: Partnerships in the Wolds'?

Do you have any comments on 'Section 9: Making it Happen, which includes the proposed Actions'?

Are you able to suggest and/or provide any direct actions to assist the Plan?

Do you have any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to let us know your comments and suggestions.

## Appendix 7a: Peer Review (summary of partnership responses received from Dec 2016)

### General observations

- LWT & NE both suggest a greater use of case studies to evidence progress since last Plan – examples could include LCSP, links with farming sector (Open Farm Sunday), work of the CFE's etc.

### Landscape

- The National Trust supports the Plan and resulting advice/guidance within the Strategy but feels that as they are not in the AONB they have limited ways they can actively get involved in the work of the AONB Partnership.
- Opportunity to link with Gunby Hall via National Trust's Land, Outdoors and Nature Strategy. Gunby implementation planned for 2018.
- The NT highlights that they look forward to a time when the AONB could be extended to include their land holdings.

### Biodiversity

- NE – ecosystems approach is essential. Through collaboration we must seek to achieve diverse, abundant and accessible nature & not just focus on the rare and special.
- Concerns from GLNP and LWT on habitat loss through reduction/influence lost through CAP Pillar 1 Cross Compliance e.g. options for riverside habitats, hedgerows and landmark trees.
- Wide concerns on changes post Brexit, climate change, bio-resilience to various pests and diseases – Chalara (Ash Die Back), Acute Oak Decline – emerald beetle etc.
- NE highlight the importance of future delivery tools, such as the replacement for Countryside Stewardship (CS), and the CS Facilitation Fund, being used in an integrated way to enable and advise effective local delivery.
- NE recognises that raising awareness and sharing good/best practice at "grassroots level" is critical – supports the promotion of various case studies.
- ELDC supports original issues as listed, but highlights post Brexit uncertainties, esp on account that much of our wildlife (environmental) legislation has European origins.
- LCC (Planning) do not feel that climate change and the threat from existing & invasive species is still a relevant issue.
- NT recognises all issues and policies still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland

- NE & LWT highlight need to recognise post Brexit changes & support for the development & implementation of wider multi-functional approaches.
- NE - Review & modify stewardship scheme info to reflect new terminology and/or Mid & Higher-tier Countryside Stewardship; review any emerging clarity post Brexit.
- LCC (Planning) has some differences of opinion with other partners in respect of grassland management conflicts with future land-use/habitat changes e.g. new woodland planting and miscanthus (energy crops).
- GLNP comment on GP3 Policy - whilst well intentioned who can take the lead on developing initiatives to support grazing of less productive grasslands? Are there any initiatives locally? Various 'matchmaking' services have been undertaken in other areas of the UK.
- Explore opportunities of rare breeds "Lincolnshire russets" and local products including dairy that rely on livestock.
- LWCS question - is there a bigger issue of intensive livestock rearing; with less reliance upon pasture fields and potential increasing trend towards poultry farming?
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Grass Verges and Green Lanes**

- Biomass opportunities – link with LCC Study (LWT) any lessons learnt and consider Life on the Verge as a suitable case study.
- LCC (Planning) recommend revising objectives and policies although no suggestions to revised wording supplied; but pose the question "will the decision of the County Council to cut back its cutting of road-side verges have any impact and need to be taken into consideration?"
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Chalk Rivers, Streams and Ponds**

- EA recognises the need for greater understanding and further research to help evidence the pond resource across the Wolds.
- Concerns from Forestry Commission regarding loss of riverside trees and subsequent increase in water temperatures.  
(note - Chalk Streams Management Guide recommend seeking a balance of 60% light and 40% shade for the surface of the river/stream channels to maximise channel biodiversity for aquatic flora and fauna, including brown trout).
- LCSP - continuing focus on catchment partnership approaches to help implement river restoration, habitat buffering etc, - working to minimise sedimentation impacts and maximise biodiversity, water quality and flood mitigation gains.
- LCSP - Ongoing awareness of the need and benefits of helping to raise public and landowner awareness of the Lincolnshire chalk stream resource and the opportunities for getting involved.
- Contrary to other responses from the LCSP, LCC (Planning) do not view diffuse pollution and sedimentation as a current issue.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards**

- FC highlights the need for greater flexibility with planting mixes to safeguard from climate change and pests/diseases.
- Mapping of small woodland resource remains an issue but who/how is this to be resourced.
- Differing views on whether inappropriate planting (locations and species) is still an ongoing problem. For example - NE & FC both think this is no longer an issue; LWT & GLNP feel it is.
- LCC (Planning) do not feel that climate change and the future viability of some native issues, including new pests and diseases is still a relevant issue.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Hedgerows and Landmark Trees**

- New issues highlighted include tree health and biosecurity especially from Chalara (Ash Die Back) and Acute Oak Decline.
- Impacts post Brexit especially with cross compliance (via Pillar 1 funding) currently supporting hedgerow/ditch boundary maintenance etc.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant, in particular stressing the pressures landowners are under to remove roadside trees on H & S grounds.

### **Earth Heritage – Geodiversity and Soils** (see also comments on agriculture)

- LCC (Planning) – the recently adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan has not identified any need for additional quarries for chalk or the need for any additional landfill capacity so only expect that land with historical permissions or existing sites will be developed in the future.
- The GLNP highlights the issue of the need for ongoing management of geodiversity sites to maintain their interest/condition.



- NE highlights a case for strengthening partner efforts to raise awareness and understanding of soil related issues e.g. through river catchment initiatives, Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project work, CS Facilitation Fund & other future mechanisms.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Agriculture** (see also comments on soils)

- NFU recognise the key issue of Brexit and its impacts upon the farming sector including;
  - 1) Future subsidy payments – any new schemes need to be advantageous for Wolds farmers with achievable and sensible conditions.
  - 2) General concern stressed on the poor uptake of Countryside Stewardship across Lincolnshire. Farmers have been put-off by much of the Defra/Rural Payment Agencies bureaucracy, including overly excessive inspection regimes and very onerous record keeping obligations.
  - 3) The implications from a shift to world market prices under WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules and the possibility of tariffs.
  - 4) Uncertainties in future legislation/regulations for food production, pesticide application, environment etc; a plea to minimise future red tape and Defra gold plating.
  - 5) Concerns with mobility of the work force in respect of the future use of foreign nationals – some scheme for agricultural workers is required.
- LWT, GLNP and NE all highlight uncertainties and future impacts from changes to domestic agricultural policy in light of Brexit – changes to cropping patterns, global markets etc.
- Roll of future voluntary/paid agri-environment schemes is unclear.
- Increase in interest for energy crops including miscanthus and more recently maize.
- NE highlights need to maximise Natural Capital approaches to help raise awareness with local businesses, schools and wider public.
- Future survey work for helping our understanding of distinctive arable wildlife – GLNP question what is meant by "distinctive"? NE asks how and what parameters? Future links with University of Lincoln?
- EA recommend that landowner engagement should also seek to raise awareness and understanding of increased sedimentation on our river systems and the potential impacts on water quality, ecology and flood risk.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.  
(See also comments on Soils)

### **Farming and Field Sports**

- LWT, NE and GLNP recommend refreshing issues in light of forthcoming Brexit scenarios and the uncertainties in the farming sector.
- LCC (Planning) agree with others on the need to support but revise Policy FWP2 (monitoring and influencing changes in regional, national and EU agricultural policy...). Stressed that with the uncertainty following Brexit there is an increased importance to influence agricultural policy to bring benefits to the Wolds.
- NE asks if the EA still have a budget/project to provide advice through workshops for farmers which could help aid delivery of Policy FWP7?
- LCC (Planning) still deemed important, but requested a revision to Policy FWP7 (to raise awareness within farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management). No further details or suggestions supplied.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

## **Archaeology and Built Heritage**

- NE supports all outstanding issues and highlights the opportunity to use examples from the Down Your Wold project.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.
- HL recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – some minor changes to wording of some policies suggested including the merging of Policies BHP1 and BHP4 due to their close similarities.
- In respect of Objective AO (to protect, appropriately manage and enhance archaeological and historic features within the AONB...) HL stresses the importance of the need for further research and a coordinated management approach from all agencies in consultation with landowners. Research is viewed as key, as the potential for archaeology needs to be fully assessed in addition to applying this objective to all known archaeological sites and features.
- HL – Policy AP1 (to encourage and support research projects to help increase understanding of the Wolds etc); further research is required to fully understand the significance of a wide range of heritage and to share this with people living and working in the area. Identifying what and how features are at risk will allow for priorities to be determined so that resources can be targeted. Baseline information is in place and needs to be updated.
- Policy AP3 (to increase and enhance appropriate public access to sites of archaeological interest etc.) HL highlights increased public access as valuable for local residents and could also be promoted to visitors to the area in order to increase the perception of the Wolds as a historic landscape.
- Policy BHP1 (to work with property owners, residents, owner occupiers and developers to encourage sympathetic design and management of buildings); HL stresses that working with planners in relevant authorities on a Design Framework/Guide for Wolds villages would be useful so that they can also offer the right level of advice and guidance at pre-application stage.
- Policy BHP2 (to raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds etc.); in terms of future delivery, HL recommends a project that can explore the morphology of Wolds villages – their common characteristics and their unique development attributes, such a project could encourage volunteer input.
- Policy BHP3 (encouraging and supporting sustainable re-use of buildings using local materials...); HL reports that funding for private owners is now incredibly rare but small scale grants can be an effective way to encourage conservation and re-use. Case studies about how redundant buildings have been reused in the past are very helpful to demonstrate how this can be achieved.
- Policy BHP3 (encouraging and supporting sustainable re-use of buildings using local materials...) LCC (Planning) feel that there is no evidence of lack of availability of local building materials that would constrain this approach.
- LCC (Planning) – support but revise Policy BHP4 (encouraging/supporting innovative new construction taking inspiration from local character etc); no further details supplied. HL also suggest a slight re-wording of this policy.

## **Thriving Communities**

- ELDC, NE, LWT, GLNP - ongoing issues still valid to varying degrees but esp. concerns with local services/ facilities (inc. access to public open space) and future local employment opportunities.
- LCC (Planning) do not perceive an issue with limited public open space.
- LCC (Economic Regeneration) – the Thriving Communities section of the Plan looks to be too wide ranging. Consider splitting down into "Living in the Wolds", "Working in Wolds" and "Visiting the Wolds" or similar.
- Policy TCP2 (reversing the decline in rural services and promoting healthier lifestyles) – NE stresses that Defra wants to make clearer the links between a healthy natural environment and public health and prosperity. LCC (Planning) highlight the continued concern raised about the lifestyles of all ages and impact on health so important that contribution to the promotion of healthy lifestyles is recognised.
- Policy TCP2 - ELDC reports that the decline in rural services has not slowed down and that many of the smaller communities now have little in the way of services, with poor transport, isolation and deprivation more likely to occur.

- Policy TCP4 (community links with green infrastructure) - ELDC notes that this is arguably likely to become even more important as the appetite for more tourism and recreation increases via Love Lincolnshire Wolds initiative. LCC (Planning) reiterates the links to health benefits as detailed in response to TCP2.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.
- LAZ (LEADER) deemed all issues and policies as remaining important with the following additional comments:-
  1. Suggested new issue with the ongoing EU review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the potential development of a new "British Agricultural Policy". There could be a role for the AONB Partnership to influence whether the future Rural Development Programme will include LEADER funding (or similar) i.e. rural development (socio-economic) funding to support economic growth and "quality of life" in rural areas.
  2. The LAZ flagged up that in terms of the overall Objective TCO (Support and promote partnership activity to safeguard/enhance the prosperity and well-being of communities within the Wolds etc...) the vulnerabilities for the communities still include outward migration of young people creating challenges for businesses in all sectors including the ability to attract and retain suitably qualified employees. (High growth is projected in the 65+ age group with the working age population set to reduce by 5% between 2017 and 2037 (Ref: LAZ LDS 2014).
  3. LAZ highlighted that in respect of Policy TCP2 (reversing the decline in rural services and promoting healthier lifestyles) issues still exist over broadband access and connectivity. Furthermore the average distance to key services is generally more than countywide or national average distances.
- LCC (Economic Regeneration) did not wish to comment on individual issues, objectives and policies as listed in the current M. Plan but wished to provide some wider observations and pose a number of questions for the Partnership. An overriding comment in respect of rural economies is the way that they are operating is changing, they are much more than simply economies providing employment and tourism - increasingly they are offering a wide range of additional services to the local community – e.g. schools, convenience stores, childcare to help families work and care services to the most vulnerable. There is also a shift in the affordability/viability of businesses so that there is an ever increasing need for communities to grow in order to help maintain their services (e.g. local pubs, shop, bakers, butchers, hair dressers etc, many of which can no longer survive in today's world/economy). Thinking about future pressures the following points were highlighted:
  1. The Plan might want to explore whether the AONB positively leads the way of life of its residents, or whether its residents' way of life has to adapt to be suitable to the AONB. Arguably, the AONB should be part of the psyche of its residents and lead their way of life.
  2. There is a debate to be had over the increase in population size versus tranquillity (sense of place) arguments. LCC (Economic Regen) ask if the Local Plans have the balance right in terms of enabling the sustainable growth of village settlements.
  3. In the light of news for 100% rural rate relief for businesses the AONB Partnership should consider specific actions that can help nurture and support small businesses in our deeply rural communities e.g. seeking to diversify the income streams of rural businesses but doing so in the context of the AONB's character.
  4. The Partnership should consider also nurturing and supporting links with further education colleges and academics to help aid research, (informing our evidence base, knowledge and understanding) and provide lasting legacies; as well as an opportunity to explore new income streams.
  5. There is an issue in respect of utilities (power, heat, water, digital), both costs and supply. Could and should more be made of the natural assets in the AONB to help ensure future supply and minimise the costs e.g. water power generation etc.
  6. The Plan needs to maintain and develop a greater focus on the inter-relationship between the market towns and the rest of the AONB. What can the AONB's communities do to stop them being simply a drive-through to the larger towns, in turn taking pressure off the market towns themselves. There will still be particular services that the AONB communities would need the

market towns to provide (e.g. vocational training, + *additional NHS services, larger retail units etc*).

### **Interpretation – Awareness Raising**

- NE recognises that the broad interpretive-awareness raising Objective (IO) accords with NE's Conservation Strategy principles of "putting people at the heart of the environment" and "Natural Capital".
- LCC (Planning) stresses that in terms of overriding objective (IO) and Policy IP2" (strengthening the profile of the AONB); "with the success of Lincoln as a tourist attraction in recent times extra effort should be made to encourage these visitors to go beyond Lincoln". Consider revising Policy IP2 accordingly.
- WLDC (economic team) highlights the importance of the overarching objective IO (raising the profile of the AONB...) and the links with the emerging Love Lincolnshire Wolds (Wolds & Market Town Groups) and its Destination Management Plan. The Destination strategy includes specific actions aimed at increasing visitors, identifying gaps in provision and working with partners, all of which in turn will enhance resident facilities & bring economic benefits.
- WLDC notes the links to businesses that are engaged with the Wolds & Market Town Groups and connections with the Love Lincolnshire Wolds branding/website.
- ELDC, HL, LCC (Planning), NT and LAZ (LEADER) recognise all listed issues as still relevant.
- HL identifies an additional issue of promoting the importance of the value of established festivals and events, helping to demonstrate the vitality and cultural interest of the Wolds area.
- Objective IO (raising the profile of the AONB...); HL suggests re-wording to highlight the economic benefits. Also Policy IP2 wording is very similar to the overarching objective so is IP2 needed?
- Policy IP1 (to provide visitors and residents with a greater understanding and appreciation of what makes the Lincolnshire Wolds a special place...); HL highlights that there are several 'gateways' into the Wolds and a coordinated approach offering good quality information about all of the special attributes of the area is needed. A creative interpretation scheme would be very effective at creating an enhanced sense of place and improving visitor experience.
- Policy IP3 (to encourage residents to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of the area...); HL comments that local residents know the area best and have a wealth of knowledge about its character, history, best views, places to eat etc. Using promotional material which uses local voices to invite people to visit and to learn more about the place would provide a strong marketing/interpretative approach.

### **Access, Recreation and Tourism**

- LCC (Planning) suggests revising of Policy ARTP3 (developing joint promotion and marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB etc) to link with Lincoln tourism opportunities – see comments for Policy IP2 above.
- LCC (Planning) revise Policy ARTP4 (identify gaps in current access, recreation and tourism provision etc) but no further comment supplied.
- Policy ARTP1 (to maximise opp's for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation); HL suggests a definition/clarification of the term 'quiet recreation'.

## Planning and Development Management

- WLDC (planning team) recognises the value of the AONB Partnership in reviewing planning and development management issues/themes but questions the use of presenting as "policies" as these will not have that status and there is no sense in duplicating what is already expressed in the Local Plans (inc Central Lincolnshire Local Plan) – so for e.g. the M. Plan cannot seek to deliver (more or less) affordable housing that will already be specified in local plans. Such policies should come out and be re-worded along the lines of "development should be supported that will.... protect and enhance the character of the area; development of affordable housing to support the ongoing sustainability should be promoted where it is appropriate in scale & design.
- LCC (Planning) recognise and support all previous planning issues and in addition highlighted a new issue of hydro-carbon exploration – planning permission has been granted for hydro-carbon exploration (*site in Biscathorpe*)- if drilled and successful this may result in pressure for further sites in the AONB.
- LCC (Economic Regeneration) Planning in rural areas needs to embrace businesses when they want to expand, however the time taken with the planning and decision making process may often put people off. Is there a role for the M. Plan in setting out some guidance for developers and planners when it comes to development in the AONB?
- Policy PP1 & PP2 (protecting and enhancing local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality in design; including for traditional buildings) - LWT & NE request stressing the importance of making space for biodiversity & tackling climate change in design.
- Policy PP3 (supporting development of local needs/affordable housing – ELDC stresses that current reductions in funding to Registered Social Landlords mean that their opportunity to provide affordable housing is seriously curtailed. Currently no formal housing allocations within East Lindsey portion of the AONB following objections to the Local Plan proposals; thus likelihood of limited affordable housing being provided via quota system on new market sites.
- Policy PP4 (minimising damage to the AONB landscape as a result of mineral working...) - LCC (Planning), as above comment, pressure for additional hydro-carbon extraction may be forthcoming.
- Policy PP6 (dark night skies)- ELDC notes the potential for this to become a more important issue if the amount of tourism in the area increases.
- Policy PP7 (wind energy schemes) - ELDC reports a drop in demand in wind farm applications largely on account of changes to subsidies; this could change if there are further modifications to the current national approach (incentive mechanisms).
- Policy PP8 (general waste reduction and recycling initiatives) – LCC (Planning) suggest policy revision highlighting that as we move towards a circular economy and a desire to 'make things last longer' this policy is an even more important requirement and should be given a high priority.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.
- The LAZ (LEADER) highlights the ongoing relevance of the Lindsey Action Zone Local Development Strategy 2014-2020.
- The LAZ also stresses the continuing importance of the England Rural Development Programme (RDP) initiatives and regulations. For the Lincs Wolds, as well as Countryside Stewardship, it also specifically includes the Lindsey Action Zone LEADER fund which makes funding available to business and community projects, up to c£40,000 at 40%. The funding is for projects that contribute to the rural economy and create jobs (for commercial businesses). The six national priority areas are farming, forestry, small business start-up and development, tourism, heritage and rural services. AONBs and National Parks are uniquely placed to engage in future planning for the ongoing Rural Development Funding – to aid and support local delivery and help ensure these priority areas continue to be relevant.
- HL highlights the ongoing issue of renovation/development of redundant farm buildings. Queries why there appears to be no clear policy for farm buildings in this section (LWCS note – possible duplication with Policy BHP1, BHP3 and BHP4).
- HL considers Policy PP1 (to promote and enhance local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality design...) to be a repeat of an earlier policy within Built Heritage section.
- HL considers Policy PP2 (to encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses...) to also be a repeat of an earlier policy within Built Heritage section.

- CPRE has offered to assist the AONB Partnership in developing a document for a model "Wolds Landscape Character Proposal" that could help aid and inform future Neighbourhood Plans and Plan Policies – this would build on national CPRE work in this area to provide local context.

### **Transport in the Wolds**

- ELDC recognises all current issues as valid and in terms of overall objective highlights the potential for transport related issues to become more important if there is a significant increase in the tourism offer in the Wolds. There may be a requirement to create better access links and certainly a likely increase in demand for signage associated with attractions and facilities.
- LCC (Planning) recognises all issues as still valid, and though still important recommends revisions to Policy TWP3 (encouraging transport infrastructure improvements to support appropriate tourism etc), Policy TWP5 (encouraging integrated and well maintained public right of way - network etc), and Policy TWP6 (maximising access for all on the PROW) to take account of earlier commentary on Policy IP2 e.g. securing the wider links to visitors from Lincoln + helping to promote healthy lifestyles.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Climate Change**

- NE recognises all existing issues as still relevant + highlight the impact of future cropping patterns.
- LWT & GLNP stressed the issue of anaerobic digesters and increasing demands for energy crops such as miscanthus and more recently maize.
- FC highlighted a new issue of increasing pressure on woodlands to supply woodfuel to help meet Renewable Heat Incentive requirements.
- ELDC recognises all existing climate change issues.
- LCC (Planning) recognises all issues as still relevant except for the emergence of new pests, diseases and invasive species.
- NT recognises all issues and policies as still relevant – no additional comments supplied.

### **Monitoring**

- NE – objective of "condition" monitoring demands robust (and regular) reviews of baseline/evidence.

### **Key to organisations/groups who formally responded during the initial peer review:**

EA	Environment Agency	ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
FC	Forestry Commission	GLNP	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
HL	Heritage Lincolnshire	LAZ	Lindsey Action Zone
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council	LCSP	Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project
LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers Union	NT	The National Trust
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council.		

## Appendix 8a – Glossary for Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AMP5	Asset Management Plan (2010-2015) for private water companies
AW	Anglian Water
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BDS	British Driving Society
BeC	Beech Clumps
BHS	British Horse Society
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CCT	Churches Conservation Trust
CFE	Campaign for the Farmed Environment
CG	Common Ground
CL	Community Lincs
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CLJPU	Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit
COSMIC	Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRoW Act	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSF	Catchment Sensitive Farming
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
CT	Churches Together
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMV	Deserted Medieval Village
EA	Environment Agency
EoEAO	East of England Apples and Orchard Project
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
ENPAA	English National Park Authorities Association
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
GL	Groundwork Lincolnshire
GLLEP	Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership
GLNP	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
GM	Genetically Modified
GVA	Gross Value Added
HaR	Heritage at Risk
HE	Historic England
HHT	Hubbard's Hills Trust
HL	Heritage Lincolnshire
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
HWG	Heritage Working Group (Lincolnshire Wolds)
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
JAC	Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership)
JMG	Joint Management Group (of JAC)
LA	Local Authority
LAF	Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum
LAZ	Lindsey Action Zone
LBP	Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership
LBAP	Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LCSP	Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project
LDF	Local Development Frameworks
LE	Lincolnshire Enterprise
LEAF	Linking Environment and Farming Network
LERAP	Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides
LERC	Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre
LGG	Lincolnshire Geodiversity Group
LGS	Local Geological Site
LLW	Love Lincolnshire Wolds
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LNS	Lincolnshire Nature Strategy
LNT	Louth Navigation Trust
LNU	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
LRO	Lincolnshire Research Observatory
LTC	Louth Town Council
LTP	Local Transport Plan

LWCS	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (AONB staffing unit)
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
LWWF	Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival
MapInfo	Map Information System (computerised)
NAAONB	National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
NE	Natural England
NELC	North East Lincolnshire Council
NFU	National Farmers Union
NO	Nitrogen Monoxide
NPAC Act	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OFGEM	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
OWG	Officers Working Group (of JAC)
PAWS	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
PCC	Parochial Church Council
PLMF	Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PTES	People's Trust for Endangered Species
RA	Ramblers
RDPE	Rural Development Programme for England
RDS	Rural Development Service
RES	Regional Economic Strategy
RFF	Regional Forestry Framework
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
RNR	Roadside Nature Reserve
RoWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
RTP	Rural Transport Plan
RTPO	Rural Transport Partnership Officer
SDF	Sustainable Development Fund
SE	Sport England
SM	Scheduled Monument
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance
SO	Sulphur Monoxide
SPD	Supplementary Planning Documents
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSP	Sub-regional Strategic Partnership
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
TRiL	Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council
WTT	Wild Trout Trust



## Appendix 8b: Technical Terms

Acute Oak Decline	Acute oak decline (AOD) is a condition usually affecting mature oak trees and is believed to be caused by a bacterium, although often exacerbated by beetle infestations.
Agri-environment Scheme	Land-based schemes that provide financial incentives for land managers to adopt environmentally beneficial land management practices.
Ancient woodland	A site that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600AD and which has not been cleared or replanted (except natural regeneration).
Barrows	An ancient mound associated with burials.
Biodiversity	The variety of life on Earth, coined from the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992.
Brownfield land	A planning term to indicate land that has been previously developed e.g. redundant airfield sites, industrial premises etc.
Calcareous	An area of ground that is rich in calcium carbonate (lime) and is therefore chalky. It supports specific vegetation types.
Carbon sequestration	The natural or artificial processes by which carbon dioxide is captured and removed from the atmosphere and stored in a carbon sink.
Carbon sink	A natural or artificial reservoir that absorbs and locks more carbon than it releases.
Climate change adaptation	A response that seeks to reduce the vulnerability of biological systems to climate change effects.
Chalara	A serious disease of ash trees caused by the fungus <i>Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus</i> .
Circular economy	Using restoration and recovery techniques to reuse products, components and materials; maximising their use and minimising harmful impacts upon the wider environment through reducing energy, waste and the need for raw materials.
Climate change mitigation	A response that seeks to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhance the removal of these gases from the atmosphere.
Combes	Steep incised valleys formed by glaciation processes.
Coppice	To cut, at ground level, all stems of trees/shrubs to stimulate new, multi-stemmed growth. Also refers to an area that has been managed in this way.
Diversification (farm)	To vary and expand the type of operations within a farm business, e.g. supplement farm income by other enterprises.
DMV – deserted medieval village	An abandoned settlement that dates from the Middle Ages.
Drovers roads	Routes that were used to move flocks and herds between grazing pastures, markets and settlements.
Ecosystem services	A concept developed to aid our understanding of the human uses and management of natural resources including their supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural functions.
Escarpment	A long steep slope at the edge of a plateau.
Geomorphology	The physical features of the surface of the earth, such as rivers, valleys etc.
Glacial and Periglacial activity	The landscape features created by the presence of, and by adjoining, ice sheets in the past glaciations.
GI – Green Infrastructure	A strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green space that provides multiple benefits for biodiversity, access, recreation and resource protection.
Hedge laying	To cut and lay stems of a hedge in such a way that it will regenerate and continue to grow.
Higher Tier Stewardship	Multi-year Countryside stewardship agreements for environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands where more complex management requires support from NE and/or the FC, and include a range of year-round options and capital items.
Interpretation	The art of communicating the significance of places and features.
Landmark trees	Individual and small clumps of trees that are conspicuous within the landscape and add to its distinctive character – this can also be via local cultural significance.
Lincolnshire Nature Strategy	The document, previously known as the Biodiversity Action Plan that ensures everyone can help protect and enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of achievable actions.
Mid Tier Stewardship	Multi-year Countryside stewardship agreements for environmental improvements in the wider countryside that include a range of year round options and capital items.
Natural capital	Those elements of the natural environment that provide valuable goods and services to people, such as the stock of forests, water, land and sea.
Nucleated	A village or settlement with a strong central core.
Pollard	To cut, at 3-4 metres above ground level, branches of a tree to stimulate new, multi-stemmed growth out of the reach of browsing animals.
RNR - Roadside Nature Reserves	A verge that is deemed worthy of protection because of its botanical interest, and actively managed between the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire County Council, (previously classified as Protected Roadside Verges).
Socio-economic	The interaction of social and economic factors.
SMV – shrunken medieval village	A settlement much reduced in size from the Middle Ages.
Statutory undertaker	An organisation, required by law, to undertake certain duties, e.g. public utilities companies.
Sustainable	Ensuring social, economic and environmental needs can be met without depletion of natural resources.
Synergy	Interaction and co-operation of individuals and organisations to work more effectively.

## Appendix 9: Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives

Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings; Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse (Historic England, 2017)  
Adaptive Reuse of Traditional Farm Buildings; Historic England Advice Note 9 (2017)  
Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (2015)  
Anglian Water Asset Management Plan (2015-20)  
An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire - S Bennett and N Bennett (1993)  
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services  
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies - Environment Agency  
Conservation 21: Natural England's Conservation Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Natural England (2017)  
Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Lincolnshire (2012)  
Countryside Stewardship Targeting Statement, Defra (2003)  
County Archaeology Manual - Lincolnshire County Council (2016)  
Creating a Great Place for Living; Defra's Strategy to 2020 (2016)  
Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy - Dept. for Transport (2016)  
Defra 25 Year Plans – Environment; and Food and Farming (*pending*)  
Delivering a Golden Legacy; A growth strategy for inbound tourism to Britain from 2012 to 2020 - Visit Britain (2012)  
Earth Heritage Conservation in England: A Natural Areas Perspective - English Nature Research Report no 158 (1996)  
England Rural Development Programme - Defra  
Fixing our Broken Housing Market - Dept. for Communities and Local Government (2017)  
Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (2013)  
Greater Lincolnshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2030 (refreshed 2016)  
Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership (GLLEP) Water for Growth - Water Management Plan 2015-2040 (2015)  
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Strategy 2015-20 - Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (2015)  
Health and Wellbeing in Lincolnshire; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (2017)  
Heritage Counts 2016: Heritage and the Economy - Historic England (2016)  
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)  
Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2015)  
Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Strategic Action Plan (2014-19)  
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan - Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture (2003)  
Landscapes for Everyone; Creating a Better Future (Consortium Publication, 2016)  
Lincolnshire County Council Natural Environment Strategy 2012-2018 (2012)  
Lincolnshire Enterprise Business Plan 2004-2007 - Lincolnshire Enterprise (2004)  
Lincolnshire Rural Transport Partnership - Action Plan (2000)  
Lincolnshire Tourism - A Sharper Focus (2003)  
Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 3 (2011)  
Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 4 - Draft (2012)  
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy - Lincolnshire County Council (2001)  
Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area 43  
Litter Strategy for England - HM Government (2017)  
Local Geological Sites: Guidelines for their Identification & Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (2009)  
Local Wildlife Sites: Guidelines for the Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (2013)  
Looking After Our Landscapes Post Brexit (Heritage Alliance, 2017)  
Making Space for Nature - The Lawton Review (2010)  
National Association for AONBs - AONB Family Communications Strategy 2017-2020 (2017)  
National Association for AONBs - Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (2016)  
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)  
National Pollinator Strategy (2014)  
National Trust - Land, Outdoors and Nature Strategy (2017)  
Natural Foundations: Geodiversity for People, Places and Nature (2006)  
New Model Farming: resilience through diversity - CPRE (2016)  
North East Lincolnshire Community Strategy - North East Lincolnshire Local Strategic Partnership (2003)  
North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan (2011)  
Our Lincolnshire, Our Past - The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Strategy 2017-22 (2017)  
Planning for Ancient Woodland: Planners' Manual for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees - Woodland Trust (2017)  
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010)  
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent - Defra (2003)  
Public Transport Access to the Lincolnshire Wolds - Transport for Leisure (1996)

Quiet Roads Initiative - The Countryside Agency (1998)  
 Rural Business 2030: Unlocking Investment-Unlocking Potential, CLA (2016)  
 Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2011)  
 Soils Report for Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (2009)  
 State of Nature UK Report (Consortium Publication, 2016)  
 Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2008)  
 Sustainable Community Strategy - North East Lincolnshire Council (2010)  
 The Anglian and The Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)  
 The Anglian and The Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2015)  
 The European Landscape Convention, ratified by the UK in 2006  
 The Geodiversity Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (2017)  
 The Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Assessment Framework; Guidelines for Best Practice - Historic England and partners (2015)  
 The Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statements - Historic England and partners (2015)  
 The Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2009)  
 The Grimsby and Ancholme Flood Management Plan (2009)  
 The Infrastructure Act (2015)  
 The Maintenance and Repair of Traditional Farm Buildings; A Guide to Good Practice (Historic England, 2017)  
 The Natural Choice; Securing the Value of Nature (2011)  
 The Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire (revised 2015)  
 The Witham and Louth Coastal Catchment Flood Management Plans (2009)  
 The Witham Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2004)  
 The West Lindsey Community Strategy (2006)  
 Think Big: Ecological Recovery - National Association for AONBs joint partnership statement  
 'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands (2003)  
 Uncertain Harvest: does the loss of farms matter - CPRE (2017)  
 UK Geodiversity Action Plan (UKGAP) - A Framework for Action (2009)  
 Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands - English Heritage (2002)  
 Vision for Nature; Young People's Vision for the Natural World in 2050 (2016)  
 Walkers are Welcome Network (2006)  
 Water Resources Strategy for the Anglian Region (2009)  
 Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2010)  
 Water White Paper; Water for Life (2011)  
 Woodland for Water: woodland measures for meeting WFD objectives (2011)

### **Structure and Local Development Plans – Saved Policies**

East Lindsey Local Plan, District Wide Policies - East Lindsey District Council (1999)  
 East Lindsey Local Plan, Settlement Proposals - East Lindsey District Council (1995)  
 Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas - Lincolnshire County Council (1996)  
 Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2016)  
 North East Lincolnshire Local Plan - North East Lincolnshire Council (2003)  
 Rural Tourism Development Area Partnership - West Lindsey District Council (2000)  
 Tourism Strategy 2001-2005 - East Lindsey District Council (2001)  
 Transport Strategy, Draft - East Lindsey District Council (2004)  
 West Lindsey Local Plan First Review (2006)

### **Emerging Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies**

East Lindsey District Council – Core Strategy & Local Plan documents (in development)  
 North East Lincolnshire Council - Planning for Growth; Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2016)  
 West Lindsey District Council now within Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036 (Adopted April 2017)

## Appendix 10: Bibliography/Further Information

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, A guide (CA23) - The Countryside Agency (2001)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, A guide for AONB partnership members (CA24) – The Countryside Agency (2001)
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- Lincolnshire Tourism Model - The Wolds Area Summary Report (1999)
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- North East Lincolnshire Local Plan - North East Lincolnshire Council (2003)
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- Public Policy Guidelines for Integrated Landscape Management - EcoAgriculture Partners (2017)
- Reconomic Plus; The Economic, Health and Social Value of Outdoor Recreation - Manchester Metropolitan University and The Sport and Recreation Alliance (2017)
- Rewilding and Ecosystem Services - Government Post Note 536 (2016)
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- The Future of the Natural Environment after the EU Referendum – House of Commons Environmental Audit, Sixth Report (2016-17)
- The Hidden Value of Our Green Spaces - The Land Trust (2017)
- The Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy - Lincolnshire County Council (2001)
- The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape (CCP414) - Countryside Commission (1993)
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment - NEA (2011)
- West Lindsey Local Plan First Review, First Deposit Draft - West Lindsey District Council (2003)
- (See also Appendix 7 - Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives)

### Key Websites for Further Information:

<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk">www.english-heritage.org.uk</a>	English Heritage
<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>	Environment Agency
<a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk">www.forestry.gov.uk</a>	Forestry Commission
<a href="http://www.glnp.org.uk">www.glnp.org.uk</a>	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
<a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside</a>	Lincolnshire County Council - Access
<a href="http://www.lincswolds.org.uk">www.lincswolds.org.uk</a>	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
<a href="http://www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com">www.lovelincolnshirewolds.com</a>	Love Lincolnshire Wolds - Tourism Partnership
<a href="http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk">www.landscapesforlife.org.uk</a>	National Association for AONBs
<a href="http://www.nfuonline.com">www.nfuonline.com</a>	National Farmers Union
<a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk">www.naturalengland.org.uk</a>	Natural England

## Appendix 11: Acknowledgements

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service would like to thank all individuals who took the time and trouble to respond during the initial questionnaire survey and also those who met and spoke to us directly during our summer events. We also appreciate and thank everyone for the comments and suggestions that were received during the formal public consultation (see Appendix 7b)

In addition, the following individuals and organisations have provided regular support and input to enable the collaborative development of the Management Plan and accompanying State of the AONB Report.

### Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee Membership as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018:

Tim Allen	Historic England
Katy Anderson	Country Land and Business Association
Cllr Richard Avison (JAC Vice Chair)	East Lindsey District Council
Andy Bailey	Environment Agency
Liz Bates	Heritage Lincolnshire
Sara Blair-Manning	National Trust
Paul Chaplin	North East Lincolnshire Council
Janet Clark	Community Lincs
Cllr Iain Colquhoun	North East Lincolnshire Council
Charles Dobson	National Farmers Union
Roger Douglas	Country Land and Business Association
Rob Gornall	Natural England
Cllr Adam Grist	East Lindsey District Council
Sean Kent	Lincolnshire County Council - Environmental Services
Cllr Angela Lawrence	West Lindsey District Council
Chris Miller	Lincolnshire County Council - Environmental Services
Darren Nortcliffe	The Conservation Volunteers
Stuart Parker (JAC Chair)	Ramblers - Lincolnshire
Cllr Eddie Poll	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tom Regis	West Lindsey District Council
Alan Robson	Churches Together in all Lincolnshire
Ella Sivil	Campaign to Protect Rural England
Tammy Smalley	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Henry Smith	National Farmers Union
Cllr Lewis Strange	Lincolnshire County Council
Kay Turton	East Lindsey District Council
David White	Forestry Commission
Grant White	West Lindsey District Council

### Other contributors (data gathering, peer review and wider professional input):

Charlie Barnes	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Judy Bell	Lindsey Action Zone (LEADER)
Justin Brown	Lincolnshire County Council - Economic Development
Richard Chadd	Environment Agency & Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
Elizabeth Chamberlin	Historic England
Melanie Fisher	Defra (Local Rural Development Programme)
Deborah Fitzpatrick	Natural England
Oliver Fytche-Taylor	West Lindsey District Council
Sarah Grundy	Lincolnshire County Council
Ian Lings	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Tim Machin	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Neil McBride	Lincolnshire County Council - Planning
Vanessa McNaughton	Natural England
Rob Millbank	Environment Agency
Chris Monk	Natural England

Adam Partington	Locus Consulting
Andrew Ratcliffe	Lincolnshire County Council - Highways
Marina Di Salvatore	West Lindsey District Council
Fran Smith	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Sarah Smith	Lincolnshire County Council - Lincs Lab
Caroline Steel	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (retired)
Paul Tame	National Farmers Union
Marion Thomas	West Lindsey District Council
Grant White	West Lindsey District Council
Graham Willis	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Hugh Winfield	North East Lincolnshire Council
Dr Helen Woodhouse	Historic England

**The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service:**

Stephen Jack, Helen Gamble, David Rodger, Ruth Craig, Will Bartle and Claire Harrison.

# Map 1

## National Map of AONBs









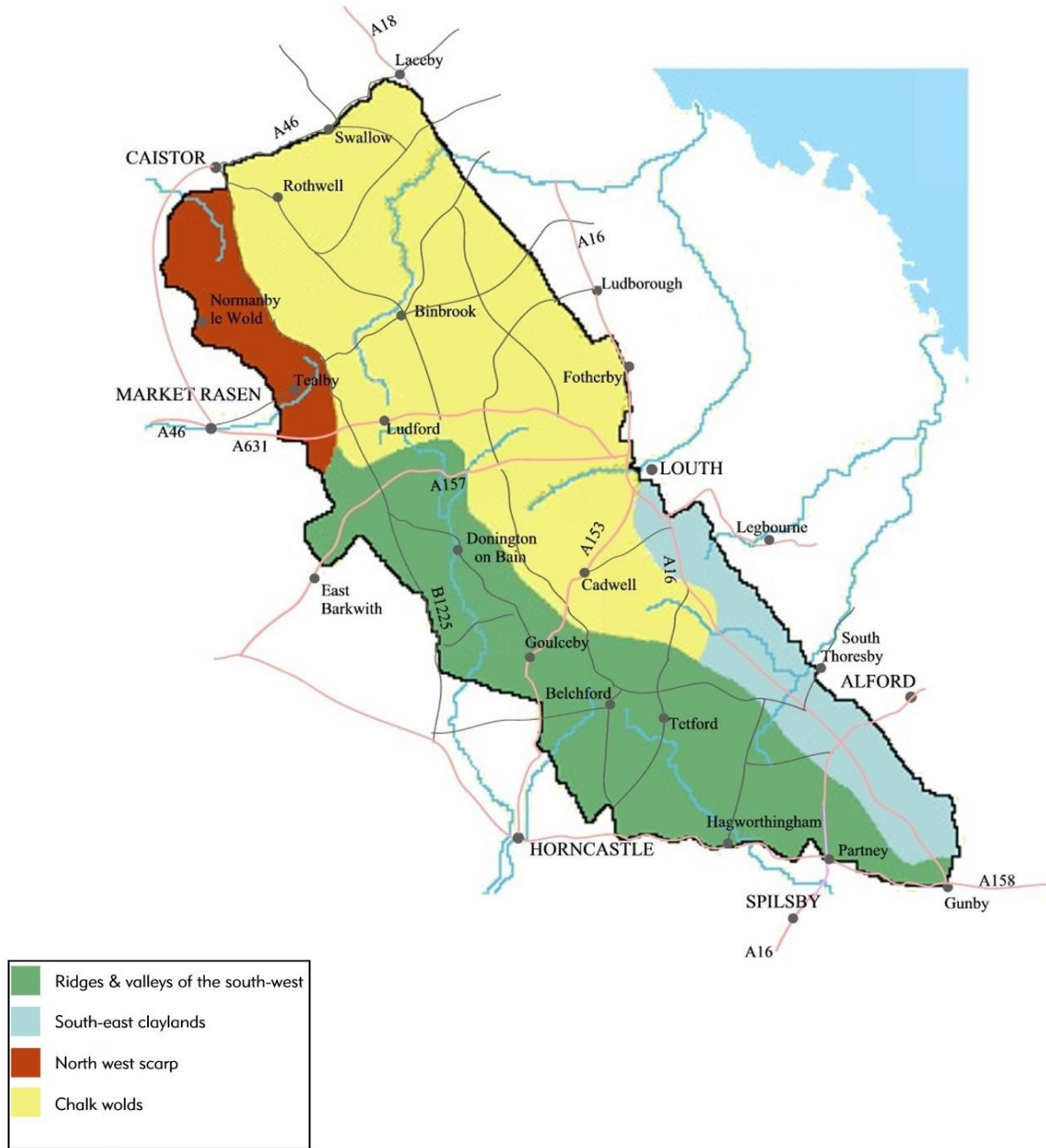
# Map 4

## AONB/Character Area Map



# Map 5

## Local Landscape Character Map



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## Appendix 7b: Summary of Written Comments from the Public consultation Dec 2017 – Jan 2018.

Note: The tables below are a precise of individual public consultation comments received. The full responses are all publically available from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and were reviewed during February 2018 (see also Appendix 7a. Public Consultation Proforma).

Reference	Name	Summary of comments	Summary of response
1	Geoffrey Newmarch LWWF	<p>Offered congratulations to the LWCS team for their hard work in producing a Draft Plan of enormous depth and detail.</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 'Wolds' signs on the roads made more prominent</li> <li>b. More interpretation panels throughout the Wolds.</li> <li>c. Permissive Paths - it would be good to see the lapsed paths return and new ones negotiated if there was a budget</li> </ul>	<p>Positive comments noted and welcomed from the Chairman of the LWWF (Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Partnership has explored the current roadway entrance signs that were installed as part of the original Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy. Due to Highway stipulations the AONB Partnership has agreed to replace like for like as and when required.</li> <li>b. The Plan recognises within Section 6.2 (Interpretation - Awareness Raising) the value and importance of interpretation including specifically Policies IP1 – IP3. The Partnership has invested resources in the upgrading of the interpretation signs as evidenced within the State of the AONB report to help highlight the area's special qualities (contributing to the area's natural beauty). We agree that further local interpretation panels should be encouraged, with support and engagement from local residents and communities. Wherever possible new interpretation panels should fit within the existing house-style for the AONB Partnership (Actions IPA9).</li> <li>c. The Plan supports the aspiration for maximising access opportunities for all (Policy ARTP1) and Action ARTA2 seeks to ensure no net loss to the existing Definitive Public Rights of Way network and maximising opportunities for access via permissive agreements. The current agri-environment schemes no longer include payments for access provision; however this could potentially change with the roll-out of new environmental land management systems (NEMS) and the Government shift towards farm support mechanisms which can deliver on wider public benefits (A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment – Defra). As part of furthering a natural capital approach there will be greater emphasis on connecting people with the environment, not least to improve health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
2	Paul Tame NFU	<p>Page 44, policy GP4. I think this policy will require incentives too, either locally or from national agri-environment schemes or both, because less productive grassland is loss making for farmers to manage.</p> <p>Page 50, policy HTP1. Hedgerow maintenance and planting is great. Is it possible for the Wolds to have some kind of incentive scheme to encourage planting and good</p>	<p>Some good points made on a series of policy and actions that are especially pertinent to farming and land owner interests in the Wolds.</p> <p>Policy GP4 (Biodiversity – Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) - agree that farm agri-environments and other grant support mechanisms will be important for securing future protection and enhancement of grassland for biodiversity interests. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will continue to link up</p>

		<p>management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees?  Page 52, RSPP5. Likewise for ponds, a grant scheme to encourage pond restoration and management would be great.  Page 53, third paragraph. It's not all bad news. Some farmland and other bird species are on the increase.  Page 62, policy BHP3. We like this policy, especially if it can include conversion for residential use where there are no other economic re-uses possible.  Page 72, policy PP2. We feel that conversion to residential use should be an option where there are no other possible economic re-use for the buildings. We understand the need for policy PP7 but the Wolds must play its part in contributing to renewable energy generation. Nice parts of the country cannot expect all the renewable energy to be generated elsewhere.  For this reason we support policy PP10.</p>	<p>with the National Association for AONBs to help advise and inform on future roll-out of emerging NEMS which should support protection and enhancement of landscape-scale environmental enhancements across the nationally protected families of AONB and National Parks.</p> <p>Policy HTP1 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees) and Policy RSPP5 (Ponds and wetland habitats) - note call for greater financial incentives. Additional to the roll-out and potential of future national schemes the AONB Partnership continues to promote and resource the Wolds Small Grant Scheme which includes grant support (50% intervention rate) for modest hedgerow and boundary enhancements and likewise improvements on other habitats including pond and wetland habitats.</p> <p>Page 53, 3<sup>rd</sup> para - comments noted, text amended to indicate that not all farmland birds have been in decline, although many have (e.g. UK wide of the 19 farmland bird indicators monitored via the BTO network 12 have declined).</p> <p>Policy BHP3 (Built Heritage) and PP2 (Planning – Traditional Buildings): note and welcome support for the sympathetic repair of farm buildings. Recognise the call to enable some residential conversion of disused farm buildings. Such applications will need to be determined by the relevant Local Planning Authority based upon Local Development Framework and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance. BHP3 and PP2 wording to remain unchanged with the Plan supporting and encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings for the direct benefit of the local economy and community e.g. via resulting Actions BHA3 &amp; BHA7 (Built Heritage).</p> <p>Comments noted on Policy PP7 (wind energy schemes) and support for Policy PP10 (renewable energy) welcomed. The AONB Partnership seeks to endorse small scale/ community focused energy conservation and renewable generation schemes that will not impact detrimentally upon the character of the AONB and/or its setting. This position recognises that the Wolds AONB is a nationally protected area on account of its high scenic quality (natural beauty).</p>
3	PF Beelsby resident	<p>Contents: <b>4.4.2 Built Heritage</b> of your Draft Management Plan 2018-2023 should include original, cast iron telephone boxes (K6 or similar). As an example, the respondent highlighted issues with the recent loss of a BT telephone box at Beelsby which are now being reviewed again.</p>	<p>Welcome comments on the importance of the traditional cast iron telephone boxes in terms of both a community and heritage asset. There is a common view that the old style boxes can often make an important contribution to the local vernacular. To clarify, the heritage objective (BHO) seeks to protect and enhance historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings and features – this goal includes traditional signage and wider public realm elements which are deemed to be of both local and wider importance.</p>
4	Emilie Wales NELC Conservation	Looks ok to me, no comments to make	Response from North East Lincolnshire Council duly noted.

	Officer		
5	DS Lincoln resident	<p>Highlights that the document has been clearly thought out in terms of detailing the preservation of the AONB. The respondent recognises it as an auspicious plan and if all comes to fruition it will be a clarion call for Lincolnshire in terms of appreciating and understanding the need to balance all aspects of life.</p> <p>Specific comments include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect the vulnerable fauna of The Wolds. White-clawed Crayfish introduction to chalk streams can only work if chemicals are not leeching into the waterways. Discussions should be held on the recent evidence of neonicotinoids on the fauna. Invertebrates, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammal predators are all at risk from this chemical and potentially holds the same threat to health that DDT posed in the 20th Century. Songbird numbers are in decline, to the point that our Starlings and Sparrow populations are alarmingly dropping. If we are to encourage the recovery of rare species in Lincolnshire, which I believe our Wolds can be a national leader in, then we have to lead the line. The Sincil Drain has recently showed dangerously high levels of insecticide in it. This should be taken as a warning</li> <li>2. Encouraging the replanting of "Bocage" through the area. This will encourage wildlife and will also reduce soil erosion. Landowners should be heavily involved in this</li> <li>3. Planting of new woodland is highly encouraging. Will this include the reintroduction of the rare Limewoods?</li> <li>4. It MUST be impressed on landowners that whilst they earn their living from the land of Lincolnshire, that they also have a massive responsibility to the protection and nurture of the land. Their forebears understood this, and the message should be heeded and not overlooked in the pursuit of profit</li> </ol>	<p>Welcome overarching positive comments on the Plan and its aspirations.</p> <p>In terms of more specific comments as detailed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted response on white-clawed crayfish introduction to chalk streams and the need to safeguard our aquifers and waterways from a range of chemical pollutants. The Plan in Sections 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) and 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland) highlights the ongoing issue of diffuse pollution through the applications of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. Agree that this should be extended in the narrative to include the potential harm through neonicotinoids - the UK government now recognises this family of pesticides requires further restrictions in the light of mounting evidence of the potential wider harm to bees and other pollinators. Policy AFP2 (Biodiversity – Arable Farmland) reworded to include an increasing shift towards Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and low-input systems to encourage sustainable crop protection with the minimum use of pesticides. (see also response 14)</li> <li>2. In respect of the reintroduction of "Bocage" the Plan has not referred to this specific term. Bocage originates from France and has been used in particular to describe those landscapes of Normandy characterised by a patchwork of small pastoral fields, small woodlands and interconnecting network of hedgerows and sunken lanes. The term is occasionally applied to the landscapes of southern Britain, including notably Devon, Cornwall and the High Weald. As highlighted in Policy BP2 (Section 4.2.1 - Biodiversity) the Plan is seeking to develop and promote a landscape scale approach to habitat protection and enhancement, including developing resilience through greater connectivity between our wildlife areas (ecosystem service networks). Bocage is not referenced within the original Landscape Character Assessment for the Lincolnshire Wolds, (1993) although there is reference to the Ridges and Valleys of the South-West comprising "a more wooded, enclosed, pastoral and settled landscapes further north – reflecting perhaps, its links with the Danish people". As evidenced in the Plan, the proposed Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund networks (see Actions GA6 - Section 4.2.2, RSPA5 - Section 4.2.6, SA3 - Section 4.3.2, and FWA2 &amp; FWA5 - Section 5.1) and the Greenway project (see Action HTA1 – Section 4.2.5) will provide further opportunities to explore and apply landscape scale approaches. These clustered actions will seek to not only help protect and enhance key habitats and species indicative of the Wolds rural character but also help aid crop, soil and water management and help secure other wider public benefits.</li> <li>3. Note positive comment on future woodland generation. There is an objective within the Plan (Objective WBO – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (section 4.2.4) to include some areas of new woodland</li> </ol>

			<p>planting in addition to enhancing the management of our current woodland and linked (mosaic habitats). The emphasis is very much on encouraging future native broadleaved planting. Limewoods are not seen as typical of the character of the Wolds as the network of these woods are a feature of the neighbouring Central Lincolnshire Vale, especially in the area between Wragby and Bardney. Some lime and small leaved lime planting may be beneficial within a wider species mix depending on local woodland composition. Alder carr woodlands are more typical in the southern Wolds and wet lying valleys with oak-ash-beech dominant at higher elevations.</p> <p>4. Comments noted. The Plan seeks to recognise that the Wolds are very much a living and working landscape and the overarching vision acknowledges the need for securing a sustainable approach to agriculture, forestry and land management. This embraces the need for innovative solutions to tackling climate change, food production, water quality etc, and the aspiration for enhanced connectivity between landscapes and green infrastructure.</p>
6	Charles Dobson JAC - NFU	Happy with the contents but take this opportunity to remind you that future development in the Wolds should be encouraged rather than discouraged.	<p>Response welcomed from local NFU and Wolds JAC representative.</p> <p>Acknowledge the sentiments for encouraging future development in the Wolds. The Plan strives to provide a catalyst for future change and as discussed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds (Chapter 7), seeks to encourage and support future development that can complement the AONB in a positive way e.g. encouraging the highest quality design in new and re-development.</p>
7	Helen Pitman Nettleton Parish	Section2 page 24 – three DMVs missing – Hardwich, West Wykeham and Draycot	Comments noted. Table 1 (Special Qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB) inclusion of listed Deserted Medieval Villages as a local feature (Nettleton Parish) within the wider North-west scarp.
8	Cllr S Hudson Great Limber Parish	Re Proposed Action PA15, boundary review – an enlarged AONB would provide greater unity, greater protection to landscape, cultural practices and bolster the visitor economy. Tourism and the natural environment are increasingly important to our economy.	<p>Comments recorded and positive support for extending the AONB duly noted (see also response 23).</p> <p>The AONB Partnership currently has an open view on the pros and cons of undertaking a full boundary revision but know anomalies have long been recognised by the JAC (Joint Advisory Committee). Proposed Action PA15 to be retained with the respective local planning authorities and key partners to investigate future options for a boundary review.</p> <p>It should be noted that a formal boundary modification must proceed through a Verification Order, a legal process coordinated by Natural England as the statutory body with responsibility for nationally protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). The timescales and recourses required for a boundary review are significant, usually necessitating a public enquiry.</p>
	Helen Pitman Walesby parish	Walesby Parish Council supports the document	Endorsement from Walesby Parish Council duly noted and welcomed.



9			
10	SS Lincoln resident	<p>Notes that the Plan appears to be a very thorough and detailed report.</p> <p>Anxious about a PEDL at Biscathorpe, applied for by Egdon Resources, to use unconventional extraction methods for fossil fuel extraction. Hopes that this will be resisted in the most robust terms.</p> <p>Pleased to see the following commitment: "As well as working to reduce emissions (most notably fossil fuels), including the shift towards a circular economy and reduced 'carbon footprint', a landscape scale /catchment scale collaborative approach is highly advantageous to help build resilience and aid adaptations."</p> <p>The respondent highlighted their concerns with hydraulic fracturing, or indeed any fossil fuel extraction whatsoever, stressing that it threatens every aspect of the AONB and promises no short or long term benefits to the community or the landscape.</p> <p>As regular users of the "bus walks" we hope to see these updated and developed.</p>	<p>The positive comments on the general style and content of the Plan are welcomed.</p> <p>Acknowledge the concerns with respect to ongoing/future oil and gas exploration within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including potentially unconventional extraction methods. Similar views have been expressed by respondents 11, 15 and 21.</p> <p>This has now been referenced as a potential pressure/threat within the minerals extraction section of Table 2 which summarises forces for change (positive and negative) on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Public concerns over fracking have also been included within the additional new key issue – bullet points within Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management).</p> <p>Following discussions with the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group (meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> March '18), a consensus has been reached that the Policy wording of PP4 (Section 7.1) and resulting Actions PA5-6 are deemed to be sufficiently robust, but with the additional minor amendment to Policy PP4 – "To minimise damage to the AONB's <b>natural beauty</b> as a result of mineral working and associated activity and help implement the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy". This extends the policy from landscape alone and recognises the full scope of the Wolds special features including the area's tranquillity and deeply rural sense of place.</p> <p>Both the testing and any subsequent production operations for hydrocarbons are subject to securing formal planning permission and various additional environmental consents. The UK's Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) oversees the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence's (PEDL) - PEDL23 covers a significant area of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Operators can thus review and submit formal permission from the Minerals Planning Authority for consent to drill a well within these licensing areas.</p> <p>In respect of fracking (hydraulic fracturing), Provision 50 of the Infrastructure Act (2015) prohibits fracking in protected ground water source areas, or other protected areas, at a depth of less than 1,200 metres from the surface. AONBs are included within this provision, although technically fracking can take place from wells that are drilled under protected areas.</p> <p>It is noted that Lincolnshire County Council's Mineral and Waste Local Plan (2016) has a specific Policy (DM5) which states that "planning permission will only be granted for minerals and waste development within or affecting the character or setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a proven public interest; and</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve The market need; and</li> <li>• the impact on the special qualities of the AONB can be satisfactorily mitigated".</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, North East Lincolnshire Council's emerging Local Plan with Minerals and Waste Policies (2016) states through Policy 44 that "proposed development located within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will be required to demonstrate that the proposed mineral cannot be viably extracted from sources outside of the designated area. Mineral developments in the AONB which are likely to damage the quality or intrinsic character of the landscape will not be granted planning permission unless it has been clearly demonstrated that the need for the extraction of the mineral clearly outweighs the detrimental impact."</p> <p>In-line with Policy TWP2 (Transport in the Wolds), there is a specific Action (TWA4) for partners to work with Stage Coach, and other operators, to review and develop the "bus walk" series. In particular, with an aspiration to provide ten refreshed routes across the Wolds utilising the Lincoln - Skegness and Lincoln – Grimsby InterConnect services. (See also Response 18 and 20).</p>
11	JP Louth resident	<p>Expresses concerns for the proposed fossil fuel exploration by Egdon resources at Biscathorpe and believes that despite the company's confident assertions, the catastrophic possibility of contamination in a protected natural environment remains.</p> <p>The respondent highlights the pressing need for reducing fossil fuels and is surprised that the Plan has no robust policy against fossil fuel exploration, but conversely an apparent prejudice against wind farms and seeks clarification on those wind farms located within/adjacent to the AONB.</p> <p>Avoiding wind farms on account of "spoiling the view" and other contributory factors will be a lame excuse to future generations when the climate continues to warm (2-3 degrees by the end of this century even with a rapid decarbonisation) – bringing with it future pressures on the Wolds through for example the inundation of neighbouring coastal farmland.</p>	<p>Acknowledge the general concern with respect to ongoing/future oil and gas exploration within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including potentially unconventional extraction methods. See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p> <p>Points noted on the potential climate change scenarios and the increasing pressures for decarbonisation. Whilst also a cross-cutting theme, Section 7.3 seeks to explore and review climate change and energy issues in the context of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The overall goal (Objective CCO) is to seek to develop and implement a long term climate change strategy to help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation. The primary purpose of the designation is one of the protection of natural beauty, whilst recognising that the area is very much a living and working landscape.</p> <p>The Partnership will support small scale-community driven wind turbine schemes where these are of an appropriate scale, siting and design. As expressed within Policy PP7 there continues to be a general presumption against wind energy schemes in any location which would cause significant and demonstrably detrimental effects upon the natural beauty and intrinsic characteristics of the AONB. This extends through Policy PP5 to impact upon setting, in particular encouraging due consideration of the impact on the views to and from the Wolds.</p>
12	Kay Turton ELDC	<p>The Plan is a comprehensive piece of work with the general style flowing well and the document logically laid out.</p> <p>The Council supports the inclusion of references to partnership</p>	<p>Positive comments on the general content and structure welcomed from the ELDC's Officer representative for the Wolds AONB Partnership.</p> <p>Support to Love Lincolnshire Wolds Tourism (LLW) tourism partnership</p>

		<p>working with the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership.</p> <p>With reference to TCA5 on page 90, it is not clear if the Rural Gain Grant is still available.</p> <p>With reference to PA4 on page 95, the Rural Housing Enablers and Living Lincolnshire affordable housing partnership no longer exist, so Proposed Action PA4 is no longer valid. Suggest this could be changed to something like "Support the work of local authorities and housing associations in AONB communities."</p>	<p>welcomed. Detailed within Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism (inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of Wolds Destination Management Plan. (see also response 22)</p> <p>Thriving Communities (Section 5.2), Action TCA5 - Rural Gain Grant excluded</p> <p>Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1) - Action PA4 note that the work of the Rural Housing Enablers/Living Lincolnshire affordable housing partnership is now obsolete. Support re-wording of PA4 as per recommendation.</p>
13	Ruth Carver GLLEP	<p>The GLLEP welcomes the overall vision in particular the area's "unique and nationally importance sense of place".</p> <p>The Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan itself recognises that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB forms part of the diverse appeal of Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Welcomes significant role in relation to GLLEP strategic economic plan priority sectors and in particular the three areas of agri-food, visitor economy and low carbon.</p> <p>Welcomes the Plan's proposed innovative solutions to tackling climate change, food production, water quality and supply, recreation provision and energy demands.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB's (via the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service) long standing support and active involvement in the Lindsey Action Zone - LAZ (Leader Programme) is recognised. Future close collaboration should continue to help aid and support small business, farming and heritage activity in the Wolds.</p>	<p>The positive comments from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) are well received.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership recognises and welcomes the Plan's close alignment with at least three of the six Strategic Economic Plan priority sectors: agri-food, the visitor economy and low carbon. Common links with the GLLEP (and also the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership-GLNP) including within Theme 2 – Living and Working in the Wolds; Action FWA12 and ARTA14.</p> <p>We note and support the need for innovative and practical solutions to a range of rural development matters as detailed.</p> <p>We welcome and support the ongoing LEADER (and wider Rural Development Programme for England) – LAZ Fund; this provides an important stimulus for local investment in the rural economy of the Wolds and wider hinterland. The need for maximising AONB gains through the LAZ programme is highlighted within Thriving Communities (Section 5.2) specifically Action TCA10.</p>
14	Richard Chadd EA	<p>Professionally produced and easy to read. It is set out in such a way that parts of specific interest to me were easily found.</p> <p>Regarding the Rivers, Streams and Ponds section 4.2.6:</p> <p>The new issues added under threats &amp; pressures which have been added are critical elements, which I welcome. I would like to add diffuse runoff or point source discharges of pesticides (especially neonicotinoids) to this.</p> <p>I enthusiastically welcome the objectives and policies outlined in this section. An element of citizen science input to onward</p>	<p>Welcome positive comments from the Environment Agency and LCSP representative on the general style, layout and content.</p> <p>In terms of the Rivers, Streams and Ponds Section 4.2.6 note supportive response on new issues and agree with recommendation to highlight the issue of the discharge of pesticides including neonicotinoids (see also response 5). An additional reference to potential river pollutants has been included within Table 2: Forces for Change (Section 2.5 - Threats/Issues/Pressures)</p> <p>Note and agree to highlight additional opportunities of voluntary/community engagement through the Citizen Science initiative; incorporated within Action</p>

		<p>management and delivery of these policies could be mentioned.</p> <p>Yes able to provide further support to assist the Plan via the work of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, and active engagement on the Steering Group. This includes help with citizen science initiatives and the provision of specialist data, advice and information on water management.</p>	<p>RSPA8 (and added link to Action TCA13 – Thriving Communities, Section 5.2)</p> <p>Welcome respondents ongoing support in the delivery of the Plan as detailed e.g. via active engagement in the work of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project.</p>
15	EW Frack Free Lincolnshire Group	<p>Welcomes the Draft Plan's aims and objectives to preserve and conserve the Lincolnshire Wolds's rich and vibrant rural heritage.</p> <p>Pleased to see that the plan promotes sustainable renewable energy; sustainable transport; geodiversity; biodiversity; healthy thriving communities. All these are addressed in deeply thought-through and ready to implement ways.</p> <p>The respondent urges the team to have another look at threats posed by oil and gas development seeking to exploit the area's sandstone/limestone reservoirs. Technology has moved on rapidly and oil exploration is no longer the relatively non-invasive nodding donkey production method - scooping up oil which flows naturally to the surface. Fracking and other well stimulation methods are increasingly being proposed to access spent and hard-to-access sandstone reserves. These do not have to be defined as "fracking" or "unconventional" under current planning and regulatory protocols.</p> <p>Urges you to strengthen some of your aims and objectives with this in mind. Recent Judicial and Planning Inspectorate statements have highlighted the fact that local authority decision-makers are in a position to make progressive planning choices when the full facts are laid before them. Ask searching questions when it comes to oil and gas development in the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p>	<p>Note and welcome the positive response to the Plan's broad aims and objectives and proposed future implementation.</p> <p>Acknowledge the respondent's general concerns in response to future oil and gas developments, including the potential use of fracking and other well stimulation methods. See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p>
16	PS South Ormsby resident Horncastle business	<p>The Management Plan is interesting; the AONB must continue to be viewed as national asset – there are so few.</p> <p>Section 4: The protection of the area for light pollution and tranquillity is a must. Peaceful enjoyment of the lovely views etc is only possible if there are strict guidelines for future developments and that these are adhered to. This includes any signage or anything that has a strong visual impact.</p> <p>Section 5: The need to be 'sympathetic to area' is important. The area is heavily farmed and any other developments must be thoroughly thought through. Living in the Wolds is a</p>	<p>Note and recognise the need to view the Wolds AONB as a national asset.</p> <p>Section 4: Agree on the recommendation to continue to protect the area from detrimental harm through implementation of strict guidelines to help protect the special charm and character of the area – including protection of dark night skies, tranquillity (see also response 20), light pollution, and minimising the proliferation of signage.</p> <p>Section 5: Note the feelings on living within the Wolds and the overriding need to be sympathetic to the area.</p> <p>Section 6: Note the request for future leaflets and maps of walks in the area.</p>

		<p>privilege not a struggle.</p> <p>Section 6: We have lots of footpaths and bridleways – leaflets and maps of walks would be useful.</p> <p>Section 7: Livestock farming getting too intensive. Dairies are inappropriate for the area and too many chickens.</p> <p>Section 8: Wildlife groups and local views important.</p> <p>Section 9: Your plan is comprehensive.</p> <p>Further suggestions/comments: Keep involving local people and use newspapers, letters not just social media and libraries. People would volunteer to deliver updates on local issues.</p> <p>Tranquillity and dark skies are so important – please ensure car parks and any developments, inc. farm buildings, acknowledge the importance of this.</p>	<p>There is a large of stock of Wolds Walks and Bus Walks literature and there remain plans to further extend the series as and when resources become available. The LWCS is always keen to work with local residents and various community groups to explore and develop new routes. As expressed via Action ARTA3 (Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3) local volunteers are encouraged to link with local landowners to assist in reviewing potential routes and also researching/exploring main points of interest etc.</p> <p>Section 7: Note the sentiments on farming becoming more intensive and the potential trend towards potentially super dairies and increased poultry. The Management Plan seeks to help encourage and promote sustainable levels of farming e.g. securing commercially viable farm units that operate in a manner respectful of the special qualities of the AONB and maximising the wider public goods and services offer.</p> <p>Section 8: Note the importance of wildlife groups and local views to taking forward future partnership activity. The AONB Partnership has always sought to recognise the Plan as everyone's Plan – fostering a consultative and collaborative way of working. Acknowledge additional thoughts on keeping people interested and engaged in the area, including providing updates on their local area.</p> <p>Recognise and agree on the importance of safeguarding both tranquillity and dark night skies. The need to minimise development impacts upon these attributes are detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1).</p>
17	Cllr Strange JAC/LCC	<p>Commends the M. Plan and the excellent work of the LWCS team and Chalk Streams Project. The document is a truly excellent report.</p> <p>Highlights the need for District, County and Unitary partners planning teams to be made very much aware of their responsibilities in recognising, wholeheartedly, the importance that the national government places on AONBs.</p> <p>Embraces ELDC efforts to upgrade Lincs Wolds for tourism, and stresses the need to encourage WLDC &amp; NELC to support this move.</p>	<p>Welcome the general praise on the production of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Note the Elected Member's request to secure the collective engagement and support from all of the relevant local authority planning teams as detailed – including recognition of the national importance of the AONB. Chapter 1 (Setting the Scene) highlights the international, national and local contexts for AONB Management Plans and the legal framework for the preparation and development of the document. The Plan highlights local authority obligations through Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Section 82 –Section 89 of the Act) including the need to produce and adopt a collaborative Strategy for the area and the requirement to have a duty of regard when exercising or performing any functions in relation to land in the AONB.</p> <p>The M. Plan reviews and recommends a range of interpretation, access, recreation and tourism initiatives within Theme 3 – Discovering the Wolds. As expressed through Objective IO this includes a range of policies and actions to help raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of the area's special qualities, in turn helping to aid the local economy.</p>

18	DF Tetford	<p>Respondent has suggested the development of a circular heritage bus route, ideally taking in both the Wolds and coastal areas.</p> <p>Suggestion made to further explore the promotion and development of off-road mobility scooters such as the Terrain Hopper. These can be quite expensive, but any alternative hire or leasing arrangements look to be difficult to roll-out at the local level. The Disability Access Forum may be a useful point of contact.</p>	<p>Series of constructive points made on a number of specialist transport/access projects.</p> <p>The development of a heritage bus route needs further consideration and exploration. As highlighted in response 10 and 20, Action (TWA4) seeks to refresh and review the interconnect bus walks, linking with Stage Coach and other relevant partners.</p> <p>Note and welcome response to promoting opportunities for those with mobility issues. Further dialogue with specialist providers and the Disability Access Forum should be explored. A resulting new action (Action ARTA19 – within Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3) is proposed to help review and enhance access provision for disadvantaged groups, including those with general mobility or health issues.</p>
19	David Ashton-Hill Greetham with Somersby PC chair	<p>Frustrating and a waste of resources having to print of M.P. I have found that the engine set up to manage and develop the AONB has been eroded during my time as Chair of the Greetham with Somersby PCC.</p> <p>I am at a senior age, and have known the area all my life and am appalled at what has happened to the area, but encouraged that more and more people wish to come here, to enjoy their stay in this area and to travel and walk its bounds.</p> <p>To my experience, your body has done little to protect, develop, encourage or ascertain the nature of the AONB.</p> <p>During the time that I have known Greetham, some 70 years, the following has happened:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The loss of two public footpaths</li> <li>2. The reduction of status of a bridle way into a public footpath</li> <li>3. The maintenance of a commercial dog breeding establishment within the village, without planning permission, on a public footpath has been in effect for a period since 1987, some 30 years. At no stage during this time has your department, to my knowledge made any statement to the ELDC Planning Authority or supported the residents of this village about what the aspirations and objectives you hold for the maintenance of the AONB. The planning appeal of the applicant, this is the second one, is now running. There has been no statement from your organisation. <p>A few years ago a supply company ran a very large swathe of commercial implementation from Louth to Boston across the AONB. This was one of the most invasive actions that I have experienced in our area. I asked for details of what archaeological watching brief that the developer had to answer</p> </li></ol>	<p>Note and acknowledge respondent's critical comments and concerns with a number of rights of way and planning/enforcement issues pertinent to Greetham and Somersby. Further dialogue has been undertaken to understand all of the concerns at Greetham-Somersby Parishes as detailed.</p> <p>Note disappointment and frustrations in accessing the public draft – all Parish Clerks were sent a paper copy of the Draft Plan for wider circulation, with further copies made available on request.</p> <p>Further clarification has been sought to understand all of the concerns at Greetham-Somersby Parishes as detailed.</p> <p>Checks with LCC Highways have indicated that there have been no recent formal public rights of way diversion orders; the most recent footpath/bridleway modification would appear to date back to the early 1980's. Action ARTA2 (Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism) seeks to ensure that there is no net loss to the existing Definitive Public Rights of Way network and maximise opportunities for access for all via permissive arrangements. In recent years agri-environment funding that had encouraged landowners to utilise field margins etc for public access has been cut due to national public finance restrictions.</p> <p>The LWCS has recently linked up with villagers and volunteers from Somersby and Bag Enderby to help produce and publish the In the Footsteps of Tennyson Wolds Walk – the latest in the family of self-guided AONB Wolds Walks and Rides.</p> <p>Note the opinion that the body (Partnership) has done little to protect, develop, encourage or ascertain the nature of the AONB. The JAC Partnership would challenge this view as clearly there has been a significant investment in resources post Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), including support and promotion of a great many local projects via the LWCS Sustainable Development Fund and Small Grant Scheme. All of the LWCS's</p>

		<p>– nothing was forthcoming from your department, ELDC or any other public body.</p> <p>To my knowledge and experience the efforts that your department puts out to manage, maintain and protect this wonderful environment has no teeth. I ask for this proposal to be re-written and re-presented.</p>	<p>previous work activity is well summarised in the Wolds Annual Reviews which have been published on an annual basis from 2004-05.</p> <p>As articulated within Theme 1 (Protecting the Wolds), the Plan recognises that there has been, and continues to be, a great many pressures on the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The primary purpose of the designation is the conservation of the area's natural beauty, but clearly there are numerous pressures and forces for change. The Partnership believes that the area cannot be preserved in aspic, it is a living and working landscape and a careful balance needs to be struck to ensure that future development is sustainable and appropriate to the AONB. The Plan seeks to complement the relevant suite of Local Plans, Minerals and Waste Plans and any emerging Neighbourhood Plans, helping to aid and inform any future development proposals (Theme 6 – Developing the Wolds). The LWCS and Natural England typically provide additional comments on planning and enforcement issues pertinent to the interests of the AONB and usually at the request of the relevant Local Planning Authority. Resources dictate that both organisations are unable to respond to every single planning application within or immediately adjacent to the AONB, but will endeavour to respond to any application that has the potential to cause significant harm to the AONB. In turn legislation highlights that all LAs must have "a duty of regard" when performing their duties, this is detailed within Section 1.3 What are the statutory obligations for managing AONB? Chapter 1 – Setting the Scene, includes Section 1.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB... which highlights that the area is entrusted to all – local authorities, organisations, community groups and those who live and work in the Wolds. The Partnership will continue to push for due diligence in the review and assessment of future development plans. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) continues to provide an overarching steer and influence to future proposals - with a clear focus on supporting and encouraging sustainable development and recognising and respecting local views/ community responses. The Partnership (as per Actions TCA1 - Thriving Communities and PA2 - Planning and Development Management welcome and encourage the production of various local Parish and Neighbourhood Plans to help recognise, and reinforce local character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Note the comment in respect of an organisation with no-teeth. As detailed above, Section 1 of the Plan sets the scene in terms of AONB legislative context. The AONB Partnership is an advisory body with powers to convene and influence - and helps the LAs to develop, publish and review the statutory Management Plan. The AONB administrative body is not a landowner, but seeks to work through positive influence and collaboration. Individual organisations within the JAC, in particular the LAs, and NGOs (Natural England, Historic England and The Environment Agency) have a wide range of duties, regulatory and enforcement powers that must take account of the AONB designation e.g. through the duty of regard.</p>
20	BN	Section 4: There should be a presumption against any	Comments and offer of assistance noted and welcomed.

	Donington on Bain resident	<p>planning app. which generates noise, other than for essential infrastructure.</p> <p>Existing woodland (including smaller spinneys and copses) should be protected and property owners offered incentives to extend natural habitats wherever possible. The protection of existing monuments and listed buildings should be prioritised.</p> <p>Section 5: Agricultural buildings should only be allowed if they blend into the landscape. Increased bus services between key centres and as many smaller villages as possible would support existing commercial ventures in the Wolds and aid employment opportunities for existing residents.</p> <p>Section 6: The emphasis should be on quiet pursuits such walking and cycling. There should be a presumption against leisure activities which require infrastructure development/planning applications to support them.</p> <p>Section 7: There should be a presumption against any planning application which is not essential (e.g. accepting housing, limited agricultural buildings, critical national infrastructure etc) and which does not reinforce the peaceful and tranquil nature of the Wolds. There should be a presumption against any planning application which generates noise other than for essential infrastructure.</p> <p>Efforts should be made to improve flood management insofar as possible without developing infrastructure solutions that would greatly alter the existing landscape. As above, existing ancient monuments and listed buildings should be protected at all costs.</p> <p>Section 8: Whilst local authorities must continue to encourage multiple partnership activity in the future life of the Wolds, every effort should be made by our elected representatives to ensure that pressure groups/commercial affiliations with self-interest at heart, do not gain undue influence over future decision making.</p> <p>Section 9: An annual statement should be released showing achievements against planned targets with a schedule of activities for the year ahead. A simple monthly RAG indicator published showing progress against planned delivery date – published on website and emailed to interested residents.</p> <p>Additional Comments: Respondent is happy to freely contribute their time to support any activity (research, analysis,</p>	<p>Section 4: Agree on the recommendation to continue to protect the area from developments which could potential generate detrimental levels of noise and in so doing impact upon the area's undoubted high levels of tranquillity (see also response 11 and 27). Tranquillity is a recognised component of natural beauty. The need to minimise future development impacts from potentially detrimental noise and light intrusion is detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1). Noted however that Action ARTA8 (Access, Recreation and Tourism, Section 6.3) includes the link with landowners and other interest groups for information on more specialist recreational activity including opportunities for legal hunting, fishing and shooting interests. The latter does generate the potential for conflict with local residents and visitors although a legitimate pursuit that can significantly enhance landowner income and the wider rural economy.</p> <p>Note positive comment on future woodland protection and habitat extension. As detailed in response 5 - there is an objective within the Plan (Objective WBO – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (Section 4.2.4) to include some areas of new woodland planting in addition to enhancing the management of our current woodland and linked (mosaic habitats). In terms of incentives – agree that the future agri-environment and woodland grant support should be promoted and utilised accordingly to help secure appropriate and much needed biodiversity gains. Action WBA1 and WBA2 (Section 4.2.4) specifically seeks to encourage the uptake of grants and specialist advice, utilising support and guidance from Forestry Commission. Any new planting schemes need to be appropriate to local setting and habitat requirements, but may be especially beneficial for buffering sensitive ecosystems, including existing semi-natural woodlands and enhancing habitat connections through a landscape scale approach (e.g. Estate/farm wide plans and river catchment plans).</p> <p>Section 5: Comments noted on agricultural buildings. Additional to simple economies of scale, wider farm requirements and farm industry stipulations has often resulted in pressure for ever larger buildings. Unlike the wider countryside, most farm building proposals within the AONB cannot automatically proceed as permitted development but require additional consents from the relevant local planning authority. The AONB unit will review such applications on a case by case basis with further consideration to developing future design guidance (e.g. Action BHA3 - Built Heritage, Section 4.4.2 and PA3 - Planning and Development Management , Section 7.1). Through Policy BHP3 there is an emphasis on encouraging and supporting the sympathetic re-use and renovation of redundant buildings. The work undertaken via the Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Guidance study and subsequent AONB specific report (as detailed within the State of the AONB Report – Appendix 4) provides a useful further point of reference for the sympathetic development of farm buildings.</p>
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		<p>physical labour, etc) which would help bring the plan to fruition.</p>	<p>Request for increased bus services duly noted and agree with the sentiments. The narrative within Section 7.2 (Transport and Signage in the Wolds) highlights the aspiration for a fully integrated transport network with recognition of the importance of InterConnect and CallConnect bus services in providing vital links to those residents and visitors reliant upon public transport. However clearly this is a challenge in the wider backdrop of reducing services but recreation and tourism links may help to provide important added value to key routes. As discussed in response 10 and 18, Action (TWA4) seeks to refresh and review the interconnect bus walks, linking with Stage Coach and other relevant partners.</p> <p>Section 6 and Section 7: Comments noted with a general agreement that the Plan needs to support future tourism and recreation that is sensitive and appropriate to the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds including its tranquillity and unique sense of place. The emphasis on supporting access, recreation and tourism that is appropriate to the AONB is detailed within Policies ARTP1 and ART4 (Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3).</p> <p>As detailed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds, there is evidently an important balance to be struck in terms of enabling sustainable development of the right type, right scale and in the right location within the AONB. Planning applications should be assessed on this basis with development proposals clearly articulating local and national needs, and detailing clear proposals on complementing and enriching the special qualities (natural beauty) of the Wolds.</p> <p>Agree and support the merits of supporting and promoting quiet recreation (such as walking, cycling and horse-riding) and avoiding large tourism infrastructure proposals within the heart of the AONB. There may however be some scope for small scale appropriate tourism/recreation developments that are deemed to be in keeping with the rural charm and character of the Wolds – for example a sensitive change of use and renovation of a farm building for a small business or tourism/recreation facility. There has been an increasing trend towards glamping, holiday lodges and mobile caravan sites all of which it is agreed need careful thought and planning. Depending on the scale of the proposals it should be noted that some of the smaller schemes may automatically proceed as permitted developments. Policy ARTP4 within Access, Recreation and Tourism (Section 6.3) does recognise the need to review current access, recreation and tourism provision but only to support new measures/innovation where compatible with the AONB. Overarching Objective ARTO in the same section equally highlights the need to develop <u>sustainable</u> access, recreation and tourism initiatives <u>appropriate</u> to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Agree and support the merits of developing naturalised flood management systems which can work with the grain of nature e.g. land management that can hold and store water in the headwaters and minimise negative impacts of extreme rainfall events. This is articulated within elements of Policies</p>
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			<p>RSPP1 RSPP2 and RSPP6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds - Section 4.2.6) and Policy SP2 (Earth Heritage – Soils, Section 4.3.2)</p> <p>Agree and support the call for prioritising heritage protection and enhancement towards key existing ancient monuments and listed buildings. Historic England continue to record and monitor the "at risks" register and Actions AA7 and AA8 (Archaeology, Section 4.4.1) seeks to review and focus resources on known archaeological sites deemed to be "at risk". In terms of Listed Building resource slight re-wording of Action BHA1 (Built Heritage, Section 4.4.2) is recommended to highlight Listed Buildings "at risk". It should also be noted however that a large number of historic buildings across the AONB, most notably many traditional farmsteads and farm buildings, are not currently listed but are known to have significant heritage features/potential (as evidenced within the Lincolnshire Wolds Traditional Farmsteads Study, 2017).</p> <p>Section 8: Comments noted and supported in terms of ensuring levels of accountability and transparency in decision making. Internal procedures are subject to ongoing review and in terms of the LWCS monitored via hosting authority arrangements, local Memorandum of Agreement and AONB Partnership governance. See also below – reporting. Individual planning applications are subject to the policies, procedures and due scrutiny of the relevant local planning authorities, requiring either an Officer or Planning Committee decision. Applications must be reviewed in accordance with the relevant Local Plan policies and guidance and the overarching requirements of National Planning Policy Framework – with paragraphs 115 and 116 especially pertinent to any development proposals either within, or in the setting of the AONB.</p> <p>Section 9: Acknowledge suggested recommendation for regular reporting against Management Plan targets which is expressed through Objective MO (Monitoring, Section 9.2) and in particular Policy MP1 (To monitor the performance of the Action Plan). In the interests of expediency, reporting across the AONB Partnership has shifted to 12 monthly to help secure as many returns as possible. The LWCS reports regularly through its current governance arrangements (e.g. quarterly updates to the funding partnership, the JMG and twice yearly updates to the full AONB Partnership, the JAC – Joint Advisory Committee).</p> <p>The JAC has continued to request an annual review publication to help both document and promote the work of the LWCS and the wider partnership (Action IPA8 – Interpretation - Awareness Raising, Section 6.2 and Action MA1 - Section 9.2).</p> <p>The NAAONB (National Association for AONBs) has three key performance indicators or KPIs to help collate reporting across the AONB family. These are currently the subject of review, with a further three KPIs pending. The family is keen to broadly align reporting with national Defra 25 Year</p>
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			<p>Environment Plan. (Action MA4 – Section 9.2)</p> <p>Additional comments: Offer of help and assistance greatly welcomed. Contact to be made to discuss future local engagement – Friends of Group, linkages with Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival and other partnership work plans.</p>
21	NC	<p>Concern about possible future development at the Biscathorpe drilling well. I believe this well may be used for Fracking operations in the future and wish to object to any operations of this kind. Please do not allow our countryside to be industrialised.</p>	<p>Comments and concerns noted on oil exploration/fracking within the AONB - fracking . See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p>
22	Dave Carnell Branch Chairman IWA	<p>The Inland Waterways Association is primarily interested in maintaining and restoring the inland waterways for the benefit of the environment and general public.</p> <p>Having studied the Management Plan I agreed with the general style and content.</p> <p>Due to the Louth Navigation being outside the AONB, my comments refer to the Built Heritage, i.e. the protection and restoration of the locks and structures of the Navigation on its route to the sea at Tetney. We have been requested to comment on the ELDC Local Plan which provides more opportunity to raise our concerns.</p>	<p>Note and welcome positive response on the style and content of the document and general support of the Plan.</p> <p>Recognise the respondent's particular interest in the maintenance and restoration of inland waterways for their environmental and public gain. As noted, the traditional canal networks all lie beyond the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary, including Horncastle, Louth and Market Rasen.</p> <p>We will keep under review the proposed Sustrans Access Project (Danelaw Project) that is exploring the potential development of a multi-access trail using the Louth Canal navigation (Louth to Tetney) but also more controversially the potential use of the inland disused railway line (Louth to Bardney?), much of which now lies in multiple private ownership. (see also response 32).</p> <p>All of the market towns are seen as important in terms of their service provision and their special links (Section 6.2 Interpretation - Awareness Raising), both historic and current, with the hinterland of the AONB. From a tourism and recreation perspective all of the surrounding market towns provide both physical and intellectual hubs and gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds. Future recreation and tourism work will include linking with the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Tourism (LLW) tourism partnership as detailed within Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism, inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of Wolds Destination Management Plan. (see also response 22)</p>
23	Cllr Owen Bierley WLDC	<p>Section 9: Supports the current Proposed Action PA15 (Planning and Development Management) for all relevant local authorities and partners to review the current boundary.</p> <p>Respondent outlines enthusiasm for extending the northern AONB boundary and welcomes North Lincolnshire Council interest and support in the initiative. The current northern boundary, in simply following the A46, would appear to be quite arbitrary.</p>	<p>Comments recorded and positive support for extending the AONB northwards noted, including summarising the key attributes of the area (see also response 8).</p> <p>As detailed previously, the AONB Partnership currently has an open view on the pros and cons of undertaking a full boundary revision but know anomalies have long been recognised by the JAC (Joint Advisory Committee). Proposed Action PA15 to be retained with the respective local planning authorities and key partners to investigate future options for a boundary review.</p>

		<p>An enlarged AONB would recognise the greater unity of the wider landscape area, enabling the Lincolnshire Wolds (and adjacent landscape areas) to be seen as a single unified entity. This would provide additional protection to the landscapes and cultural composition of Greater Lincolnshire and help to bolster the visitor economy of the area as a whole.</p> <p>Much of the Wolds to the north of the AONB is of a similar terrain (100 metres+ in height) and includes the historic influence of Brocklesby Estate, with its surrounding woodlands and monuments. Much of the land in question was recognised as an Area of Great Landscape Value and registered accordingly in 1952.</p> <p>I have read the whole document and I am very much looking forward to seeing the finalised, adopted, version!</p>	<p>It should be noted that a formal boundary modification must proceed through a Verification Order, a legal process coordinated by Natural England as the statutory body with responsibility for nationally protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). The timescales and recourses required for a boundary review are significant, usually necessitating a public enquiry.</p>
24	FV	<p>There are many good intentions in the document but I don't see them making much difference.</p> <p>Section 4 - The road and track verges are vital for biodiversity, yet each year more of them are turned into lawns. A policy to prohibit the cutting of verges until the Autumn is required.</p>	<p>Acknowledge the respondent's view that whilst there are many good intentions it won't make much difference. We respect these sentiments. It is the role of the AONB Partnership to help ensure that the M. Plan is not just a document that sits on a shelf but will make a real difference to those living, working and visiting the AONB. Understandably there are many issues and forces for change that the Strategy and resulting Action Plan is seeking to shape and influence. As noted in response 20, the JAC has continued to request an annual review publication to help both document and promote the work of the LWCS and the wider partnership (Action IPA8 – Interpretation - Awareness Raising, Section 6.2 and Action MA1 - Section 9.2).</p> <p>Grass Verges and Green Lanes (Section 4.2.3) comments noted. Recognise the issue of close mowing, both on road safety and amenity grounds. The Highways authorities would not be in a position to support a policy to prohibit the cutting of roadside verges until the Autumn.</p> <p>There are however currently two policies VLP1 and VLP2 which combined seek to meet the Objective VLO – to retain, restore and encourage, positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadside and green lanes. The Life on the Verge project has had some successes in terms of encouraging interest in the verge/green lane network and securing appropriate management, especially for our Roadside Nature Reserves. This remains a priority via Action VLA1. We propose accompanying Action VLA3 which seeks to review and encourage suitable verge cutting management to enhance biodiversity, whilst avoiding compromising vehicle sight lines. As proposed within Action VLA8, further innovative grass verge management schemes will be explored for nature conservation and wider public gains, including the potential future use of grass cuttings for generating local energy from waste (e.g. linking with local on-farm Anaerobic Digestion Biomass plants).</p>
25	Vanessa	In terms of general style:	Note and welcome Natural England's very positive comments on the general

	McNaughton NE	<p>An exceptionally well structured, readily "accessible" and inspirational read. Clearly articulated Vision and set of Aims which sets out a suitably aspirational agenda for the next five years and beyond. Layout looks good and the Plan is easy to read, easy to follow. An inclusive tone strongly promotes the necessity for and value of a partnership approach to delivering against each of the broad themes. Appropriately acknowledges the challenges and complexities of managing environmentally sustainable socio-economic activities.</p> <p>Query: Vision, contents of: is there merit for making reference to "healthy, resilient" landscapes e.g. pg 35, para 5 "...enhanced connectivity between healthy, resilient landscapes and green infrastructure..." i.e. echoing the later reference to "resilient ecological networks..." under section 4.1 on pg 39. para 2</p> <p>Section 4: Good approach, sensible lay out.</p> <p>Query: Assume the red text and ticks will come out. Will those issues with only one tick be removed?</p> <p>Section 4.1: good to see references to resilient ecological networks (pg 39), landscape scale approach to land management (pg 39) and ecosystem goods &amp; services, health &amp; wellbeing (pg 39).</p> <p>Query: Assume some wording will be added in this section to summarise messages in the 25 year Environment Plan? Query: Are the "new issues" drawn from the 25 year plan?</p> <p>4.2.1, pg 40, Recommendation: example of how wording can be amended to reflect published 25 Plan e.g. "Defra's 25 year Plan for the Environment reaffirms the importance of embracing landscape scale protection and enhancement to support adaptation to climate change and the delivery of wider ecosystem benefits, "natural capital".</p> <p>4.2.2, endorse new issues</p> <p>4.2.2 pg 43, Query: ref "More limited opportunities via Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme options in the future", Is this the case or is the issue more around "The perceived limited opportunities via..."?</p> <p>4.2.3, Recommendation: is it possible to add a sentence around the importance of road verges in buffering roads and reducing and lessening the effects of run-off from farmed fields ("once it's on the road it's in the river")</p> <p>4.2.4, good to see reference to natural capital.</p>	<p>content, style and layout of the Plan, its Vision, challenges and aspirations.</p> <p>Agree to modify Vision statement to include the added reference to "healthy, resilient" landscapes and green infrastructure as detailed.</p> <p>Section 4: Note and welcome the comments on approach and layout.</p> <p>The red ticks were included in the Draft Consultation to illustrate the weighting of the suite of issues. Only those no longer deemed relevant will be excluded and the ticks themselves will be removed in the final document. It is proposed that new issues will be clearly identified to help draw attention to emerging pressures and opportunities.</p> <p>Section 4.1: Note support for references to resilient ecological networks, landscape scale land management, ecosystem goods and services, health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Section 4.2.1 (Biodiversity – Introduction): Agree with need to update final document to help align with the new HM Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment).</p> <p>The new issue highlighting uncertainties surrounding the future of agri-environment funding was flagged up during the peer review consultation and thus pre-dated the Defra publication. We note that the 25 Year Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional eco-system services. Policy FWP2 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) highlights the need to help positively influence and shape future changes in agriculture policy for the benefit of Wolds farmers.</p> <p>Additional context and links to A Green Future - Chapter 2 of the 25 Year Plan is particularly relevant in terms of reaffirming the country's commitment to conserving and enhancing natural beauty within (and beyond) the nationally protected families of AONBs and National Parks. There is a clear commitment expressed to work with AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to deliver environmental enhancement, including through demonstrator projects, and engaging with communities through the statutory management plans. There is a wider call to use and manage land sustainably, embedding an 'environmental net gain' principle for development and improving the mechanisms for managing, incentivising and regulating future land management. A 'natural capital' approach is sought to help build and bolster natural and heritage assets – effectively using land in a manner that supports cost-effective sustainable growth for the benefit of an array of wider public goods and services e.g. land management for people, places and nature. Interestingly the 25 Year Plan also includes an aspiration to undertake a 21<sup>st</sup> Century 'Hobhouse' Review of National Parks and AONBs, considering for example their coverage, responsibilities, future finance,</p>
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	<p>4.2.4, Recommendation: merit in adding a sentence about “the significant heritage value and irreplaceable character of ancient woodland and veteran trees”, as referenced in the 25 year Plan for the Environment?</p> <p>Query: where’s 4.3.1?</p> <p>4.4, Qu: merit in referring to the value of the natural capital approach?</p> <p>Sec 5 - 5.1 &amp; 5.2, Recommendation: It would be good to make reference to the importance of getting local people more involved with, and connected to, their local natural environment here i.e. “a healthy natural environment is a central part of health, wealth and prosperity” (Conservation 21). Links: TCP4 and the objective of improving accessibility to the natural environment and green space; This is also referenced in a slightly different context on pgs 68-9 under section 6.2 and in 6.3.</p> <p>Query: How will the survey data about e.g. what local residents and visitors value about the Wolds AONB be used?</p> <p>Merit in highlighting the value that the LWCS/JAC place on listening to local communities to help identify the relevance of the natural environment to their day to day lives and the choices they make, to inspire them to be imaginative and ambitious for the natural world around them.</p> <p>Recommendation: Consistency between pg 66 (p63?) The ongoing EU review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and development of a possible British Agricultural Policy and pg 65 (p64?). Potentially significant impacts and future uncertainties from both Brexit and the subsequent reform of domestic farming policy, including possible implications on farm subsidies for future agri-environment options. Sounds like the same issue expressed in a slightly different way? 5.2, pg 67, Query: TCP3 - is there an opportunity to expand this objective to include local businesses becoming more involved in enhancing the local environment through eg funding?, volunteering?, closer involvement in development of future plans/strategies for the Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Sec 6 - 6.2, pg 69, Recommendation: It would be worth clarifying that Conservation 21 is Natural England’s “conservation strategy for the 21st century” (first reference is on pg 41)</p>	<p>enhanced public engagement and scope for expansion.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) endorsement of new issue noted. Good point on issue regarding Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship. Agree that this could benefit from re-wording but to help clarify that this is in respect of potentially a more limited uptake, rather than a case of perceived limited opportunities.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Grass Verges and Green Lanes): Agree to include an additional sentence in the narrative to indicate the benefits for minimising both field and road runoff.</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and traditional Orchards): Note support for natural capital. Support the inclusion of a relevant reference to the 25 Year Plan to help highlight the importance of ancient woodland and veteran trees.</p> <p>Section 4.2.5 to 4.3.2: Note and welcome general endorsement of new issues</p> <p>Section 4.3.1 has a numbering error. Earth Heritage should be installed as title as per previous Plan with 4.3.1 the specific reference for Geology.</p> <p>Section 4.4 (Heritage) yes, support the inclusion of an additional reference to natural capital.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds). Support suggestion to include a clear link to the benefits of local engagement with natural environment – additional insert to the introduction and inclusion of “connecting” in the closing text for Section 5.2.</p> <p>Policy TCP4 (Thriving Communities): comments noted on the links with the Discovering the Wolds – Theme 3 topic area. The specific actions include the more detailed cross-referencing.</p> <p>In terms of resident and visitor surveys, the latest Have Your Say questionnaire conducted during March – Sept ’16 (results summarised in Appendix 5) has provided a further useful baseline of information. The results were reported in detail to the AONB Partnership and helped to inform the subsequent JAC workshop and peer review (as detailed in Appendix 7) to aid and inform the emerging M. Plan. The survey provided a very useful sample of opinions, and many of the findings were similar to the previous questionnaire survey conducted in 2003 e.g. in terms of highlighting what people think are the special qualities of the area, its current pressures and the future opportunities. Interestingly, in terms of the weighting of future actions, 74% of the respondents to the most recent Have Your Say consultation were actually in favour of reviewing the AONB boundary.</p>
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	<p>6. 2, pg 69, Recommendation: Consider adding wording after "...heart of the environment" the following "...getting people more connected and involved with and inspired by their local natural environment" (e.g. by listening to feedback about what they value about it) to add context to the phrase "putting people at the heart"</p> <p>Query: Pg 70 – Assume that previous surveys have also supported the idea of the value of the Wolds AONB to local residents (and visitors) for enjoyment, discovery, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Sec 7 - Recommendation: Would be good to make reference to natural capital in section 7. We would like to see the concept of natural capital being used to better understand the value of the natural environment of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, looking at how any development, investment or change could enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>7.1, Query: listed policies on pg 72 focus strongly on the natural beauty, landscape and although there is a "see also sections 4.4.2 Built Heritage..." is there merit in making a more explicit reference to heritage assets within the existing/new objective/policies e.g. "being sensitive to considerations of the heritage assets"?</p> <p>7.3, pg 76, Recommendation: add "and habitat" after "wildlife" in second para</p> <p>7.3, pg 76, Recommendation: Rather than this section referring to "Such an approach would be in-line with current Government thinking on "natural capital"..." it is more about "resilience" and C21's reference to building long term resilience through habitat diversity, increased size and connectivity of habitats.</p> <p>Sec 8 - Like inclusive tone and importance of listening to all, collective effort to identify challenges and opportunities, embedding local priorities.</p> <p>Qu for Stephen: We assume that all local businesses and local community groups have had the opportunity to review and/or contribute to the plan? We would be interested to know how many have taken up that opportunity.</p> <p>Sec 9 – March meeting between LWCS Manager and NE local team to discuss following targets:-</p> <p>Pg 80, Action BA4 – could add "...and future agri-environment schemes" after "Countryside Stewardship" or Recommendation: a "find and replace" of all references to CS and ES and replace with "agri-environment scheme/s" for consistency?</p> <p>Pg 80, Policy BP2, Action BA4 – The +50% target has presumably been inserted on the basis of NE GLNP update in July 2017 "Building upon the previous year's launch of the</p>	<p>Agree to the merits in highlighting the value placed on local communities in highlighting the value of the natural environment to their day to day lives and choices. Additional paragraph added to Section 2.6 (Public Survey – Have Your Say).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note suggested need for consistency between ongoing EU review of the Common Agricultural Capacity (CAP) and reform of domestic farming policy pages 63 &amp; 64 respectively. (see also response 28 – Section 4.2.7 commentary)</p> <p>Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities): note request to widen scope of Policy TCP3 to encourage and support active business engagement in wider AONB strategy. Policy TCP3 and accompanying Action TCA9 both re-worded to recognise and encourage wider business engagement, including opportunities to link with natural capital agenda.</p> <p>Section 6.2 (Interpretation – Awareness Raising): Actioned recommendation for clarification on Conservation 21 Strategy and also adjusted Objective BO (Section 4.2, Natural Heritage – Biodiversity). Additional links to Defra's A Green Future (25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment) included. Support the suggestion for a further explanation in the narrative to highlight the benefits of getting people more connected, involved and inspired by their local natural environment – and widened to include wider AONB attributes e.g. landscape and cultural heritage elements. Note the query for page 70 (Section 6.2); Google/Trip Advisor comments are also supported by the earlier Have Your Say surveys so agree this should be made clearer in the text at this point.</p> <p>Section 7 (Developing the Wolds – Theme 4): Agree with recommendation to include the concept of natural capital. This has been added to the narrative in Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management), along with a further recognition of the national context of A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year environmental plan). Agree to recommendation to include a more prominent reference to the consideration of heritage assets as detailed; Policy PP1 revised accordingly.</p> <p>Section 7.3 (Climate Change and Energy): Para. 2 recommendation - agree to add "and habitats". Para. 3 recommendation; noted and agree to text revision to highlight resilience and NE's Conservation 21 here, as opposed to natural capital.</p> <p>Section 8 (Partnerships in the Wolds): Note and welcome comments on the inclusive and collaborative tone of the document. The AONB Partnership can confirm that this is the case for both the Plan's development and implementation. The final Plan is an adopted document which strives to be an inclusive Plan for everyone with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including all who may live, work or visit the area. There has been wide promotion of the public consultation, with direct mail outs of the</p>
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	<p>Countryside Stewardship Scheme, new CS agreements have been taken up across the Wolds. The majority of these agreements include a Wild Pollinator &amp; Farmland Wildlife Package which is specifically designed to link and extend habitat corridors. Protecting watercourses, notably chalk stream tributaries, and buffering and extending grassland sites have remained key priorities within the AONB with the aim of helping habitats and species develop resilience to future climate change. Collectively live CS and ELS/HLS agreements cover approximately half the AONB land area – see attached map”.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing” – whilst aspirational, NE cannot guarantee that all land coming out of ELSHLS agreements will enter into a replacement agri-environmental scheme (and any wildlife package options will only be a component of that land coverage).</p> <p>Pg 81, Action GA3 – 35ha target – NE response in July 2017 “Maintenance, restoration and linkage of species-rich grassland has continued to be a priority target for CS, as reflected in Mid tier events and in the support offered to HT clients”.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing” – whilst aspirational, NE cannot guarantee that all semi/species-rich grassland coming out of ELSHLS agreements will be entered into a replacement agri-environmental scheme</p> <p>Pg 81, Policy GP1, Action GA1 – “all sites by 2023” may not be realistic given that the Wolds is not currently a NE Focus Area and resources are accordingly limited.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing”</p> <p>Pg 82, Policy WBP2, Action WBA3 – NE response in July 2017 NE unable to quantify complementary biodiversity habitat through current reporting system but, standard practise through ELS/HLS and CS is to encourage appropriate buffering, including nectar/invertebrate rich margins which can include graduated vegetation cover.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing”</p> <p>Pg 84, RSPA3 &amp; 4 Recommendation: add an action here relating to the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) partnership focussing on the Great Eau, eg three events by 2021 (so it’s consistent with the reference to CSFF in the Grassland section, BA5 on P80)</p> <p>Pg 84, Policy RSPP3 “To raise community awareness and where possible, community involvement, of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource.”</p> <p>Recommendation: Could we apply a similar objective in other sections to reflect the importance of community awareness raising and engagement?</p>	<p>whole Draft Plan to all Parish Clerks within the AONB. There have been extensive efforts to utilise a range of press and social media outlets and this has included two separate live-chats on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. All JAC Partners have been requested to publicise the consultation, this has included use of business networks such as Leader (Lindsey Action Zone) and the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism group.</p> <p>In response to query, can confirm that a number of community groups and local Elected Members have formally submitted responses as part of the Public Consultation and others had responded via the Have Your Say Surveys. In total, 21 of the questionnaire replies (e.g. 15%) were made on behalf of a local Parish Council, with six formal public consultation replies received from either a Parish or Ward representative.</p> <p><b>Section 9: Making it Happen (Action Plan)</b></p> <p>Action BA4 (Policy BP2, Theme 1: Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds - Biodiversity): Agree to revise all Countryside Stewardship entries within the Action Plan to "agri-environment schemes" to simplify and aid future consistency.</p> <p>As detailed, note recommendation to change previously proposed SMART targets to "ongoing" for proposed targets for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action BA4 (Policy BP2, ...- Biodiversity)</li> <li>• Actions GA1 and GA3 (Policy GP1, Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland)</li> <li>• Action WBA3 (Policy WBP2, Biodiversity – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards).</li> </ul> <p>Following further discussions with NE, the proposed targets were moderated as follows: for BA4 - ongoing; GA1 - 50% by area for favourable condition for SSSI grasslands; GA3 - 15 ha of extended biodiversity rich grasslands; WBA3 - 10 ha of complimentary habitat options adjacent to woodlands by 2023). These revisions balance the need to be aspirational with the likelihood of further budgetary pressures on the East Midlands agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>Policy RSPP2 (Biodiversity - Rivers, Streams and Ponds): note the recommendation to add a further complimentary action to highlight the future work of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) on the Great Eau catchment as detailed. Technically speaking many of the landowners are to the east of the AONB boundary but agree that on balance it may be beneficial to include the additional action as detailed e.g. the springs and headwaters of both the Great and Long Eau rise within the AONB. Also cross-boundary working has been viewed as advantageous across the family of protected landscapes e.g. to further the links and positive connections to adjacent habitats, people and places.</p>
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		<p>Pg 86, Soils, Recommendation: CSFF should be able to help here too</p> <p>Pg 89, FWP1, Recommendation: CSFF events would be useful here too. Worth referencing?</p> <p>Are you able to suggest and/or provide any direct actions to assist the Plan?</p> <p>Are there plans for a further Have Your Say survey's to compare against results from survey in 2016? Would help to show whether local community feel more engaged, connected, involved with the Wolds AONB and what else could be done to improve things further? Could this be action in Section 9?</p> <p>Well done on producing a very comprehensive, yet readable document!</p>	<p>Note request to include similar policy to community awareness raising and engagement for water habitats across other areas of the Plan. On balance we feel this will add unnecessary duplication as the Partnership identifies a suite of habitat specific areas of public engagement and encouragement e.g. Actions GA4 - GA7 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland), Action VLA6 (Grass Verges and Green Lanes) Action WBA8 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards, Action HTA5 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees), Action AFA5 (Arable Farmland) and Action GDA6 (Geodiversity). Wider community, landowners and business engagement is covered in depth within Living and Working in the Wolds (Theme 2) which includes a range of public engagement via Thriving Communities (Section 5.2).</p> <p>For Section 4.3.2 (Soils) and Policy FWP1 (Section 5.1 - Farming and Field Sports) note and agree to highlight links with the CSFF, additional references made within Action SA3 (Soils) and FWA2 (Farming and Field Sports) with further cross-referencing.</p> <p>Note the comments on the Have Your Say 2016 survey. At this stage plans for a re-survey are being kept open. There is a general understanding of the benefits in repeating a similar survey, probably in approximately five years' time (the summer of 2021) to help aid and inform the next M. Plan review process. This has been highlighted through an additional narrative within Section 2.6.</p>
26	Henry Smith JAC/NFU	<p>Mr H. Smith met with the LWCS Manager to provide verbal comments on the Plan.</p> <p>There was recognition from the respondent of the work that the LWCS had clearly spent in preparing the Draft Plan and its supporting documentation – very well done to all involved.</p> <p>The Plan needs to recognise the uncertainties and challenges facing the farming industry through Brexit, including future modifications to the various agri-environment schemes. In order to secure a diverse landscape we need a sustainable level of farming. Depending on farm market prices and overheads, we could well see a shift away from cattle and other livestock rearing in the Wolds. In terms of the new Defra Plan it needs to be for 70 years+ not just 25 years.</p> <p>From the respondent's perspective, the Wolds has more vigorous hedgerows and trees than in earlier periods. However we are not the Kielder Forest, but rather a living and working farmed landscape, with a mosaic of habitats. The AONB needs its profitable farmers, no profit mean limited resources to support the wider environment. In respect of the roadside verges – yes they can provide a good habitat and the</p>	<p>Note and welcome the respondent's helpful comments as both a local farmer and JAC/NFU representative.</p> <p>Welcome the very positive overview of the general content and style of the Plan.</p> <p>Acknowledge the views expressed on the importance of maintaining a viable farming industry that can help secure profitable returns whilst sustainably managing the Wolds diverse landscapes and habitats. As detailed in response 25, we note that the 25 Year Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional ecosystem services. Policy FWP2 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) highlights the need to help positively influence and shape future changes in agriculture policy for the benefit of Wolds farmers.</p> <p>Note and appreciate the respondent's comments in respect of balancing farming and environmental interests and the need for ensuring that profitability in farm businesses can be maintained. Objective FWO in Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) recognises the need to promote sustainable farming as a key activity and has a number of specific policies and resulting actions to help maintain a viable and diverse sector. For</p>

		<p>wider verges could be enhanced through more beneficial cutting regimes, however this is much harder to achieve on narrower verges where the conflict between animal and road vehicles may also be prevalent.</p> <p>In terms of planning and development in the Wolds we can't keep things in perpetuity, things need to evolve and change – "the flock is changing and what we need is a good shepherd". Dr Beeching got it wrong in 1963 with the closure of many of our regional branch railway lines, and the corresponding problems that we now face with our local and national transport links.</p> <p>The respondent took the opportunity to highlight that Louth is the capital of the Wolds and a clear vision is required for the town. There is a great opportunity to review and revamp the Louth Cattle Market Site. The town should aim to safeguard its working market whilst utilising the surrounding buildings as an enhanced multi-function centre. The site could provide a wider range of information/advisory services e.g. visitor and heritage centre for local residents and tourists, social, community/rural policing, religion, seasonal shows, other local facilities (pet shop, garden demos, car services etc.)</p>	<p>example Policy FWP1 seeks to develop and promote agricultural good practice that can conserve and enhance the natural beauty and character of the AONB; whilst Policy FWP3 aims to encourage and support livestock farming (in turn recognising wider benefits from good grassland habitat management).</p> <p>Acknowledge the need to balance the management of highway verges for flora and fauna interest with other risk factors, including the need for effective vehicle sight lines. Agree that the wider verges often have more scope for re-introducing more traditional cutting regimes. There is a clear focus on working to safeguard and enhance the condition of the Wolds Roadside Nature Reserves with Actions VLA3 and VLA7(Section 4.2.3) particularly relevant.</p> <p>Comments noted on Dr Beeching and the loss of the local railway lines. A limited rail service to Market Rasen is still in operation today but the Bardney to Louth line long gone. The Plan reviews transport issues in more detail within Section 7.2 (Transport and Signage in the Wolds) and through Objective TWO sets out an aspiration to work towards a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB, and local and visitor needs.</p> <p>Note and recognise the views on securing a vision for the market town of Louth and the wider re-development of the farmers' livestock market. The AONB Partnership recognise the importance of maintaining a viable working market for local tenants, landowners and local businesses and the wider social and health benefits that may result e.g. helping to avoid rural isolation and provide a like-minded support network to the farming sector. Note and recognise the wider opportunities for the site as detailed. The Plan recognises that all of the Wolds surrounding market towns have an important role to play in acting as both physical and intellectual gateways to the Wolds, this also extends to the provision of many services, including Secondary Education, financial, legal and specialist and larger retail facilities. As encouraged through the National Planning Policy framework (NPPF), and recognised within the Plan (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) neighbourhood plans provide a good vehicle for communities to lead in a bottom-up approach to planning management and aiding/informing the various planning decision makers.</p>
27	Mrs L Goulceby resident	<p>Sec 4 – The Wolds needs protecting from human interference, be it person or by use of machinery. Financial gain in the guise of 'community interest' appears to be the prime motivator for some, and the lack of moral compass in maintaining the wellbeing of the paths and roadways.</p> <p>Detailed concerns expressed over the damage to road verges and the green triangles from an array of vehicles, including commercial and the impacts of horses, hounds, their riders and</p>	<p>Note and acknowledge the respondents detailed comments on Section 4 - Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1). There are evidently a number of issues pertinent to the village of Goulceby that is causing concerns and anxiety including specifically issues around damage to roadside verges and noise disturbance within the village.</p> <p>More detailed follow-up is required between Goulceby Parish Council and the Local Planning Authority (East Lindsey District Council) in terms of noise management, and with the County Highways team in respect of traffic and</p>

		<p>horse trailers. No one takes responsibility for the repair of the verges.</p> <p>Protecting the Wolds from human instigated unacceptable level of noise is another worry for the villagers' of Goulceby. A local example was given of an incident involving noise disturbance in excess of four hours from a local business. The respondent stressed further concerns on the need to retain not just the scenery but the peace and solitude of the Wolds for the benefit of people and wildlife. Protect the Wolds from noise nuisance otherwise wildlife will disappear.</p> <p>Sec 5 – We came to live in the Wolds for the peace and quiet, to enjoy the dark skies without electric lights, pavements and bus stops - otherwise we would live in a town! We welcome like-minded visitors who do not want to abuse everything the Wolds stands for; our villages and hamlets must be free of rubbish, noise, and large vehicles that abuse the roadways. Imagine if every settlement, not just Goulceby, had to suffer noise nuisance 'in the name of community interest' – we need to avoid becoming a protracted circus of tents, marquees, camp sites and caravan trails.</p> <p>In terms of closing comments, the Wolds should and must be kept as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This means it must not under any circumstance become another area like the East Coast of Lincolnshire with caravan parks obliterating the landscape as far as the eye can see. We do not need people coming into the Wolds under the misconception that, especially against the wishes of the villagers, they can develop campsites to further their private financial gain. Peace and tranquillity cannot be natural harnessed with inharmonious tourism; the inevitable human noise, rubbish, white plastic, dog excrement, and music will prevail if the Wolds is threatened by the very people who should be looking after all it stands for.</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council would help the County to benefit more financially by encouraging manufacturing industry, thus creating employment, instead of trying to capitalise on excessive tourism in this AONB. Using tourism as a tool to create jobs must not be applied in this way.</p>	<p>verge maintenance.</p> <p>The LPA and Lincolnshire Police do have the powers to monitor, record, advise and where necessary take regulatory or enforcement action against individuals or businesses when noise levels are causing unacceptable disturbance and thus deemed to be anti-social behaviour. Lincolnshire Police's most recent Rural Community Safety Strategy (2017-2020) seeks to prevent not only rural crime but also wider elements of rural community safety, including working closely with local communities to reduce feelings of isolation and vulnerability – this includes a commitment to prevent anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership highlights that the primary purpose of the designation is one of the protection of natural beauty, whilst recognising that the area is very much a living and working landscape. As detailed in response 20, tranquillity is a recognised component of natural beauty and the need to minimise future development impacts from potentially detrimental noise and light intrusion is detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1).</p> <p>Note and acknowledge the respondent's comments and views in respect of Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds), and the importance of maintaining the rural charm and character of our Wolds villages.</p> <p>As considered in responses 11 and 20 and detailed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds, there is evidently an important balance to be struck in terms of enabling sustainable development of the right type, right scale and in the right location within the AONB. Planning applications should be assessed on this basis with development proposals clearly articulating local and national needs, and detailing clear proposals on complementing and enriching the special qualities (natural beauty) of the Wolds. The AONB Partnership recognises the merits of supporting and promoting quiet recreation (such as walking, cycling and horse-riding) and avoiding large tourism infrastructure proposals within the heart of the AONB. There may however be some scope for small scale appropriate tourism/recreation developments that are deemed to be in keeping with the rural charm and character of the Wolds – for example a sensitive change of use and renovation of a farm building for a small business or tourism/recreation facility. There has been an increasing trend towards glamping, holiday lodges and mobile caravan sites all of which it is agreed need careful thought and planning.</p>
28	Katy Anderson CLA/JAC	<p>Sec 4 - 4.2.1 Pleased to see the AONB endorsing support and encouragement for good agricultural practises, as opposed to regulatory enforcement. We are also very pleased to see utilising the concept of natural capital (and ecosystem services) as a policy within the management plan. Currently</p>	<p>Note and welcome CLA's endorsement of the use of natural capital and wider ecosystem goods and services, including within Section 4.2.1 (Natural Heritage – Biodiversity introduction). As detailed in response to Natural England's recommendations (respondent 25), various additional natural capital links have been made, including additional context in the light of the publication of A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year Plan).</p>

		<p>just two fifths of CLA members say that under the current framework they will look to invest in the environment in the future. We must improve the business case for such investment if we – as society – want to see more. Greater acknowledgement of the value of ecosystem services and natural capital is needed throughout society, including through AONB M. Plans.</p> <p>4.2.4 Throughout the plan the comments regarding woodland planting are somewhat contradictory. We would however be supportive of advice and guidance for landowners on how they can manage and utilise woodland and opportunities for woodland planting on their land.</p> <p>4.2.5 The cutting and management of farmland hedgerows highly regulated through Cross Compliance for well over a decade now so comments around poor maintenance and inappropriate timing and frequency of cuts are a little unfair when considering the increasing regulatory burdens around hedgerows over the last 10-15 years. Re objectives in both 4.2.5 and 4.2.4 disappointed to hear that LCC no longer be offering annual hedge and small woodland The Woodland Trust do offer funding for smaller projects but need to be supported to encourage take up of the grants.</p> <p>4.2.7 We would like to see an acknowledgement of the efforts land managers are going to through agri-environment schemes and voluntary measures to improve plant, bird and general biodiversity. The CLA's wider post-Brexit position encourages sustainable, profitable farming and the payment for public goods – farmers, foresters and land managers should be appropriately rewarded for providing these essential goods. We highlight to you the CLA's proposal for a land management policy. Further details of the CLA's proposals are available here: <a href="http://www.cla.org.uk/sites/default/files/HowTo_LMC_Doc2.pdf">http://www.cla.org.uk/sites/default/files/HowTo_LMC_Doc2.pdf</a>. We would also echo this approach regarding section 4.3.2.</p> <p>4.4.2 CLA is supportive of encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings as this has the dual purpose of providing valuable workspace and an extra income for farmers and landowners through rental. However, we have some concerns over how much 'encouragement' there will be to use local materials.</p> <p>Section 5 - 5.1 A very diplomatic and tactful summary of the Partnership's stance on hunting, shooting and fishing. The CLA would welcome support for farm diversification – however, the caveat of being 'appropriate to the AONB' is</p>	<p>Section 4.2.4 (Woodland, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) welcome support for furthering advice and guidance in respect of woodland management (Action WBA1) and new planting (WBA2). Comments noted on some confusion and contradiction with respect to woodland planting and specifically what may constitute inappropriate planting. Poor planting has been deemed an ongoing issue by a number of JAC partners - typically this can include an inappropriate species mix that does not correlate with the local woodland or hedgerow mixes, (in turn often using imported rather than local provenance stock) and /or a proposed poor location choice and design for new woodland/copse planting. For example, new woodland proposals which could lead to detrimental damage to heritage assets or other important species and habitat types e.g. wet grassland, open riparian systems etc. Similarly new woodland could be deemed inappropriate where there is a failure to sufficiently complement local landscape character and key viewpoints. The Plan does not seek to provide a prescription of woodland planting but rather encourage supportive dialogue between all relevant partners as prescribed through the Woodland Objective (WBO) and resulting relevant woodland policies and actions. The Partnership is mindful that all new woodland planting is not automatically a good thing – but there is an agreed target for increasing woodland coverage by a further 10 hectares over the life of the Plan. The Partnership aspires to influence, encourage and support new woodland generation that is deemed to be in the right location, of the right design (inc species mix and internal layout) and of the right scale to complement and enhance local landscape character and viewpoints. As laid out in Policy WBP1 and Action WBA2 the emphasis is on increasing connections to existing woodland habitats and aiding further planting of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland).</p> <p>Sections 4.2.5 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees): Acknowledge comments and sentiments on hedging and regulatory requirements however five respondents to the peer review have still deemed inappropriate maintenance as an issue. There are certainly recent examples of poor hedge cutting, but likewise many examples of landowners and farmers who continue to do an excellent job in respect of hedgerow management. The issue as worded aims to strike the right balance between contrasting views and indicates that the situation has been improving in recent years.</p> <p>Comments noted on the loss of the Lincolnshire County Council small grants scheme for tree and woodland and the opportunities to explore links with The Woodland Trust (WT). A joint woodland planting project with the WT has been undertaken during 2017-18 supported by the Wolds SDF (Sustainable Development Fund). Such future joint ventures may be forthcoming.</p> <p>Section 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland): Note and agree to suggestion to include a wider acknowledgement on the positive efforts of farmers/land managers to enhancing biodiversity via agri-environment and voluntary measures. Acknowledge the CLA's post-Brexit land management aspirations as detailed</p>
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	<p>somewhat open ended and would actually mean that many diversification projects could be turned down if they were not aesthetically pleasing enough, regardless of whether they made a contribution to the economy. Diversification opportunities need to be wide ranging.</p> <p>5.2 CLA policies promote the development of sufficient rural housing to meet the needs of rural communities and businesses, which includes the provision of different types of housing within communities.</p> <p>Section 6 - The plan currently does not acknowledge the rights of landowners over access to private land and the difficulties faced by trespassing.</p> <p>Section 7 - Sound stewardship of the land is important but this can only be achieved if the businesses are profitable. Policies must recognise the need for economic viability and provide for diversification of both land and buildings. As noted above, the CLA is supportive of encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings. We would ask that domestic and commercial developments within the AONB are considered on a case by case basis. This should include consideration not only of how aesthetically pleasing the development is, but also the contribution of the development to the economy and the growth of individual businesses, and to the housing needs of local communities. We are pleased to see the inclusion of affordable housing in the AONB's plan.</p> <p>Renewable energy contributes significantly to the economic and environmental sustainability of individual businesses, helps to achieve demanding targets and provides a boost to the rural economy. For future proposals, there should again be assessment on a case by case basis, examining benefit vs. impact in a given location. We ideally would like to see the plan acknowledge that there can be differences of opinion amongst the AONB partnership on matters such as development and planning – as is noted in other AONB plans across the region (e.g. the current Suffolk Coasts and Heaths 2018-2023 Draft Management Plan).</p> <p>Section 9 - We are happy to support the AONB partnership with the actions the CLA is noted alongside in the plan. We would also be able to act as a potential other partner for BP3, WBA1, WBA2. Regarding FWA13, it would not be feasible for us to run three events by 2023 as the lead partner. We would therefore ask that this target is changed to 'ongoing'. We are happy to support the AONB partnership with the</p>	<p>– this broadly accords with the AONB Partnership's aspiration for securing sustainable farming and land management as detailed within the Vision statement (Section 3.1) and resulting relevant Policies including PB2 &amp; PB3 (Section 4.2.1 Natural Heritage – Biodiversity) and Policies FWP1 and FWP2 (Section 5.1 Farming and Field Sports).</p> <p>Section 4.4.2 (Built Heritage): Note and welcome support for the reuse of redundant buildings. Acknowledge concerns on the levels of encouragement and support for local materials. This will require a collaborative approach utilising various levels of expertise across the public and private sectors as expressed through Actions BHA3 and BHA7. The Wolds Heritage Working Group (HWG) will be referenced as a further potential lead body for taking forward further joint working in this area. (see also comments within responses 29 and 32).</p> <p>Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports): Welcome CLA's support for the general balance of hunting, shooting and fishing interests. Acknowledge the concerns expressed on farm diversification and the respondent's view that a stipulation for "being appropriate to the AONB" (Policy FWP4) could restrict some diversification opportunities. As discussed in Section 1 (Setting the Scene) the primary purpose of the designation of an AONB is for the protection and enhancement of natural beauty – and in planning terms the designation is on a par with National Parks. Social and economic interests do need to be taken account of, and the Plan does seek to support a thriving and sustainable local economy that complements the character of the area as expressed within Policies TCP1 and TCP3(Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities). The Plan has an aspiration for supporting and securing both appropriate and high quality farm diversification. Any development proposals likely to have a significant detrimental impact upon the AONB would not be supported (Policies PP1 and PP2 – Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management).</p> <p>Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities): Acknowledge CLA's position on encouraging and supporting local housing, including affordable housing as detailed in proposed Action TCA4 (see also below).</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Recognise the request for recognition of landowners concerns over private land and the damage that can be done through trespass as detailed. The need for securing good practice and active engagement with landowners in respect of access, recreation and tourism provision is referenced within Policy ARTP4 and resulting Action ARTA18. Landowner interests are represented on the JAC (AONB Partnership) and also the relevant Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum (LAF). The trespass issue did not feature prominently in the peer review, however on balance this is known to be a genuine concern and will be listed under the bullet points as one of a number of key issues for the future management of interpretation, access, recreation and tourism (Section 6.1 Overview for Discovering the Wolds). Interpretation also has an important</p>
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		<p>actions the CLA is noted alongside in the plan. We would also be able to act as a potential other partner for BP3, WBA1, WBA2.</p>	<p>role to play in providing information to both local residents and visitors to help raise awareness - not only of the AONB's special qualities but also disseminating basic information such as the Country Code, and the respect to local farmers/landowners and communities. Policy IP3 (Section 6.2 Interpretation) has been extended to also include encouragement for landowners to engage in future interpretation.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Note and acknowledge comments on the need for businesses to be profitable in order to help achieve sound land management. This is addressed specifically within the previous Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) with Objective FW0 seeking to acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets. Section 3.3 (Cross-cutting influences) also recognises within agri-environment support the vital contribution of farmers, land owners and managers and the need to maintain a profitable sector.</p> <p>Acknowledge the CLA's additional response on future housing developments, including support for affordable housing and the request for helping to secure a sufficient range of rural housing to help meet community needs. The Plan acknowledges the challenge of balancing future housing requirements - local views often contrast markedly on a case by case basis. The Plan through Actions TCA1 and TCA4 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and PA2 (Section 7.1 - Planning and Development Management) promotes a community driven response to help aid future housing decision making (e.g. through encouraging Neighbourhood and Parish Plans). Specific housing allocations and assessment of needs fall within the remit of the suite of Local Plans. The AONB Partnership and the LWCS will respond to housing applications accordingly and under the guidance of Policy PP1 – protecting local character and distinctiveness via the highest quality of design for new or re-developments including making space for nature and tackling climate change.</p> <p>Section 7.1: Note the comments on renewables and the recommendation to review on a case by case basis. Individual applications will be processed and determined by the respective local planning authority. The Partnership welcomes appropriate community scale renewable energy schemes that will not cause significant harm to the area's natural beauty or its setting as expressed within Policies PP7 and PP10. In addition Policy PP8 supports encouragement towards a circular economy in respect of waste and recycling issues.</p> <p>Note the comments in respect of mixed viewpoints within the AONB Partnership. Agree to reference accordingly within the wider narrative for planning and development management (Section 7.1). The Wolds JAC (Joint Advisory Committee) has the powers to convene and recognises that there will be some differences of opinions between individual partners in deciding on an appropriate course of action or response, including issues</p>
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			<p>pertaining to planning applications.</p> <p>Welcome CLA's ongoing support and guidance in the delivery of the AONB M. Plan including active engagement in the delivery of collaborative actions within the Action Plan - all specific endorsements appreciated and revision requests actioned.</p>
29	JD Ludborough PPC	<p>The Plan needs to be made simpler with a few achievable bullet points to help make it easier to understand.</p> <p>Sec 4 – The landscape must be protected at all costs with no more wind turbines on land.</p> <p>Sec 5 – Agree that support should be given to landowners and farmers and that it is very important to cut the red tape for them.</p> <p>Sec 6 – Use the tourist board to promote more events like the "Walking Festival".</p> <p>Sec 7 – Make it easier to develop redundant buildings by more "user friendly" planning while retaining the local character.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the respondent's views on trying to make the Plan simpler. The content of and layout of the Plan has to accord with Natural England's guidance on how to write and review AONB Management Plans (e.g. via CA23 Guidance and its various updates – see Section 1.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB M. Plan. The Action Plan seeks to provide a clear structure on the principal objectives, policies and agreed partnership actions with the key issues summarised as bullet points in the corresponding topic areas. For previous Plans an Executive Summary has been published, this will be considered again pending budget constraints (see also response 35).</p> <p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds - Theme 1) – see also Section 7.1. Note comments on the need to protect the landscape at all costs, including from wind turbines. As detailed in response 2 Policy PP7 (wind energy schemes) seeks to endorse small scale/ community focused energy conservation and renewable generation schemes that will not impact detrimentally upon the character of the AONB and/or its setting. This position recognises that the Wolds AONB is a nationally protected area on account of its high scenic quality (natural beauty).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): note comments in respect of grant support for farmers/landowners and the need to minimise bureaucracy. The Partnership has always recognised the need to strike a pragmatic balance between regulatory and incentive schemes to help ensure sustainable/profitable farming – supporting the production of healthy food whilst protecting and enhancing an array of wider public goods and services. This is articulated within Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and includes Policy FWP2 to monitor and proactively influence future agriculture policy. See also response 25 where it is noted that the new Defra Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional eco-system services. This context is recognised within the revised Plan.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note the request to utilise the Tourist Board. There is no official tourist board operating across Lincolnshire since the demise of Lincolnshire Tourism so the promotion of the county has effectively been devolved to the individual local authorities. As highlighted within Section 6.3 (Access, Recreation and Tourism) the AONB Partnership has recognised and supports the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership and its Destination Management Plan and will work to support a</p>

			<p>number of initiatives (Policy ARTP3 and resulting Actions ARTA11-14).</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): note and welcome support for the renovation of redundant buildings. The Plan seeks to encourage the sympathetic repair and re-use of built heritage assets as expressed via Policy PP2 and Action PA3 and also through Policy BHP3 and Action BHA3 (Section 4.4.2 Built Heritage). In recent years Historic England has also shifted its position, for example producing guidance to help inform and aid the appropriate re-use of traditional farm buildings. (see also comments within responses 28 and 32).</p>
30	Grant White WLDC	<p>WLDC's Prosperous Communities Committee has today (30<sup>th</sup> Jan '18) endorsed the draft AONB Management Plan subject to any final changes as a result of the public consultation.</p> <p>Further advice is being sought, but as per the last Plan, WLDC recommend that they should be adopting the Plan as opposed to the Joint Planning Authority with City of Lincoln and North Kesteven.</p>	<p>As summarised, subject to further amendments, the general endorsement of the Draft Plan from West Lindsey District Council is very welcomed.</p> <p>Acknowledge the recommendation on the pathway for the District's formal adoption of the closing Plan.</p>
31	LCC Environmental Scrutiny Committee	<p>The Draft Plan was reviewed by the LCC's Environment Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan '18 and duly endorsed with an acknowledgement that there will be further changes to take account of additional observations and recommendations as part of the ongoing public consultation.</p> <p>In summary, comments made by the Committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The "light" touch approach to prepare the Plan was welcomed.</li> <li>• The last five years of the previous Plan had brought benefits to the AONB</li> <li>• The Wolds is an excellent area to visit with an active working landscape. It was important to improve opportunities for tourism and attract in more visitors, including the provision of further good quality accommodation. The group requested a list of Bed and Breakfast providers for wider circulation.</li> <li>• Further to Officers observations, the group noted the ongoing issues with the AONB boundary and the differences in opinion in pressing for a formal review.</li> <li>• There were some concerns regarding the levels of consistency on planning decisions across the AONB and there was a recommendation for increased collaboration between the relevant planning authorities to help develop a joint planning approach.</li> <li>• There was an acknowledgement that the Plan seeks to promote and enhance the nationally important</li> </ul>	<p>Subject to further amendments, the general endorsement of the Draft Plan from Lincolnshire County Council's Environmental Scrutiny Committee is very welcomed.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership welcomes the Committee's support for undertaking a "light" touch review and also their acknowledgement of the joint successes achieved over the last Plan period (2013-18).</p> <p>A list of Bed and Breakfast providers has been supplied to the group for wider circulation, along with the most recent making the Most of the Lincolnshire Wolds publication (revised 2017) which provides a guide to the local villages and facilities across the Wolds.</p> <p>Recognise the Committee's recommendations to further enhance the tourism offer for the AONB, including the desire for further good quality accommodation. The group were mindful of the need to continue to protect the intrinsic qualities of the area whilst promoting the area.</p> <p>As reported, Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds) of the Plan presents the case for supporting appropriate sustainable tourism development and working alongside groups such as Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership (Section 6.3 - Policies ARTP2 and ARTP3). The AONB Partnership has long recognised the need for a careful balance, supporting a recreation and tourism infrastructure that can help boost the local economy and help maintain wider services, whilst also protecting and enhancing the area's nationally important natural beauty (the Wolds special qualities, including the expansive views and rural tranquillity). The Committee were mindful of this position.</p>



		special qualities of the area whilst seeking to secure future sustainable development for a living and working landscape.	
32	Mrs B Wolds resident	<p>Respondent believes that the Plan is extremely well written and clear to read and understand.</p> <p>Sec 4 – Very concerned with the local council's efforts to promote the Lincolnshire Wolds for tourism as the current infrastructure is not able to cope with the increasing levels of traffic. The financial returns to local businesses will be fairly limited with caravan users, cyclists and walkers notorious for being self-sufficient. Increase visitor traffic causes disruption to the local people who live in the Wolds and impacts on the peace, tranquillity and remoteness of the area. Extra signage creeping into the roadsides is a concern. ELDC's plans for a potential new user path linking Louth and Bardney are a concern, a hard pathway would not be appropriate and access through railway tunnels which are protected SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest) ill thought out. Use subsidies post Brexit to encourage use of field margins for walkers/horseriders to avoid busy roads.</p> <p>Sec 5 – There is limited reference of manufacturing businesses operating in the Wolds (other than farming which only provides 16% employment for the population) yet these businesses provide all year round employment, usually permanent, high skilled and well paid. With thought, this type of business can fit discreetly into the Wolds without adverse effect on peace and tranquillity e.g. diversification of farm buildings not just for tourism, but also start-ups for entrepreneurs. Rural rates relief could greatly assist.</p> <p>Sec 6 – Agree with the Plan; an increase in tourism needs to be carefully managed as too much tourism would be at odds with the Wolds deeply rural sense of place and tranquillity.</p> <p>Sec 7 – Agree with the Plan; where an area is deemed to be suitable for housing development then encourage sympathetic type, size and styles e.g. traditional cottages or country houses instead of the popular large executive houses. As above – there should be encouragement for the sympathetic restoration of farm buildings for manufacturing and low impact units but only allowed where there is no impact upon views or suitable landscaping (hedge/tree planting) is carried out.</p> <p>Respondent concludes by stressing the need for greater focus</p>	<p>The positive comments on the general style of the Plan are very much welcomed.</p> <p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note and appreciate the concerns of the respondent in terms of the promotion of the area for tourism and the limitations of the current infrastructure. The AONB Partnership recognises that there is a careful balance to be struck in supporting and promoting the area for recreation and tourism. As detailed in Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds), there is an acknowledgement of seeking to secure tourism that is sustainable, appropriate and complimentary to the special charm and character of the area. Policy TWP3 (Section 7.2 Transport and Signage in the Wolds) recognises the need to ensure that any traffic infrastructure improvements to help support tourism are sympathetic to the AONB. This is set within a wider aspiration (Objective TWO – Section 7.2) to support the development of fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character whilst addressing both local community and visitor needs.</p> <p>Note concerns on both road signage and the potential new access route linking Louth and Barney, utilising sections of the disused railway line. There are clearly some sensitive issues in respect of establishing a new multi-purpose access route between Louth and Bardney and the Partnership awaits further news on these proposals. Support from the relevant landowners and community groups would be an important requirement, along with the need to avoid any disturbance to the SSSIs (see also response 22).</p> <p>In terms of road signage we agree with the need to minimise the proliferation of signs, decluttering where possible. Policy TWP4 (Section 7.2 Transport and Signage) seeks to encourage a consistent and respectful approach to road signage, furniture and maintenance. The Partnership will also continue to support the restoration of the traditional black and white road signs (Action TWA11 – Section 7.2).</p> <p>Appreciate the recommendation for post-Brexit subsidies to be used to encourage landowners to establish additional field margin links for walkers and horseriders. This would certainly help aid Policy TWP5 (Transport in the Wolds) which seeks to aid the development of an integrated and well maintained footpath and bridleway network. As noted in responses 25 and 28, Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) includes Policy FWP2 to monitor and proactively influence future agriculture policy, including any new environmental land management system as indicated through Defra's Environment Plan.</p>

		<p>on cutting edge technologies and attracting businesses that can offer skilled trades.</p>	<p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note and acknowledge comments on manufacturing including the opportunities to utilise redundant farm buildings where this can be discreetly achieved. The AONB Partnership seeks to support appropriate business development primarily through its engagement with the RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England) and LEADER funds, the latter being coordinated through the Lindsey Action Zone (LAZ) that includes the Wolds and wider hinterland. The LWCS is on the LAZ Panel that reviews and determines grant applications for a wide range of projects seeking to support and improve the local area (for employment, productivity and wider socio-environmental gain) and this includes support to the manufacturing sector. Policy PP2 (Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management) recognises the need to encourage and support the conversion of traditional buildings to new and viable uses where this can be accomplished sympathetically, with Policy BHP3 and Action BHA3 (Section 4.4.2 Built Heritage) also of relevance (see also responses 28 and 29). The Lincolnshire Wolds SDF (Sustainable Development Fund) is made available on an annual basis and seeks to encourage and support appropriate business and community developments that directly benefit the AONB - this is included within Policy FWP4 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) that seeks to aid farm diversification, and more specifically Action FWA9.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Further to earlier concerns, note the respondent's general agreement with the Plan's objective to carefully manage tourism. The AONB Partnership recognises the differing views in terms of many that do not wish to see the area promoted for tourism for danger of harming the area's natural beauty and sense of place, and others that do wish to see the area further promoted for recreation and tourism to help support the local economy and services. As per the narrative in the Plan - careful visitor management, with good interpretation (inc. highlighting the area's nationally protected landscape status and special qualities) and an infrastructure sympathetic to the local character of the area is arguably the best way forward.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Welcome respondent's general agreement with this area of the plan. Note and acknowledge the detailed comments on future planning management issues, including new housing and farm conversions. In general terms we concur with these sentiments, with future applications being reviewed on a case by case basis by the relevant LPA (local planning authority) taking account of Local Plan Policies, Neighbourhood /Parish Plans, AONB Management Plan and National Planning Policy Framework guidance, and consultee views in the round.</p> <p>Comments noted on the need to attract skilled trades – see above, and the Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and wider engagement with LAZ-LEADER and RDPE programmes which have an emphasis on</p>
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			diversifying the local economy, raising productivity and securing socio-economic benefits. Policy FWP4 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and resulting Actions FWA9 and FWA10 seeks to actively encourage farm diversification appropriate to the AONB.
33	GF Walesby resident	<p>Sec 4 – Broadly supports what has been written but is increasingly concerned that the tranquillity of the Wolds is being disturbed by aggressive use of off road vehicles (4x4's and scramble bikes) using BOATS (public byways open to all traffic). The Plan does not appear to attempt to discourage or restrict inappropriate use of vehicles.</p> <p>Sec 5 – There needs to be more emphasis on the urgent need to improve broadband and mobile phone coverage. A priority should be given to achieving a reasonable broadband speed for all premises – especially where fibre network is miles away.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note and welcome the general support for the Plan. Acknowledge the concerns expressed in terms of motorised vehicles using the public rights of way network in a manner that may disturb and potentially intimidate other users of the network. Both 4x4 and scrambling bikes do have a legitimate legal right to access BOATs, but not others parts of the wider public rights of way network including footpaths and bridleways. Additional to potential impacts upon the AONB through noise disturbance the surface of the BOATS may also be damaged by intensive or extended use from motorised vehicles.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Recognise the issues and concerns in respect of both broadband and mobile phone coverage and the communities and local businesses demand for enhanced provision. The Plan seeks to promote the roll-out of fast broadband internet that is appropriate to the AONB, as identified in Action TCA6, delivering against the wider Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 Thriving Communities). By appropriate, any communications infrastructure developments should seek to minimise harm to the natural beauty of the AONB. For example, the height, design and siting of masts are all important elements in determining the likely landscape and visual impact of a scheme and thus its impact upon the natural beauty of the AONB - which is a significant material consideration for the LPAs (local planning authorities). HM Government recommends a general presumption in favour of approval for such infrastructure but schemes within, or immediately adjacent to the AONB, would need to satisfactorily meet requirement of para's 115 and 116 of the NPPF. There is a clear reference to the recognition that local residents welcome the roll-out of mobile phone and broadband coverage within the introduction of Section 5. Agree that a further additional context setting statement on broadband should be referenced within Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities).</p>
34	Andy Bailey JAC/EA	<p>4.2.1 EA support taking on board the recommendations of Sir John Lawton's report 'Making Space for Nature' (2010) and promotion of natural capital. <u>Updated Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies can be downloaded at:</u> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process#lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire-(map-area-5)">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process#lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire-(map-area-5)</a> The emerging Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (currently out for consultation) will be of relevance.</p> <p>4.2.2 Support the addition of 'A need to maximise opportunities for wildlife and public services – multifunctional land for flood risk management, climate change resilience, and biodiversity</p>	<p>Section 4.2.1 (Biodiversity – Context Setting for Nature Conservation): Note EA's support for current reference to Sir John Lawton's report Making space for Nature. Welcome links as detailed by the respondent to the relevant Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies. Note and understand that the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (2015) as referenced within the AONB Plan is now being updated.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadows, Pasture and Wet grassland): Acknowledge EA's support for the additional new issue highlighting the need to enhance meadow, pasture and wet grassland with a drive for securing multifunctional land/public benefits as listed.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): We acknowledge and welcome</p>

		<p>gains within a productive food environment'. This links to Policy GP4</p> <p>4.2.6 Our Environment Programme team have reviewed the Plan and see both the WFD and chalks streams work as a priority. The EA continue to work with the LWCS to deliver the Chalk Streams project.</p> <p>4.3.2 Supportive of the aim to 'ensure soil protection, minimising erosion and sedimentation...' Natural capital thinking when identifying actions will help deliver other aims/objectives.</p> <p>Sec 9 - Water storage goes beyond flood risk management. In agricultural areas, with farm reservoirs more likely than new flood storage areas in the Wolds in the future – i.e. climate change is likely to make such schemes environmentally and economically more attractive (reduced summer abstraction availability and increased winter availability in-line with wetter winters, drier summers and increased heavy rainfall events). There are no plans for additional flood storage schemes (similar to Louth) within the Wolds. SUDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage) is a further way in which water storage may occur – this should be encouraged in line with the NPPF.</p> <p>RSPP7 &amp; RSPA11 – The target for water quality within natural rivers/streams is unclear.</p>	<p>the input from the EA's Environment Programme team and recognise the support given to the work of the LWCS and the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project.</p> <p>Section 4.3.2 (Soils): Note and welcome support for the aim to ensure soil protection, minimising erosion and sedimentation and retaining where needed, nutrients and organic matter as detailed within the general narrative.</p> <p>Acknowledge EA's recognition of the value of utilising a natural capital approach in the context of protecting furthering soil protection ( see also response 25).</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome comments on the Policies and Actions relating to Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) as detailed.</p> <p>In terms of RSPP6 and accompanying Action RSPA10 acknowledge that the EA is not aware of any immediate plans for flood storage schemes similar to Louth within the Wolds. The Policy as worded includes water storage as a general principle but the text in the narrative has been extended to recognise the likelihood of an increasing number of farm reservoirs in the future for the reasons as detailed by the respondent. In terms of wider water management agree with comments in respect of developing integrated flood risk management schemes that can utilise Natural Flood Management techniques, in addition to the encourage of water storage through SUDs. A new action (RSPA17) has been proposed to encourage the exploration of SUDs, and the practical applications within a protected landscape.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): In respect of Policy RSPP7 and Action RSPA11 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) agree that the target is unclear and needs to clarify that this relates to the percentage of AONB "main river" that is classed as being in either moderate or good condition, as referenced within the proposed State of the AONB indicators (Table 4 and the accompanying report Appendix 4).</p>
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35a.	JD South Ormsby	<p>A partner shared summary addition for associated parties would be helpful.</p> <p>Sec 4 – An important threat/opportunity for South Ormsby is the future management of grass verges, with potentially further reductions in Highway authorities' maintenance budgets as indicated in the Plan. The Estate is interested in the future work and findings of the collaborative 'Verge grass to Biomass' project <a href="http://www.peakhill-associates.co.uk/dt_portfolios/grass-to-biomass">http://www.peakhill-associates.co.uk/dt_portfolios/grass-to-biomass</a>. The success of the pilot and its future development provides the potential for linking with the roadside verges on Estate land and in particular along the Bluestone Heath Road and Ormsby Ring.</p> <p>With only 1.5 % of the AONB landscape character area classed as semi-natural grassland it should be noted that the Estate has a concentration of ancient grassland. We would be interested in learning how we might support new approaches such as grazer networks and trails for new technologies.</p> <p>Sec 5 - Encouraged to see the 'vulnerabilities to communities and the business sector through the continuing outward migration of young people' as a new issue. Welcome conversations around the future investment in South Ormsby to help aid the delivery of the Estate's Vision. There may be opportunities for collaboration in projects around skills retention, apprenticeship schemes and small business development – promoting the Lincolnshire Wolds and its communities as an attractive destination to 'set up shop'.</p> <p>The South Ormsby Vision will expand local livestock farming and support tenant farmers in diversification. Support will be provided by dedicated members of staff to find new opportunities in the farming industry that will safeguard against Brexit (FWA6) adopting new innovative techniques in land management (FWP2). The latter includes the consideration of present and future requirements of the rural community and any new technologies that will contribute to affordable, green housing. (BHA8).</p> <p>Community services and spaces will be developed in response to community need, supported by the Estate Team and the economic impact of the South Ormsby Vision. This will include protection and enhancement of key buildings such as the hall and church.</p> <p>Sec 6 - We congratulate the AONB Partnership for the formation and support of the Value of Love Lincs Wolds</p>	<p>In terms of general comments, note the suggestion from South Ormsby Estate for a shared summary to be available for associated parties. As noted in response 29, for previous Plans an Executive Summary has been published, this will be considered again, pending budget constraints.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Grass Verges and green Lanes): Note and welcome the Estate's interest and future engagement in the management of the roadside and green lanes verge network including sections of the Bluestone Heath Road and Ormsby Ring. This links with proposed Action VLA3 which aims to review and encourage suitable verge management in the AONB. There would be further opportunities to assist in delivery of Action VLA8 which seeks to explore, and where possible extend, the AD Biomass Trail to support verge management for nature conservation and wider gains. The latter includes the provision of a product that could help support local on-farm anaerobic digestion plants.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland): Acknowledge the importance of safeguarding our remaining semi-natural grassland areas and welcome the Estate's desire to explore various approaches for the future management of its traditional grassland habitats – e.g. may provide opportunities to support Actions GA6-7 supporting initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands and also promoting and supporting land managers in the delivery of wider benefits (Policies GP3 and GP4 respectively).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note and acknowledge the summary points of the Estate's Vision and its link and connections for supporting local communities and small business development in the area. This aligns with the AONBs objective TCO (Section 5.2) of helping to enhance the prosperity and wellbeing of communities within the Wolds – working to ensure the AONB remains a place to live, work, invest in and visit whilst protecting the character of this unique landscape.</p> <p>Note and welcome the Estate's aims to develop and enhance the local livestock farming including support for future farm diversification and build resilience to help with future changes across the sector including Brexit uncertainties. See also responses 25 and 28 in terms of meeting the needs of the farming sectors as articulated within Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and the needs for embracing with the emerging natural capital agenda's as per A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan) and future changes to agri-environment/land management schemes.</p> <p>Section 4.4.2 (Built Heritage): Acknowledge the work of the Estate in protecting and enhancing its key heritage assets including notably the hall and church which aligns with Policy BHP3 and resulting Action BHA7 e.g. exploring funding and partnerships to help encourage and support the sympathetic repair and re-use of heritage buildings. Note the Estate's support for Action BHA8, which seeks to support and encourage the use of</p>
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		<p>Destination Management Organisation. We support a joined-up approach between local attractions in promotion and are committed to protecting, celebrating and strengthening the brand of the Wolds. However the Estate promotes its offer, this will be primarily to walkers, cyclists and a small number of quality visits.</p> <p>Sec 8 - The Estate has commissioned extensive survey's to assess its ecological significance and is working on ways to maximise its 3,000 acres for the benefit of wildlife, natural capital and the local economy (BP1 – 4). We are aware of the Biodiversity Action Plan and welcome new collaborations to further wildlife corridors and other landscape-scale conservation activities. We have an ambitious long term Vision that could help deliver against similar AONB Management Plan objectives.</p> <p>Consideration of how to manage landscape-scale conservation beyond Countryside Stewardship would be timely. Innovation through new technologies forms part of our Vision and something that we wish to invest in. South Ormsby is keen to be part of any pilot projects or research that might contribute to the Wolds being more resilient to the future economic and social pressures.</p> <p>Sec 9 - GLNP and societies such as the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and Tree Council for England have provided initial 'Opportunity Mapping' for the estate to help inform where our efforts are best focussed when planning the conservation of the Estates natural environment: grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands suggested as most prevalent on the Estate.</p> <p>Useful to have 'good practice' documents (like those produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership - GLNP) regarding land management in the wider countryside; what AONB sees as 'good' and how we can help to get there. Development of local case studies to assist landowners in protecting and enhancing wildlife.</p> <p>Direct Actions to Assist the AONB Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent designation by Historic England of our Estate Parklands for the protection of immediate parks and gardens (Historic England), protecting built and natural heritage.</li> <li>• Opportunity for collaboration with grazier networks at both local and strategic levels to help maintain and enhance the grassland resource.</li> </ul>	<p>relevant technologies and innovative design that can complement the AONB's special character. As summarised in Section 7 (Developing the Wolds) new development of the right type, of the right scale and in the right location should be actively supported; including protecting and enhancing local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality design, including making space for biodiversity, being sensitive to the needs of heritage assets and tackling climate change.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note and welcome support for the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Organisation. See comments below 35b. Acknowledge the Estate's support and active engagement in a furthering a collaborative approach to help sensitively market the Lincolnshire Wolds, including accompanying tourism branding to help celebrate and promote the visitor offer. As highlighted within the Plan (Section 6.1 - Overview for Discovering the Wolds) there is a clear need to market the Wolds sensitively and appropriately so that the area's natural beauty and unique sense of place (including its undoubted tranquillity) is not compromised.</p> <p>Section 8 (Partnerships in the Wolds): Recognise the Estate's active role in surveying and reviewing its nature conservation resource. Note and welcome further partnership collaboration to help review and develop initiatives that can support the Lincolnshire Nature Conservation Strategy (Biodiversity Action Plan) and aid delivery of the AONB Management Plan. Including for example future opportunities to explore natural capital, landscape-scale, catchment wide approaches and potentially new technologies. We welcome the Estate's willingness to further local partnerships and research initiatives that can help build resilience to future economic and social pressures in a deeply rural area.</p> <p>There will be further opportunities for close collaboration through the emerging work of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF), with one of two schemes operating close by, e.g. targeting farmers along the Bluestone Heath Road corridor as highlighted within Actions GA7 (Section 4.2.2- Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) and FWA2 &amp; FWA5 (Section 5.1 - Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds).</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome the Estate's active engagement in 'Opportunity Mapping' – see below 35b commentary.</p> <p>Acknowledge the request for useful case studies/exemplars in land management. The LWCS and the LCSP have developed case studies in the past e.g. for tree management, supporting farmland birds, chalk stream management etc. The AONB Partnership is reviewing the development of further case studies that can usefully align with the templates from the National Association for AONBs. The local Facilitation Funds will be a further source for reviewing and disseminating a wide range of good practice.</p>
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35b.	JD South Ormsby	<p>Sec 4 - Acknowledge the increased availability of some national datasets that have been made available via the Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework (PLMF) since 2017 to inform AONB management considerations and environmental outcomes. The overview of 'State of the AONB' also mentions a lack of availability of datasets around 'health measures' which are growing in relevance to rural Lincolnshire and will continue to do so over the next five year period.</p> <p>The Dept of Communities &amp; Local Gov Indices of Multiple Deprivation might provide useful data, and comparisons with other areas. South Ormsby and surrounding areas is for example ranked 1,879 out of 32,844 (nationally) and is in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. See <a href="http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html">http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html</a> (inc. living environment layer).</p> <p>The work of the LCC Public Health Team and consultation by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to the Wider Determinants of Health (inc loneliness, rural and social isolation) may be helpful in providing future datasets and future guidance on potential funding streams that could support the work of the Partnership.</p> <p>Sec 5 - Rural and social isolation and the impact of the wider determinants of health on residents' wellbeing will be important topics for consideration by central government 2018 – 2023; provides an opportunity to engage with the vulnerable Wolds communities and support them in contributing to a thriving landscape.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note comments on the collection and review of datasets to help inform the State of the AONB Report (Appendix 4) and the increasing value of health statistics.</p> <p>Welcome the Estate's support in delivering Action TCA8 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and exploring further links with the health sector and the benefits and opportunities for engagement with the AONB.</p> <p>Acknowledge data on Multiple Indices of Deprivation and the results specific to South Ormsby as detailed. As summarised within Appendix 4, currently no health data is available cut to the AONB boundary, similarly at a postcode level which would enable an accurate approximation of health indices. Such data sources will however be kept under close review going forward including ongoing contact with LCC's Public Health and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. These objectives would help aid Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and the aspiration to reverse the decline in rural services and the promotion of opportunities to encourage healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Recognise the respondent's comments in respect of rural living and the opportunities that the AONB Partnership can provide in terms of encouraging and supporting wider engagement from the public and local communities in helping to secure a thriving landscape. Agree that this should include seeking to reach out to traditionally hard to reach and disadvantaged groups. Policy TCP1 (Section 5.2) aims to foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities. Resulting Action TCA1 seeks to encourage Parish and Neighbourhood Plans and an additional reference has been made to help reach out to traditionally hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Agree on the importance of exploring and developing closer ties with the</p>

		<p>Acknowledge the importance of sensitive development of walks, access and recreation. Would welcome some attention as to how the AONB might reverse some of the serious problems raised by the NHS in regards to the physical health of the population e.g. obesity and diabetes); promoting the benefits of the natural environment and the wider Wolds (TCA8).</p> <p>Opportunities for skills development of local people, apprenticeship schemes for young people, catering for older residents and providing local services are important elements involved in achieving the Estate's Vision. South Ormsby CiC's aims focus on identifying and supporting local people, including a Delivery Team tasked with supporting residents and local interest groups with community-led activities to identify area for improvements to community infrastructure, services and learning volunteering.</p> <p>Sec 6 - Congratulate the AONB Partnership for the formation and support of the Value of Love Lincs Wolds Destination Management Organisation. We support a joined-up approach between local attractions in promotion and are committed to protecting, celebrating and strengthening the brand of the Wolds. However the Estate promotes its offer, this will be primarily to walkers, cyclists and a small number of quality visits.</p> <p>Sec 7 - South Ormsby CiC is working with residents of the South Ormsby group of parishes, interest groups, networks and other stakeholders to ensure that community developments consider the needs of residents and provide the infrastructure to support them including community spaces, services and items such as defibrillators.</p> <p>Sec 9 - The Greater Lincolnshire Nature partnership (GLNP) has provided initial 'Opportunity Mapping' to help focus efforts on managing the Estate's natural environment. Grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands are the most prevalent. Links with BA4 (Section 4 - Biodiversity).</p> <p>Further to above, community activities, involvement of local interest groups and volunteer-led surveys are all underway which will help us to understand the Estate's significance and inform how we might develop training opportunities for local people. On-going dialogue with LWCS is welcomed to identify areas of the plan that might be delivered through the Estate Vision (BA2).</p>	<p>NHS and other health sector practitioners. This should include securing an evidence base and identifying future areas of joint working to support healthy living. Clearly the AONB is a nationally protected landscape, and the Partnership has a role to play as one of a number of bodies that can help to promote the natural environment as a pathway to good health and wellbeing. This would help build on the aspirations of A Green Future (Defra 25 Year Environment Plan) which has proposed a national cross-government alliance on environment and health to design and oversee a forthcoming Natural Environment for Health and Wellbeing Programme. We will work closely with our wider family of AONBs (via the National Association for AONBs) to help review, share and disseminate good practice in this area. Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 – Thriving Communities) highlights the need to promote healthier lifestyles with Action TCA8 identifying the need to explore and develop links to the wider Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing commissioning plans.</p> <p>Note and welcome South Ormsby Estate's active engagement in identifying and furthering skills development, targeting both the young and old to develop a range of local services within the Wolds. As highlighted earlier, the AONB Partnership seeks through Policy TCP1 (Section 5.2) to foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities with resulting Action TCA3 targeting the support, assistance and promotion of a wide range of voluntary and community engagement. Policy FWP5 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports) is also closely linked as it recognises the need to maintain traditional rural activities that can protect, appropriately manage and enhance the landscape. This should be modified to reinforce traditional skills – modifying the following Action FWA11 to reference skills development.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note the support for the Love Lincolnshire Wolds (LLW) tourism group; both East Lindsey and West Lindsey DC's have been operating as the lead partners for the LLW group, with the wider AONB Partnership operating in a supporting role. As per responses 12 and 22, the Plan's respective engagement is detailed further within Section 6.3 - Access, Recreation and Tourism, inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of LLW Destination Management Plan. As highlighted within the Plan there is a clear need to market the Wolds sensitively and appropriately at a level where the area's natural beauty and unique sense of place ( including its undoubted tranquillity), is not endangered.</p> <p>Section 7 (Developing the Wolds): Acknowledge the work being taken forward at South Ormsby as detailed by the respondent and the wider outreach aspirations proposed through the Estate's ongoing restoration plans. The LWCS and other JAC partners have attended a number of meetings and workshop sessions, providing various input on a range of proposals. The AONB Partnership continues to welcome active engagement with the Estate and local community of South Ormsby as the Vision and subsequent range of plans develop further. There is clearly a need for any</p>
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		<p>In terms of direct assistance to aid delivery of the Plan the Estate highlighted the following opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambitions to restore / plant community orchards</li> <li>• Surveys by Local Interest Groups (Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union / Tree Council) during 2018 /19</li> <li>• Will resurvey outstanding Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) with a view to securing, where possible, their designation as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)</li> <li>• Intentions to protect chalk stream habitat – a small amount of Himalayan balsam has been identified</li> <li>• Talks are underway with Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union regarding a site visit to increase The Estate team's knowledge of the local geology – including a focus on a disused pit.</li> </ul>	<p>future infrastructure development to be handled sympathetically, sensitive to both local needs and landowner interests, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome the Estate's link up the GLNP team for green infrastructure mapping, and a suggested focus on the protection and enhancement of grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands. All of these habitats are representative of the wider AONB with a wide range of policies and actions as detailed within Sections 4.2.2 (Meadows, Pasture and Wet grassland) 4.2.4 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) and 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): There may also be opportunities for the Estate to review opportunities for enhancing natural capital gains within the wider working farmland which could be in keeping with wider AONB aspirations for further habitats such as arable farmland (Section 4.2.7, grass verges and green lanes (Section 4.2.3) and hedgerows and landmark trees (Sections 4.2.5).</p> <p>Note and welcome the summary list of suggestions for more immediate action as detailed; both the LWCS and LCSP (Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project) staff welcome ongoing engagement with the Estate and its partners to help identify and secure mutually beneficial goals and aid alignment with wider AONB M.Plan aspirations.</p>
36	Mr & Mrs S Goulceby residents	<p>The Plan is well prepared and designed, thorough and easy to follow.</p> <p>In particular we feel the need to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The scenic beauty and rural charm</li> <li>2. The peace and tranquillity</li> <li>3. Need to keep noise and light pollution minimised</li> <li>4. Keep development appropriate to AONB.</li> </ol>	<p>Welcome the positive response on the overall design and content of the Plan.</p> <p>Note and acknowledge the four key points for protecting the AONB as detailed. These comments show some accordance with the findings of the public Have Your Say survey: for example the top two choices for values of the AONB were i) scenery and views, followed by ii) peace and quiet. In terms of current issues of most concern the hottest topic was the impact of unsightly development, with intrusion from noise and light pollution ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 concerns.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to highlight the special qualities and distinctive character of the AONB – including its undoubted peace and tranquillity. All of the four attributes/concerns are incorporated within Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management) and the collaborative vision for the area (Section 3.1). Section 9 (Making it Happen) highlights the joint partnership action to help protect and safeguard the AONB's features, whilst fostering appropriate and sustainable socio-economic development that is in keeping with the Lincolnshire Wolds nationally protected landscape.</p>
37	Clare Sterling JAC/LWT	<p>Section 1.5 - Second paragraph. Typo - should read NPPF not NNPF.</p> <p>VLA6 The Trust is happy to be named as a lead partner for this action. However, it should be noted that any training we hold</p>	<p>Section 1.5 (The Management Plan in Context): 2<sup>nd</sup> para spelling corrected.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Biodiversity – Grass Verges and Green Lanes): Note and welcome Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's support for VLA6, and recognise the caveat for LWT to focus their activity on the emerging LoveLincsPlants</p>

		<p>is likely to be general botanical survey skills linked to our new #LoveLincsPlants project rather than any specific to road verges.</p> <p>RSPP6 - We strongly support this policy, however we would recommend that it should explicitly state biodiversity within the multiple benefits to be aimed for.</p> <p>TCA12 - The Trust supports the provision of green infrastructure and encourages public access and engagement with the natural world, however we would only be able to support facilities and access in existing designated sites where it can be shown that it would not have a negative impact on the biodiversity interest of the site.</p> <p>PP1 - We note that the Trust is not listed as a partner in any of the planning related policies or actions. As the Trust actively engages with the planning system and regularly comments on planning applications with respect to biodiversity, we suggest that it might be appropriate for us to be listed as a partner.</p>	<p>project. Recognise the Trust's focus on wider botanical surveying so Action VLA6 has been dropped from the Grass Verge section but included within Section 4.2.2 (Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) as Action GA5. This aids the wider delivery of Policy GP2 which seeks to raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland. There is a further opportunity to link with wider national Plant Life campaigns to help promote and support wider voluntary engagement in botanical surveying.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): Welcome support for Policy RSPP6 and have actioned the request to explicitly highlight biodiversity within the multiple benefits as per previous Policy RSPP5.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Policy TCA12 (Thriving Communities) welcome general support for supporting the provision of additional green infrastructure in the Wolds, and agree with the need to safeguard against any negative impacts upon biodiversity, particularly within existing designated wildlife sites. This is covered by the wording of the overarching Policy TCP4 which stresses to "<u>sensitively</u> utilise the Wolds as a recreational resource...". By sensitive, we would not support a proposal that caused fundamental damage/harm to known biodiversity, geological or heritage features.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Welcome LWT's inclusion as a further partner for aiding Policy PP1, especially in respect of providing specialist input on biodiversity matters.</p>
<b>Further Pre-Adoption Consultation</b>			
Historic England	<p>Tim Allen (Inspector of Ancient Monuments) confirmed HE's support for the Plan and provided the following observations:</p> <p>The Wolds has, as illustrated in the work of National Mapping Programme, Down Your Wolds, Lincolnshire Longbarrows Project, Farmsteads Project etc a particularly rich resource which if better understood and managed could add enormously to the cultural capital of this economically hard pressed area. Better understanding of what makes the Wolds special builds not just an enhanced tourist offer but a stronger sense of place and identity supporting inward investment and community. This is a productive agricultural landscape that we ask a lot of in terms of public goods and ecosystem services. To manage the future of this landscape conserving its national importance and supporting growth we need a sophisticated understanding of what we've got. In a fast changing economic and climatic context the relative paucity of understanding of the Wolds in comparison to the Fens or Yorkshire Wolds places the AONB and its active conservation at a disadvantage. The Wolds AONB and Historic England are keen to explore working with communities, charities, commercial providers, academic institutions and other partners to bring forward a holistic study of the Wolds that places informed conservation and growth at its core. (23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018)</p>		
Natural England	<p>Rob Gornall (Team Leader) has confirmed that NE, as the formal statutory consultee, is happy to validate the revised AONB Management Plan 2018-23 and allow its passage through to subsequent adoption and publication by the relevant local authorities. (5<sup>th</sup> April 2018)</p>		
Lincolnshire Wolds JAC (AONB Partnership)	<p>The JAC reviewed and formally endorsed the revised M. Plan at the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018.</p>		

National Association for AONBs

Awaiting comments.

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**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,  
Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing and  
Richard Wills, Head of Paid Service**

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>01 May 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I015711</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to clarify the County Council's relationship at this time with the NHS in Lincolnshire, both in terms of the services that are already delivered in partnership and the ongoing transformation and integration of health and care. In particular, the report sets out the current position with respect to the County Council's role in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

**Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that:

1. The Executive expresses concern that despite considerable effort being expended into producing a Lincolnshire plan for the Health and Care in the county over several years, nothing substantive has yet emerged in the public domain.

We would urge NHS colleagues to publish a comprehensive draft plan for public consultation without delay. The County Council along with other individuals and organisations could then respond effectively in the interests of the residents of Lincolnshire.

2. The local NHS be advised that it remains the County Council's strong view that an external review of the governance arrangements for the Lincolnshire STP be undertaken to provide
  - i. clarity of decision making and accountability
  - ii. a clear definition of the roles of the partners
  - iii. effective engagement with democratic processes
  - iv. robust oversight of the delivery of the STP plan and associated financial savings and changes in NHS expenditure

### **Reasons for Recommendation:**

1. The Chief Executive advised the local NHS earlier in Spring 2017 that the County Council could not be co-signature with the CCGs for the publication of the STP in 2017. The Council's view is that the STP must be subject to full consultation and that the Council would wish to listen to community views before confirming the Council's position. In addition specific concerns exist about the lack of detail in respect of proposals for NHS service change and spending reductions to close the local funding gap.
2. The County Council has a significant role in the delivery of care and support to citizens through its social care, children's and public health functions and a very good track record in working alongside NHS partners to improve integrated care to date. It should therefore remain a high priority for the Council that the areas of core business that interface with the NHS, including delivering new models of care, continue to benefit from good operational and strategic leadership, backed by appropriate governance.

### **Background**

1. NHS England (NHSE) produced its 'Five Year Forward View' in October 2014. This document set out new models of care intended to transform health and care in priority service areas across England (for example urgent care or primary care).
2. In setting out this five year vision NHSE aimed to:
  - a) Drive consistent adoption of the new models of care across the NHS in England;
  - b) Mitigate the impact of demographic growth and the increasing demand on NHS services due to an ageing population, facing increasing levels of need and complex care;
  - c) Mitigate the impact of shrinking public sector resources, in order to provide solutions for the medium term financial sustainability of the NHS – ultimately to reduce, or ideally eliminate, the national NHS funding gap, then £30 billion, by 2020/21.
3. The vision and requirements set out in the Five Year Forward View are reinforced annually in the NHS Mandate. This sets the annual operating framework of the NHS. In the Mandate there are specific quality, performance and financial expectations for each type of NHS organisation, as well as the joint requirement across the NHS to deliver the new models of care.
4. Sustainability and Transformation Plans (now called STPs) were introduced by NHSE as a means of accelerating the implementation of the Five Year Forward View. The country was divided by NHSE into 44 local STP areas (geographical footprints) in order to do this. Although these footprints were not designed around upper-tier Council boundaries Councils with social care responsibilities

were named as important partners to STPs and local government's public health lead role was also recognised in these arrangements.

5. Partners across Lincolnshire were already operating in a multiagency partnership known as 'Lincolnshire Health and Care' or LHAC, under the Chairmanship of the then Director of Public Health which, along with the Better Care Programme led by the Executive Director of Adult Social Services had a work programme to steer some aspects of health and care transformation across the County. LHAC evolved into an STP programme led by NHS colleagues with an officer group overseeing this called the System Executive Team, or SET – attended by the Council's then Chief Executive and Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing. This group reports to a Local Co-ordinating Body made up of the Boards of each of the 7 NHS organisations in Lincolnshire.
6. An initial draft STP for Lincolnshire was published in December 2016 as per the national NHS timetable. NHSE determined at that stage that there could be public engagement but not consultation. The Plan identified a £73m overall gap by 2015/16 (as identified the original STP document) in health finances. It also outlined the need for £205m of capital investment to reconfigure and improve healthcare facilities across Lincolnshire – notably at the three ULHT sites of Lincoln, Boston and Grantham, for example, upgrading emergency department and intensive care facilities, introducing a number of new models of care outside of hospitals (notably Neighbourhood Teams), consolidating inpatient beds across a range of hospital sites, addressing a significant backlog in overall building maintenance. There has been considerable deterioration in the financial position of the NHS in Lincolnshire as a whole, and in some critical areas of operational performance, since the production of this initial draft.
7. In December 2016 the full County Council unanimously supported two motions expressing concern at the content of the STP and stating that the Council could not support the STP in its then form. In December 2016 the Health & Wellbeing Board and in February 2017 the Executive noted the position in respect of a draft STP for Lincolnshire and the STP governance arrangements proposed by the NHS locally. Following the meeting of the Executive in February 2017, the Leader of the Council wrote to the local NHS raising a number of comments on the STP in its capacity as an interested party and at some time in the future a consultee. The Council's opposition to the STP effectively precluded those Council officers attending the SET from taking part in respect of decision-making on STP delivery and they have not done so.
8. Given the differing accountabilities of NHS Boards and the County Council, the SET was not established with delegated decision making responsibilities from each partner organisation. Rather the SET was to provide system leadership and strategic oversight, with terms of reference as follows:
  - To set the direction and oversee delivery of the STP;
  - To provide collective problem solving and decision taking for system wide issues;

- To provide oversight to, and monitoring of, performance against the system control total.” (This is an overall financial control total, shared across local NHS partners.)
9. Where a specific decision was required, the SET was to develop a shared recommendation, agreed by all members of the SET, for consideration by the relevant decision making body eg. NHS Trust Board.
  10. The monitoring of the system control total and the associated performance management aspects of the SET terms of reference cannot be adequately addressed until there is further detail and clarity on the overall financial position of the local NHS, via the final published version of the STP. Even then, it remains the responsibilities of the NHS Trust and CCG Boards which have necessary authority.
  11. Probably the greatest challenge for the NHS in implementing medium term planning as demanded by the STP process is to move away from its focus on in-year financial planning and controls which restrict, for example, invest to save programmes and instead see the NHS Lincolnshire budget operate as a 'system level' control total to help ensure partners work together and not against each other – to date this has not been achieved.

### **Current Position**

12. The development and approval of each STP in England, overseen by NHSE, has proved to be a complex and controversial process which has been subject to a number of stop/starts over the past 18 months. There is still a lack of clarity as to how an STP is finally signed off; there is no clear guidance from NHSE.
13. It is widely recognised (including within the NHS itself) that the current fragmentation of NHS bodies within each STP footprint is one of the barriers to progressing transformation in a unified manner, engaging local Councils to ensure that its interests and viewpoints are reflected in NHS decision-making. The pressing and competing demands of the day to day operational delivery of health and care services in these very challenging times for the public sector, is also a key factor affecting the progress of all STPs in the country. It is worth pointing out here that Cllr Woolley wrote to NHS partners in January 2017 strongly recommending conciliation down from the seven current organisations representing the main bodies of the NHS in Lincolnshire.
14. From a policy perspective, NHSE proposed during 2017/18 that local areas should consider adopting more formal “accountable care” organisational structures (based on a model developed in the USA). This is characterised by a number of health organisations joining together to provide more seamless delivery of services inside and outside of hospital settings, and in doing so they are held accountable jointly for performance, (including financial performance) and outcomes, instead of continuing to operate within their individual organisational and contractual boundaries. This implies a significant softening of the commissioner/provider split as the driver of the system, in favour of an



outcome-focused model. It should be said that at this point neither officers from the County Council or Executive Councillors have expressed any views about preferred/future organisational shape.

15. In March 2017 in line with the usual NHS annual planning process, NHSE published 'Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View'. This formally renamed the 44 footprints as STPs, with Local Authorities noted as optional partners. It should also be noted the language of accountable care organisations has changed to "integrated care systems" in recent months. All these name changes have been the responsibility of NHSE. As 'STPs' are taken forward in a public context, clarity is required from NHSE as to name(s), intention and process.
16. NHSE is also promoting changes to Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) governance arrangements nationally, so that where there are multiple CCGs in each STP area, they operate from a more consolidated/joint management team in the future, even if they remain as separate statutory bodies eg., Leicestershire, Derbyshire. This is what the 4 Lincolnshire CCGs are seeking to develop later in 2018.
17. The County Council has consistently fed back to the NHS a number of concerns about the STP, including:
  - a) The lack of detail in respect of proposals for NHS service changes.
  - b) The size of the financial gap to be addressed across the NHS locally, the lack of specific proposals (bar one) to address it and the ability of the STP to resolve this.
  - c) The importance of public engagement including all proposed changes envisaged by NHS colleagues that would bear upon Lincolnshire resident's experience of NHS services.
  - d) The STP governance arrangements (both in terms of overall decision making across the local NHS, and the need for robust oversight of the delivery of the plan and associated savings).
  - e) The SET meetings being dominated by internal NHS issues and the STP without due consideration for the wider and collective health and care agenda including Women's and Children's and Specialist Adult Services.
  - f) The geography of the STP in this area, and the adequacy of arrangements for it to operate in a coherent manner taking into account the extensive population and patient-flow linkages with adjoining areas.
18. The County Council has communicated its view that the Lincolnshire STP should be published as an NHS plan, issued for wider consultation, with the County Council as a consultee. In December 2016 the County Council formally resolved not to support the STP plan and in March the Leader of the Council raised a number of concerns in a letter to NHS colleagues. Disappointingly there have been successive delays in publication and communication with the public has been unco-ordinated.

19. Fundamentally, further clarity is needed on:

- a) The STPs overall governance arrangements, and the ability of the Local Authority to raise issues within this, including with respect to the delivery mechanisms and performance management of the STP.
- b) The confirmed financial position/gap of NHS partners within the STP, the ability of the plan and partnership to address the financial gap, and the level of assurance of the other partners involved.
- c) The Councils relationship to any new organisational forms arising or proposed from NHS policy changes.

20. It is worth noting that the County Council has commissioned Tony McArdle, the previous Chief Executive to consider the long-term development of the H&WB and HSC, alongside informal relationships with NHS partners, as the foundations for the future. However, the Council may wish to go beyond this existing commission. The Council will need to seek assurance that the best possible decision making and delivery model is in place to support the progression of the STP, that agendas are relevant to the County Council and take into account impacts upon it and that there is robust performance and financial management of the Plan. The question to be answered is: how the system as a whole can operate more effectively across organisational and cultural boundaries, how decision making can be streamlined and improved, wherever in the system the decision falls and how commitment to democratic accountability can be properly demonstrated.

21. There is also a need to gain more information about, and assess the implications of, any further proposals concerning integrated care systems within Lincolnshire, as the national policy and local response to this, is expected to develop further in 2018 and 2019. This will have further implications for system wide governance.

22. Given the Council's significant role in the delivery of care and support to citizens through its social care, children's and public health functions, and its very good track record in working alongside NHS partners to improve integrated care to date, it remains a high priority for the Council that the areas of core business that interface with the NHS, including delivering new models of care, continue to benefit from good operational and strategic leadership, backed by appropriate governance, and that the Council can influence and share a clear vision with NHS partners, Council Members and the public, as to how these services should best develop.

23. It is also critical that the Council continues to plan effectively and efficiently for the resource needed to drive this transformation, and that the agreed areas of priority for health and care integration are proportionate, in line with the Council's overall vision, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Strategic Plan.

#### **Overview of Health and Care Integration work to date**

24. Before and since the STP was first discussed, the County Council has supported progress with targeted investment in integration for the simple

reason that the Council believes it is increasingly desirable from the perspective of the service user that their care is well coordinated across organisational boundaries. Integration by itself does not necessarily save money, but when implementing new models of integrated health and care Lincolnshire's integration programme aims to reduce duplication and improve efficiency wherever possible.

25. The County Council has taken the lead role in progressing the Better Care Fund (BCF) since the inception of the BCF Policy in 2014. The BCF Plan for 2018/19 represents £230.391m of pooled resources between NHS partners and the County Council and is targeted to improving hospital discharge, increasing the amount of integrated care delivered in community settings, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions, sustaining adult social care, and integrating data and technology across organisational boundaries.
26. There is an element of 'business as usual' in working with the NHS both at operational and strategic levels, however, over the past three years a specific programme of health and care integration supported by the BCF pooled budget has ensured this remained a top priority for County partners, including district councils, with whom improvements to how DFGs are used and the wider 'supporting people' programme can progress (eg. Extra Care).
27. The ongoing Better Care Fund programme will support further work in key areas such as the development of Neighbourhood Teams. In addition in children's services and in public health parallel but supportive programmes of work continue where there is a good business case to demonstrate added value. However, this needs to be seen in the context of NHS progress against significant underlying issues which has been disappointingly slow and neither financial or performance improvements in key areas of NHS activity can be evidenced.

### **Strategic level input**

28. This comprises membership of or attendance at, (as appropriate) and two-way reporting into the SET and STP Local Co-ordinating Board (LCB) under the Chairmanship of Elaine Bayliss, Chair of ULHT. Currently the Executive Director and his team support SET. As might be expected a range of other officers and managers across the Council, who lead, participate and support the work of better aligning if not integrating health, housing and social care in both adult and children's.

The Health and Wellbeing Board receives regular updates from both the BCF and STP programmes. Whilst the Board has certain powers to influence the BCF as laid down in national guidance this has not been the case for the STP where the role of H&W Boards has no such place in existing guidance. From a Council perspective this has been a weakness in STP national guidance from the outset.

### **Dedicated programme/project input**

29. In terms of oversight of integrated approaches to health and care within Lincolnshire, and oversight of the Better Care Fund plan/pooled budget, the main contribution from the County Council is through the Health and Wellbeing Board, Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing (and team (AC&CW)) and the Executive Director of Children's Services. A summary of these resources is given below. This has been based on actual resource applied over a 12 month period in three categories.

- (i) There are 0.83 FTE associated with the core team from finance to ensure the BCF pooled fund is managed appropriately.
- (ii) Senior officer time – assume 10 senior officers across AC&CW and Children's, with an average of 25% of their time spent on BCF.

30. Taking into account the categories above, the estimated value of County Council officer time in 2017/18 was £0.319m and for 2018/19 is currently estimated at £0.277m.

Of course, 'opportunity costs' might be added i.e., those things that might have occurred if officers time had not be allocated to meeting the two national programmes of BCF and/or STP. This is not considered something amenable to costing however.

### **Operational input**

31. Normal operational input is provided by a combination of officers' time on day to day operational activity in relation to service delivery and joint commissioning activity, such as Continuing Healthcare funding, Delayed Transfers of Care, Personal Health Budgets and individual care provision. These elements would be required even if the BCF or STP did not exist; in meeting statutory duties and other responsibilities of the Local Authority.

### **Other Relevant Impact Assessments**

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

32. In order to

- Deliver core health and care services across the public sector;
  - Transform health and care into a more integrated service for citizens; and
  - Make the best use of the "Lincolnshire pound";
- there needs to be consistent, constructive and effective partnership working and relationship management across all tiers of local organisations.

33. The Council has historically provided good system leadership and has a good track record of leading transformation programmes, including those that are joint with the NHS.

34. The scale, complexity and implications of the STP now that it is (along with national policy) moving towards public consultation and implementation

necessitates a stepped change in the governance approach, if appropriate accountability and allocation of the risks and benefits of the transformation within Lincolnshire is to become a reality, and if this is to meet the requirements of all partners including local authorities.

35. The Council might also consider it necessary to take a step-change approach for no other reason than the quality, safety, finances and performance of NHS bodies – notably within the CCGs and Acute Trust (noting that LPFT has been rated recently as 'Good' by CQC and, both LPFT and LCHS are expected to achieve a financial balance at the end of 2017/18) within Lincolnshire gives rise to considerable public and political concern.

### **Risk Assessment**

36. The risk of failing to deliver integrated housing, health, public health and social care services will have a negative impact on the County Council and its citizens and it is therefore further recommended that CMB is asked to consider whether it should be listed on the Corporate Risk Register.

### **Legal Issues**

#### **Equality Act 2010**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- \* Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- \* Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- \* Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- \* Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
- \* Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
- \* Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process

This Report relates to the Council's high level approach to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which is a Plan published by the NHS who have primary responsibility for the services covered by the Plan. It is appropriate, however, that in fulfilment of its own Equality Act duties the Council in its responses to the NHS relating to the Plan ensure that the NHS themselves are having due regard to the impact of changes on people with a protected characteristic. This was raised as a point in the letter from the Leader of the Council to the NHS locally in March 2017 following the Executive's previous consideration of the STP.

The Council will continue to take opportunities as they arise to ensure that access to services including access for all groups with a protected characteristic is at the heart of NHS planning.

#### Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision

The JSNA and the objectives of the JHWS will guide the Council's approach to judging and responding to proposals in the STP as they become clear and consultation is triggered.

#### Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area

There are not considered to be any direct implications of the Report on crime and disorder matters.

## **Conclusion**

The County Council has a long and successful track record of working with NHS partners in Lincolnshire. More recently and with the development of the STP programme the nature of the relationship has changed and, given the quality, performance and financial imperatives facing NHS services in Lincolnshire, more profiled. Disappointingly little progress has been made to address underlying budget deficits, performance continues to be poor at ULHT and successive inspections by the Care Quality Commission have reported on serious quality issues. This has been the picture for a number of years with little sign that 'the tide has turned' and these critical issues are getting better.

Change is likely, indeed necessary and improvements critical if Lincolnshire residents are to receive NHS services that they deserve. How the County Council engages with the NHS locally, however it configures is a clear issue to consider. The governance arrangements that provide democratic leadership to health and social care development are increasingly challenged and it is, perhaps an opportune moment for the Council to consider what future governance arrangements are necessary.

### **Legal Comments:**

The recommendations are lawful, consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

### **Resource Comments:**

This report seeks to clarify the County Council's relationship at this time with the NHS in Lincolnshire with particular regard to the County Council's role in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). At time of its publication Lincolnshire's STP had identified that between 2013 and 2015/16 the funding deficit had increased from £15m to £73m with an expectation that the deficit will increase further by the end of the 2017/18 financial year. An initial analysis of the financial impact of Lincolnshire's STP was undertaken in January 2017 and estimated a cost to the Council of £11.148m on the basis that all plans were implemented. The County Council has significant oversight of integrated approaches to health and care within Lincolnshire with officer time in support of these approaches estimated to cost £0.319m in 2017/19 and 0.277m in 2018/19.

## Consultation

### Has The Local Member Been Consulted?

Not Applicable

### Has The Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

## Scrutiny Comments

The decision has not been the subject of prior scrutiny

### Has a Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

## Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the Report

## Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Minutes of the Council meeting dated 16 December 2016	Democratic Services
Report to Executive "Response to Sustainability and Transformation Plan dated 7 February 2017	Democratic Services

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