

August 2018

Welcome to the seventh edition of 'Higher Ground', the newsletter from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service

Crayfish Ark Flourishes in the Wolds' Chalk Streams

A threatened species of crayfish is making a comeback in Lincolnshire thanks to efforts by the Environment Agency and local conservation groups.

Last July, 600 white-clawed crayfish were moved from locations in the River Witham – where they're at risk of being wiped out by invasive signal crayfish – to new remote locations including a chalk stream in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Now, surveys show the transfer – the first in the county – has been successful, and the crayfish have started to breed.

Native white-clawed crayfish have been in decline since non-native American signal crayfish escaped into UK waters in the 1970s. These larger, invasive crayfish outcompete native species for food and habitat and carry a disease fatal to the UK species.

But working with partners such as the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency is seeking to secure their future by relocating them to areas free of the invaders in a scheme known as the 'ark project.'

Richard Chadd, senior environmental monitoring officer with the Environment Agency said:

"These crayfish are a vital part of our ecology, so preserving them is yet another example of how we're protecting our environment for the future. Having personally worked on this project – physically picking up these crayfish, measuring them, checking their health and relocating them to their new homes – I'm thrilled that our efforts at protecting them have been so successful.

Previously the crayfish were only present in two locations in the county, so we've potentially doubled their habitat in the space of a year – and Lincolnshire's rare, protected chalk streams are the perfect home. They're remote, clean, and the water is high in calcium, which helps crayfish form strong exoskeletons and makes them more robust."



Ruth Craig, Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Officer, said:

"The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project jumped at the chance to support this EA-led initiative to establish native white-clawed crayfish sites in the chalk streams of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

We offered up some potential sites and once they were all assessed, we were excited to hear one of the chalk streams had scored as highly suitable.

We worked closely with local landowners to secure access and their long-term support in protecting the area from disturbance, and we will return to monitor the populations as needed. But the hard work doesn't end here – we plan to continue identifying further possible locations, supporting the work of the EA."

White-clawed crayfish, named for the pale colour of the underside of their claws, are the country's largest native freshwater crustaceans. Generally growing to 30 – 40mm in length, some can live up to 12 years and reach 120mm long from tip to tail.

Collectively, non-native invasive species cost the UK economy an estimated £1.7b every year. Everyone can do their part to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect native ones by taking care to follow the biosecurity steps of thoroughly checking, cleaning and drying your clothes and equipment any time you've been in the water.

Protecting Orchards in the Wolds

An Apple a Day....

...Keeps the Doctor away? Maybe, maybe not but there's no doubt that apples are a key part of not only our diet but also our natural and cultural heritage.

Traditional orchards consist of grazed grassland with at least five fruit trees of varying age and structure, with an abundance of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood. At one stage, every large house and farm would have had an orchard to grow soft and hard fruits to compliment the diet of the time and to set aside the fruits by preserving in jams, jellies and in store for the winter and spring months.

Lincolnshire also has a large number of distinctive varieties of fruit, mainly apples in the form of Ellinsons Orange, Ingalls Pippin, Bolingbroke Beauty and Peasgood's Nonsuch to name just a few.



However, there has been a huge loss of orchards since the 1950s through a combination of three main factors: replacement with arable crops, redevelopment for housing or industry and neglect or abandonment. The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) are working together with a local specialist to find and survey old orchards in the Lincolnshire Wolds. We started the project during 2017 and we are continuing to survey during this fruiting season. So far we have found that orchard owners are happy to have them surveyed and, more importantly, to find out how to manage them.

Further information

The GNLP have produced an informative handout on Traditional Orchards – www.glnp.org.uk/your-land/habitat-management/traditional-orchards.php

Visit the East of England Apple and Orchard Project www.applesandorchards.org.uk/ to discover more about local Lincolnshire orchards and varieties.

Events

National Trust Apple Day - Discover all things 'apple' at Gunby Hall & Gardens.

Sun 7 Oct 2018 11:00 - 17:00 Gunby, Spilsby PE23 5SS

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/26367e33-e0b8-4212-af23-fcdd4b954cbe/pages/details

Wragby Apple Day - join with Lincolnshire Organic Gardeners' Organisation, with apple identification by East of England Apples & Orchards Project and display of 120 apple varieties.

Sun 7 Oct 2018 11am to 4pm Wragby Town Hall, Wragby, Lincolnshire LN8 5PH

www.logo.org.uk/apple%20day.htm

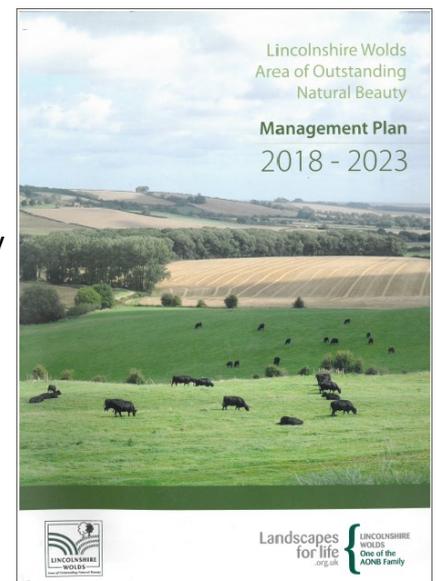
AONB Management Plan 2018-2023

Coming soon - a new Management Plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds...

An important milestone was achieved in the preparation and forthcoming publication of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2018-23). This is a statutory requirement and the Plan was endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) in April 2018 and is now on the path to its subsequent adoption by all of the principal local authorities: Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council.

This follows an extensive peer review, "Have Your Say" questionnaire and detailed public consultation which helped to review not only the special qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds, but the pressures and forces for change. Despite the significant challenges facing all of the UK's protected landscapes - with added pressures through these difficult economic times and the uncertainties of Brexit - the Management Plan sets out an agreed five-year Strategy and Action Plan. Look out for the fully adopted published version of the Management Plan soon!

"We take this opportunity to thank the many organisations, local groups, farmers, land owners, businesses and the wider public (residents and visitors) in the development of the AONB Management Plan. Following its full adoption, we will look forward to taking forward its implementation, working with all to help protect and enhance our nationally important Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty." Lincolnshire Wolds JAC Chairman, Stuart Parker.



Horncastle Churches Festival 2018



Every church has a story to tell and none more so than from a group of forty five churches situated 20 miles east of Lincoln on the fringe of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Following on from the success of its inaugural festival last year, the Horncastle and Villages Churches Festival will see 45 churches and chapels open their doors on the 8th and 9th September.

With free entry to all, each building hides a story simply waiting to be discovered, providing a memorable encounter with heritage and atmosphere. And with the backdrop of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on one side and the tranquil water of the River Witham on the other, what better place to spend a late summer's weekend retreat?

The event brings together many rural communities, with churches offering homemade bakes and lunches, bell ringing, crafts, book sales and exhibitions such as displays on local history or children's artwork. And this year many of our churches are commemorating two significant dates. This part of Lincolnshire is rich in aviation heritage and the festival is featuring exhibitions celebrating 100 years since the formation of the RAF. Other villages are commemorating the 100th anniversary of 1st World War. Why not visit a "thankful" village – a term coined by Arthur Mee after the 1st World War to pay thanks to all their servicemen returning home. At High Toynton, one of only 14 villages "doubly thankful" in the UK, all servicemen from both world wars safely returned home.

Over 100 volunteers open up their churches, ensuring they are on hand to answer questions on the buildings and point out quirky details visitors would not want to miss. And, of course to tell those hidden stories that are just waiting to be shared.

"The weekend promises to be one of discovery," states Linda Patrick, one of the organisers of the festival. "These stories are just waiting to be told.....for instance, who would have thought St Lawrence Church at Bardney was built just because the villagers made a nuisance of themselves at the nearby abbey?"

Or that vicars at the tiny villages of Belchford and Snelland were both hung for committing treason?

And where did those scythes above the Lady Chapel arch in Horncastle St Mary's really come from?"

Come and explore this part of Lincolnshire and find out more quirky tales of intrigue and mystery.....

Or perhaps peace and solitude is what you desire? There are a selection of churches that will simply be open, to allow their quiet oasis and tranquillity spread peace throughout the visitor.

The Churches Festival is being staged the same weekend as the popular Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days event so there are even more places to visit whilst in the area.

Join with us for an guided walk discovering some of the ecclesiastical heritage of the Wolds

(hyperlink through to full event listing please) <https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/events/churches-valleys-and-views-walk>

Churches, Valleys and Views Walk

Belchford, 9th September 2018 10.00am start – finish approx. 1.00pm

The Horncastle Churches Festival Success Story

There is even more reasons to celebrate at these groups of churches. Thanks to the generous donations of Lottery players, the National Churches Trust were able to receive National Lottery funding to deliver the "Great Interpretations" project. Focusing on the churches in the Horncastle area the project aims to help people across Lincolnshire get to know their churches, record priceless treasures and promote their heritage to audiences far and wide.

Linda sums up the festival by saying "There certainly is a buzz in the air..... our church heritage is important for many reasons, it is such a part of our social history and gives us the answers to so many questions about how and why our towns and villages came to be."

Full details of what each church is offering can be found on the festival website at www.horncastlechurchesfestival.co.uk . Brochures can be found in libraries, Tourist Information Centres and participating churches, and can be requested by emailing lindapatrick@littledoves.co.uk

The festival is sponsored by Lincoln Diocese and Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service.

[Links to the festival's accounts in social media](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/HorncastleVillagesChurchesFestival>

<https://twitter.com/ChurchesFest>

A View From the Wolds by Paul Chaplin, Tree Officer at North East Lincs Council

The Blacksmiths Arms at Rothwell is an ideal destination for a pleasant walk if the sun is shining, with a drink and a bar meal to look forward to. My favourite route is from Scartho, however Laceby or Irby upon Humber are also perfectly reasonable start points. The walk is well signed so whilst a map is helpful, if you know the area it's not essential. The first point to head for is Irby Holmes Wood; take the time to look out towards the Humber bank.

Although the industrial belt along the Humber Bank may not be everyone's idea of a beautiful view, it is surprisingly more interesting than you may think and you cannot help seeking out the 20th century industrial landmarks, as well as the 21st century wind turbines. Now that the Freeman Street flats have been demolished the Grimsby Dock tower stands out in the landscape even more prominently. The return trip gives you chance to appreciate this vista from different locations along the route home.



Once you are on the road leading to Cuxwold village it is well worth slowing the pace in order to take in the views; late spring the view can be at its bright and gaudy best. When the oilseed rape is in flower, a few cotton wool clouds in a bright azure sky, the hedgerows in bloom sit down on the grass bank, have a sandwich and take in the views, the expanse of the woodlands in front of you and the oil refineries in the distance. It would not be unusual to be entertained by a multi coloured peloton of club cyclists that will add to the carnival of colour before you.

Cont'd: As you approach Cuxwold, take the time to appreciate the views of the village and its setting, your mind may drift to Thomas Hardy's 'Far from the madding crowd', it is not difficult to imagine the view that would greet you at the turn of the 19th century. What a striking contrast it is with the views of the industrial Humber Bank behind you, one hundred years in less than 1 hour, time travel is certainly possible with a little leap of the imagination.

As you enter Cuxwold village the path is signed to the left and then straight on taking you up onto the ridge behind the village. Once you reach the crest of the ridge look back at the fantastic view over Cuxwold, Irby Dales and Laceby towards the river Humber. The topography frames the view of a patchwork quilt of different coloured fields and small woodlands with the cranes and storage tanks at Immingham Docks drawing the eye to the horizon.

From the ridge above Cuxwold it's a steady walk to Rothwell and the Blacksmiths Arms for something to eat and drink. After lunch it's a steady stroll back home with an opportunity to take in the views that are in front of you.

Last Chance for European Funding



Local businesses only have until 1 September 2018 to apply for a grant from the LEADER programme.



LEADER provides EU funding to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the Greater Lincolnshire area for projects that can help the rural economy grow.

So far the programme has granted over £2.5m to 74 local businesses and organisations across the county, creating 155 direct jobs. There is still funding available, but businesses have only until 1 September to submit an expression of interest.

Projects already supported include:

Conversion of a redundant farm building to a micro-brewery and the purchase of the brewing equipment

A wrapping machine for packing broccoli and cabbage to supermarket standards

A new packing warehouse for a mail order business

An Indoor children's play barn at a farm attraction

Luxury wooden Wigwams to expand existing and create new glamping sites

A new build multi-purpose village hall/community hub

Fitting out a new café/bar in a growing village

Some of the businesses who are already benefitting from LEADER funding speak about their experience on our new case study videos. You can view these at <https://youtu.be/tSZKF8nvl7s>.

Further details on the LEADER programme, including contact details for your local action group manager, can be found [here](#) . www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/funding or email: LincsLEADER@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Shaping the Long View—National AONB Conference

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB was represented at this year's National AONB Conference, hosted by our Kent Downs AONB partners. In these turbulent times, with considerable uncertainties and pressures upon public finance and the state of the economy the conference sought to shine a light on Shaping the Long View for our nationally protected family of AONB landscapes.

There was a wide range of thought provoking site visits, presentations and discussions to help celebrate both local and national achievements. The event provided an opportunity to assess the current and future pressures and the opportunities facing our diverse range of AONBs. One overriding message was the importance and value of working in partnership with our local communities, businesses, farmers and landowners – with public, private and the voluntary sector working together to help support our unique living and working landscapes.

The AONB Family remains strong in its purpose of helping promote and shape the value of our nationally cherished areas and the wide array of local and national natural capital that they provide – for the environment, our health and well-being and the local and wider economy. There was a general consensus that the forthcoming national review of protected landscapes (see article below) provides a pivotal opportunity for the AONB Family to build on the strengths and values of our local and national partnerships, ultimately to help conserve and enhance our very special landscapes for future generations.

For a fuller review of the conference please visit:

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/l4l-conference-2018>



Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival 2018 — A Review

Over 2,500 people attended the 14th annual Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, which ran from 19th May to 3rd June.

The festival, which is co-ordinated by Heritage Lincolnshire in partnership with Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, presented more than 100 walks over 16 days in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The varied programme offered something for all ages and abilities, with walks ranging from 0.5 miles to 76 miles. Highlights included a Royal Wedding themed launch event at Nettleton, a 6 day long 'Great Walk' which returned by popular demand, and family themed walks featuring activities such as shelter building, bug hunts and murder mystery trails. New additions to the programme included a Yoga walk, courtesy of Louth Studio and evening tours of Cadwell Park, one of the most picturesque racing circuits in the world.



Festival Co-ordinator, Natalie Lunt said:

"We would like to thank all of our volunteers who work tirelessly before, during and after the festival to ensure its success. Preparation is already underway for next year's festival, so please do get in touch if you would like to take part."

Save the date! The festival is set to return for its 15th year from Saturday 18th May to Sunday 2nd June 2019. If you or your organisation are interested in leading a walk, your business would like a walk to start or finish at their premises, or you would like your business to feature in the brochure please get in touch by email at lwwf@heritagelincolnshire.org or call 01522 555780.

For more information go to: www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk

A New Flood Defence For Louth

The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership) has undertaken a summer site inspection to review the new Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme which has been constructed to help protect the town of Louth from future flooding. Paul Arnold, Catchment Engineer for the Environment Agency (EA), and his colleague Andy Charlesworth, joined the group to field a wide range of questions and queries from the partnership on the workings of the scheme and its wider benefits for natural capital.



The design of the scheme is unique and operates an automated self-floating valve system to smooth any peak flows from the River Lud and its tributaries. The EA has led on the project, in collaboration with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, The Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board., local landowners and a wide range of partners.

Love Lincolnshire Wolds—Latest News

The Love Lincolnshire Wolds (LLW) partnership continue to meet regularly to review the visitor Destination Management Plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Wolds market towns.



The LLW website is currently being updated and should be completed by the autumn. Please feel free to contact the group via <https://lovelincolnshirewolds.com/> for any local events and activities that are taking place across the area that may be of interest to both local residents and visitors.

East Lindsey District Council has commissioned a STEAM Report (tourism survey) to help review the value of the visitor economy across the Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Area (which includes the Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area and the adjoining market towns). The Report's findings have been very positive and have highlighted the following:

- The Visitor Economy has increased from £166 million in 2016 to £177 million in 2017.
- The total number of visitors has increased from 3.44 million in 2016 to 3.51 million in 2017.
- Total employment in the sector has risen from 2,433 in 2016 to 2,503 in 2017.

A survey of participants across the LLW partnership has also recently been conducted to help review and inform the future work of the group. The forthcoming priorities include utilising and expanding the use of digital marketing, continuing to develop the links with relevant national media and marketing campaigns – and furthering the Love Lincolnshire Wolds brand through a range of updated literature.

Please be aware that wider Visit Lincolnshire tourism initiatives are ongoing and being led by Tourism Officers from the various Local Authority's. A new tourism website for Lincolnshire is being developed and will be live by the end of September. The new visitlincolnshire.com website is being managed by Visit Lincoln.

Karen Edwards, Lead Tourism Officer, East Lindsey District Council.

Showcasing the Unique Heritage of the Wolds During Archaeology Week

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS) took part in Archaeology Day in July, as part of National Archaeology Week. Its aim is to raise awareness of archaeology and the work of archaeologists across Britain.

The event was held at the Collection in Lincoln and over 200 people attended with 10 heritage organisations represented including groups representing the study of ancient Egypt, prehistoric Nottinghamshire and historic Lincolnshire.

David Rodger, Project Officer at LWCS said,

"This was a great opportunity to showcase the history of the Wolds, from the Roman Roads to the World War II airbases. Visitors were amazed at the wealth of prehistoric mounds, deserted medieval villages and historic churches within the AONB."

The week culminated in a 'Archaeology' Conference at the Collection.

This mini conference was ideal for people of all walks of life, from the amateur to the academic interested about knowing more about Archaeology. It took the form of five talks mainly themed around local landscape from an archaeological point of view. This included a talk by Cecily Spall on her team's recent excavations at Lincoln Castle and a talk about the Layers of History project which has been very active in the Wolds.



Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Project—Volunteer Events



The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project is running volunteer conservation days in the upcoming months:

Friday 24th August 2018 – Join us at Croxby to help this beautiful part of the Waithe Beck.

Friday 21st September 2018 – Join us at Hatcliffe to tackle encroaching bankside vegetation.

October – South Thoresby - TBC

Friday 2nd November 2018 – Join the Aby Fly Fishing syndicate on this stunning stretch of the Great Eau near Belleau and help conserve this beautiful chalk stream.

Friday 7th December 2018 – Join us at Brigsley helping to keep the Waithe beck flowing at this beautiful site maintained as a nature reserve by the landowner.

Full details of all the days can be found on Facebook (@LincsChalkStream) and the website in the 'Events and Shows' section (www.lincolnshirechalkstreams.org).

National Association of AONB's role to be reviewed

Some of you will be aware, following the various reports in the national media that the Rt. Hon Michael Gove, Minister for the Environment, has appointed Julian Glover to lead on a new and significant review of England's protected landscapes – our AONB's (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and National Parks, which together comprise the country's very finest landscapes. Julian has established a panel of experts to help him in undertaking the review and has written to all AONB Partnerships and attended an initial discussion session at the recent AONB Conference.

We are currently awaiting further news on the precise details and timescales for the review and the evidence that will be requested to help inform and shape the forthcoming discussions and subsequent recommendations. The review was itself first announced within HM Government's publication – A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment which highlighted the desire to undertake a 'Hobhouse' Review of National Parks and AONBs.

It was the pioneering work of John Dower, and subsequently Sir Arthur Hobhouse, which led to the establishment of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, and together with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, provides the primary legislative framework for our protected landscapes today. Michael Gove has been clear in stressing the desire for a 21st Century 'Hobhouse' review that will consider coverage of designations, how designated areas deliver their responsibilities, how these areas are financed and whether there is scope for expansion. The 25 Year Plan also highlights that the review will consider opportunities to enhance the environment in existing designations and expand on connecting more people with the natural environment.

We await further news on the review with much anticipation and willingness for positive and active engagement in the forthcoming consultations. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership will take a proactive position in helping to positively engage with the review, including wider discussions with our peers via the National Association for AONBs, helping to stimulate debate and fresh thinking. The mandate of the review provides a clear instruction that it seeks in no way to diminish the status of our nationally important landscapes, but rather build upon the existing protections for these very special places.

For further national news of the review please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review/terms-of-reference>

An Outstanding Week for the AONB's

Yes, yes we are – Outstanding that is!!

An Outstanding Week in September!



Outstanding Week 15-23rd September 2018

September has always been an **outstanding** month in our countryside, with harvests being brought safely home, trees and meadows taking on their autumnal colours, skies offering a full palette of hues, musky bonfires lingering in the evening air and a welcoming calmness for visitors.

September this year, however, promises to be even more **outstanding!**

The AONB Family has worked together to organise a week (and a bit) long programme of events to help people enjoy and be inspired by the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Starting on Saturday 15th September and continuing through to Sunday 23rd September, events and other information can be found on www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/outstanding-week/

As NAAONB's Jill Smith, explains

"Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are some of the most beautiful, cherished and outstanding landscapes in the UK. They are living, working landscapes and as such offer a wealth of opportunities for people to enjoy and benefit from their visit to the countryside.

["Outstanding Week helps people connect with nature, getting them out into and engaging with the the UK's outstanding landscapes by enjoying local food and drink, country shows, dark sky discovery](#) nights, walking festivals, archaeology walks, wood fairs, foraging, wildlife walks, coastal and marine days, thatching courses, drystone walling competitions, charcoal making, bioblitz, inspiration through art and music and many, many other activities.

"Whether you are looking for an outstanding view, intending to reward yourself with a cream tea or trying to kick start a new health regime, you can't fail to have a great time in one of the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They are **Landscapes for Life** in so many different ways".

See www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/outstanding-week/

Twitter @naaonb & @aonbfamily #outstandingweek for new events to enjoy each day.

Some of the events in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB during Outstanding Week are:

Autumn Fest - Stourton Estates, Baumber Saturday 15th September 10am-4pm

Picturing Brinkhill's Past - Brinkhill, South Ormsby, Sunday 16th September 12pm- 4pm

Lincs BOx Event Cross Country Bike/Run/Walk – what better way to feel the real Lincolnshire Wolds than walking, running or biking through it! – Belchford, Sunday 16th September

Round Louth Walk – Sunday 16th September 9.00 am from Hubbards Hills

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