

What has Agri- Environment Delivery ever done for the Lincolnshire Wolds?



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What this presentation will cover

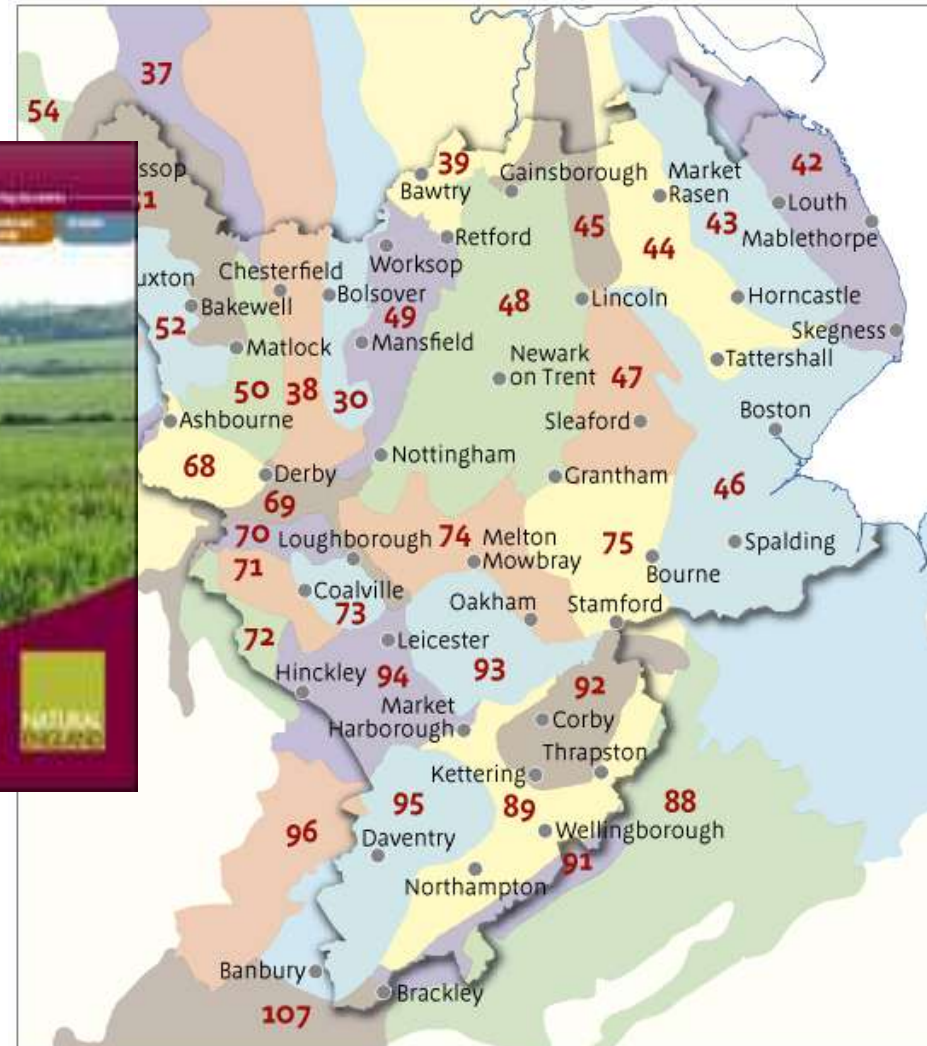


- Impact on the Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape character from Agri-environment schemes uptake
- What next for Agri-environment delivery in the Lincolnshire Wolds



National Character Areas

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No:43 Lincolnshire Wolds

“...characterised by a range of varied yet unified features including open, arable plateau hill tops, chalk escarpments, deep dry valleys with sinuous beech woods and isolated ash trees punctuating the skyline.”

The area is sparsely settled with many villages hidden within the folds of the landscape and modest country houses and farmsteads. “

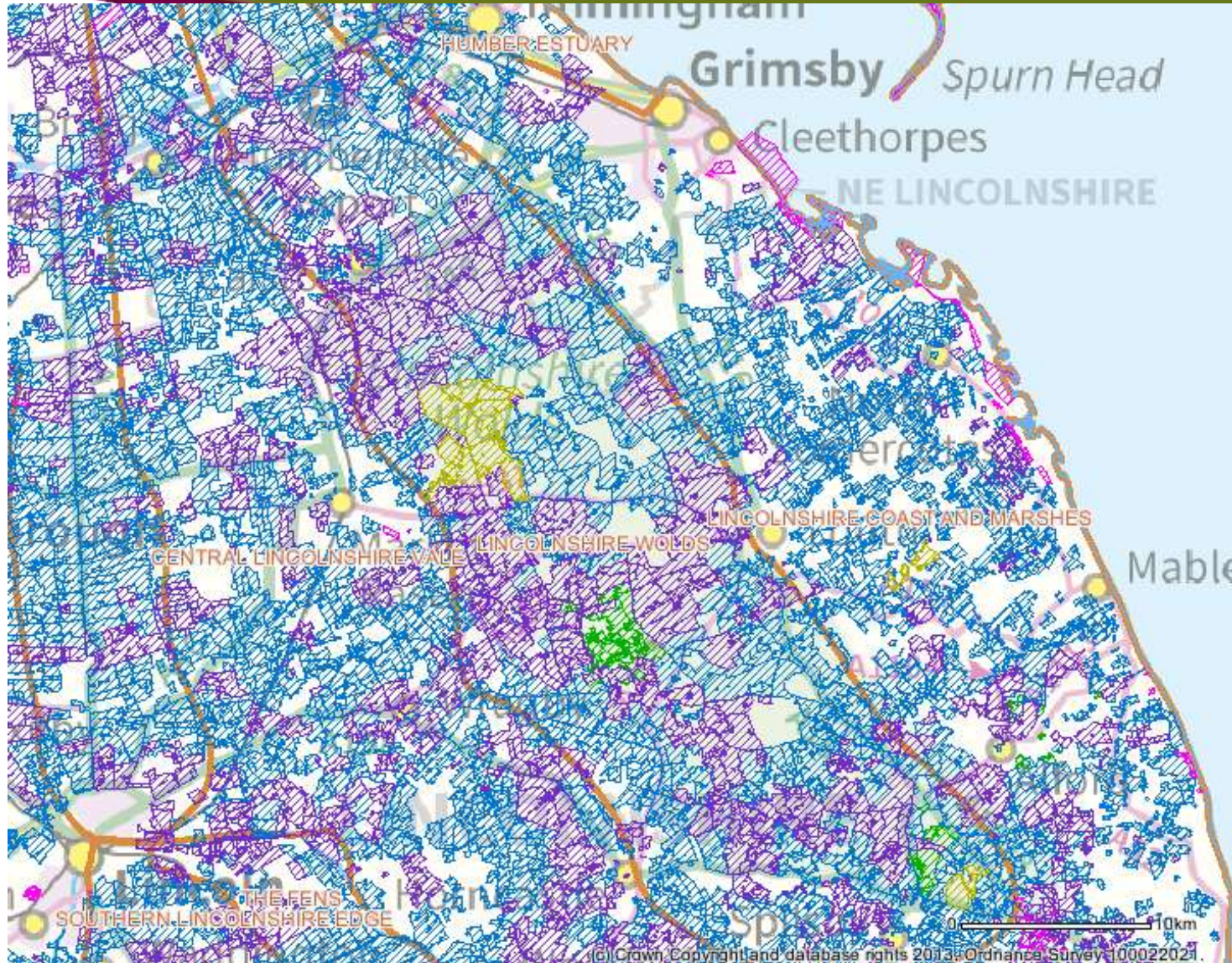


Agri-Environment Delivery in the Wolds so far...



Schemes	Number	Value
Entry/Higher Level Stewardship	78	£26.5m
Entry Level Stewardship only	133	£5.8m
Total	211	£32.3m

Agreement coverage in Lincolnshire Wolds NCA



Options choice to met Wolds NCA targets



Options	Area/numbers	Value (£,000)
Access/Educ Access	600km and 5000 visits	£600k
Gates and stiles	400	£60k
Fencing	200km	£400k
Tree planting – inc parklands	20,000	£40k
Grassland	6,000ha	£10,000k
Pollen & nectar	1,100ha	£2,000k
Hedgerows	5,000km	£2,500k
Ponds	2,000m ²	£500k

Things to think about



- Reduction in grassland sites
- Lack of conservation grazing
- Increase in cropping diversity
- Loss of voluntary access
- Restriction of educational access
- Climate change mitigation
- Resource protection



A new Environmental Land Management Scheme



Health Warning



- Much of the following is **yet to be set in stone.**
- The **CAP Public Consultation** provides more detail and asks questions to help guide final design.
- Transitional arrangements are still being developed and will be dependent on EU approval.



Consultation Proposal

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“We propose a new environmental land management scheme to address the Environment priority.

This would bring together a number of existing schemes into one scheme, building on and enhancing the current Environmental Stewardship (ES), the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and the Catchment Sensitive Farming scheme”



Timeline



- **Although 'NELMS' has been used as a working title the scheme name is yet TBC!** - Successor to Environmental Stewardship
- **Late 2013: NELMS design finalised** – but subject to change until Programme Document is approved
- **Early 2014: RDP Programme Document to Brussels**
- **2015: New CAP due to begin. NELMS applications from Summer 2015**
- **2016: First NELMS agreements live in January**



What should it deliver? (1)



- Help meet **Biodiversity 2020 goals**, in particular our legal obligations under the Habitats and Birds Directives
- Contribute to **better, bigger and more connected habitats** and closer engagement by people with the natural environment.
- **Greater priority to soil and water management**, and in particular the Water Framework Directive
- **Improve integration** across a number of water, biodiversity, soil and flood management objectives



What should it deliver? (2)



- **Support woodland creation and management** to help contribute to the ambitions set out in the Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement
- Support investment in the **historic environment**
- Support **educational access**
- Support **genetic conservation**
- promote **landscape scale change**
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation** would remain an overarching objective.



Scheme Basics



IT

- **Single CAP IT System** across schemes and delivery bodies
- **“Digital-by-Default”** – online applications and “assisted digital”

Scheme

- **Budget:** likely to be less funding available in real terms for new agreement
- **5 year contracts**
- **Simpler, faster** application process

Outcomes

- Enable **site specific and coordinated landscape scale** outcomes
- High degree of **synergy** sought across measures and policies
- Optimise potential for **multiple outcomes**

Targeting



- **More targeted** than current scheme.
- Greater emphasis on achievement of **landscape scale** objectives
- Greater emphasis on **local partnerships** and **facilitation** to achieve this
- Greater **coordination** across **individual** holdings to achieve this
- Greater **local direction** on local priorities – clearer steer on preferred options to apply, from a national menu
- Site specific bespoke contracts possible where the priorities require this kind of action



Wider landscape of RDP Schemes and Incentives



To be confirmed, but a basic framework of:



Environmental Land Management Scheme



Farming and Forestry Productivity



LEADER

• Local Action Groups



Growth Programme

- Growth and jobs in the rural economy

Plus:

- **Catchment Sensitive Farming programme** - focussed on diffuse pollution outcomes
- **Skill and training package**



Transitional arrangements

Health Warning reminder and key points



- Transitional arrangements are still being developed and will be dependent on EU approval.
 - Current programme ends 31 Dec 2013 and new programme not yet agreed.
 - 2014 transitional measures not yet agreed by EU (neither detailed rules nor implications) – meanwhile we cannot give definite advice.



The AE offer budget (spending from 2015/16 onwards)



The budget for 2014 AE offers is

‘About £4m’ for ELS

for UELS, OELS and ex-classic ELS

‘Up to £14m’ for CSF

‘About £26m’ for HLS (Lincolnshire’s share £750k)

– for ex classics expiring in 2014,

– for SSSI cases that need to be done in 2014,

– for WFD, especially N2K sites which were included in the 2009 River Basin Management Plans and which need further action to help meet their conservation objectives by 2015.

– for other high priority cases, based on the residue from the £26m after the others above have been costed.

Thank you

