# Lincolnshire Wolds Grant Scheme

# Guidelines 2024

**What is the Lincolnshire Wolds Grant Scheme?**

The Lincolnshire Wolds Grant Scheme provides funding for groups and businesses to assist in delivering projects that directly benefit the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is administered by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) on behalf of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership.

**Who can apply for funding?**

Any group, organisation or business with a bank account and an e-mail address.

**What can be funded?**

Projects must demonstrate benefit for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Whilst most grants are for projects within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, we can occasionally offer a grant to a project outside the AONB if it shows a clear, direct positive benefit to the AONB. Please refer to [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk) to check the boundary. We can fund one element of a larger project if other elements are funded by someone else.

Projects must show sustainability and wherever possible demonstrate innovation or good practice. The Grant Scheme aims to sustain the social wellbeing and economic viability of communities within the Lincolnshire Wolds. It will also seek to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community.

Projects must support the AONB Management Plan and meet at least one of the following aims:-

* To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB, including the built environment.
* To create, recover or enhance the biodiversity of the AONB.
* To promote sustainable forms of social and economic development in the AONB.
* To promote the economic and social well-being of local communities.
* To promote quiet enjoyment of the AONB.
* To raise awareness of the AONB.
* To encourage sustainable uses of natural resources.
* To help build climate change resilience – via climate change mitigation and/or adaption.

**What can’t be funded?**

* Work that has already been started or undertaken.
* Work that can be funded via other, more suitable avenues.
* Items that are mobile or could be used for other purposes, e.g. generators, laptops, mowers, etc.
* Requirements by law, e.g. a statutory obligation or requirement of planning permission.
* Work outside the AONB if there is no clear, direct link or benefit to the AONB.
* Projects that do not have the necessary permission.
* Work that forms part of a state-aided grant scheme.
* Work that cannot be completed within any current financial year.

**How much money is available?**

Grants of anywhere from £100 to £10,000 are available. However the higher amount would be exceptional due to the limited funds available. Up to 85% of the total project costs may be available for voluntary and community projects. For all other organisations, businesses, public bodies and local authorities a maximum grant of 60% may be available.

Applicants will be expected to provide the remaining total project costs, either from their own funds or those of others as match funding. Whilst we can accept some in-kind contributions, applicants are encouraged to match fund with some financial contributions if at all possible. The source of match funding should be clearly identified.

Examples of match funding:-

* Private sector funds
* Community contributions e.g. fund raising activities
* ‘In-kind’ contributions such as volunteer time or loan of equipment
* Other grant funds e.g. lottery funding

For in-kind contributions:

Volunteer time is costed at £65 per day or £9 per hour.

Specialist, technical or professional volunteers are costed at £185 per day or £25 per hour.

Quotes for all aspects of work must be provided with the application. If any aspect of the project is estimated at over £5,000 then three quotes must be obtained, at least one of which should be from a local supplier. This ensures that best value for money is obtained for the project and for any public money that may be offered as part of the grant process.

**How are projects assessed?**

After receipt of a signed application and quotes, LWCS Officers will make an initial appraisal of the project application, supporting information and quotes received. We may then request a site visit, meeting or further information.

Once the project is deemed eligible for funding, a decision will be made on whether to award a grant, and if so, how much, based on whether it meets the aims of the Grant Scheme, the benefit to the AONB and demonstrates good value for money. The amount offered may be less than that applied for and the decision is final.

If your project is requesting funding of £2,500.00 or above, it will go to the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group (JMG) for a decision. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the JMG meetings so please contact the LWCS for the date of the next meeting.

**What are the timescales?**

Applications are assessed continually, with the Grant Scheme closing to new applicants on the 31 December 2024, or before if all available funds have been allocated.

Every project must be completed and all paperwork checked and signed off by LWCS by 28 February 2025 to ensure payment is raised before the end of the financial year. Projects which do not complete within the deadline may not receive funding and may need to repay any grant already paid.

**What happens if my project is successful?**

A letter, acceptance form and terms and conditions will be sent to you offering the grant. You must sign and return the acceptance form to ensure the grant is allocated for your project, and by doing so you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grant.

After submission of a claim form with copy invoices and completion report, relevant checks will be made by LWCS, including a possible meeting, prior to the authorisation of the grant payment.

You will be required to monitor the project as it proceeds. A short update may also need to be submitted to LWCS 12-18 months after completion of the project.

# What do you need to do next?

You are strongly advised to discuss your ideas with us before applying so practical advice can be sought from LWCS Project Officers or a site visit may be arranged. Once you are satisfied that you have provided all the relevant information please send your signed application and quotes to LWCS below.

# Who do I contact?

For more information or to discuss your project, please contact:-

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Navigation Warehouse, Riverhead Road, Louth, LN11 0DA

Tel: 01522 555780 Email: aonb@lincswolds.org.uk