

Table 1: The 'special qualities' of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

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

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

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

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

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| Archaeology | North-west scarp | Chalk wolds | South-west ridges and valleys | South-eastern claylands | Total extent within AONB | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ancient route-ways (LWCS) | Key feature Caistor High Street | Key feature Barton Street | Key feature Bluestone Heath Road | Key feature Barton Street | Roman roads and salter routes, many as byways etc. | Generally degraded, especially on byways. | Loss of character through road widening; modern signage; increased traffic flows; lack of appropriate management (e.g. byways); increased traffic flows. | Sympathetic/traditional signage; education & awareness. |
| Scheduled Monuments (SMs) (LCC - MapInfo) (EH) | Local feature 13 barrow sites | Key feature 48 sites. 16 DMVs/ settlements; 3 structures; 3 moated sites; 1 hillfort; 25 barrows | Key feature 26 sites 2 DMVs/ settlements; 2 moated site; 16 barrows; 6 structures | Local feature 10 sites 1 DMV; 9 barrows | 97 SMs within AONB | 47 SMs at high risk from arable cultivation (EH, January 2004). | Change of land use or management; farming operations. | Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access interpretation & education. |
| Burial mounds & monuments (LCC - MapInfo) | Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 2 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries | Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 3 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries | Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 7 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries | Local feature Long barrows and round barrows. 1 Anglo-Saxon cemetery | Visible on chalk tops & adjoining routeways 56 long barrow & up to 350 round barrows sites recorded for the Wolds. 13 Anglo-Saxon cemeteries | Vulnerable feature. Many now only visible as crop & soil marks. Several important key sites remain e.g. Giants' Hill long barrow. | Farming operations; development pressures. | Development control; landowner liaison. |
| Deserted medieval villages (DMVs) | | Key feature around North Ormsby, Calcethorpe, Withcall & Maltby | Key feature around Wykeham, Biscathorpe and Calceby | | High density of DMVs on plateau & spring line locations (Approx 80 DMVs.) | Vulnerable feature. | Farming operations; development pressures. | Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education. |

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| Archaeology (continued) | North-west scarp | Chalk wolds | South-west ridges and valleys | South-eastern claylands | Total extent within AONB | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Roman villas and settlements (LCC - MapInfo) | 5 sites | Local feature 12 sites | 3 sites | 1 site | 21 known | Variable condition, (but no data for all). Vulnerable features. Many are only visible as crop marks. | Change of land use; farming operations; development pressures. | Development control; landowner liaison & advice; increased access, interpretation & education; agri-environment schemes. |

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

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

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| Historic Landscapes & Buildings (continued) | North-west scarp | Chalk wolds | South-west ridges and valleys | South-eastern claylands | Total extent within AONB | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Moated sites (LWCS) | | 1 | Key feature 4 | | 5 known | Vulnerable feature | Farming operations; development pressures. | Development control; landowner liaison; improved access, interpretation & education. |
| Watermills & Windmills (LWCS) | Local feature Paper making industry at Tealby utilised watermills 7 | Local feature Thoresway and Binbrook watermills remain 11 | Local feature Stockwith Mill is best remaining in Wolds. Ketsby Mill has potential 6 | Local feature Windmills at Hagworthingham and Grebby | A localised feature within the Wolds, many have no surviving remains (all records found have been counted). 24 known | Only half (12) have bricks/evidence on the ground of the site. | Many now lost through changes into private residence with watercourses often diverted; neglected feature under threat. | Development control; landowner liaison & advice; improved access, interpretation & education. |
| Dry stone walls (LWCS) | Key feature | | | | Limited to the north-west scarp. | Variable condition but improving in places e.g. Tealby church wall. | Neglected feature; lack of building material. | Further surveys; landowner liaison AONB specific grants/advice |