

Table 1: Special Qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Threats	Management options	
	Landscape Character	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands				Total extent within AONB
Scenic beauty & rural charm	General component (a rolling upland landscape of strongly cohesive identity with farming as an underlying component).					Most of AONB	Good, but needs quantitative survey (see Section 9.2 Monitoring)	Changes in land management; CAP reforms; quarrying; telecommunication masts; wind farm developments including periphery of AONB; oil exploration; light pollution.	Development control; interpretation & education; liaison with community & visitors; new regional funding opportunities through agri-environment schemes.
Expansive, sweeping views	General component (views from scarp edge, High Street and Bluestone Heath road are particularly dramatic).					Most of AONB	Good, as above	As above, but particularly hilltop or skyline developments.	Development control; high quality design and build; landscaping.
Peace & tranquillity	General component (once away from the main roads there is a wide sense of remoteness and rural isolation accentuated by the combination of elevated plateau and sheltered dales).					Most of AONB	Good, away from main roads such as A16, A18 and High Street.	Continued increase in road freight & possible increase in air traffic (Humberside Airport and armed services); light pollution; unmanaged visitor pressure.	Quiet Road schemes; traffic calming measures; integrated public transport initiatives.
Farmed Land Scenic quality, biodiversity, socio-economic role (EN)	Primary land-use component of the AONB landscape. (Between 1975 – 1994 proportion of arable increased from 69% - 82 % within the AONB – EN.)					Most of AONB	Varied, but essential element of the AONB character (see component features below).	Continued intensification and new cropping regimes; changes to national/EU farm policy; 'eyesores' (e.g. large farm sheds & outside stores, grain silos); climate change.	Development control, e.g. Design Guides as SPG; re-directing new funding streams for landscape, biodiversity, recreation gains.

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Earth Heritage	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Chalk upland – plateau & valley landscape (LGG)	General component (series of sandstones, ironstones and clay underlie the chalk capping and form the essential character of the Wolds. The area has been shaped by at least two periods of glaciation).				Most of AONB	Varied	Modern development (visual intrusion e.g. telecom masts/oil rigs); other 'eyesores' (e.g. sheds & outside stores, grain silos); chalk quarrying.	Development control; interpretation & education.
Glacial/periglacial features including remnant lakes/spillways (NE, LERC, LGG)		Key feature 1 SSSI 4 RIGS 1 LWT Reserve	2 RIGS	Key feature 1 RIGS	7 RIGS 1 SSSI	Varied SSSI in favourable condition	Change in land use e.g. tree planting.	Improved access, interpretation & education; landowner liaison; restoration schemes.
Geological qualities (NE, LERC, LGG)	1 SSSI 1 RIGS	2 RIGS	Key feature 3 SSSI 9 RIGS	2 RIGS	14 RIGS 4 SSSI	Varied, some small pits overgrown or infilled. 2 SSSIs in favourable condition	Change in land use; lack of awareness; erosion; secondary activity including landfill; illegal activities.	Improved access, interpretation & education; landowner liaison; restoration schemes.

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Threats	Management options
Biodiversity	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Calcareous, meadow, pasture & wet grasslands (EN, LWT, LWCS)	Key feature Nettleton Valley and western scarp face.	Local feature within the chalk valleys. 1 SSSI (bats in disused railway tunnels)	Key feature 4 SSSI 2 LWT Reserves	Local feature 5 SSSI 3 LWT Reserves	Estimated 13% of AONB - Approx 200 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) within AONB. 10 SSSI	54% decline in grasslands between 1975 and 1994 (EN stats. from MAFF agriculture annual census). 7 SSSI in favourable condition.	Threat to livestock farming; intensive agricultural practices including land drainage; potential conflict with woodland planting; loss via woodland/scrub encroachment.	Grazing support schemes; shifts in national/EU policy favouring environmental farming schemes; landowner liaison.
Beech clumps (BeC) (LWCS)		Key feature 28 BeC	Local feature 12 BeC	Local feature 8 BeC	Important landscape feature. 48 + BeC	Many of similar age & structure.	Wide neglect & lack of management, limited markets; climate change.	AONB specific grants & advice. Landowner liaison. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
Woodlands (largely 18 th - 19 th century plantings) (FC)	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature	Key feature	2,252 ha, 4.06% of AONB (including ancient woodlands) 44% broadleaved 17% coniferous 32% mixed woodland.	27% is believed to be in sustainable management (FC, 2001/02). Remaining 73% unknown.	Further decline in management; lack of potential markets; conifer planting; fragility owing to small size; climate change; fly tipping.	Further surveys; targeted planting & woodland restoration schemes; development of woodland markets; TPOs.
Ancient woodlands (EN, LWT, CA, LWCS)	Claxby		Chalk & alder carr 2 SSSI	Oak & ash 2 SSSI 1 LWT Reserve	609.8 ha, 1.10% of AONB Localised, but highly visible feature. 4 SSSI	2 SSSI in favourable condition.	As above; with isolation of the woodland of particular concern.	As above.
River, streams and ponds (EA, LWCS)	Key feature	Local feature	Key feature	Key feature 1 LWT Reserve	9 principal river systems. Many are SNCI. Ponds unknown	Fair – good	Low flow issues; poor water quality and fringing habitats; invasive alien spaces.	Further surveys; chalk streams partnership project; agri-environment schemes. CAMS.

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Biodiversity (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Hedgerows (LCC; State of the Environment Report)	Local feature	Key feature Widely degraded	Key feature	Local feature	Unknown Mainly enclosure hedges, small areas of pre-enclosure (species rich) hedgerows survive in pockets.	Unknown. Between 1970's and 1990's over 1000m per km square believed to have been lost in the Wolds. New/restored hedges put in through CSS.	Loss of traditional practices; poor management; spray drift.	Further surveys; landowner liaison, advice and specific grant aid; links to other habitats; development control (planning conditions) and Hedgerow Regulations.
Roadside verges and green lanes (LWCS, LWT) Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)	Local feature	Local feature 2 RNR	Key feature 6 RNR	Key feature 7 RNR	Overall key component of area. 15 RNR within the AONB	Variable	Loss of traditional management, e.g. grazing & hay making; inappropriate use; road run off & vehicle encroachment; fly tipping.	Suitable future management; strategic framework.

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Archaeology	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Ancient route-ways (LWCS)	Key feature Caistor High Street	Key feature Barton Street	Key feature Bluestone Heath Road	Key feature Barton Street	Roman roads and salter routes, many as byways etc.	Generally degraded, especially on byways.	Loss of character through road widening; modern signage; increased traffic flows; lack of appropriate management (e.g. byways); increased traffic flows.	Sympathetic/traditional signage; education & awareness.
Scheduled Monuments (SMs) (LCC, NELC, EH)	Local feature 13 barrow sites	Key feature 48 sites. 16 DMVs/ settlements; 3 structures; 3 moated sites; 1 hillfort; 25 barrows	Key feature 26 sites 2 DMVs/ settlements; 2 moated site; 16 barrows; 6 structures	Local feature 10 sites 1 DMV; 9 barrows	97 SMs within AONB	32% SMs at risk (EH, 2010).	Change of land use or management; farming operations.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access interpretation & education.
Burial mounds & monuments (LCC, NELC)	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 2 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 4 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 9 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 1 Anglo-Saxon cemetery	Visible on chalk tops & adjoining routeways 89 long barrow & 232 round barrows sites. 16 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries	Vulnerable feature. Many now only visible as crop & soil marks. Several important key sites remain e.g. Giants' Hill long barrow.	Farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison.
Deserted medieval villages (DMVs) and shrunken medieval villages (SMVs) (LCC, NELC)		Key feature around North Ormsby, Calcethorpe, Withcall & Maltby	Key feature around Wykeham, Biscathorpe and Calceby		High density of DMVs & SMVs on plateau & spring line locations (Approx 84 DMVs & SMVs).	Vulnerable feature.	Farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education.

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Archaeology (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Roman villas and settlements (LCC, NELC)	6 sites	Local feature 17 sites	3 sites	1 site	27 known	Variable condition, (but no data for all). Vulnerable features. Many are only visible as crop marks.	Change of land use; farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education; agri-environment schemes.

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

Special Quality (Importance to natural beauty)	Local Landscape Character Area – Quality & Extent					Condition	Threats	Management options
Historic Landscapes & Buildings	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Village character, including churches (LWCS) Conservation areas (LCC - MapInfo)	Key feature Local ironstone & limestone buildings. Conservation area in 2 villages.	Key feature Villages hidden from view. Conservation area in 1 village; conservation area of part of 1 town.	Key feature Local sandstone buildings, with rectangular plan villages. Conservation area of part of 1 village.	Key feature Linear villages	72 villages with distinctive churches. 16 villages without a church. Many houses of brick and pantile.	Variable 3 Listed buildings within the high risk category.	Insensitive development including infill; change of use; visitor pressure.	Development control, e.g. Design Guides as SPG; interpretation & education.
Traditional farm buildings (LWCS)	Local feature Built of local stone, many still house livestock. 9	Key feature Victorian planned farmsteads mainly built of brick. 11	Key feature Victorian planned farmsteads, mainly built of brick and housing livestock. 32	3	A feature of the area, especially the planned Victorian farmsteads e.g. Turnor buildings at Kirmond le Mire. 55 known	Variable	Change of agricultural practices and legislation demand larger buildings for livestock and machinery; insensitive developments.	Development control, e.g. Design Guides as SPG; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education.
Industrial heritage; airfields, railways, mine workings (LWCS)	Local feature Ironstone mining.	Local feature. 3 former RAF airfields. Old railway line and buildings.	Local feature Old railway line. Key feature - Stenigot Mast.		Small pockets of interest throughout.	Poor	General neglect; limited access.	Landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education.
Manors and parkland (LWCS) (LCC, NELC)		Local feature 5	Key feature 10	Isolated feature 1	Modest Tudor & Georgian style. 16 known 62 parks known	Variable - parkland trees of a similar age and structure.	Change in ownership/land management.	Landowner liaison; advice/support for parkland restoration via HLS.

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Historic Landscapes & Buildings (continued)	North-west scarp	Chalk wolds	South-west ridges and valleys	South-eastern claylands	Total extent within AONB			
Moated sites (LCC, NELC)			Key feature		43 known	Vulnerable feature	Farming operations; development pressures.	Development control; landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education.
Watermills & Windmills (LWCS)	Local feature Paper making industry at Tealby utilised watermills	Local feature Thoresway and Binbrook watermills remain	Local feature Stockwith Mill is best remaining in Wolds. Ketsby Mill has potential	Local feature Windmills at Hagworthingham and Grebby	A localised feature within the Wolds, many have no surviving remains. 29 known	More than half have at least bricks/evidence on the ground of the site. .At least 13 known to be standing or converted to other use	Many now lost through changes into private residence with watercourses often diverted; neglected feature under threat.	Development control; landowner liaison & advice; improved access, interpretation & education.
Dry stone walls (LWCS)	Key feature				Limited to the north-west scarp.	Variable condition but maintained in places e.g. Tealby church wall.	Neglected feature; lack of building material.	Further surveys; landowner liaison AONB specific grants/advice