



*Farming in Protected Landscapes*  
Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



## Lincolnshire Wolds Farmer Cluster Group

**The project was designed to build on the successes of the Lincolnshire Wolds Facilitation Fund Group by offering more targeted advice to farmer members, enabling them to utilise the training received in improved agri-environment delivery and help deliver outcomes of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan**

### What the project will deliver:

The project has a combination of one-to-one and one-to-many opportunities for advice to the farmer members. This will keep farmers abreast of environmental policy developments throughout the Agricultural Transition Period (ATP) to ELMs and give them clear advice on how to make their businesses more robust in an environmental context.

The project will deliver 18 one-to-one visits and reports to members over a 2-year period. A further 6 will be available to the anticipated new members of the group in 2023.

### • Brief background to the advisor:



Ashfield Farmed Environment Services offers a wide range of services to farmers and other land managers across the East Midlands. Totally independent, with many years of experience, it is well placed to advise clients on most aspects of environmental legislation facing the industry

### • Background about the project:

The Lincolnshire Wolds Facilitation Fund Group has received funding from Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF050010) for almost 4 years. This funding came to an end in March 2022.

The farmers involved agreed to continue their collaborative approach with the additional aim of using a more focused approach to align their businesses to new ways of working identified in the ATP



Lincolnshire Wolds farmland in the Cluster Group area (LWCS)

### • Facts on funding the project:

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Grant awarded: £18,946, at an intervention rate of 80%. The project delivers for the FiPL themes of Climate, Nature and Place.

## Success criteria for 2022:

The visits and reports will include:

### a. Desk Based Study

- Production of farm map
- Investigation of relevant designations on the holding
- Review of existing and historic agri-environment schemes & measurement of performance
- Production of a list of potentially suitable agri-environment schemes to be discussed

### b. 1:1 Appraisal

- On farm discussion with group member on positive and negative aspects of their current environmental management
- Overview of existing environmental management on the farm
- Identification of potential environmental opportunities
- Signposting to further sources of advice and grant aid funding



Discussing rainwater harvesting from farm buildings (LWCS)

### c. Creation of Individual Farm Plan with:

- Action plan of recommendations to navigate through the ATP
- Farm map of existing environmental features & opportunities for future management
- Key contact details to utilise and discuss next steps where suitable

### d. Follow-up

- To support future environmental management within the cluster, an overview map will be produced identifying group objectives and opportunities. This will allow a group 'portfolio' ready for future incentive schemes or private investment.

## Key Outcomes for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:

- Support and encourage agricultural practice that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the Wolds
- Creation and expansion of areas of habitat to help secure larger, better connected and managed, and biodiversity loss is reversed
- More people and wider audiences enjoy, understand and value our natural and cultural heritage
- Nature and culture increasingly underpins the economy and supports local services
- To support innovative diversification projects that work with local communities and businesses to create, inspire and support sustainable farming and farm buildings

## Keys to success:

- The cluster group builds on the work previously done with the Bluestone Heath Road group funded by the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund
- Activities within a peer group of farmers and landowners gives the opportunity for open discussion
- The move towards making businesses more robust environmentally which contributes to their commercial activity of is supported by facilitators with a proven track record in delivery