

Appendix 3: Local Landscape Character Area Statements (AONB specific)

North-West Scarp

The prominent North West Scarp is a dramatic feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds affording distant views across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The slopes provide a steep and hummocky appearance with attractive spring-line villages at the foot of the scarp. The area is rich in wildlife with rough pasture, scrub and woodland dominant within the valleys.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Prominent scarp slope with extensive views west
- Rough pasture with some wet flushes
- Picturesque villages sited along the spring-line (e.g. Claxby, Nettleton, Tealby, Walesby)
- Industrial heritage (e.g. Ironstone mining in Claxby and Nettleton; paper making in Tealby)
- The Caistor High Street ancient trackway and associated tumuli
- Ridge-top clumps of beech
- Ornate late medieval churches and other distinctive buildings using Claxby Ironstone (e.g. Nettleton) and Tealby Limestone (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Sparse farm settlements.

Key local issues identified:

- Proliferation of telecommunication masts on the highly visible ridgeline
- Impact of large agricultural structures
- Impact of chalk quarrying
- Threats to nature conservation, especially rough pasture and wet flushes
- Parking and visitor pressure in villages close to the Viking Way (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Decline in woodland and beech clumps.

Chalk Wolds

The Chalk Wolds is a large open plateau of rolling hills and secluded valleys. The topography of this part of the Wolds is striking and is testimony to the last glaciation when ice sheets and meltwater dramatically altered the landscape. Large arable fields and characteristic changing crop patterns dominate the plateau top and contrasts markedly with the numerous valleys with their lush pastures and wooded slopes. The area has the highest concentration of deserted and shrunken medieval villages within the AONB.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Open rolling arable farmland on gently dipping plateau
- Wooded and lush inward-facing valleys and dry valleys
- Attractive nucleated villages, often of Saxon or medieval origin (e.g. Rothwell, Hatcliffe, Thoresway)
- Enclosure roads (drovers roads) with wide verges and characteristic hedgerows
- Small plantation woodlands and beech clumps of the 18th and 19th centuries
- Isolated chalk grassland
- Deserted medieval villages (e.g. Beesby, East Wykeham)
- Archaeological sites on the plateau (e.g. tumuli, barrows)
- Manors and parkland (e.g. East Ravendale)
- Geomorphological and geological sites (e.g. Hubbard's Hills, Welton le Wold)
- Localised old enclosed landscape (e.g. north-eastern corner of the AONB).

Key local issues identified:

- Impact of disused wartime airfields, transmission lines, radio masts and huge straw stacks
- Loss and decline of chalk grassland
- Loss and decline in quality of hedgerows

- ❑ Decline in quality of beech clumps and other woodland
- ❑ Impact of arable practices on archaeological features
- ❑ Abandonment of some of the more remote farms and cottages
- ❑ Lack of awareness of the unique geomorphology
- ❑ Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments).

Ridges and Valleys of the South-West

The ridges and valleys landscape is enormously complex with prominent chalk ridges bisected by deep combs and wide river valleys. The area is one of the most attractive within the Wolds with a patchwork of pastoral and arable fields, woodland, hedgerows, country estates and parkland, and attractive rivers and streams.

Key local AONB features identified:

- ❑ Dramatic views south from the Bluestone Heath Road and Nab Hill - Hoe Hill ridge
- ❑ Mixed pattern of arable and pastoral farming
- ❑ Herb rich roadside verges
- ❑ Rich marginal and aquatic habitats of the River Bain, Lymn, and Waring.
- ❑ Old mixed hedgerows
- ❑ Sole example of a semi-natural chalk woodland (e.g. Tetford Wood)
- ❑ Characteristic villages - often rectangular in form and houses widely built of brick (e.g. Tetford)
- ❑ Historic parkland and country houses (e.g. Harrington, Langton and Stenigot)
- ❑ Alfred, Lord Tennyson birthplace and childhood home at Somersby
- ❑ Archaeological interest on the ridges and slopes (e.g. barrows, tumuli, cultivation terraces)
- ❑ Early medieval churches and moated sites (e.g. Bag Enderby, Brinkhill, Langton and Somersby)
- ❑ Wet alder carr woodlands (e.g. New England Valley, Salmonby Carr).

Key local Issues identified:

- ❑ Lack of awareness about historic and cultural associations
- ❑ Development issues including telecommunications masts and oil exploration
- ❑ Threat to grassland habitats
- ❑ Inappropriate management of roadside verges
- ❑ Loss of local village services
- ❑ Heavy coastal traffic and potential road modernisation schemes (e.g. A158, Gunby Corner).

South-Eastern Claylands

The gentle ridge of the south-eastern claylands dips gently west before merging with the flat marshlands beyond the AONB. This is the most heavily wooded part of the Wolds where large blocks of woodland are interspersed with cultivated fields. The area has an isolated and remote feel. Ridge-top salters' roads, spring-line villages and archaeological features are evident here.

Key local AONB features identified:

- ❑ Views across the Middle Marsh to the coast
- ❑ Extensive oak-ash woodland (e.g. Maltby, Haugham, Burwell, Willoughby, Welton Woods)
- ❑ Attractive spring-line villages (e.g. Little Cawthorpe, Muckton, South Thoresby, Welton le Marsh)
- ❑ Rich mixed geology/chalk stream habitats typified by the Long Eau, Calceby Beck and Great Eau.
- ❑ Ancient sea cliff on eastern ridge, broken by glacial meltwater valleys (e.g. Skendelby Psalter, Well Vale)
- ❑ Ridge-top roads and their associated archaeology (e.g. long and round barrows)
- ❑ West-east salters' roads

- ❑ Wetland flushes and springs.

Key local Issues identified:

- ❑ Sand, gravel and chalk extraction
- ❑ Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments, grain silos)
- ❑ Impact of conifer planting
- ❑ Development issues on prominent ridgelines (e.g. telecommunication masts).