

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

2013 – 2018

FINAL DRAFT - TEXT ONLY

***See also accompanying
Strategic Environmental Appraisal and
Environmental Report at
www.lincswolds.org.uk***

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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*Calm and deep peace on this high wold,
And on these dews that drench the furze,
And all the silvery gossamers
That twinkle into green and gold:*

*Calm and still light on yon great plain
That sweeps with all its autumn bowers,
And crowded farms and lessening towers,
To mingle with the bounding main.*

*In Memorium AHH,
Alfred, Lord Tennyson
1809 – 1892*

Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan which sets out the updated Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2013-2018. 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 40 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.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) placed a statutory duty on local authorities to publish and review AONB Management Plans to help protect and enhance these important landscapes. The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, the AONB partnership of 20 organisations, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, have co-ordinated a formal review of the previous 2004-2009 Management Plan. One important difference since the preparation of the last Plan is the new requirement, under a European Directive, to include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA has been prepared as part of an iterative process and in consultation with a range of statutory agencies and relevant local authorities. The accompanying SEA is a technical document which serves as the Environmental Report for the AONB – setting out the environmental baseline and providing a strategic assessment of the options and alternative courses of action in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse environmental effects and maximise the opportunities for securing positive outcomes. The preparation of the SEA has been undertaken in tandem with the Management Plan review and has helped to refine proposed changes to the updated Strategy and Action Plan.

We are keen to thank the many organisations, local groups and individuals that have been involved in the development of this document. The Plan builds on the knowledge base established via the 'Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future' consultations exercise conducted during 2004-09. The two conferences that we have organised over the life of the previous Plan proved very popular reaching out to an audience of over 300 people. They provided a good opportunity for the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee to listen and debate a wide range of local concerns and issues under the two related themes of 'Living and Working in the Wolds' and 'Living and Working in the Wolds - A Farmer's Perspective'. Both conferences demonstrated the importance that we all place on the AONB landscape and the need for us all to work together to address some of the very real challenges facing the area.

A formal twelve week public consultation of the Revised Management Plan took place during the autumn of 2011 with extensive coverage in the local press. We received detailed responses from a wide range of interested individuals, organisations, local businesses and parish councils. A summary of these responses can be found in Appendix 6 and have been invaluable in helping the AONB partnership with the development of this Plan. The Strategy and Action 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 however never been greater, with pressures on the global economy, food production, energy use and climate change becoming increasingly evident.

The Plan is not just a document for use by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, or the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, but rather a Plan for everyone. It is a Plan built on partnerships, and this is vital if we are to continue to move towards our shared vision for the Lincolnshire Wolds. The supporting evidence, aspirations, policies and targets set out in this document will provide a very important tool to help inform and guide future development management as delivered through the emerging Local Development Frameworks. There is still a lot of work to be done and the success of the Plan will ultimately depend on achieving positive actions and outcomes. It is however important that we recognise and celebrate the successes of the previous Plan which has been instrumental in taking forward a number of important

partnership initiatives. These are well documented in the suite of Annual Reviews published since 2004-05. We will endeavour to ensure that the new Plan provides the continuing catalyst for protecting and enhancing our unique asset – the Lincolnshire Wolds. We look forward to working with you to this end. To view or download a full version of the final published AONB Management Plan (2013-18) and its Environmental Report visit the Lincolnshire Wolds partnership website: www.lincswolds.org.uk. An Executive Summary has also been produced to provide a concise guide to our shared Vision and Strategy for continuing to protect and enhance this nationally important landscape.

Councillor Lewis Strange

Chairman, Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Joint Advisory Committee

How to read and use the Management Plan

Section 1 (pages 1 – 7) 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).

Section 2 (pages 8 – 26) 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.

Section 3 (pages 27 – 30) of the Plan sets out the vision, aims and guiding influences for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and identifies the 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 overall structure for the document.

Sections 4 – 8 (pages 31 – 78) provide the strategy for 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 threats/pressures or 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 – all the major influences 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 79 - 115) contains the AONB Action Plan (Table 4) identifying 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 its 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 5 setting out a range of monitoring indicators.

Appendices and maps (pages 116 - 188) 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, and a bibliography including useful website addresses. You'll also find a detailed glossary of technical terms and acronyms to aid the reader, when required, in the more technical areas.

Finally, don't forget there's an **Executive Summary** and **Environmental Report** to help summarise the main Management Plan and its Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) – all documents are available on request, or as downloads from www.lincswolds.org.uk

How was the Plan and accompanying SEA produced?

This revised statutory Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2013-18) 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 consultation undertaken to help inform the 2004-2009 Management Plan for the area.

The LWCS was tasked with preparing a revised Draft Plan in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies, local authorities and other relevant organisations. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was completed via the host authority (Lincolnshire County

Council) agreement with Mouchel consultancy who prepared the SEA following the development and six week consultation of the initial Scoping Report document. The scoping exercise helped ascertain a suitable environmental baseline for the AONB, outlining relevant legislation, plans and policies, and establishing an appropriate list of SEA objectives for scrutinising both the original 2004-09 Plan and its proposed amendments. The SEA Baseline and Environmental Report sets out in some detail the current condition of the key components of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and summarises the key environmental issues facing the designated area and its wider setting.

A consultation Plan was subsequently prepared and circulated in September 2011 for wider public comment. All observations received during the twelve week period helped to guide the final content of our shared Strategy and the direction for future action (Table 4 - The Action Plan). We are indebted to all who have contributed to the revised Plan and its accompanying Environmental Report.

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Further Information

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If you would like this document in an alternative format please contact the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service on 01507 609740.

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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?

European and Global contexts:

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 Lincolnshire Wolds AONB partnership is a full member of the Europarc Federation which aims to exchange knowledge, information and experience with colleagues from across Europe for the benefit of European protected areas.

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 nationally protected landscapes of the UK, both AONBs and National Parks, can play an important role in the recognition, monitoring and successful management of future landscape change.

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 look 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 realisation of the need to address wider social and economic issues. This will ensure the designation has a relevance to those communities dependent upon these areas for living and working purposes.

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 is an incorporated controlled company limited by guarantee, formed in 1998, acting on behalf of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty with its membership made up of all English and Welsh AONB partnerships and some local authorities. Through the guidance of its 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 Coast bodies.

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. To this end the National Association for AONBs revised its Strategy and Business Plan in 2011,

reaffirming the shared objectives and aims for AONBs under the branding of Landscapes for Life with the following aspirations...

NAAONB Vision: *"The natural beauty of our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is valued and secure, the communities within and adjacent to them are thriving, and the relationship between people and these nationally important places is understood and supported at all levels"*

NAAONB Mission Statement: *"Everything we do is inspired by our mission to support the AONB Family in the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty".*

The NAAONB Business Plan (2012-15) details the shared work programme across the following four themes:

- ❑ Advocacy and Policy
- ❑ Communications and Training
- ❑ Collaborative Working
- ❑ Securing and Managing Resources.

Over the past 14 years, the NAAONB has established itself as the collective voice of AONB partnerships in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and, in doing so, represents those involved in the planning and management of over 8,000 square miles of the UK's finest landscapes.

(visit www.landscapesforlife.org - for further details on the Strategy, Business Plan and wider work of the NAAONB).

1.3 What are the obligations for managing AONBs?

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

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

In pursuing the primary purpose 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 conserve and enhance the environment.

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?

Most importantly, Section 89 of CRoW Act created a statutory duty for local authorities with responsibilities for an AONB to produce and regularly review a Management Plan which sets out their, and partners', policies and objectives for managing the AONB. The original Countryside Agency publication CA 23 is the principal guide to assist AONB staff, local authorities and partners in their production and subsequent review of AONB Management Plans. It highlights that an AONB Management Plan is a document which:

- ❑ Identifies the special qualities and the enduring significance of the AONB, and the importance of its different features.
- ❑ Presents an integrated vision for the future of the AONB as a whole in the light of national, regional and local priorities.
- ❑ Sets out agreed policies incorporating specific objectives to help secure the vision – the management strategy.
- ❑ Identifies what needs to be done, by whom and when, in order to achieve these outcomes – the action plan.
- ❑ States how the condition of the AONB and the effectiveness of its management will be monitored.

The goal of AONB Management Plans is to ensure continuity and consistency of management over time, conserving nationally important landscapes for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The first strategic Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan was produced in 1999 and was followed by the second comprehensive Management Plan (2004-09), which was published and adopted in April 2004 in-line with statutory guidance under the CRoW Act. The production and implementation of the second five year Management Plan provided the key overarching framework to deliver integrated action to help conserve and enhance the area through sustainable forms of environmental, social and economic development.

CA 221 'Guidance for Review of AONB Management Plans' was published in 2006 to help AONB partnerships with the statutory review of their respective Management Plans. The report highlighted the need for the reviews to focus on the primary purpose of the designation. Subsidiary issues, such as the rural economy and communities, should be addressed in the context of their role in conserving and enhancing the AONB environment.

As highlighted in the foreword, one major change since the last Plan was published is that all AONB Management Plans must now be reviewed alongside an accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The details of the SEA process are outlined more fully in the accompanying draft SEA which details the key stages as recommended in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (2005).

The production of this Revised Plan has provided an opportunity for everyone with an interest in the AONB to help look again at the issues, objectives and priorities for conserving and enhancing the area in the longer term. This includes local authorities and agencies with statutory duties for the AONB, other organisations, local communities, visitors to the Wolds and other groups and organisations with an interest in the area. This Plan is intended to build on the extensive community consultation process that was undertaken during 2003-04. The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) has advised of the need for a generally light and pragmatic approach to the review, although the SEA requirements have placed additional and challenging demands on the process.

1.5 The Management Plan in Context

The total area of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is 558 km² (55,800 hectares): Map 2 shows a breakdown of the administrative areas which includes East Lindsey District Council (397 km²); West Lindsey District Council (119.5 km²); North East Lincolnshire Council (41.5 km²); with 516.5 km² within Lincolnshire County Council.

The planning framework for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is currently provided by the two District Local Plans (East Lindsey and West Lindsey) and North East Lincolnshire Local Plan and also the additional Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council plans for highways, minerals and waste matters. All of the Local Plans recognise the importance of the AONB and include specific planning policies to guide the use of land in the area and in particular protect its natural beauty. All of these documents are now being revised under the changes resulting from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) with the relevant local authorities now engaged in producing alternative Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). A significant change since the production of the last Plan has been the creation of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit and development towards a new Joint LDF to cover the areas of West Lindsey, North Kesteven and the City of Lincoln. This has included an important Green Infrastructure audit, study and developing strategy, with an accompanying Biodiversity Opportunity Map for Central Lincolnshire that extends into the area of the AONB within West Lindsey. All future LDF documents for East Lindsey and the Central Lincolnshire Joint Area will need to carefully consider and take account of national guidance on AONB protected landscapes and wherever relevant, the aspirations detailed within the Management Plan.

There have been significant changes to the planning system and accompanying government guidance through both the Localism Bill (Localism Act, 2011) and the National Planning Policy Framework that came into effect in April 2012.

The Localism Act has placed an increased emphasis on local decision making, seeking to shift power away from central government and into the hands of individuals, communities and local councils. Included in the Act is: greater provision for neighbourhood planning; increased community rights; greater freedoms for local authorities and local areas including with housing provision. The revised AONB Management Plan accords well with the spirit of the Localism Act with the review process one of local engagement and public consultation. The resulting strategy and action plan is very much a partnership plan and heavily dependent upon continuing local engagement for its success.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revoked and replaced over 1000 pages of previous planning policy and guidance into little over 50 pages, setting out the Government's new planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF seeks to aid local people and their accountable councils with the development of their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of their communities. Its central principle is the general presumption in favour of sustainable development whereby economic, social and environmental gains are sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system, the so called golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.

The National Association for AONBs, relevant government agencies and local authorities have welcomed the NPPF's support for conserving and enhancing both i) the natural and ii) the historic environment, as two of the 12 core land-use planning principles underpinning plan-making and decision taking. There is reaffirmation of the need to give great weight to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty across all of England's AONBs and National Parks (NPPF Paragraphs 115 and 116). There is clarification in the NPPF that these areas have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty with conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage of particular importance.

Very much like the Localism Act, the revised AONB Management Plan accords well with the overarching NPPF by seeking to protect and enhance the protected landscape through encouraging appropriate sustainable development. The revised Plan is wide ranging in scope, dealing with the many environmental, social and economic issues impacting upon this deeply rural and highly scenic area.

Further significant external drivers relate to the need to secure a step-change in the protection and enhancement of our biodiversity assets as recognised through the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the England Biodiversity Strategy, the Lawton report Making Space for Nature, Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and the Water Framework Directive. These strategies are detailed more fully in Section 4 – Protecting the Wolds but will have wider implications on other areas of this Plan. This includes a renewed onus to work closely with all farmers and land managers in a bid to help secure greater landscape scale connectivity for biodiversity with improved ecosystem services across and beyond the AONB. The JAC partnership will clearly need to review and enlist the support of a wide range of new partners but especially those from the business, health and research sectors. The emerging Lincolnshire Nature Partnership will be an important strategic network to help assist this process.

The Management Plan has an important role in helping to deliver the aspirations of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) which was signed by the UK government in 2006. The ELC is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape and was created by the Council for Europe in order to help promote landscape protection, management and planning. It applies to all landscapes, towns and villages, coast, sea and inland areas as well as our nationally protected landscapes including the Lincolnshire Wolds.

A large number of other plans and strategies currently affect the AONB often providing both pressures and opportunities for the environment, economy and community (Appendix 8). Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) were influential during the life of the last Plan and the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership focusing on

'prosperity through growth' for the area of Greater Lincolnshire is likely to become increasingly important. Both Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council also operate as the Highway Authorities for their respective areas of the Wolds and have a key statutory role in the management of public roads, roadside verges and the public rights of way network (footpaths, bridleways and byways) including strategic planning through the Local Transport Plans and Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

The Management Plan will work to complement existing plans and strategies through developing and implementing a set of objectives and policies with the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB; whilst also providing opportunities for sustainable social and economic development that accord with this purpose and wider government aspirations for increasing the powers of localism through ever greater community and partnership engagement.

1.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan

In accordance with Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) and DETR Circular 04/2001 the revised draft Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2013-18) will be forwarded to Natural England for final observations prior to its publication and adoption by Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. An accompanying Post Adoption SEA Statement will also be published in accordance with obligations under the European Directive 2001/42/EC.

As indicated, the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS), the staffing unit for the AONB, has been the lead in preparing the revised Plan under the direction of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC – see Section 1.7) and its Joint Management Group (JMG). The final AONB Plan provides a strategic document and action plan for the management of the area, operating alongside the policy of the constituent local authorities towards protecting and enhancing the AONB. The JAC has been keen to ensure that the Plan complements a wide range of policy and action programmes including the Local Strategic Partnerships, Local and Structure Plans, emerging Local Development Frameworks, Local Enterprise Partnership and Neighbourhood Plans.

1.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

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, have a crucial role to play in continuing to safeguard this unique landscape.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has an established Joint Advisory Committee (JAC - Appendices 1 & 2): 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 AONB Management Plan.

The LWCS (Appendix 2) 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 (JMG - Appendix 1 & 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 co-ordinate 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.

1.8 How is the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB partnership funded?

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 (2013) national government has pledged its continuing financial commitment to AONBs; with a 75% core grant supplied direct from Defra (previously this was through Natural England) as part of a formal funding arrangement (Memorandum of Agreement) with all relevant local authorities including LCC, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council – whom together cover the additional 25% core and selected project funding. 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 Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship schemes (replacing the previous Countryside Stewardship Scheme) together with the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), provide major funding support to the area's local landowners and rural businesses. The RDPE includes the Lindsey Action Zone, a large proportion of which is within the AONB.

Future public finances and the need to reduce both central and local authority budgets will continue to have a direct impact upon the availability of 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 achieve 'more with less' via the prudent management of resources and the exploration and implementation of fresh ideas.

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), midway 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 km² (216 miles²), 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 drift soils. 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 fill. The area subsequently has a long association with cultivated farming practices. The writings of William Cobbett in his *Rural Rides* of 1830 and J. A. Clarke in the *Journal of the Royal Agriculture Society* in 1852 speak of a transformation of the Wolds in the 18th and 19th centuries: previous pasture, and ridge and furrow farmed landscapes were systematically converted to more intensive rotation cropping, originally encouraged through the Enclosures Act. Both arable and livestock production increased with the growing importance of farm mechanisation via the Victorian farmsteads. 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 long associations with the area. The Wolds remain relatively sparsely populated and the roles of the market towns are very important in providing social and economic services for the wider community. In turn they provide important gateways to the Wolds' countryside. The area remains a relatively tranquil place for residents and visitors alike and the aim of the Management Plan is to promote and manage the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities.

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 fascinating. 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 combs.
- ❑ **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 70% of the AONB is in arable cultivation, with 14% as pasture or rough grazing and 4.5% woodland cover (Defra Agricultural Census & Forestry Commission stats, 2010). 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 recently 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) is leading a national programme to update, expand and strengthen the suite of England's 159 NCA profiles. This work will encompass the recommendations of the Government's White Paper on the Natural Environment. NE will be working with local partners to develop and test a Strategic set of Statements of Environmental Opportunities (SEOs) for each area. Complimentary to this work the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB has during 2011-12 been one of four areas to pilot a new monitoring framework for protected landscapes, helping to develop a set of national and local measures to monitor and inform future land management in both AONBs and National Parks (see also Section 9.2 Monitoring).

2.3.3 The Regional Landscape Character Assessment

The East Midlands Regional Landscape Scoping Study (2008) commissioned by the East Midlands Regional Assembly and Natural England highlighted that only 9% of the region's land is included in nationally designated landscapes which has led to a tendency to undervalue the area's wider landscapes. The subsequent East Midlands Regional Landscape Assessment (2010) undertaken by LDA Design Consulting LLP recognised the national importance of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB mapping the area in two broad zones; the Chalk Wolds and Wolds Scarp and Ridges. The assessment was undertaken under the direction of a partnership group, and in response to the increasing recognition of the importance of landscapes in regional spatial planning terms following the UK's ratification of the European Landscape Convention, (see also Section 1.5 *The Management Plan in Context*). The regional context is important in terms of utilising the resources of the AONB and those of the Peak District National Park, as a means of highlighting and disseminating good practice for future landscape management for all landscape and not just nationally designated landscapes. The regional work also provides a consistent and comprehensive framework which provides useful context for guiding and informing the undertaking of more detailed local landscape character assessments.

2.3.4 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 Toyton 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 the old county area of Lincolnshire these studies help to illustrate the highly regarded and distinctive qualities of the Wolds' landscape and its relationship with neighbouring areas.

2.3.5 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.

2.3.6 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 Special qualities – current condition 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 useful baseline data essential for monitoring future change in the AONB and measuring the success of the Management Plan (see Section 9.2). The source organisation is abbreviated in the left hand column. Table 1 complements Table 2 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	South-west ridges and valleys	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; CAP reforms; 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>Farmed Land (scenic quality, biodiversity, socio-economic) (EN)</p>	<p>Primary land-use component of the AONB landscape. Almost 70% of the AONB is in regular cultivation, including 45% for cereals. A further 14.6 % of the AONB is in grassland – a figure which has increased in recent years through agri-environment targeting of Countryside Stewardship, and more recently Entry and Higher Level 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 CAP reform; 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
	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Chalk upland – plateau & valley landscape (RIGS 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 (RIGS Group)		Key feature 1 SSSI 4 RIGS 1 LWT Reserve	2 RIGS	Key feature 1 RIGS	7 RIGS 1 SSSI	Varied SSSI in favourable condition	Change in land use e.g. tree planting.	Improved access, interpretation & education; landowner liaison; restoration schemes.
Geological qualities (RIGS Group)	1 SSSI 1 RIGS	2 RIGS	Key feature 3 SSSI 9 RIGS	2 RIGS	14 RIGS 4 SSSI	Varied, some small pits overgrown or infilled. 2 SSSIs 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	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Calcareous, meadow, pasture & wet grasslands (EN, 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. 7 SSSI in favourable 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 th - 19 th century plantings) (FC)	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature	Key feature	2,252 ha, 4.06% of AONB 44% broadleaved 17% coniferous 32% mixed woodland.	27% is believed to be in sustainable management (FC, 2001/02). Remaining 73% 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.
Ancient woodlands (NE, LWT, CA & LWCS)	Oak & ash	Hazel, ash & wych elm	Alder carr 2 SSSI	Oak & ash 2 SSSI 1 LWT Reserve	609.8 ha, 1.10% 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.

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	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
River, streams and ponds (EA & LWCS)	Key feature	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature 1 LWT Reserve	9 principal river systems many are SNCI. Total estimated length = 258 km's. Ponds unknown	Poor – good Approximately 10km's of chalk stream restoration achieved since 2004.	Low flow issues; poor water quality including sedimentation; restricted or inappropriate riverside habitats; invasive alien spaces.	Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project; Catchment Restoration Fund; Catchment Characterisation Studies; River Basin Management Plans under the new WFD. Anglian Water's Resources Management Plan.
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 2 RNRs	Key feature 6 RNRs	Key feature 7 RNRs	Overall key component of area. 15 RNRs within the AONB	Variable. 20 verges proposed 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	South-west ridges and valleys	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) (EH)	Local feature 13 barrow sites	Key feature 48 sites. 16 DMVs/ settlements; 3 structures; 3 moated sites; 1 hillfort; 25 barrows	Key feature 26 sites 2 DMVs/ settlements; 2 moated site; 16 barrows; 6 structures	Local feature 10 sites 1 DMV; 9 barrows	97 SMs within AONB	37 SMs at high risk from cultivation (EH, 2011) - a downward trend from 47 in 2004.	Change of land use or management; farming operations.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access interpretation & education.
Burial mounds & monuments (LCC - MapInfo)	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 2 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 3 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local 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 barrows 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.
Deserted medieval villages (DMVs) & shrunken medieval villages (SMVs)		Key feature Around North Ormsby, Calcethorpe, Withcall & Maltby	Key feature Around Wykeham, Biscathorpe and Calceby		High density of DMVs on plateau & spring line locations (Approx 80 DMVs.)	Vulnerable feature.	Farming operations; development pressures.	Planning and development management; 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
Archaeology (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
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, interpretation & education; 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	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Literary/artistic (CCP414 pg 24-26)	General component, especially Chalk Wolds & South-West ridges and valleys Local and AONB-wide cultural associations Local and 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	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands			
Village character, including churches (LWCS) Conservation areas (LCC - MapInfo)	Key feature Local ironstone & limestone buildings. Conservation area in 2 villages.	Key feature Villages hidden from view. Conservation area in 1 village; conservation area of part of 1 town.	Key feature Local sandstone buildings, with rectangular plan villages. Conservation area of part of 1 village.	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 within the High Risk category in AONB	Insensitive development including infill; change of use; visitor pressure.	Planning and development management, e.g. Design Guides as SPG; interpretation & education.
Traditional farm buildings (LWCS)	Local feature Built of local stone, many still house livestock. 9	Key feature Victorian planned farmsteads mainly built of brick. 11	Key feature Victorian planned farmsteads, mainly built of brick and housing livestock. 32	 3	A feature of the area, especially the planned Victorian farmsteads e.g. Turnor buildings at Kirmond le Mire. 55 known (updated to over 300 farmsteads from the HLC).	Variable	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.
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 including 9 historic military sites; 10 cuttings & embankments.	Airfield heritage in declining condition, although memorials well maintained.	General neglect; lack of awareness.	Landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education.

Historic Landscapes & Buildings (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Manors and parkland (LWCS)		Local feature	Key feature	Isolated feature	Often of modest Tudor & Georgian style. 81 historic parkland features including 22 county houses, 23 estate buildings, 7 formal or kitchen gardens and 29 landscape parks.	Variable - parkland trees of a similar age and structure.	Change in ownership/land management.	Landowner liaison; advice/support for parkland restoration via agri-environment schemes (improved access, interpretation and education where resources allow).
Moated sites (LWCS)		1	4		5 known	Vulnerable feature	Farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education.
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 Hagworthingham and Grebby	A localised feature within the Wolds, many have no surviving remains (all records found 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-environment schemes.

2.5 Threats/Issues/Pressures on the Wolds

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 Landscape Character Areas.

The landscape of the Wolds continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture, traditionally an important contributor to the rural economy both in the AONB and much of rural Lincolnshire. However recent changes in farming through the rise in global markets, the wide decline of livestock farming and the ongoing reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) have created great uncertainty for farming and its associated industries - the farming community remain concerned that the CAP reform could have a significant impact upon future subsidies and farm product selection. As described earlier, much of the Wolds is farmland and many future changes on the landscape are likely to be as a result of changing farming practices. Any decrease or change in farming activity must be carefully managed to avoid a neglected landscape. However there remains an opportunity to initiate positive action to enhance biodiversity and natural beauty through the uptake of agri-environment stewardship schemes and support for whole farm plans to deliver sustainable farming. These are highlighted in subsequent sections of the Plan.

Since its designation in 1973 there have been increasing pressures on the AONB leading to significant landscape impacts, for example the continued intensification of farming and telecommunication developments. The escarpment, ridge and plateau-tops are highly visible and in many cases are the most sensitive to visual change. The role of small businesses within the AONB, especially those directly related to agriculture, forestry and land management are highly dependent on an accessible countryside. Local services within the settlements are also heavily reliant on the local community, whilst public houses also need to attract passing trade from visitors and tourists. Community consultations in 2003-04 helped to highlight issues of most concern for those living, working and visiting the area (Appendices 4 & 5) and these findings were reaffirmed through AONB conferences as detailed previously.

There is also much action by local authorities, landowners and others to control, 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 2005. 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.

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

Table 2: Forces for Change on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

Land Management	Pressures/ Threats:	Opportunities:
<p>Agriculture (also economic section)</p>	<p>Uncertainties within agriculture linked to CAP reforms. Extreme weather events, locally and globally, increasing volatility in market prices. Intensification in farm practices, although less of an issue in recent years. Demand for larger working/storage facilities to maintain profitability & meet EU standards. Continued decline in livestock farming and implications on the Wolds' landscape and biodiversity.</p>	<p>CAP reform (ongoing) is a significant factor, but there are uncertainties in the levels of support for agri-environment schemes. Grazing support projects. Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture & Horticulture. Quality assurance schemes & Lincolnshire branding schemes, e.g. Tastes of Lincolnshire. Opportunities via the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership for increased collaborative working.</p>
<p>Forestry (also economic section)</p>	<p>Continued decline in management & isolation of woodland. Inappropriate location/species mix. Traditionally a lack of markets for local timber, although trends reversing. Climate change impacts, including emergence of new pests and diseases.</p>	<p>Woodland surveys & audits. Farm woodland plans. Woodland support schemes. Woodland fuel products. Promoting/supporting appropriate management practices.</p>
<p>Recreation (also economic section)</p>	<p>Large private ownership often restricts public access. Need to manage any potential increase in recreation and ensure it is sustainable. Need to balance the various user group requirements. Declining access payments available through agri-environment schemes will significantly impact upon future levels of permissive access.</p>	<p>RoWIP, Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum. Viking Way regional footpath. Increased number of promoted circular walks. Continued potential for cycling and promoted cycle routes. Access for all and future multi-access opportunities e.g. The Lindsey Trail. Raise awareness of the wider benefits of recreation & countryside tourism; including to the local economy, environment, public health and wellbeing.</p>

Land Management (continued)	Pressures/ Threats:	Opportunities:
Climate Change	<p>Increasing demands for rural products to be produced from sustainable sources and demonstrate their 'green credentials'. Implications for species and habitats e.g. woodland species mix may change.</p> <p>Increased fluctuations in water flows and possible increase in flooding, drought & soil erosion. Temperature changes for ground and surface water and impacts upon chalk stream species.</p>	<p>Potential for new crops. New species & habitats may become viable.</p> <p>EU Water Framework Directive & CAMs.</p>
Pollution	<p>Air quality – elevated levels of SO and NO pollutants from the power stations along the Trent.</p> <p>Agro-chemical pollution exacerbated by low flows – water abstractions. Increasing light and noise pollution and impacts upon dark night skies and tranquillity respectively.</p>	<p>Legislation, technical advances and alternative sustainable energies should improve air quality. Water quality protection via Water Framework Directive & Anglian Waters AMP5 targets.</p> <p>Technological improvements in farm spraying applications & LERAP regulations. Agri-environment and catchment sensitive farming schemes.</p> <p>Energy efficient lighting design.</p>

Economic	Pressures/ Threats:	Opportunities:
Agriculture/ Forestry Industries	Wolds economy historically heavily reliant upon farming. Pronounced period of uncertainty. Less people employed directly in farming than at any other period. Livestock farming particularly vulnerable along with infrastructure & skills to support a local livestock industry.	Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture & Horticulture. Local branding schemes – Tastes of Lincolnshire & Select Lincolnshire. Farm diversification initiatives including links with tourism & conservation. RDPE schemes; new funding streams. Opportunities via the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.
Tourism Industry	Developing tourism is currently restricted by a weak infrastructure (e.g. limited accommodation, attractions). Threat to peace & solitude of the Wolds caused by visitor pressure especially to honey pot villages.	Need for improved and well managed range of accommodation & visitor attractions appropriate to the Wolds AONB. Scope to further develop the green tourism product. Ongoing innovation of the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival.
Mineral Extraction	A number of chalk quarries and sand/gravel pits are actively worked within the Wolds. Secondary uses e.g. land fill. Oil exploration is on-going.	Reclamation schemes for landscape, wildlife, access, interpretation & education.
Radio, Telecommunications Masts & Powerlines	Proliferation of skyline masts including new 4 th generation masts. Visual impact of medium and low voltage powerlines.	Improved technology/design. Increased sharing of masts & sites by operators. Removal of redundant masts. Increased use of underground powerlines especially with OFGEM financial incentives.
Alternative Energies	Wind energy seen as both a threat and an opportunity depending on viewpoint. Several wind farm scheme applications are being determined for areas adjacent to the AONB. Potential solar farms and anaerobic digestion plants within and close to the AONB need careful planning and design.	Bio-fuels, including miscanthus and willow coppice, could aid farm diversification and woodland management. Potential for <u>appropriate</u> small scale wind turbines, appropriate on-farm composting schemes and increased use of photovoltaics and other emerging renewable energy technologies.
New Businesses	Expansion of IT resources is increasing business mobility. Impact on social fabric of Wolds. Landscape threats due to new IT installations.	Secondary income to farm businesses and increased opportunities for local employment. Reuse of redundant/derelict buildings including farm buildings & former military installations.

Economic (continued)	Pressures/ Threats:	Opportunities:
Transport	Visual impact of road signage. Heavy goods vehicles impact on road verges. Salt runoff, road development. Out of character road developments in village settlements following urban planning guidelines.	Local Transport Plans and integrated initiatives. Every Street Matters. Village Design Statements.

Social	Pressures/ Threats:	Opportunities:
Local Services	Local services are under threat owing to the general rural isolation of many of the communities within the Wolds. Public transport service variable, often poor with weekend services particularly limited.	Local Transport Plans. Community strategies including neighbourhood plans. Community-run facilities such as village shops and multi-use centres.
Local Housing	General lack of affordable housing, with the Wolds securing a premium for high quality larger homes. National building corporations using standard building designs.	Village Design Statements. Local Development Frameworks and accompanying Housing Strategies.
Social Fabric	<p>Continued rural isolation, loss of local services, small size of many settlements & influx of both commuters and retired people is impacting upon traditional rural communities.</p> <p>The rural communities have suffered from economic deprivation aggravated by a decline in agriculture and the defence industry.</p> <p>Some parts of the AONB currently have no mobile phone and/or broadband coverage.</p>	<p>Community Strategies & resulting community development schemes, rural support networks etc.</p> <p>Market town initiatives & links with the AONB as physical and information gateways to the Wolds.</p> <p>New enterprise possibilities via recreation, tourism & other specialist industries.</p> <p>Broadband & other IT improvements, especially with opportunities via the OnLincolnshire Broadband Project, UK wide Rural Broadband Partnership and future development of Wi-Fi technologies.</p>

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 has served 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.

The starting point to establish the future direction for managing the AONB was the development of a collective vision for the Wolds. The extensive public consultations undertaken in developing the first post CRoW Act Management Plan (2004-09) were invaluable in highlighting what people felt was special about the area and how they would like to see it in the future. This helped to formulate our original shared aspirations for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB over the twenty-five year period 2004-29, developed as part of an extensive consultation process.

The review process has provided a timely opportunity for us to look again at the vision. Building on the public and peer discussions at the Lincolnshire Wolds conferences held in 2006 and 2008 the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee presented an amended vision statement for further public consultation and comment and the resulting vision for the period 2013-38 has been recommended:

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 ongoing and future planned 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 mitigation and adaptation, carbon storage, food production, water quality and supply, recreation provision, and energy demands. Greater connectivity between 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.

Most of the changes to the vision statement relate to the need to start thinking and planning for the future impacts likely to result from climate change, greater demands for food and timber production, alternative energy generation, increased recreation and tourism requirements and the aspiration for delivering truly sustainable economic development. These factors, closely interrelated to landscape/biodiversity protection, have been termed as 'ecosystem services' in the Lawton review (Making Space for Nature, 2010) and subsequent Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, 2011). 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 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

Five influences have been instrumental in helping to determine the overall aims and resulting strategy of the Management Plan. These are:

3.3.1 Natural Beauty

The primary purpose of the AONB designation (see sections 1.2 & 1.3) is to safeguard its natural beauty and is the overriding objective of the Plan. Natural beauty includes those special features that contribute to the high scenic quality of the Wolds - its wildlife (biodiversity), geology, topography, historical and cultural features. The Plan aims to offset both current and potential pressures and threats to the Wolds' beauty, particularly those that can be addressed through direct action. The Plan also seeks to identify opportunities to initiate action to enhance the area's attractiveness. The concept of natural beauty as applied through the current (2012) legislation for AONBs accords well with the national government approaches for applying 'ecosystems services' and 'green infrastructure' planning to land management recognising both multiple and holistic benefits.

3.3.2 Local Distinctiveness – sense of place

Variety and distinctiveness are amongst the prized attributes of both our towns and countryside. Although hard to quantify, the Lincolnshire Wolds has a unique sense of place. It is a landscape that has inspired many artists and writers through the generations. Everyone either living in or visiting the Wolds has their own interpretation and perception of the Wolds' landscape. It is deeply rural in character, with high levels of tranquillity and highly regarded views, both within and beyond the Wolds. Local consultations have demonstrated that people have a strong affinity with the area, which is well loved and cherished in its own right. The Plan aims to ensure that the local diversity and distinctiveness of the Wolds character are maintained.

3.3.3 Economic and social well-being

The Wolds is very much a living and working landscape that has been heavily influenced by generations of human activity, most notably farming and subsidiary rural industries. Although not included as a primary aim of AONB designation, there is wide recognition of the need to safeguard the economic and social well-being of communities based in and around the Wolds. In this respect the AONB designation should assist those dependent upon the area for their livelihoods and provide the context within which the health and recreational needs of all who live in and visit the Wolds can be addressed. Many of the small to medium businesses based in and around the area have an important role to play, especially in aiding diversification for a deeply rural economy that has traditionally been heavily dependent upon a low wage agricultural sector. The AONB partnership is keen to explore and encourage further opportunities for local involvement and community action, recognising clear synergies that can accord with the recent localism and Big Society aspirations (<http://sd.defra.gov.uk>). An example would be assistance with Parish and Neighbourhood Plans that can protect and

enhance core values of the AONB designation through support local distinctiveness and informing any future development needs.

3.3.4 Sustainability and the increasing influence of climate change

The statutory designation of AONBs (defined in 1.3) is itself very close to the principle of sustainability in terms of protecting and enhancing natural beauty whilst meeting the social and economic needs of local communities. AONBs are high quality landscapes that can be used to good effect to bring future economic and social benefits.

The UK's Sustainable Development Strategy defined four objectives for sustainable development across local, regional, national and global levels:

- ❑ Social progress that meets everyone's needs
- ❑ Effective protection of the environment
- ❑ Prudent use of natural resources
- ❑ Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

Sustainability in the context of managing the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB means ensuring that social, economic and environmental needs can be met whilst protecting and safeguarding the beauty and landscape character of the area. Since the production of the last Plan there has been an increasing recognition of the growing influence of climate change. Government strategy now recognises the need to prepare and develop both mitigation and adaptation strategies for the future. In addition to proposing a new policy area on climate change, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Plan will be 'climate change proofed' via the SEA process.

3.3.5 Partnerships

The continuing success of the AONB Management Plan is heavily dependent upon close working between all public bodies, organisations, community groups, landowners and individuals with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The existing Joint Advisory Committee (Appendices 1 & 2) will play an important role in seeking consensus and co-ordinating the management of the many different functions and activities across the AONB. Joint working provides the best opportunity for protecting and enhancing the strategic interests of the area through sharing expertise, pooling resources, establishing synergies and developing long term commitment. The increasing demands upon the landscape and the diverse range of changes in the AONB will continue to require input from all sectors of the community and will involve working at local, county, district, regional, national and international levels.

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 structure 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 1.8 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 future 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 and Appendix 3. 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 the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and from pressures on future EU and UK budgets for farming/environmental support.
- ❑ 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 types and levels of access, recreation and tourism.
- ❑ 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) 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.

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.

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

4.2 Natural Heritage - Biodiversity

4.2.1 Introduction

The value and importance of biodiversity has been reaffirmed at a global level through the agreements reached at the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. This helped to inspire the launch of Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services which aims to halt the loss of England's habitats and species. The new strategy has a close accord to Lawton's recommendations including ambitious goals for: creating better habitats; bigger and better wildlife sites; adapting to climate change; and a joined up approach. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB partnership is well placed to deliver beneficial outcomes for biodiversity through continuing to develop and encourage effective and integrated management to help enhance ecological networks across the protected landscape.

Wildlife is a key element of the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB as identified in Table 1 and Appendix 3. The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 3rd Edition (2011) and Lincolnshire Wolds Character Area profile recognise farmland, grassland, roadside verges, woodland, beech clumps, rivers and streams, and hedgerows as important habitat types within the AONB. The importance of protecting and enhancing wildlife has been highlighted with the clear 'biodiversity duty' placed upon relevant authorities through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). There is a requirement for all local authorities to address National Indicator 160 - Local Nature Conservation/Biodiversity, for the purposes of reporting and encouraging the proportion of Local Sites in positive management.

There are a fairly small number of nationally protected sites in the AONB, with 14 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) designated on account of their wildlife interest. These are usually located on the steeper slopes of the Wolds or within the valley bottoms, and include nine SSSIs of alkaline – acidic grassland/marshland, four SSSIs of ancient and semi-natural woodland and one nationally important bat colony. Six of these SSSIs are currently in a favourable condition, four are unfavourable but recovering, three are unfavourable with no change and one is classed as unfavourable and declining (Natural England, 2012). Commonly inadequate grazing regimes have impacted upon the quality of the grassland swards, with widespread encroachment of scrub and more aggressive species. Natural England and other partners are working closely with landowners to review and improve the status of these nationally designated sites including specialist advice and targeted support.

Since the last Management Plan there have been substantial changes to the system of local designations supported by the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (LBP), now reconstituted as the Great Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) and including the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC). Through a process of professional review, the previously designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) are being updated and added to - becoming proposed Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) when meeting the new, and more robust, criteria assessment. The LWS system has been rolled out across the historic county of Lincolnshire and is subject to landowner consultation and endorsement from the LBP. Proposed LWSs must undergo further consultation via the local authority strategic planning process for the emerging Local Development Frameworks.

As part of a Phase 1 mapping exercise a fundamental review of the existing SNCIs (previously 127 sites were recognised within the AONB) was undertaken in 2005 with assistance from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. A series of detailed site surveys resulted in the initial recommendation for 104 LWSs within the AONB, including 43 new sites and 44 that were previously SNCIs. Although a significant number of previous SNCIs have not reached the required LWS status, a large number of new sites have been identified. Subsequent surveys during 2006-10 resulted in a further series of LWSs recommended by the LBP Panel, bringing the total to 165 sites (over 1,600 hectares) by the end of 2010. All LWS sites endorsed by the LBP Panel are subject to formal adoption via the relevant Local Development Framework process with ELDC, NELC and WLDC.

Table 3 below summarises in more detail the current official records of flagship species across the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB for three categorisations: the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, the UK's Red List and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). These records have recently been compiled by the LERC and will provide a useful monitoring tool for the future.

Table 3: Species records for the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Wildlife group	UK BAP Species	Red List Species	Lincolnshire BAP Species
Flora - plants			
Flowering plants	10	40	-
Lichens	-	2	-
Fauna - animals			
Mammals	11	1	17
Birds	14	6	36
Butterflies	11	12	-
Moths	58	9	-
Other insects	6	16	-
Amphibians	2	1	1
Reptiles	4	-	-
Fish with backbone	1	-	-
Crustaceans	1	1	-
Oldest known record	1884	1908	1969
Most recent record	2009	2009	2009

Based on data registered with the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (2012).

Threats/Pressures

There are many threats and pressures that affect the wildlife of the Wolds AONB. These are described in detail in Tables 1 and 2. There are only a limited number of protected wildlife sites within the AONB - often these are small, isolated and surrounded by large expanses of arable land. It is vital that every effort is taken to protect and enhance the wildlife interest of these remaining sites. The development of a landscape approach, through whole farm or estate plans for example, will be important in providing opportunities to create new habitats (appropriate to the local area) and connect/buffer isolated sites. The following strategy and action plan for protecting and enhancing the wildlife in the AONB is closely linked with targets in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. It also accords with the Natural Environment White Paper and the National Association for AONBs joint partnership response statement - 'Think Big: Ecological Recovery' seeking a step-change in biodiversity resource protection, with an increasing focus on securing climate change resilience through increased habitat connectivity.

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

- ❑ Continuing loss of biodiversity exacerbated by isolation and small size 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 SNClS 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 EU

review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) with possible implications on farm subsidies.

- ❑ Need to develop and promote 'good practice land management' in the wider countryside 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 bats, barn owls, swifts, swallows and house martins.
- ❑ Water resource issues, including threat of diffuse pollution, sedimentation and low flow rates.
- ❑ Wider issues and trends including global warming and the threat from existing and invasive species. Common concerns include the spread of himalyan balsam, signal crayfish, mink, ragwort and other exotics, with increasing pressures from badger and deer populations an issue for some landowners.

Objective:

- B0** **To protect, enhance and where appropriate restore, the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire & UK Biodiversity Action Plans.**

Policies:

- BP1** **To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in line with Lincolnshire and UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and other national and international aspirations.**
- 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 increased 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.**
- BP4** **To develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and maximise the benefits with wider socio-economic gains.**

Actions: See BA1-6 in Table 4

This over-arching biodiversity section and policy is also delivered through: Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (4.2.2); Grass Verges and Green Lanes (4.2.3); Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (4.2.4); Hedgerows and Landmark Trees (4.2.5); Rivers, Streams and Ponds (4.2.6); and Arable Farmland (4.2.7).

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Landscape and Biodiversity)

An invitation to shape the Nature of England – Discussion Document (July 2010)
Biodiversity Strategy (2011)
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services
East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2009)
Environmental Stewardship Targeting Statement – Lincolnshire Wolds (Ref. EM07, 2008)
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 3rd Edition (2011)
Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area 43
Local Development Frameworks & Core Strategies (emerging)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (The Lawton Report, 2010)

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)

Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2008)

Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance

The Anglian and Humber River Basin Management Plan (2009)

The European Landscape Convention, ratified by the UK in 2006

The Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2009)

The Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plans (2009)

The Local Wildlife Sites: Guidelines for the Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire 2nd Edition (2008)

The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (2011)

The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)

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 (2011)

'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands (2003)

(See Appendix 8)

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 and wildlife resource. The majority of the Wolds' grasslands and rough pastures are found on the steep 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.

Unfortunately, unimproved grassland has been very scarce in the AONB. The 2005 Phase 1 surveys, have suggested however that the previous 1995 estimate for 45 hectares (Smith, AE (Ed) 1996) has under recorded the chalk grassland habitat present both within the AONB and surrounding Lincolnshire Wolds Character Area. The 2005 survey for example recorded at least 84 hectares of unimproved grassland for just over 60% of the AONB, identifying some 34 hectares of calcareous chalk grassland, 46 hectares of neutral grassland, and a very small component (< 4 hectares) of acidic grassland.

A number of the most flower-rich grasslands are protected as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and previously as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNICIs). Over 55% of Local Wildlife Sites have an important grassland component. The 2005 Phase 1 surveys highlighted particular concentrations of wildlife-rich pasture and rough grazing including the following notable areas: 1. extensive grasslands along the western escarpment and valleys between Nettleton to Normanby le Wold; 2. a large area of botanically-diverse grassland within the River Bain catchment to the west of Donnington on Bain; 3. Further botanically rich grasslands including Greetham Valley, Kirmond Valley Marsh, and well-managed fens at Welsdale Bottom and Dodd's Wood Marsh both of which support the now very scarce marsh arrow-grass plant.

Threats/Pressures

Although the Wolds has long been cultivated, there has been a dramatic loss of traditionally managed grassland in the last 40 years, not only through the plough, but also as a result of fertiliser applications and general agriculture improvements. Natural England estimates that between 1975 and 1994 the area of grassland in the Wolds declined from 25% to 13% coverage. This period was mirrored by a reduction in livestock units although the position today is a more stable one with the 2010 Defra farm census recording 19 mixed farming units and 39 grazing holdings across the AONB. The headage numbers for the same period include: 16,914 sheep; 8,819 cattle; and 6,757 pigs.

Livestock farming has undoubtedly been assisted by agri-environment grants which have in recent years been made available to encourage landowners to both maintain existing areas of grassland and convert arable to grassland. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) was successful in protecting and improving grassland habitats through supporting various grazing options. Since 2005, the roll-out of Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes has brought new opportunities to help landowners to best protect and enhance the important grassland resource of the area. Significant progress has been made with the HLS supporting nearly 615 hectares of semi-natural grassland restoration and over 200 hectares of enhanced grassland maintenance (Natural England, 2012). These schemes are currently still continuing, subject to further CAP reform, but will become increasingly competitive. Grassland restoration and management projects delivering multiple benefits and enhanced habitat linkages will be a key aspiration for future projects in the AONB. There is an increasing awareness of the wider 'ecosystem services' contribution played by areas of permanent grassland including benefits from pollination, carbon sequestration, soil protection and increased flood protection.

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.

- ❑ Potential conflict with other habitat types, e.g. new woodland planting schemes.
- ❑ Landowner concerns with EIA Regulations and mapping of Open Access.
- ❑ The need for identifying and encouraging appropriate grassland restoration.
- ❑ Possible increase in miscanthus planting at the expense of wet grassland and grazing marsh.
- ❑ More limited opportunities for Higher Level Stewardship scheme options in the future.

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 4

4.2.3 Grass Verges and Green Lanes

Grassed roadside verges and the wider network of green lanes are a distinctive landscape feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds with some as wide as 20 metres. Those found alongside the drovers roads and other ancient routeways commonly provide the most flower-rich verges and are thought to form remnants of pre-enclosure pastures. The first protected roadside verge (PRV) in the country was established in the Wolds in 1960 on account of its botanical interest; these have recently been reclassified as Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) with currently 15 in the AONB, totalling approximately 15.5 kilometres. During the Phase 1 mapping exercise in 2005 all roadside verges in the area were reviewed and surveyed and a total of 20 verges have been recommended as Local Wildlife Sites.

In the past the verges were evidently used for grazing flocks of sheep that were en route to the coastal grazing marshes. Today some of the wide verges in the Wolds are still cut and baled by farmers, providing a useful source of 'long acre' hay. They also provide an important additional grassland habitat, often acting as linear corridors for birds, small mammals and insects and connecting pockets of isolated grassland. As indicated in the previous habitat section for grasslands – grass verges and greenlanes, especially those of a permanent semi-natural status, will often provide a wide range of benefits from wider ecosystem services (e.g. pollination, carbon sequestration, soil erosion control and flood risk prevention).

The highway authorities and private landowners have obligations for maintaining roadside verges, particularly in relation to maintaining safe sightlines for traffic; this is one of several current management issues. There are future opportunities to engage with local communities and landowners through a partnership initiative 'Life on the Verge', with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust as the lead partner. This project facilitates training events and volunteer surveys to improve our understanding of the biodiversity of roadside verges across the Wolds, raising awareness amongst both landowners, the highway authority teams and general public, and in doing so aiding future management.

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.

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 4

4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards

The woodland cover of the Wolds AONB is low (under 4.5% coverage), but is nevertheless an important habitat and landscape component. The area was substantially cleared of woodland by the 11th century to provide for mixed arable and grazing landscapes of the early medieval period. Much of the present day woodland was planted during the period of parliamentary enclosures from late 18th and early 19th centuries, often to provide a mixture of small coverts to support traditional field sports, together with parkland, tree belts and avenues for their wider amenity value. Small plantations and clumps of predominantly beech, with some ash, sycamore and pine are still evident across the Wolds today and are one of its most dramatic landscape features. Unfortunately mature specimens of the once common elm are generally absent on account of wide spread Dutch elm disease, although more resistant elm are returning slowly.

Woodland remains prominent on valley sides that have been traditionally hard to cultivate. The area contains the nationally important alder carr woods of the Bain and Lymn valleys that continue south beyond the AONB into the Spilsby Crescent Character Area. Some of the largest blocks of woodland in the Wolds are in the South-East Claylands Character Area, including many of the woods that extend from the glacially modified valleys and spillways into the neighbouring Lincolnshire coastal marshes. The 2005 Phase 1 surveys highlighted the particular importance of the concentration of woodland between Well, Willoughby and Welton le Marsh which includes both semi-natural woodland and actively managed plantations, both supporting an abundance of flora and fauna.

Natural England estimates that 610 hectares, or 1.1% of the AONB, is ancient woodland. Four woodlands are nationally recognised as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and are viewed as representative of the wider woodland resource. These include: Tetford Wood, a rare example of an ancient wood on chalk; New England Valley, Salmonby, a fine example of a wet valley alderwood; and the semi-natural woodlands of Hoplands and Willoughby Woods, comprising impressive compartments of ancient oak, ash and hazel.

In addition to their important wildlife and landscape value, the woodlands provide the opportunity to bring socio-economic benefits to the Wolds' communities (e.g. field sports, timber products, business skills and local employment) and enhanced potential for wider access, recreation and tourism. In so doing they provide an important link for developing multi-functional green infrastructure within and beyond the AONB. The growth in new markets, especially through use of wood fuel as a renewable energy source, is likely to provide opportunities to support local timber enterprises, encouraging sustainable woodland management through stimulating additional replanting and coppicing programmes.

Threats/Pressures

Key issues for future woodland management include:

- ❑ Lack of current data on the woodlands (especially those under 2 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.

Shared Priorities Statement

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 CRoW Act and the FC Regional Forestry Framework (RFF) provide the opportunity to enhance future co-operation to ensure that our finest countryside is managed in an integrated way. Most of the woodland within the Wolds 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.

Partner aims for woodland management in the AONB are:

- ❑ Securing an attractive and sustainable landscape.
- ❑ Protection of existing woodlands, including small woods and 'beech clumps'.
- ❑ Reversing the fragmentation of ancient and semi-natural woodlands through connective planting schemes, improving resilience to climate change pressures.
- ❑ Promoting appropriate management practices, including sensitive management of game shoots which can contribute positive enhancements to woodland and field edge species and habitats.
- ❑ Gaining public support and confidence.
- ❑ Encouraging multi-use of our woodland resource, including supporting locally sourced timber as a carbon neutral energy source.

Some good progress has been made over the life of the last Management Plan (2004-09) particularly through the establishment and development of the Beech Clump Project which has been promoted alongside the LWCS Landscape Grant Scheme. With support from seven landowners 30 beech clumps have been created, and eight enhanced through under planting. Crucially the Beech Clump initiative has also focused on supporting a regular programme of maintenance for any newly restored plantings and this has ensured good establishment rates across the schemes.

Continuing support via the English Woodland Grant Scheme and future parkland creation and restoration projects under Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme will provide future opportunities to encourage private landowners to safeguard trees and woodland across the AONB (*see also Section 4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees*). The English Woodland Grant Scheme is being developed to include additional incentives for creating and managing wet woodland – an important resource especially in the southern Wolds (*see also Section 4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds*).

There has been an increasing recognition of the importance of traditional orchards as part of the historic landscape. In addition to typically providing some of our rarest fruit trees, they often provide niche opportunities for a wide range of plants, birds, mammals and insects – with the latter including specialist species often associated with the dead wood of veteran fruit trees. Basic mapping using 2003-2005 aerial photographs has identified a relic source of some 48 traditional orchards within the AONB (A. Burrough – People's Trust for Endangered Species, 2009). Further work is required to ascertain the accuracy and quality of this resource and extent of local varieties.

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 limited 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 4

4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees

The majority of the hedgerows in the Wolds today were planted during the 18th and 19th centuries to enclose the previously open fields and commons. Many of the predominantly hawthorn hedges found in the area date from this period and are a key landscape characteristic of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Where species rich hedgerows do occur they often indicate older pre-enclosure or parish boundary hedges, often containing relics of ancient woodland vegetation and are a priority for protection and enhancement. It has been estimated that between the 1970s and 1990s an average of over 1,000 metres of hedgerow were lost for every square kilometre of farmland (Lincolnshire State of the Environment Report, 1995). However, hedgerows remain an important landscape and wildlife feature of the Wolds and the Environmental Stewardship Schemes and LWCS Landscape Grants Scheme have helped to support hedge creation and restoration schemes to redress the balance. Like many of the verges of the Wolds, the hedgerows not only provide habitat in their own right but also serve as important corridors for birds, small mammals and insects, often connecting more isolated areas of habitat such as small copses and pockets of grassland.

Despite the widespread loss of elm, the traditional English hedgerow tree, many of the Wolds' landmark trees – valued community and/or prominent specimens (as detailed below in Trees of Our Time) – are located within the hedgerows and alongside the drovers roads and green lanes. Some of the old estates and manors have interesting gardens and parks, often with fine tree specimens. With limited parkland landscapes remaining intact today, remnants of these important landmark trees are often located within arable, grassland and plantation woodland settings. The trees are often of a similar mature age, and like their historic parkland settings can invariably be vulnerable to further degradation. Many of the landmark trees provide important wildlife habitats in their own right, often including niches for mosses, lichens, specialist insects, birds and bats. There is a need to manage both existing and new tree stock sensitively, especially where there may be potential conflicts of interest – typically with other farming demands and other sensitive site specific features (e.g. archaeological or geodiversity assets).

Since the production of the last AONB Management Plan there has been an increasing pressure for landowners to survey and remove any dead and dying trees that are adjacent to the roadside and public rights of way. This follows a wider national pattern of well publicised legal cases which have resulted in negligence claims. The Plan recommends a proactive approach to managing a trees decline focusing on support and advice to landowners across the AONB and encouraging wherever possible, a programme of regular surveying, monitoring, and active management. This is likely to be a growing issue as the general tree stock across the Wolds includes a large proportion of overly mature specimens.

The local communities continue to have a high regard on the importance and value of trees and woodland across the Wolds. This was highlighted to the AONB partnership through the 'Trees of Our Time' project that was undertaken in 2006-2007. The initiative enabled close engagement with a number of local primary schools and through wider volunteer involvement created a data base recognising over 100 trees that were of special value to those living, working or visiting the area. These trees were commonly selected for a wide range of reasons, typically relating to their local importance for visual, cultural and/or biodiversity reasons.

Threats/Pressures

- ❑ 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.

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 HTA1-6 in Table 4

4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds

There are nine principal river systems within the AONB including Nettleton Beck, River Bain, River Lud, River Lymn, River Rase, River Waring, Great Eau and Long Eau. These provide the bulk of the fresh water habitats ranging from the alkaline chalk streams in the north (e.g. Waithe Beck) to the more acidic waters of the Bain and Lymn. The Environment Agency class their water quality from poor to good. The 'mixed geology' chalk streams, which extend over some 258 kilometres across the AONB, are of special interest and support at least eight species of national conservation importance (brown trout, brook lamprey, grayling, river lamprey, spined loach, eel, water vole and otter). Priorities for freshwater habitat and species conservation include the Bain, Lymn, Waithe, and upper Eau corridors, the alder carr woodland stream corridors and the network of smaller streams draining westwards from the Walesby-Nettleton escarpment.

There is an important network of minor streams, calcareous marshes and spring-line flushes which form important wetland components of the wider river catchments. Many of the springs support a wide range of locally and nationally rare invertebrates. There is limited knowledge of the pond habitats, which most often occur in the spring-line areas of the north-west scarp and eastern edge of the Wolds.

The EU Water Framework Directive, places an increasing requirement on Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, relevant Internal Drainage Boards and local authorities to apply a strategic, catchment-scale approach to water resource management across the Wolds and wider afield. The area provides a major aquifer for industrial and public water consumption, in addition to providing an important resource for farming and other commercial and sporting interests including a network of small fishing lakes and neighbouring aquatic and watercress farms. All these interests need to be carefully balanced along with increasing concerns relating to climate change and flooding; notably the reducing average rainfall and flow with impacts upon biodiversity, landscape, and water quality, together with a likely increase in localised high intensity rain events.

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project was established in 2004 and works with the farming community, statutory bodies and residents of the Wolds to address some of the main riparian issues including the need for more naturalised bank-sides, increased fish spawning sites, and reduced siltation. The Project works closely with landowners to encourage innovative solutions and good practice to ensure the continued viability of the chalk stream resource. To date the Project has directly enhanced over ten kilometres of stream within the AONB with a further 41 kilometres of adjacent land in positive management agreements via Higher Level Stewardship options - typically including work to neighbouring ditches and buffer strips. Despite expected budgetary pressures across the partnership, the Project continues to provide an excellent opportunity to develop innovative river restoration, applied through a catchment scale approach with continuing landowner and community support. This extends to ongoing advice and support to landowners via the Catchment Sensitive Farming project to help protect water quality.

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.

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 where appropriate and consistent with flood defence and flood risk requirements.
- 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 establish current number, extent and condition of ponds, lakes and reservoirs.
- RSPP5** To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds, lakes and wetlands for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.
- RSPP6** Influence any future water storage schemes to encourage multiple benefits for 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 RSPA1-15 in Table 4

Additional Key Related Plans and Strategies (Rivers, Streams and Ponds)

Anglian River Basin Management Plan (2009)
Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (2010)
Anglian Water Asset Management Plan (2010-15)
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS): The Witham CAMS (2004)
Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth CAMS (2006)
Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau CAMS (2008)
Future Water (2008) Defra
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2009)
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)
The European Water Framework Directive (2000)
The Water Environment (England & Wales) Regulations (2003)
Water Resources Strategy for the Anglian Region (2009)
Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2010)
Water White Paper 'Water for Life' (2011)

(See Appendix 8)

4.2.7 Arable farmland

Arable farmland creates much of the characteristic open cropped land of the Lincolnshire Wolds and is a dominating influence on wildlife in the area. In 2010 over 69% of the AONB was either cropped or fallow, 44.6% of which was under cereal production (Defra Agricultural Census). It is widely recognised that the trend towards high input farming has had a negative impact on biodiversity often limiting the variety of flowers, birds, insects and mammals traditionally associated with such land. Many traditional farmland birds once common in the Wolds including corn bunting, lapwing and yellow hammer have declined in numbers. However the picture has changed positively in recent years especially with the increasing availability of a wide range of environmental grants – for example to increase hedgerow planting, and provide field-edge and in-field enhancements to support insect and bird populations alongside a commercially grown crop.

Arable land was first introduced as a landscape type in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) with arable options available for land that was eligible under the original Arable Area Payments Scheme. The common targets for conservation management of cultivated land were to encourage over-wintering stubbles, followed by low input spring cereals or spring/summer fallow to support characteristic farmland birds and the use of margins/conservation headlands to support populations of arable plants.

There has been a substantial overhaul of farm subsidies since the writing of the last Management Plan with a major decoupling exercise, providing farmers with increased freedom to respond to market conditions through the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Cross Compliance has been established to ensure that all claimants meet a new baseline standard for agriculture and the environment. In 2005 the CSS was replaced by the Environmental Stewardship scheme comprising Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). Some 75% of the AONB is currently included within the HLS Target Area Statement (EM07) for the Wolds which includes biodiversity targets along with landscape, historic environment and resource protection objectives. Environmental Stewardship commitments to landowners in the AONB totalled £1.96 million in 2011, including £1.26 million for those Entry Level Stewardship schemes with additional HLS options (supplied direct by Natural England, 2011).

The AONB partnership recognises the contribution of farming to landscape and biodiversity. One collaborative initiative, with the LWCS taking the lead, was support for the Wolds Farmland Bird Project in 2005-07 to help raise awareness and encourage practical steps on the farm. The project encouraged practical steps to enhance habitats and cropping techniques for key species including grey partridge, lapwing, turtle dove, skylark, tree sparrow, linnet, yellowhammer and corn bunting. The partnership is aware of and supportive of game cover crop planting in the management of game birds - primarily for wintering birds and the wider benefits this can bring for wildlife (assisting delivery on the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan for example) and other ecosystem goods and services including soil and water resource protection. Specialist knowledge on game cover options including the sensitive siting and crops grown is important to avoid harmful impacts to wider landscape, farming and wildlife interests. Typical game cover crops utilised in the Wolds include canary grass, kale, mustard, sunflowers, sweetcorn, turnip and quinoa.

The EA, NFU, CLA and Farmers Union of Wales developed a national Environmental Management System for Farms (EMSF) to reduce the environmental impact of farming. This programme works alongside the England Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Initiative which includes priority catchments in the AONB with a key focus on proactive approaches to diffuse pollution. The Campaign for the Farmed Environment encourages farmers to adopt measures that replicate the benefits previously provided by the set-a-side scheme which closed in 2007. This industry-led initiative has demonstrated the success of a voluntary approach in supporting farm businesses whilst securing wildlife and resource protection gains. The Government's strategy 'The Future of our Farming' (Defra, 2009) provides an overarching framework for food production – recognising the challenges that the industry must face for ensuring food security whilst responding to climate change, and other environmental and socio-economic demands. The AONB partnership will continue to work closely with the landowner and farming communities of the Wolds to encourage new opportunities to tackle the issues highlighted below so that commercial farming and wildlife can go hand-in-hand: the continuation of agri-environmental

subsidies will continue to be very important for both local delivery and our wider food and environmental security.

Threats/Pressures

- ❑ Increasing pressure for intensification to maintain economies of scale in production.
- ❑ The ongoing EU review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) with possible implications on farm subsidies for future agri-environment options.
- ❑ Continuing applications of pesticides and fertilisers reducing opportunities for arable wildlife, although reviewing and enhancing good practice can help to minimise undesirable impacts and maximise economic returns.
- ❑ Impact of removal of set-a-side and roll out of 'eligible land' under cross compliance.
- ❑ New influences (positive and negative) on biodiversity through emerging field crops e.g. flax, borage, sunflowers and miscanthus.

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 bring additional wildlife and landscape benefits.**
- AFP3** **To encourage surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife.**

Actions: See AFA1-5 in Table 4

4.3.1 Earth Heritage - Geodiversity

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a complex geology and geomorphology that has been shaped by glacial and periglacial activity. Chalk from the Cretaceous period (140 million – 65 million years old) forms the dominant bedrock for the area and is part of the strata that extends from the Chilterns to the Yorkshire Wolds. The geology is complex as the chalk is less than 50 metres thick in places with glacial deposits overlaying much of the area. Lower Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic beds (Spilsby Sandstone, Tealby Clays, Limestone and Kimmeridge Clay) are also frequently exposed on the steeper slopes of the scarp slope and in the numerous dry and river valleys.

The Wolds' topography is one of the outstanding qualities of the area with a unique physiography on account of a period of extensive glacial and periglacial modification – rare for the chalk uplands in Britain. Ancient coastal cliffs, glacial spillways, ponded-lake systems and glacial tills and gravels are all in evidence in the current landscape of the Wolds. The combination of rolling plateau and contrasting steep valleys are one of its most distinctive features.

Now sometimes forgotten, Nettleton was once at the centre of an active ironstone mining industry for nearly 40 years, with Top Mine operating from 1934-59 and Bottom Mine from 1957-68. Across the Wolds over 150 open-pits, large and small, have been dug since Roman times. As well as providing stone for much needed local building materials, (see also Section 4.4.2 *Built Heritage*) clay was widely dug for bricks and cement; chalk for building, hardcore and agricultural burnt lime and cement; sand and gravels for aggregate. Many of these open-pits were subsequently filled in but many that remain provide important sites for geodiversity, heritage and wildlife interest.

The previous Plan highlighted five Earth Science SSSIs and 23 Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) in the AONB; 7 of the RIGS have recently been reassessed and recommended as Local Geological Sites (LGSs), with other sites likely to follow. These protected sites highlight the notable geomorphological and geological interest in the area. The chalk wolds, exposures of glacial deposits and their associated Arctic fossil fauna and the exposures of the Lower Cretaceous deposits are of special importance. Welton le Wold Old Gravel Pit is a key site for studying the history of ice advance sequences in eastern England. (See also Section 4.4.1 *Archaeology*).

There is currently one remaining active chalk quarry site in the AONB at Highfield Quarry (near Candlesby), with Mansgate Quarry (Nettleton) adjacent to the north-east boundary and South Thoresby Quarry adjacent to the south-east boundary also still in operation. There are a large number of disused quarries and gravel pits which have been recently reclaimed following landfill operations. As market conditions change there could still be pressure on extending current quarrying operations, for example to meet future demand for high quality stone. However there is a general presumption against the development or extension of quarries in the AONB unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated.

This Plan endorses the need for an integrated approach to conserving and enhancing the geodiversity resource across the AONB working closely and sympathetically with relevant site owners. Central to this task is the continuing review and assessment of sites under the Local Geological Sites (updating the previous RIGS guidelines and criteria) and development of linkages with the wider Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Lincolnshire. Geodiversity and geoconservation is fundamental to our understanding of past, present and future processes on the Wolds' landscape.

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).

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 increase 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 4

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Geodiversity)

Earth Heritage Conservation in England: A Natural Areas Perspective (1996)
Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan (1991)
Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile (1997)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Natural Foundations: Geodiversity for People, Places and Nature (2006)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)
RIGS Handbook - UK RIGS (1999 onwards)
Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance
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)
Local Geodiversity Action Plan for the Historic County of Lincolnshire (2010)

(See Appendix 8)

4.3.2 Earth Heritage – Soils

The Lincolnshire Wolds soils form the interface between the underlying geology and human interaction through agriculture and land management. The soils and land-use patterns of the Lincolnshire Wolds are a close reflection of the areas complex bedrock and superficial geology, varying in depth from a few centimetres to over a metre in response to the underlying geology, topography, land-use and agricultural practices.

Over 20 individual soil types have been identified across the AONB. The plateau-tops are dominated by light chalky soils, whilst the valley sides may show striking variations in colour and texture. In the south-east, the glacial tills give rise to heavy, seasonally waterlogged soils, but in the Lymn Valley the Spilsby Sandstone provides the base material for well-drained sandy loams. On the floor of the Bain Valley, glacial sands and gravels produce deep, coarse permeable loams, however the impermeable Kimmeridge Clay, which lies below, can give rise to areas with a high water table.

The careful management of soils can greatly assist flood management and erosion by slowing surface run-off, reducing nutrient leaching to prevent water contamination and providing buffers between farmland and neighbouring wildlife habitats and water courses. The latter is especially important as a means of minimising any risk from agricultural spraying practices.

The vast majority of the Lincolnshire Wolds is high grade agricultural land, especially on the plateau-tops where productivity is high, although constrained by the thin, drought prone chalk soils. Most of these areas are in permanent arable use whilst the valley floors, with their heavy and sometimes waterlogged soils, are often under woodland or pasture. The low grade agricultural land, mainly along the face of the north-west escarpment, is under rough pasture and scrub. Overall, more than 70% of the Wolds is in arable cultivation, the main crops being winter wheat, winter barley, oil seed rape, beans and linseed.

The Management Plan proposes to raise awareness of the soil resource across the Wolds and its fundamental importance in providing a wide range of goods and services, for food and wider environmental and climate change benefits. Supporting all landowners in good practice for soil management will help to address some of the issues (detailed below) facing this resource, including minimising the potential impacts to neighbouring watercourses via diffuse pollution and siltation.

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.

Objective:

SO To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management 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 issues and services.

Actions: See SPA1-5 in Table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Soils)

The First Soil Action Plan for England (2004)

Soil Strategy for England (2009)

Soils Report Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (2009)

Local Geodiversity Action Plan for the Historic County of Lincolnshire (2010)

(See Appendix 8)

4.4 Cultural Heritage - Historic Landscapes

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a rich cultural heritage. Some of the oldest human remains in Britain have been found here and every period of subsequent human habitation has left its mark on the landscape. A great variety of cultural features can be traced throughout the area, from the burial mounds to the distinctive stone churches and from the enclosure hedgerows to the wartime airfields. There is evidence of many small parklands and a number of smaller estates, which often include gracious but modest Tudor or Georgian country houses, with both Georgian and Victorian farmsteads and farm workers cottages a particular feature of the area.

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 AHH', 'Maud' and 'The Brook'. At the time of the enclosures, the well-known painter Peter de Wint (1784 -1849) produced a number of highly regarded 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, craftsmen and writers.

4.4.1 Archaeology

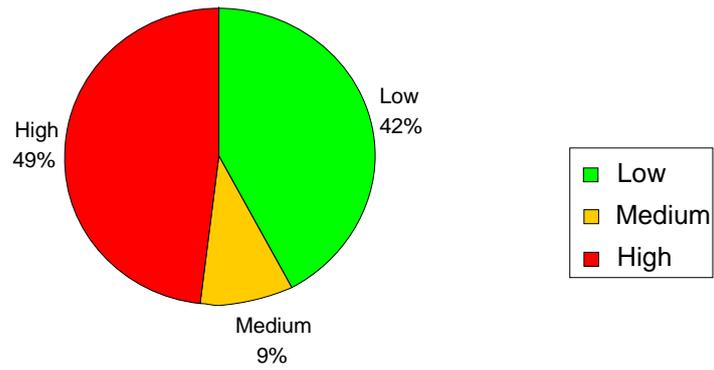
The Wolds has a wealth of archaeological and historic landscape features. There are over 2000 archaeological sites, of which 97 are classed as Scheduled Monuments (SMs) on account of their national interest. There is a longevity of settlement which makes the Wolds a premier archaeological landscape (CCP414, 1993) and during early Medieval times it was one of the most densely populated parts of England with a thriving wool trade.

The oldest remains date from the Palaeolithic period, with an important and well researched stratified site at Welton le Wold (see also Section 4.3.1 *Earth Heritage*). 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.

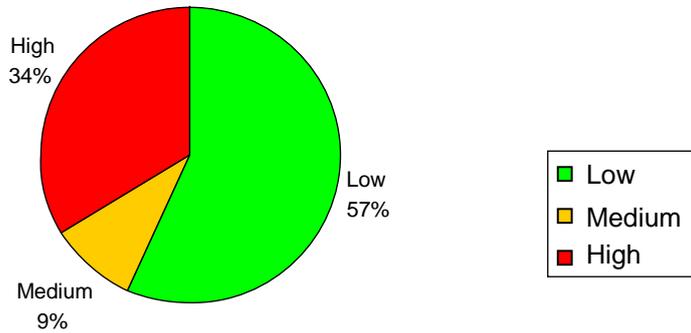
A large number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, such as the one at South Elkington, show the continued importance of the area for ritual purposes. The Wolds was important in the formative years of Christianity in the county with a very early monastery at Partney. Substantial numbers of remains date from the 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 protection and enhancement. In 2004 English Heritage 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 (see pie charts below). A Joint Accord between EH 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 to the proposed changes to heritage protection as detailed in the Heritage White Paper (2007).

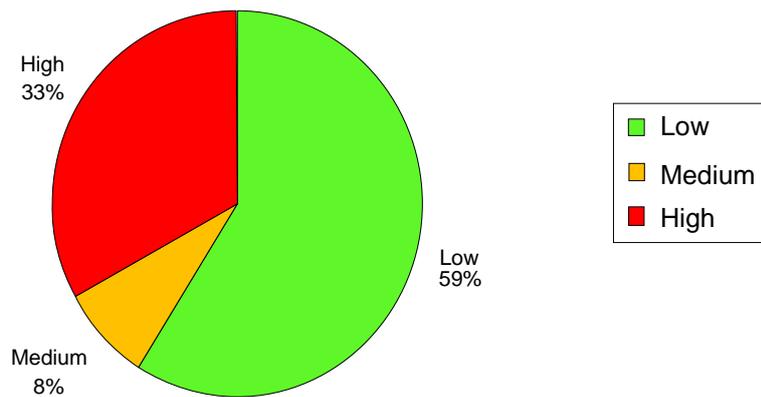
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB - Scheduled Monuments at Risk 2004



Lincolnshire Wolds AONB - Scheduled Monuments at Risk 2009



Lincolnshire Wolds AONB - Scheduled Monuments at Risk 2011



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 neglected 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 within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.**

Policies:

- AP1** **To encourage and support research projects to help increase understanding 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 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 4

4.4.2 Built Heritage

The Wolds AONB has a number of attractive farmsteads, country houses, hamlets and nucleated villages that contribute to its special character and 'sense of place'. The variety of historic buildings reflects the varied geology of the area and there is no one unified pattern of building materials or styles. The Landscape Character Assessment recognised that 'although the area as a whole may not be of outstanding architectural interest, there is a great deal of good domestic architecture and many buildings are listed', (CCP414, 1993). There are currently 343 buildings and heritage features listed at grade I, II* and II status across the AONB. Although many are not listed, there are also in excess of 300 farmsteads across the Wolds, a high number of which remain as isolated farms or manor houses.

A range of building materials were used, but commonly incorporating local stone, which was of variable quality. In the north-west local quarries on the escarpment provided Claxby ironstone (a handsome building material) and Tealby limestone. The ironstone, with its distinctive rich ochre is still evident in Nettleton, and the paler limestone at Tealby and Walesby. Spilsby sandstone, a form of greensand rarely used elsewhere, is evident in church and other public buildings in the southern Wolds and has a distinctive dark brown/green colour. Chalk, particularly from the stronger Totternhoe Beds, was used for a number of churches, farms and cottages.

Brick was seldom used in the Wolds during the 16th and 17th centuries, but became more evident as a vernacular building material with the development of local brick pits from the 18th century. It was occasionally used for prestigious buildings such as Somersby Grange, a grade I Listed Building in addition to a number of farmsteads and their accompanying crew-yards. Many of the original buildings had predominantly thatched roofs until the 17th century when clay pantiles first came into use. Other important buildings in the Wolds include the unique 'mud and stud' cottages within the southern Wolds, watermills and both Georgian and Victorian farmstead buildings and cottages. Many of the buildings can provide important roost opportunities for protected species such as barn owls and bats and need to be managed accordingly.

The countywide Heritage at Risk project provides opportunities to help raise awareness of the importance of the Wolds' heritage and landscape features within the AONB. Local volunteering and community engagement in the recording of key features will help to inform and enhance future heritage management. Maintaining the historic character and fabric of the Wolds' village farmsteads, conservation areas, vernacular buildings and surrounding market towns is integral to the wider socio-economic development of the area, especially in continuing to ensure a high quality landscape and tourism offer. This is to be pursued with the emphasis on encouragement and supporting good practice, but also with need for a pragmatic approach in respect of building specifications and the use of local materials. Sensitive repair, refurbishment and re-use of redundant buildings may provide good opportunities for small enterprise and new business development in the future, helping to diversify and strengthen the economy of the Wolds.

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 design and management of buildings in keeping with local character.
- BHP2** 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 encourage and support innovative new construction that uses local material/design and takes inspiration from local distinctiveness and character.
- BHP5** To embrace appropriate technologies that lessen energy dependence on fossil fuels in a way that does not compromise the special landscape character of the AONB.

Actions: See BHA1-11 in Table 4

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Archaeology and Built Heritage)

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)

English Heritage National Heritage Protection Plan (Version 1: May 2011)

Every Street Matters (2006)

Heritage Counts (2007 onwards)

Heritage at Risk (2008 onwards)

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)

Local Development Frameworks & Core Strategies (emerging)

Local Development Plans – Saved Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (2010)

Power of Place: The Future of the Historic Environment (2000)

Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent

Streets for All (2005)

Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance

The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (2010)

The Place of Choice: A Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2010

Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)

(See Appendix 8)

5. Living and Working in the Wolds - Theme 2

The Lincolnshire Wolds is sparsely populated with small villages and scattered settlements, surrounded by a number of small market towns. The area has the finest landscapes in Lincolnshire, but some communities still suffer from economic deprivation and rural isolation, previously aggravated by a decline in agriculture employment and the defence industry (most notably the closure of RAF Binbrook). 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.

5.1 Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds

The character of the Lincolnshire Wolds remains heavily shaped by farming. Over 69% of the area is cultivated, reflecting the workable soils that can be found across much of the higher ground. Whilst the number of people employed in farming in recent years has declined, it still forms an important part of the local economy and has an overriding influence on the landscape. The 2010 agricultural census records 231 holdings across the AONB, directly supporting a total of 734 farm employees (including part-time and casual). Over 50% of holdings are chiefly concerned with cereal production. However general cropping, lowland grazing, specialist poultry and mixed farming are also widely evident.

The field sizes and cropping patterns often help to reinforce local landscape types (Appendix 3) and have been recognised in their own right as intrinsic landscape features of the Wolds. Huge open cereal fields with sparse hedgerows dominate the plateau tops and highlight the rolling and open nature of the chalk wolds. Conversely, the smaller field patterns and associated hedgerows are common in the valley landscapes where the soils are heavier. Livestock farming can still be found in these areas along with other land-uses. The 2008 agricultural census indicates that over 20% of holdings are involved to varying degrees with mixed, livestock, and poultry farming.

Traditionally the Lincolnshire Wolds has been the setting for some of the finest wild and reared game shooting in the country, reaching its peak for wild partridge in the 1950s and 60s. The current wooded landscape of the Wolds owes much of its existence to field sports. Woodlands, hedgerows and covers are actively managed to create better habitats for all wildlife, not just game species.

Many large estates and small farms continue to undertake land management activities for the benefit of both driven and rough shooting for pheasant and partridge. The prestigious annual Jas. Martin & Co. Lincolnshire Grey Partridge Trophy is awarded in recognition of the estate, farm or shooting syndicate that has achieved the very highest standards in conserving and managing grey partridge.

There can be some potential issues from shooting interests that do require careful land management including minimising conflict with other recreational users of the countryside, sensitively siting and managing release pens, the diligent use of supplementary feeding stations and the need to sympathetically consider the location of any new or modified access provision.

The AONB partnership recognises that field sports interests in the Wolds, for hunting, shooting and fishing can generate significant local income and employment: permanent game-keeper/huntsman/groom positions and seasonal winter employment for many others involved in all field sports on the day. Field sports also support a much wider economy base including accommodation, public houses and related businesses. Syndicate fishing across the Wolds, for both coarse and fly fishing, is growing in importance and has provided an added incentive for landowners to enhance their chalk stream and pond habitats.

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. Key issues in relation to farming and its future impact upon the AONB include:

- ❑ 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 from the ongoing Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform 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 and market forces.

Although there are uncertainties in the future of farming, there are also opportunities including those linked with the ongoing review of the CAP – with a forthcoming European Landowners policy on food and environmental security. There has been a redirection of funds away from direct subsidies towards environmental and rural development schemes with good take-up across the Wolds. The Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture remains a vital local partnership between the public sector and the farming, horticulture, food and drink sectors across greater Lincolnshire. The Forum focuses on the future sustainability of farming and horticulture (key industries in Lincolnshire) striving to develop a modern, diverse and adaptable industry. The network will continue to provide support and inspiration for agricultural interests in the AONB. This will include opportunities to link with Select Lincolnshire, which aims to showcase the range and quality of Lincolnshire produce and Tastes of Lincolnshire, which promotes local food via various retailing outlets; shops, restaurants and visitor accommodation. Wide ranging future micro farm diversification will continue to be supported to help maintain socio-economic progress and business viability, but there will be an emphasis on encouraging schemes of a type, scale and quality conducive to the special character of the AONB as directed by the relevant planning Local Development Framework.

Understanding and raising awareness of carbon and energy management across the farming sector remains a major challenge in the years ahead and is increasingly being seen as an important issue for suppliers when sourcing their products. The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) has developed a useful tool via the Carbon Accounting for Land Managers programme (CALM) which contributes significantly to the understanding of carbon emissions from agriculture (The CALM calculator can be accessed at www.calm.cla.org.uk). Local measures for minimising carbon emissions in the context of land holdings in the AONB need to be explored more fully but wider benefits for other environmental goods and services would be likely e.g. protecting and enhancing soils, water quality and water conservation.

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 influence changes in regional, national and EU agriculture policy to bring 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 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 FWA1-14 in Table 4

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Farming in the Wolds)

An invitation to shape the Nature of England – Discussion Document July 2010
 A Strategy for Sustainable Land Management in England (2003)
 EC Rural Development Regulations (2007 onwards)
 England Rural Development Programme
 Environmental Stewardship Targeting Statement – Lincolnshire Wolds (Ref. EM07, 2008)
 Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan (2003)
 Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture – Strategy and Implementation Plan (2010)
 National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF (2012)
 Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (2005)
 Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)
 Regional Economic Strategy (2008)
 Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food – Facing the Future (2002)
 Structure and Local Development Plans
 Supplementary Planning Guidance
 The Lincolnshire Agenda (2003)
 The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)
 The Future of our Farming (2009)
 'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands (2003)

(See Appendix 8)

5.2 Thriving Communities

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is a sparsely populated area of scattered villages, with a number of important market towns surrounding and serving the designated area. The 2001 population estimate of the AONB was 10,253, with a further 33,436 living in Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby. There are 94 administrative parishes within the AONB but only 84 of these have all or part of the main settlement within the area. Some parishes have less than one hundred residents and in some cases no residents at all within the AONB.

The population is aging within the Wolds. Agriculture, the traditional employment sector in the area, has declined, increasingly being replaced by public services and the tourism and hospitality trades. Traditionally the area is a low wage economy however the promotion of unobtrusive local industry, new uses for old facilities, development of cottage industries and selective recreation and tourism provides opportunities to broaden the local economy in the future.

As highlighted in the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy (2001), the development of appropriate 'green' recreation and tourism has much potential. A business survey commissioned in July 2000 identified 185 businesses (attractions and accommodation) that were dependent on tourism in and around the Wolds. An estimated further 600+ businesses (public houses, shops, restaurants, garden centres etc.) benefit from visitor spending.

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a highly regarded field sports sector, comprising well established hunting, shooting and fishing interests. These can provide additional opportunities for local landowners to supplement their incomes as well as helping to support the wider business community. All these businesses provide a significant economic multiplier effect for an economy traditionally reliant upon agriculture and carefully planned, are likely to provide opportunities for future business development and farm diversification. (*See also Section 6 Discovering the Wolds*).

The Wolds' communities are deeply rural and their connections with the surrounding market towns and larger villages (e.g. Binbrook and Tetford) remain essential to maintain the socio-economic vibrancy of the area. Equally important are the role of the many local facilities across both the AONB villages and wider countryside. An LWCS facilitated audit in 2010 highlighted the following: 41 public houses; 15 post offices; 18 local stores; 12 tea rooms; and 11 fishing lakes. There has also been growing interest in the provision of safe sports and play equipment with a number of community-driven initiatives, (supported through the Lincolnshire Wolds SDF – see below), helping to provide new facilities at Brookenby, Claxby, Hagworthingham, Ludford and Tealby.

Community issues:

Residents' and visitors' views on the AONB were originally collected from 460 responses to a questionnaire survey in Wolds News April 2003 (Appendix 4) in order to help develop a collective twenty-five year vision for the area. An independent community consultant assisted the LWCS in facilitating a series of evening meetings and events held across the AONB during July 2003 under the banner 'Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future'. This provided local residents with a further opportunity to express their likes, dislikes, fears and future aspirations for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

Much information was gathered during the consultations, providing a picture of life in the Wolds in 2003. There were many recurring themes, with planning issues and social concerns featuring prominently (Appendix 5). The community consultations provided a welcome insight into the views, concerns and aspirations of those living in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Pertinent issues were diverse, covering political, economic, social, technological and environmental fields. Encouragingly, there was wide acknowledgement of the positive aspects of living in the Wolds - the tranquillity and beauty of the villages and landscape, the skies, the wildlife, the sense of community and almost universal support for its protection. There was also concern for the social and economic future of the area.

Common issues expressed during the consultation included:

- ❑ A sense of unease over the future of many rural services and facilities, typically the post office and village shop.
- ❑ 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.

Over the life of the last Plan the LWCS hosted two very successful conferences on behalf of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee at Market Rasen Racecourse. The first in July 2006 was under the theme 'Living and Working in the Lincolnshire Wolds' and attended by over 230 delegates. The second, in 2008, 'Living and Working in the Lincolnshire Wolds: A Farming Perspective' attracted over 100 participants. Representatives from landowners, local businesses, villages, surrounding market towns, parish councils, local authorities and specialist interest groups attended. The feedback received and generated during lively discussions was widely positive, with a common focus on themes surrounding the challenges of fostering a vibrant and diverse rural economy with the needs of protecting the intrinsic character of the AONB.

Local Action:

A number of local parish plans and village design statements have been produced since the millennium including: Goulceby and Asterby Character Assessment (2002); Belchford and Fulletby Parish Plan (2004); Tealby Village Design Statement (2004); Hagworthingham Parish Plan (2007); Binbrook Parish Plan (2008-09) and Swallow and Cuxwold Parish Plan (2010). These publications commonly highlight key local issues across a broad range of environmental, social and economic topics, often acknowledging the special value and contribution of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The AONB partnership is keen to encourage and support the development of further local plans across the area to help inform the AONB Management Plan, and relevant Local Planning Development Frameworks, including future assistance with emerging Neighbourhood Plans and development orders.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), administered by LWCS staff, was launched in 2004-05 with support from East Midlands Development Agency, Lincolnshire Enterprise, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England and Defra. To date the SDF has successfully awarded over £550,000, supporting 92 local projects across the Wolds and helping to bring in well over £1 million in match-funding. The programme has been instrumental in supporting a diverse range of community, business and environmental projects across the Wolds, providing modest grants of up to £15,000. Just some of the innovative projects supported have included: a new village hall with state of the art ground source heating system; rainwater recycling schemes for both local sports facilities and a local school; photovoltaics, wood chip boilers and sheep's wool insulation schemes for a range of local community buildings; education events and study packs featuring both the churchyard (God's Acre Project) and the nationally important chalk stream resource.

The Rural Development Programme for England and Lindsey Action Zone Strategic Partnership (LEADER approach) supported nine schemes across the AONB in 2010, allocating almost £1.2 million to a wide range of projects, including local farm diversification, tourism and infrastructure enhancements. A further 14 schemes within the wider Wolds hinterland were also receiving financial assistance - totalling a further £2.6 million RDPE allocation.

The future challenge remains for enhancing the socio-economic base of the Wolds through encouraging and supporting existing and new business activity of the appropriate type, scale and location for those living and visiting the area. Continuing farm diversification, community multi-use provision and greater opportunities through new technologies, such as improved IT and broadband provision, have significant roles to play for the local economy, including encouragement for professional sector jobs and wider rural service networks.

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 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 TCA1-12 in Table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Thriving Communities)

Big County, Big Skies, Big Future – Sustainable Community Strategy for Lincolnshire (2009)
Engaging East Lindsey – Community Plan for East Lindsey (2007)
Lincolnshire – A Changing and Challenging Landscape (2008)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)
Regional Economic Strategy
Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance
Sustainable Communities Strategy – Lincolnshire Assembly 2009-2030
Sustainable Community Strategy – North East Lincolnshire Council (2010)
The Lincolnshire Agenda (2003)
The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)
The West Lindsey Community Strategy (2010)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)

(See Appendix 8)

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

6.1 Introduction

The superb scenery, attractive villages, fine views and the natural and cultural heritage should make the Lincolnshire Wolds a popular tourist destination. The area's extensive network of quiet lanes and public rights of way provide some of the most attractive and tranquil walking, riding and cycling routes in eastern England. However, with the exception of the villages associated with the Tennyson family (e.g. Somersby, Tetford and Tealby), and the draw of Cadwell Park Motor Racing Circuit, the area has a generally low profile outside the county. The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, Wolds Words Festival, Walkers are Welcome initiative, Lindsey Trail and Open Farm Sundays have helped to redress this balance in recent years.

A concern often expressed is that one of the key assets of the Lincolnshire Wolds - 'its ambience of rural remoteness and isolation' - could be harmed irreparably if the area is heavily promoted and a flood of new visitors come into the area. There is a strong contrary argument that there is ample capacity and with careful management, the area could and should, be more widely publicised to help sustain its viability.

Sustainable recreation and tourism initiatives within the area could provide a much-needed boost to the local economy, including opportunities for farm diversification projects and the careful re-use of redundant buildings. An enhanced image and greater recognition of the value and interest of the AONB could have wider benefits for the surrounding market towns and coastal resorts, increasing their attraction as places to visit, to locate businesses and to live.

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 tourist 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.

6.2 Interpretation – Awareness raising

Interpretation has an important role in raising the profile of the AONB. It can enhance residents' and visitors' enjoyment of the area, whilst a well-informed public is more likely to respect the area it is visiting.

In 2001/02 the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy was developed for both the AONB and the wider Wolds Character Area with the aims of:

- ❑ Providing a framework of objectives and purposes for the interpretation of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- ❑ Stimulating interest in providing high quality and well planned interpretation facilities and services in the area.
- ❑ Identifying the desired target audiences (markets) for new interpretation facilities and services.
- ❑ Suggesting a number of specific interpretation projects that could be developed and implemented in the future.
- ❑ Identifying a role for the different stakeholders in the area in providing, promoting and maintaining interpretation facilities and services.

The Strategy was subsequently incorporated within the AONB Management Plan and is currently supported by a wide range of partnership activity – coordinating interpretation and promotional work across the area. Since 2004 the LWCS has engaged directly with over 4,600 people to promote and raise awareness of the AONB through its events programme.

Working closely with partners and local community groups a wide range of interpretative material is available including 'The Lincolnshire Wolds' book, a suite of leaflets including Wonders of the Wolds series, Enjoy the Lincolnshire Wolds, over 45 walking and cycling leaflets and the regular Wolds News publication, the latter with an annual circulation of over 20,000 copies. Engaging with the many local enthusiasts and community groups (e.g. Brinkhill and Partney) has led to the delivery of a wide range of high quality interpretation via site panels, leaflets and other media including the arts. Community support and engagement will remain pivotal to the research and production of further interpretive material on the area.

Objective:

- IO** **To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities.** *(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 by highlighting the area's unique landscape character and sense of place to the general public.**
- IP3** **To encourage residents to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.**

Actions: See IPA1-12 in Table 4

6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism

The Wolds AONB has an extensive network of public rights of way including the long distance footpath the Viking Way, National Cycle Route and other promoted trails including the Silver Lincs Way and the Wanderlust Way. These provide residents and visitors with some of the best opportunities to discover the numerous hidden delights provided by this nationally important and protected landscape. Many of the footpaths, bridleways and country lanes appear to be seldom visited and contribute to the Wolds undoubted rural isolation and tranquillity - arguably one of the area's biggest appeals.

Access to the wider Wolds is fairly restricted as unlike other chalk upland areas in the country much of the area is cultivated and in private ownership. Red Hill Nature Reserve, Hubbard's Hills, and South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve do provide opportunities for wider access in the AONB. A number of additional sites with public access are close by and include Gunby Hall, Rigsby Wood Nature Reserve, Snipe Dales Country Park and Willingham Woods. The lack of public open space, especially for village communities, did feature as a concern in the original community consultations and is an ongoing issue. Existing Countryside Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship agreements have helped increase provision through both permissive and educational access arrangement but opportunities through CRoW Open Access land (2005) have been limited.

The establishment of the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum and development of the County's and North East Lincolnshire's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans have enabled further consultation to raise awareness of both landowner and public interests including those of various user groups e.g. walkers, horse riders, cyclists, mountain bikers and recreational vehicle users. The aspiration for the Plans are to encourage access for all, however depending on both the legal and site specific constraints opportunities to secure new access will vary across the user groups. A notable future challenge is the likely reduction in current permissive access arrangements as the Higher Level Stewardship scheme can no longer pay for any new access options – although ongoing agreements will be honoured and projects for specialist educational access opportunities may be provided.

Shooting, hunting and fishing, often associated with the larger estates in the Wolds, provides important local and visitor recreation opportunities and helps boost the rural economy. The large country shows like Brocklesby and Revesby, local fairs such as the Tathwell Art Fair and other unique curiosities like the Telford Scarecrow Festival, Biscathorpe Duck Race and Belchford Downhill Challenge (gravity cart racing) also prove popular.

The tourism sector is estimated to have contributed £970 million to the Lincolnshire economy in 2009. (Visit Lincolnshire, 2010). Limited research has been undertaken on the number and profile of people using the AONB for access, recreation and tourism although the Lincolnshire Tourism Model 1999 survey provided some insights into the levels of usage of the wider Wolds. The study estimates total visitor numbers for the wider Wolds as 281,291 and includes the surrounding market town attractions. The survey estimated that 156,000 tourist trips were taken to the Wolds area in 1999, providing an estimated 600,000 total overnight stays. A later study (Cambridge Tourism Report) provided much higher estimates of 1.1 million visitors to the wider Wolds area in 2003, over 1 million as day trippers and approximately 61,000 overnight visitors, 8% of which were from overseas. The Report suggested a total tourism spend of £38 million for the Wolds, approximately £30 million from day trippers and a further £8.1 million from visitors staying overnight.

Section 6.1 highlighted the main issues for managing access, recreation and tourism in the Wolds. There is wide agreement that the existing infrastructure for recreation and tourism is under-developed across the area, although the situation is improving. The neighbouring market towns provide an important link to additional services and attractions, including a wide range of independent food, drink and retail outlets. Cadwell Park Motor Racing Circuit, Market Rasen Racecourse, Willingham Woods, Gunby Hall, Lincolnshire's rural shows, historic Lincoln and the popular coastline provide further opportunities for raising awareness of the Wolds as a tourist/recreation destination. Access, recreation and tourism can make an important contribution to the local economy, helping to support jobs and services but will need to be carefully managed if it is to develop successfully and in keeping with the needs of the AONB.

Since 2004-05 the LWCS has worked with a wide range of partners to help enhance the Wolds visitor and tourism offer, focussing on trying to encourage access for all:

- ❑ Over 45 self-guided walking and cycling routes and maps have been produced by LWCS, Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council for routes in and around the Wolds AONB. This includes the Gateway Walk Series from Louth, Market Rasen and Horncastle and the highly acclaimed Lincolnshire Wolds Cycle Routes.
- ❑ Wider promotion of the Wolds developing public transport bus walk leaflets (InterConnect Bus Walks Series) and promoting recreational events utilising public transport links.
- ❑ Helped by direct funding from the Lindsey Action Zone (Rural Development Programme for England), the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival has gone from strength to strength with over 22,000 attending eight annual Festivals.
- ❑ The very popular Open Farm Sunday, has been running since 2006 and has attracted over 5,000 people to just one farm in the Wolds. The Wolds SDF has also provided direct support to successfully encourage attendance from new audiences, including lower income families from Grimsby and other urban areas.
- ❑ Promoting cultural events including Wolds Words, a 'boutique' festival (based in and around Louth) of reading, writing and performance that has attracted over 3,000 people since 2007.

It is intended that the above activities will provide incentives for further projects in the years ahead. The future emphasis is likely to be on expanding the links with the tourism/recreational sector to help widen, enhance and sustain the visitor offer across the Wolds. An exciting partnership project in 2012 has been the opening of the Lindsey Trail – a 69 mile circular multi-user route extending from Willingham Woods to an area south of Hagworthingham and Aswardby parishes. The Trail includes provision for horse drawn carriages and it is hoped will provide local businesses with the opportunity to develop appropriately linked equine recreational/tourism facilities in the future.

Other potential initiatives could include the expansion of accredited accommodation and high quality food/drink outlets utilising local produce (linking with Tastes of Lincolnshire), and other sustainable/green tourism initiatives, some of which may be themed to AONB specific interpretation. The integral connections between the Wolds and surrounding market towns will remain pivotal; however there may also be opportunities to explore wider promotional links to neighbouring points of interest including the coast, grazing marshes and the nationally important Lincolnshire Limewoods.

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 co-ordinated, 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 identify gaps in current access, recreation and tourism provision and support new measures and good practice to improve the infrastructure where compatible with the AONB. (See also Section 7 Developing the Wolds)

Actions: See ARTA1-20 in Table 4

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

A Sustainable Community Strategy for Lincolnshire 2006-2016
 Big County, Big Skies, Big Future - Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2030
 Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Lincolnshire (2012)
 Destination East Midlands – East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010
 Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (2006)
 Lincolnshire Tourism - A Sharper Focus (2003)
 Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy (2001)
 Local Authorities Tourism Strategies (various)
 Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent (2003)
 Regional Economic Strategy
 Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance
 Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative (2002)
 The Lincolnshire Agenda (2003)
 The Place of Choice: A Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2010
 The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)
 'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands (2003)
 Townscape Heritage Initiative (1997)
 Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)
 Walkers are Welcome Network, 2006
 Working for the Countryside – A Strategy for Rural Tourism in England 2001-2005

(See Appendix 8)

7. Developing the Wolds - Theme 4

There is general consensus that the Lincolnshire Wolds is a living and working landscape that should not be preserved in aspic. Equally, there is wide acknowledgement for the need to ensure that any development is not detrimental to the landscape and character of the AONB, which is of national importance. The strong rural character of the Wolds, the extensive open views and dark night skies are particularly vulnerable to inappropriate development.

7.1 Planning and Development Management

Local authorities perform a key role in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB through their strategic planning and development management powers. As described in Section 1.6 all Structure, Local, Minerals/Waste plans and emerging Local Development Frameworks include specific policies on development in the AONB. Planning policies include a general presumption against development in the open countryside unless it is either small scale and supportive of the local economy (e.g. renovation of farm buildings), or there is a proven national interest and a lack of alternative sites (e.g. quarrying and telecommunications development).

Where new development is proposed there is a requirement for it to be carefully sited, thoughtfully planned and well-constructed, so that it complements and adds to local distinctiveness within the AONB. It is important to ensure that the best use is made of existing buildings within the area. Village/Parish Design Statements and Parish Plans and other best practice guides provide opportunities to assist developers and construction companies in understanding and meeting AONB requirements.

The planning issues referred to below were a recurring theme of the original public consultations in 2003 (see Appendix 5) which highlighted an apparent lack of public confidence in the planning process, matched by real frustration and concern that planning procedures are becoming less fair, open and understandable. 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.

Excluding mineral and waste developments, most planning applications approved within the AONB since 2005 have been of a small/modest scale. Typical developments include a mixture of new farm buildings, associated rural diversification schemes (often to support small rural businesses), occasional new residential housing or modifications. New housing has typically been on previously allocated settlement land within the larger service villages, or occasionally on brownfield sites. The number of new telecommunication schemes has declined since 2010 as most of the commercially viable infrastructure coverage is in place.

In 2004 the Government highlighted that the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) and the electricity companies must demonstrate extra care in their work in order to help conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the National Parks and AONBs. OFGEM subsequently provided an allowance for electricity companies to claim additional expenditure when putting overhead wires underground for visual reasons in AONBs and National Parks. The LWCS has worked closely with the two District Network Operators (DNOs), Western Power Distribution (formerly Central Networks) and Northern Powergrid – Yorkshire (formerly CE Yorkshire Electric), consulting with local parish councils within the AONB to

help submit potential schemes. To date over 4.5 kilometres of visually intrusive overhead wires have been undergrounded across the Wolds, including village schemes at Nettleton, Thorganby and Swallow. OFGEM and our relevant DNOs are continuing the scheme until 2015 so more projects will be delivered over the life of this Plan.

There has been an increase in planning applications for wind turbines both within and adjacent to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. A Renewable Energy Seminar was hosted by the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee in November 2011 reviewing some of the options for future carbon management and energy generation appropriate to the special needs of the AONB. As a result of these discussions and comments from the public consultation, the Plan includes a new policy with regard to wind energy development (listed below as PP7) which is being seen as a major issue for future landscape change (see also *Climate Change & Energy section 7.3*). The Plan recognises that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is especially vulnerable to cumulative impacts from medium-large scale developments that lie in close proximity to the boundary, and therefore have the potential to impact upon the panoramic views both from and to the Lincolnshire Wolds from the neighbouring Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes (to the east) and the Central Lincolnshire Vale (to the west).

This Plan incorporates an additional policy on seeking to minimise light and noise pollution due to the deeply rural nature of the Wolds and the high levels of tranquillity, as mapped by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). Also included is a new general policy in respect of waste management, with a focus on waste reduction and sympathetic recycling schemes that take account of the wider interests of the AONB.

There will be further demands for information and communications technology (ICT) upgrades and sensitive schemes appropriate to the AONB should be supported to help improve communication and internet connectivity - including access to basic and advanced broadband coverage. This will help to support local businesses and potentially help to reduce both commuting and rural isolation.

Planning pressures remain, including the possibility of future infrastructure schemes, both within or in close proximity to the AONB, for electricity, gas and water distribution. Future proposals will need to be assessed on a case by case basis by the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA). It is expected that where appropriate comments from both Natural England and the LWCS will be sought. This will particularly be the case for any schemes requiring specialist landscape observations or wider assessment in terms of impacts (positive and negative) upon the AONB designation.

As highlighted in Section 1.5, both the Localism Bill and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have radically overhauled the previous planning system. Nearly all previous planning guidance has been revoked in the government's drive for a more succinct and locally accountable system. As detailed previously, the NPPF shifts the direction of planning towards a general presumption in favour of development, but only where this is deemed sustainable in the context of economic, social and environmental parameters. There is a wide spread recognition of the value and importance of conserving and enhancing both the natural and historic environment, Paragraphs 115-116 of the NPPF detail more specific planning obligations in respect of achieving sustainable development for all nationally protected landscapes including AONBs. Importantly there is a requirement to give great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in these areas, which provides a fitting and very timely context for the revised AONB Management Plan.

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.
- PP2** To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support the local economy and community.
- 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 landscape as a result of mineral working and associated activity.
- 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.
- 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 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Planning)

A New Vernacular for the Countryside (2004)
East Midlands Planning Charter (2000)
EC Rural Development Regulations (2007 onwards)
Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas (1996)
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan (2003)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010)
Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance
The Localism Act (2011)
The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

(See Appendix 8)

7.2 Transport in the Wolds

A good transport network is essential to the future well-being of those living in the AONB to enable continued appropriate growth and development of the farming sector and promotion of the area for tourism, recreation and other rural businesses. The settlement pattern across the Wolds is dispersed, with numerous small hamlets/villages, isolated dwellings and an absence of any large towns making the running of public transport services inherently demanding due to the complexity of the routes involved and increasingly their financial viability.

Links to the surrounding market towns are very important for those living in the AONB. There is an extensive network of roads, but many are narrow and rural in nature. Traffic counts in 2010 for principal intersecting and boundary roads recorded an annual average daily traffic (AADT) flow ranging from 3,170 to 7,670 vehicles on A roads and 1,340 to 4,320 vehicles on B roads, with commercial vehicles making up on average 7.7 % of journeys.

The public transport service is limited, and is variable in frequency. Three InterConnect bus services operate in and around the Wolds including IC3 - Lincoln to Grimsby, IC6 - Lincoln to Skegness and IC51 - Louth to Grimsby. The invaluable CallConnect service operates across much of the Wolds, providing a pre-booked 'dial-a-ride' minibus to link with the wider InterConnect routes, but also providing an additional service to key pick-up/set-down points at designated village locations. The InterConnect/CallConnect network provides an invaluable service for elderly and non-car families making travel by bus easier, quicker and more efficient. There is one train station close to the AONB, in Market Rasen. Unfortunately this is a limited frequency service, linking Grimsby, Lincoln to Newark and Doncaster.

Community consultations highlight time and again the importance of rural transport issues. Continuing key issues for both residents and visitors include:

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Continuing concerns with fly tipping.

There is strong anecdotal evidence that traffic in the countryside can be both a deterrent and a hazard to recreational users, especially for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Those who are inexperienced or less confident can easily be discouraged from using the highway network. There is an increasing move towards wider integrated traffic management solutions, including training and awareness raising via the work of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

The increase in roads signs on the edge of the highway has been a recent issue, and partnership activity will continue to assess and seek to rationalise any unnecessary signage. The Lincolnshire wide Every Street Matters initiative is working to address this and other road signage issues and has continued to evolve since publishing the Streetscape Design Manual in 2009.

The Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL) project has been instrumental since 2004 in restoring and replacing almost 70 traditional roadsigns across the AONB. Many are more than 60 years old, and typically the style within the AONB comprise concrete post, usually painted black and white, supporting wooden directional arms with raised cast iron lettering. The project has been very well received locally and has been promoted nationally as an example of good practice.

The AONB partnership has sought to encourage local transport solutions and has supported a number of community-led initiatives including the Wolds Community Bus, Renew and the Louth and District Hospice vans. The Wolds SDF supported a pilot project to help enable a local bus operator to convert a diesel coach to run on vegetable oil, generating much publicity. The SDF has also supported the development and promotion of the InterConnect 3 Bus Walks providing a series of recreational routes starting and finishing from various bus stops using the regular bus services between Lincoln, Market Rasen, Caistor and Grimsby. This project built on the success of the

original InterConnect 6 Bus Walks using the Lincoln, Wragby, Horncastle, Spilsby and Skegness service.

Future emphasis is on partnership action, working closely with the Highway Authorities of Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to help encourage and support local transport solutions, commensurate with the AONB designation, for addressing the key issues as outlined above. The focus remains on achieving an integrated sustainable transport network, maximising public transport, and seeking to minimise reliance upon car journeys. This remains a challenge in deeply rural communities, and needs to be carefully balanced against the need to manage future tourism/recreation visits. Increasing provision and enhancements to IT/broadband services (e.g. aiding home working) and local multi-use centres (e.g. with food, health, library services etc.) may help to reduce car reliance for residents in the Wolds.

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 TWA1-15 in Table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Transport in the Wolds)

Community Strategies

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

East Midlands Planning Charter (2000)

Every Street Matters (2006)

Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 3 (2011)

Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 4 - Draft (2012)

Lincolnshire Rural Transport Partnership (1999)

Lincolnshire Streetscape Design Manual (2012)

Local Transport Act (2008)

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan (2011)

Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance

Supplementary Planning Guidance

(See Appendix 8)

7.3 Climate Change and Energy

The climate has undoubtedly been fluctuating throughout the passage of time, however it is the recent rate of change that is increasingly of concern at global, national and local levels. Despite differing viewpoints on the causes and likely impacts of global warming it is evident that weather patterns are changing markedly at home and abroad. Climate change is now widely recognised as posing one of the most serious long-term threats to the UK's natural environment because of both direct and indirect impacts upon our landscapes, wildlife and habitats and the services they provide, including water, food, and recreation.

Current (2013) government thinking puts an onus on the need for everyone to minimise the effects of climate change by reducing our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, a process called mitigation. There is also a need to anticipate and plan for the likely effects of future climate change on both the human and natural environment, a process known as adaptation. Central to reducing the rate of climate change is the need to move to a low carbon economy with minimal impacts on the natural environment and wider society. This requires the need to minimise our future energy demands, achieve greater efficiencies in energy transfer and use, including an increasing shift to renewable and clean energy for electricity, heat, production and transport. (Note: The UK currently has a binding commitment through the European Union to meet a renewable energy target of 15% of total energy supply by 2020).

The implications of climate change for the Lincolnshire Wolds will reflect those in many other areas of the East Midlands and the wider protected landscapes family. Continuing research and modelling scenarios will continue to inform and refine future predictions on the rate of climate change and the many challenges that lie ahead. Current estimates of the size and speed of change suggest that the 21st century is likely to see major impacts. Scenarios for Eastern England currently suggest the need to plan for: hotter and drier summers; drier springs and autumns; wetter and warmer winters; and more intense rainfall lasting for shorter periods. Such weather patterns are expected to generate more regular and extreme flood events.

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.

Defra launched its Total Environment pilot project in 2010. It may provide opportunities for testing future innovative land management that can deliver on a wide range of 'goods and services' in the AONB. The Lincolnshire-wide pilot is focusing specifically on the multiple benefits of flood prevention. Local flood alleviation/water storage schemes, for example on the River Lud or River Bain, have the potential to utilise the expertise of the Total Environment partnership network, in addition to other new initiatives including biodiversity offsets.

The Stern Review in 2002 highlighted that relatively modest investments now could prevent far more costly economic damage in the future. The climate is changing and this will have both physical and socio-economic impacts on the AONB. Partnership activity will be essential to secure effective local action to minimise climate change and will involve multiple delivery across the Plan as well as more specific actions that link directly with the objective and policies:

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 CCA1-9 in Table 4

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)

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Structure and Local Plans – Saved Policies and Emerging Local Plans/Supplementary Guidance

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)

(See Appendix 8)

8. Partnerships in the Wolds - Theme 5

Consultation and collaboration with the Wolds' communities, landowners and wider public has been a vital step in the production of the original Plan and on-going review. Its future success is reliant upon close working between all public bodies, organisations, community groups, landowners and individuals with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The increasing demands upon the landscape and the diverse range of changes in the area call for an increasing input from all sectors of the community.

The JAC (Appendix 1) will play a key role in continuing to seek consensus and co-ordinate the management of the many different functions and activities across the AONB. Joint working provides the best opportunity for successfully protecting and enhancing the strategic interests of the AONB through sharing expertise, pooling resources, establishing synergies and developing long-term commitment. The review of this Plan serves to identify existing and future areas of joint working between local authorities (including the Highway Authorities), and leading national agencies/bodies including Defra, Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) and also the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA).

It is important that the Plan complements other key related plans, strategies and initiatives (Appendix 8) and wherever possible objectives and policies have sought to complement these. Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent has helped to raise the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds both regionally and nationally and served to highlight the socio-economic needs of the area. The Local Strategic Partnerships, the Lindsey Action Zone, Select Lincolnshire, Campaign for the Farmed Environment, Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture, Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative, Heritage at Risk, Life on the Verge project and the developing Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, all provide many exciting avenues for future shared activity. Focused work groups such as the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, Wolds Heritage Working Group and Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire project will continue to support and strengthen the activities of the JAC partnership.

The unprecedented pressures on current and future public finances will undoubtedly result in some tough choices ahead for all relevant local authorities, public bodies and charitable organisations with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The NAAONB has been in regular dialogue with the government and has helped to secure a fresh commitment to future funding for AONB partnerships until at least 2014. With ongoing support from the relevant local authorities, this will enable the continuation of a dedicated AONB unit for the Lincolnshire Wolds (currently a role undertaken by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, hosted within Lincolnshire County Council's Environmental Services under the terms of a jointly signed Memorandum of Agreement).

The continued success of managing the AONB will depend on continuing to achieve real action and positive outcomes on the ground, increasingly through a landscape scale approach, as directed by the Natural Environment White Paper. Change is inevitable, considering the dynamic living and working nature of the landscape and the growing uncertainties through climate change. However, partnerships of local farmers, land managers, communities, the wider public and organisations represented on the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC will be crucial to successfully balancing environmental, social and economic progress with our collective duty to safeguard and enhance the unique natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds for generations to come as expressed in our shared vision.

Partnership Management Aspiration:

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

(Note: This partnership management aspiration is an overall statement of intent for all partners involved in the on-going delivery of the objectives, policies and resulting actions of this Plan.)

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 programme of work activity to help in the delivery of our policies and overriding objectives across 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 4). 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 4 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB 5 Year Action Plan 2013 – 2018

Theme 1: Protecting the Wolds Natural Heritage – Biodiversity (section 4.2.1)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
BO To protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire & UK Biodiversity Action Plans.	BP1 To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in line with Lincolnshire and UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and other national and international aspirations.	BA1 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
		BA2 Encourage community/voluntary biodiversity recording.	LNU LWT LWCS	Other relevant JAC partners	Ongoing
		BA3 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
	BP2 (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.	BA4 Implement Actions: GA3, WBA2, RSPA1-2, RSPA11, SA5, FWA6, FWA12, TCA10-11.	LWT NE	Other relevant JAC partners	Ongoing
	BP3 To support and encourage agricultural guidance and good practices that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the AONB.	BA5 Implement Actions: GA3, WBA3, HTA3, RSPA1-2, RSPA4, RSPA6, RSPA9, AFA1, SA4, FWA1, FWA5, FWA12.	NE	Defra	Ongoing
	BP4 To develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and maximise the benefits with wider socio-economic gains.	BA6 Implement Actions: GA4, GA6, VLA3, VLA7-8, WBA1, WBA8, HTA4, HTA6, RSPA5-7 & AFA3.	NE	GLNP	Ongoing

Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (section 4.2.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>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.</p> <p>(See also LBAP Lowland calcareous grassland HAP p80-84 Lowland meadows HAP p85-88)</p>	<p>GP1 To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore, extend or connect grasslands of high wildlife, historic and landscape value.</p>	<p>GA1 Restore and maintain favourable conservation status to all grassland SSSI sites in the AONB.</p>	NE	Landowners	All sites by 2018
		<p>GA2 Restore and maintain positive conservation management across all grassland Local Wildlife Sites.</p>	LWCS LWT	Landowners NE	90% by 2018
		<p>GA3 (see also FWA6) Promote, advise and encourage farmers and landowners uptake in agri-environment measures to increase the extent of biodiversity rich grasslands.</p>	NE	Landowners LWT	35 ha by 2018
	<p>GP2 To raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland.</p>	<p>GA4 (see also VLA8 & TCA12) Facilitate local events to increase awareness of the Wolds' grassland including via the God's Acre project.</p>	LWCS	LWT NE	3 events by 2018
	<p>GP3 To support initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands, including calcareous grassland.</p>	<p>GA5 (as FWA5) Encourage support networks for local graziers to aid future livestock management, including access to specialist advice on rare breeds.</p>	NE	LWCS Defra LWT	Ongoing
	<p>GP4 To promote to land managers the additional benefits of good grassland management including carbon sink, climate change and flood alleviation impacts.</p>	<p>GA6 (see also VLA8) Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities in tandem with GA4.</p>	LWCS	GLNP LCC LWT NE	1 event by 2018

Biodiversity - Grass Verges and Green Lanes (section 4.2.3)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>VLO To retain, restore and encourage positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadsides and green lanes.</p> <p>(Links with LBAP Lowland calcareous grassland HAP p80-84 Lowland meadows HAP p85-88)</p>	<p>VLP1 To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore, extend, or connect grass verges for their wildlife and landscape value.</p>	<p>VLA1 Continue to survey and monitor all Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) in the AONB.</p>	LWT	Local specialists LCC LNU NE	Ongoing on a three year cycle
		<p>VLA2 Restore RNRs to favourable conservation status.</p>	LWT	LCC NELC Landowners	100% by 2018
		<p>VLA3 (see also VLA7) Promote and support, via Life on the Verge, an online recording system to review the grass verge network.</p>	LWT	GLNP LWCS Local specialists Volunteers	100% surveyed by 2014
		<p>VLA4 Review and encourage suitable verge cutting management to enhance biodiversity, avoiding compromising vehicle sight lines.</p>	LCC NELC	LWT LWCS Landowners Specialist - contractors	50 km by 2018
		<p>VLA5 Minimise litter and fly-tipping on road verges and green lanes with an awareness campaign and deal with any incidents promptly.</p>	ELDC NELC WLDC	LCC EA	Ongoing + 1 x publicity campaign by 2015
		<p>VLA6 Maintain liaison between highway authorities, landowners, interest groups and local communities to minimise illegal vehicle encroachments.</p>	LCC NELC	Parish Councils Landowners Interest groups	Ongoing
	<p>VLP2 To raise awareness and local engagement in the natural and cultural heritage of grass verges and their</p>	<p>VLA7 (see also VLA3) Develop and support a network of volunteers via Life on the Verge initiative.</p>	LWT	GLNP LWCS Local specialists Volunteers	100+ volunteers trained by 2014

	contribution to green infrastructure and climate change adaption.	VLA8 (see also GA4 & GA6) Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities linking with wider grassland management.	LWT	GLNP LCC LWCS NE	1 event by 2018
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Biodiversity - Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (section 4.2.4)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>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.</p> <p>(Links with LBAP Trees and woodland section p131-149 Lowland mixed deciduous woodland HAP p135-138 Traditional orchards HAP p139-142 Wet woodland HAP p143-145 Wood-pasture and parkland HAP p146-149)</p>	<p>WBP1 To reinforce the existing pattern of woodland, seeking to increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland), accepting limited non-native planting for climate change adaptability.</p>	<p>WBA1 Encourage uptake of grants and specialist advice to aid sustainable management of existing woodlands for biodiversity.</p>	FC	Landowners LWCS NE	10 ha by 2018
		<p>WBA2 Promote uptake of grants to encourage appropriate new planting schemes, particularly adjacent to existing ancient semi-natural woodlands, and linking areas of existing habitats.</p>	FC	Landowners LWCS NE	15 ha by 2018
	<p>WBP2 To re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands. <i>(see also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland and 4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees)</i></p>	<p>WBA3 Promote uptake of grants and specialist advice to encourage complimentary neighbouring biodiversity habitats, including pasture and in-field crop options.</p>	NE	Landowners LWCS	5 ha by 2018
	<p>WBP3 To record the extent and location of small ancient woodlands as part of an integrated digital database for the Lincolnshire Wolds woodlands.</p>	<p>WBA4 Encourage continued mapping of the small woodland resource across the AONB including beech clumps.</p>	FC	LWCS NE	Ongoing
	<p>WBP4 To encourage and support woodland business schemes, of an appropriate scale, within the AONB.</p>	<p>WBA5 Encourage uptake of grants (FC, LAZ, RDPE & SDF) and specialist advice to support local woodland/timber businesses.</p>	FC	CLA Landowners LWCS	Ongoing
		<p>WBA6 <i>(see also FWA10)</i> Organise and promote a regular wood fair to market locally produced timber, enhancing links between businesses and potential customers.</p>	Business operators	FC LWCS	3 events by 2018
	<p>WBP5 To establish the extent and quality of traditional orchards and encourage suitable restoration, creation and management.</p>	<p>WBA7 Investigate the resources necessary and local interest to enable an on-the-ground follow-up of the current orchard resource, including extent of local varieties.</p>	LWCS	EoEAO Landowners LCC NE	Initial scoping complete by 2015
		<p>WBA8 <i>(see also FWA10)</i> Promote annual Apple Day and other local events to encourage wider awareness of orchards in the AONB.</p>	LWCS	CG EoEAO GLNP LCC	3 events promoted by 2018

Biodiversity - Hedgerows and Landmark Trees (section 4.2.5)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>HTO To protect, manage, enhance and where appropriate increase the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB.</p> <p>(Links with LBAP Hedgerows and hedgerow trees HAP p75-79)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>HTA1 Explore a voluntary surveying scheme to assist in identifying the extent and condition of species-rich and historically significant hedgerows across the AONB.</p>	LWT LWCS	EH GLNP Parish Councils	Review by 2015
		<p>HTA2 (see also HTA6) Continue to develop and record the community 'Trees of Our Time' project.</p>	LWCS	Parish Councils	Ongoing
		<p>HTA3 Provide specialist advice and encourage uptake of agri-environment grants and the AONB Small Grants Scheme to support existing hedgerow/landmark tree management.</p>	LWCS NE	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	6+ schemes supported per annum
	<p>HTP2 To raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows and landmark trees for wildlife, landscape and cultural values and encourage future community engagement.</p>	<p>HTA4 Continue to promote and encourage the tree warden scheme and training programme throughout the area.</p>	ELDC LCC NELC TCV WLDC	Parish Councils	Ongoing
		<p>HTA5 Continue to promote and review the local 'Tree and Woodland Advice Sheet' for landowners and public.</p>	LWCS	ELDC, FC LCC, LWT NELC, NFU WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>HTA6 (see also HTA2) Encourage and support local cultural events to celebrate and inspire interest in the special values of our hedgerow and tree resource.</p>	LWCS LWT	ELDC LCC NELC Parish Councils WLDC	3 events by 2018

Biodiversity - Rivers, Streams and Ponds (section 4.2.6)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target	
<p>RSPO To improve, where appropriate, the function and natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated landscape character and wetland habitats.</p> <p>(Links with LBAP Rivers and wetlands section p101-130 Chalk streams and blow wells HAP p105-108 Fens HAP p109-112 Ponds, lakes and reservoirs HAP p113-117 Rivers, canals and drains HAP p123-126 Springs and flushes HAP p127-130)</p>	<p>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. <i>(See also Section 4.2.7 Arable Farmland)</i></p>	<p>RSPA1 Promote and develop agri-environment schemes and woodland planting schemes to enhance the AONB's river valley landscapes where appropriate.</p>	LCSP NE	EA FC Landowners LCC LWCS	Ongoing	
		<p>RSPA2 <i>(see also SA5)</i> Create low-input managed land adjacent to the area's streams and rivers.</p>	LCSP	NE	75 km by 2018	
	<p>RSPP2 To rehabilitate streams and rivers to enhance their biodiversity where appropriate and consistent with flood defence and flood risk requirements.</p>	<p>RSPA3 Facilitate, support and promote the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) under the guidance of its Steering Group.</p>	AW EA NE LWCS	LWT WTT	Ongoing work programme review – 4 meetings per annum	
			<p>RSPA4 Influence and work with landowners to introduce a variety of in-stream and bankside enhancement measures.</p>	LCSP	EA GLNP	5 km of river restoration by 2018
	<p>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. <i>(See also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)</i></p>	<p>RSPA5 Facilitate a series of local events to increase public awareness of the Wolds' wetland heritage.</p>	LCSP	LWT	3 events by 2018	
			<p>RSPA6 Provide a range of specialist talks, demonstration events and guided walks under the LWCS/LCSP banner.</p>	LCSP	LWCS	12 activities by 2018
			<p>RSPA7 Seek to explore a range of approaches/activities to encourage interest from local businesses and schools.</p>	LCSP	AW EA WTT	2 activities by 2018
	<p>RSPP4 To establish current number, extent and condition of ponds, lakes and reservoirs.</p>	<p>RSPA8 Encourage continued mapping of the small wetland resource across the AONB, utilising volunteer assistance where possible.</p>	LWT	GLNP LCSP LWCS	Review completed by 2018	

	<p>RSPP5 To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds, lakes and wetlands for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.</p>	<p>RSPA9 Provide advice and encourage practical enhancements for pond, lake and wetland management and where appropriate creation.</p>	LCSP LWCS	EA LWT NE TCV	5 sites by 2018
	<p>RSPP6 Influence any future water storage schemes to encourage multiple benefits for landscape, flood prevention and wider ecosystem goods and services.</p>	<p>RSPA10 Provide relevant advice and support on any forthcoming storage or flood alleviation schemes.</p>	EA LCC	LCSP LWCS LWT NE	Ongoing
	<p>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.</p>	<p>RSPA11 Monitor and maintain the appropriate biological grading and flow rates of streams and rivers in the AONB.</p>	EA	LCSP	50% by 2015
<p>RSPA12 Seek to influence the development and implementation of all relevant Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies – CAMS and the Water Framework Directive to safeguard AONB interests.</p>		LCSP	AW JAC LWCS	Ongoing	
<p>RSPA13 Comment, monitor and respond to new implications from the Water Framework Directive.</p>		EA	AW JAC LCSP	Ongoing	
<p>RSPA14 Advise and support Chalk and Spilsby sandstone groundwater modelling/characterisation studies including possible impacts of siltation and diffuse pollution.</p>		EA	LCSP NE	Revised abstraction model produced by 2014	
<p>RSPA15 Review and where possible, minimise the presence of stream/river barriers to natural fish/aquatic migrations.</p>		LCSP EA	AW	Ongoing	

Biodiversity - Arable Farmland (section 4.2.7)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>AFO To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape.</p> <p>(Links with LBAP Farmland birds SAP p186-195)</p>	<p>AFP1 To encourage maximum take-up of agri-environment scheme options that provide enhanced conditions for arable farmland wildlife.</p>	<p>AFA1 (see also FWA1) Promote, advise and assist farmers and landowners on relevant agri-environment stewardship measures.</p>	Defra NE	CLA Landowners LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<p>AFP2 To improve awareness of commercial farming's 'good practices' that bring additional wildlife and landscape benefits.</p>	<p>AFA2 Explore and promote environmental management systems for farms, supporting local awareness raising events to share good practice.</p>	CLA NFU	Defra Landowners NE	Ongoing
		<p>AFA3 Continue to support and promote Open Farm Sunday events in the Wolds, encouraging engagement with harder to reach groups.</p>	CLA NFU	Landowners LWCS	1 event per annum
	<p>AFP3 To encourage surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife.</p>	<p>AFA4 Continue to identify selection of key sites for future monitoring of arable farmland - flora and fauna.</p>	LWCS NE	Landowners GLNP LNU LWCS	3 new sites by 2018
		<p>AFA5 Develop a subsequent monitoring programme utilising volunteers where possible.</p>	LNU	GLNP LWCS	Establish baselines by 2018

Earth Heritage - Geodiversity (section 4.3.1)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
GDO To protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological features of the AONB for enjoyment, education and research.	GDP1 To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the intrinsic interest of geological and geomorphological sites, including improved access.	GDA1 Work with partners to deliver, monitor and review the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Action Plan.	GLNP	LWCS NE	By 2015
		GDA2 Encourage and support the review and reclassification of RIGS sites to Local Geological Sites.	GLNP ELDC NELC WLDC	LWCS NE	By 2015
		GDA3 Maintain support and engagement with the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Group and GeoConservationUK.	LWCS	GLNP LWT NE	Ongoing
	GDP2 To increase awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological interest through general and site specific interpretation.	GDA4 Encourage and support appropriate on-site interpretation.	LGG	Landowners LWCS NE	3 sites by 2018
		GDA5 Continue to review and promote the Wonder of the Wolds Geology leaflet.	LWCS	LGG	Ongoing
		GDA6 Organise and support public events and field trips to promote the geodiversity resource in the Wolds.	LWCS	LGG	3 events by 2018

Earth Heritage - Soils (section 4.3.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
SO To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management and carbon storage.	SP1 To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the soil resource, anticipating future pressures from climate change.	SA1 Monitor the application of measures to safeguard and protect the soil resource.	CSF EA LCSP	IDB ELDC WLDC NELC	Annually
		SA2 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 LWCS NE	8 by 2018
		SA3 Review the current soils data base for the Wolds, encouraging research and monitoring projects to assess future condition.	EA LWCS NE	Local Universities	Review by 2015
	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 issues and services.	SA4 Organise and support events that raise awareness of different soil types and good practice for their management.	LWCS	LGG NFU CLA NE	3 by 2018
		SA5 (see also RSPA2) Explore land management techniques to aid soil protection and minimise water course sedimentation.	EA IDB	AW, CSF FC, LCSP, LWCS, NFU, NE	By 2018

Archaeology (section 4.4.1)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
AO To protect, appropriately manage and enhance archaeological and historic features within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.	AP1 To encourage and support research projects to help increase understanding of the Wolds' heritage, identifying sites of key importance and promoting better understanding of the complexity of risk, particularly climate change.	AA1 Continue to coordinate a specialist sub-group (the Heritage Working Group) to address the issues of archaeological sites and SMs at risk in the Wolds.	LWCS	EH HTL LCC NELC	3 meetings per annum
		AA2 Seek on-farm solutions to mitigate the impacts of cultivation upon important archaeological sites utilising the COSMIC programme of research.	EH	HTL LCC LWCS NE NELC	Ongoing
		AA3 Continue to offer support to local history groups for survey, information gathering and interpretation material.	LCC LWCS	HTL NELC	Support on request
		AA4 Seek to explore and understand direct and secondary climate change impacts upon the archaeological heritage of the AONB by engagement with current research.	EH	HTL LCC LWCS NELC	Ongoing
		AA5 Continue to support and guide the use of the countywide Historic Landscape Characterisation project as a management tool.	LCC	EH HTL NELC	Ongoing
		AA6 Investigate opportunities following on from the Historic Landscape Characterisation and Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk Project to develop Wolds community heritage projects.	HTL LWCS	LCC HaR HWG NELC	By 2014
	AP2 To raise awareness of archaeological heritage in the Wolds, working with farmers, landowners, land managers, utility companies and relevant contract workers to support positive management.	AA7 Promote opportunities for funding support for key sites including SMs identified as high risk by English Heritage.	EH	HTL LCC LWCS NELC	Ongoing

		AA8 Promote and encourage maximum take up of agri-environment scheme options that maintain and enhance archaeological sites, including those at risk.	LCC NELC	HTL EH NE LWCS Landowners	1 new HLS scheme per annum
		AA9 (see also BHA5) Utilise the Heritage at Risk training programme to encourage voluntary stewards and surveys across the Wolds.	HTL	LWCS HaR HWG	Ongoing
		AA10 (see also MA4) Support AONB focused data collection and review as part of the wider Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) and the Defra protected landscapes monitoring pilot.	NE Defra	EH HTL LCC LWCS NELC	By 2018
	AP3 To increase and enhance appropriate public access and interpretation 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)	AA11 Provide new access opportunities to suitable archaeological sites in the Wolds.	LCC NELC	EH HTL Landowners LWCS	3 sites by 2018
	AA12 Provide regular data to aid monitoring of the heritage interests and features of the AONB.	EH LCC NELC	HTL LWCS	Annually	

Built Heritage (section 4.4.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
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)	BHP1 To work with property owners, residents, owner occupiers and developers to encourage sympathetic design and management of buildings in keeping with local character.	BHA1 Continue to coordinate a specialist sub-group (the Heritage Working Group) to advise and support built heritage interests in the AONB.	LWCS	EH HTL LCC NELC	3 meetings per annum
		BHA2 Promote the development and use of Village Design Statements, Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans and Place Check surveys.	CL	ELDC LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		BHA3 (see also BHA9) Seek funding and external support to develop a design guide for the sympathetic re-use of redundant farm buildings and other distinctive structures such that their significance is retained.	EH LWCS	ELDC HTL LCC NELC WLDC	Reviewed by 2018
		BHA4 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	LWCS HTL	Ongoing
	BHP2 To raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds and increase understanding of its contribution to the AONB.	BHA5 (see also AA9) Actively promote the Heritage at Risk project encouraging wide community uptake in the voluntary Heritage Stewards scheme.	HTL	EH ELDC LCC LWCS	By 2018
		BHA6 Continue to support the development of Heritage at Risk partnership, including additional support via the Heritage Lottery Fund.	HTL	EH ELDC LCC LWCS	Ongoing
		BHA7 Seek funding and external support to develop a community project in the Wolds with particular focus on local distinctiveness.	EH LWCS HTL	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	By 2014

		BHA8 In consultation with landowners and/or property owners encourage and support on-site access and interpretation.	HTL	EH LCC LWCS NE NELC	3 sites by 2018
	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.	BHA9 (see also BHA3) Identify buildings which are redundant and have potential for refurbishment/re-use, and develop linkages with appropriate funding mechanisms e.g. HLS and RDPE.	LCC	ELDC HTL LWCS NE NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	BHP4 To encourage and support innovative new construction that uses local material/design and takes inspiration from local distinctiveness and character.	BHA10 (see also CCA6) Provide expert advice and stimulus to establish demonstration projects to highlight 'good practice' utilising eco-friendly and high quality design approach.	LCC	HTL ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	3 schemes by 2018
	BHP5 (see also Policy CCP4) To embrace appropriate technologies that lessen energy dependence on fossil fuels in a way that does not compromise the special landscape character of the AONB.	BHA11 To offer specialist advice and signposting to encourage wider use of relevant technologies, and innovative design solutions.	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	HTL LWCS	Ongoing

Theme 2: Living and Working in the Wolds

Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds (section 5.1)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
FWO To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets.	FWP1 To develop and promote agricultural good practice to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.	FWA1 (see also AFA1) Continue to promote, advise and assist farmers and landowners on relevant agri-environment stewardship measures.	Defra NE	CLA Landowners LCSP LWCS NFU	Ongoing
		FWA2 Continue to encourage and support farmers' awareness raising and networking events to help share good practice.	NFU CLA	Landowners LWCS NE	3 by 2018
	FWP2 To monitor and influence changes in regional, national and EU agriculture policy to bring benefits to farmers in the Wolds.	FWA3 Seek to influence national rural development policies to bring positive benefit to farmers in the Wolds.	JAC NAAONB	Defra CLA NFU	Ongoing
		FWA4 Support and utilise the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE), and similar initiatives, to encourage continuing financial incentives for 'on-farm' environmental measures.	CLA CFE NFU	LWCS LWT NE	Review by 2015
	FWP3 To encourage and support initiatives to sustain livestock farming in the AONB. (See also Section 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland)	FWA5 (as GA5) Encourage support networks for local graziers to aid future livestock management, including access to specialist advice on rare breeds.	NE	LWCS LWT	Ongoing
		FWA6 (see also GA3) Support, promote and encourage arable reversion to pasture where appropriate and multiple benefits result (e.g. biodiversity rich grasslands, heritage and soil protection, new habitat links).	NE	Defra CLA LWCS LWT	15 ha by 2018
		FWA7 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 2015

	<p>FWP4 To support farm diversification schemes appropriate to the AONB and which accord with planning policy. (See also Section 7.1 Planning)</p>	<p>FWA8 Work with landowners to promote and encourage high quality diversification projects utilising Lindsey Action Zone, RDPE and the Sustainable Development Fund for financial assistance.</p>	Defra LAZ LWCS	CLA NFU	Ongoing
		<p>FWA9 Recognise and support the role of local, small-scale and appropriate ventures to support the economy, seeking multiple benefits to the special qualities of the Wolds.</p>	ELDC NELC WLDC	CLA NFU	Ongoing
	<p>FWP5 To seek to maintain traditional rural activities that can protect, appropriately manage and enhance the landscape. (See Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)</p>	<p>FWA10 (see also WBA6, WBA8 & TCA8) Encourage promotional opportunities for wide range of rural businesses, developing contacts to support local markets and cultural events including links via the Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture.</p>	CLA LCC NFU	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>FWA11 (see also TCA8 & ARTA16) Promote common links with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Select Lincolnshire and Tastes of Lincolnshire initiatives to support the local economy.</p>	LCC	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC NFU WLDC	Ongoing
	<p>FWP6 To recognise and support the contribution of well managed field sport activities for the benefits to wildlife, rural character and the local economy.</p>	<p>FWA12 (see also ARTA9) Support and promote existing initiatives that contribute towards sustainable field sports activities.</p>	CLA	LWCS NFU	3 events by 2018
		<p>FWA13 Quantify the benefits of sustainable field sports activities to the AONB and raise awareness of these benefits.</p>	CLA	LWCS NFU	Ongoing
	<p>FWP7 To raise awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management.</p>	<p>FWA14 Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities to explore whole farm approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>	LWCS	CLA Defra EA NFU	1 event by 2018

Thriving Communities (section 5.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>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)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>TCA1 (see also PA2) Seek to encourage, influence and support Community Strategies, Parish and Neighbourhood Plans.</p>	CL LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>TCA2 Develop innovative projects via the Wolds Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Small Grant Scheme to support local businesses and communities.</p>	LWCS	CL Defra ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Approx. 6 schemes supported per annum
		<p>TCA3 (see also PA4) Continue to support, assist and promote a wide range of local community events, projects and voluntary activity.</p>	CL LWCS TCV	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>TCA4 Promote and encourage where appropriate affordable housing schemes within the Wolds.</p>	CL	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<p>TCP2 To encourage measures to reverse the declines in rural services and facilities and promote healthier lifestyles.</p>	<p>TCA5 Provide specialist advice and support to promote uptake of the various community grant schemes – Rural Gain Grant, Big Lottery Fund, local community grants etc.</p>	CL ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	LWCS	Ongoing
		<p>TCA6 Identify and promote fast broadband internet development appropriate to the AONB utilising the Onlincolnshire Broadband Project and Rural Community Broadband Schemes.</p>	LCC	ELDC NELC WLDC Internet service providers	Ongoing
		<p>TCA7 (see also ARTA10) Support and promote local services via website links and 'Making the Most of' leaflet updates.</p>	LWCS	Parish & Town Councils	Annual updates

	TCP3 To encourage existing and new businesses to have a high regard for environmental sustainability especially in the context of the AONB.	TCA8 (see also FWA10-11 & ARTA16) All partners to help promote the positive benefits of the unique AONB landscape to the local business sector.	JAC	Parish & Town Councils	Ongoing
		TCA9 Seek to maximise opportunities for environmental gains via the Sustainable Development Fund, Small Grants Scheme, Lindsey Action Zone and the Rural Development Programme for England.	LWCS	LAZ LCC	Ongoing
	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)	TCA10 (see also ARTA7) Influence and link with Green Infrastructure Strategic Plans to assist in the future development of multi-functional community green space.	ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	CLJPU LWT LWCS NE	Ongoing
		TCA11 (see also ARTA20 & 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 2018
		TCA12 (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.	CT LWCS	CCT GLNP LCC PCCs Parish Councils	Ongoing

Theme 3: Discovering the Wolds

Interpretation – Awareness raising (section 6.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
IO To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment of its special qualities. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism and 7.2 Transport in the Wolds)	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.	IPA1 Facilitate an interpretive walks and events programme across the Wolds.	LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC RA WLDC	12 walks/events per annum
		IPA2 Coordinate the production and distribution of a regular community focused AONB newsletter 'Wolds News'.	LWCS	Community - groups JAC Parish Councils	2 newsletters per annum
		IPA3 Influence and utilise a wide range of partnership events, (e.g. Heritage Open Days, Wolds Words Festival and the Churches Festival), to help celebrate the special qualities of the AONB.	ELDC LWCS HTL WLDC	Parish Councils	Ongoing
	IP2 To strengthen the profile of the AONB by highlighting the area's unique landscape character and sense of place to the general public.	IPA4 Continue to utilise and promote the Wolds AONB Book.	JAC	LCC	Ongoing
		IPA5 (see also IPA7) Use range of local, regional and national press and publications to highlight the special qualities of Wolds.	LWCS	JAC NAAONB	4 articles per annum
		IPA6 Promote and develop further the Wonders of the Wolds series and the Enjoy the Lincolnshire Wolds leaflet.	LWCS	Defra JAC	Ongoing
		IPA7 (see also IPA5) Work collaboratively with the National Association for AONBs and protected landscapes family (AONBs, National Parks and Heritage Coasts) promoting the Lincolnshire Wolds.	LWCS	JAC NAAONB NE	Ongoing

		IPA8 Highlight and celebrate the collective achievements of the AONB partnership through publication of an Annual Review to inspire further local action.	LWCS	JAC	1 per annum
	IP3 To encourage residents to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.	IPA9 Encourage and support research and delivery of local community interpretation, supported by Small Grants Scheme and other funding avenues.	CL HTL LCC LWCS	ELDC NELC WLDC	3 by 2018
		IPA10 Research the potential for developing a Wolds educational engagement programme with local schools.	LCC LWCS	JAC	Ongoing
		IPA11 <i>(see also ARTA6)</i> Explore future initiatives for utilising Tennyson and other cultural connections to help celebrate the distinctive and intrinsic qualities of the AONB.	ELDC LCC WLDC	JAC LWCS	Ongoing
		IPA12 Assist and support Wolds communities to undertake interpretation projects to celebrate the AONB.	LWCS	CL ELDC NELC LCC WLDC	3 by 2018

Access, Recreation and Tourism (section 6.3)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
ARTO To develop, promote and seek implementation of a wide range of sustainable access, recreation and tourism initiatives appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	ARTP1 To maximise access opportunities for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation. <i>(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)</i>	ARTA1 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
		ARTA2 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	CLA LAF Landowners LWCS NFU RA	Ongoing
		ARTA3 Work with landowners, residents and local businesses to review, develop and promote the Wolds Walks self-guided trails.	LWCS	Landowners LCC Parish Councils HTL	Ongoing
		ARTA4 Work with partners to review, develop 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
		ARTA5 Continue to coordinate the annual Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, including reviewing funding and format beyond 2013.	HTL	LAZ LWCS LWWF Steering Group RA Volunteers	1 Festival by 2013 + future business plan
		ARTA6 <i>(see also IPA11)</i> In consultation with landowners, jointly develop and publicise the Viking Way, Silver Lincs Way, the Tennyson Trail and other promoted routes.	LCC NELC RA	Landowners ELDC WLDC LWCS Parish Councils	Ongoing

		ARTA7 (see also TCA10) 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 2018
ARTP2 To provide co-ordinated, accurate and up-to-date information on the access, recreation and tourism opportunities within the Wolds AONB.		ARTA8 Regularly review and maintain visitor information via the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB website (www.lincswolds.org.uk) and Visit Lincolnshire website (www.visitlincolnshire.com) including relevant signposting to tourist destination services.	LCC LWCS	ELDC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		ARTA9 (see also FWA12) 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
		ARTA10 (see also TCA7) Maintain and update the 'Making the Most of' leaflet and webpage.	LWCS	ELDC LCC NELC Parish & Town Councils WLDC	5 by 2018
		ARTA11 Work with the National Association for AONBs on promotional initiatives using combination of local and national branding.	NAAONB LWCS	JAC	By 2016
		ARTA12 Jointly promote the Wolds through collaborative visitor guides and marketing schemes.	LCC LWCS NELC	ELDC WLDC Town Councils	Ongoing
ARTP3 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. (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 6.2 Interpretation)		ARTA13 Explore further opportunities to develop and promote the Wolds Gateway Walks series and equivalent cycle routes.	LWCS	ELDC LCC LNT NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		ARTA14 Support and assist communities in working towards achieving Walkers are Welcome status and maintaining the award once achieved.	LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC RA WLDC	2 by 2018

		ARTA15 Influence and support future development of Hubbard's Hills including opportunities to enhance existing access.	HHT	ELDC LCC LTC LWCS	By 2018
		ARTA16 (see also FWA11 & TCA8) Explore common links with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Select Lincolnshire and Tastes of Lincolnshire initiatives to enhance the visitor experience and support the local economy.	LCC	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC NFU WLDC	Ongoing
	ARTP4 To identify gaps in current access, recreation and tourism provision and support new measures and good practice to improve the infrastructure where compatible with the AONB. (See also Section 7 <i>Developing the Wolds</i>)	ARTA17 Enhance baseline information on visitor numbers, profiles and distribution across the AONB.	LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	By 2016
ARTA18 Encourage and support more access, recreational and tourism studies especially to supply information on local visitor experiences and specialised interest groups.		LCC	ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	By 2018	
ARTA19 (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	
ARTA20 (see also TCA11 & TWA9) Resources permitting, explore provision for appropriate additional car parking and viewing points in consultation with relevant landowners, highway authorities and community groups.		LCC NELC Parish Councils	ELDC LWCS WLDC	Ongoing	

Theme 4: Developing the Wolds

Planning and Development Management (section 7.1)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
<p>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)</p>	<p>PP1 To protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness in the highest quality of design for new development and re-development.</p>	<p>PA1 Comment on significant planning applications or those likely to set a precedent on sites within and adjacent to the AONB.</p>	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>PA2 (see also TCA1) Encourage and support the production and use of village/parish statements, and neighbourhood plan documents, recognising and reinforcing local character and distinctiveness in design.</p>	CLJPU ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	CL EH LWCS NE Parish Councils	Ongoing
	<p>PP2 To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support the local economy and community.</p>	<p>PA3 Gauge interest in running a seminar for planners/developers on the subject of design issues and good practice pertinent to the AONB.</p>	CLJPU ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	EH LWCS NE Parish Councils	By 2014
	<p>PP3 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.</p>	<p>PA4 (see also TCA3) Support the work of the Rural Housing Enablers specific to AONB community needs via the Living Lincolnshire affordable housing partnership.</p>	CL	CLJPU ELDC LCC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
	<p>PP4 To minimise damage to the AONB landscape as a result of mineral working and associated activity.</p>	<p>PA5 Comment on potentially significant mineral application proposals likely to impact upon the AONB.</p>	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>PA6 Provide specialist advice and support for landscape restoration and alternative uses following the cessation of mineral extraction.</p>	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing

	<p>PP5 Promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.</p>	<p>PA7 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.</p>	<p>LWCS NE</p>	<p>CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>PP6 To recognise and protect the AONB night sky and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.</p>	<p>PA8 Raise awareness and continue to review the baseline data for tranquillity and light levels across the Wolds.</p>	<p>CPRE LWCS NE</p>	<p>CLJPU Defra ELDC LCC NELC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>PA9 Liaise with planning authorities and relevant developers regarding proposals that may impact upon general high levels of tranquillity and night skies.</p>	<p>CPRE LWCS NE</p>	<p>CLJPU ELDC LCC NELC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>PP7 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.</p>	<p>PA10 Seek to influence Local Development Frameworks to recommend the general presumption against wind energy schemes likely to have a significant impact upon the AONB.</p>	<p>LWCS JAC NE</p>	<p>CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>PA11 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.</p>	<p>LWCS NE</p>	<p>CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>PP8 To support general waste reduction measures and recycling initiatives that are in accordance with the special requirements of the AONB.</p>	<p>PA12 To advise and assist the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership in respect of AONB objectives.</p>	<p>LCC LWCS NE NELC</p>	<p>CLJPU CPRE ELDC WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>PA13 Seek to encourage innovative community-led waste reduction, management and recycling projects.</p>	<p>LCC NELC</p>	<p>CLJPU CPRE ELDC LWCS NE WLDC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>PA14 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.</p>	LWCS NE	CLJPU CPRE ELDC LCC NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>PA15 In consultation with all statutory agencies, relevant local planning authorities and local communities investigate the options of a Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary review.</p>	Defra JAC NE	CLJPU ELDC LCC NAAONB NELC WLDC	By 2018
	<p>PP10 (see also Policy CCP4) To develop a comprehensive assessment approach to securing opportunities for renewable energy provision across the AONB and its wider setting.</p>	<p>PA16 Explore and encourage innovative sustainable energy projects that are compatible with the special landscape qualities of the AONB.</p>	CLJPU ELDC WLDC NELC LCC	LWCS	Ongoing

Transport in the Wolds (section 7.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
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.	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. <i>(See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities and 6.2 Interpretation)</i>	TWA1 <i>(as CCA9)</i> Explore and support a programme of partnership activity to encourage public transport and community transport initiatives.	LCC Bus operators NELC	ELDC LWCS NELC RA WLDC	By 2016
		TWA2 Seek to maintain support to the Wolds Community Bus and similar schemes.	LCC LWCS NELC	ELDC NELC Parish Councils WLDC	Ongoing
		TWA3 Maximise public transport opportunities when organising and promoting events and walks.	HTL LWCS RA	ELDC NELC Parish Councils WLDC	10 events by 2018
		TWA4 Review and influence future Local Transport Plans and Transport Strategies working towards diversity of local sustainable transport solutions.	LCC NELC	ELDC LWCS Parish Councils WLDC	As required
	TWP2 To support and encourage traffic management that will promote safe and attractive walking, cycling and riding in the AONB.	TWA5 Continue to support and promote the established InterConnect Bus Walks using Lincoln - Skegness & Lincoln - Grimsby services.	Bus operators LCC NELC	LWCS ELDC WLDC Parish Councils	Ongoing
		TWA6 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 NFU	5 new or updated routes by 2018
	TWP3 To encourage transport infrastructure improvements to support appropriate tourism development, ensuring schemes are sympathetic to the landscape and character of the AONB	TWA7 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

		TWA8 (see also ARTA19) Encourage appropriate equestrian tourism, including opportunities from the Lindsey Trail horse carriage route.	LCC LAZ	CLA ELDC LWCS NELC WLDC	Ongoing
		TWA9 (see also TCA11 & ARTA20) 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
TWP4 To encourage a consistent approach to the use of road signage, furniture, and maintenance to promote and respect the character of the AONB.	TWA10 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	
	TWA11 Continue to support, promote and develop the Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire Project to enhance historic signage across the AONB.	LCC LWCS NELC	HTL Local - volunteers Parish Councils	Ongoing	
TWP5 To support and encourage the development of an integrated, well maintained and used public rights of way network, maximising the opportunities for achieving access for all.	TWA12 Advise and assist Mid-Lincolnshire Access Forum and Rights of Way Improvement Plans in respect of AONB objectives.	LCC NELC	LAF LWCS JAC	Ongoing	
	TWA13 Engage positively to help support and promote permissive and official public rights of way improvements to help enhance the network.	LCC NELC	LAF LWCS JAC	When required	
	TWA14 Continue to organise and promote an innovative events and guided walks programme.	LWCS RA	ELDC LCC HTL NELC WLDC	Ongoing – 12+ events per annum	
TWP6 To encourage the Highway Authorities to adopt traffic management measures and schemes commensurate with AONB designation and rural environments.	TWA15 Liaise with highway authorities to minimise the urbanisation of country and village roads in the AONB – utilising Streets for All.	LCC NELC	LWCS Parish Councils	Ongoing	

Climate Change and Energy (section 7.3)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
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.	CCP1 To establish, monitor and review key indices for monitoring the possible effects of climate change.	CCA1 Review and utilise research and monitoring for environmental/landscape resources linking with proposed actions BA1, VLA3, HTA1, RSPA10, RSPA13, AFA4-5, SA1, SA3, & AA4.	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS	Ongoing
	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.	CCA2 Research, encourage and support landscape scale enhancements linking with actions BA3, WBA2-A3, RSPA1-2, AFA1-2, SA2, SA5, FWA14, AA4, AA7-8, TCA10, ARTA7, PA7.	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS	Ongoing
			CCA3 <i>(see also CCA5)</i> Research, support and encourage changes to land management practices to help prepare the AONB's ecosystem services for the future.	FC NE	EA LWCS GLNP
	CCP3 <i>(see also Policy BP2)</i> To support and develop practices that promote healthy, well-connected and managed landscapes and ecosystems resilient and flexible to the effects of climate change.	CCA4 Explore opportunities for landscape scale habitat restoration via Defra's Total Environment pilot project – which for Lincolnshire is seeking multiple benefits via flood alleviation schemes.	LCC Defra	EA LWCS JAC NELC NE	Ongoing
			CCA5 <i>(see also CCA3)</i> Encourage and support landscape scale habitat enhancements linking with CCA2.	GLNP JAC	EA LWCS NE
	CCP4 <i>(see also Policy BHP5 & PP10)</i> 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.	CCA6 <i>(see also BHA10 & TWA1-4)</i> 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 - businesses LWCS	Ongoing

		<p>CCA7 AONB unit (LWCS) to undertake a pilot carbon assessment and reduction plan in partnership with LCC host authority policies and working operations.</p>	GL LCC LWCS	JAC	By 2014
		<p>CCA8 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.</p>	JAC LCC NELC	CL ELDC FC Local - businesses WLDC	Ongoing
		<p>CCA9 (as TWA1) Explore and support a programme of partnership activity to encourage public transport and community transport initiatives.</p>	LCC Bus operators NELC	ELDC LWCS NELC RA WLDC	Ongoing

Monitoring (section 9.2)

Objective	Policies	Proposed Actions	Potential Lead Partners	Potential Others	Proposed Target
MO To monitor the Management Plan activities and condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	MP1 To monitor the performance of the action plan.	MA1 Collate, report and review information against annual work programmes for LWCS and JAC partners	JAC LWCS	GLNP	Annually
		MA2 Explore the opportunities of an interactive website based reporting tool to aid the recording of relevant activity across the Wolds.	LWCS	JAC Parish Councils GLNP	By 2015
	MP2 To monitor the condition of the AONB.	MA3 Continue to develop the Wolds AONB evidence baseline for key condition indicators as detailed within the accompanying SEA Report. (www.lincswolds.org.uk)	LWCS	Defra EA NE All LAs GLNP	Ongoing
		MA4 (see also AA10) Actively engage with the national Protected Landscapes Monitoring Project (operating as one of four pilot areas) to review and establish headline indicators/measures against: natural beauty; recreation; ecosystem services; big society and sustainable communities.	Defra EH ENPAA NE NAAONB	LWCS	By 2014

9.2.3 Table 5: State of the AONB indicators

Monitoring the condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB			
Resource	Theme	Database menu	Data source
COUNTRYSIDE AND LANDCOVER	Landscape features	Farmland composition: ratios and % change Mixed farm ratios Traditional arable types Average farm sizes	Defra
		Extent, condition and change in characteristic features (e.g. hedgerows, beech clumps, traditional orchards, green lanes and verges etc - as identified in Table 1)	LWCS
		Extent and condition of woodland under positive management Woodland grant schemes	FC
	Scenic landscape character	Photographic: fixed point monitoring of key views and features – to include samples across the four different landscape character areas	LWCS
	Land use and development	% land managed under higher-tier agri-environment schemes	NE
		Number of consents for conversion from rural to other uses (housing, non-agricultural) Number of consents resulting in incremental development	LAs , LWCS
	Light pollution	% of AONB affected by light pollution	CPRE
	Tranquillity	% of AONB disturbed by constant traffic noise (road, air)	CPRE
CULTURAL AND VERNACULAR	Scheduled Monuments	Number of SMs and % at Risk	EH
	Historic landscapes	Number on Register/LA register and condition	EH, LAs
	Historic parks and gardens	Number on Register/LA register and condition	EH, LAs
	Listed buildings	Number and % at risk, number in positive management	EH, LAs
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT	Biodiversity	Number and condition of designations (SSSI, LWS, LGS etc)	NE, LAs, GLNP
	Air quality	Local air quality against national trend	EA
	Water quality	Rivers A and B Pollution incidents	EA
SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND QUALITY OF LIFE	Awareness	% of residents aware that they are in AONB	LWCS
		% of visitors aware they are in AONB	LWCS
		Public concern for countryside against national average	NE
	Enjoyment	% of PRoW that are easy to use and signposted	LAs
		% of AONB open to public for public access and recreation purposes	LAs
	Land-based economy	% of AONB under sustainable land management against national % Agricultural economy within AONB against national trends	Defra
% increase in visitor numbers % increase in visitor-related employment		LAs LRO	

	Community	Geographic availability of services against national average Access to affordable housing against national average Village shops, POs, halls etc, Public transport links (train, bus)	NE CL
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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-base for the area has been generally poor 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 the Lincolnshire Research Observatory. 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 Table 5 to help monitor important elements of the AONB. 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.

These 'State of the AONB' indicators have been selected on both suitability and current availability for collection. Where limited data is currently available for the AONB as a specific unit, this has been included within Table 1 and it is proposed that data collection for indicators will commence during the early years of the Plan. The early collation of trend data, for example from relevant census and Defra sources will be a priority to help assess long-term trends. The LWCS will help to co-ordinate the development of condition monitoring with a number of partners identified in Table 5 providing relevant databases.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is one of four areas that have been trialling a national framework of indicators for monitoring the condition of both AONBs and National Parks. The project has been taken forward in joint partnership between Defra, Natural England, the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) and English Heritage. Depending on the final conclusions and recommendations of the monitoring project, Table 5 will be revised accordingly to take account of the most expedient national sources of data and enhance alignment with local data collections from the protected landscapes family.

9.2.2 Performance Monitoring

Performance monitoring is necessary to monitor progress of the Plan. An 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:

MPO1 **To monitor the performance of the action plan.**

MPO2 **To monitor the condition of the AONB.**

Actions: See MA1-4 on Table 4

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 regularly five year intervals. A formal review of the Plan will commence during 2017 to enable effective participation and consultation with partners and stakeholders.

Appendix 1 – Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Membership

Membership as December 2012

Joint Management Group
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>
Other Members:
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Churches Together (CT)
Community Lincs (CL)
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
English Heritage (EH)
Environment Agency (EA)
Forestry Commission (FC)
Groundwork Lincolnshire (GL)
Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL)
Lincolnshire Sports Partnership (LS)
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)
National Farmers Union – East Midlands (NFU)
National Trust (NT)
Ramblers - Lincolnshire (RA)
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) - <i>previously BTCV</i>
Advisory Members:
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – <i>core funder under the terms of the local Memorandum of Agreement.</i>

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 co-ordinate 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 co-ordinate 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 Officers' Working Group - OWG

- A steering group for the LWCS setting production targets, funding levels for projects and budget limits.
- To provide technical support to the LWCS.
- To clear all technical reports prior to distribution.
- To support the LWCS Manager in setting annual work programmes and managing their delivery.
- To support the LWCS Manager in the production and delivery of a five-year forward plan.

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), Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Panel, and the Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL) Project.

Appendix 3 - Local Landscape Character Areas

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. Iron stone mining in 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 plateaux

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 18th and 19th 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. Stenigot, Harrington, Langton)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson birth place and childhood home at Somersby
Archaeological interest on the ridges (e.g. barrows, tumuli, cultivation terraces)
Early medieval churches and moated sites (e.g. Somersby, Bag Enderby, Brinkhill, Langton)
Wet alder carr woodlands (e.g. Salmonby carr, New England Valley)

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. The 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 - Questionnaire Results (summary) - 2003

During April—July 2003, residents and visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds completed our Wolds News Questionnaire.

Which of the following special features of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB contribute most to its natural beauty?

Open hill tops and sweeping views	80%	368
Wooded slopes and valleys	47%	218
Attractive villages	45%	208
Ancient lanes and trackways	33%	153
Farmed landscape	29%	133
Wide grass verges	18%	84
Archaeological and historic features	16%	72
River valleys	14%	63
Geological features	7%	30
Downland	3%	16

What do you value most about the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

Scenery and views	78%	361
Peace and quiet	62%	287
Opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, etc	44%	203
Wildlife	38%	173
Attractive villages	16%	75
Farming life	16%	73
Locally sourced food and drink	15%	67
Surrounding market towns	13%	62
Historic features	10%	47
Visitor attractions	3%	16
Cultural connections	3%	15

Which of the following current issues should be of most concern to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

Loss of scenic beauty through changes to landscape features (loss of woodland, neglect of hedgerows, reduction in grazing etc)	64%	294
Impact of unsightly development, (poorly designed buildings, telecommunication masts, pylons etc)	60%	277
Decline in wild plants and animals	35%	159
Decline in village services, including public transport	34%	157
Threats to rural way of life	31%	143
Uncertainties in farming and possible impact on the landscape	28%	129
Increased intrusion from noise and light pollution	22%	102
Loss of historic and archaeological features	8%	37
Lack of information about places to visit, and facilities	7%	33
Low regional/national profile as a tourist venue	7%	32
Visitor pressure in popular locations	4%	18

Which of the following activities do you undertake most frequently within the Wolds AONB?

Walking	73%	338
Visiting villages and churches	41%	189
Looking at wildlife	36%	165
Eating out at pubs and tea rooms	33%	150
Car tours	32%	146
Visiting local attractions	23%	108
Cycling	16%	72
Organised walks and rides	8%	39
Hunting /shooting	6%	26
Horse riding	5%	23
Fishing	2%	11

How can we best protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds?

Prevent unsightly development	60%	275
Support the rural communities	52%	238
Support sustainable farming	48%	220
Develop environmental/landscape enhancement projects	34%	158
Raise awareness of the Wolds	30%	139
Improve public transport and other rural services	27%	123
Encourage farm diversification	20%	94
Promote appropriate tourism and recreation	15%	71

What are the most important social and economic issues for The Wolds communities?

Local employment	63%	292
Local services (schools, shops, public transport)	62%	287
Affordable housing	53%	246
Threat to rural way of life	48%	221
Loss of traditional rural crafts	22%	100
General ageing population	20%	92
Public health	12%	54

What do you value most about the Wolds surrounding market towns?

Locally distinctive shops	80%	364
Regular markets	71%	325
Cultural events	42%	193
Schools/educational opportunities	24%	110
Health facilities	21%	98
Sports/leisure facilities	10%	48
Entertainment	7%	33

Do you think the Wolds AONB boundary needs to be reviewed?

Yes	24%	111
No	64%	293

Questionnaire Summary

<u>Origin of Questionnaire</u>		<u>Age Groups</u>	
Newsletter	325	0-17	16
Show or event	114	18-25	7
Website	21	26-44	68
Total	460	45-64	202
		65 +	95

Appendix 5 – Community Consultation (Executive Summary) - 2003

Prepared by Roger Parsons, independent consultant, September 2003

Introduction

1.1 During the summer of 2003 an independent consultation exercise was undertaken culminating in a series of village meetings in July at Tetford, Binbrook, Rothwell, Skendleby and Goulceby.

1.2 The community consultation focused on local people, and was open-ended and wide-ranging. Contributors were encouraged to talk through issues that they saw as relevant to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

1.3 Underpinning every aspect of this consultation is the importance of the beauty, tranquillity and significance of the AONB, both in terms of geology, archaeology, history, wildlife and the working agricultural landscape.

2. Analysis of the Comments

2.1 In order to present the comments as clearly as possible, the convention of a PEST Analysis has been used to display responses. This gathers the information under four headings, Political, Economic, Social and Technological. An additional category has been introduced to extend this familiar analysis to include Environmental matters relating to the AONB.

3. Findings and Recommendations for Action

While keeping the PESTE format, this section will be further subdivided into "Findings" and "Recommendations". The **Findings** section highlights the comments made by contributors and the **Recommendations** section sets out options for consideration.

4.1 Political

Findings:

Planning: A recurring theme of this consultation is apparent lack of public confidence in the planning process, matched by real frustration and concern that planning procedures are becoming less fair, open and understandable.

Policing: Rural Policing was raised at most meetings, with fears expressed over the low density of police cover and the perceived frequency of rural crime. This view has been countered by the Police establishment, but public concern remains strong.

Housing: Affordable Rural Housing remains a very important issue. Local young people cannot afford highly-priced houses and they drift into the towns or further afield. Within many communities there are fewer young people to keep things going, fewer people willing and able to play a part in taking their communities forward.

Recommendations:

Planning: The issue of consistency, transparency and public confidence in the planning process needs to be addressed.

Rural Policing: Public concerns at perceived shortcomings need to be seen to be addressed and improvements made which will promote confidence and trust.

Housing: The issue of affordable and appropriate housing needs to be kept under review. Where viable options can be identified, the JAC may be able to assist in a number of ways, to highlight local needs and advise on the location and type of housing.

4.2 Economic

Findings:

Employment and Tourism: Employment and Tourism are key economic issues in the Wolds AONB. Support for businesses and the need for a sympathetic approach to the planning needs of local employers was mentioned by a number of local business-people.

Agriculture: Some contributors expressed the hope that changes in the agricultural sector, in particular the CAP, may offer important new opportunities, especially such schemes as CSS and the ERDP. Climate change may also have an influence on the future of agricultural development.

Transport: Rural transport was highlighted time and time again as a key issue for residents and visitors alike. How successful would an integrated rural transport system be? The issue is complex and involves encouraging people out of their cars and onto a network with which most are no longer familiar and which has a history of unreliability.

Access to Advice and Information: It was clear from many discussions that communities often find it difficult to identify where to turn for specific information.

Recommendations:

Employment: The management plan could consider the issue of support for local employers; local businesses such as pubs, shops and holiday facilities for example; and self-employment in traditional occupations and also in more technological sectors.

Tourism: Village Services: Good access to local information on transport and accommodation is needed. Strategies and funding are needed to support village "packages" for visitor services, such as car parks, toilets and information centres.

Agriculture: The JAC is uniquely placed to identify and encourage projects in the agricultural sector which would promote visitor access to the countryside to archaeological sites or areas of biological importance within the AONB.

Integrated Rural Transport: The issue is closely linked to employment, education, health and recreation, and including trades and businesses based on tourism, equestrian pursuits and cycling.

Advice and Information: Perhaps the most significant contribution that can be made by the JAC and the LWCS is to act as a "brokerage" for information and support in grant applications.

4.3 Social

Findings:

Quality of Life: The issue of "rural isolation" underlies many of the comments made during the consultation. There is a need to make sure that the communities of the Wolds have the opportunity to remain viable and have their perspective taken into account.

Scenic Beauty: Again and again people have referred to the positive aspects of living in the Wolds, the community spirit, the quiet and beauty of the villages and landscape, the skies, the wildlife. This is matched with concerns over where their young people will be able to settle, the lack of employment opportunities for them and the limitations of public transport, if indeed it is available. In relation to scenic beauty, several people identified poor quality lighting as an issue and favour lighting which is less intrusive and prone to polluting the night sky.

Access to the Countryside: Although responsibility for footpaths falls outside the direct responsibility of the Countryside Service, this issue was one of the most frequently raised topics and is clearly linked to the enjoyment of the area for local people and visitors.

Road Safety: The issue of dangerous driving was mentioned on a number of occasions as a cause for concern and as having a negative impact on the local quality of life and the attractiveness of the area for visitors.

Community Involvement: There is regret at the loss of many community facilities, the village post office and shop for example, key centres of community contact. Facilities for young people and children are often very limited. Overall there was an impression given that fewer people were willing and able to play a part in community development.

Recommendations:

Quality of Life: Both the JAC and the Countryside Service could play a key role in identifying and negotiating new community opportunities.

Scenic Beauty: The management plan should recommend policy with regard to light pollution within the AONB, making it clear that a low glare, low pollution regime should be adopted and that any future street lighting is adopted in relation to specific community needs.

Access to the Countryside: Options include routes for permissive paths and bridleways, cycleways, circular routes, sign posts and the associated linkups with public transport.

Road Safety: One area where positive action might be taken would be in relation to safely-located viewpoints and stopping places; the management plan could review this and make recommendations.

Community Involvement: The management plan will need to set out how best to strengthen such communication, to inform and assist communities to organise themselves to plan and implement schemes that meet their future needs, be it opportunities for the older residents, young people, children, visitors or special interest groups.

4.4 Technological

Findings:

Computer Technology: Fast Internet access is key to a great deal of home-based small businesses and could offer significant new opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises across the AONB, with schools and individuals benefiting from this resource too.

Wind Farms: [and to a lesser extent, pylons, radio masts and similar hardware] remain a topic for debate in the light of current developments. Opposing views have been expressed, some love the turbines, others hate them! Much still needs to be learned about the costs and benefits.

Recommendations:

Computer Technology: The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.

Wind Farms: As now, the JAC and Countryside Service can highlight the landscape value of the AONB and assess the potential impact that any proposed scheme may have on the character of the Wolds.

4.5 Environmental

Findings:

Protection of the Landscape: Protecting and enhancing the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB remains the principal objective for Wolds residents, visitors and the Countryside Service and its partners.

Biodiversity: Past experience has made many people aware of the loss of wildlife and habitats in the AONB. Biodiversity is a term with which people are now more familiar and there is a desire to see a greater variety of wildlife thriving in the Wolds.

Habitats - Protection and Restoration: Although sometimes expressed in rather simplistic terms, the need to protect and encourage wildlife, in particular by protecting local habitats, is a message which seems well understood.

Hedges and Trees: Most people enjoy trees and believe tree planting to be a good thing, but there is also a need to foster a better understanding of where to plant trees [i.e. not on scarce native grassland] and how best to manage native species.

Pollution: Fly tipping, litter and related pollution were highlighted as cause for concern, and very harmful to the image of the Wolds AONB, as was the lesser problem of graffiti.

Protected Sites: Several people expressed the need to protect threatened places, in particular archaeological sites such as "lost villages", landscape features such as green lanes [often damaged by 4-wheel-drive vehicles] and places of biological importance such as roadside verges.

Recommendations:

Protection of the Landscape: Action points and objectives for protecting and enhancing natural beauty of the Wolds landscape are essential.

Biodiversity: The management plan could include guidelines for protection and reinstatement of hedges and grassland, including roadside verge areas. It should make the case against the planting of non-native material [cultivated bulbs for example] and the need to work within the framework of Wildlife Law and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Habitats: There could be a review of policies and strategies in relation to habitat protection and management in the light of future changes in agricultural practice and climate change.

Hedges and Tree Protection: The issue of tree planting and management should be reviewed, as woodland should be considered as only one of many conservation options for native habitats.

Pollution: The management plan should mention the issue of litter, fly tipping, graffiti and related pollution, with a recommendation that a policy of prompt remedial action and, where appropriate, prosecution, should be followed.

Protected Sites: There should be a policy framework within the management plan to cover the protection and management of archaeological and geological sites, nature reserves and historic locations and "view points." There is great potential here for identifying, protecting and highlighting such resources.

4.6 Conclusion:

The forthcoming management plan for the AONB has the primary focus of protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The findings from the community consultations have highlighted many of the social and economic issues that currently affect the Wolds communities, or may do in the future. Some of these issues inevitably fall outside the brief of the JAC. The challenge will now be to ensure a future that will sustain and enhance both the landscape and the communities of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

[© August 2003. Final version 12/9/03. This Executive Summary was prepared for the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service by Roger Parsons, MinstF. - an independent Lincolnshire-based consultant with many years experience of rural development work]

Appendix 6a - Public Consultation Proforma - 2011

Do you have any comments on the general style of the revised AONB Management Plan or its accompanying Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA)? *Please note the final AONB Management Plan will have a limited print run but will be widely available in CD and PDF formats. The full SEA will be presented as a summary report. An Executive Summary of the final Revised Plan will be available.*

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: Working Together'?

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?

Appendix 6b: Summary of Written Responses to Public Consultation Sept – Nov 2011.

Note: The tables below are a short precise of individual public consultation comments received. The full responses are all publicly available from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and were reviewed in their entirety during January - April 2012 (see also Appendix 6a – Public Consultation Proforma).

Reference	Name	Summary of comments	Summary of response / commentary
1	David Start Director Heritage Lincolnshire	Page 50 , 2nd bulletin point, typing error – should this not be European?	No need to change to European but partially revised changing of England Rural Development Programme to the Rural Development Programme for England (the funding for the LAZ comes via the RDPE).
2	Hugh Nott Tealby Parish Council	Maintain/increase rural population through grants for friendly business, encourage work from home through better broadband. Encourage quiet enjoyment of Wolds, introduction of kites, ospreys. Grants for owl boxes. Pony trekking. Wildflower seed for verges.	Some good points made on future actions and general agreement on the importance of new technologies including enhanced access to broadband – see Action TCA6. The Plan seeks to safeguard a future programme of local grants via the SDF and Small Grants Scheme (Action TCA2 & TCA9) + publicising links and support to wider relevant grant programmes (Action TCA5). Life on the Verge Project will assist in respect of enhancing grass verges – wildflower seeding projects could be used in some situations & is one of several management options. Long term maintenance and cutting programmes remains an important issue for safeguarding the biodiversity of road verges (aspects broadly covered via Policy VLP1). Point noted on pony trekking. The spirit of the Plan is very much on developing and promoting access for all and supporting a range of sustainable rural businesses. Current focus of partnership resources for equestrian activity is on developing and promoting the new horse carriage route as detailed in Action ARTA19. Regarding suggestion for the introduction of kites, ospreys and other birds of prey no species introductions are currently planned

			<p>– any schemes would need very careful planning and considerable dialogue with local landowners, specialists and government agencies. The current priority is on encouraging wider habitat improvements in-line with the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Some local raptors have benefited from additional nest/roost boxes and it is hoped such projects may continue through the AONB grants programme. .</p>
3	Andy Roberts Burwell resident	<p>Promote/tolerate new schemes for energy reduction and renewables – drew attention to link to Yorkshire Dales initiatives.</p>	<p>Special workshop on renewables in the Wolds held at Binbrook Village Hall on 16th November 2011 to aid discussion on future energy reduction generation schemes appropriate to the AONB. AONB partnership will seek to aid a joint collaborative approach between all relevant bodies.</p> <p>The revised Plan includes a complete new section on tackling Climate Change and Energy (7.3) issues. Objective CCP4 seeks to encourage & promote low carbon energy reduction/generation schemes that are conducive to the special qualities of the AONB.</p>
4	Paul Chaplin Trees & Woodlands Officer (1) NELC	<p>No reference to parkland landscapes associated with country estates. Section 4.2.5 should be referenced within 4.2.3. Would be surprised if no Elm hedgerow in the Wolds, as Dutch Elm disease resistant varieties are now being introduced to the country – highlight grants available to plant disease resistant varieties. Amend wording to 4.2.5 par 3, line 4, to recommend proactive approach to managing trees decline, focusing support to landowners and encourage regular surveying, monitoring, active and sensitive management. Highlight importance of enclosure hedges as part of designed landscape.</p>	<p>Some helpful pithy comments especially for the trees/woodland and heritage sections of the Plan.</p> <p>Revised wording of Dutch Elm sentence in section 4.2.4 to reflect more recent return of resistant specimens.</p> <p>Agree on slight change in wording of 4.2.5. to highlight emphasis on management approaches for maturing tree stock. Support additional request to highlight the significance of the enclosure hedgerows within the landscape of the Wolds.</p> <p>Recognise the current gap in the coverage of parkland landscapes in the current Plan. Suggest that this is incorporated within Section 4.2.5 - to read Hedgerows, Parkland and Landmark Trees. Some additional text has been now been incorporated within this section.</p>
5	Andy Smith Senior	<p>Looks fine to me.</p>	<p>Response welcomed.</p>

	Drainage Eng. NELC		
6	Jack Williamson Skendleby Parish Clerk	<p>How to read the Management Plan – sections not identified by page numbers.</p> <p>Light pollution & Wind farm threat scarcely mentioned.</p> <p>Immediate threat to uncontrolled development by Central Government dictating need for housing.</p>	<p>Agree that the 'How to read the Management Plan' section would benefit from additional page number referencing.</p> <p>Protecting the AONB's dark night skies are important and is noted in the introduction to Section 7 and para. 6 with a new Policy PP7 & proposed Actions PA9 & PA10.</p> <p>Wind farm development is a very sensitive issue with pro's and con's depending on the scales of the proposal. The threat of landscape change is highlighted in the Plan - Section 7 and para. 6 with a new Policy PP8 & Actions PA11 & PA12.</p> <p>Updated wind turbines & light pollution context setting in Table 2 Forces for Change.</p> <p>Regarding housing – the national planning guidance is still being hotly debated, especially in respect of the arguments surrounding the Government's initial proposed presumption in favour of development (although not in AONBs and other nationally protected landscapes).</p> <p>Housing needs and future allocations will remain the responsibility of the relevant local planning authority, however the AONB Management Plan remains supportive of appropriate and well designed small scale housing (in-keeping with local character), especially to meet affordable local housing needs. Detailed further in Policies PP3, and PP4 and Actions PA4 & PA5.</p>
7	Jonathon Witty Meteodale Technologies	<p>Encourage landowners to co-operate and allow more permissive paths or rights of way beside fields. Local opportunities at Caistor.</p> <p>Discourage more development, traffic, lights, wind farms and pylons.</p> <p>Cycle routes need developing away from</p>	<p>Agree on the need to where possible encourage landowners to provide additional access. This is covered in Policy ARTP1 and specifically Action ARTA2. One challenge is that many of the financial access incentives provided via the Government's agri-environments schemes are no longer available because of budget restrictions. Opportunities may still be available via goodwill, the Lindsey Action Zone, Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable</p>

		<p>roads. Business broadband too slow.</p>	<p>Development Fund and Small Grants Scheme (Action TCA2 & TCA9).</p> <p>The access improvement suggestions for Caistor have been recorded and need further investigation locally. The Plan recognises the importance of utilising all of the Wolds surrounding market towns as physical and information gateways to the AONB. A number of relevant Actions include ARTA13, and ARTA14. Similarly Action ARTA7 will seek to encourage opportunities for developing new multifunctional green space close to settlements and existing wildlife habitats.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to support access for all, with current specific Actions ARTA4 and TWA6 in respect of cycling provision. Agree that there is potential to explore bridleway and byway networks for increasing off-road leisure cycling. Partnership resources are limited and the focus is likely to remain on promoting family cycling using a combination of quiet roads and bridleways. However the new 70 mile Lindsey Trail (see response 37) will further improve both cycling and horse riding provision across the Wolds.</p> <p>Comments noted on general development pressures – issues introduced in Table 2 – Forces for Change and detailed in Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management. The Plan seeks to complement and support emerging Local Plan strategy in respect of continuing to protect and enhance the natural beauty and special character of the Lincolnshire Wolds as expressed in the broad Objective PO.</p> <p>As above (response 4) general agreement on the importance of future technologies including enhanced access to broadband, and enhanced speed, especially to help support relevant local businesses and aid home working – see Action TCA6.</p>
8	Toni	“If it ain’t broke don’t fix it”.	Response noted. Since 2000 there is a statutory requirement for all relevant local authorities to undertake a regular five yearly

			review of AONB Management Plans.
9	Nigel Howells Chief Executive ELDC	Contents noted.	Acknowledgement noted.
10a	Paul Tame NFU	<p>Page 3, supports aims of Management Plan.</p> <p>Page 9, para 2.7, private landowners have crucial role to play.</p> <p>Page 21, objective G0, difficult to promote grassland to farmers whose arable returns are higher, without compensation payment.</p> <p>Page 26, objective HT0, simple grant scheme needed for farmers and landowners to plant hedges and trees.</p> <p>Page 28, objective RSP0, another reason for grant scheme.</p> <p>Page 30, decline in overwintering stubbles is almost impossible to halt.</p> <p>Page 41, supports objective FW0 and policies FWP3 and FWP4. Would like to see FWP1 delivered by grants and advice rather than regulation.</p> <p>Page 53, supports planning policy number PP2 and would like to see more development in line with Government recent policy.</p> <p>Page 59, policy CCP4, hopes Joint Advisory Group (JAC) approves renewable energy projects – no good hoping to meet renewable energy targets without permitting development.</p>	<p>Response noted and welcomed.</p> <p>A number of specific points raised on the objectives, policies and actions of particular relevance to landowners and farmers, including endorsement of the aims of the Plan.</p> <p>General emphasis on the importance of agri-environments and other small grant schemes to aid uptake of on-farm environmental enhancements. Agree that some of the more challenging targets for farm biodiversity enhancement include encouraging over wintering stubbles and arable conversion to grassland. Farm agri-environments will remain important for achieving these targets e.g. via Stewardship Schemes, but will be increasingly challenging with national reductions in farm subsidies. Future focus will be on working with farmers and relevant agencies to achieve multiple benefits e.g. arable conversion to help protect important heritage sites, minimise flood risk and soil erosion and enhance water courses.</p> <p>The Plan recognises the importance of working closely with private landowners and farms and this is embraced within the revised Vision Statement where there is a strong recognition of the connection between agriculture, forestry and land management across the Wolds and the aspiration for achieving sustainable and integrated approaches in the future.</p> <p>Although the spirit of the Plan is very much on collaboration and joint working through influence, persuasion and grant assistance there may be rare circumstances where an individual agency or body may wish to pursue regulation or enforcement action, but usually only as a last resort. The Plan aims to set out the</p>

			<p>overarching Strategy for the Wolds and seeks to secure the commitment of public bodies to the purpose of the AONB, which does include action to comply with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – the ‘duty of regard’.</p> <p>Positive response noted on PP2 – encouraging & supporting conversion of farm buildings. Focus for the AONB Plan is on aiding sensitive farm conversions to help protect and enhance historic fabric/rural character and aid the local economy.</p>
10b	Paul Tame NFU	<p>Supports energy projects which are not an eyesore – every farm can do something from anaerobic digester, biomass, ground source heat pump, solar, photovoltaic to wind power.</p>	<p>Views noted on support for future renewable energy schemes in the AONB and the positive contribution that individual farm businesses can make. This is embraced within the general wording of Policy CCP4. There is an aspiration to explore and encourage those schemes that are in-keeping with the area’s special qualities as detailed in Action CCA8.</p> <p>Wind power remains controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies to the range of emerging technologies including wind energy generation schemes. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against any schemes which could cause significant and demonstrable effects upon the AONB (Policy PP7 & Action PA10) and continuing recommendation for the dedicated AONB staffing unit to comment on individual planning applications on a case by case basis (Action PA11).</p>
11a	Rob Lawton Environment, Policy & Info. Team Leader WLDC	<p>State the objective “to develop and promote awareness” once as an over riding objective of the team, rather than for each policy.</p> <p>Rank policy areas in priority to reflect current national concerns, e.g. Energy and Climate at the top.</p> <p>Combine Soils and Geology.</p> <p>Delegate tourism to the back of document due to revised expectations of how much tourism Lincolnshire can hope to attract.</p>	<p>Response noted and welcomed. Several thought provoking points in respect of the overall structure of the document to help future prioritising, conciseness and reinforce the work spent on the Plan.</p> <p>Carefully considered changing the running order of themes placing Energy and Climate Change at the top. On balance the existing structure should be retained: this ensures the structure of the Plan continues to focus on primary purpose as set out in the review of AONB Management Plans – CA221 guidance.</p> <p>Also carefully considered the suggestion to merge Geology and</p>

		No need to axe any content, all action points and cross referencing are valid.	Soils sections but on balance these are two complimentary resources that need to sit as distinct units within the combined Earth Heritage section. Whilst they are closely interconnected the challenges and issues facing each are different.
11b	Rob Lawton Environment, Policy & Info. Team Leader WLDC	<p>Policy suggestions and revisions:-</p> <p>BHP5 (new policy), to embrace appropriate technologies that lessen energy dependence on fossil fuels in a way that doesn't threaten the special landscape character of the AONB.</p> <p>FWP6 (revision), to include specific acknowledgement of the pressures on farming from suppliers for the need to reduce their own carbon footprint. Maybe support the production of farm-wide carbon reduction plans with SDF grant?</p> <p>TWP6 (new policy), to encourage the Highway Authority to adopt traffic calming measures and road layout schemes commensurate with AONB status.</p>	<p>BHP5: Agree with the importance of utilising alternative technologies to reduce carbon footprints in the context of built heritage – accept new policy. Include action to offer advice and sign posting to encourage wider use of innovative and appropriate measures.</p> <p>Agree that farmers are being put under increasing pressure from their suppliers to demonstrate their 'green credentials', due to public demands. This wider context is best placed within the supporting text in the Plan and Table 2 (Forces for Change) rather than specific change to wording of FWP6.</p> <p>Note the recommendation for an additional traffic management policy for encouraging traffic calming and road layout schemes in-keeping with AONB requirements. After further discussions with Alan Aistrup (Head of Highways North and Acting Head of Highways East, Andrew Ratcliffe (Area Highways Manager) and Sarah Gundy (Historic Environment Officer, Every Street matters) suggested new Policy TWP6 "To encourage Highway Authorities to adopt traffic management measures and schemes commensurate with AONB designation and rural environments". They also all advise to take out references to traffic calming as it does indicate formal measures that would not be in keeping or appropriate in the Wolds and they would not authorise or undertake such a scheme. They all reported that there was no take up or likely take up of Quiet Lanes in Lincolnshire. This was a national initiative that appears to have lost impetus and is deemed no longer a priority for the County. The text in the Plan has been adjusted to highlight a more general approach on integrated traffic solutions for the network, including brief mention of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.</p>
12	Mrs J Brown	There should be no changes that allow pylons	Comments noted. As discussed above (see response 10b) wind

	Legbourne Parish Council	or wind turbines to cross the AONB, it would completely spoil the area.	<p>power remains controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies to the range of emerging technologies including wind energy generation schemes. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against any schemes which could cause significant and demonstrable effects upon the AONB (Policy PP7 & Action PA10) and continuing recommendation for the dedicated AONB staffing unit to comment on individual planning applications on a case by case basis (Action PA11).</p> <p>The positive work with the relevant District Network providers for undergrounding selected electricity lines is well documented in the Plan. Do not agree that at this juncture a specific policy is needed for future pylon development as this is covered as a component of Policy PP6 and Action PP8. Worth noting that we would have concerns for any net increase in pylons or change in design that would be detrimental to the natural beauty of the AONB, its setting and viewpoints. This is especially the case when considering that public money is continuing to be spent on local undergrounding projects, primarily to enhance visual amenity.</p>
13	John Loomes Ludborough resident	<p>Supports the general style of AONB Management Plan and SEA, in addition supports all top level objectives outlined in Table 4.</p> <p>Reservations about costs and funding of consultation exercise and whether this will impact adversely on other fundamental LCC core services. As a consequence all initiatives and actions within Management Plan should be rigorously financially regulated and costings made available to rate payers to view and challenge before implementation.</p>	<p>Comments noted and welcomed on general support for overarching objectives of the plan.</p> <p>Important concerns were raised in respect of the costs involved in the consultation exercise. As detailed in Section 2.4 the production of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan is a legal requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and must meet the requirements of a range of statutory bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) and wherever possible follow government guidance as directed by the original CA 23, AONB Management Plans – A Guide, 2001 and the more recent CA 211, 2006 update (Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans). The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee acknowledged concerns on the costs of the review, especially with the additional requirement for the completion of an extensive Strategic Environmental Appraisal.</p>

			<p>The respondent has also raised important points on the financial implications for implementing the Plan, especially in respect of local rate payers and the potential impact upon Lincolnshire County Council core service areas. The government has recently confirmed its ongoing commitment to AONBs, providing indicative grant funding from DEFRA of 75% of AONB core costs, to be reviewed again in 2015-16. No additional LCC expenditure is envisaged over the life of the Plan, with further reductions of LA and national budgets for core services envisaged.</p> <p>As highlighted in the Draft Plan 1.3.5, 2.6 – 2.8, and Section 8, whilst it is the duty of all relevant LAs (not just LCC – but also East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to produce in partnership a joint Strategy and Action Plan for the AONB, its delivery is very much dependent upon influencing, encouraging and supporting all with an active interest in the area.</p> <p>Some additional text has now been included in Section 1.4 Delivery Themes to highlight the financial pressures and reinforce the importance of shared action, via public, private and third sector organisations. The track record for delivery against local authority financial contributions has been very good – e.g. as detailed in 5.2 Local Action, since 2004-05 over £1.7 million has come into the Wolds via the Rural Development Programme for England, Lindsey Action Zone and the Wolds Sustainable Development Fund alone, leveraging in well over £2 million of further external match-funding.</p> <p>Comments have been noted on the request that every initiative and action within the AONB Management Plan must be rigorously financially regulated and under go a full cost benefit analysis in relation to the impact upon other LCC “core” services. This goes beyond the current national CA21 and CA 221 guidance for producing and reviewing Management Plans. Projects and</p>
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			<p>initiatives are very much dependent upon adequate external resourcing however there is both a local and national understanding that the Plan does not directly control or allocate budget.</p> <p>As indicated in sections 2.7 and 2.8 budgetary control is undertaken by the host authority, Lincolnshire County Council but under the direction and on behalf of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group – whose elected representatives meet quarterly to review relevant budgets. Wider financial scrutiny (twice per annum) is undertaken by the full AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), currently comprising elected representatives from 20 organisations.</p> <p>The AONB partnership remains committed to continuing prudent management of budgets. The partnership recognises the increasing challenge of “doing more, with less” in a very challenging financial climate. Unfortunately since preparing the draft Plan Lincolnshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and Visit Lincolnshire have gone into receivership with obvious implications on the relevant areas of the Plan – most notably farming and wildlife and tourism respectively. This has been taken into consideration in the final amendments to the Action Plan.</p>
14	Charles Dobson South Elkington Farmer	<p>Well balanced plan with a few areas of disagreement.</p> <p>Climate change – realises that there are government directives but disagrees that new species and habitats may become viable.</p> <p>Flooding is not a new phenomenon.</p> <p>Page 15, “Impact of changing Agricultural Practices.....” This comment is outdated, hedgerows have been improving in management and number in recent years helped by government schemes and legislation.</p> <p>Page 20, Excellent, well done.</p>	<p>Welcome general positive comment on the production of a well balanced Plan.</p> <p>Note the strong scepticism for climate change in respect of global warming and the impacts that this may have on future cropping patterns, species and habitats. There remains a strong steer from the relevant Government agencies and their advisors that AONB Management Plans must consider potential landscape changes and bio-food security issues from future global warming.</p> <p>Point noted on the history of flooding: it is the frequency and intensity of such events that may well increase in the near future if climate change modelling predictions hold.</p>

		<p>Page 22, Ragwort not mentioned which is an oversight and needs highlighting.</p> <p>Page 23, “Climate change impacts upon native.....” Please explain how this is so?</p> <p>Page 26, see Page 15 comments.</p> <p>Page 27, “Low water table and flow.....” Is this due to climate change or over extraction?</p> <p>Page 30, Overwinter stubbles declined 30 years ago, but may increase significantly with HLS and ELS, field margins already improved with no cultivation zone.</p> <p>Page 36, Ploughing is not the perceived problem it once was as there is a move away from ploughing to “Min Till” and recognition of this would be more accurate.</p>	<p>Section 4.1 (Landscape Conservation and Enhancement) Threats/Pressures: Note the strong views expressed on the impact of changing agricultural practices via farm intensification etc, as being completely outdated today due to recent incentives from agri-environment schemes - a view supported by respondent 17. Accept that there has been a considerable shift/uptake in farm subsidies in recent years to help encourage farm biodiversity and the restoration of hedgerows, copses and other habitats. The bullet point will be reworded to indicate concern in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and potential impacts upon future farm subsidies (a point firmly stressed by respondent 17).</p> <p>Further concerns stressed on bullet point (Section 4.1 as above...) in respect of climate change. Current bullet to be retained due to wider partnership concerns on climate change and the strong government mandate to plan and prepare for any anticipated pressures. Wording changed slightly to emphasise ecosystem goods and services approach.</p> <p>Note and welcome praise for Section 4.4.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland).</p> <p>Note strong concerns from the impact of ragwort. This is just one of several invasive species impacting upon the biodiversity of a number of habitats. Recognise that the concern from invasive flora and fauna in general should be given more prominence in the Plan with new text additions in Threats/Pressure for Section 4.4.1 (Biodiversity – Introduction) and Section 4.4.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) to support concerns expressed previously in Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds). Consider future possible actions – linking with the BAP.</p> <p>Queries Section 4.2.4 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) bullet point on climate change & impacts upon native species questioning how this is so? The impact of emerging pests</p>
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			<p>and diseases is one factor and is already included in the text. There is currently a range of UK and European based research for woodland composition modelling to ascertain which species may fair better in the projections for increasingly variable and extreme weather patterns e.g. the UK's Forest Research Centre for Forestry and Climate Change (http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr) and UK's Climate Impacts Programme. Agree to modify bullet to include potential changes as much is still open to conjecture and further debate. The current best practice woodland management advice is to continue to plant with native species where possible but to include flexibility for limited non-native species within future planting mixes to help build future resilience to climate change induced pressures. The requirement for greater flexibility in planting mixes is now recommended by the Forestry Commission and is reflected in revisions to Policy WBP1.</p> <p>Section 4.2.5 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees) Threats/Pressures note similar concerns to Section 4.1 (Landscape Conservation and Enhancement) on the validity of the comments on hedgerow management. Whilst the picture has improved for hedgerow maintenance traditional hedge laying is no longer widely practiced and poorly executed mechanical cutting at the wrong time of year is still a concern. Agree to slight modification in the wording of the relevant bullets to place in a more positive light with some progress via relevant agri-environment options.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) Threats/Pressures note suggestion that low flow rates is due to issue of over extraction rather than climate change. No change proposed to the wording of bullet which places primarily over abstraction as the issue for low flow rates, but recognising the increasing challenge of increased rainfall variability through climate change supported by increasing fluctuations in rainfall patterns.</p> <p>Section 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland) Threats/Pressures note concerns</p>
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			<p>that current wording of bullet points on overwintering stubbles and continued intensification of farming underplays more recent positive trends encouraged via Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes. As in Section 4.1 (above) agree to rewrite placing the current concern on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and potential impacts upon future farm subsidies (as mentioned above a point firmly stressed by respondent 17).</p> <p>Section 4.4.1 (Archaeology) Threats/Pressures note and support the suggestion to recognise the increasing move away from deep ploughing to “Min Till” minimum tillage operations.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of further meeting with Mr R. Douglas and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service to discuss Field Sports. <u>Response to discussions regarding Field Sports (meeting of 7th November 2011):-</u></p> <p>Section 3.2 (The Wolds’ General Character) - additional wording inserted within 2nd paragraph to highlight shooting, as well as hunting interests.</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 (Woodland, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) - additional wording in 1st paragraph to draw on the influence of field sport interests. Shared Priorities Statement expansion of one of the subsequent bullet points to include game shooting management and its wider benefits.</p> <p>Section 4.2.7(Arable Farmland) - additional text to 4th paragraph to reference the important role of game cover (winter bird crops) for management of game and its benefit to wider ecosystem services.</p> <p>Section 5.1 (Farming in the Wolds) - title revised to “Farming and Field Sports Activities in the Wolds” with new text added to highlight both the historic and current importance of shooting interests to the area. Some potential conflicts are also included to</p>
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			indicate the importance of careful land management. Further dialogue with Mr R Douglas and the CLA has resulted in recommendations for a new Policy FWP6 and resulting Actions (FWA12 and FWA13).
15	Paul Nicholson Northern Powergrid	Welcomed receipt and the ease in reviewing the Plan: only additions to note name change from CE Yorkshire Electric to Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire).	DNO organisation name updated in Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management.
16	Paul Chaplin Trees and Woodlands Officer NELC	Feels there is some scope to highlight the influence that field sports have on the creation of the Wolds as it is now and the protection of valuable habitat, the onus is on the Field Sport lobby to provide documentation and data to support wider inclusion in the Management Plan	Actioned as above - see commentary within response 14 further to 7 th November meeting with the CLA and other interested parties.
17	Henry Smith Withcall Farmer	Page 10 , 3.3.1, supports “A unique physiography....” paragraph. Page 11 , 3.3.1, has reservations over accuracy of percentage figures. Table 1 , concern expressed on wording Farmed Land, Threats – Buildings and eyesores. Observation on Tennyson reference. Need to accept changes and move forward with farm development. Questions condition of “poor” regarding Industrial heritage. Table 2 , CAP reform significant factor. Need to be in control of recreation. Farm spraying – only use when necessary. Tourism – too much kills traditional industry. Miscanthus crop – economically viable Transport – very concerned, never been worse (Dr Beeching).	Section 2.7 (Who Looks After the Lincolnshire Wolds?) strong support noted for the importance of private landowners in helping to protect and enhance the Wolds special qualities. Section 3.3.1 (Outstanding Qualities) note agreement for the importance of the area’s unique physiography, its geology and topography, in shaping the landscape we see today. Landuse %’s within Section 3.3.1 (now 2.3.1) Outstanding Qualities checked & updated to 2010 Defra agricultural census. Table 1 (Special Qualities) agree to revise text in relation to ‘eyesores’ for farm buildings, but highlighting the demands and pressures for ever large buildings. Good design and sympathetic reuse of current redundant building stock remains important management options for farms in the AONB. Table 2 (Forces for Change) observations and suggestions noted with changes made to both threats and opportunities for agriculture stressing further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a significant influence. Agree to add miscanthus

	<p>Page 14, 2nd para, CAP could be backward step if agri-environment measures/enhancements aren't continued in a balanced manner.</p> <p>Page 15, questions wording of bullet point 1. "Making Space for Nature" observes that support needed for corridor approach.</p> <p>Page 16, 4.2.1, do not have conditions for increasing pasture substantially.</p> <p>Page 18, untidy woodland is often best for wildlife.</p> <p>Page 20, 4.2.2. check figures on unimproved grassland.</p> <p>Questions 1st para Threats/Pressures – increasing influence of poultry.</p> <p>More breeding stock coming into the Wolds and you cannot have stock without good grazing.</p> <p>Page 22, grass verge management – no incentives for landowner.</p> <p>Page 30, still has 300 – 400 acres of winter stubbles – good for lapwings. Spring barley/wheat has less crop but higher prices. No shoots at Withcall.</p> <p>Page 40, shape of some fields is due to terrain/topography land character.</p> <p>Policies and CAP reform has a huge influence and will have an impact on the future, could be against large scale farming if they bring in the capping.</p> <p>Page 52, 1st bullet point, big potential impact from National Grid.</p>	<p>added as an additional energy crop. Note concerns on the negative impact from tourism; agree this needs to be appropriate/well managed with text modified accordingly.</p> <p>Section 3.5 (Threats/Issues/Pressure) observations noted on the significance of the CAP reform for future agri-environment support. These are detailed again in later sections (see below) but agree that the importance of the reforms should be stressed here as well.</p> <p>Section 4.1 (Landscape Conservation and Enhancement) Threats/Pressures. Note comments in respect of bullet points 1 and 6 for farming & climate change influences respectively – some rewording undertaken (see also response 14). Although covered to a degree within bullet point 4, support the request for an additional bullet point to highlight the need for getting the balance right in respect of future recreation/tourism so as not to harm the character of the AONB, especially its tranquillity. Subsequently adjusted bullet point 3 to avoid any unnecessary duplication.</p> <p>Note recognition and support of the wildlife benefits of a connective and corridor approach to site management as highlighted from Sir John Lawton's recommendations in Making Space for Nature (2010).</p> <p>Section 4.2.1 (Natural Heritage – Biodiversity) Introduction. Note observation that much of the Wolds is inherently well suited to cultivation, with more limited opportunities for supporting grasslands and pasture.</p> <p>Section 4.2.1 (Natural Heritage – Biodiversity) Key issues. Note and agree with observation that untidy woodlands are often the best for wildlife. No change in text proposed as the bullet point refers to the decline in traditional woodland management. The reduction of selected felling and coppicing has for example resulted in large areas of even aged compartments with often</p>
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			<p>limited ground flora and shrub layer diversity for both flora and fauna.</p> <p>Also Section 4.2.1... Note strong views from badger and deer pressures and these have now been incorporated within a broader reworded final bullet point on invasive species.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland). Similar concerns to earlier comments on Section 3.3.1 (Outstanding Qualities) regarding accuracy of the stat's. Latest figures for relevant HLS measures now included – fig's supplied by Natural England, 2012. Threats/Pressures: 1st paragraph query on accuracy of last sentence suggesting a recent decline in mixed farm units – text revised slightly and updated with additional 2010 Defra landholding and stocking data.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) Key Issues. Comment on the need for good grazing to support livestock noted, no change to text proposed.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Grass Verges and Greenlanes) recognises the issue of litter and fly-tipping but concerned over who pays for the clearance - there is little financial incentive for the landowner to collect it. Note this concern, currently there is a proposed partnership task for the LAs to raise awareness and coordinate prompt action as detailed in Action VLA5. The Environment Agency is a supporting partner and also has a role to play, especially in dealing with any potentially more hazardous fly-tipped material.</p> <p>Section 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland) Threats/Pressures echoes some of the concerns from respondent 14 especially in respect of over-wintering stubbles and spring cropping which is now more wide spread than previously, partly due to market prices and encouragement via agri-environment options. The text has been revised accordingly.</p>
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			<p>Section 5.1 (Farming in the Wolds) Threats/Pressures as above note continuing importance of the CAP reform - highlighted accordingly in revised text. Views also noted on intensification and field sizes, slight change of text proposed to suggest more stable field sizes, but wider intensification still an issue e.g. continuing demand for larger cattle sheds/poultry units etc.,.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management) note the views that new power infrastructure via the National Grid will have the potential for a huge impact upon the Wolds. Additional sentence included to recognise potential proposals for further utility schemes including not only electricity, but also water and gas services.</p>
18	Liz Evans Mavis Enderby Parish Meeting	The parish feels strongly that the AONB boundary should be extended to include the parish area and put forward a series of points to support this, including the high density of SSSI's and nature reserves in the "Spilsby Triangle".	<p>Similar to response 44, comments have been noted and carefully considered in respect of the recommendation to extend the southern boundary of the AONB beyond its current route along the A158 main road.</p> <p>There have been no boundary modifications to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB since its original designation in 1973 and the reasons for its original designation are well documented within Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – Designation History Series (R. Woolmore, 2006). There would be clear pros and cons in undertaking an AONB boundary review with financial and political implications. It would be a costly and extensive exercise, requiring in the first instance a number of detailed independent landscape assessments. The AONB is a national designation and due to the legislative framework the process would very likely trigger a time consuming and costly public enquiry – only one formal objection is needed.</p> <p>Around 2004-05 the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) submitted written evidence to the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) summarising various anomalies with the current AONB boundary (including its southern boundary) as part of a</p>

			national review of protected landscape designations. The matter was discussed more recently in October 2011 by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC. As detailed in Action – PA16 further investigation will be explored over the life of the Plan to assess more fully the options and possible implications in undertaking a boundary review.
19	Nicola Hardy Rights of Way Mapping Off. NELC-Balfour Beatty	No observations regarding proposals to Public Rights of Way.	Response noted on Public Rights of Way interest for North East Lincolnshire.
20	Sheila Brookes Chairman of Poacher Harness Club	Believes the plan underestimates potential income from equine tourism – a 75 mile Lindsey Trail for walkers, cyclists, ridden and driven horse is to open soon as well as many bridleways – away from traffic enjoying splendid countryside.	Some important points made on the increasing potential of equine tourism. Relevant economic data for specific tourism/recreation sectors of the local economy are hard to come by and enhancing the baseline information for visitors to the AONB is an important aspiration – see Action ARTA17. As detailed in response 2 above - the spirit of the Plan is very much on developing and promoting access for all and supporting a range of sustainable rural businesses. Current focus of partnership resources for equestrian activity is on developing and promoting the new horse carriage route as detailed in Action ARTA19. Agree that there is potential to explore and develop a range of equine linked tourism provision (through farm diversification etc.,) and this will be made more explicit in Section 6.1 and 6.3.
21	Councillor Colin Davie LCC	Supports the development of micro-renewable energy provided their development does not compromise the landscape or character of the Wolds. Opposes strongly large scale wind or those that impact on the historic or natural assets of the AONB. The Wolds natural character cannot be defined within its boundaries alone, the setting of the	Comments on a range of planning and development control issue noted and carefully considered. As noted in response to 10b there is general support for future renewable energy schemes of an appropriate scale in the AONB as detailed within the wording of Policy CCP4 with a desire to explore and encourage those schemes that are in-keeping with the area's special qualities as detailed in Action CCA8. As highlighted above (see response 10b & 12) wind power

		AONB is already seriously compromised by developments already built or proposed near to its defined boundaries. The AONB does not believe there is any mitigation possible for industrial scale developments to be allowed which affect the character or long distance views in or out of the AONB.	developments remain controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies to the range of emerging technologies including wind energy generation schemes. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against any schemes which could cause significant and demonstrable effects upon the AONB (Policy PP7 & Action PA10) and continuing recommendation for the dedicated AONB staffing unit to comment on individual planning applications on a case by case basis (Action PA11).
22	Stephen Dawson Binbrook resident	Suggests construction of a viewing area with information board on the B1203 at Bully Hill close to the cross road with the Caistor-Horncastle High Street leading to Tealby.	<p>Response noted.</p> <p>The current Enjoy the Lincolnshire Wolds leaflet highlights nine of the small lay-bys/ parking bays across the Wolds, many of which provide a backdrop for good viewing points. Current policy ARTP4 acknowledges a desire to increase the provision of appropriate infra-structure for access, recreation and tourism.</p> <p>In light of this public resident response a new carefully worded action has been added (Action ARTA20 – see also Action TCA11) to explore in more detail scope for further additional amenity areas, including car parking and viewing/interpretative points. Such a site near Bully Hill cross roads, whilst a fair suggestion, should not be mentioned specifically in the action plan as further discussion with all relevant parties would ne needed.</p> <p>Several interpretation panels were installed across the AONB in 2000-01 as part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy. Some of the lay-bys created e.g. along the Bluestone Heath Road were controversial at the time, with wide discussion on the various pros and cons. Any future schemes would need to be carefully considered, including wide discussion with the local landowners, Highway Authority, and the local community – resourcing, liability and maintenance issues would need to be assessed on a site by site basis.</p> <p>Both the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Small Grants</p>

			<p>Scheme (SGS), together with support from Awards for All, have assisted local community groups in a wide range of amenity enhancements across the AONB. These have included the creation of new access for open space often including sympathetically designed signage, interpretation and other facilities such as seating. Resources permitting the future SDF and SGS programmes (see Action TCA2) will provide an incentive for future community driven amenity schemes, and the priority will be on delivery of multiple benefits and those schemes highlighted within any appropriate village/parish and neighbourhood plans (see Action PA2).</p>
23	Kay Turton Planning and the Built Environment Personal comments	<p>The Localism Bill was given Royal Assent and this has led to the abolition of Regional Plans. Any reference in the Management Plan to the East Midlands Regional Plan should therefore be removed.</p>	<p>Comment noted – general agreement that the Regional Plans have become a matter of interest rather than policy documents.</p>
24	Kay Turton Planning and the Built Environment ELDC	<p>Detailed response to Action PA5 regarding affordable housing and local employment. The vision is written in a positive style, however is written more as a description of the Wolds currently and not a vision statement for the future. Detailed response to the final paragraph of the vision statement regarding permitted development. Relevant publications – remove Lincolnshire Structure Plan, document has been revoked.</p>	<p>Comments noted and welcomed.</p> <p>Agree that there is currently some confusion between Policy PP4's aim in respect of small scale affordable housing and the more detailed Action PA5 which there is an emphasis on local employment/key workers and also a sole focus on current allocated housing sites. See also responses from the CLA (response 30) Community Lincs (response 34) and Natural England (response 42). Proposed merging both PP3 and PP4 policies on affordable housing – rewording to maintain additional link with local needs. This Policy aims to complement current and future LA policies and remains an important local issue.</p> <p>Regarding the Vision, some fair comments made on the general overly descriptive nature of the special qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds that accord with comments from Natural England (response 42). This statement was expanded due in part to the post adoption comments from English Nature (now Natural England) and CA 211, 2006 Guidance for the Review of AONB</p>

			Management Plans, both of which advised on the need for fuller descriptions of the AONB to draw out the special/unique qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds and how these attributes are going to be safeguarded in the future. Agree that the new vision is now somewhat wordy and duplicates the descriptions within Section 2 (previously Section 3). These have now been removed from the vision to help avoid unnecessary duplication. ELDC have raised concerns on both the style and context of the final paragraph of the vision relating to strategic planning and development control matters – agree with this comment and this paragraph has also been removed in the final vision statement.
25a	Tim Allen Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings English Heritage	Archaeology - Section 4.4.1, AA2 , replace text regarding impacts of cultivation on archaeological sites, drawing from “COSMIC” research. AA4 , replace text regarding climate change. BHA3 , replace text regarding redundant farm building. Additional action (BHA7) included to seek funding to develop volunteer based project to characterise vernacular and built environment of the Wolds.	Comments noted and welcomed in respect of a number of actions for both archaeology and built heritage. Revised actions in-line with English Heritage’s preferred wording for AA2, AA4 and BHA3. Agree that BHA3 (seeking additional resources for a redundant farm buildings guide) is a worthy target that will need further discussion with respective partners as ideas get developed. Agree with a new action exploring future funding and support to develop a community volunteer based project to help characterise and gather evidence on the vernacular architecture and the built environment of the Wolds. This could build on the recent work of the Lincolnshire Wolds Heritage Working Group focus group and the countywide Heritage at Risk – HLF project hosted by Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire and itself supported by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC.
25b	Tim Allen Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings English Heritage	Forwarded pie chart showing percentage of scheduled monuments at low, medium and high risk.	Additional pie chart welcomed and included to provide most recent 2011 ‘scheduled monument’ at risk statistics for the AONB.

26	Andrew Walker Fulletby resident	Questioned how Ulceby Grange Farm near Alford was allowed to erect a large wind turbine, clearly visible for miles and opposes wind turbines already in the area.	<p>Comments noted on the recent Ulceby Grange wind turbine, a new turbine of approximately 49 metres to blade tip. The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service raised concerns on the landscape impact of the scheme. The turbine was subsequently approved by East Lindsey District Council: the Planning Committee decided that on balance the turbine should be approved due to the overriding economic benefits that it would bring to the applicants dairy farm and cheese making business- ELDC decision notice 136858, 2011.</p> <p>National and Local Plan (forthcoming Local Development Framework) policies are the key determinates in the approval or rejection of planning applications in the Wolds, although AONB Management Plans are seen as an important additional material consideration. All current Local Plans have a specific development management policy in respect of the national duty to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</p> <p>The relationship between the AONB Management Plan and the relevant local authorities planning and development management policies and functions is summarised in Section 2.5. See also additional comments above (responses 10b and 21 above) in respect of wider wind farm/renewable energy discussions.</p>
27	Joanne Johnson Signs Manager LCC	We will continue to support Lincolnshire Wolds by considering the number, style and type of signage. This includes continued support to TRiL (Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire) project.	Comments noted and continuing support to the TRiL project welcomed (Action TWA12) along with regular dialogue on any highway and brown tourist signs of interest to the Wolds AONB.
28	Charlie Bryant Hemingby Parish Council	No comments other than very thorough and very well put together.	Very positive response welcomed.
29	Tony Groom Fotherby resident	Any future developments should maintain/enhance what we already have e.g. potential to increase the area's woodland cover.	Initial comment noted on the disappointment of the lack of a summary note on the www.lincswolds.org.uk website to aid review of the Plan documentation. A clearer link to the Chairman's foreword/introduction may have helped respondents. Readability is something to be aware of for the future and highlights the

		<p>Increase in tourism could spoil the quietness of the Wolds, however an increase in tourism facilities could be possible with the right plans and ideas.</p> <p>Is semi retired and would like to support local causes – interested in supporting the development of the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p>	<p>benefits of a producing an Executive Summary to accompany the final published Plan and Environmental Report.</p> <p>A number of comments were noted in respect of the need to enhance future tourism and support environmental/landscape benefits. Discovering the Wolds, Section 6.1 describes and highlights as a key issue the challenge of increasing the access, recreation and tourism offer of the Wolds, very much through future development of an appropriate type and scale (Objective ARTO).</p>
30	Sylvia Hull Regional Advisor CLA	<p>The style of the document is clear and well written. The size of the document would deter many from reading but this is unavoidable. Heartened to see the Vision acknowledges that the Wolds should not be preserved in aspic.</p> <p>Detailed response on Section 4 “Protecting the Wolds”</p> <p>Detailed response on Section 5 “Living and Working in the Wolds”</p> <p>Section 6, does not believe it is a realistic fear that significant promotion of the Wolds would bring a flood of new visitors.</p> <p>Section 6.3, it is positive that hunting, shooting and fishing are acknowledged as good opportunities for local and tourist recreation which supports local economy.</p> <p>Detailed response on Section 7 “Developing the Wolds”.</p> <p>Section 8, excellent that partnership working mentions working with landowners, but not a great deal of business partners mentioned.</p> <p>Section 9, CLA is pleased the Management</p>	<p>Note positive comments on the general style and readability of the document. Welcome CLA’s support in the balance of the Vision & Section 7 of the plan recognising the living and working nature of the Wolds and the aspiration to work towards enabling positive and sustainable development appropriate to the area.</p> <p>Section 4.2.1. additional wording to include specialist advice/targeted support to the landowners of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Regarding concerns with Local Wildlife Site designation the text has been revised to help clarify that the designation of LWSs is via the formal local planning authority processes for Local Plans.</p> <p>Questions how the BAP farm targets will be achieved with a potential decline in support through the CAP – especially the case for the preservation of grassland? Links with Campaign for the Farmed Environment? Extra administration for farmers? Agree decline in future grants is a concern. Management Plan has a range of measures including focus on wider farm sustainability through raising awareness, sharing of best practise and developing support/learning networks (including Actions GA4, GA5 and AFA2).</p> <p>Support noted for the socio-economic benefits of managing</p>

		<p>Plan is looking to an integrated approach, No mention is made of encouraging the re use of old buildings other than economic use. FWP4, planning rules must be flexible to allow farm diversification. There has to be more of a recreation industry than just walking visitors.</p>	<p>woodland detailed in Policy WBP4; request for a flexible/pragmatic approach from relevant local planning authorities when dealing with relevant applications. As detailed in Objective PO the LPAs will need to be satisfied that schemes do not harm the special qualities of the AONB.</p> <p>Support noted for 4.2.7 Arable Farmland and the contribution farming has made to the character of the area. As above, agree with the CLA that there is much uncertainty in the future levels of agri-environment support through the CAP reform etc,. How future policies & actions seek to address wildlife gains is an important issue.</p> <p>Section 4.4.2 comments noted on the difficulties of guiding future sympathetic building developments when there are known gaps in the evidence base on local vernacular. This lends support to English Heritage’s recommendation for an additional action (BHA7) – see response 25a) above in addition to existing Action BHA3 focusing on a possible design guide for farm buildings. A potential forthcoming farmstead research project may aid this work. Note CLAs concerns over the financial viability of building works where the costs and supply of suitable local materials may be high. The design guide should help to assist future applicants/agents with a possible review of appropriate materials to protect and enhance local character. Future building/renovation of existing building stock is an important factor in maintaining and enhancing the local community, economy and with careful planning an consideration the local vernacular and special qualities of built heritage of the AONB.</p> <p>Welcome CLA’s support for livestock farming (Policy FWP3) and rural crafts (Policy FWP5) and note the point that the latter should be economically viable. Current actions FWA10 and FWA11 focus on supporting and developing promotional activity for rural craft businesses and linkages with other relevant networks.</p>
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			<p>Note CLA's concerns with the caveat for farm diversification to be appropriate to the AONB as currently expressed through Policy FWP4. However it is important that the caveat is retained to highlight that development should always take account of, be sympathetic, and ideally enhance, the special qualities of the area. As detailed in Sections 2.3 and 2.5 (Setting the Scene) this position is in accordance with both the legal and planning frameworks that emphasise that the primary role of AONBs is to conserve and enhance natural beauty and this must be given great weight when advising and determining any development proposals, even those in the wider national interest. Support and advice to landowners and agents is important at an early stage to encourage/support high quality farm diversification schemes that complement and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the AONB.</p> <p>Note and welcome support for Policies FWP6 and TCP1, note the desire for a flexible approach from the relevant planning authorities. In respect of climate change and carbon management the Plan highlights the web link to the Carbon Accounting for Land Managers programme (CALM) in the relevant supporting text.</p> <p>Welcome acknowledgement from the CLA for the positive references to hunting, shooting and fishing within the access, recreation and tourism section of the plans. Note that the CLAs comments on expectations for a flood of visitor numbers as an unrealistic fear – nevertheless there is a perceived local concern that requires careful management.</p> <p>Concerns noted with the wording of Policy PP2 agree to reword slightly to take account of the wider economy.</p> <p>Positive comments welcomed on the importance & support of ICT and its importance to the local economy.</p>
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			<p>Comments noted on affordable housing policies PP3 and PP4. See also responses from ELDC (response 24), Community Lincs (response 34) and Natural England (response 42). Proposed merging both PP3 and PP4 policies on affordable housing – rewording to maintain additional link with local needs. This Policy aims to complement current and future LA policies and remains an important local issue.</p> <p>Comment noted regarding Policy PP5 – can confirm this relates to minimising the damage to the AONB from both existing and future mineral activity and any associated uses including recycling facilities and site restoration plans. The location, type and scale of mineral activity, vehicle movements, noise and landscape impacts are important factors in determining any potential harm to the character of the AONB.</p> <p>Concerns noted on the Climate Change and Energy section. This is a developing area of interest for the AONB partnership and was not included in the 2004-09 Plan. This does help to explain why the section is perhaps less developed than other sections of the Plan. A recent renewable seminar hosted by the AONB partnership has led to wider discussion on the role of the protected landscape in terms of climate change and especially input into the renewable energy debate. This event is now referenced in the text (Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management and Section 7.3 Climate Change and Energy).</p> <p>Concerns noted on the wording of CCP4 which is viewed by the respondent as overly restrictive because of the emphasis on schemes being conducive to the interests of the AONB, not simply minimising impacts. The partnership is seeking to support local micro-renewables projects and energy reduction schemes. New policies PP10 (Planning and Development Management) and BHP5 (Built Heritage) are both engaged with encouraging new technologies and will help address this issue.</p>
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31	<p>Fran Hitchinson Biodiversity Services Manager Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership</p>	<p>Very comprehensive response on the content of the Plan especially on biodiversity/nature conservation issues within Section 4 – Protecting the Wolds and accompanying tables.</p> <p>Response highlighting concerns with the term ‘protection’ for locally designated sites – consider alternative wording.</p> <p>Some suggested additions to policy wording of Policies BP1, HTP1 and AFP3 and clarification on the role of the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (LBAP) within the Action Plan – Table 4.</p> <p>General comments on use of acronyms, and suggestions for additional key related strategies etc,.</p>	<p>Detailed response noted and welcomed, including broad support for the shared objectives in respect of protecting and enhancing biodiversity/geodiversity assets of the Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Agree with the majority of recommended changes within Section 4 Protecting the Wolds with the text amended accordingly to help aid clarity, and also improve the links to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (3rd Edition, 2011).</p> <p>All comments in respect of the role of the LBAP and the LBAP in delivering the Action Plan (Table 4) have been very helpful in clarifying future delivery opportunities with all suggestions incorporated.</p> <p>Note the request for additional policy wording for BP1, HTP1 and AFP3 to include ‘passing the data on to Lincolnshire Environment Records Centre - LERC’. The AONB partnership will work towards joint data recording and information sharing wherever possible however we consider that this is best not included as a policy stipulation, as depending on the data sources there may be certain restrictions e.g. via Data Protection issues, or other caveats/copyright complications. Biological and geodiversity dataset exchanges are best conducted on a case by case basis.</p>
32	<p>Dave Carter Facilities Improvement Manager Lincolnshire Sports</p>	<p>Duplication in certain sections such as Tennyson and Peter De Wint.</p> <p>Request for recreation to be revised to ‘sporting and physical recreation’ to move away from sedentary implications</p> <p>Overall feels sport and physical recreation plays a small part in the report – equestrianism, water sport and field sports are major contributors to the counties economy.</p> <p>Detailed response on how references in the Management Plan could be expanded to be more wide ranging.</p>	<p>Careful thought has been given to switching recreation to sporting and physical recreation however informal recreation is a term widely applied in the CA 221 guidance (p21) for access and opportunities in the general countryside.</p> <p>Several of the comments appear to relate to the whole of the counties contributions/opportunities for recognising and delivering on a sporting legacy, including opportunities for equestrian and water recreation activity. The emphasis of the AONB Plan should focus on the contribution that sport can make to the physical landscape and character of the Wolds as well as the socio-economic benefits. Some conflicts may need careful management e.g. equestrian facilities and lighting; shooting and noise intrusion.</p>

			<p>Opportunities for future water sport activity is currently very limited in the AONB, most streamside/lake side leisure activities relate to fishing, walking, and cycling and to a lesser degree shooting.</p> <p>The Plan will seek to widen appropriate sporting/leisure interests in the future, excepting the primary purpose of the AONB designation. Further links with the sporting and health sectors will be encouraged, for example potentially through increased links with the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival.</p>
33	Paul Cutts Chairman South Willingham Parish Council	<p>Opposes large scale wind farms, pylons and overhead lines in the Wolds.</p> <p>Would like to see greater footpath access to local areas, especially where landowners traditionally keep land private.</p> <p>Develop “set aside” and corridor land at edges of fields for walking or horse riding.</p> <p>Development of cycle paths on busier roads.</p> <p>The parish council support the plan as it stands and feel the Wolds should be developed in the way suggested as long as it is sensitive to the needs of the local population and environment, both built and natural.</p>	<p>Comments noted and general support for the Plan welcomed.</p> <p>As discussed above (see responses 10b, 12 and 21) wind power remains controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies to the range of emerging technologies including wind energy developments. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB (Policies PP8 & PA11). The positive work with the relevant District Network providers for electricity is well documented in the Plan. See response 12 above for additional comments on pylon developments.</p> <p>Agree on the importance of securing greater public access which is supported by the Plan – Policies TCP4 and ARTP1. Support for encouragement to farmers/landowners to utilise marginal land for encouraging wider access would aid delivery towards Actions ARTA2 and ARTA7. However the opportunities for grant assistance are much more challenging following the cessation of future access payments for farmers/landowners via Natural England’s Environmental Stewardship (ES) scheme. <u>(Additional note: existing permissive access schemes will be honoured to the end of the original agreements, but most will end prior to the 2020 cut-off. ES will continue to support some special educational access projects, but they will need to specifically cater for <16 year olds and/or adults with special needs).</u></p> <p>Support noted on enabling future development to take place</p>

			where this is sensitive to the needs of the local population and the built and natural environment. This view endorses Objective PO, recognising that any development must recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the AONB designation – the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and special qualities.
34	Janet Clark Senior Rural Officer Community Lincs	<p>Generally supports the aims and proposed actions of the whole document and particularly from the RHE point of view.</p> <p>PA4 to be reworded regarding Rural Housing Enablers.</p> <p>PA5, suggests that CL be added to the list of potential others and add wording to support the work of RHE's in the Living Lincs partnership to identify affordable housing sites.</p> <p>It is not clear how any conflicts between economy, environment and community will be resolved.</p> <p>Potential conflict resolution needs to be explained between partners own policy or political priorities.</p> <p>Could there be a list of parishes within the Wolds that would benefit from the protection of the Designated Protected Areas Order 2009?</p>	<p>General comments noted and overarching support for the Plan welcomed.</p> <p>Valid concern made on the clarification of any processes for resolving potential conflicts between policies/actions in the Plan and similarly conflict resolution for conflict with an individual partners own policies or actions. These are covered to a degree by the JAC Partnership Agreement. Every partner has a right of veto on the JAC, the consensus view of the AONB partnership – the Joint Advisory Committee, will override the views of any individual partner in terms of determining overarching policy and support for relevant projects on a case by case basis for example as resources come forward. Legislation places the primary role of AONB designation as the protection and enhancement of natural beauty and the partnership should ensure that this is paramount when taking account of any conflict. All relevant LAs, government agencies and other statutory undertakers have a duty of regard to the AONB designation when performing their functions. (see Section 2.3)</p> <p>Concerns raised on Actions PA4 - PA5. See also responses from ELDC (response 24), the CLA (response 30) and Natural England (response 42). Proposed merging both PP3 and PP4 policies on affordable housing – rewording to maintain additional link with local needs. This Policy aims to complement current and future LA policies and is an important local issue.</p> <p>A list of AONB Parishes protected via the Designated Protected Areas Order 2009 has been drawn up.</p>
35	Ted Banks	The most important part of the plan is the	Note and welcome CPRE's general support for the AONB

	<p>Campaign for the Protection of Rural England</p>	<p>Policy framework and this is soundly based and clearly presented. CPRE welcomes the plan and the specific 5 year action plan. We support this and would be willing to assist if requested and feasible.</p> <p>Section 4, proposed policies reflect the issues and needs/challenges.</p> <p>Section 5, Sustaining and improving facilities for those living in the AONB will present major challenge, especially with reductions in public spending and depressed private spending.</p> <p>Section 6, would welcome increase in sensitively produced interpretative facilities and literature. Further opportunities for leisure and recreation beneficial providing low key and not associated with noise and visual intrusion.</p> <p>Section 7, policies PP6, PP7 and PP8 are crucially important.</p> <p>Section 8, supports any relevant work.</p> <p>Section 9, supports any relevant work.</p> <p>Would like to see more paths and access for walkers and horse riders.</p> <p>Many paths are in effect, a cul de sac – leading to or only accessible from busy roads. Many parishes are lacking an appropriate network, more circular routes are needed in several areas of the AONB, possibilities could be worked up with negotiation with relevant bodies.</p> <p>Greater potential for securing access to, and information about, some of the ancient monuments and other sites of historic and archaeological interest.</p>	<p>Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.</p> <p>Acknowledge that there is some overlap between policies and objectives in the Plan, these were carefully reviewed by the JAC partnership and a clear logical structure maintained – with the objectives serving as over arching aims or goals and the resulting policies proving a the focus for future activity.</p> <p>Recognise the importance that CPRE places on safeguarding the AONB from potential harmful developments and the need to safeguard tranquillity, especially via Policies PP6, PP7 and PP8.</p> <p>Acknowledge important point made in support of the need for sensitively designed interpretation facilities – listed as one of the key issues in Section 6.1. Also the importance for enhancing the rights of way network including especially better linkages for walkers and horseriders. As discussed above (see response 33) securing future access may be an increasing challenge as relevant government grants decline – pooling of resources and expertise will be increasingly important, together with continuing goodwill and engagement from landowners and local communities. (Policies TCP4 and ARTP1)</p> <p>Welcome CPRE’s willingness to assist wherever possible in future mutual projects.</p>
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		Overall , CPRE is anxious that tranquillity of the Wolds be retained. We believe the Management Plan, is implemented as proposed should secure this objective.	
36	Caroline Steel Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	<p>The draft plan is readable and clear.</p> <p>Would be useful to include a reference to the Central Green Infrastructure Audit.</p> <p>Supports concern expressed by Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership over interpretation of LWS designation.</p> <p>Supports other points made by LBP.</p> <p>Detailed response on Section 4 “Protecting the Wolds” including more information on links links to other relevant strategies.</p> <p>Section 5, would like to see inclusion of a policy to lobby for maintenance/introduction of agri-environment schemes applicable to the Wolds.</p> <p>Detailed response on Section 9 “Making it Happen”.</p> <p>Looks forward to continuing the good relationship with LWCS.</p>	<p>General comments and support noted on wide range of relevant objectives and policies, with detailed suggestions to enhance the Biodiversity sections of the Plan.</p> <p>Agree that the Plan should acknowledge the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure study and accompanying Biodiversity Opportunity Map for Central Lincolnshire - which extends to the West Lindsey District Council area of the AONB. This has been included in Section 2.5 Management Plan in Context emphasising the strategic influence of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit.</p> <p>Section 4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement: The Natural Environment White Paper and earlier Lawton Review is introduced in this section with further references in Section 4.2.1. Agree the Plan could benefit from links to the England Biodiversity Strategy and European Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Agree with the suggestions for revised wording for Objective BO, GO, WBO and Policies BP1 and BP2.</p> <p>Useful point made on the importance of a sound evidence base for future decision making – additional sentence added to the introduction in Section 9.2 Monitoring.</p> <p>As recommended, further supporting text added to both Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland and 4.2.3 Grass Verges and Green Lanes to highlight the wider range of ecosystem benefits from protecting, enhancing and restoring this important habitat resource.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 already mentions that the first protected roadside</p>

			<p>reserve in the country was in the Wolds, however the 1960 date to be added for increased clarity. Revised context for Life on the Verge in the accompanying text to reflect recent & ongoing delivery of the project.</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards agree that SSSI reference is misleading – wording amended. Forestry Commission has confirmed that regional boundary changes will not affect the AONB.</p> <p>Section 4.2.5. Hedgerows and Landmark Trees acknowledge that there is a need to highlight the important interconnecting role of hedgerows in the supporting text.</p> <p>Section 5: Living and Working in the Wolds. Note the Trust’s request for a specific lobbying policy for the development of agri-environment schemes relevant to the Wolds (e.g. to maintain & enhance areas of high nature value & ecological networks. The Lincolnshire Wolds JAC has been careful in the past not to assume a lobbying position, but rather one of positive dialogue through its advisory and facilitating role. A wider influencing role for agricultural issues pertinent to Wolds’ farmers is expressed through Policies FWP2 and resulting Actions FWA3 and FWA4. In addition to working at a local level, via for e.g. the Campaign for the Farmed Environment the AONB partnership will also engage through national representations and consultations as part of the wider family of protected landscapes and especially through the relevant advocacy activities of the National Association for AONBs.</p> <p>Specific change requests to Actions (Table 4) in respect of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust’s delivery as lead or supporting partner all amended accordingly. Agree to recommended changes for grass verges (Actions VLA3 & VLA4) including revision of targets to link with ongoing and future delivery via the Life on the Verge partnership.</p>
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			<p>Welcome general support for relevant objectives and policies as detailed in the response and the Trust's continued willingness to assist in delivery of relevant areas of the Plan via active engagement with the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and Joint Advisory Committee.</p>
37	<p>Chris Padley Chairman Mid-Lincs Access Forum</p>	<p>Found the document numbering system difficult to navigate in tandem with the PDF file numbering.</p> <p>Section 4, supports section referring to verges and green lanes, but feels there is considerable need to create safe, cleared track ways on verges, away from the tarmac, especially on busier roads to enable walkers and horse riders to proceed easily, especially on links to bus stops, bridleways and quieter roads.</p> <p>Section 6, ARTP6, supports the recognition that the Wolds lacks adequate access and would like to see this strengthened by including the Highway Authority which would help underline their statutory role in the management of verges and rights of way network, including improvement under the RoWIP and Local Transport Plans.</p> <p>The forthcoming Wolds horse driving trail underlines particular importance of equestrian activity and would like to see specific reference to equestrianism in both the access and tourism sections.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way network is patchy; some particularly attractive areas are inaccessible as the rights of way have not been recorded. It would be useful to expand this area in the</p>	<p>Response welcomed from the Mid-Lincolnshire Access Forum.</p> <p>Agree on the clear links between access, interpretation and visitor experience and understanding. This is implicit within the 2004-09 AONB Management Plan and the original 2001 Interpretation Strategy and is why Access is included as a topic within Section 6 Discovering the Wolds alongside Interpretation, Recreation and Tourism as well as coverage within Section 7.2 Transport. No further amendments are proposed.</p> <p>Recognise the request to be more explicit in highlighting the strategic role of the Highway Authority – for the AONB this is not only Lincolnshire County Council but also North East Lincolnshire Council. Additional text added in Sections 2.5 Management Plan in Context, 7.2 Transport in the Wolds & 8. Partnerships in the Wolds.</p> <p>Noted and appreciated the difficulties in navigating through the draft M. Plan on-line due to the lack of alignment between the original document and PDF page numbering. Further review to be taken to enhance future indexing.</p> <p>Comments relating to Section 4 (4.2.3) include general recognition of the value and contribution of roadside verges & greenlanes to the landscape and nature conservation. An interesting proposal has been suggested to encourage and support access provision utilising additional roadside verge links for walkers and horseriders, especially to improve links between public right of way, quiet roads and bus stops on the edge of busy roads. The</p>

		<p>Management Plan, also to encourage land owners and authorities to co operate in creating new foot and bridleways through area lacking in provision.</p>	<p>Access Forum proposes exploring and developing (green) mown pathways, free of holes (open culverts) and other obstacles. There is potential conflict with botanical interests, including protected roadside verges. Resources and highway authority permitting there could be scope for a feasibility study to review this proposal in more detail, especially if there is likely to be a decline in permissive access through the decline in agri-environment schemes. However the Highway Authorities have confirmed that this is not a viable option due to legal and resourcing implications.</p> <p>Comment noted on the request to expand on the differences between foot, cycle and horse interests/requirements and how this relates directly to future opportunities. As detailed above - the spirit of the Plan is very much on developing and promoting access for all, whilst recognising the legislative rights of way and site specific issues.</p> <p>Similar points made to respondents 2. and 20. on the increasing potential of equine usage and tourism in the Wolds. Current focus of partnership resources for equestrian activity is on developing and promoting the new horse carriage route as detailed in Action ARTA19. Agree that there is potential to explore and develop a range of equine linked tourism provision (through farm diversification etc.) and this has been made more explicit in Sections 6.1 and 6.3. including supporting text on the forthcoming Lindsey Trail.</p> <p><u>Request for new policy:</u> “Encourage landowners and authorities to cooperate in creating new footpath and bridleways in those areas currently lacking provision and especially where these close short gaps in the network or help to minimise shared use of busy roads.” This is covered in-part through Policies ARTP6 and TWP5 and might be better being worded as a specific action.</p>
38	Roy Marsh Hemingby resident	<p>Found the Management Plan very easy to follow. Section 4, is very excited about the</p>	<p>Welcome this positive and enthusiastic response from a local resident. Support noted for the general structure and readability of the Plan</p>

		<p>enthusiasm about all groups and councils. Section 5, good. Section 6, supports; thinks area is little known and plans will allow visitors to leave thinking this is a beautiful part of the country. Section 7, supports future plans for tree generation and monitoring of plants and fauna. Wind farms should not be allowed. Section 8, internet speed connectivity should be aggressively pursued. Speed limit on Green Lane should be reduced from 60 mph, cars, vans and motorcycles speed up and down as there is good visibility killing wildlife and endangering walkers and horse riders. Place an interpretation board at the start of the footpath.</p>	<p>and general endorsement for Sections 4 – 6. Note respondents’ acknowledgment on the capacity for, and benefits of, increasing visitor numbers.</p> <p>Acknowledge the firm request for more specific policies to help prevent undesirable landscape impacts from wind farm developments both within and adjacent to the AONB. As discussed above (see responses 10b, 12, 21 and 33) wind power remains controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies on the range of emerging technologies including wind energy developments. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB (Policies PP8 & PA11).</p> <p>Note the respondents request for Quiet Lanes, specifically speed restrictions along Green Lane (near Cadwell Park). As detailed in response 11b the Highways Authorities have advised us to take out any references to traffic calming as it does indicate formal measures that would not be in keeping or appropriate in the Wolds and they would not authorise or undertake such a scheme. They reported that there was no take up or likely take up of Quiet Lanes in Lincolnshire. This was a national initiative that appears to have lost impetus and is deemed no longer a priority for the County. Additional policy TWP6 “to encourage Highway Authorities to adopt traffic management measures and schemes commensurate with AONB designation and rural environments” has now been recommended.</p> <p>Note desire for an aggressive approach to aid increased internet connectivity. Section 5.2 Thriving Communities recognises opportunities from new technologies including the value of internet coverage/speeds in helping to support the local economy and wider rural service network. Covered specifically as Action TCA6 to help deliver on wider Policy TCP2.</p>
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			<p>Request for an interpretation panel at the start of the Hemingby Green Lane (Roman Road) has been noted. Aware that a new interpretation panel is to be installed in Hemingby, although not at this same location. The AONB Management Plan maintains highlights its broad support for community interpretation, which can extend to panels (as and where appropriate) via Policy IP3 and more specifically Action IPA12.</p> <p>As discussed in related response 22 above: both the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and Small Grants Scheme (SGS) have assisted local community groups in a wide range of amenity enhancements, together with support from Awards for All. These have included the creation of new access for open space often including sympathetically designed signage, interpretation and other facilities such as seating. Resources permitting the future SDF and SGS programmes (see Action TCA2) will provide an incentive for future community driven amenity schemes, and the priority will be on delivery of multiple benefits and those schemes highlighted within any appropriate village/parish and neighbourhood plans (see Action PA2).</p>
39	Simon Wright Places Manager LCC	Supports the policy which refers to the sympathetic repair and sustainable re-use of redundant buildings.	Note and welcome specific support for the sympathetic re-use of redundant buildings as expressed through Policy BHP3 (Action BHA9). Section 4.4.2 Built Heritage recognises that the repair/re-use of redundant buildings needs to carefully consider landscape (design & materials) and any wildlife interests (especially protected species such as bats and barn owl roosts) but agree this can provide important opportunities for farm diversification, small enterprise and new businesses development. This link is covered in Section 5.2 Thriving Communities but will be briefly referenced in the supporting text for Built Heritage.
40	Councillor Julia Pear Spilsby Town Council	Telephone response – written papers to follow (see reference 44)	See below response 44.
41	Jill Makinson- Sanders Hubbards Hills	Would like to congratulate the team for putting together such a comprehensive report which is easy to read and so clear in its objectives.	Very supportive comments welcomed including the wider support from the Hubbard's Hills Trust. Note wider interest in renewable energy and future projects within the market town of Louth.

	Trust	Supports the Plan and agrees that it is a positive and viable way forward for the AONB. Would welcome comments on impact of solar panels on London Road sports hall.	Hubbard's Hills is referenced specifically within the Plan (Section 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism) as one of only a few sites providing wider access opportunities. Envisage continuing the positive links with the Hubbard's Hills Trust and the emerging Hubbard's Hills Management Plan.
42	Karen Devonport Senior Advisor Natural England	Detailed 9 page response on the structure and content of the Management Plan and accompany Strategic Environmental Assessment . The response highlights potential inaccuracies and makes a number of suggestions for additional references and wording including to a number of the Objectives and Policies in the document. Appreciates the hard work of the LWCS in the production of the Consultation draft.	<p><u>Comments on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):</u> Welcome acknowledgement that Natural England has been engaged in the SEA process from an early stage and that they are satisfied that the assessment provides a comprehensive baseline and identifies the key sustainability issues.</p> <p>NE recognises the assessment of the objectives and policies and the mitigation proposals that have been used to update the AONB Management Plan, including proposed new objectives to minimise adverse effects on the environment.</p> <p>SEA report – several references to Joint Character Areas (JCAs) that should read as National Character Areas (NCAs).</p> <p><u>Comments on Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report:</u> Welcome Natural England's general agreement with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulation screening assessment for the Plan's potential impacts upon nearby designated conservation areas of European importance (e.g. the coastal Natura 2000 sites of Saltfleetby and Gibraltar Point). Note that NE concurs with the conclusion that some changes to Objectives and Policies as detailed in the Screening Report, in addition to a "wider protected area scope" for Policy PP8, is required to avoid any potential harmful impacts on the Natura sites. The report highlighted that undesirable impacts to coastal sites could come about indirectly where specific AONB policies may be seen to restrict or displace certain activities. Note that NE concludes that providing the above recommendations are actioned accordingly there will be no need to undertake a more detailed Appropriate Assessment.</p>

			<p>Comments noted on the wording of Policy PP8 (now PP7) wind turbines and possible implications for surrounding Natura sites areas if a more restrictive Policy is to be adopted. Further guidance taken from the individual local planning authorities and Natural England. The consensus view has been to clarify a stance for the Plan to maintain a general presumption against any wind energy schemes deemed to exceed micro-energy status, both within the AONB and in those adjacent areas likely to detrimental harm to the views or setting of the area.</p> <p><u>Comments on main Plan:</u> Welcome the supportive comments from NE on the general style and readability of the Plan.</p> <p>Note the agencies recognition that the Plan has undergone a 'light review'. Regarding public/community discussions at various events including the two important Wolds' conferences - these have helped to inform the Plan as described in the Chairman's Introduction.</p> <p>Note NE's suggestion to revise the current structure of the early scene setting chapters. The original structure followed in-part the recommendations from the CA 221 Management Plan guidance, although the partnership wished to see the Vision as one of the first things within the document. The 1999 Plan had received adverse comments for having the Vision towards the back of the publication. On balance agree to switch early sequence of chapters and has been actioned accordingly.</p> <p>Recognise that many of the previous key related planning and strategic documents will be superseded by the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Revised Section 1.5 (previously 2.5) Management Plan in Context to highlight the important influence of the Localism Bill and the recently launched National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As advised included additional cross-referencing to further external environmental</p>
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			<p>drivers including the EU2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the England Biodiversity Strategy, the Lawton report Making Space for Nature, Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice etc,. These are covered in more detail in Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds).</p> <p>Regarding the Vision, some fair comments made on the general overly descriptive nature of the special qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds that accord with comments from East Lindsey DC (response 24). This statement was expanded due in part to the post adoption comments from English Nature (now Natural England) and CA 211, 2006 Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans, both of which advised on the need for fuller descriptions of the AONB to draw out the special/unique qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds and how these attributes are going to be safeguarded in the future. Agree that the new vision is now somewhat wordy and duplicates the descriptions within Section 2 (previously Section 3). These have now been removed from the vision to help avoid unnecessary duplication.</p> <p>Section 3.3.1 (Outstanding Qualities) & 3.3.2 (National Landscape Character Assessments) agree to minor word changes. Note the comments on the future role of the National Character Areas (NCA) and added in 3.3.2 the future role of Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) which are being developed for each NCA. Welcome Natural England’s continuing support and guidance in this area especially in respect of partnership development of NCA 43 for the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p> <p>Section 3.3.3. (The Regional Landscape Character Assessment (EMLCA) actioned correction to its 2010 publication. Support inclusion of additional paragraph to help explain the purpose and use of EMLCA.</p> <p>Table 1 & Table 2 consider wider referencing to the LWCS and other datasets as a footnote. In part a distillation of peer review</p>
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			<p>and community consultations. Number of additional points in respect of Table 1 have been actioned.</p> <p>Section 3.5 (Threats/Issues/Pressures on the Wolds) agree paragraph could benefit from additional comment on positive opportunities via agri-environment options. Note suggestion to reference in future Wolds Annual Reviews links/delivery in respect of the new Local Nature Partnership. This will be considered further where relevant.</p> <p><u>Further suggestions for Section 4: Protecting the Wolds</u> Policy BP2 (Biodiversity) - agree to make specific reference to providing for enhanced ecosystem service networks. Include additional cross reference to Policy CCP3 (Climate change and Energy). Page 19 - reference made to NCA 43 Lincolnshire Wolds. Policy GP1 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) - agree to add '<i>connect</i>' as there is habitat and landscape benefits for linking grassland. Objective HTO (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees) - agree to suggestion to include 'manage'. Objective RSPO (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) - agree to additional 'function' and 'landscape character' as detailed. Note & actioned corrections to text reference for geology actions EHA1-6 > GDA1-6. Policy SP2 (Soils) - agree to additional text 'and services' to highlight wider ecosystem services benefits from good soil management. Objective AO (Archaeology) - agree that suggested inclusion of 'appropriately manage' would strengthen this objective. Policy BHP1 (Built Heritage) - support additional text 'in keeping with local character'.</p> <p><u>Section 5: Living and Working in the Wolds</u> Policy FWP5 (Farming in the Wolds) - agree to recommendation to add 'appropriately manage' to help recognise the link between</p>
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			<p>traditional rural activities and traditional land management. TCA3 (Thriving Communities) welcome NE's support and offer in assisting partners to help facilitate grass roots community action. TCP2 & TP2 (Thriving Communities) recognise the gap in specific actions for promoting healthier lifestyles. Currently no partners have come forward with suggested actions, although there are obvious connections with other areas of the Plan, most notably the benefits to public health through access, recreation and tourism activity (Section 6.3). Relevant actions will be sought over the life of the Plan.</p> <p><u>Section 6: Discovering the Wolds</u> Section 6.3: (Access, Recreation and Tourism) Note the general support for promoting access for all (e.g. Policy ARTP1) but concern expressed that there are no direct links or actions for achieving Access for All under the requirements of the relatively new Equality Act 2010. Suggest that this is already implied via advice and assistance to the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Action ARTA1? Acknowledge an error in numbering in the main Plan - Policy ARTP6 corrected to ARTP4.</p> <p><u>Section 7: Developing the Wolds</u> Policy PP4 (Small scale Affordable Housing) note request for clarification on the precise role of the AONB partnership. See also responses from ELDC (response 24), CLA (response 30) and Community Lincs (response 34). Suggest merging both PP3 and PP4 policies on affordable housing – rewording to include link with local needs. This Policy aims to complement current and future LA policies and remains an important local issue.</p> <p>Note support for Policy PP6 on development and setting and the recommendation to explore work of the Cotswold Conservation Board in this area.</p> <p>Note response and suggestions for Policy PP8 (now PP7) - see</p>
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			<p>above updated commentary following additional consultation.</p> <p>Support suggestion for an additional Policy (PP10) “to develop a comprehensive and sensitive approach to securing opportunities for renewable energy provision across the AONB and its wider setting.” Cross reference to Policy CCP4 and vice versa.</p> <p>Note support for Policy CCP3 (Climate change and Energy) and as suggested cross referenced to revised Policy BP2 (Biodiversity). Welcome offer from Natural England to assist as a potential other partner, assuming for Actions CCA4 and CCA5.</p> <p><u>Section 8: Working Together</u> Note the suggested reference to highlight future links to the emerging Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, viewed by NE as one of the key partnerships for the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (AONB Unit). Terminology changed from Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership to the new Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.</p> <p><u>Section 9: Making it Happen</u> Relating to 9.2.1 (Condition Monitoring) support additional recommendation to highlight the ongoing work of the national monitoring project; with the Wolds AONB unit participating as one of four pilot areas. The final conclusions and recommendations are still outstanding however so Table 5 will be subject to further review. Amended Action MA4 to emphasise the project is part of a national partnership.</p> <p>Table 5 actioned correction request - NE not DEFRA provide the data source for higher tier agri-environment schemes.</p> <p><u>Closing comments</u> Note and welcome general comment of support from NE to continue to work alongside and support the Wolds AONB partnership to secure mutual outcomes for the benefit of nature</p>
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			<p>and wider society.</p> <p>Agee to amendment request for Appendix 1 bullet point.</p> <p>Further thought needed for wider policy to encourage volunteering and participation opportunities for the benefit of the natural environment in the AONB. Request to consider as part of Section 5.2 Thriving Communities & Section 6.3 Access, Recreation & Tourism. No capacity currently within LWCS team to run a coordinated volunteer programme. Emphasis continues on providing support to local community groups including assistance via the Lincolnshire Wolds SDF and the Small Grants Fund.</p> <p>Welcome NE's recognition of the hard work and commitment of the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service team in preparing the public consultation draft and NE's engagement in the final drafting of the Plan.</p>
43	Mrs A Hodgson Clerk to Asterby, Goulceby and Ranby Parish Council	<p>The parish council considered the Management Plan to be too vague and lacked short executive summary.</p> <p>Would like to be provided with clear and concise vision and objectives together with a high level implementation strategy.</p>	<p>A more critical response than many highlighting general concerns that the Plan is too vague and needs to be more focused.</p> <p>In response: the content of the Plan is very wide because of the diversity of issues impacting upon the special qualities of the AONB, the wide range of components that contribute to current understanding of landscape protection/management and the increasing need to take into account socio-economic factors. As indicated in Section 2 Setting the Scene the structure of the Plan must broadly align with the government guidance for producing AONB Management Plans as detailed in publication CA 23, and the revised CA 221.</p> <p>As detailed in the immediate Introduction and How to read and Use the Plan sections there is a broad high level strategy provided by the broad objectives and resulting policies (scrutinised through the accompanying independent SEA process). Sections 2.5 Management Plan in Context, 2.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan and 2.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire</p>

			<p>Wolds AONB? explains in some detail the context of the Plan, its links to wider strategy and its expected implementation. Table 4 provides a comprehensive Action Plan linking specific tasks to relevant strategic policies and wider objectives – wherever possible these are intended to be specific, time-bound, measurable and realistic. Some brief additional text has been included in Section 9.1 Implementation to provide some additional clarity.</p> <p>Support the request for a concise Executive Summary. One was produced for the original 2004 -09 Management Plan and resources permitting it is intended to produce another for the revised Plan. The presence of an Executive Summary and the final SEA Environmental Report will be highlighted in the main body of the Plan, most usefully in the Introduction and/or How to read and use the Management Plan sections.</p>
44	Spilsby Town Council	<p>Would like extension of the Wolds to include Spilsby and provided a case for this to be implemented.</p> <p>Oppose pylons.</p> <p>Would need to look at the current quality of wildlife sites outside Spilsby and the effect on these habitats if there were any proposed wind farm development.</p> <p>Agree with many of the points raised in this very well written piece of work.</p>	<p>Welcome the constructive comments from this response and the general view that the Plan has been well written.</p> <p>Similar to response 18, comments have been duly noted and carefully considered in respect of the recommendation to extend the southern boundary of the AONB beyond its current route into the Spilsby Crescent (Shelf) and the opportunities this could generate in terms of delivering on wider national objectives including Sir John Lawton's Making Space for Nature recommendations (as detailed Section 4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement in the Plan and summarised in the Town Council's response).</p> <p>There have been no boundary modifications to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB since its original designation in 1973 and the reasons for its original designation are well documented within Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – Designation History Series (R. Woolmore, 2006). There would be clear pros and cons in undertaking an AONB boundary review with financial and political implications. It would be a costly and extensive exercise, requiring</p>

			<p>in the first instance a number of detailed independent landscape assessments. The AONB is a national designation and due to the legislative framework the process would very likely trigger a time consuming and costly public enquiry – only one formal objection is needed.</p> <p>Around 2004-05 the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee submitted written evidence to the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) summarising various anomalies with the current AONB boundary (including its southern boundary) as part of a national review of protected landscape designations. As detailed in Action – PA16 further investigation will be explored over the life of the Plan to assess more fully the options and possible implications in undertaking a boundary review.</p> <p>Agree with the concerns expressed by the respondent in terms of the potential undesirable impacts that could result from future wind farm, electricity substation and pylon developments, both within and in close proximity to the AONB. This is covered in a range of policies within Objective PO (Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management) and an additional reference to utilities has been included in the accompanying supporting text.</p>
45	Don Westman Market Rasen resident	Strongly opposes wind farms/turbines and feels there should be a presumption against all but small turbines at individual properties.	<p>Comments noted on strong opposition to wind farms/turbines and the request to strengthen the policy wording accordingly. Response carefully considered. As discussed above (see responses 10b, 12, 21, 33 and 38) wind power remains controversial: individual planning authorities are currently developing specific planning guidance and policies on the range of emerging technologies including wind energy developments. The Plan supports a consistent approach with a general presumption against medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB (Policies PP8 & PA11).</p>
46	Russell Howard Tathwell resident	Firmly opposes wind farms/turbines with supporting letter attached of recent correspondence with East Lindsey District Council in respect of future wind energy	<p>Comments noted and carefully considered (see above – 45 & other relevant responses 10b, 12, 21, 33 and 38).</p> <p>Agree to strengthen Policy PP8 (now PP7) to highlight the</p>

		<p>development in the neighbouring coastal grazing marshes. Suggested revised wording to strengthen PP8 in respect of a wider presumption against neighbouring wind turbine developments – not just for proposals immediate to the AONB boundary.</p>	<p>importance of safeguarding impacts from neighbouring wind farm developments – not just those adjacent to the area but those impacting upon its views and setting. This would accord with current national planning guidance, which although against the creation of buffer areas does support the principle of wider protection for nationally protected landscapes, including AONBs.</p> <p>Further discussion taken within the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group in respect of proposed rewording to PP8 (now PP7) and a revised policy on wind energy has been recommended.</p>
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Appendix 7a – 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
EH	English Heritage
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
GLNP	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
GM	Genetically Modified
HaR	Heritage at Risk
HHT	Hubbard's Hills Trust
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
HTL	Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
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
LERAP	Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides

LERC	Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre
LGG	Lincolnshire Geodiversity Group
LGS	Local Geological Site
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
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
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
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	Trust for Conservation Volunteers (previously BTCV)
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
TRIL	Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council
WTT	Wild Trout Trust

Appendix 7b - Technical Terms

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 1600 and which has not been cleared or replanted (except natural regeneration).
BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan)	The document that ensures everyone can help protect and enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of achievable actions.
Barrows	An ancient mound associated with burials.
Big Society	A UK government concept that aims to create a climate that empowers local people and communities.
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	A type of grassland 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.
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	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.
Dissemination	To spread ideas and information as widely as possible.
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.
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.
Localism	A range of political philosophies which prioritise the local – typically in the control of government, production and consumption of goods and services etc.
Nucleated	A village or settlement with a strong central part.

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).
Set-aside	Farmland taken out of food production.
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 8 – Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives

An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire - S Bennett and N Bennett, 1993
Biodiversity 2020, 2011
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies - Environment Agency
Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Lincolnshire, 2012
Countryside Stewardship Targeting Statement, Defra, 2003
Destination East Midlands - East Midlands Tourism Strategy, emda, 2003-2010
Earth Heritage Conservation in England: A Natural Areas Perspective - English Nature Research Report no 158, 1996
East Midlands Planning Charter - East Midlands Regional Local Government Association, 1999
EC Rural Development Regulations, 2007
Engaging East Lindsey - Community Plan for East Lindsey, 2007
England Rural Development Programme - Defra
England's East Midlands Wildlife: the future you can help! - East Midlands Biodiversity Forum, 2003
English Heritage in the East Midlands 2003-2005 - English Heritage, 2003
Heritage Counts 2003, The State of the East Midlands Historic Environment - English Heritage, 2003
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, 3rd Edition, 2011
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan - Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture, 2003
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
Making Space for Nature - The Lawton Review, 2010
National Planning Policy Framework, 2012
North East Lincolnshire Community Strategy - North East Lincolnshire Local Strategic Partnership, 2003
North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan, 2011
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
Regional Economic Strategy Destination 2010 - emda, 2003
Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG 8), 2002 and revised draft 2003
Report on Surveys of Businesses - The Bowls Green Partnership, 2000
RIGS Handbook - UK RIGS, 1999 onwards
Roadside Tree Clumps in the Lincolnshire Wolds (Chalk Wolds) - Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, 1998
Strategy for Sustainable Land Management - The Countryside Agency, 2001
Sustainable Community Strategy - North East Lincolnshire Council, 2010
Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative, 2002
The European Landscape Convention, ratified by the UK in 2006
The Lincolnshire Agenda - Lincolnshire Enterprise, 2003
The Local Geodiversity Action Plan for the Historic County of Lincolnshire, 2010
The Local Geological Sites: Guidelines for the Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire, 2009
The Local Wildlife Sites: Guidelines for the Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire, 2008
The Natural Choice; securing the value of nature (2011)
The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests, 2007
The West Lindsey Community Strategy, 2006
'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands, 2003
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands - English Heritage, 2002
Walkers are Welcome Network, 2006

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 Local Plan - Lincolnshire County Council, 1991
Lincolnshire Structure Plan - Lincolnshire County Council, 2006
Lincolnshire Waste Local Plan, Preliminary Consultation Draft - Lincolnshire County Council, 2003
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 – Core Strategy & Local Plan documents (in development)
West Lindsey District Council - Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan – Core Strategy & Local Plan documents (in development)

Appendix 9 – Bibliography/Further Information

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- National Association for AONBs Strategic Plan 2012 - 2015, 2012.
- North East Lincolnshire Local Plan - North East Lincolnshire Council, 2003.
- Protecting our Finest Countryside: Advice to Government - Countryside Commission, 1998 (CCP532).
- The Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy - Lincolnshire County Council, 2001.
- The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape - Countryside Commission, 1993 (CCP414).
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment - NEA, 2011.
- West Lindsey Local Plan First Review, First Deposit Draft - West Lindsey District Council, 2003.

(See also Appendix 8 - Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives)

Key Websites for Further Information:

www.defra.gov.uk	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.english-heritage.org.uk	English Heritage
www.environment-agency.gov.uk	Environment Agency
www.forestry.gov.uk	Forestry Commission
www.glnp.org.uk	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside	Lincolnshire County Council - Access
www.lincswolds.org.uk	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
www.landscapesforlife.org.uk	National Association for AONBs
www.nfuonline.com	National Farmers Union
www.naturalengland.org.uk	Natural England

Appendix 10 - Acknowledgements

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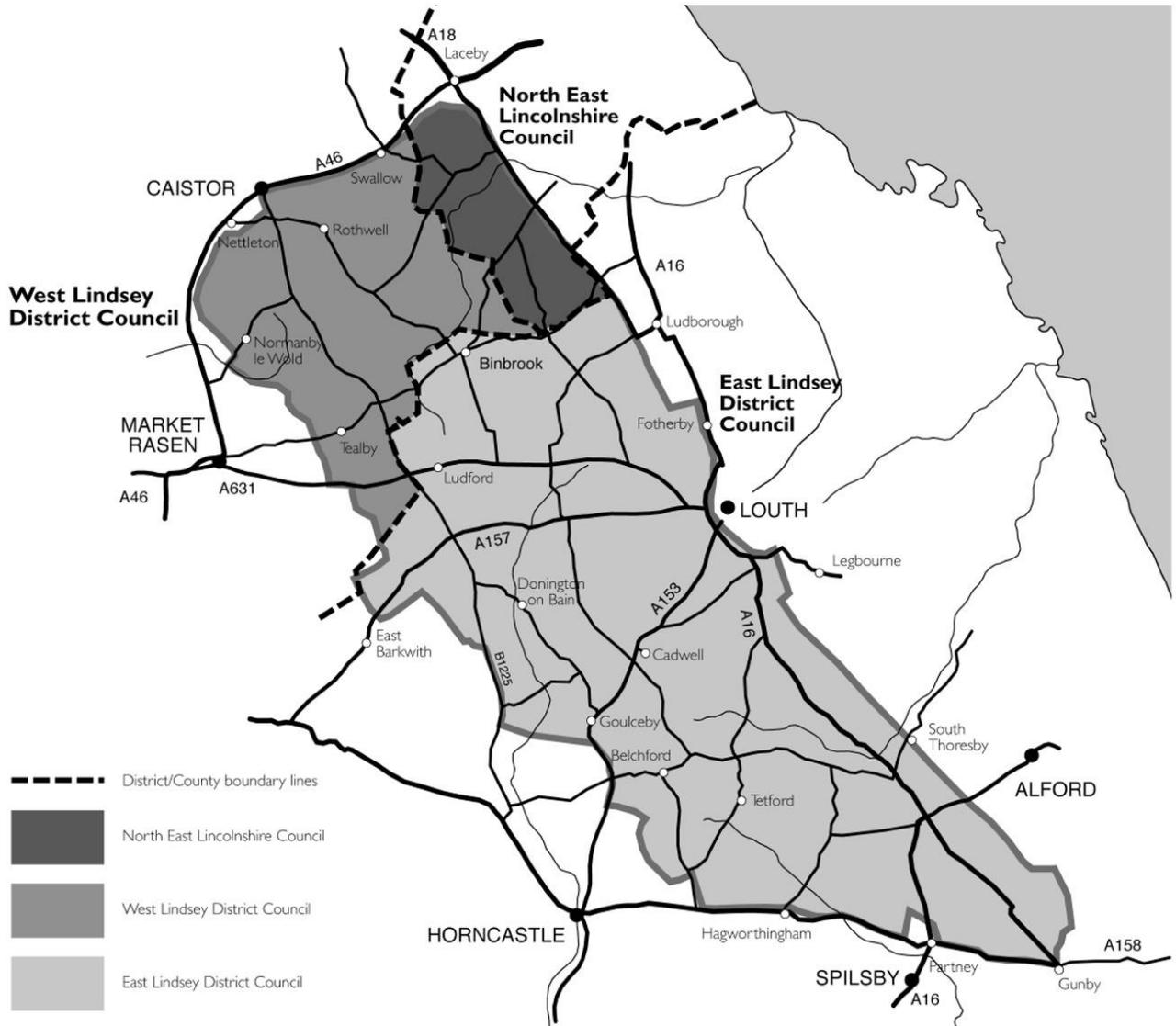
The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service:

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Map 1 National Map of AONBs



Map 2 Local Authority Boundary Map



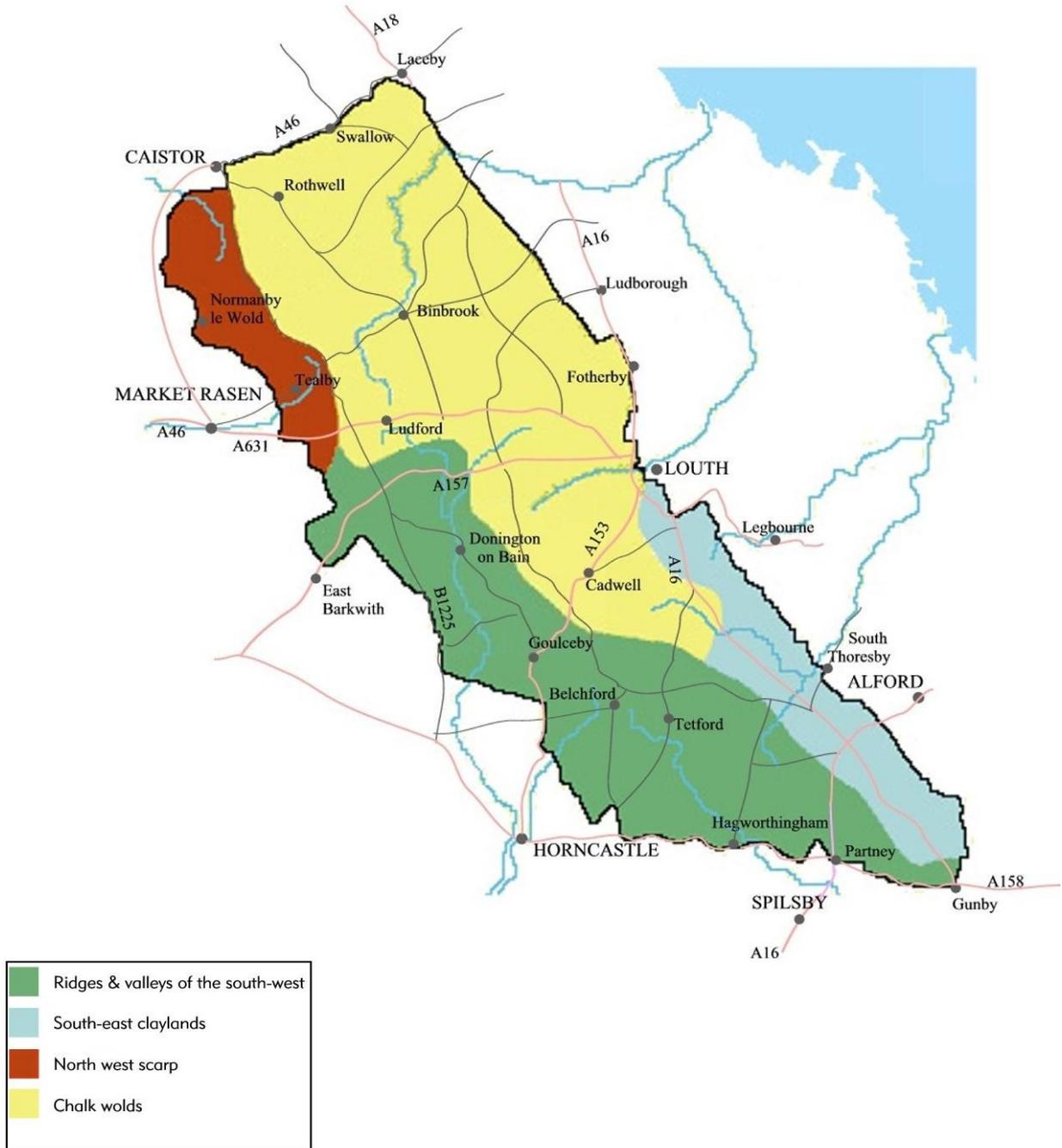
MAP © Lincolnshire and South Humberside
Tourist Cartography by Lovell Johns Ltd. Oxford 1993

Map 4 AONB/Character Area Map



Map 5

Local Landscape Character Map



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