

**Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan Statement:**  
**Formal Endorsement – JAC Meeting, Hamilton Hall, Tetford - 14<sup>th</sup> March '23.**

The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), as the formal advisory body for the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty can confirm that it has taken the decision, on behalf of all relevant local authorities (Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council), to delay the production of the next Management Plan and save all current policies and objectives within the current Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-23 - pending its further review. <https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/our-work/management-plan>.

The JAC first discussed the timing of the next AONB M. Plan in April 2022 and were broadly supportive of a delay to the review process to help aid alignment in the timing with other AONB M. Plans, and the new emerging guidance from Natural England. This delay is now formally requested in response to the notification letter from The Rt Hon Lord Benyon, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State - Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs of 7 July 2022, informing all Protected Landscape Management Plan Partnerships of the option to put on-hold (as required) the usual five-year Management Plan review and publication cycle. The letter clarifies that this is an option for those Partnerships requiring time to assess and take account of a series of significant changes being brought about through the government's response to the Landscapes Review, to include the publication of a new Outcomes Framework (expected in January 2023, but as of 14<sup>th</sup> March '23 currently still pending) and an accompanying new Management Plan guidance document (expected in Spring 2023).

In terms of meeting the legal obligations of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, and respecting the review cycle, we layout in this statement our current overarching vision and objectives which remain for the interim period as follows:

**As per 3.1 The Vision (p35 Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan - 2018-23).**

[Management Plan Part 1 2018-23 S3wV.pdf \(lincswolds.org.uk\)](#)

The Lincolnshire Wolds should not be preserved in aspic and is continually evolving in response to the many human and natural forces that are placed upon it and it is evident that the pressures on the AONB are set to continue to increase further. However, these pressures can be offset by new opportunities to manage the process, and the production of this Plan serves to highlight that there is a continuing pressing need for everyone to work in partnership - to positively influence the Wolds through appropriate future development and land management - recognising the vital contributions from local landowners, and everyone living, working and visiting the area.

The area's vision for the twenty-five year period from 2018 is as follows:

***The Lincolnshire Wolds will continue to be a vibrant living and working landscape through the primary influence of sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management. It will retain its unique and nationally important sense of place: an area of open rolling hills, dramatic views, farmed fields changing with the seasons, tranquil valleys, woodland, pasture, streams and attractive villages.***

***The Wolds natural and cultural heritage will be well known, enjoyed and widely respected by both residents and visitors. It will continue to provide a place of tranquillity and inspiration for those fortunate enough to visit the area, whilst meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of those who live and work there.***

***A sustainable approach to management activity will be normal practice with an emphasis on integrated farming and land management providing a wide range of innovative solutions to tackling the issues of climate change (through mitigation and adaptation), food production, water quality and supply, recreation provision, and energy demands. Enhanced connectivity between healthy, resilient landscapes and green infrastructure will help to provide and cater for an increasingly dynamic environment and help to contribute to a good quality of life for all.***

The vision continues to acknowledge the challenges of securing social, economic and environmental progress that can protect and enhance the special and intrinsic qualities that define the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (as detailed in Section 2 p13-33). The Plan sets out a framework of objectives, policies and ongoing actions that collectively strive towards achieving this vision through local partnership action.

### As per 3.2 (page 35) - The Aims

The five key aims of the Management Plan are to sustain and enhance:

- the Lincolnshire Wolds' natural beauty and its landscape character
- farming and land management in the Wolds as the primary activities in maintaining its character, landscape and biodiversity
- recreational, tourism and interpretive activities and opportunities appropriate to the area
- the economic and social base of the Wolds including the development and diversification of enterprises appropriate to the area
- partnerships between organisations, the local community, landowners and others with an interest in the Wolds.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the **Objectives and Policies** for the AONB Management Plan will remain saved and ongoing, as detailed within the main body of the document and as summarised within **Section 9.1.1. – as Table Three pages 81-105.** ([https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Management\\_Plan\\_Part\\_3\\_2018-23\\_MU3z.pdf](https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Management_Plan_Part_3_2018-23_MU3z.pdf)) The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) as the dedicated AONB staffing unit will be working with all relevant parties to help coordinate and facilitate its ongoing work programme. This will include the following areas of work:

- A public engagement and celebration of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – with 50 for 50 events under the banner “an AONB since ‘73”.
- Further review, consultation and development of the Lincolnshire Wolds Nature Recovery Plan, helping to both inform the forthcoming AONB Management Plan review and also the wider Greater Lincolnshire Nature Recovery Strategy
- Develop further learning and skills around wider nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will include linking with Lincolnshire County Council's Green Master Plan and the emerging Southeast Lincolnshire Climate Change Network (SELCAN).
- Utilising the arts for wider engagement between people and place – including i) the ongoing support for a partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery fund to reawaken interest in the neolithic heritage of the Lincolnshire Wolds. ii) providing one of the potential hub points for the National Association for AONBs creative arts project with Arts Council England
- Continued promotion and support for the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL), utilising the expertise of the FiPL Local Assessment Panel partnership to ensure effective delivery for climate, nature, people and place.
- Continued support to the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, including reviewing enhancement and monitoring opportunities that improve both water quality and biodiversity, implementation of further natural flood management interventions; working with schools and communities to promote the chalk streams and to consider the opportunities from the outcomes of the Investment Readiness model.
- Support to wider partners to maximise sustainable access, recreation and tourism appropriate to the AONB – including via the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan, the emerging Wolds Destination Plan and the wider work of the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism network.
- In terms of taking forward the next AONB Management Plan review, this will include reviewing the new guidance, outcomes framework and wider relevant legislation and strategies. Undertaking a general community consultation, potentially utilising the previous Have Your Say e-questionnaire format for consistency and aiding longer term trend analysis (**Section 2.7 page 34 and Appendix 5 -** )  
[https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Appendix\\_5\\_Public\\_Questionnaire -  
\\_Have\\_Your\\_Say\\_2016\\_Results\\_Summary\\_HOPf.pdf](https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Appendix_5_Public_Questionnaire_-_Have_Your_Say_2016_Results_Summary_HOPf.pdf) and reviewing and updating the State of the AONB Report, 2017 (**Appendix 4**)  
[https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Appendix\\_4\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_AONB\\_Report\\_2017\\_iURI.pdf](https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/downloads/Appendix_4_State_of_the_AONB_Report_2017_iURI.pdf)

#### Supplementary Note:

The formal review process is expected to commence during 2023-24 with an emphasis on digesting the forthcoming recommendations in the emerging Management Plan Guidance, Outcomes Framework, National Landscapes Partnership and National Landscapes Strategy. The above statement has now been formally endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - to effectively save the policies of the 2018-23 AONB M. Plan on behalf of the relevant local authorities (Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council - pending the Plan's next review.