

Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Priorities to deliver through Farming in Protected Landscape Programme –

FiPL projects will be expected to deliver against the following aspects of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023:

1. AONB Management Plan - Key Aims of Relevance
2. Top 10 local FiPL Programme Priorities for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB

Local Outcomes

FiPL projects should contribute to at least one, preferably more, of the ‘local outcomes’ of the AONB Management Plan:

Key Outcome: That farming & land management in the Wolds is sustained and enhanced as the primary activity in maintaining its character, landscape, biodiversity & heritage.

1. The landscape delivers more for nature, farmers and the public, including climate change mitigation/adaptation and other natural capital services
2. Support and encourage agricultural practice that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the Wolds.
3. Creation and expansion of areas of habitat to help secure larger, better connected and managed, and biodiversity loss is reversed.
4. Built and other cultural heritage assets are better understood, conserved and managed as an integral part of the Wolds and wider context.

Key Outcome: That recreational, tourism & interpretive activities & opportunities appropriate to the AONB are further developed, sustained and enhanced.

5. More people and wider audiences enjoy, understand and value our natural and cultural heritage.
6. More people come together to celebrate their heritage and increase local pride.
7. People of all ages and backgrounds have increased opportunity to learn about and be inspired by our natural and cultural heritage.

Key Outcome: That the economic & social base of the Wolds are further sustained and enhanced, including the development & diversification of enterprises appropriate to the AONB.

8. Nature and culture increasingly underpins the economy and supports local services.
9. Skills and knowledge around traditional rural skills and natural and cultural heritage have increased.
10. To support innovative diversification projects that work with local communities and businesses to create, inspire and support sustainable farming and farm buildings.

Indicative Projects in the Lincolnshire Wolds

The kinds of indicative projects which might support delivery of the Management Plan outcomes include:

Plan Outcome	Indicative projects
<p>1. The landscape delivers more for nature, farmers and the public, including climate change mitigation/adaptation and other natural capital services.</p>	<p>An area of land within the chalk stream catchment is managed to reduce flood risk, through leaky dams, flow deflectors and fish-friendly pools and riffles , and the creation of new woodland; a straightened watercourse is re-meandered, creating new habitat, enhancing the landscape and reducing flood risk; 50+hectares of marginal farmland is moved further along a spectrum of wildness through the large-scale expansion of interconnecting habitats – including grassland, beetle banks, wetland scrapes and hedgerow restoration. Research and coordinate specialist training/awareness opportunities to explore whole farm approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
<p>2. Support and encourage agricultural practice that protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitats across the Wolds.</p>	<p>A series of hedgerow boundaries across a landholding are brought back into good health through a combination of hedgelaying and replanting; with gapping up undertaken to enhance habitat connectivity. Hedgerow trees and other prominent landscape trees across the farm holding are restocked to help adapt to climate change and help the response to ash dieback.</p> <p>A range of farmland and catchment wide wildlife surveys have been undertaken collaboratively, promoting volunteer and community engagement, helping to inform and develop Estate and Farm Plans, including identifying key areas for distinctive arable wildlife – native wildflowers, grasses, farmland birds and pollinators.</p> <p>The exploration, review and delivery of regenerative agricultural practices including Integrated Soil and Pest Management Low Input Systems, helping to secure carbon management and wider environmental/natural capital gains.</p>
<p>3. Creation and expansion of areas of habitat to help secure larger, better connected and managed, and biodiversity loss is reversed.</p>	<p>Two isolated areas of woodland are linked by a fenced area which allows for natural regeneration; a network of grassland meadows are restored, using locally sourced species rich donor sites to spread locally sourced seed stock close-by.</p>
<p>4. Built and other cultural heritage assets are better understood, conserved and managed as an integral part of the Wolds and wider context.</p>	<p>A series of Neolithic long barrows and a Deserted Medieval Settlement close to a right of way are researched and interpreted; a local archaeology group undertakes a study of the area through a community archaeology project and assesses the location’s historic significance. The volunteers work closely with landowner(s) to help interpret the site through a range of media – including carefully designed and sited interpretation panels, and the use of audio and digital platforms.</p>
<p>5. More people and wider audiences enjoy, understand and value our natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>A series of farm walks across a cluster of holdings provides new access opportunities, with links to the rights of way network and interprets farming, and the natural and historic features encountered en route; additional sensitive local parking improvements provide new safe access to popular walking routes and</p>

	reduces congestion for visitors and local residents; engagement with representatives of BAME and other disadvantaged communities in nearby towns and conurbations leads to a project in which people can articulate barriers to access and engagement in the AONB and a programme of activities is devised and delivered to increase confidence to explore the landscape, including guided events.
6. More people come together to celebrate their heritage and increase local pride.	Links and connections are enhanced to help complement and support farm businesses in a range of activities and events utilising the Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival, Open Farm Sundays and other local/national events (National Landscapes for Life week, Nature Day etc) encouraging engagement with hard to reach (missing audience) groups.
7. People of all ages have increased opportunity to learn about and be inspired by our natural and cultural heritage.	Engagement with youth groups in urban areas beyond the AONB boundary breaks down barriers to participation and leads to a programme of farm visits and exploration activities in the field, where the participants discover more about the source of their food and public goods like clean air and water, and more about themselves.
8. Nature and culture increasingly underpins the economy and supports local services.	A pop-up camping facility is supported on a farm, alongside the provision of new walking trails and on site activities, including stargazing and dawn chorus walks; a localised branding and marketing scheme for beef, lamb and dairy is developed to promote the links between the product and the high quality landscape from which it is sourced.
9. Skills and knowledge around traditional rural skills and natural and cultural heritage have increased.	A year-long traineeship is provided, working alongside a local hedgelay/forester/game manager, with associated certification; a new farm cluster is developed to link 10 participants with a series of farms on a 12 month course learning about different aspects of farming and utilising (and paying for) the skills and expertise of 'farmer-trainers'; alongside a project manager with a local agricultural association. A support network/farm cluster is established to help assist local graziers in future livestock management, including specialist advice and collaboration on rare breeds.
10. To support innovative diversification projects that work with local communities and businesses to create, inspire and support sustainable farming and farm buildings.	Recognise and support the role of local, small-scale and appropriate ventures to support the economy, seeking multiple benefits to the special qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds. For example, with support from the relevant local planning authority; the sympathetic renovation of a small outlier barn/or community building to help develop a low key café facility/visitor hub, with added bike hire and electric vehicle charge points.