

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

2012 – 2017

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT - TEXT ONLY

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

**Deadline for all written comments –
30th November 2011**

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 new Draft Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan which sets out the proposed updated Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2012-2017. The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973, recognising it as one of the country's finest landscapes, a designation now 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 39 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 undeniably 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 22 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 Draft 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 Draft 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 Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB partnership) 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.

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 from 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.

Councillor Lewis Strange

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

How to read and use the Management Plan

Section 1 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.

Section 2 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 3 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.

Sections 4 – 8 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; 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 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.

Maps and appendices are included at the end of the document and provide a wide range of supporting information including additional baseline data, an extensive glossary of key related plans and strategies, and bibliography.

How was the Draft Plan and Draft SEA produced?

This revised statutory Draft Plan is 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 existing and revised Draft Management Plan. The SEA Base Line 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.

Having your say and the next steps...

This document is a Draft Review of the 2004-2009 Management Plan and is to read in conjunction with the accompanying Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) Report.

We now welcome your response as part of a formal twelve week consultation process. All comments and views are important to help us ensure that the revised Plan identifies all of the key issues facing the AONB and sets out the most effective partnership Strategy and Action Plan for achieving our shared twenty five year vision. Please note that the statutory obligations for the AONB place a primary duty on landscape protection, with secondary requirements to take account of social and economic needs of local communities and meeting where appropriate, the demands for recreation.

The next page of this document comprises a tear-off response form. Please take the time to fill it in, returning to the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, **FREEPOST NEA15672**, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 0DA or emailing to aonb@lincswolds.org.uk by **30th November 2011**.

Depending on the volume of comments received we hope to submit a final Draft Plan to Natural England during February 2012, prior to the final review, adoption and publication by Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council as required under Part IV section 90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

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

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Further Information

For further information on this Plan, the SEA Report or the Lincolnshire Wolds in general, please contact:

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
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LN11 0DA

Tel: (01507) 609740 www.lincswolds.org.uk

Response Form – please return comments by 30th November 2011

Please feel free to use this form to comment on the Lincolnshire Wolds Draft AONB Management Plan 2012-17 and SEA Report, attaching any additional sheets or expanding boxes as necessary and returning by post to:

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
Freepost NEA15672
Louth LN11 0BR

Or alternatively an email response sheet is available at www.lincswolds.org.uk to be returned to aonb@lincswolds.org.uk

If you have any queries please telephone 01507 609740 or visit our website.

Your details:

Name
Organisation/business (if applicable)
Address

Postcode
Email
Telephone

Do you have any comments on the general style of the revised AONB Management Plan 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?

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1. The Vision and Guiding Influences

1.1 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 current review provides 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 present the following amended vision statement for further public consultation and comment:

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a unique landscape of national importance and comprises the sole designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the East Midlands region. The AONB is 558 square kilometres and comprises a distinctive and cohesive rolling upland landscape. The Wolds today is very much a living and working landscape that has been heavily shaped and influenced by generations of human activity. The area has a number of particularly important characteristics that combine to create its very special sense of place. These outstanding attributes were identified in the original Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Character Assessment (see Section 3.3.1) and include:-

- 1. Its unique physiography*** – *The Wolds is the highest upland landscape in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent with a complex geology and geomorphology. Chalk deposits form the dominant bedrock, providing a series of plateau and ridge and valley landscapes which have been extensively modified by glaciation and periglacial activity. Some of the most striking features of the AONB include its numerous steep-sided and open-ended combes. Many of the valley bottoms are characterised by a network of chalk springs and streams of national importance.*
- 2. Its scenic, working landscape*** – *The designation identifies the widespread and dominant roll of farming in shaping the landscape of the Wolds that we see today. Over 80% of the Wolds comprises cultivated farmland on account of the area's widespread fertile soils with pasture and woodland commonly restricted to areas of steeper terrain. Much of the area's charm is derived from the seasonally changing field and cropping patterns and the deeply rural and tranquil character of the area.*
- 3. Its major archaeological resource*** – *The Wolds has a very rich legacy of heritage assets highlighting thousands of years of human influence on the area. Particularly important features include the presence of a large number of Lincolnshire's Neolithic long barrows, together with a high concentration of*

Bronze Age round barrows and ring ditches, and widely evident deserted and shrunken medieval settlements. There is a dense network of minor roads and public rights of ways linking traditional villages and farmsteads, with many recent routes coinciding with ancient routeways and drovers tracks.

- 4. *Its valued cultural landscape*** – *The Wolds landscape has been and continues to be a source of cultural inspiration. The Tennyson family has strong ties with the area with the Poet Laureate - Alfred, Lord Tennyson born at Somersby and spending much of his childhood in the area. The landscape has served as a stimulus for many other writers, artists and scholars over the years including the mid-19th century oil painter Peter de Wint and the Booker prize winning novelist A.S.Byatt in 'Possession'.*

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.

The AONB Management Plan will seek to ensure that wherever possible all permitted developments will be of a type, scale and quality which can build and add value to the primary reason for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – namely the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty, including the special features that contribute to the area's high scenic quality.

Most of the proposed changes to the vision statement relate to the need to expand on the widely recognised features of the AONB. The four broad special characteristics highlighted above recognise the outstanding qualities identified within the Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Character Assessment, CCP414, 1993 (as detailed in 3.3.1). There is also a widely accepted 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 more recently been termed as 'ecosystem services' in the Lawton review (Making Space for Nature review, 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. The Plan sets out a framework of policies, objectives and actions that collectively strive towards achieving this vision through local partnership action.

1.2 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.

1.3 Cross-cutting influences

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

1.3.1 Natural Beauty

The primary purpose of the AONB designation (see sections 2.2 & 2.3) 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 national legislation for AONBs accords well with the current government approaches for applying 'ecosystems services' and 'green infrastructure' approaches to land management recognising both multiple and holistic benefits.

1.3.2 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.

1.3.3 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 in the wider rural economic recovery of a region traditionally heavily dependent on agriculture. 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>), for example in assistance with new Parish and Neighbourhood Plans that can protect and enhance core values of the AONB designation e.g. supporting local distinctiveness and informing any future development needs.

1.3.4 Sustainability and the increasing influence of climate change

The statutory designation of AONBs (defined in 2.3) 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:

- o Social progress that meets everyone's needs
- o Effective protection of the environment
- o Prudent use of natural resources
- o 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.

1.3.5 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.

1.4 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 policies, objectives and actions have been developed on a topic by topic basis within these themes, acknowledging both threats and opportunities.

2. Setting the Scene

2.1 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.

2.2 Why have AONBs?

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 independent organisation acting on behalf of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty with its membership primarily from local authorities that have AONBs as well as the individual AONB partnership bodies. 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.

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), was finally 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.

2.3 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 – now Natural England (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)

2.4 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.

The function of the review is to identify amendments that are necessary to ensure it remains a working document that reliably and realistically informs the AONB management process. 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. The new 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.

2.5 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 Lincolnshire County Council 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. 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.

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) the planning authorities policies for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB continue to acknowledge that development that would significantly harm or devalue the character and appearance of the landscape should not be permitted unless a clear national interest and lack of alternative sites can be demonstrated. Well planned small-scale development, typically for the purposes of agriculture, recreation and other rural industries is generally permitted to safeguard the social and economic well-being of the area. There is a broad consensus for such development to be sympathetic to the character and appearance of the AONB utilising for example comprehensive site assessments, high quality design and construction techniques as well as good maintenance and management programmes.

The East Midlands Regional Plan – March 2009, provides the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS8) for the area. The RSS8 contains a number of overriding objectives and policies to help enhance the region's natural and cultural heritage. Importantly Policy 4 (Development in the Eastern Sub-Area) recognises the need to '*protect the landscape and natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB*'. Policy 31 (Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape) highlights in accordance with national policy, '*the promotion of the highest level of protection for the nationally designated landscapes of the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*'. (Although the RSS is now likely to be revoked through the Localism Bill it is likely to remain an important material consideration.)

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 7). 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. 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 beauty of the AONB; whilst also providing opportunities for sustainable social and economic development that accord with this purpose and current government aspirations for increasing the powers of localism and wider aspirations of the 'big society'.

2.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan

In accordance with Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and DETR Circular 04/2001 the revised draft Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2012-17) 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 2.8) 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.

2.7 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 new AONB Management Plan.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (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. 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.

2.8 How is the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB partnership funded?

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) provides the dedicated staff unit for the AONB and is hosted by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) on behalf of the JAC. The current National government has pledged its continuing financial commitment to AONBs; with a 75% core grant supplied direct from Defra (previously this was through Natural England) as part of a 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 now 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.

3. The Lincolnshire Wolds - A Special Landscape

3.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds - Introduction

The Lincolnshire Wolds lie in the north-eastern quarter of the county of Lincolnshire (Map 3), mid-way between Lincoln and the coast, surrounded by the relatively flat fens, coastal marsh and the Lincoln Clay Vale. As detailed, the AONB comprises an area of 558 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).

3.2 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 in 1993 (CCP 414), 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 till. 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 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.

3.3 Why is the Lincolnshire Wolds an AONB?

3.3.1 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 1.1):

- ❑ **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** – Unlike most other AONBs, 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 80% of the AONB is in arable use, with 13% as permanent pasture and 2.5% woodland cover. 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'.

3.3.2 National Landscape Character Assessments

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is currently part of the more extensive Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area (*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 replaced by the Character and Quality of England's Landscapes, also known as CQuEL. This programme aims to provide a series of integrated datasets focusing on place-based evidence on the character and function of landscapes and the provision of relevant ecosystem services. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is one of four protected landscapes to pilot the scheme in 2011-12, and it should serve as a useful management tool for monitoring future landscape change.

3.3.3 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 (2009) 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 (ELC) on 1 March 2007. 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.

3.3.4 District Landscape Character Assessments

Finer grained landscape character studies have been undertaken via the West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and more recent 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 old county of Lincolnshire these studies help to illustrate the highly regarded and distinctive qualities of the Wolds' landscape and its relationship with neighbouring areas.

3.3.5 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment

The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape 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 plateaux 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.

3.3.6 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 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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. 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, the current farming uncertainties also bring an opportunity to initiate positive action to enhance biodiversity and natural beauty. 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 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.

Recently however there has also been 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 2004-05. These reports show the success of the partnership in encouraging and supporting a wide range of projects, very often inspired by local communities, and delivering environmental and socio-economic benefits for the area.

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.

4. Protecting the Wolds - Theme 1

4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement

As detailed previously, the Wolds Landscape 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 agricultural practices, including increased intensification in farming and cropping patterns and decline in traditional land management with subsequent deterioration of landscape features including hedgerows, woodlands and grassland.
- Inappropriate or insensitive development both within and adjacent to the AONB including potential pressures from quarrying activity, wind farms, 3rd generation 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, (e.g. farm diversification projects and improvements to recreation/tourism infrastructure) whilst protecting the natural beauty and landscape character.
- Impact upon views within, from and to the AONB, including cumulative impacts from neighbouring developments.
- Assessing future impacts from climate change including effects upon future agriculture, biodiversity, heritage and water management.

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
- and 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 recommendations, together with the recent UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA, 2011) have helped to inform the government's recent 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 supporting 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 policies, objectives and resulting actions throughout this Plan.)

4.2 Natural Heritage - Biodiversity

4.2.1 Introduction

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 2nd Edition (2006) 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 (the NERC Act). There is a requirement for all local authorities to address National Indicator 160 for Improved Local 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. Commonly inadequate grazing regimes has 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.

Since the last Management Plan there have been substantial changes to the system of local designations supported by the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (LBP), which includes the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC). The previously locally designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) has been replaced by a network of

Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) with new and more robust classification criteria in place. The LWS system is being rolled out across the historic County of Lincolnshire and is subject to landowner consultation, endorsement from the new LBP and ultimately adoption by the relevant local planning authority.

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 approved 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 supplied by the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre.

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 recent 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 prime wildlife habitats.
- Wide neglect and absence of traditional management especially of woodland, hedgerow, grassland and grass verge habitats.
- Lack of comprehensive up-to-date information, especially for remaining SNCIs that were not surveyed in 2005.
- Future impact of farming, including continued threat to livestock farming and subsequent loss in pasture, increasing pressure for intensification and new crops.
- 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 ongoing EU review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and future implications on farm subsidies.

Objective:

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

Policies:

- BP1** To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in line with Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and other national aspirations.
- BP2** To develop and promote a landscape scale approach to species and habitat creation, restoration and conservation, helping to develop resilience to future climate change through increased habitat linkages and 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 benefits.

Actions: See BA1-5 of 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)

Environmental Stewardship Targeting Statement – Lincolnshire Wolds (Ref. EM07)
East Midlands Regional Planning Guidance
'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands
East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2009)
England Forestry Strategy
England's East Midlands Wildlife: the future you can help!
Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2nd Edition
Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (The Lawton Report)
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS 7, 2004)
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity And Geological Conservation (PPS 9, 2005) - Telecommunications (PPG 8)
The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature
The Witham and Louth Coastal Catchment Flood Management Plans
The Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plans
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (PPS 22, 2004)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Structure and Local Development Plans
An invitation to shape the Nature of England – Discussion Document July 2010
The England Biodiversity Strategy – Working with the Grain of Nature (2002)
The Anglian and Humber River basin Management Plan
The Witham Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2004)
Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2006)
Steeping, Great Eau and Long Eau Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2008)

(See Appendix 7)

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 is 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 (SNICs). Over 55% of designated LWS's 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 30 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, with arable increasing from 69% to 82%. Over the last ten years there has been a concentration of specialised agricultural production and a reduction in the number of mixed farms in the area in-line with national trends.

More recently however agri-environment grants have been made available to encourage landowners to convert arable to grassland. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) has been successful in protecting and improving grassland habitats through supporting various grazing options. Since 2005 the roll-out of the new 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. 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.

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 pasture.
- 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 manage and increase the area and quality of wildlife-friendly grasslands across the AONB, targeting areas close to watercourses, important road verges, archaeological sites, historic parkland and settlements.

Policies:

GP1 To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate, restore or extend 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 of 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 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 all roadside verges in the area were reviewed and surveyed in 2005 and a total of 20 verges have been designated 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. 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 currently operating as the lead partner. This project will help facilitate 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 so doing 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 and resulting 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 or extend grass verges of high wildlife 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 on table 4

4.2.4 Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards

The woodland cover of the Wolds AONB is low (under 2.5% 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 game coverts, parkland, tree belts and avenues. 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.

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. However, only four woodlands are of a quality to warrant SSSI designation. 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 impacts upon native species viability, including impacts from 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.
- 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 Grant Scheme which has been promoted alongside the LWCS Landscape Grant Scheme. With support from seven landowners 26 beech clumps have been created, and two enhanced through under planting. Crucially the Beech Clump project has also focused on supporting a regular programme of maintenance for any newly restored plantings and this has helped ensure 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 extend, where appropriate, 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 within the AONB.
- WBP5** To establish the extent and quality of traditional orchards and encourage suitable restoration, creation and management.

Actions: See WBA1-8 on 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. Where species rich hedgerows do occur they often indicate older pre-enclosure or parish boundary hedges and are a priority for protection and enhancement. It has been estimated that between the 1970's and 1990's an average of over 1000 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.

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. 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 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.
- Loss of traditional management, for example hedge laying and rotational cutting.
- Increase in poor maintenance, particularly inappropriate timing and over frequency of cuts.
- 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, enhance and increase, where appropriate, 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 on table 4

4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds

There are nine principal river systems within the AONB, namely Waithe Beck, Nettleton Beck, River Rase, River Bain, River Waring, River Lymn, River Lud, 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 fair 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, is now placing 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 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 five kilometres of stream within the AONB with a further 32 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 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 natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated 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 and distribution of ponds and lakes.

RSPP5 To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds, lakes and wetlands for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.

RSPP6 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 RSPA1-14 on table 4

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

Anglian River Basin Plan (2009)

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 Plan (2009)

Making Space for Water (2005): 'HA6' Catchment Scale Land-Use Management & 'HA7' Land Management Practices

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (2006)

The EC Water Framework Directive – 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy (2000)

The Water Environment (England & Wales) Regulations (2003)

Water Resources for the Future – The Strategy for the Anglian Region (2001)

Water Resources Management Plan – Draft (2008), Anglian Water

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 2007 64.3% 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 was 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 CSSs was replaced by a new Environmental Stewardship scheme comprising 'Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)' Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OPELS) 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. Entry Level payments to landowners in the AONB totalled £1.86 million in 2007, including £238,490 of HLS expenditure (Natural England, 2008).

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, linnets, yellowhammer and corn bunting.

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 Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI) which includes priority catchments in the AONB with a key focus on proactive approaches to diffuse pollution. The Campaign for the Farmed Environment is encouraging farmers to increase the uptake of in-field options - either via ELS or on a voluntary basis - following the abandonment of the government's set-aside scheme in 2007. 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

- New cropping regimes, particularly the decline in over-wintering stubbles through autumn drilling, and a reduction in the variety of crops grown.
- Applications of pesticides and fertilisers reducing opportunities for arable wildlife.
- Continued intensification including maximising clean field margins and crop edges.
- 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 on 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 plateaus 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 23 Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) in the AONB, including five Earth Science SSSIs; 7 of the RIGS have recently been reassessed and classified 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 (to replace the previous Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) classification 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 the 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 EHA1-6 on table 4

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Geodiversity)

Earth Heritage Conservation in England: A Natural Areas Perspective

Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan

Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile

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

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)

Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent

RIGS Handbook

Structure and Local Development Plans

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 7)

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 twenty 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 80% of the Wolds are in arable cultivation, the main crops being winter wheat, winter barley, oil seed rape, beans and linseed.

The 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.

Actions: See SPA1-5 on table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Soils)

The First Soil Action Plan for England 2004-2006

Soil Strategy for England (2008)

Soils Report Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (2009)

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

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 are no extensive parklands but 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.

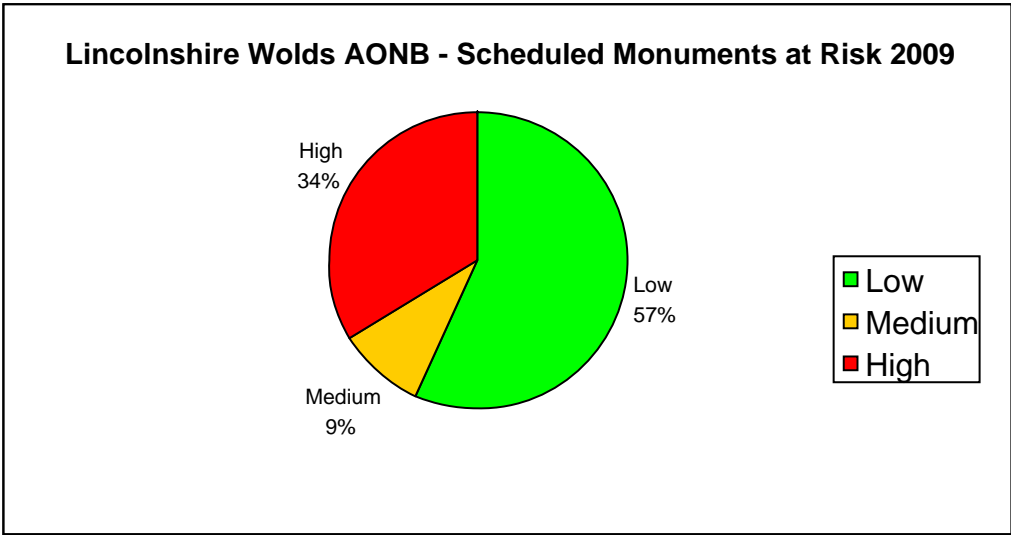
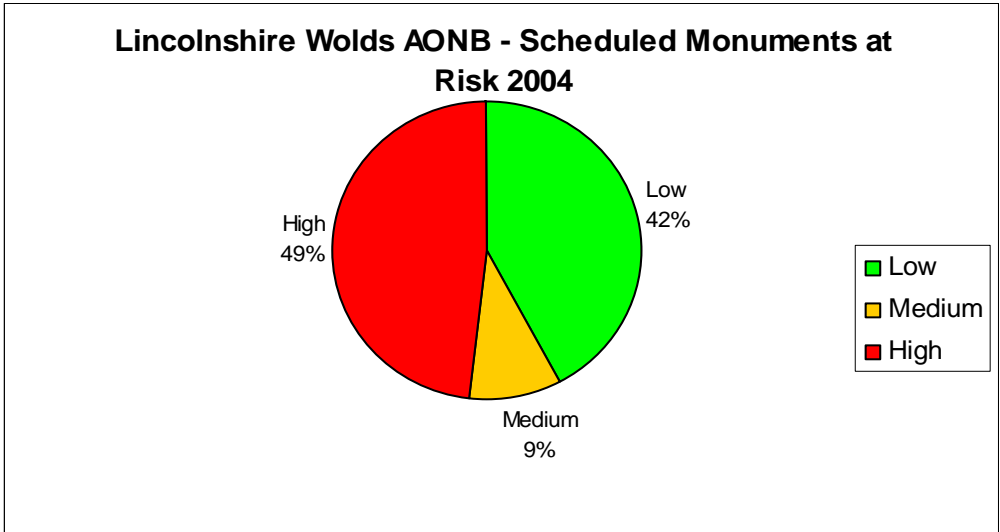
4.4.1 Archaeology

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 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 2009 the number of sites at high risk was reduced to 33 (34%) with nine still remaining at at medium risk (see pie chart 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 will be essential to 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).



Threats/Pressures

- Change of land use (e.g. conversion of pasture to arable) and farming operations, in particular the increasing depths of modern ploughing.
- 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 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 on 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 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 nationally high number of which remain as isolated farms or manor houses.

The principal building material was very often 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 is providing new 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.

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.
- 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

Actions: See BHA1-9 on 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 (2008)
Heritage Counts (2007)
Heritage Counts (2008)
Heritage at Risk (2008)
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
Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities (2005)
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (date?)
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)
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 Development Plans
Supplementary Planning Guidance
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (2001)
The Place of Choice: A Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2010
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands
(See Appendix 7)

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 dependant 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 in the Wolds

The character of the Lincolnshire Wolds remains heavily shaped by farming. Over 80% of the area (more than any other AONB) 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 2008 agricultural census records 411 holdings across the AONB, directly supporting a total of 806 farm employees (including part-time and casual). Over 30% 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.

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 (e.g. ever-larger farm machinery and field size) to compete in the global market and resist declining incomes.
- Potential impact of the ongoing Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform.
- 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 the Select Lincolnshire project 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. 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 and enhance the landscape.** *(See Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)*
- FWP6** **To raise awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management.**

Actions: See FWA1-12 on table 4

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Farming in the Wolds)

EC Rural Development Regulation
England Rural Development Programme
'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands

Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Strategy for Sustainable Land Management
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan
Regional Economic Strategy
The Lincolnshire Agenda 2003
Structure and Local Development Plans
Supplementary Planning Guidance
The Lincolnshire Partnership
England Forestry Strategy
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
The Future of our Farming (2009)
Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food – Facing the Future (2002)
Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (2005)
An invitation to shape the Nature of England – Discussion Document July 2010
Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture – Strategy and Implementation Plan 2010
Environmental Stewardship Targeting Statement – Lincolnshire Wolds (Ref. EM07)

(See Appendix 7)

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 thus 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') were supporting nine schemes across the AONB in 2010, allocating almost £1.2 million, to a wide range of projects, including local farm diversification and 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 and visit whilst meeting the needs of this unique landscape. *(See also Section 7 Developing the Wolds)*

Policies:

TCP1 To work with relevant agencies to foster and support local businesses and communities encouraging 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)*

TCP5 To encourage safe, vibrant and inclusive communities, generating a high awareness of the local and national significance of the AONB designation.

Actions: See TCA1-12 on table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Thriving Communities)

Community Strategies
The Lincolnshire Agenda
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Regional Economic Strategy
Structure and Local Development Plans
England Forestry Strategy

Local Strategic Partnerships
Local Plans (as detailed)
A Sustainable Community Strategy for Lincolnshire 2006-2016
Sustainable Communities Strategy – Lincolnshire Assembly 2009-2030
Big County, Big Skies, Big Future
Lincolnshire – A Changing and Challenging Landscape

(See Appendix 7)

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 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 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.
- 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:

1. Providing a framework of objectives and purposes for the interpretation of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
2. Stimulating interest in providing high quality and well planned interpretation facilities and services in the area.

3. Identifying the desired target audiences (markets) for new interpretation facilities and services.
4. Suggesting a number of specific interpretation projects that could be developed and implemented in the future.
5. Identifying a role for the different stakeholders in the area in providing, promoting and maintaining interpretation facilities and services.

The Strategy was endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC and 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 4600 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, nearly 30 walking and cycling leaflets and the regular Wolds News publication, the latter with a circulation of over 12,000 copies. Engaging with the many local enthusiasts and community groups (e.g. the Brinkhill History Group and the Tealby Society) 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 IA1-12 on 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, plus Snipe Dales Country Park and Willingham Woods, just outside the AONB, are the exceptions. 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 Open Access mapping have been limited. The establishment of the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum and development of the County's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan has 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.

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, local fairs such as the Tathwell Art Fair and other unique curiosities like the Tetford Scarecrow Festival, Donington on Bain '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 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 country sows, 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.

- 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 (England Rural Development Programme), the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival has gone from strength to strength with over 18,000 attending seven annual Festivals.
- The very popular Open Farm Sunday, has been running since 2006 and has attracted over 5,000 people from 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 which is now in its 11th year and has attracted over 3,000 people since 2007.

It is intended that the above activities will provide stimulus for further activities and themes 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. This 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 and promote 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)*

ARTP6 To identify gaps in current access, recreation and tourism provision and support new measures and good practice to improve the infra-structure where compatible with the AONB. *(See also Section 7 Developing the Wolds)*

Actions: See ARTA1-19 on table 4

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

Local Authorities Tourism Strategies
The Lincolnshire Agenda
Lincolnshire Tourism - A Sharper Focus
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy
Market Towns Initiative
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Local Heritage Initiative
Regional Economic Strategy
'Think Farming and Food', Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands
Rights of Way Improvement Plans
Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative
The Place of Choice: A Cultural Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2010
Townscape Heritage Initiative
Working for the Countryside – A Strategy for Rural Tourism in England 2001-2005
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands
England Forestry Strategy
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Structure and Local Development Plans
A Sustainable Community Strategy for Lincolnshire 2006-2016
Big County, Big Skies, Big Future - Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2030
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (2006)

(See Appendix 7)

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 2.6 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 during the last five years 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 with the two District Network Operators (DNOs), Central Networks and CE Yorkshire Electric and parish councils within the AONB to

consult and 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.

The Draft Plan proposes a new objective with regard to wind energy development (listed below as PP8) which is being seen as a major issue for future landscape change. (See Climate Change & Energy section). 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 proposes 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 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, and future schemes 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. The government's emerging Localism Bill and drive to greater freedoms and flexibilities for local councils, communities and individuals will include major reforms to the current planning system. The details and implications for protected landscapes is still to be announced, but early indications are of reforms to make the planning system more democratic and more effective (Local Government; A plain English guide to the Localism Bill – Update June 2011) with a general presumption in favour of sustainable development.

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 local businesses and communities.
- PP3** To help support planning policies for affordable housing for local people and key workers, subject to need and where consistent with AONB objectives.

PP4To encourage landowners to come forward with land that may be suitable for the development of small scale affordable housing.

PP5To minimise damage to the AONB landscape as a result of mineral working and associated activity.

PP6To promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.

PP7To recognise and protect the AONBs night skies and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.

PP8To ensure a general presumption against medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB.

PP9To support general waste reduction measures and recycling initiatives that are in accordance with the special requirements of the AONB.

PP10 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'.

Actions: See PA1-16 on table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Planning)

A New Vernacular for the Countryside (2004)

Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG 8)

EEC Rural Development Regulation

East Midlands Planning Charter

Structure and Local Development Plans

Emerging Local Development Frameworks & Core Strategies

Planning Policy Guidance – Development and Flood Risk (PPG25)

Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas

Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

Supplementary Planning Guidance

Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities (2005)

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)

Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating strong safe and prosperous communities through Local Spatial Planning (2004)

(See Appendix 7)

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. Further data on car ownership levels across the area is being sought to help inform the Plan.

The public transport service is limited, but has been improving since 2000. Three InterConnect bus services currently 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 prebooked '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.

The original community consultations highlighted 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.
- Neglect and vandalism of traditional road signs across the AONB, and perceived increase in 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. The provision of designated Quiet Lanes in consultation with highway authorities and local communities could reduce this problem and help to maintain the rural charm and character of the area.

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 – 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 Van. 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 to help encourage and support local transport solutions 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.

Actions: See TWA1-12 on table 4

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Transport in the Wolds)

Community Strategies
East Midlands Planning Charter
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Planning Policy Guidance - Development Plans (PPG 12)
Planning Policy Guidance - Transport (PPG 13)
Rights of Way Improvement Plans
Lincolnshire Streetscape Design Manual
Structure and Local Development Plans

Supplementary Planning Guidance
Lincolnshire Rural Transport Partnership
The Transport Act (2000)

(See Appendix 7)

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 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 our wider family of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. 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, 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.
- Minimising conflicts with increasing demands for recreation and tourism.

Defra's recently launched 'Total Environment' pilot project 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 potentially 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 and 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 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.

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Climate Change and Energy)

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

Climate Change – The UK Programme (Defra, 2000)

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

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act (HMSO, 2006)

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

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

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

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 ongoing 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 existing 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 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 7) and wherever possible policies and objectives 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, Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, Life on the Verges project and the Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership provide exciting avenues for future shared activity. Focused work groups such as the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, the Wolds Heritage Working Group and Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire project will continue to support and strengthen the activities of the Joint Advisory Committee 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 Wolds AONB. The National Association for AONBs 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 Wolds Joint Advisory Committee 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 ongoing 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 Joint Advisory Committee has a key role to play in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service 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.

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 Regional 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.

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 Wolds 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.

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.

Policy:

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

Objectives:

MO1 **To monitor the performance of the action plan.**

MO2 **To monitor the condition of the AONB.**

Actions: See MA1-3 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 2015/16 to enable effective participation and consultation with partners and stakeholders.

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

Joint Management Group – core funders:
Natural England (NE)*
Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)
East Lindsey District Council (ELDC)
West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)
North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC)
Other Members:
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Churches Together in All Lincolnshire (CT)
Community Lincs (CL)
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
English Heritage (EH)
Environment Agency (EA)
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Forestry Commission (FC)
Groundwork Lincolnshire (GL)
Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL)
Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)
Lincolnshire Sports Partnership (LS)
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)
National Farmers Union – East Midlands (NFU)
Ramblers' (R)
Advisory Members:
* Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – core funder

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 a new management plan, adopt it and keep under 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 on joint advisory committee 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), Lincolnshire Wolds Sustainable Development Fund Panel, and the Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire 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, Lyme and Calecby Beck
- 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)
- 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)

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

Origin of Questionnaire

Newsletter	325
Show or event	114
Website	21
Total	460

Age Groups

0-17	16
18-25	7
26-44	68
45-64	202
65 +	95

Appendix 5 – Wolds AONB Community Consultation (Executive Summary)

Prepared by Roger Parsons, independent consultant, September 2003

1. 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 6 - Glossary and Technical Terms

ALSF	Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BeC	Beech Clumps
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CA	Countryside Agency
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CFE	Campaign for the Farmed Environment
CL	Community Lincs
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRoW Act	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMV	Deserted Medieval Village
EA	Environment Agency
EH	English Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
emda	East Midlands Development Agency
emraf	East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum
EN	English Nature
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GL	Groundwork Lincolnshire
GM	Genetically Modified
GOEM	Government Office East Midlands
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
HTL	Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
JAC	Joint Advisory Committee
JMG	Joint Management Group (of JAC)
LA	Local Authority
LAF	Local (Countryside) Access Forum
LAZ	Lindsey Action Zone
LBAP	Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LCSP	Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project
LD	Lincolnshire Development
LE	Lincolnshire Enterprise
LEAP	Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership
LERAP	Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides
LERC	Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre
LGS	Local Geological Site
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LRO	Lincolnshire Research Observatory
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership

LT	Lincolnshire Tourism
LWCS	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
LWT	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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
OWG	Officers Working Group (of JAC)
PAWS	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PRV	Protected Roadside Verge
RA	Ramblers
RACoL	Regeneration Across Communities of Lincolnshire
RDPE	Rural Development Programme for England
RDS	Rural Development Service
RES	Regional Economic Strategy
RFF	Regional Forestry Framework
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
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
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSP	Sub-regional Strategic Partnership
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
TRIL	Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council

Appendix 6 - Technical Terms

ADAS	A research based consultancy to rural and land-based industries.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
PRV - Protected Roadside Verge Scheme	A verge that is deemed worthy of protection and active management under the scheme set up in 1960 between Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire County Council.
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	That 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.
The Lincolnshire Partnership	Public and private bodies uniting under the banner to implement an integrated communication and marketing campaign.

Appendix 7 – Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives

An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire – S Bennett and N Bennett, 1993
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies – Environment Agency
Community Strategy for East Lindsey, Draft – East Lindsey Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Countryside Stewardship Targeting Statement 2003 - Defra
Destination East Midlands - East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010 - emda
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
EEC Rural Development Regulation
England Forestry Strategy – A new Focus for England’s Woodland – Forestry Commission 1999
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
Quiet Roads Initiative – The Countryside Agency
The Lincolnshire Agenda – Lincolnshire Enterprise 2003
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan – Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group 2000
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
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy – Lincolnshire County Council 2001
Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile – English Nature 1997
Lincwoods Objective 5b Project 1999 – 2002 - ADAS
Local Heritage Initiative - The Countryside Agency (ongoing)
Market Towns Initiative - The Countryside Agency (ongoing)
North East Lincolnshire Community Strategy – North East Lincolnshire Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Planning Policy Guidance – Telecommunications (PPG 8)
Planning Policy Guidance - Nature Conservation (PPG 9)
Planning Policy Guidance - Development Plans (PPG 12)
Planning Policy Guidance - Transport (PPG 13)
Planning Policy Guidance - Historic Environment (PPG 15)
Planning Policy Guidance – Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)
Planning Policy Guidance – Development and Flood Risk (PPG25)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent – Defra 2003
Public Transport Access to the Lincolnshire Wolds – Transport for Leisure, 1996
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
Rights of Way Improvement Plans - Local Highway Authorities (on-going)
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
Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Think Farming and Food, Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands’ – emraf 2003
Townscape Heritage Initiative
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands – English Heritage 2002, reprinted 2003
West Lindsey Community Strategy, Draft – West Lindsey Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Working for the Countryside – A Strategy for Rural Tourism in England 2001-2005 – Countryside Agency & English Tourism Council 2001

Structure and Local Development Plans

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, Policies Proposed for Adoption – Lincolnshire County Council 1998
Lincolnshire Waste Local Plan, Preliminary Consultation Draft – Lincolnshire County Council 2003
North East Lincolnshire Local Plan – North East Lincolnshire Council 2003
West Lindsey Local Plan First Review, First Deposit Draft – West Lindsey District Council 2003
Your Environment? A Sustainable Future for East Lindsey – East Lindsey District Council 1999
Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan – Lincolnshire County Council 2000
North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan – North East Lincolnshire Council 2000
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

Emerging Local Development Frameworks

Appendix 8 – Bibliography/Further Information

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, A guide - the Countryside Agency, 2001 (CA23).
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, A guide for AONB partnership members - The Countryside Agency, 2001 (CA24).
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, A policy statement - Countryside Commission, 1991 (CCP356).
- Conservation Issues in Local Plans - Countryside Commission, English Heritage, English Nature, 1996
- East Lindsey Local Plan, District wide Policies - East Lindsey District Council, 1999.
- East Lindsey Local Plan, Settlement Proposals - East Lindsey District Council, 1995.
- Landscapes at Risk? The Future of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Holdaway and Smart, 2001.
- Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas - Lincolnshire County Council, 1996.
- Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan - Lincolnshire County Council, 1991.
- Lincolnshire State of the Environment Report - Lincolnshire County Council, 1995.
- Lincolnshire Structure Plan, Policies Proposed for Adoption - Lincolnshire County Council, 1998.
- Lincolnshire Tourism Model - The Wolds Area Summary Report, 1999.
- Lincolnshire Waste Local Plan, Preliminary Consultation Draft - Lincolnshire County Council, 2003.
- Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan - Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, 1999.
- 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).
- West Lindsey Local Plan First Review, First Deposit Draft - West Lindsey District Council, 2003.

(See also key related plans and strategies Appendix 7)

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.lincsbiodiversity.org.uk	Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership
www.lincsbiodiversity.org.uk/lerc	Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre - LERC
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside	Lincolnshire County Council - Access
www.lincswolds.org.uk	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
www.aonb.org.uk	National Association for AONBs
www.nfu.org.uk	National Farmers Union
www.naturalengland.org.uk	Natural England
www.odpm.gov.uk	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Appendix 9 - Acknowledgements

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