

Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment Report

Produced on behalf of

Lincolnshire County Council; East Lindsey District
Council; West Lindsey District Council; North East
Lincolnshire Council and partners

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Prepared by

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
CD&E	Construction, Demolition and Extraction (Waste)
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRoW	Countryside Rights of Way
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DfT	Department for Transport
DPD	Development Plan Document
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
EH	English Heritage
EEC	European Economic Community
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment

EQIA	Equality Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPZ	Groundwater Protection Zones
GVA	Gross Value Added
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
JAC	Joint Advisory Committee
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LA	Local Authority
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LCA	Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Character Area
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEA	Local Economic Assessment
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LTP	Local Transport Plan
LSOA	Local Super Output Areas
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MAA	Multi-Area Agreement
NAAOB	National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
NIS	National Indicator Set
NNR	National Nature Reserve

NPCA	National Parks and Access to the Countryside
NVA	Nitrate Vulnerable Areas
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
OFWAT	Office of Water Services
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPC	Pollution Prevention & Control
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RET	River Ecosystem Target
RIF	Regional Infrastructure Fund
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
RQO	River Quality Objective
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Documents
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
WHO	World Health Organisation

Non Technical Summary

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, a partnership of twenty-three organisations, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, have co-ordinated a formal review of the previous AONB 2004 – 2009 Management Plan.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB was designated in 1973 on account of its high quality scenic beauty. It covers an area of 558 km² (216 miles²) within the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Character Area that also includes the 'Spilsby Crescent' to the south and the remaining Wolds that extend north to the Humber Estuary.

The new Draft Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan sets out the proposed updated Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2011-2016.

One important difference since the preparation of the last Management Plan is a new requirement, under a European Directive, to undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in conjunction with the development of the updated plan.

The SEA Directive requires that a formal assessment is undertaken of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The purpose of the Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development".

This SEA Report is designed to fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive to prepare an "Environmental Report". The report will be published alongside the Draft AONB Management Plan and will be available to individuals and organisations involved in consultation.

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 plan. The SEA has been undertaken as an iterative process in consultation with a range of statutory agencies and relevant local authorities.

The first stage in the SEA process involved assembling information on the existing environmental, social and economic baseline to provide a starting point for appraising the effects of implementing the Plan. This information was reported previously, in the SEA Scoping Report. The Scoping Report was consulted on with the statutory bodies in December 2008. It set out the background to the SEA process as applied to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan, summarising the policy context, the baseline information available, the key sustainability issues, and the initial framework proposed for undertaking the appraisal.

The 'Business as Usual' option i.e the existing Management Plan and the draft updated Management Plan have been tested for compatibility against a series of SEA objectives. The appraisal methodology has considered whether the impacts, would be direct, secondary, synergistic, cumulative, short term or long term and whether these impacts will be local, regional or national.

The Management Plan is anticipated to provide a number of long term benefits. These include the following:

- Encouraging and supporting an integrated transport system in the Wolds would encourage people to use public transport and connect local communities and market towns which will reduce traffic congestion and pollution by reducing the number of car on local roads and improve access for local communities and tourists.
- Raising awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management will support economic growth
- Implementing a long-term climate change strategy will be beneficial to the local community, by providing sustainable and accessible transport, reducing health inequalities, providing economic growth;
- Promoting sustainable farming and livestock farming would help to increase the local economy and potentially create local jobs.
- Ensuring that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire would help protect the special characteristics of the area.
- Protecting the Wolds would keep its current intrinsic character and biodiversity; this would help to increase tourism and therefore the local economy that rely heavily upon it.
- Monitoring and reviewing biodiversity data will help inform future site management for climate change adaptation.

A number of potential adverse impacts have been identified and mitigation has been recommended accordingly. This mitigation includes the following:

Reduce potential impacts from river management on local character and biodiversity;

- The Wolds ponds, lakes, & wetlands should be protected for historic environment interest (not just their biodiversity value) including archaeology, designed landscapes & repositories of palaeo-environmental data;
- Provide more information on the types of funding and level of support to farmers;

- Undertake further study to understand how farming best practice can be implemented.
- Reduce flood risk by restoring grassland in close proximity to water courses;
- Effectively use current heritage/archaeological resources and information available to protect local heritage/ archaeological features; For example – to balance woodland tree management with heritage/archaeological protection;
- Consideration given to developing a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy and action plan ;
- Appropriate planning policy should be developed and implemented to ensure that farm diversification is of a type, setting, design, sympathetic to the AONB. The Plan should recognise that some carefully planned new buildings may well be accommodated within the AONB.
- Improved monitoring of tourist numbers and impacts;
- Promotion of green tourism - linking in with tourism development at adjacent market towns;
- Development of sustainable transport infrastructure;
- The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.

This information has been used to inform the development of the Draft AONB Management plan.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan for 2012-17 (Consultation Draft) was assessed in accordance with the Habitats Regulations to establish if it has any effects on nearby nature conservation areas of designated European Importance. These include: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including candidate SACs; Special Protection Areas (SPA), which together form the Natura 2000 network (NB marine locations of these designations are also called European Marine Sites (EMS); and also Ramsar Sites.

There are no designated European Nature Conservation Sites within the AONB. However, there are four designated sites lying up to 30 km from the AONB.

They are:

- Humber Estuary
- Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point

- The Wash & North Norfolk Coast
- Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge (candidate site).

These four were subject to detailed screening against the Objectives and Policies of the Management Plan.

The screening process concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2012-17 is unnecessary as its Objectives and Policies will, subject to recommended minor changes, have no significant adverse effects directly or indirectly on European Nature Conservation Sites in proximity to the AONB.

The full HRA Screening Report is available for consultation with the SEA Report and the Draft AONB Management Plan.¹

The SEA Report includes draft monitoring recommendations. These will be updated following consultation. The SEA Directive requires that significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programmes should be monitored “in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake remedial action”. Responsible Authorities must ensure when designing their monitoring arrangements that they comply with this provision.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan

The relevant local authorities: Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have all given their approval for the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) to coordinate the review of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan (2004-09) to produce an updated Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2011-2016.

The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973, on account of its high quality scenic beauty providing one of the country's finest landscapes. It covers an area of 558 km² (216 miles²) within the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Character Area that also includes the 'Spilsby Crescent' to the south and the remaining Wolds that extend north to the Humber Estuary (see Figure 1-1)

The Lincolnshire Wolds is one of only two nationally protected landscapes in the East Midlands region. During the 38 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. These present both threats and opportunities. The overarching goal of the JAC is to ensure that the Wolds retains its unique landscape and special character, whilst maintaining and supporting its communities.

The Plan builds on the knowledge base established through the 'Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future' consultations exercise conducted during 2004-09. This included two conferences organised over the life of the previous Plan reaching out to an audience of over 300 people. At these events the JAC considered 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'.

The Strategy and Action Plan seeks to continue to build on the 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 needs to be carefully managed. The JAC considers that the challenge has never been greater, with pressures on the global economy, food production, energy use and climate change becoming increasingly evident.

This SEA Report is a technical document which serves as the Environmental Report, as required by the SEA Directive (See Section 2.2), for the updated Management Plan. It sets out the environmental baseline and provides 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 parallel with the Management Plan review and has helped to refine proposed changes to the updated Strategy and Action Plan. 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.

A SEA Scoping Report was prepared and formally consulted on with the Statutory bodies in December 2008 and set out the background to the SEA process as applied to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan, summarising the policy context, the baseline information available or sought, the key sustainability issues, and the initial framework proposed for undertaking the appraisal. Appendix A section 3 outlines the consultation responses and how they have addressed in the SEA.



Figure 1-1 Lincolnshire AONB Boundary

2 Legislative Requirements

2.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

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, a partnership of twenty-three organisations, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, have co-ordinated a formal review of the previous AONB 2004 – 2009 Management Plan.

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The *European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)* was implemented in England through the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004ⁱⁱ (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633)* and makes SEA mandatory for plans and programmes:

- a. Which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent for projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC); or
- b. Which in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

2.3 Requirements of the Environmental Report

The SEA Directive states that an Environmental Report shall be prepared in which *“the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated”* (Article 5.1). It also states that the Environmental Report shall include *“information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, [and] its stage in the decision-making process”* (Article 5.2).

This Strategic Environmental Assessment report serves as the Environmental Report as required by the SEA Directive for the updated Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan

Table 2-1 sets out the requirements of SEA Directive in relation to the Environmental Report, and identifies where they are addressed in this report.

Table 2-1 SEA Requirements

Requirements	(Section number / Appendix)
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given (Art. 5 and Annex I) is as follows:	This SEA Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	SEA Report Section 1.1 and Section 6 Appendix A section 1
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Appendix A Section 2 Appendix B SEA Report Section 5
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Appendix A
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Appendix A SEA Report Section 4.6
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Appendix A Section 1
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Appendix B and C SEA Report Section 5 and Section 7
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the	SEA Report Section 9

Requirements	(Section number / Appendix)
environment of implementing the plan or programme;	
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	SEA Report Section 3
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	SEA Report Section 10
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2).	All sections
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4).</p>	Appendix A Section 3
<p>Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2).</p>	<p>Consultation was carried out on the SEA Scoping Report Dec 2008, comments have been addressed in Appendix A section 3</p> <p>Consultation on this SEA report and the draft Management Plan is scheduled to commence July 2011 for a period of 12 weeks.</p>
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).	N/A
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8).	TBC
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan or programme as adopted; • A statement summarising how 	TBC following submission of the SEA Report

Requirements	(Section number / Appendix)
<p>environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9 and 10). 	
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10).	TBC
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (Art. 12).	This Table 2-1

2.4 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) should be undertaken as an iterative process during the development of a programme or plan that is likely to have an adverse effect on any designated Natura 2000 sites.

Part II of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulation 2007 outlines the due process for the protection of Natura 2000 sites with respect to development plans. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management is subject to a HRA.

3 Methodology

3.1 SEA Process

Table 3-1 describes the stages of SEA as set out in the Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (DCLG – Department of Communities and Local Government, previously ODP, 2005).ⁱⁱⁱ This guidance has been used in conjunction with the Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans, provided by Natural England, January 2008.^{iv}

The SEA should:

- Provide a long term view of how the area covered by the plan is expected to develop, taking account of social, environmental and economic effects of the proposed plan.
- Provide a mechanism for ensuring that SEA objectives are translated into sustainable policies.
- Reflect global, national, regional and local concerns.
- Provide an audit trail of how the plan has been revised to take account the findings of the SEA.
- Form an integral part of all stages of plan preparation.
- Incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Table 3-1 SEA Stages

SEA Stage	What is involved
STAGE A	<p>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.</p> <p>Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and SEA objectives. • A2: Collecting baseline information. • A3: Identifying environmental problems. • A4: Developing the SEA objectives. • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SEA.
STAGE B	<p>Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <p>Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the plan or programme objectives against the SEA objectives. • B2: Developing the Strategic alternatives. • B3: Predicting the effects of the Draft plan or programme including alternatives. • B4: Evaluating the effects of the Draft plan or programme including alternatives. • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects.

SEA Stage	What is involved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme.
STAGE C	<p>Preparing the Environmental Report Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Preparing the Environmental Report.
STAGE D	<p>Consulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Consulting on the draft plan and the Environmental Report. • D2(i): Assessing significant changes. • D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations. • D3: Making decisions and providing information.
STAGE E	<p>Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring. • E2: Responding to adverse effects.

This document, the Sustainable Environmental Assessment report, represents the Environmental Report required at Stage C.

4 Baseline and Context

4.1 Identifying Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

The SEA will be set in the context of a wide range of other relevant plans and programmes and environment objectives both within and outside the authorities' jurisdiction.

Relevant policies, plans and programmes at international, European, regional and local level that may influence the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB have been identified and the social, environmental and economic implications reviewed; Appendix A documents all the relevant plans and programmes; including: International, European, National, County (Lincolnshire), Unitary Authorities and Districts relevant to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Appendix A also highlights which SEA objectives are linked to the relevant plans and programmes.

4.2 Social, Environmental and Economic Baseline Characteristics and Predicted Future Baseline

Baseline information is set out in Appendix A to establish the current state of the area covered by the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan, and to identify trends in economic, environmental and social parameters. This information has been used to assess current environmental and sustainability issues that are evident in the area (Section 4.6 refers). The baseline information is intended to provide a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of implementation of the plan. It also helps to identify the environmental and sustainability issues and alternative ways of dealing with them.

4.3 Limitations of Data

Data specifically relevant to the AONB management area is limited, the AONB falls within the following local authority areas: Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. The data collected therefore does not always reflect the situation through-out the AONB area, it is however useful to get an overall idea of specific issues facing the area.

4.4 Identifying Environmental Issues and Problems

The following sections review the social, environmental and economic issues which need to be taken into account when preparing the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan. In some cases these are constraints which must be overcome, or impacts which must be avoided; in other cases they may be opportunities (e.g. stimulating the local economy and employment markets). Section 4.6 summarises the key issues that need to be addressed by the Lincolnshire AONB management plan.

Within this SEA the options for the AONB Management Plan have been assessed against a list of SEA objectives (See Section 4.7). These objectives have been drawn up taking account of the principal environmental issues relevant to the AONB management area. The following section summarises the issues identified through review of the baseline data. Full detail is provided in Appendix A.

The objectives are largely based on information contained in Appendix A and also take into account those concerns raised by the Lincolnshire SEA Steering Group.

4.5 SEA Topics

The baseline information is set out in Appendix A. This section includes an overview of the current situation and covers the topics specified in Annex 1 (f) of the SEA Directive, i.e.

- Climate
- Air
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Soil
- Water
- Population & Human Health (including transport, economics, tourism)
- Material Assets (including housing and waste)
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

4.6 SEA Key Issues

4.6.1 *Landscape*

- The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB was designated in 1973 on account of its high quality scenic beauty and covers an area of 558km² within the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Character Area (LCA).
- The Lincolnshire Wolds has the following outstanding qualities: a unique physiography (geology and topography), a scenic working landscape, a major archaeological resource, a valued cultural landscape.
- The LCA recognised four landscape character areas within the AONB. These are; the north-west scarp, the chalk wolds, the ridges and valleys of the south-west, and the south-eastern claylands.

- The Wolds differs from most other chalk and limestone landscapes in that it has a long association with arable cultivation as such much of the traditional open grassland and hedgerows have been removed to make way for intensive farming practices including cereal crops. Future changes to the landscape are expected with changing agricultural practices.

AONB/Character Area Map

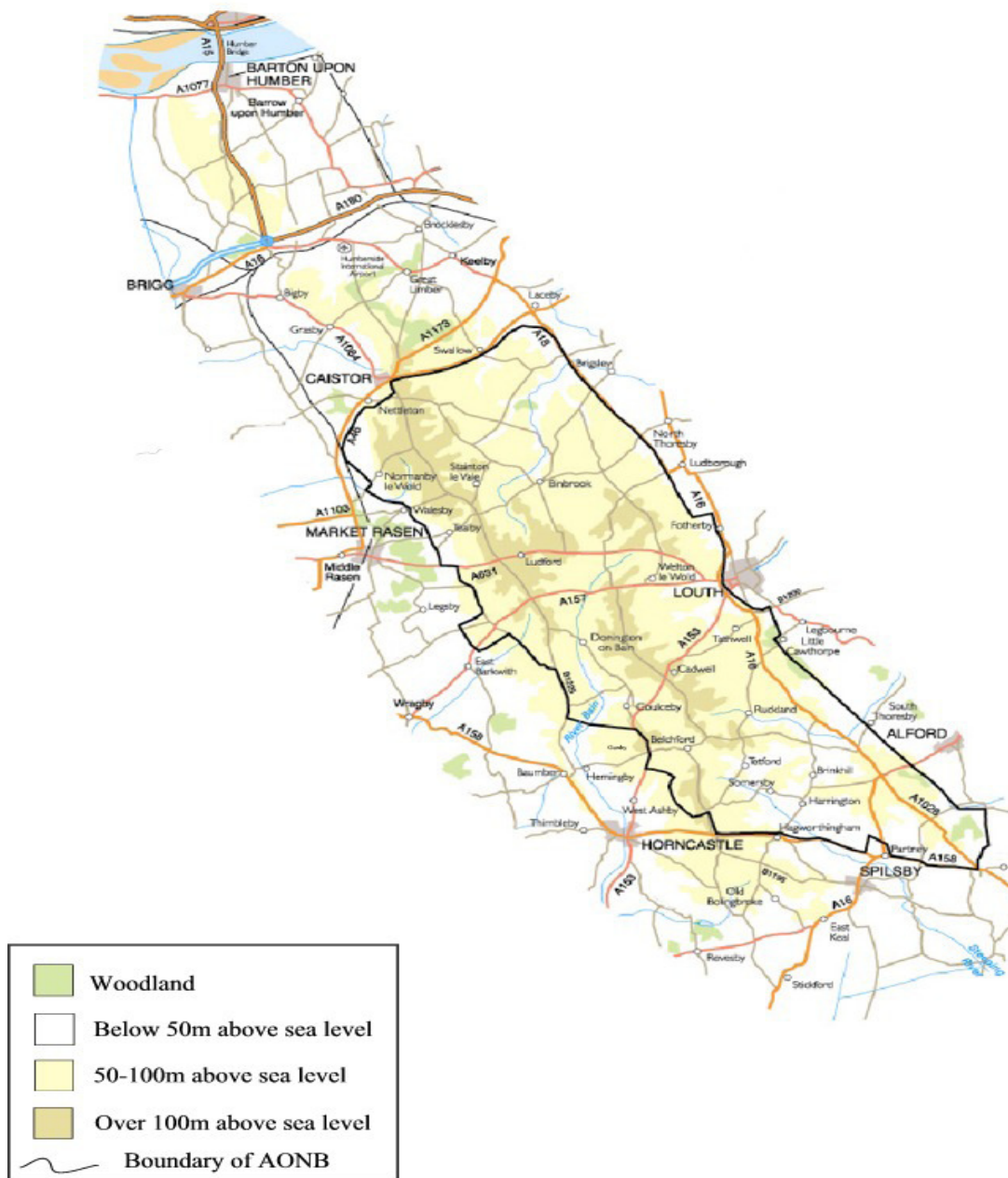


Figure 4-1 AONB Character Area Map

It is important that the AONB Management Plan protects the AONB whilst considering opportunities to improve and promote informal countryside recreation and to help balance the needs of agriculture, conservation and recreation.

The following threats have been identified:

- Threats from wind farms, oil exploration and 3rd generation telecommunication infrastructure.
- 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, and heritage and water management.

4.6.2 *Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna*

- Reduction in woodland cover and changes in farming practices are thought to be the predominant reasons for species and habitat loss in the Lincolnshire Wolds which has resulted in biodiversity decreasing in both species variety and numbers.
- There are fourteen Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the AONB boundary and a number of National and Local Nature Reserves and 127 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation within the Lincolnshire Wolds area.
- There are 13 priority habitats within Lincolnshire; ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows, aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies, cereal field margins and chalk rivers.
- In some areas there has been widespread neglect and absence of traditional management especially of woodland, hedgerow, grassland and grass verge habitats. Inappropriate planting schemes, road run-off, vehicle encroachment and illegal fly-tipping are also threatening habitats.
- There are conflicts between sites for new woodland planting and increasingly energy crops versus the retention of grassland/wetland habitats.
- The AONB has suffered from an influx of invasive and non-native species including, crayfish, mink, farmed fish and Himalayan balsam.

4.6.3 *Cultural Heritage*

- The Lincolnshire 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.

- The Wolds archaeology is an important resource in need of protection and enhancement. English Heritage currently identifies 33 of the SMs at high risk and a further 65 at medium/low risk.
- There are 222 nationally significant buildings in North East Lincolnshire included in the list of “buildings and other structures of architectural or historic interest”. In 2006, 2 buildings were identified as being at risk on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register.
- The Wolds archaeological heritage is at risk from farming operations, change of land use, neglected woodland management and inappropriate planting and future impacts of climate change.
- Built heritage is at risk from abandonment, dereliction, limited local resources, loss of traditional building expertise and inappropriate development.

4.6.4 *Population*

- The AONB Management Area remains a relatively sparsely populated area with 97 villages within the AONB boundary and six market towns on the periphery: Louth, Market Rasen, Horncastle, Spilsby, Alford and Caistor. The total estimated population of the AONB area is 12,915.
- A lower percentage of the population is within the 20-34 age range compared to national and regional averages. This indicates the difficulty of retaining younger adults and graduates within the area.
- By 2026, people of 50 years or older will represent 44% of the total resident population. Consistent with national trends, it is likely that an ageing population will place additional pressures on some services.

4.6.5 *Human Health*

- Obesity is relatively high in North East Lincolnshire with 28.9% of the adult population reported to be obese in 2006 -2008 compared to the national average of 24.2% .East Lindsey was close to the national average at 24.3% in 2006-2008. West Lindsey’s obesity level was estimated to be slightly below the national average at 23.5% in 2006-2008.
- Wold View ward in West Lindsey is in the top 30% of most deprived wards within England for the income, employment and health as measured by seven key deprivation indicators (IMD). The ward is within the top 20% of deprived wards within the England for barriers to housing. In total, three wards within the boundary of the AONB are in the top 20% of deprived wards for barriers to housing and all of the remaining are in the top 10%.

- In North East Lincolnshire there were 24.1 incidences of violent crime per 1,000 of the population between 2008 and 2009, higher than the national average, compared with 12.5 incidences in East Lindsey and 8.5 in West Lindsey across the same time period.

4.6.6 *Material Assets*

- The amount of waste produced by West Lindsey, East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire has been steadily rising over the last ten years.
- The promotion of tourism within the area may result in further waste arisings and the AONB Management Plan needs to consider promoting the waste hierarchy where appropriate.
- There are a number of mineral sites within or adjacent to the AONB boundary in East Lindsey and West Lindsey.
- Quarrying, mineral extraction and secondary development pressures, for example recycling of aggregates, are a key issue for management of the Wolds.

4.6.6.1 **Transport**

- The dispersed nature of the settlements in the Wolds makes running public transport services inherently difficult. However, a good transport network is essential for those living within the AONB and for enabling appropriate development and promotion of the area for tourism, recreation and business use.
- In rural areas, access to facilities and services is limited and has been compounded by the gradual loss or centralisation of services. As a result, social exclusion is an acute problem, with East Lindsey ranking among the top 100 most deprived district authorities in England.
- The roles of the market towns are very important in providing social and economic services for the wider community and provide important gateways to the Wolds' countryside. There is an extensive network of roads, but many are narrow and rural in nature.
- 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.

- The original community consultations highlighted time and again that the rural transport issues highlighted below are important for residents and visitors alike:
 - 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.
 - Neglect and vandalism of traditional road signs across the AONB.

4.6.6.2 Tourism

- The Wolds AONB has an extensive network of public rights of way including the long distance footpath the Viking Way, Sustrans Cycle Route and other promoted trails.
- The main attractions within the Wolds are; Alford Five Sailed Windmill, Alford Manor House, Cadwell Park, Louth Museum, Gunby Hall, Stockwith Mill, Market Rasen Racecourse and Willingham Woods.
- The average trip length for tourists in the Wolds was 3.5 days with overseas visitors spending an average of 9 days, compared to domestic tourists which spent an average of 3 days.
- The total spends for tourism in the Wolds in 2005 was estimated to be over £38 million. From this figure £8million was from long term tourists and £30 million from day visits.
- The total number of leisure day trips in the Area is estimated at approximately 2.7 million, with associated spending of around £24.7 million. The bulk of these trips and spend will be by local residents. The average spend per trip is estimated at approximately £8.93, with town trips having a higher spend figure of £16.80 and countryside trips also higher at £9.14.

4.6.6.3 Economic

- Lincolnshire has a low-wage economy and as a consequence one of the lowest GVAs nationally despite the local economy growing by 1% pa in recent years.

- In August of 2009, 21% of people in North East Lincolnshire, 19% of people in East Lindsey and 14% of people in West Lindsey claimed a benefit with 5,760 people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in North East Lincolnshire, 2,210 in East Lindsey and 1,660 in West Lindsey, in 2010.
- There is increasing local debate on the need to enable businesses and communities to develop socially and economically to promote a sustainable rural economy that in itself conserves and enhances the environment.
- Many parts of Lincolnshire suffer some degree of deprivation. In the deeply rural parts of the county, social exclusion remains a problem, particularly access to important services such as health facilities, shopping and employment opportunities. This has been compounded in the recent past by the gradual loss or centralisation of many of these facilities (e.g. village shops, post offices, health facilities).

4.6.7 *Climate Change*

- Health impacts as a result of climate change are likely to include a reduction in the number of cold related deaths, but an increase in heat related illness. The elderly are most at risk from extremes of temperature.
- The effects of flooding may cause stress related illnesses, UV exposure and vector-borne diseases.
- Climate change may compromise access to health services and as such improved access is needed. In addition, climate change has the potential to affect emergency services as a result of extreme weather events.
- Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire contain a number of important national transport links and ports which may be affected by climate change. For instance, built structures may become increasingly vulnerable to higher winds, flooding, storm events and changes in soil moisture.
- An increased likelihood of summer droughts and soil water deficits could lead to an increase in demand for irrigation, and livestock may suffer from heat stress, putting more pressure on available water resources in the region.
- Reduction in summer rainfall and wetter winters could have a major effect on grassland, an increase in storm frequency or intensity could affect bird populations, and rising river temperatures are likely to affect fish populations.
- Climate change may prove beneficial to the tourism industry as summers are likely to be warmer and drier, and winters are expected to be warmer. This could potentially increase the length of the tourist season and increase the level of tourism in the AONB.

4.6.8 Water

- There are nine principal river systems within the AONB that provide the bulk of the fresh water habitats ranging from the alkaline chalk streams in the north to the more acidic waters of the Bain and Lymn.
- River quality in North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire has overall good or fair biological and chemical quality. In general, the Anglian Region scores poorly for chemical water quality which can be attributed to the comparatively low flows in the region's rivers, making the dilution of pollutants difficult, and the high nitrate loads arising from fertiliser run off and livestock slurry in agricultural areas
- The ANOB is not located within a Flood Zone. However, as a result of climate change, areas adjacent to the AONB may result in the displacement of people which in turn may impact the management of the AONB.
- The majority of the ANOB overlies a principal bedrock aquifer. Current issues include a low water table and flow rates primarily through abstraction and increased water demands from agriculture and residential usage.

4.6.9 Soil

- Farming is a major industry in Lincolnshire, with a farmed area of 500,994ha, a total of 7,191 holdings and a labour force of 15,286 in 2009. Farming land use within the AONB occupies 49,857ha, spread across a total of 411 holdings supported by a labour force of 806.
- 40,644ha of agricultural land within the AONB falls within a Rural Development Programme for England stewardship scheme.
- A key issue for managing the Wolds soils is preventing the risk of erosion from wind and water run-off and subsequent diffuse pollution.
- All of the ANOB is within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

4.6.10 Air

- There are no AQMA in either West Lindsey or East Lindsey. North East Lincolnshire Council has declared one AQMA within the town of Immingham relating to particulate matter (PM10). However, this is to the north of and outside of the ANOB boundary.

4.7 SEA Framework

4.7.1 Introduction

The SEA Framework provides a method for describing, analysing and comparing the sustainability effects of plans and policies. A series of SEA objectives were developed at the scoping stage, taking into account the relationship between the objectives of other plans and programmes, along with the findings of the baseline information review.

The SEA objectives were refined through consultation at the scoping stage to form the suite of objectives set out below; these provide the framework against which elements of the Lincolnshire AONB Management Plan have been evaluated against as described in Sections 5 and 7 of this report.

4.7.2 SEA Objectives

1. Protect and enhance heritage sites including architectural and archaeological heritage
2. Protect and enhance attractive landscapes of the Wolds AONB in terms of both its visual quality and character.
3. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the designated nature conservation sites and species within the Wolds.
4. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of overall biodiversity promoting priority species/habitats in Biodiversity Action Plans.
5. Protect the quality and distinctiveness of geomorphological features.
6. Mitigate climate change.
7. Adapt to the impact of climate change.
8. Increase accessibility and promote sustainable transport for local residents, tourists and employers.
9. Create conditions to improve health, promoting healthy lifestyles, especially routine daily exercise and reduce health inequalities enabling equal access to basic services, amenities and open space, easily safely and affordably.
10. To maintain and enhance the areas distinctive rural character and tranquillity.
11. To support sustainable economic growth.
12. To support transportation network for goods and services

5 Business as Usual Appraisal Summary

In this section of the report the Business as Usual option for the AONB Management Plan is appraised against each of the SEA Objectives (Section 4.7.2. refers). The existing policies are assessed in terms of their likely social, economic and environmental impact.

This information is presented in the form of a summary table containing a discussion of potential impacts of the policies and objectives under each theme within the Management Plan, and a relative score is given for the social, economic and environmental impact. Recommendations for mitigation are also identified.

The full SEA Appraisal Matrix for the Business as Usual option from which this summary is drawn is presented in Appendix B

The 'Business as Usual' option, i.e. the existing AONB Management Plan, consists of the following themes:

1. Protecting the Wolds Summary:
2. Living and Working in the Wolds
3. Discovering the Wolds
4. Sustaining the Wolds
5. Transport in the Wolds
6. Partnerships in the Wolds

The appraisal methodology has considered whether the impacts, would be:

- direct, secondary, synergistic, cumulative,
- short term or long term
- local, regional or national.
-

For some aspects of the appraisal there is currently insufficient information to robustly categorise the likely impacts as either negative or positive. For other aspects of the appraisal a combination of positive and negative impacts might be identified. In either of these situations the impact has been categorised for the purposes of this assessment as being uncertain.

Key:

Low Positive	Medium Positive	High Positive	Low Negative	Medium Negative	High Negative	Uncertain
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Table 5-1 Business as Usual Appraisal Summary

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>Protecting the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: Low Positive</p> <p>Raising awareness may encourage people to visit grassland areas and therefore enjoy green spaces which may promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Protecting the biodiversity and character of the Wolds benefits the local residents by encouraging them to go out and enjoy nature which can improve mental and physical health.</p> <p>Protecting and increasing the grasslands and grass verges of the Wolds can be beneficial to the landscape and rural character of the Wolds and its cultural heritage and archaeology.</p> <p>Protecting river and wetland areas from development would reduce the impacts of river flooding as a result of climate change. Managing rivers may also be beneficial to reduce the impacts of flooding, thus be beneficial to health.</p> <p>Protecting the Wolds would potentially increase tourism and therefore more cars and congestion and a decrease in air quality which would impact on health.</p> <p>Protecting the character and heritage would benefit the local character of the townscape and therefore the people who live there.</p> <p>A landscape approach should integrate all environmental protection and enhancement work within the sense of the place as perceived by residents, workers and visitors.</p> <p>Some benefits for supporting rural transport services through</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Medium positive</p>	<p>Policy objective RSPO3. Managing the rivers in the Wolds - ensure impact measures are put in place to reduce potential impacts from river management on local character and biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy objective GO1 and GO2 need to consider biodiversity when converting land to character grasslands. Single species managed grasslands do not offer diversity for plants and animal species. Increasing grasslands through agri-environmental grants may also conflict with the landscape and its current land use.</p> <p>Policy objective WBO1 could include the word native to make sure that no non native broadleaved species are introduced to the AONB ancient woodlands.</p> <p>Policy AFO offers agri-environment funding and support to enhance farm wildlife. More information will be needed on the types of funding and level of support to farmers.</p> <p>Policy Objective AFO2 may not benefit farm economy. Best practice on farms to enhance farm wildlife may hinder farming and production, for example</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>additional recreation/tourism visits.</p> <p>Economic: Low Positive</p> <p>Protecting the Wolds would keep its current intrinsic character and biodiversity. This would help to increase tourism and therefore the local economy that rely heavily upon it.</p> <p>Improving the abundance and diversity of farmland wildlife could potentially be beneficial or negative to farmlands depending on what funding and support is offered. However, it would be beneficial on tourism as it would help to maintain the character of the area which attracts tourists.</p> <p>Additional woodland may also support shooting syndicates which may be beneficial to local landowners and the wider economy.</p> <p>Environmental: Medium Positive</p> <p>Protecting the Wolds would promote tourism which may potentially cause impacts from increased vehicle/coach movement and visitors on Biodiversity, designated sites and the historic environment, including townscape and landscape.</p> <p>Protecting characteristic grasslands within the Wolds may impact on biodiversity, as managed grasslands often offer little plant species diversity; however the combination of biodiversity objectives for habitats will contribute to enhanced biodiversity and landscape character:</p> <p>Enhancing and extending broadleaved ancient woodland could potentially impact on existing woodlands unless native species are use;</p> <p>Increasing hedgerows and landmark trees would benefit biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors and protect cultural heritage of the Wolds.</p>				<p>not managing field edges and hedgerows will increase wildlife areas but may reduce the area to farm on which could mean that they are out competed by farms which could produce more crop. More information is needed on best practice farming.</p> <p>Opportunities for minimising flood risk by restoring grassland in close proximity to water courses. Some cultivated 'wooded pasture' could benefit from grassland restoration, whilst retaining principle standard trees.</p> <p>Current heritage/archaeological resource and protection need to be considered through-out the Management Plan.</p> <p>Climate change mitigation and adaptation should be addressed further, consider a strategy and action plan.</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>Some dual benefits to heritage assets via increasing grassland/pasture creation schemes and landscape scale approaches will help plan for climate change.</p> <p>Monitoring and reviewing biodiversity data will help inform future site management for climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Modifying river profiles would not benefit the landscape character unless managed sympathetically to its surroundings.</p> <p>Opportunities for minimising flood risk by restoring grassland in close proximity to water courses. Some cultivated 'wooded pasture' could benefit from grassland restoration, whilst retaining principle standard trees.</p> <p>Small ancient woodlands and copses are integral to the distinctive landscape of the Wolds.</p> <p>Greater connectivity of habitats should improve ecosystem resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Possible negative impact of new woodland planting, heritage protection issues have prevented some new woodland grant schemes in the AONB in recent years due to concerns over damage to archaeological features.</p>				
<p>Living and Working in the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: Low Positive</p> <p>Promoting sustainable farming and livestock farming would help to increase the local economy and potentially create local jobs. This would help to encourage local people to stay in the area creating a vibrant community.</p> <p>Maintaining and seeking rural activities would promote the local economy and potential jobs. Rural activities would also enhance the character of the landscape which ultimately</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Policy objective FWO1, to develop and promote agricultural 'best practice' to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds needs more information of types of sustainable farming and how these practices may impact upon biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy objective FWO4 also supports diversification of farms. This to needs</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>attracts tourists.</p> <p>Economic: Low Positive</p> <p>Maintaining and seeking rural activities would promote tourism by enhancing the character of the Wolds which attracts tourists.</p> <p>Supporting measures to maintain communities within the Wolds would help to promote local business, therefore increasing the local economy.</p> <p>Because the primary purpose (AONB 'natural beauty' protection & enhancement) would always be seeking to influence farming policy to bring not only economic benefits to the Wolds but crucially to help support landscape, biodiversity goals etc.</p> <p>Environmental: Low Positive</p> <p>Promoting agricultural best practice whilst conserving and enhancing the character of the Wolds would be beneficial for biodiversity habitats and species.</p> <p>The promotion of tourism may potentially cause impacts from increased vehicle/coach movement and visitors on biodiversity, designated sites and the historic environment, including townscape and landscape.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the AONB Management Plan is to protect and enhance; therefore a balance should always be sought to influence farming policy to bring not only economic benefits to the Wolds but crucially to help support landscape and biodiversity goals.</p> <p>Managed grasslands and farming are an important character feature of the Wolds, therefore creation schemes will benefit its overall character.</p>				<p>to have more information as diversification could be beneficial or negative to species, heritage and landscape.</p> <p>Appropriate planning policy should be implemented to ensure that farm diversification is of a type, setting, design, sympathetic to the AONB. The Plan should recognise that some carefully planned new buildings may well be accommodated within the AONB.</p> <p>Policy TCO, maintaining local communities will have scope for development and expansion of local business. This is beneficial to the local communities and economy; however this may bring more HGVs or vans to rural roads. A transport strategy for the expansion of business in the Wolds must be developed.</p> <p>Emphasis is on appropriate and sustainable levels of recreational/tourism activities to minimise impact upon character including tranquillity</p> <p>Climate change mitigation is required on a national and global scale and renewable energy provision adjacent to the Wolds should be considered where appropriate.</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>Policies that restrict development of renewable energy infrastructure within or adjacent to the Wolds score a high negative with regard to climate change mitigation.</p>				
<p>Discovering the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: Uncertain</p> <p>Could potentially bring in more tourism and therefore more cars and congestion. This would decrease air quality which would impact on health. Improvements to sustainable transport routes and access to tourist areas need to be addressed.</p> <p>Promoting and developing market towns in the Wolds would benefit communities if sympathetic to the townscape and landscape.</p> <p>Economic: Low Local Positive</p> <p>Good for tourism as managing the Wolds would bring in tourists which is good for the local economy.</p> <p>Environment: Uncertain</p> <p>The promotion of tourism - potential impacts from increased vehicle/coach movement and visitors on Biodiversity, designated sites and the historic environment, including townscape and landscape. It is important to maintain the best practice approach which would maintain the intrinsic value of the Wolds.</p> <p>Has not considered a sustainable transport network that would encourage tourism and reduce the impact of cars to the area.</p>	<p>Uncertain</p>	<p>Low Local Positive</p>	<p>Uncertain</p>	<p>Policy ARTO would develop and promote access to tourists and recreation. This could potentially bring in more tourism and therefore more cars and congestion and a decrease in air quality which would not be beneficial. More people may also impact on the biodiversity and character of the landscape through dropping of litter, walking to areas which should be designated for its important biodiversity etc. With an increase in tourism there would be a need to improve sustainable transport routes and access for tourists. Recreation area will also need to be managed appropriately.</p> <p>Policy objective ARTO4 would need to develop the market towns (gateways to the Wolds) sympathetically and consider the increased volume of tourism which would impact on the towns.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring of tourist numbers and impacts should be implemented.</p> <p>Green tourism should be promoted</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
				<p>and link to the adjacent market towns. The Wolds Interpretation Strategy highlighted the need to coordinate/utilise the market towns as gateways to the wider Wolds. This was judged as a much more viable, cost effective and sustainable proposition than an outright Wolds Visitor Centre e.g. making better use of existing Tourist Information Centres, Multi-Use Centres, Rights of Way & bus networks from key service centres like Louth, Horncastle, Caistor.</p>
<p>Sustaining the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: Low Positive</p> <p>To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire would keep the characteristics of the area. This would ultimately benefit local communities.</p> <p>Promoting and considering the impact of adjacent development in the Wolds would keep maintain the character of the area.</p> <p>Economic: Medium Negative</p> <p>To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire would benefit the biodiversity and local designations in the Wolds which give the Wolds its character.</p> <p>Minimising damage to the AONB from mineral working activities many potentially hinder the expansion and growth of</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Medium Negative</p>	<p>Medium Positive</p>	<p>Policy objective PO2 encouraging and supporting the conversion of traditional buildings may impact on protected species especially Bats which commonly roost in old barn roofs.</p> <p>Policy objective PO4 would hinder the expansion of working mineral sites within the AONB which helps the local economy and creates jobs.</p> <p>Protected species during conversion or expansions needs to ensure that they comply with local planning regulations.</p> <p>Appropriate planning policy should be implemented to ensure that farm diversification is of a type, setting, design, sympathetic to the AONB. The Plan should recognise that some carefully planned new buildings may</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>sustainable income.</p> <p>Considering and promoting awareness of development on views in the Wolds could also hinder economic development from potential big business.</p> <p>Environmental: Medium Positive</p> <p>To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Wolds would benefit the biodiversity and local designations in the Wolds which give the Wolds its character. However would promote tourism which brings potential impacts to biodiversity.</p> <p>The conversion of traditional buildings may impact on protected species especially bats.</p> <p>Policies that restrict development of renewable energy infrastructure within or adjacent to the Wolds score a high negative with regard to climate change mitigation on a local, national and global scale.</p>				<p>well be accommodated within the AONB.</p> <p>Climate change mitigation is required on a national and global scale and renewable energy provision adjacent to the Wolds should be considered where appropriate.</p>
<p>Transport in the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: High Positive</p> <p>Encouraging and supporting an integrated transport system in the Wolds would encourage people to use public transport and connect local communities and market towns which would make it easier for locals to get to local important amenities.</p> <p>An integrated transport system would reduce traffic congestion and pollution by reducing the number of cars on local roads. This would also have a benefit on road traffic accidents.</p> <p>Supporting cycling, walking and riding would be beneficial to people's health helping to reduce the number of cars on local</p>	High Positive	High Positive	Low Positive	<p>Policy TWO would develop an integrated transport system which would be beneficial for tourism and traffic congestion. However, this would cause an increase in tourists to the area which would have an impact on heritage, landscape and biodiversity. These recreation areas need to be well managed to cope with the volume of visitors.</p>

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>roads and encouraging exercise.</p> <p>Supporting local transport to encourage and support tourism in the Wolds would potentially bring in more tourism to the area and create jobs.</p> <p>Economic: High Positive</p> <p>Supporting local transport to encourage and support tourism in the Wolds would benefit tourists and therefore the economy of the Wolds.</p> <p>The development of an integrated transport system may potentially increase jobs.</p> <p>Environmental: Low Positive</p> <p>Creating an integrated transport system and encouraging tourism could potentially impact by increasing visitors on biodiversity, designated sites and the historic environment, including townscape and landscape; however this should be balanced by the provision of an integrated sustainable transport system.</p>				
<p>Partnerships in the Wolds Summary:</p> <p>Social: High Positive</p> <p>Managing the management plan, action plan and the condition of the Wolds would have positive impacts on all social aspects.</p> <p>Economic: High Positive</p> <p>Managing the management plan, action plan and the condition of the Wolds would have positive impacts on all economic aspects.</p> <p>Environmental: High Positive</p>	<p>High Positive</p>	<p>High Positive</p>	<p>High Positive</p>	

Business as Usual Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the management plan, action plan and the condition of the Wolds would have positive impacts on all environmental aspects. 				

6 Draft AONB Management Plan

The following section outlines the objectives and policies of the draft updated AONB Management Plan; the plan consists of the following themes:

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

Each theme has a number of objectives and associated policies. Following the review of the existing AONB Management Plan it is proposed to revise a number of objectives and also add additional policies. The following table lists the updated objectives and policies as now proposed and identifies any changes from the existing Management Plan.

It should be noted that some of the previous policies that are retained in the new Management Plan have been re-numbered. The numbering used in this section e.g. BO, BP1, etc refers to the draft updated Management Plan.

6.1 Theme 1: Protecting the Wolds

Table 6-1 Natural Heritage – Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>BO</p> <p>To protect, enhance and restore where appropriate the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire</p>	<p>BP1</p> <p>To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in line with Lincolnshire and UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and other national aspirations.</p>	<p>No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>BP2</p> <p>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.</p>	
	<p>BP3</p> <p>To support and encourage agricultural guidance and good practices that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the AONB.</p>	
	<p>BP4</p> <p>To develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and maximise the benefits with wider socio-economic benefits.</p>	

Table 6-2 Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>GO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>GP1</p> <p>To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore/extend grasslands of high wildlife and landscape value.</p>	<p>GP1 – new policy</p> <p>GP4 - new policy</p>
	<p>GP2</p> <p>To raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland.</p>	
	<p>GP3</p> <p>To support initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands, including calcareous grassland.</p>	

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
	<p>GP4</p> <p>To promote to land managers the additional benefits of good grassland management including carbon sink, climate change and flood alleviation impacts.</p>	

Table 6-3 Biodiversity - Grass Verges and Green Lanes Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>VLO</p> <p>To retain, restore and encourage positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONBs roadsides and green lanes.</p>	<p>VLP1</p> <p>To help maintain, enhance and where appropriate restore/extend grass verges for their wildlife and landscape value.</p>	<p>No substantive change to objective or policies from business as usual.</p>
	<p>VLP2</p> <p>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.</p>	

Table 6-4 Biodiversity - Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>WBO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>WBP1</p> <p>To reinforce the existing pattern of woodland, seeking to increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland), accepting limited non-native planting for climate change adaptability.</p>	<p>WBP1 - new policy</p> <p>WBP3 - new policy</p> <p>WBP5 - new policy</p>
	<p>WBP2</p> <p>To re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands</p>	

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
	<p>WBP3</p> <p>To record the extent and location of small ancient woodlands as part of an integrated digital database for the Lincolnshire Wolds woodlands.</p>	
	<p>WBP4</p> <p>To encourage and support woodland business schemes within the AONB.</p>	
	<p>WBP5</p> <p>To establish the extent and quality of traditional orchards and encourage suitable restoration, creation and management.</p>	

Table 6-5 Biodiversity - Hedgerows and Landmark Trees Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>HTO</p> <p>To protect, enhance and increase, where appropriate, the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB.</p>	<p>HTP1</p> <p>To help record, maintain, and where appropriate restore all species-rich and ancient hedgerows and encourage planting and management of hedgerows and trees to benefit landscape and habitat connectivity.</p>	<p>HTP1 - new policy</p>
	<p>HTP2</p> <p>To raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows and landmark trees for wildlife, landscape and cultural values and encourage future community engagement.</p>	

Table 6-6 Biodiversity - Rivers, Streams and Ponds Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
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Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>RSPO</p> <p>To improve, where appropriate, the natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated wetland habitats.</p>	<p>RSPP1</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>
	<p>RSPP2</p> <p>To rehabilitate streams and rivers to enhance their biodiversity where appropriate and consistent with flood defence and flood risk requirements</p>	
	<p>RSPP3</p> <p>To raise community awareness and where possible, community involvement of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource.</p>	
	<p>RSPP4</p> <p>To establish current number, quality and distribution of ponds and lakes.</p>	
	<p>RSPP5</p> <p>To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds, lakes and wetlands for biodiversity, landscape and wider socio-economic gains.</p>	
	<p>RSPP6</p> <p>To seek to maintain groundwater levels and their seasonal fluctuations wherever possible to safeguard rivers, streams, springs and blow-wells sufficient to retain characteristic wildlife communities.</p>	

Table 6-7 Biodiversity - Arable Farmland Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
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Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>AFO</p> <p>To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape.</p>	<p>AFP1</p> <p>To encourage maximum take-up of agri-environment scheme options that provide enhanced conditions for arable farmland wildlife.</p>	<p>No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>
	<p>AFP2</p> <p>To improve awareness of commercial farmings' 'good practices' that bring additional wildlife and landscape benefits.</p>	
	<p>AFP3</p> <p>To encourage surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife.</p>	

Table 6-8 Earth Heritage - Geo-diversity Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>GDO</p> <p>To protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological features of the AONB for enjoyment, education and research.</p>	<p>GDP1</p> <p>To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the intrinsic interest of geological and geomorphological sites, including improved access.</p>	<p>No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>
	<p>GDP2</p> <p>To increase awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological interest through general and site specific interpretation.</p>	

Table 6-9 Earth Heritage - Soils Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
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Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
SO To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management and carbon storage.	SP1 To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the soil resource, anticipating future pressures from climate change.	SO – New objective SP1 - New policy SP2 - New policy
	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.	

Table 6-10 Archaeology Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
AO To protect and enhance archaeological and historic features within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.	AP1 To encourage and support research projects to help increase understanding of the Wolds' heritage, identifying sites of key importance and promoting better understanding of the complexity of risk, particularly climate change.	No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.
	AP2 To raise awareness and support positive management of archaeological heritage in the Wolds, working with farmers, landowners, land managers, utility companies and relevant contract workers.	
	AP3 To increase and enhance appropriate public access to sites of archaeological and historic interest, in consultation with landowners.	

Table 6-11 Built Heritage Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>BHO</p> <p>To protect and enhance the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings and features within the AONB.</p>	<p>BHP1</p> <p>To work with property owners, residents, owner occupiers and developers to encourage sympathetic design and management of buildings.</p>	<p>BHO4 - New policy</p>
	<p>BHP2</p> <p>To raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds and increase understanding of its contribution to the AONB.</p>	
	<p>BHP3</p> <p>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.</p>	
	<p>BHP4</p> <p>To encourage and support innovative new construction that uses local material/design and takes inspiration from local distinctiveness and character.</p>	

6.2 Theme 2: Living and Working in the Wolds

Table 6-12 Farming in the Wolds Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>FWO To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets.</p>	<p>FWP1</p> <p>To develop and promote agricultural 'good practice' to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.</p>	<p>FWP6 - New policy</p>
	<p>FWP2</p> <p>To monitor and influence changes in regional, national and EU agriculture policy to bring benefits to farmers in the Wolds.</p>	

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
	<p>FWP3</p> <p>To encourage and support initiatives to sustain livestock farming in the AONB.</p>	
	<p>FWP4</p> <p>To support farm diversification schemes appropriate to the AONB and which accord with planning policy.</p>	
	<p>FWP5</p> <p>To seek to maintain traditional rural activities that can protect and enhance the landscape.</p>	
	<p>FWP6</p> <p>To raise awareness within the farming community of the growing issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management</p>	

Table 6-13 Thriving Communities Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>TCO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>TCP1</p> <p>To foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities, working with relevant agencies to support local businesses and communities, encouraging both innovation and wider good practice</p>	<p>TCO - New objective</p>
	<p>TCP2</p> <p>To encourage measures to reverse the declines in rural services and facilities and promote healthier lifestyles.</p>	
	<p>TCP3</p> <p>To encourage existing and new businesses to have a high regard for environmental sustainability especially in the context of the AONB.</p>	

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
	<p>TCP4</p> <p>To sensitively utilise the Wolds as a recreational resource, in particular promoting accessible 'green infrastructure' close to communities within and adjacent to the AONB.</p>	

6.3 Theme 3: Discovering the Wolds

Table 6-14 Interpretation – Awareness raising Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>IO</p> <p>To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment of its special qualities</p>	<p>IP1</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>No substantive change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>
	<p>IP2</p> <p>To strengthen the profile of the AONB by highlighting the area's unique landscape character and sense of place to the general public.</p>	
	<p>IP3</p> <p>To encourage residents to become actively involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.</p>	

Table 6-15 Access, Recreation and Tourism Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>ARTO</p> <p>To develop, promote and seek implementation of a wide range of access,</p>	<p>ARTP1</p> <p>To maximise access opportunities for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation.</p>	<p>ARTP3 - New policy</p>

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
recreation and tourism initiatives appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.	<p>ARTP2</p> <p>To provide co-ordinated, accurate and up-to-date information on the access, recreation and tourism opportunities within the Wolds AONB.</p>	
	<p>ARTP3</p> <p>To develop joint promotion and marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the AONB, including utilising the surrounding market towns as gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p>	
	<p>ARTP4</p> <p>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.</p>	

6.4 Theme 4: Developing the Wolds

Table 6-16 Planning and Development Management Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>PO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>PP1</p> <p>To protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness in the highest of quality design for new development and re-development.</p>	<p>PP4 - New policy</p> <p>PP6 - New policy</p> <p>PP7 - New policy</p> <p>PP8 - New policy</p> <p>PP10 - New policy</p>
	<p>PP2</p> <p>To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support local businesses and communities.</p>	
	<p>PP3</p> <p>To help support planning policies for affordable housing for local people and key workers, subject to need and where consistent with AONB objectives and LA planning policies.</p>	

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
	<p>PP4</p> <p>To encourage landowners to come forward with land that may be suitable for the development of small scale affordable housing.</p>	
	<p>PP5</p> <p>To minimise damage to the AONB landscape as a result of mineral working and associated activity.</p>	
	<p>PP6</p> <p>Promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.</p>	
	<p>PP7</p> <p>To recognise and protect the AONBs night skies and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.</p>	
	<p>PP8</p> <p>To ensure a general presumption against medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB.</p>	
	<p>PP9</p> <p>To support general waste reduction measures and recycling initiatives that are in accordance with the special requirements of the AONB.</p>	
	<p>PP10</p> <p>To ensure that where larger scale development must proceed within or adjacent to the AONB, because of other national interests, the highest regard is placed on minimising any impacts upon the primary purpose of the designation – the area’s ‘natural beauty’.</p>	

Table 6-17 Transport in the Wolds Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
TWO To encourage and support the development and promotion of a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character and addresses local community and visitor needs.	TWP1 To encourage integrated public and community-based transport schemes that can help to improve the links between communities within the AONB and the surrounding market towns.	TWP5 – New Policy
	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.	

Table 6-18 Climate Change and Energy Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
CCO To seek to develop and implement a long-term climate change strategy to	CCP1 To establish, monitor and review key indices for monitoring and possible effects of climate change.	New section – the objectives and policies are new to the Draft AONB

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>CCP2</p> <p>To develop practices that promote a sustainable landscape approach to tackle and respond to climate change pressures through a range of mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>	<p>Management Plan</p>
	<p>CCP3</p> <p>To support and develop practices that promote healthy, well-connected and managed landscapes and ecosystems resilient and flexible to the effects of climate change.</p>	
	<p>CCP4</p> <p>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.</p>	

6.5 Theme 5: Partnerships in the Wolds

Table 6-19 Monitoring Objectives and Policies

Objective	Policies	Identified changes in reviewed AONB Management Plan
<p>MO</p> <p>To monitor the Management Plan activities and condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</p>	<p>MP1</p> <p>To monitor the performance of the action plan.</p>	<p>No change to objective or policies, identical to business as usual.</p>
	<p>MP2</p> <p>To monitor the condition of the AONB.</p>	

7 Draft Plan Appraisal Summary

In this section of the report the draft updated AONB Management Plan is appraised against each of the SEA Objectives (Section 4.7.2. refers).

This information is presented in the form of a summary table containing a discussion of potential impacts of the policies and objectives under each theme within the Management Plan, and a relative score is given for the social, economic and environmental impact. Recommendations for mitigation are also identified.

Many of the objectives and policies were identical to the Business As Usual option as discussed in Section 6.

The full SEA Appraisal Matrix for the draft AONB Management Plan from which this summary is drawn is presented in Appendix C. The draft AONB Management Plan consists of the following themes:

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

The appraisal methodology has considered whether the impacts, would be:

- direct, secondary, synergistic, cumulative,
- short term or long term
- local, regional or national.

For some aspects of the appraisal there is currently insufficient information to robustly categorise the likely impacts as either negative or positive. For other aspects of the appraisal a combination of positive and negative impacts might be identified. In either of these situations the impact has been categorised for the purposes of this assessment as being uncertain.

Key:

Low Positive	Medium Positive	High Positive	Low Negative	Medium Negative	High Negative	Uncertain
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Table 7-1 Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>Protecting the Wolds Summary: GP1, GP4, WBP1, WBP3, WBP5, HTP1, SO, SP1, SP2, BHP4</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing is a characteristic feature of the Wolds. Encouraging grazing of less productive grasslands will enhance the rural character of the area helping to ensuring that tranquillity is maintained. Extending woodland will be beneficial to health as it may enhance and increase areas of recreation (dog walking, rambling jogging etc) for people to enjoy. Restoring species rich and ancient hedgerows will help to improve the aesthetic of the green space within communities and the landscape. This may encourage people to use these areas and help to promote active recreational activities. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing and managing wildlife friendly grasslands will enhance the cultural heritage and character of the Wolds and will support economic growth by encouraging tourism. 	Low Positive	Medium Positive	High Positive	<p>BHO4: Use of local work force should be promoted</p> <p>WBP1: Current heritage/archaeological resources and available information should be used effectively in order to protect local heritage/ archaeological features.</p> <p>WBP1: It is assumed that the 'limited' is used within the policy wording to reduce the non native species impact on existing sites, landscape and biodiversity i.e. that, non native species should be used only if appropriate after consideration of landscape and biodiversity concerns.</p>

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra land for livestock to graze will encourage agriculture in the Wolds which will economically benefit local farmers. Enhancing the rural character of the area will also encourage tourism. • Increasing and enhancing woodland areas will enhance the rural character of the Wolds and help to promote tourism and tourists in the Wolds. • Restoring species rich and ancient hedgerows will help to enhance the landscape and rural setting of the Wolds which will help to promote tourism. • Agricultural productivity will be maintained. • Use of local materials is promoted. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring the grasslands of high wildlife importance will enhance the landscape character and be positive to biodiversity, habitats and species. • The grasslands are a heritage feature of the Wolds, increasing and managing them will help to maintain the rural character of the area. • Grazing on less productive grasslands is a characteristic feature of the Wolds and encouraging this will therefore help to protect the Wolds landscape. 				

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible negative impact of new woodland planting which needs to take account current heritage/archaeological resource. Heritage protection issues have prevented some new woodland grant schemes in the AONB in recent years due to concern over damage to archaeological features. • Increasing the area of native woodland will enhance the attractive landscape of the Wolds. • Limited inclusion of non native species reflects the land pattern of existing habitats and therefore does not impact on the score. • Protecting areas of woodland will help to mitigate against climate change as the trees will act as a carbon sink. • Woodland areas will help to adapt to the impacts of climate change by catching rainwater and surface water runoff. • Work to establish the extent and location of small woodlands will help improve understanding of Wolds woodlands and therefore help in their management and conservation them. This will help enhance the attractive landscape. • Improved protection of the soils which are part of the natural landscape and 				

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>will maintain soil productivity and biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of soils will prevent adverse impacts from erosion and surface water runoff 				
<p>Living and Working in the Wolds Summary: FWP6, TCO</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive promotion of quality of life and healthy lifestyles whilst maintaining the tranquillity of the Wolds. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness within the farming community of issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management will support economic growth <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness within the farming community of issues of climate change, sustainable energy and carbon management will facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation. 	High Positive	Low Positive	Low Positive	<p>Promote eco tourism</p> <p>Promote use of local work force</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.</p>

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<p>Developing the Wolds PP4, PP7, PP8, TWP5</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of an integrated and well maintained public rights of way network will be beneficial to human health by encouraging walking and healthy lifestyles. Minimising the impact of light and noise levels will be beneficial to human health. Affordable housing provision will benefit the local community. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising impact upon light and noise levels may prevent the development of important infrastructure and buildings for business and economic development in the Wolds. Preventing the development of medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB may impede economic growth at local, regional and national levels Improved waste infrastructure will support economic growth Improving accessibility will support economic growth <p>Environmental</p>	High Positive	Medium Negative	Medium Negative	<p>Promote awareness campaigns. Link to the Local Transport Plans within Lincolnshire and N.E Linc's.</p> <p>Ensure compliance with local development plans – link to these development plans within the AONB Management Plan</p> <p>Preventing the development of wind turbines may be contrary to strategic energy policy at the national level</p> <p>Development of waste infrastructure should be compliant with local waste plans - link to these development plans within the AONB Management Plan</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.</p>

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A substantial amount small number of Developments could have cumulative impacts on biodiversity, landscape and geomorphological features. Protection of views and impacts on noise from developments will help protect the rural attractiveness of the Wolds. Preventing the development of medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB may impede mitigation and adaptation to climate change Improving accessibility will support climate change mitigation, by helping to reduce reliance on private cars 				
<p>Climate Change and Energy Objectives and Policies</p> <p>The following section incorporates additional policies, these have been summarised below:</p> <p>CCO, CCP1, CCP2, CCP3, CCP4</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing a long-term climate change strategy will be beneficial to the local community, by providing sustainable and accessible transport and reducing health inequalities. <p>Economic</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>Low Positive</p>	<p>The strategy should include adaptation techniques and an action plan</p> <p>Further information is required to determine the impact of practices that promote a sustainable landscape approach</p>

Summary Draft AONB Management Plan Appraisal	Social Score	Economic Score	Environment Score	Comments/Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing a long-term climate change strategy and promoting innovative low carbon energy reduction/generation will be beneficial to economic development. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the activities and condition of the AONB along with the performance of the AONB Management Plan and Action Plan will ensure protection of the Wolds environment and landscape and assist with climate change adaptation. A number of uncertainties have been identified – unable to determine the impact of practices that promote a sustainable landscape approach. 				

7.1 Cumulative effects

There are many potential interactions between the AONB Management Plan and the environment and many of the impacts predicted are cumulative in their nature.

7.1.1 Negative Cumulative Effect

Table 7-2 identifies possible cumulative adverse effects having regard for the baseline environmental conditions and expected impact of the AONB Management.

Table 7-2 Negative Cumulative Effects

Negative Cumulative Effects/Issues	Causes	Mitigation
Loss of biodiversity, fragmentation of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming practices Construction or changes in land use The conversion of traditional buildings may impact on protected species especially bats. Managed grasslands often offer little plant species diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable farming practices – Consider producing a farming Strategy Ensure compliance with all LDF planning policies Promote biodiversity enhancement schemes
Deterioration of landscape and geomorphological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of small substantial developments could have cumulative impacts on biodiversity, landscape and geomorphological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with all LDF planning policies
Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding Farming practices Lack of drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable farming practices - Consider producing a farming Strategy Ensure good drainage is prompted Incorporate SUDS where appropriate in the AONB
Increase in flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change Soil erosion Lack of drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate SUDS where appropriate in the AONB Promote sustainable

Negative Cumulative Effects/Issues	Causes	Mitigation
		farming practices - Consider producing a farming Strategy
Pollution of water courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming practices • Lack of drainage • Excessive water abstraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate SUDS where appropriate in the AONB • Promote sustainable farming practices - Consider producing a farming Strategy
Increase in water use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Farming practices • Increase in tourist numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate communities on efficient water use • Include water efficiency measure in new development • Promote sustainable farming practices - Consider producing a farming Strategy • Produce a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
Increase in waste production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased in waste produced during construction • Increase in population • Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate communities on the waste hierarchy, reduce, reuse, recycle • Promote the use of SWMP during construction phase
Decrease in air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in tourists numbers may result in more traffic – increase in CO₂ and NO_x emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sustainable transport and link to relevant LTP's – consider producing a Transport Strategy • Produce a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
Increase in CO ₂ emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in tourists numbers may result in more traffic long term – increase in CO₂ and NO_x emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy • Provide sustainable transport and link to relevant LTP's –

Negative Cumulative Effects/Issues	Causes	Mitigation
		consider producing a Transport Strategy
Increase in waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in tourists numbers may lead to an increase in waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the waste hierarchy, reduce, reuse recycle
Resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction materials Increase in tourism may put pressure on resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use locally sourced recycled materials where possibly Raise awareness of resource use
Economic decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising mineral working activities many potentially hinder the expansion and growth of sustainable income. Restrict development of renewable energy infrastructure. Restriction of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A balance of appropriate development and protection of the AONB should be sought Promote the use of the local work force Ensure compliance with all LDF planning policies

7.1.2 Positive Cumulative Effects

Positive Cumulative Effects/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall protection of the AONB management area. Native plant species and biodiversity enhancement schemes are promoted this is good for biodiversity Climate change adaptation strategy is to be produced, beneficial to protecting the AONB and the local community Affordable Housing is promoted which will benefit the local community Sustainable transport is promoted, this should assist with reducing the impact of increased tourism An integrated transport system would reduce traffic congestion and pollution by reducing the number of car on local roads. This would also have a benefit on road traffic accidents. Supporting cycling, walking and riding would be beneficial to people's health helping to reduce the number of cars on local roads and encouraging exercise. Maintaining and seeking rural activities would promote the local economy and potential jobs

Positive Cumulative Effects/Issues

- Promoting sustainable farming and livestock farming would help to increase the local economy and potentially create local jobs. This would help to encourage local people to stay in the area creating a vibrant community.
- Greater connectivity of habitats should improve ecosystem resilience to climate change.
- Monitoring and reviewing biodiversity data will help inform future site management for climate change adaptation.
- Additional woodland may also support shooting syndicates which may be beneficial to local landowners and the wider economy
- Benefits for supporting rural transport services through additional recreation/tourism visits.
- Managing rivers may also be beneficial to reduce the impacts of flooding, thus be beneficial to health. Raising awareness may encourage people to visit grassland areas and therefore enjoy green spaces which will improve health.
- Protecting the biodiversity and character of the Wolds benefits the local residents by encouraging them to go out and enjoy nature which can improve mental and physical health.

8 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) should be undertaken as an iterative process during the development of a programme or plan that is likely to have an adverse effect on any designated Natura 2000 sites.

Part II of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulation 2007 outlines the due process for the protection of Natura 2000 sites with respect to development plans. The LTP3 is subject to HRA.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan for 2012-17 (Consultation Draft) was assessed in accordance with the Habitats Regulations to establish if it has any effects on nearby nature conservation areas of designated European Importance. These include: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including candidate SACs; Special Protection Areas (SPA), which together form the Natura 2000 network (NB marine locations of these designations are also called European Marine Sites (EMS); and also Ramsar Sites.

There are no designated European Nature Conservation Sites within the AONB. However, there are four designated sites lying up to 30 km from the AONB. Figure 8-1 shows the locations of these.

They are:

- Humber Estuary;
- Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point;
- The Wash & North Norfolk Coast;
- Inner Dowsing, Race Bank & North Ridge (candidate site).

These four were subject to detailed screening against the Objectives and Policies of the Management Plan.

A further seven Sites located further from Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, five of which are separated by major rivers, in different landscape areas and subject to the pressures associated with the development and activities of different local societies and economies were excluded from detailed screening.

Although the AONB Management Plan is written primarily to guide the management of the AONB, some of its effects and outcomes may have influence beyond the AONB. In

particular a presumption against certain forms of development might increase pressure to accommodate that development outside the AONB.

There are two types of development or activities that are more likely to have effects outside or extend outside the AONB. The first relates to certain major infrastructure development and the second relates to tourism and recreation, activities that are promoted through the several market towns that surround the AONB. The latter could work for or against impacts on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Visitor numbers might be increased regionally by implementation of the objectives and policies in the AONB Management Plan, with consequent increases in visitors to the nearby European Sites. Alternatively, promoting the conservation messages and principles that relate to the AONB, might have the effect of raising wider awareness of conservation issues that might affect the European Sites, with the result that adverse impacts there are reduced.

A further possible effect was considered that involved the question of are there limited numbers of grazing stock -such that if their use increased in the Wolds it might deprive coastal wetlands in the Natura 2000 Sites of beneficial management through grazing.

The screening process concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2012-17 is unnecessary as its Objectives and Policies will, subject to recommended minor changes, have no significant adverse effects directly or indirectly on European Nature Conservation Sites in proximity to the AONB.

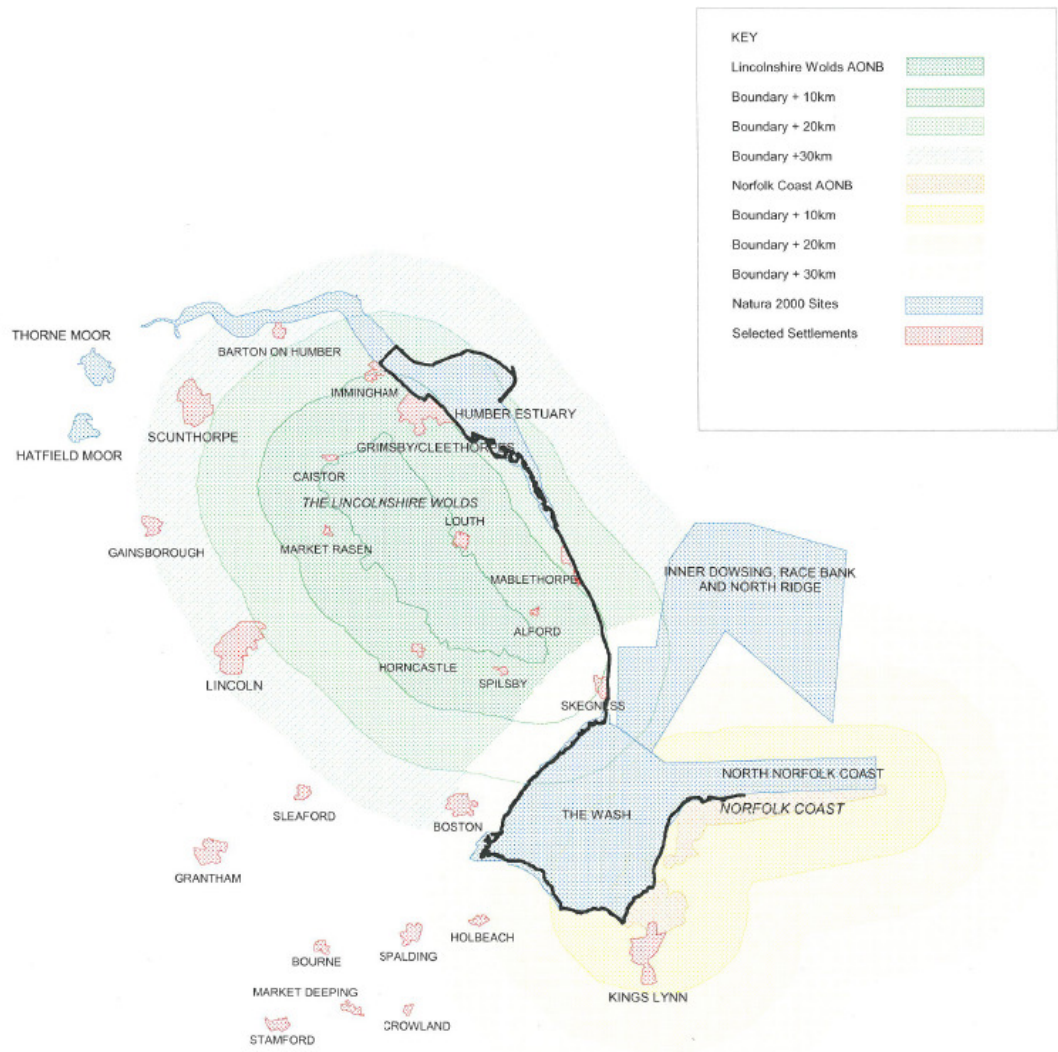


Figure 8-1 The Region around the Lincolnshire Wolds, Humber Estuary and The Wash showing the AONB Natura 2000 Sites^v

9 Mitigation

Mitigation is one of the key outputs of the SEA appraisal process. The SEA Regulations require that “*the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme*” must be documented in the Environmental Report.

Table 9-1 highlights all the suggested mitigation from the SEA Appraisal process and identifies how this has been addressed within the AONB Management Plan.

Table 9-1 Mitigation

Mitigation	Where the AONB Management Plan has addressed the recommended mitigation
Ensure measures are put in place to reduce potential impacts from river management on local character and biodiversity.	Biodiversity - Rivers, Streams and Ponds (section 4.2.6) Policies: RSPO, RSPP1, RSPP2, RSPP3, RSPP4, RSPP5, RSPP6
The Wolds ponds, lakes, & wetlands should be protected for historic environment interest (not just their biodiversity value) including archaeology, designed landscapes & repositories of palaeo-environmental data.	Archaeology (section 4.4.1) Objective: AO Policies: AP1, AP2
Need to consider biodiversity when converting land to character grasslands. Single species managed grasslands do not offer diversity for plants and animal species.	Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (section 4.2.2) Policies: GO, GP1, GP2, GP3, GP4
Ensure that no non native broadleaved species are introduced to the AONB ancient woodlands. Non native species should be used only if appropriate.	Biodiversity - Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (section 4.2.4) Policies: WBP1
Provide more information on the types of funding and level of support to farmers.	TBC
Further information is required to understand how best practice and sustainable farming practises would be implemented. Consider a producing a Farming Strategy	TBC
Minimise flood risk by restoring grassland in close proximity to water courses.	Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (section 4.2.2) Objective: GO Policy: GP4
It is important to take a landscape approach to connect/buffer isolated sites.	Natural Heritage – Biodiversity (section 4.2.1) Policy: BP2
Current heritage/archaeological resources and	Archaeology (section 4.4.1) Objective: AO

Mitigation	Where the AONB Management Plan has addressed the recommended mitigation
information should be used effectively in order to protect local heritage/ archaeological features. For example – to balance woodland tree management with heritage/archaeological protection	Policies: AP1, AP2
Climate change mitigation and adaptation should be addressed further, consider a strategy and action plan. A programme detailing production should be implemented.	Climate Change and Energy (section 7.3) Objective: CCO Policies: CCP1, CCP2, CCP3, CCP4 Further mitigation TBC
Appropriate planning policy should be implemented to ensure that farm diversification is of a type, setting, design, sympathetic to the AONB. The Plan should recognise that some carefully planned new buildings may well be accommodated within the AONB.	Planning and Development Management (section 7.1) Objective: PO, Policies: PP1, PP2, PP3, PP7
Eco tourism should be promoted	Thriving Communities (section 5.2) - Discovering the Wolds Objective: ARTO
Local work force should be promoted	TBC
Consider producing a transport strategy for the Wolds linking to all associated Local Transport Plans (LTP).	Transport in the Wolds (section 7.2) Objective: TWO, Policies TWP1, TWP2, TWP3, TWP4, TWP5
	Linkage to LTP's TBC
Recreational/tourism activities should be minimised to prevent impacting upon the character including tranquillity	Discovering the Wolds Policies: IP1, IP2, Objective ARTO, Policies: ARTP1, ARTP2, ARTP3
Climate change mitigation is required on a national and global scale and renewable energy provision adjacent to the Wolds should be considered where appropriate.	This is a national strategic issue.
With an increase in tourism there would be a need to improve sustainable transport routes and access for tourists.	Transport in the Wolds (section 7.2) Objective TWO, Policies TWP1, TWP2, TWP3, TWP4, TWP5
Development of the market towns (gateways to the Wolds) should be sympathetic and consider the increased volume of tourism which would impact on the towns.	Transport in the Wolds (section 7.2) Objective TWO, Policies TWP1, TWP2, TWP3, TWP4, TWP5
Continuous monitoring of tourist numbers and impacts should be implemented.	Partnerships in the Wolds Objective : MO, Policies MP1, MP2

Mitigation	Where the AONB Management Plan has addressed the recommended mitigation
Green tourism should be promoted and link to the adjacent market towns. The Wolds Interpretation Strategy highlighted the need to coordinate/utilise the market towns as gateways to the wider Wolds.	Thriving Communities (section 5.2) - Discovering the Wolds Objective : ARTO
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. The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.	TBC
Ensure compliance with all LDF planning policies	TBC
Raise awareness of resource use	TBC
Protected species during conversion or expansions needs to ensure that they comply with local planning regulations	TBC
Any hindrance to the expansion of working mineral sites within the AONB should be carefully considered as this would affect the local economy and jobs. The AONB management Plan should be compliant with LDF Mineral plans, clear linkages should be made.	TBC
Preventing the development of medium-large scale wind turbines within and adjacent to the AONB may be extremely negative on a local regional and national scale to economic growth	This is a national strategic issue.
Development of waste infrastructure should be compliant with local waste plans	TBC
Ensure compliance with local development plans – link to these development plans within the AONB Management Plan	TBC
Ensure awareness campaigns are promoted	TBC

10 Implementation

10.1 Proposals for Monitoring

10.1.1 Requirements

The SEA Directive requires that “Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order, *inter alia*, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10.1).”

Aims and methods for SEA monitoring will be finalised during preparation of the SEA Environmental Statement which will accompany the adopted version of AONB Management Plan, and will be integrated with the AONB Management Plan performance indicators. The finalised monitoring arrangements will be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific performance issues and significant effects, and lead to more informed decision-making.

10.1.2 Questions to Address in Monitoring

- Monitoring can help to address the following questions.
- Is the plan contributing to the desired environmental objectives and targets?
- Is the plan performing as well as expected?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as predicted?
- Are there any undesirable environmental effects? Is remedial action required?
- Are the social, environmental and economic effect predictions of the SEA accurate?

10.1.3 Indicators and Targets

For each SEA Objective (Section 4.7.2 refers) a series of detailed indicators has been proposed for discussion during consultation on the draft AONB Management Plan and this SEA Report. The subsequent SEA Environmental Statement will contain a finalised list of indicators and targets along with details on how these are to be monitored, taking into account the results of consultation on this SEA Report.

10.1.4 Recommended Monitoring

SA Objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
1. Protect and enhance heritage sites including architectural and archaeological heritage	Grade 1 and 2* Listed Buildings at risk
	Number of archaeological sites at risk
2. Protect and enhance attractive landscapes of the Wolds AONB in terms of both its visual quality and character.	Number of planning applications in buffer zones of Scheduled Ancient Monuments
	Number and area of land in agri-environment and woodland grant schemes.
	Number and extent of chalk stream restoration projects.
3. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the designated nature conservation sites and species within the Wolds.	Total area of sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
	% area of land designated as SSSI in favourable condition
	Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value, including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance: a) Loss, b) Addition
	Area of land designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNC)
	Area of land designated as Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
	Area of non native broadleaved species
4. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of overall biodiversity promoting priority species/habitats in Biodiversity Action Plans.	% area of land designated as SNCI in favourable condition
	Number of biodiversity enhancement schemes to promotes priority species/habitats in Biodiversity Action Plans
	Water quality of rivers and recorded pollution incidents
5. Protect the quality and distinctiveness of geomorphological features.	Number and extent of mineral extraction licenses in the AONB
	Extent and type of reclamation activity
	Level of water abstraction
6. Mitigate climate change.	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector and per capita emissions. a) transport b) industrial and commercial sources

SA Objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
	c) domestic sources Number, capacity and type of new power generation developments Number, type and extent of energy crop schemes Number of community recycling facilities and green waste schemes Estimated waste collected from residents within the AONB
7. Adapt to the impact of climate change.	Number of planning applications granted with sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) Extent of flood risk within the AONB Changes in cropping seasons and patterns % of grassland restored in close proximity to water courses. Biodiversity changes at species and habitat levels
8. Increase accessibility and promote sustainable transport for local residents, tourists and employers.	The percentage of the resident population who travel to work: a) by private motor vehicle b) by public transport c) On foot or cycle Percentage of the public rights of way network considered to be open and in good condition Extent, frequency and level of rural bus services operating in the AONB - including Interconnect & CallConnect. Visitor numbers to AONB Numbers of vehicles in key car parks at set times/days Numbers of walkers passing count points on key routes e.g. The Viking Way.
9. Create conditions to improve health, promoting healthy lifestyles, especially routine daily exercise and reduce health inequalities enabling equal access to basic services, amenities and open space, easily safely and affordably.	Level of identified housing need in the AONB Number of new homes provided Number of affordable homes provided % of overweight/obese children a) age 4-5yrs b) age 10- 11 yrs % of respondents who claim to undertake 30 minutes of

SA Objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
	<p>moderate physical activity at least 3 days per week</p> <p>The percentage of the resident population who travel to work:</p> <p>a) by private motor vehicle</p> <p>b) by public transport</p> <p>c) On foot or cycle</p> <p>Total km of new footpaths created.</p> <p>Age standardised mortality rates for</p> <p>a) all cancers (yrs)</p> <p>b) circulatory diseases (yrs)</p> <p>c) respiratory diseases (yrs)</p> <p>Self-reported measure of people's overall health & wellbeing</p> <p>Number of awareness campaigns</p>
10. To maintain and enhance the areas distinctive rural character and tranquillity.	<p>Number of planning consents for conversion from rural to other uses (housing, tourism including eco tourism etc.)</p> <p>Farmland composition - ratios & percentage change</p> <p>Change in level of tranquillity based on CPRE/NE mapping</p> <p>Percentage of AONB affected by light pollution</p> <p>Number of reported fly tipping incidents within the AONB.</p>
11. To support sustainable economic growth.	<p>Number of sustainable farming schemes implemented</p> <p>% of the resident population travelling 20 km < 30Km work</p> <p>Visitor number</p> <p>Visitor spend</p> <p>Number of planning consents for conversion from rural to other uses (housing, tourism including eco tourism etc.)</p> <p>Farmland composition - ratios & percentage change</p>
12. To support transportation network for goods and services.	<p>Net peak and off peak flows on key A roads within the AONB</p> <p>Traffic flow of HGV vehicles through residential areas</p>

References

ⁱ HRA Screening Report 2011, the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee

ⁱⁱ European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

ⁱⁱⁱ European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

^{iv} Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans, provided by Natural England January 2008

^v Lincolnshire County Council 2011