



October 2016

Welcome to the first edition of 'Higher Ground', the new e-bulletin from the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We've swapped over to an e-bulletin service so we can keep you informed, quickly and efficiently. It also saves resources and money too.

Latest News

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Festival 2016



The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project held another successful Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Festival in August thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lincolnshire County Council.

The Festival ran for a week from 22nd to the 26th August and featured a wide range of activities for all the family. Events included evening bat walks, stream dipping and performance from Rhubarb Theatre. The Lincolnshire

Chalk Streams Project would like to give a big thank you to volunteers Jade Oliver, Alice Dimaline and Rachel Graham for all of their invaluable help in organising and running the events for the festival.

They would also like to thank; Classroom in the Woods, the Black Horse at Donington on Bain, Richard Marsh and the Hubbards Hills Trust, GRS signs, AJ Embroidery, Richard Green from the Bat Conservation Trust and everyone at Spout Yard Louth. More information about the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project and the festival events can be found on their webpage and Facebook pages.



Surveying Training for Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Volunteers



Thanks to funding from WREN www.wren.org.uk the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project organised training for 12 new volunteers and provided them with all of the necessary equipment.

The training was provided by Stuart Crofts on behalf of the Riverfly Partnership with expert help from Chris Extence from the Environment Agency. The volunteers were shown how to survey for aquatic invertebrates which give an indication of water quality.

Volunteers will be given sites to survey on Lincolnshire's rare chalk streams in the Wolds area and their results will be fed into a national database. The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project now has over 30 volunteers surveying for water quality in Lincolnshire. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer please get in touch.

LCSP Volunteer Group – Volunteer Days



The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project will be running a number of volunteer days in the coming months to help Lincolnshire's incredibly rare chalk streams thanks to funding from WREN (www.wren.org.uk).

Please get in touch with Will Bartle (Monitoring Officer) if you're interested in coming along to any of the dates below – william.bartle@lincolnshire.gov.uk Full details of activities will be up on the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project webpage and Facebook page soon.

Wednesday 26th October - Ashby cum Fenby – Join the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project on this beautiful part of the Waithe beck to help manage instream and bank vegetation.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/175840842847632/>

Wednesday 9th November - Welton le Wold – Join the residents of this pretty little Wolds' village to maintain their delicate stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/875564455876946/>



Another Fabulous Festival of Walking



Although the weather was undeniably unseasonable for much of May and June this year, it didn't stop the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival delivering another great event.

The festival got into its stride at a lively launch at Donington-on-Bain on Saturday 21 May, with long and short walks making the most of the excellent Public Right of Way network around the village, with the village hall turned into a fabulous café for the day.

Over one hundred walks brought almost 4,000 people out into the Lincolnshire Wolds countryside, to discover new places and learn about the landscape and heritage of this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The festival concluded on Sunday 5 June in sunshine (at last!) at the National Trust's Gunby Estate Hall and Gardens. Trust experts led walks around the estate, exploring the gardens, architecture and natural history of this interesting site.



The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival has been running for 12 years and has become a popular fixture on the local calendar, as well as attracting visitors from the region and beyond.

Hosted in partnership by Heritage Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, the event depends on the dedication of local walk leaders, who volunteer their time for the festival. Anyone who has some experience in leading walks, or enjoys group walking and would like to try their hand at leading a walk, is welcome to get involved. Other aspects of the festival depend on volunteers too, helping with admin tasks, marketing and brochure distribution.



If you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities with the festival, or would like to join the e-mailing list for updates and the downloadable 2017 brochure, please contact the co-ordinator, Nicki Jarvis, on 01522 555877 or email lwvf@heritagelincolnshire.org



Money Makes the Wolds Go Round



Calling community groups & small businesses....there is still money available for small projects that will protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds.

These can include landscape and conservation improvements and local business ventures. Projects **MUST** be in the AONB, not started yet but be able to be completed by 28th Feb 2017.

Contact Helen or David on 01522 555780 or see here for more info...

<http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/looking-after/grants-and-community-projects>

Have Your Say – A Quick Thank You...



The deadline for the Lincolnshire Wolds "Have Your Say" public consultation has just passed and we are very pleased to have received over 145 responses – thank you to everyone who spent the time to complete a return.

The results from all of the replies are now being collated and will help to give us a good insight into the current issues facing the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We were very pleased to hear from such a broad range of interest groups, including local landowners and businesses, residents and visitors to the Wolds. We are sure that the survey will make for some interesting comparisons with our last extensive public questionnaire undertaken over a decade ago back in 2003.

Crucially the findings will help to steer the direction of the future AONB Management Plan (2018-23), with a peer review commencing shortly. Many thanks again for all those who took the time to respond, it is really appreciated.



A View From the Wolds...

An observation from someone who lives, works or just spends time in the Wolds, giving us their favourite aspect of the landscape, people and places.

Wold Newton by David Rodger

David started as a project officer for LWCS in June of this year. Before that, he laid hedges, planted trees and built dry stone walls all over Lincolnshire, including the Wolds. At weekends, he likes to take walks in the hills with his dog, Treacle.



Hidden away in folds of the Lincolnshire hills lies the tranquil village of Wold Newton. People have occupied this site continually since Anglo Saxon times as demonstrated by cremated remains found in urns close by.

Within living memory this was sheep country, but now arable is king. The surrounding countryside is a bastion of industrious agriculture, growing crops of wheat, barley and oil seed rape all year long. The fields here are a patchwork of colour, from the red and brown brick shades of the boulder clay soil to the bright yellow flower of the rape-seed.

To get to my favourite view, one must first walk through 'The Valley', a steep sided gorge to the south of the village, cut by glacial waters long ago. Its sides were planted up with beech trees at the start of the nineteenth century and they have since been joined by sycamore and ash and elm. This gives the whole place a cocooned feel, all the more noticeable when you burst out onto bright, open countryside at the eastern end.

Following the footpath (part of the oblong circuit of the Wanderlust Way, starting in Grimsby), buzzards can often be seen circling overhead. When I was last there, brown hares were cavorting on the remains of rig and furrow, plough marks caused by ancient farmers. These open field systems were once part of Beesby, now a deserted medieval village. The humps and bumps of the village roads and buildings can still be seen if you skirt round Beesby woods to the south. Alternatively, you can carry on up the steeply rising meadows to follow the path north to Hawerby.

Skirting past the woods (carpeted with bluebells in the Spring), the walker comes across a stout hawthorn hedge at right angles to the towering beech and ash on your right.

Walk along that hedge for a couple of minutes and here it is, my favourite view of the Wolds, or should I say from the Wolds, as the expansive vista is actually of farmland to the east, onto the middlemarsh and out past Donna Nook National Nature Reserve to the off shore wind farms. But it's the fact that you have to immerse yourself in the Wolds to then look out past it that makes this my favourite spot.



Gazing at the coastal views to the east, its easy to imagine this line of creased hills as a prehistoric cliff edge, waves of a warm ocean lapping at its feet, albeit hundreds of thousands of years ago. Turning north, you can spy the towers of Grimsby and out past them, the mighty Humber estuary. To the west the once proud airfield of RAF Binbrook, housing squadrons of bombers then fighters until the end of the Cold War in 1988. To the south of Wold Newton is Kelstern, another ex RAF base. And just past that as you get to the main road off the A631 is Welton le Wold, where flint tools from the early Stone Age have been found.

It's all here, the whole history of the Lincolnshire Wolds in one small part of it. From its formation and its earliest inhabitants through to deserted medieval villages and war, farming and wildlife. That's why this particular piece of the Wolds is my favourite view.



Landscapes for Life



The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is exactly what it says it is: an outstanding landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so precious that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.

There are 46 AONBs in Britain (33 wholly in England, four wholly in Wales, one which straddles the English/Welsh border and eight in Northern Ireland) and they cover 18% of our countryside.

AONBs are designated in recognition of their national importance and to ensure that their character and qualities are protected for all to enjoy.

Each AONB partnership has a dedicated staff team which leads on the work in the AONB and although the detailed activity of each AONB team varies according to local circumstances, collectively the AONB Family has identified four common objectives for its work:

- Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future
- Support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation value, sustain and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and well-being.
- Value, sustain and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and well-being.



In Other News...

Events in and around the Wolds: <http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/events>

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership has published the first of its new habitat management leaflets aimed at Local Wildlife Site owners: <http://www.glnp.org.uk/contact/latest-news/#latest>

Lincolnshire County Council have grants available up to £500 for communities participating in environmental work:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/community-and-voluntary-sector-support/grants-and-funding/community-wildlife-grant/68680.article>

Free workshops about pesticides/herbicides & water treatment works:

Covenham Water Treatment Works on 19th October 2016 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Elsham Water Treatment Works on 10th November 2016 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

How farming practices affect drinking water quality

Life without OSR herbicides – Metazachlar and other matters

Safe use of slug pellets and alternatives to metaldehyde

Practical on farm mitigation measures, an agronomy perspective

Grants for water protection measures under Countryside Stewardship

Water treatment works tour – please wear steel toe cap boots and hi vis vest

Places are limited so please book via 08453 713399 or bookings@adas.co.uk

with your name address, phone number, CPH & SBI number

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