Lincolnshire Wolds
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Management Plan

2004 – 2009

Produced on behalf of
Lincolnshire County Council,
East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council
and North East Lincolnshire Council and partners

by

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and
Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee

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Calm and deep peace on this high wold,
And on these dews that drench the furze,
   And all the silvery gossamers
   That twinkle into green and gold:

Calm and still light on yon great plain
   That sweeps with all its autumn bowers,
And crowded farms and lessening towers,
   To mingle with the bounding main.

In Memorium AHH,
Alfred, Lord Tennyson
1809 – 1892
Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan. The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973, recognising it as one of the country’s finest landscapes, a designation now on a par with our National Parks.

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a hidden jewel of the English countryside and one of only two nationally protected landscapes in the East Midlands region. During the 30 years since its designation as an AONB, the continued modernisation of farming, demands of modern living and development of new technologies impose continued pressures on the landscape. However these are both threats and opportunities. Our challenge is to ensure that the Wolds retains its unique landscape and undeniably special character, whilst maintaining and supporting its communities.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) placed a statutory duty on local authorities to publish and review AONB Management Plans to help protect and enhance these important landscapes. The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, a partnership of twenty-three organisations, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, have co-ordinated the production of this five year AONB Plan.

We are keen to thank the many organisations, local groups and individuals that have been involved in the development of this document. A series of community consultations under the banner ‘Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future’, a questionnaire survey in Wolds News and formal public consultation have been instrumental in establishing consensus on what we value most about our AONB and how we can work together to protect and enhance it for future generations. A continual theme expressed by many throughout the production of this document has been the realisation of the need to balance environmental, social and economic considerations whilst safeguarding the charm and character of the area.

This Plan is not just a document for use by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, or the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, but rather a Plan for everyone. It is a Plan built on partnerships, and this is vital if we are to move towards our shared vision for the Lincolnshire Wolds. There is a lot of work to be done and the success of the Plan will ultimately depend on achieving real actions and positive outcomes on the ground. We will endeavour to ensure that the Plan provides the catalyst for protecting and enhancing our unique asset – the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Cllr Bernard Theobald
Chairman, Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee
How to read and use the Management Plan

Section 1 of the Plan sets out the vision, aims and guiding influences for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and identifies the five emerging themes: Protecting the Wolds; Living and Working in the Wolds; Discovering the Wolds; Sustaining the Wolds and Partnerships in the Wolds. These themes provide the overall structure for the document.

Section 2 sets the scene for the Plan, providing an overview of the statutory background to AONB designation and summary of the recent legal requirements to produce and review Management Plans through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Section 3 describes the Lincolnshire Wolds and highlights the reasons for its designation as an AONB. Tables 1 - 2 and Appendix 3 complement this section, identifying the special qualities of the area, and the resulting threats/pressures and opportunities.

Sections 4 – 8 provide the strategy for future management of the AONB establishing a series of policies, objectives and management statements across the five themes: Protecting the Wolds; Living and Working in the Wolds; Discovering the Wolds; Sustaining the Wolds; Partnerships in the Wolds. These themes have been utilised to help group individual topics. Each topic is tackled succinctly with an introduction and overview of the current threats/pressures or management issues. Each of these sections and individual topics are not mutually exclusive and in many cases there is both overlap and interdependence between them. This reflects the complex nature of AONB management in respect of the need to balance environmental, social and economic factors – all the major drivers for landscape change in the AONB.

The policies provide an overarching strategic framework, objectives provide clear specific and measurable areas of management for delivering the strategy. Management statements have been endorsed for both the Wolds’ landscape and partnerships as these are seen as integral to the overall delivery of the vision.

Section 9 contains the AONB Action Plan (Table 3) identifying what needs to be done, by whom and when, to help implement the objectives and overriding policies. It is clearly an ambitious and challenging programme and its successful implementation will depend on everyone’s hard efforts. Monitoring progress on the Action Plan and the condition of the AONB is included in Section 9, with Table 4 setting out a range of monitoring indicators.

Maps and appendices are included at the end of the document and provide a wide range of supporting information including a summary of the consultation findings, extensive glossary of key related plans and strategies, and bibliography.

How was the Plan produced?

This Plan was produced by the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, in partnership and close consultation with members of the JAC and many other organisations and interest groups. The views of local residents and visitors were initially collected from a questionnaire survey in Wolds News, April 2003 and provided 460 responses (Appendix 4). An independent community consultant assisted the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service in facilitating a series of evening meetings held across the AONB during July 2003. These provided local residents with the opportunity to express their likes, dislikes, fears and aspirations for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The consultant’s report collated these findings and made a number of recommendations (Appendix 5). These findings helped to develop a collective and shared vision for the future of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and highlighted the many issues for the area. A public consultation draft was subsequently prepared and circulated for comments in November 2003. All observations received have helped to guide the content of this final Plan and we are indebted to all who have contributed to its production (Appendix 9).

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1. The Vision and Guiding Influences

1.1 The Vision

The Lincolnshire Wolds is continually evolving in response to the many human and natural forces that are placed upon it and it is evident that the pressures on the AONB are set to continue to increase further. However, these pressures can be offset by new opportunities to manage the process, and the production of this Plan has served to highlight the wide consensus that there is now a real chance to positively influence the Wolds.

The starting point for establishing the future direction for managing the AONB has been the development of a collective vision for the Wolds. The public consultations were invaluable in highlighting what people felt was special about the area and how they would like to see it in the future. This helped to formulate our shared aspirations for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB over the next twenty-five years which are expressed in the following vision statement:

“The Lincolnshire Wolds will continue to be a vibrant living and working landscape through the primary influence of sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management. It will retain its unique and nationally important sense of place: an area of open rolling hills, dramatic views, farmed fields changing with the seasons, tranquil valleys, woodland, pasture, streams and attractive villages.

The Wolds natural and cultural heritage will be well known, enjoyed and widely respected by both residents and visitors. It will continue to provide a place of tranquillity and inspiration for those fortunate enough to visit the area, whilst meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of those who live and work there”.

Our vision acknowledges the challenge of securing social, economic and environmental progress that can conserve and enhance the special and intrinsic qualities that define the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. This Plan sets out a framework of policies, objectives and actions that collectively strive towards achieving this vision.
1.2 Aims

The five key aims of the Management Plan are to sustain and enhance:

- the Lincolnshire Wolds’ natural beauty and its landscape character
- farming and land management in the Wolds as the primary activities in maintaining its character, landscape and biodiversity
- recreational, tourism and interpretive activities and opportunities appropriate to the area
- the economic and social base of the Wolds including the development and diversification of enterprises appropriate to the area
- partnerships between organisations, the local community, landowners and others with an interest in the Wolds

1.3 Cross-cutting influences

Five influences have been instrumental in helping to determine the overall aims and resulting strategy of the Management Plan. These are:

1.3.1 Natural Beauty

The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to safeguard its natural beauty and is the overriding objective of the Plan. Natural beauty (defined in 2.2) includes those special features that contribute to the high scenic quality of the Wolds - its wildlife (biodiversity), geology, topography and historical features. The Plan aims to offset both current and potential pressures and threats to the Wolds’ beauty, particularly those that can be addressed through direct action. The Plan also seeks to identify opportunities to initiate action to enhance the area’s attractiveness.

1.3.2 Local Distinctiveness – ‘sense of place’

Variety and distinctiveness are amongst the prized attributes of both our towns and countryside. Although hard to quantify, the Lincolnshire Wolds has a unique ‘sense of place’. It is a landscape that has inspired many artists and writers through the generations. Everyone either living in or visiting the Wolds has their own interpretation and perception of the Wolds’ landscape. Recent local consultations have demonstrated that people have a strong affinity with the area, which is well loved and cherished in its own right. The Plan aims to ensure that the local diversity and distinctiveness of the Wolds character are maintained.

1.3.3 Economic and social well-being

The Wolds is very much a living and working landscape that has been heavily influenced by generations of human activity, most notably farming. Although not included as a primary aim of AONB designation, there is wide recognition of the need to safeguard the economic and social well-being of communities based in and around the Wolds. In this respect the AONB designation should assist those dependent upon the area for their livelihoods and provide the context within which the health and recreational needs of all who live in and visit the Wolds can be addressed. The Wolds has an important role to play in the wider rural recovery of a region traditionally dependent on agriculture.

1.3.4 Sustainability

The statutory designation of AONBs (defined in 2.3) is itself very close to the principle of sustainability in terms of protecting and enhancing natural beauty whilst meeting the social and economic needs of local communities. AONBs are high quality landscapes that can be used to good effect to bring future economic and social benefits.
The government’s Sustainable Development Strategy defines four objectives for sustainable development at a local, regional, national and global level:

- Social progress that meets everyone’s needs
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

Sustainability in the context of managing the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB means ensuring that social, economic and environmental needs can be met whilst protecting and safeguarding the beauty and landscape character of the area.

1.3.5 Partnerships

The future success of the Management Plan is heavily dependent upon close working between all public bodies, organisations, community groups, landowners and individuals with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The existing Joint Advisory Committee (Appendices 1 & 2) will play an important role in formulating consensus and co-ordinating the management of the many different functions and activities across the AONB. Joint working provides the best opportunity for protecting and enhancing the strategic interests of the area through sharing expertise, pooling resources, establishing synergies and developing long term commitment. The increasing demands upon the landscape and the diverse range of changes in the AONB require increasing input from all sectors of the community.

1.4 Delivery Themes

Considering both the aims and cross-cutting influences, five emerging themes have been identified to help deliver the vision for the Wolds. These are:

1. Protecting the Wolds
2. Living and Working in the Wolds
3. Discovering the Wolds
4. Sustaining the Wolds
5. Partnerships in the Wolds

These themes provide the overall structure for the document. The sections are not mutually exclusive and in many cases there is both overlap and interdependence between themes. This reflects the complex nature of AONB management in respect of the need to harmonise environmental, social and economic forces, which are the major drivers for landscape change in the AONB. A set of policies, objectives and actions have been developed on a topic by topic basis within these themes, acknowledging both threats and opportunities.
2. Setting the Scene

2.1 What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

The Lincolnshire Wolds is a nationally important and cherished landscape much of which was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973 on account of its high scenic beauty. AONBs, together with National Parks, make up the finest landscapes in England and Wales. The AONBs are a national asset containing a wide variety of attractive landscapes including wolds, downlands, woodlands, moorlands and heaths, rivers and streams, estuaries and marshes, and coast (Map 1). Like National Parks, our AONBs are very much living and working landscapes that have been, and continue to be, shaped by nature and human activity.

2.2 Why have AONBs?

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC Act) established powers to create AONBs, with the overriding objective of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty. ‘Natural beauty’ is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries (Countryside Agency, CA24, 2001). Whilst the original reasons for protection still hold true today, with the landscape quality of overriding importance, there has been increasing realisation of the need to address wider social and economic issues. This will ensure the designation has a relevance to those communities dependent upon these areas for living and working purposes.

AONBs are one of a group of globally protected landscapes. They fall within a worldwide category of Protected Landscapes, established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) where they are classed as ‘Category V – Protected Landscapes’.

2.3 What are the obligations for managing AONBs?

In 1991 the Countryside Commission published a policy statement about AONBs (CCP356) which sets out the following obligations for their management:

- The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be made to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) introduced significant measures to improve the protection and management of AONBs. As summarised by the Countryside Agency (CA23, 2001), the CRoW Act:

- Consolidates the provisions regarding the designation and purposes of AONBs previously contained in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC Act) as modified by subsequent legislation. (Section 82, CRoW Act)
- Confirms the powers of local authorities to take appropriate action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONBs. (Section 84, CRoW Act)
- Places a duty on ‘relevant authorities’ when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. (Section 85, CRoW Act)
Provides for the creation of conservation boards for selected individual AONBs by means of an establishment order made by the Secretary of State. (Section 86, CRoW Act)

Requires the preparation and publication of a Management Plan and its periodic review by the appropriate local authorities, or by an AONB conservation board where one is established. (Section 89, CRoW Act)

2.4 What is an AONB Management Plan?

Most importantly, Section 89 of CRoW Act created a statutory duty for local authorities with responsibilities for an AONB to produce and regularly review a Management Plan which sets out their, and partners’, policies and objectives for managing the AONB. The Countryside Agency publication CA23 is the principal guide to assist AONB staff, local authorities and partners in their production and subsequent review of AONB Management Plans. CA23 guidance highlights that an AONB Management Plan is a document which:

- Identifies the special qualities and the enduring significance of the AONB, and the importance of its different features.
- Presents an integrated vision for the future of the AONB as a whole in the light of national, regional and local priorities.
- Sets out agreed policies incorporating specific objectives to help secure the vision – the management strategy.
- Identifies what needs to be done, by whom and when, in order to achieve these outcomes – the action plan.
- States how the condition of the AONB and the effectiveness of its management will be monitored.

2.5 Why have an AONB Management Plan?

The goal of AONB Management Plans is to ensure continuity and consistency of management over time, conserving the area for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The first comprehensive Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan was produced in 1999 and as it preceeded the CRoW Act was in need of review. The production and implementation of a new five year Management Plan provides the key mechanism to deliver integrated action to help conserve and enhance the area through sustainable forms of environmental, social and economic development.

The production of this Plan has provided an opportunity for everyone with an interest in the AONB to help identify the issues, determine objectives and set priorities for conserving and enhancing the area in the longer term. This includes local authorities and agencies with statutory duties for the AONB, other organisations, local communities, visitors to the Wolds and other groups and organisations with an interest in the area.

2.6 The Management Plan in Context

Map 2 shows a breakdown of the administrative areas for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB which includes East Lindsey - 397 km²; West Lindsey - 119.5 km²; North East Lincolnshire Council - 41.5 km²; of which 516.5 km² is within Lincolnshire County Council. The planning framework for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is currently provided by; the Lincolnshire Structure Plan, (operated by Lincolnshire County Council), two District Local Plans (East Lindsey and West Lindsey) and North East Lincolnshire Local Plan. These recognise the importance of the AONB and include specific planning policies to guide the use of land in the area and in particular protect its natural beauty.

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7), the planning authorities policies for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB acknowledge that development that would significantly harm or devalue the character and appearance of the landscape is not generally permitted unless a clear national interest and lack of alternative sites can be demonstrated. Small-scale development, typically for the purposes
of agriculture, recreation and other rural industries is generally permitted to safeguard the social and economic well-being of the area. There is a broad consensus for such development to be sympathetic to the character and appearance of the AONB.

A large number of other plans and strategies currently affect the AONB often providing both pressures and opportunities for the environment, economy and community (Appendix 7). Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are becoming increasingly important. The Management Plan will work to complement existing plans and strategies through developing and implementing a set of policies and objectives with the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing the beauty of the AONB and providing opportunities for sustainable social and economic development.

2.7 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan

The Plan will operate as both a strategic document and working guide for the management of the area. Although not legally binding, the adoption of the Plan by the respective local authorities and the endorsement of the Plan by the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee demonstrates a clear commitment to the long-term aspirations to conserve and enhance the AONB.

In accordance with Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000):


2.8 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

The care of the AONB has been entrusted to the local authorities, organisations, community groups and those who live and work in the area. Much of the area is in private ownership, with few publicly owned and managed sites. Private landowners, particularly farmers, have a crucial role to play in continuing to safeguard this unique landscape.

The Wolds has an established Joint Advisory Committee (JAC - Appendices 1 & 2): a partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations and representatives who have a special interest or working knowledge of the area. The JAC acts as a forum to advise and guide activity on a wide range of issues across the Wolds and will be instrumental in developing, implementing and monitoring the AONB Management Plan.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS - Appendix 2) currently implements a varied work programme on behalf of the JAC and its core funders. The LWCS works alongside a wide range of organisations, local landowners, community groups and volunteers advising on policy and undertaking activity that furthers the interests of the AONB and wider Wolds Character Area. The LWCS will help to coordinate both the delivery and review of the Plan and will play a key role in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities that can aid its implementation. The success of the Plan will ultimately depend on integrated action involving all organisations, landowners and communities with an influence and/or interest in the management of the AONB.

3. The Lincolnshire Wolds - A Special Landscape
3.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds - Introduction

The Lincolnshire Wolds lie in the north-eastern quarter of the county of Lincolnshire (Map 3), mid-way between Lincoln and the coast, surrounded by the relatively flat fens, coastal marsh and the Lincoln Clay Vale. The AONB comprises an area of 558 km² (216 miles²), while the wider Lincolnshire Wolds Character/Natural Area incorporates the two neighbouring areas of the ‘Spilsby Crescent’ to the south and the remaining chalk uplands to the north (Map 4).

3.2 The Wolds’ General Character

The Wolds has a strong unity of visual character, characterised by open plateau hilltops, sweeping views, strong escarpments, wide grass verges and ridge-top routeways, dramatic wooded slopes and valleys, beech clumps, attractive villages often nestled in hill folds and natural and historic features of great interest including visual remnants of ancient tumuli and deserted medieval villages.

The Landscape Assessment for the Wolds undertaken by the Countryside Commission in 1993 (CCP 414), recognises the landscape as strikingly different from most other chalk and limestone landscapes in the extent of arable cultivation, made possible by the area’s fertile chalk and drift soils. The ‘typical’ chalk downland features of calcareous grassland and sheep walk were probably never widespread in the Wolds due to the thinness of the chalk and the fact that much of the area is covered by glacial till. The area therefore has a long association with cultivated farming practices. The writings of William Cobbett in his Rural Rides of 1830 and J. A. Clarke in the Journal of the Royal Agriculture Society in 1852 speak of a transformation of the Wolds’ landscape in the early 19th century when cultivation appears to have widely replaced much of the earlier mixed landscape. The surviving areas of semi-natural habitats, including grassland and ancient woodland, are very limited in extent, but are nonetheless of particular importance.

In addition to the distinctive villages and hamlets within the Wolds, the surrounding market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby have long associations with the area. The Wolds remain a relatively sparsely populated area and the roles of the market towns are very important in providing social and economic services for the wider community. In turn they provide important gateways to the Wolds’ countryside. The area remains a relatively tranquil area for residents and visitors alike and the aim of the Management Plan is to promote and manage the conservation of its special qualities.

3.3 Why is the Lincolnshire Wolds an AONB?

3.3.1 Outstanding Qualities

The Lincolnshire Wolds was designated an AONB in 1973 following a period of considerable local campaigning. This recognised the area’s unique landscape and distinctive ‘sense of place’. The Landscape Character Assessment (CCP414, 1993), acknowledged the following outstanding qualities:

- **A unique physiography (geology and topography)** – The physical geography of the Lincolnshire Wolds is unusual and fascinating. The Wolds is the highest upland landscape in eastern England between Yorkshire and Kent and has a complex geology; nowhere else in Britain has a chalk landscape been so extensively modified by glaciations. These have given rise to some of its most striking features including numerous steep-sided and open-ended combes.

- **A scenic, working landscape** – Unlike most other AONBs, the high scenic quality of the Wolds depends almost entirely upon the area’s use for agriculture. Much of its charm is derived from the seasonally changing field and cropping patterns; the rural scenes of farming activity; and the traditional villages and farmsteads in brick and pantile. Overall approximately 80% of the AONB is in arable use, with 13% as permanent pasture and 2.5% woodland cover. It is widely recognised that much of the attractiveness of the Wolds today is a result of the activities of generations of landowners and farmers.

- **A major archaeological resource** – The Wolds has a rich legacy of prehistoric sites and a wealth of historic landscape features. Most of Lincolnshire’s long barrows are in the Wolds, with a high concentration of round barrows, together with many important ancient trackways.
including the ridge top routes of the Bluestone Heath Road and the Caistor High Street. The Wolds also has one of the largest densities of deserted medieval villages (DMVs) in the country.

- **A valued cultural landscape** – The Wolds landscape has been a source of cultural inspiration. The Tennyson family has a strong association with the area. Alfred, Lord Tennyson - the Poet Laureate - spent much of his formative years in the Wolds and it is featured in many of his works including ‘The Brook’. The landscape has offered inspiration to many artists and writers over the years including the mid-19th century landscape painter Peter de Wint and more recently the author A. S. Byatt in the Booker prize-winning novel ‘Possession’.

### 3.3.2 The Wolds’ Landscape Character

The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Assessment (CCP414, 1993) identified and described the key features that make the area special and contribute to its overall ‘sense of place’. These features are:

- A rolling upland landscape of strongly cohesive identity.
- A pronounced scarp edge to the west comprising rough pasture and scrub, affording fine panoramic views to the Central Lincolnshire Vale.
- A combination of elevated plateaux and deep-sided valleys.
- Large rectilinear fields with wide hedgerows from the late enclosure.
- Archaeologically rich, with ancient trackways, deserted villages and burial mounds.
- Sparse settlements of small-nucleated villages, often in sheltered valleys and associated with modest country houses and small parklands. The diverse geology gives rise to a variety of building materials.
- Broad verges to some roads and tracks providing valuable flower-rich habitats.
- Occasional shelterbelts concentrates on steeper-sided valley and scarp slopes emphasising landform.
- Broader south-west valleys of the Rivers Lymn and Bain. Associated alder carr woodland and tree lined watercourses.

### 3.3.3 Local Landscape Character Areas

There are clear variations in scenic character across the Wolds with topography and geology appearing to be the most dominant factors. The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Assessment (CCP414, 1993) recognised four Landscape Character Areas within the AONB (Map 5) identified by their distinct group of special features (Appendix 3):

- The north-west scarp
- The chalk wolds
- The ridges and valleys of the south-west
- The south-eastern claylands
3.4 Special qualities – current condition of the AONB

Table 1 summarises the special landscape features that typify the Lincolnshire Wolds ‘beauty’ and ‘sense of place’. These include features relating to landscape, farmland, geology, topography, biodiversity, archaeology, built heritage and culture. Appendix 3 provides an additional summary of the special qualities of each of the four Landscape Character Areas.

The table includes estimates of the extent or coverage of any feature and where possible an indication of its condition. This information is by no means comprehensive and has identified areas for further survey work (e.g. habitats in the wider countryside including woodland and grassland sites). The table provides useful baseline data essential for monitoring future change in the AONB and measuring the success of the Management Plan (see Section 9.2). The source organisation is abbreviated in the left hand column. Table 1 complements Table 2 in highlighting specific threats and management options that relate to the individual qualities of the AONB.
3.5 Threats/Issues/Pressures on the Wolds

Table 2 complements Table 1 in providing an overview of the threats and pressures on the Wolds and future opportunities that may exist for minimising any potential impact on the natural beauty of the AONB. The opportunities also provide a basis for developing much needed positive action to improve the Wolds’ landscape quality and biodiversity. Appendix 3 provides an additional summary of the threats/pressures for each of the four Landscape Character Areas.

The landscape of the Wolds continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture, traditionally an important contributor to the rural economy both in the AONB and much of rural Lincolnshire. However recent changes in farming through the rise in global markets, the wide decline of livestock farming (exacerbated by the foot-and-mouth crisis and other food safety scares) and the ongoing reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) have created great uncertainty for farming and its associated industries. As described earlier, much of the Wolds is farmland and many future changes on the landscape are likely to be as a result of changing farming practices. Any decrease or change in farming activity must be carefully managed to avoid a neglected landscape. However, the current farming uncertainties also bring an opportunity to initiate positive action to enhance biodiversity and natural beauty. These are highlighted in subsequent sections of the Plan.

During the 30 years since its designation there have been increasing pressures on the AONB leading to significant landscape impacts, for example the continued intensification of farming and telecommunication developments. The escarpment and ridge tops are highly visible and in many cases the most sensitive to visual change. The role of small businesses within the AONB, especially those directly related to agriculture, forestry and land management are highly dependent on an accessible countryside. Local services within the settlements are also heavily dependent on the local community, whilst public houses also need to attract passing trade from visitors and tourists. Consultation with the wider community helped to highlight issues of most concern for those living, working and visiting the area (Appendices 4 & 5).

Recently however there has also been much action by local authorities, landowners and others to control, influence and encourage positive landscape management. There may be a number of threats to the landscape, but there are also many opportunities for conservation and enhancement of the AONB. The task for everyone is to ensure that efforts can be co-ordinated in the best interest of the Wolds’ landscape whilst meeting the needs of those living, working or visiting the AONB. The Management Plan provides a framework for integrated action.
4. Protecting the Wolds

4.1 Landscape Conservation and Enhancement

The Wolds Landscape Assessment identified four landscape character areas within the AONB and highlighted the important landscape qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Table 1 and Appendix 3 have been collated for this plan, and together outline the special qualities of the AONB, where possible listing their current extent and condition. These are the principal elements of the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.

The Wolds scenery is subtle and complex, but has a clear identity resulting from physical and human influences over many generations. It has a very open character with extensive outward views both eastwards to the coast and westwards across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The views within the AONB are equally dramatic and are shaped by the open rolling hills, hidden valleys and continually changing patterns of farming. The ridge-top locations provided by the Bluestone Heath Road, the Caistor High Street and the west-east drovers roads provide some of the area’s best known and most frequented viewing points.

Threats/Pressures

There are many threats and pressures that have affected, and are likely to continue to undermine the fine landscape character of the AONB. These are detailed in Tables 1, 2 and Appendix 3. The key landscape/character issues include:

- Impact of changing agricultural practices, including increased intensification in farming and cropping patterns and current uncertainties within the industry.
- Decline in traditional land management and subsequent deterioration of landscape features especially hedgerows, woodlands and grassland.
- Inappropriate or insensitive development both within and adjacent to the AONB.
- Safeguarding the dramatic escarpment and ridge top views.
- Meeting the needs of the local community for new economic development, (e.g. farm diversification projects and improvements to recreation/tourism infrastructure) whilst protecting the natural beauty and landscape character.
- Future threats from wind farms, oil exploration and 3rd generation telecommunication infrastructure.

The influence of farming is particularly relevant to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Recent change has largely been attributable to changes in farming practice, although other development, particularly in telecommunications and quarrying activity, leads to continued degradation in the quality of the AONB landscape. The expansive views make the area particularly sensitive to landscape changes. Escarpment and ridge-top locations are especially vulnerable to inappropriate land-use or development. Similarly, the peaceful and highly attractive valleys that can be found throughout the Wolds are a key component of landscape character and are sensitive to change.

Landscape Management Statement:

The many partners supporting the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will, through supporting and delivering the policies, objectives and resulting actions in this Management Plan, ensure that the natural beauty and special landscape character of the Wolds are protected and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

(Note: This landscape management statement is an overall statement of intent for all partners and is delivered by the policies, objectives and resulting actions throughout this Plan.)
4.2 Natural Heritage - Biodiversity

4.2.1 Introduction

Wildlife is a key element of the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB as identified in Table 1 and Appendix 3. The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2000) and Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile recognise farmland, grassland, roadside verges, woodland, beech clumps, rivers and streams, and hedgerows as important habitat types within the AONB.

There are a fairly limited number of nationally protected sites in the AONB, with 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) designated on account of their wildlife interest. These are usually located on the steeper slopes of the Wolds, protecting mostly semi-natural grassland and some ancient woodland. Eight of these SSSIs are currently in a favourable condition.

There are almost 200 local Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), with seven managed as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserves. The information on SNCIs is in need of review, with many now thought to be in an unfavourable condition. 15 Protected Roadside Verges (PRVs) can be found in the Wolds, and together with the green lanes provide important additional grassland habitats.

Threats/Pressures

There are many threats and pressures that affect the wildlife of the Wolds AONB. These are described in detail in Tables 1 and 2. There are only a limited number of protected wildlife sites within the AONB - often these are small, isolated and surrounded by large expanses of arable land. It is vital that every effort is taken to protect and enhance the wildlife interest of these remaining sites. The development of a landscape approach, through whole farm or estate plans for example, will be important in providing opportunities to create new habitats (appropriate to the local area) and connect/buffer isolated sites. The following strategy and action plan for protecting and enhancing the wildlife in the AONB is closely linked with targets in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Key issues for the future wildlife management of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB include:

- Continuing loss of biodiversity exacerbated by isolation and small size of prime wildlife habitats.
- Wide neglect and absence of traditional management especially of woodland, hedgerow and grass verge habitats.
- Lack of comprehensive up-to-date information, especially for SNCIs.
- Future impact of farming, including continued threat to livestock farming and increasing pressure for intensification.
- Need to develop and promote ‘best practice land management’ in the wider countryside to assist landowners in protecting and enhancing wildlife.
- Conflicts between sites for new woodland planting versus retention of grassland.
- Inappropriate/insensitive developments especially farmstead and barn conversions which may impact upon bats and barn owls.
- Water resource issues, including threat of diffuse pollution and low flow rates.
- Wider issues include global warming and the current EU review of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

Policy:

B P  To protect, enhance and restore where appropriate the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan.
Objectives:

BO1 To survey and monitor key habitats and species within the AONB in line with Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

BO2 To develop and promote a landscape approach to species and habitat conservation.

BO3 To support and encourage agricultural practices that protect, enhance and where possible, restore wildlife habitats across the AONB.

BO4 To develop and promote general awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of the AONB and link with quality of life issues.

Actions: See BA1-9 of table 3

This over-arching biodiversity section and policy is also delivered through: Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland (4.2.2); Grass Verges and Green Lanes (4.2.3); Woodlands and Beech Clumps (4.2.4); Hedgerows and Landmark Trees (4.2.5); Rivers, Streams and Ponds (4.2.6); and Arable Farmland (4.2.7).

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Landscape and Biodiversity)

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies
Countryside Stewardship Targeting Statement
East Midlands Regional Planning Guidance
‘Think Farming and Food’, Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands
England Forestry Strategy
England’s East Midlands Wildlife: the future you can help!
Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Planning Policy Guidance - Telecommunications (PPG 8)
Planning Policy Guidance - Nature Conservation (PPG 9)
Structure and Local Development Plans
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent

(See Appendix 7)
4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland

Although much of the Wolds has long been under the plough, grassland habitats remain a very important landscape and wildlife resource. The majority of the Wolds’ grasslands and rough pastures are found on the steep slopes (where soils are thin and the ground hard to cultivate), in the valley bottoms as lush pastures and wet flushes, and in disused quarries.

Unfortunately, unimproved grassland is very scarce with less than 45 hectares remaining in the AONB as relict calcareous and neutral grasslands. A number of the most flower-rich grasslands are protected as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs). The Countryside Stewardship Scheme has been successful in protecting and improving grassland habitats through supporting various grazing options.

Threats/Pressures

Although the Wolds has long been cultivated, there has been a dramatic loss of traditionally managed grassland in the last 30 years, not only through the plough, but also as a result of fertiliser applications and general agriculture improvements. English Nature estimates that between 1975 and 1994 the area of grassland in the Wolds declined from 25% to 13% coverage, with arable increasing from 69% to 82%. Over the last ten years there has been a concentration of specialised agricultural production and a reduction in the number of mixed farms in the area in line with national trends. Recent agri-environment grants are now available to encourage landowners to convert arable to grassland, however both the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2001 and the ongoing mapping of downland as Open Access under the CRoW Act are dissuading farmers from entering these schemes.

Key issues for the future grassland management include:

- Loss of local livestock and the infrastructure and expertise to support a local livestock industry.
- Resulting loss of traditional grazing management and threat to unimproved pasture.
- Continued pressures of intensive farming practices.
- Potential conflict with other habitat types, e.g. new woodland planting schemes.
- Landowner concerns with EIA Regulations and mapping of Open Access.
- The need for identifying and encouraging appropriate grassland restoration.

Policy:

**GP**

To manage and increase the area and quality of wildlife-friendly grasslands across the AONB, targeting areas close to important road verges, archaeological sites and settlements.

Objectives:

**GO1**

To maintain and where possible restore grasslands of high wildlife, historic and landscape value.

**GO2**

To increase the area of extensively-managed grassland by creation schemes that reinforce the existing pattern of grassland in the AONB.

**GO3**

To raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds’ grassland. *(See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)*

**GO4**

To support initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands, including calcareous grassland.

Actions: See GA1-7 of table 3
4.2.3 Grass Verges and Green Lanes

Grass verges associated with the network of roadsides and green lanes are a distinctive landscape feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds with some as wide as 20 metres. Those found alongside the drovers roads and other ancient routeways commonly provide the most flower-rich verges and are thought to form remnants of pre-enclosure pastures. The first protected roadside verge (PRV) in the country was established in the Wolds on account of its botanical interest; there are currently 15 PRVs in the AONB.

In the past the verges were evidently used for grazing flocks of sheep that were en route to the coastal grazing marshes. Today many of the wide verges in the Wolds are still cut and baled by farmers, providing a useful source of ‘long acre’ hay. They also provide an important additional grassland habitat, often acting as linear corridors for birds, small mammals and insects. The highway authorities and private landowners have obligations for maintaining roadside verges, particularly in relation to maintaining safe sightlines for traffic; this is one of several current management issues.

Threats/Pressures

Key issues for grass verge management include:

- Loss of traditional grazing through decline in livestock and increase in mechanical cutting.
- General neglect and/or poor management including inappropriate tree planting and introductions of other non-native plants.
- Road run-off, particularly salt wash and resulting damage to neighbouring plant communities.
- Illegal uses including fly-tipping direct onto the verges and vehicle encroachments.
- Road safety issues and the pressure for landowners to frequently cut verges.

Policy:

VLP To retain, restore and encourage positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB’s roadsides and green lanes. (See also Section 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)

Objectives:

VLO1 To maintain and where possible restore grass verges of high wildlife value.

VLO2 To increase the quantity of grass verges managed for wildlife and landscape value.

VLO3 To raise awareness of the national and cultural heritage of grass verges.

Actions: See VLA1-8 on table 3
4.2.4 Woodlands and Beech Clumps

The woodland cover of the Wolds is low (under 2.5% coverage across the AONB), but is nevertheless an important habitat and landscape component of the AONB. Much of the present-day woodland was planted during the period of parliamentary enclosures from late 18th and early 19th centuries, often to provide a mixture of small game coverts, parkland, tree belts and avenues. Small plantations and clumps of predominantly beech, with some ash, sycamore and pine are still dotted around the Wolds today and are one of its most dramatic of landscape features. Unfortunately the once common elm is generally sparse.

Woodland remains prominent on valley sides that have been traditionally hard to cultivate. The many glacially modified valleys and spillways of the eastern Wolds contain fine examples. Some of the largest blocks of woodland in the Wolds are in the south-east claylands character area and often extend into the neighbouring Lincolnshire coastal marshes.

English Nature estimates that 610 hectares, or 1.1% of the AONB, is ancient woodland. However, only four woodlands are of a quality to warrant SSSI designation. Some of the most important woodlands include Tetford Wood, a rare example of an ancient wood on chalk, and the nationally important alder carr woods on the bottoms of the Bain and Lymn valleys that continue south beyond the AONB into the Spilsby Crescent character area.

In addition to their important wildlife and landscape value, the woodlands provide the opportunity to bring socio-economic benefits to the Wolds’ communities (e.g. field sports, timber products, business skills and local employment) and enhanced potential for wider access, recreation and tourism.

Threats/Pressures

Issues for future woodland management include:

- Lack of current data on the woodlands (especially those under 2 hectares).
- General neglect and lack of woodland management with many of the smaller plantations, typically the beech clumps, overly mature with few trees of an age to replace them.
- Economic viability – limited markets, although some woods are important for game-cover and shooting.
- Often general isolation of small and ancient/semi-natural woodland.
- Inappropriate planting schemes including species mix and locations.
- Illegal fly-tipping in some areas.

Shared Priorities Statement

Through the Joint Accord, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and The Forestry Commission (FC) East Midlands Conservancy will work together to enhance the contribution that trees and woodlands can make within this special landscape. The CRoW Act and the FC Regional Forestry Framework (RFF) will provide the opportunity to tighten our co-operation to ensure that our finest countryside is managed in an integrated way. Most of the woodland within the Wolds is in private ownership, and working closely with landowners will be key to success.

Partner aims for woodland management in the AONB are:

- Securing an attractive and sustainable landscape.
- Protection of existing woodlands.
- Reversing the fragmentation of ancient and semi-natural woodlands.
- Promoting appropriate management practices.
- Gaining public support and confidence.
Policy:

WBP  To protect, enhance and extend where appropriate the woodland and tree cover within the AONB, maximising their contribution to the AONB by integrating landscape, biodiversity and socio-economic benefits.

Objectives:

WBO1  To move towards predominantly broadleaved cover on all ancient woodland sites in the AONB.

WBO2  To increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland) and reinforce the existing pattern of woodland in the AONB.

WBO3  To re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands.  *(See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland and 4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees)*

WBO4  To establish the extent and location of small ancient woodlands.

WBO5  Produce an integrated digital resource database for the Lincolnshire Wolds woodlands.

WBO6  Encourage and support woodland business schemes within the AONB.

Actions:  See WBA1-9 on table 3
4.2.5 Hedgerows and Landmark Trees

The majority of the hedgerows in the Wolds today were planted during the 18th and 19th centuries to enclose the previously open fields and commons. Many of the predominantly hawthorn hedges found in the area date from this period. Where species rich hedgerows do occur they often indicate older pre-enclosure or parish boundary hedges. These tend to be found close to settlements and are a priority for protection and enhancement. It has been estimated that between the 1970’s and 1990’s an average of over 1000 metres of hedgerow were lost for every square kilometre of farmland (Lincolnshire State of the Environment Report, 1995). However, hedgerows remain an important landscape and wildlife feature of the Wolds and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and LWCS Landscape Conservation Grants have helped to support recent hedge creation and restoration schemes.

Despite the widespread loss of elm (the traditional English hedgerow tree) many of the Wolds’ landmark trees are located within the hedgerows and alongside the drovers roads and green lanes. Some of the old estates and manors have interesting gardens and parks, often with fine tree specimens. Many of the landmark trees provide important wildlife habitats in their own right, often including niches for mosses, lichens, specialist insects, birds and bats.

Threats/Pressures

- Lack of collated hedgerows surveys and limited information on landmark trees.
- Loss of traditional management, for example hedge laying.
- Increase in poor maintenance, particularly inappropriate timing and over frequency of cuts.

Policy:

HTP To protect, enhance and increase where appropriate the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB.

Objectives:

HTO1 To maintain, and where necessary restore, all species-rich and ancient hedgerows.

HTO2 To encourage management and planting of new hedgerows and trees where appropriate, especially where this increases the connectivity of current and newly created areas of landscape and habitat value. (See also Section 4.2.4 Woodlands and Beech Clumps)

HTO3 To raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows and landmark trees for wildlife and landscape value.

Actions: See HTA1-8 on table 3
4.2.6 Rivers, Streams and Ponds

There are nine principal river systems within the AONB, namely Waithe Beck, Nettleton Beck, River Rase, River Bain, River Waring, River Lymn, River Lud and Great Eau and Long Eau. These provide the bulk of the fresh water habitats ranging from the alkaline chalk streams in the north (e.g. Waithe Beck) to the more acidic waters of the Bain and Lymn. The Environment Agency class their water quality from fair to good. The chalk streams are of special interest and support at least seven species of national conservation importance (brown trout, brook lamprey, grayling, river lamprey, spined loach, water vole and otter). Priorities for freshwater habitat and species conservation include the Bain, Lymn, Waithe and upper Eau corridors and the alder carr woodland stream corridors.

There is an important network of minor streams, calcareous marshes and spring-line flushes which form important wetland components of the wider river catchments. There is limited knowledge of the pond habitats, which most often occur in the spring-line areas of the north-west scarp and eastern edge of the Wolds.

The EU Water Framework Directive, under negotiation in 2004, is likely to affect the management of water resources during the span of this Plan. The Directive may well facilitate a holistic river catchment approach which could bring opportunities for safeguarding the Wolds’ fresh water habitats.

Threats/Pressures

Current issues include:

- Low water table and flow rates.
- Diffuse pollution - arable runoff of nitrate, phosphates and silts.
- Loss of riverside and other marginal habitats through intensive farming practices and development.
- Increasing water demands from agriculture and residential usage.

Policy:

RSPP To improve where appropriate the natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated wetland habitats.

Objectives:

RSPO1 To maintain groundwater levels and their seasonal fluctuations wherever possible to safeguard rivers, streams and springs sufficient to retain characteristic wildlife communities.

RSPO2 To maximise the extent of low-input land management adjacent to all rivers and streams. (See also Section 4.2.7 Arable Farmland)

RSPO3 To modify stream and river profiles to enhance biodiversity where appropriate and consistent with flood defence and flood risk requirements.

RSPO4 To establish current number and distribution of ponds and lakes.

RSPO5 To encourage the enhancement of existing ponds and lakes for biodiversity.

RSPO6 To raise community awareness of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource. (See also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)

Actions: See RSPA1-10 on table 3
4.2.7 Arable farmland

Arable farmland creates much of the characteristic open cropped land of the Lincolnshire Wolds and is a dominating influence on wildlife in the area. However the recent trend towards high input farming has had a negative impact often limiting the variety of flowers, birds, insects and mammals traditionally associated with such land. Many traditional farmland birds once common in the Wolds including corn bunting, lapwing and yellow hammer have declined in numbers.

Arable land has recently been included as a landscape type in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) with arable options available for land that is eligible under the Arable Area Payments Scheme. The target for conservation management of cultivated land is to encourage over-wintering stubbles, followed by low input spring cereals or spring/summer fallow to support characteristic farmland birds and the use of margins/conservation headlands to support populations of arable plants.

The CSS is being replaced by the proposed ‘Entry Level’ and ‘Higher Level Schemes’ in 2005. The EA, NFU, CLA and Farmers Union of Wales are developing nationally an Environmental Management System for Farms (EMSF) to reduce the environmental impact of farming. These are likely to provide new opportunities to tackle some of the issues for arable wildlife highlighted below.

Threats/Pressures

- New cropping regimes, particularly the decline in over-wintering stubbles through autumn drilling, and a reduction in the variety of crops grown.
- Applications of pesticides and fertilisers reducing opportunities for arable wildlife.
- Over efficient seed cleaning screening out plants that would previously have returned to the fields.
- Continued intensification including over-tidiness to produce clean field margins and crop edges.

Policy:

AFP To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape. (See also Section 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)

Objectives:

AFO1 To encourage maximum take-up of agri-environment scheme options that provide suitable conditions for arable farmland wildlife.

AFO2 To improve awareness of ‘best farm practices’ that benefits wildlife on commercial farmland.

AFO3 To carry out surveys to improve information on distinctive arable wildlife.

Actions: See AFA1-6 on table 3
4.3 Earth Heritage

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a complex geology and geomorphology that has been shaped by glacial and periglacial activity. Chalk from the Cretaceous period (140 million – 75 million years old) forms the dominant bedrock for the area and is part of the strata that extends from the Chilterns to the Yorkshire Wolds. The geology is complex as the chalk is less than 50 metres thick in places with glacial deposits overlaying much of the area. Lower Cretaceous beds (Spilsby Sandstone, Tealby Clays, Limestone and Kimmeridge Clay) are also frequently exposed on the steeper slopes of the scarp slope, and in the numerous dry and river valleys.

The Wolds’ topography has been greatly modified by glacial and periglacial activity and is one of the outstanding qualities of the area. It is unique in this respect as there is nowhere else in Britain where such an extensive area of upland chalk landscape has been so extensively modified by glaciation. Ancient coastal cliffs, glacial spillways, ponded-lake systems and glacial tills and gravels have all played important roles in shaping the current landscape of the Wolds. The combination of rolling plateaus and contrasting steep valleys are one of its most distinctive features.

There are 21 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) in the AONB, including five Earth Science SSSIs. These protected sites highlight the notable geomorphology and geological interest in the area. The chalk wolds, exposures of glacial deposits and their associated Arctic fossil fauna and the exposures of the Lower Cretaceous deposits are of special importance. Welton le Wold Old Gravel Pit is a key site for studying the history of ice advance sequences in eastern England. (See also Section 4.4.1 Archaeology).

Threats/Pressures

Key issues for managing the Wolds earth heritage include:

- Threats to geological sites from disuse or neglect.
- Continued quarrying/mineral extraction and secondary development pressures (e.g. landfill).
- Possible threat to important localities from fossil collecting.
- Restricted or poor access to many of the RIGS sites.
- General lack of awareness and understanding.
- Unauthorised use for recreation (e.g. from quad bikes, motorcycles and other vehicles).

Policy:

- **EHP** To protect and enhance sites that are important for research, education and enjoyment of geological and geomorphological features of the AONB.

Objectives:

- **EHO1** To work with partners and landowners to safeguard and improve the intrinsic interest of the geological and geomorphological sites, including improved access. (See also Section 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism)

- **EHO2** To increase awareness and understanding of the geological/geomorphological interest through general and site specific interpretation. (See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)

Actions: See EHA1-5 on table 3
4.4 Cultural Heritage

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a rich cultural heritage. Some of the oldest human remains in Britain have been found here and every period of subsequent human habitation has left its mark on the landscape. A great variety of cultural features can be traced throughout the area, from the burial mounds to the distinctive stone churches and from the enclosure hedgerows to the wartime airfields. There are no extensive parklands but a series of smaller estates, which often include gracious but modest Tudor or Georgian country houses, with Victorian farmsteads and farm workers cottages a particular feature of the area.

The landscape has inspired many artists and writers, the most famous being Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892). Born in Somersby and educated in Louth, he left the Wolds in 1837, but its landscape provided a source for many of his poems including 'In Memorium AHH', 'Maud' and 'The Brook'. The well-known painter Peter de Wint (1784-1849) married a Lincolnshire woman and views of the Wolds at the time of the enclosures were amongst his favourite subjects. In the late 20th century, the Wolds again provided a setting for literature in A. S. Byatt's Booker Prize-winning novel 'Possession' and continues to provide inspiration for local artists, craftsmen and writers.

4.4.1 Archaeology

The Wolds has a wealth of archaeological and historic landscape features. There are over 2000 archaeological sites, of which 97 are classed as Scheduled Monuments (SMs) on account of their national interest. There is a longevity of settlement which makes the Wolds a premier archaeological landscape (CCP414, 1993) and during early Medieval times it was one of the most densely populated parts of England.

The oldest remains date from the Palaeolithic period, with an important stratified site at Welton le Wold which is the subject of a current investigation project (see also Section 4.3 Earth Heritage). The southern Wolds has significant Mesolithic remains, particularly in the Lynn valley and by the Neolithic period the Wolds had become a cultural focal point. The Wolds has an exceptional ritual landscape including the densest distribution of long barrows in the country and an important grouping of round barrows. Significant settlement and burial landscapes can be traced through the Bronze and Iron Ages and analysis of prehistoric and Roman remains shows that many Iron Age centres were superseded as Roman settlements. The Caistor High Street, the Bluestone Heath Road and Barton Street provided an important network of ancient trackways. The line of a Roman road between Lincoln Eastgate and Burgh le Marsh can still be traced through Tetford and north of Skendleby.

A large number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, such as the one at South Elkington, show the continued importance of the area for ritual purposes. The Wolds was important in the formative years of Christianity in the county with a very early monastery at Partney. Substantial numbers of remains date from the Medieval period, with numerous monasteries and nunneries and one of the highest concentrations of deserted medieval villages in England.

The Wolds archaeology is an important resource in need of protection and enhancement. English Heritage currently identify 47 (51%) of the SMs at high risk and a further nine at medium risk. A Joint Accord between EH and NAAONB is in development in 2004 nationally, and on fruition will provide an important framework for future integrated action in the Wolds.

Threats/Pressures

- Farming operations, in particular the depth of modern ploughing.
- Change of land use (e.g. conversion of pasture to arable).
- Potential for damage through neglected woodland management and inappropriate planting.
- General lack of awareness and understanding.

Policy:

AP To protect and enhance archaeological and historic features within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage.
Objectives:

AO1 To encourage and support research projects to help increase understanding of the Wolds’ heritage, identifying sites of key importance and those at risk.

AO2 To raise awareness of archaeology in the Wolds amongst farmers, landowners, land managers, utility companies and relevant contract workers. (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 6.2 Interpretation)

AO3 To increase and enhance appropriate public access to sites of archaeological and historic interest, in consultation with landowners. (See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds, 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.2 Interpretation and 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism)

Actions: See AA1-8 on table 3

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Archaeology)

Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands
English Heritage in the East Midlands 2003-2005
Heritage counts 2003, The State of the East Midlands Historic Environment
Planning Policy Guidance – Historic Environment (PPG 15)
Planning Policy Guidance – Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)
Structure and Local Development Plans
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent

(See Appendix 7)
4.4.2 Built Heritage

The Wolds AONB has a number of attractive farmsteads, country houses, hamlets and nucleated villages that contribute to its special character and ‘sense of place’. The variety of historic buildings reflects the varied geology of the area and there is no one unified pattern of building materials or styles. The Landscape Assessment recognised that “although the area as a whole may not be of outstanding architectural interest, there is a great deal of good domestic architecture and many buildings are listed”, (CCP414, 1993).

A range of local building stones of variable qualities has been used. In the north-west local quarries on the escarpment provided Claxby Ironstone (a handsome building material) and Tealby Limestone. The ironstone, with its distinctive rich ochre is still evident in Nettleton, and the paler limestone at Tealby and Walesby. Spilsby sandstone, a form of greensand rarely used elsewhere, is evident in church and other public buildings in the southern wolds and has a distinctive dark brown/green colour. Chalk, particularly from the stronger Totternhoe Beds, was used for a number of churches, farms and cottages.

Brick was available from the 14th century and with the development of local brick pits became the most common material for domestic buildings. These brick buildings had predominantly thatched roofs until the 17th century when clay pantiles first came into use. Brick continued to be used on vernacular building in the 18th and 19th centuries and for prestigious buildings such as Somersby Grange, a Grade 1 Listed Building. Other important buildings in the Wolds include the unique ‘mud and stud’ cottages within the southern Wolds, watermills and Victorian farm and cottages. Many of the buildings can provide important roost opportunities for protected species such as barn owls and bats and need to be managed accordingly.

Threats/Pressures

- Abandonment/dereliction of farm, cottage and watermill buildings.
- Poorly planned and designed development/renovation, especially within some of the Wolds’ villages, leading to loss of local distinctiveness.
- Limited sources for local materials.
- Loss of traditional building expertise.

Policy:

BHP To protect and enhance the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements and buildings within the AONB. (See also Section 7.1 Planning)

Objectives:

BHO1 To work with property owners and developers to encourage sympathetic design and management of buildings.

BHO2 To raise awareness of the built heritage in the Wolds and increase understanding of its contribution to the AONB.

BHO3 To encourage and support repair and sustainable re-use of redundant buildings for uses directly supportive of the local economy. (see also Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)

Actions: See BHA1-6 on table 3
Key Related Plans & Strategies (Built Heritage)

Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Planning Policy Guidance - Nature Conservation (PPG 9)
Planning Policy Guidance - Historic Environment (PPG 15)
Structure and Local Development Plans
Supplementary Planning Guidance
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas

(See Appendix 7)
5. Living and Working in the Wolds

The Lincolnshire Wolds is sparsely populated with small villages and scattered settlements, surrounded by a number of small market towns. The Wolds has the finest landscapes in Lincolnshire, yet contains rural communities suffering from economic deprivation aggravated by a decline in agriculture and the defence industry. Poor transport links mean the Wolds is cut off from employment hubs elsewhere. It is thus important that there are sufficient local employment opportunities to enable people not only to continue living there but also to have the opportunity of working close to home.

5.1 Farming in the Wolds

The character of the Lincolnshire Wolds remains heavily shaped by farming. Over 80% of the area (more than any other AONB) is cultivated, reflecting the workable soils that can be found across much of the higher ground. Whilst the number of people employed in farming in recent years has declined, it still forms an important part of the local economy and has an overriding influence on the landscape.

The field sizes and cropping patterns often help to reinforce local landscape types (Appendix 3) and have been recognised in their own right as intrinsic landscape features of the Wolds. Huge open cereal fields with sparse hedgerows dominate the plateau tops and highlight the rolling and open nature of the chalk wolds. Conversely, the smaller field patterns and associated hedgerows are common in the valley landscapes where the soils are heavier. Livestock farming can still be found in these areas along with other land-uses.

Threats/Pressures

The majority of farmland in the Wolds is used for agricultural purposes and any market changes have the potential for wide reaching impact upon the landscape and character of the Wolds. Key issues in relation to farming and its future impact upon the AONB include:

- Continuing pressure for higher yields and increasing economies of scale (e.g. ever-larger farm machinery and field size) to compete in the global market and resist declining incomes.
- Potential impact of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform, including likely decoupled payments.
- Continuing decline in livestock farming and associated infrastructure with its likely degradation of landscape character.
- Changing cropping patterns in response to global warming.

Although there are uncertainties in the future of farming, there are also opportunities with the ongoing mid-term review of the CAP. There is likely to be a redirection of funds away from direct subsidies towards environmental and rural development schemes. A new Entry Level Agri-Environment scheme is being developed with access to all farmers, with a Higher-Tier scheme to replace the existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture was launched in 2000 as a serious move to focus on the future sustainability of farming and horticulture (key industries in Lincolnshire) and is an important network for support and inspiration for agricultural interests in the AONB.

Policy:

FWP To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds’ landscape character.

Objectives:

FWO1 To develop and promote agricultural ‘best practice’ to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.

FWO2 To monitor and influence changes in regional, national and EU agriculture policy to bring benefits to farmers in the Wolds.
FWO3  To encourage and support initiatives to sustain livestock farming in the AONB.  
(See also Section 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland)

FWO4  To support farm diversification schemes appropriate to the AONB and which accord with planning policy.  (See also Section 7.1 Planning)

FWO5  To seek to maintain traditional rural activities that can protect and enhance the landscape.  (See Section 5.2 Thriving Communities)

Actions: See FWA1-9 on table 3

Key Related Plans & Strategies (Farming in the Wolds)

EC Rural Development Regulation  
England Rural Development Programme  
‘Think Farming and Food’, Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands  
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)  
Strategy for Sustainable Land Management  
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan  
Regional Economic Strategy  
The Lincolnshire Agenda 2003  
Structure and Local Development Plans  
Supplementary Planning Guidance  
The Lincolnshire Partnership  
England Forestry Strategy  
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent

(See Appendix 7)
5.2 Thriving Communities

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is a sparsely populated area of scattered villages, with a number of important market towns surrounding and serving the designated area. The 1995 population estimate of the AONB was 12,915. There are 94 administrative parishes within the AONB but only 84 of these have all or part of the main settlement within the area. Some parishes have less than one hundred residents and in some cases none actually live within the AONB.

The population is aging within the Wolds and agriculture, the traditional employment in the area, has declined, being replaced by public services and the tourism and hospitality trades. The future promotion of unobtrusive local industry, new uses for old facilities, development of cottage industries and selective recreation and tourism provides opportunities to support the local economy. As highlighted in the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy, the development of appropriate ‘green’ recreation and tourism has much potential. A business survey commissioned in July 2000 identified 185 businesses (attractions and accommodation) that were dependent on tourism in and around the Wolds. An estimated further 600+ businesses (public houses, shops, restaurants, garden centres etc.) benefit from visitor spending. All these businesses provide a significant economic multiplier effect for an economy traditionally reliant upon agriculture and are likely to provide opportunities for future business development and farm diversification. (See also Section 6 Discovering the Wolds).

Recently highlighted community issues:

Local residents’ and visitors’ views on the AONB were collected from 460 responses to a questionnaire survey in Wolds News April 2003 (Appendix 4). An independent community consultant assisted the AONB staff unit in facilitating a series of evening meetings and events held across the AONB during July 2003 under the banner ‘Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future’. This provided local residents with a further opportunity to express their likes, dislikes, fears and future aspirations for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

Much information was gathered during the consultations, providing a picture of life in the Wolds in 2003. There were many recurring themes, with planning issues and social concerns featuring prominently (Appendix 5). Pertinent issues were diverse, covering political, economic, social, technological and environmental fields. Encouragingly, there was wide acknowledgement of the positive aspects of living in the Wolds - the tranquillity and beauty of the villages and landscape, the skies, the wildlife, the sense of community and almost universal support for its protection. There was also concern for the social and economic future of the area.

Common issues expressed during the consultation included:

- A sense of unease over the future of many rural services and facilities, typically the post office and village shop.
- A generally poor public transport system because of the sparse settlement pattern.
- Concern over the decline in the rural economy and the need to sustain local employment.
- The increasing housing difficulties for the young.
- The limited access to public open space.

Policies:

TCP To support and promote measures to maintain viable communities within the Wolds AONB. (See also Section 7 Sustaining the Wolds)

Objectives:

TCO1 To work with relevant agencies to foster and support local businesses and communities. (See also Sections 4.2.4 Woodlands and Beech Clumps and 5.1 Farming in the Wolds)
TCO2 To encourage measures to reverse the decline in rural services and facilities.

TCO3 To encourage existing and new businesses to have a high regard for environmental sustainability in the context of the AONB.

TCO4 To sensitively utilise the Wolds as a recreational resource, in particular promoting accessible green space close to communities within and adjacent to the AONB. (See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland, 4.2.4 Woodlands and Beech Clumps and 6 Discovering the Wolds)

TCO5 To encourage inclusive communities.

Actions: See TCA1-9 on table 3

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Thriving Communities)

Community Strategies
The Lincolnshire Agenda
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Regional Economic Strategy
Structure and Local Development Plans
England Forestry Strategy
Local Strategic Partnerships

(See Appendix 7)
6. Discovering the Wolds

6.1 Introduction

The superb scenery, attractive villages, fine views and unique natural and cultural heritage should make the Lincolnshire Wolds a popular tourist destination. The area’s extensive network of quiet lanes and public rights of way provide some of the most attractive and tranquil walking, riding and cycling routes in eastern England. However, with the exception of the villages associated with the Tennyson family (e.g. Somersby, Tetford and Tealby), the area has a low profile outside the county.

A concern often expressed is that one of the key assets of the Lincolnshire Wolds – ‘its ambience of rural remoteness and isolation’ - could be harmed irreparably if the area is heavily promoted and a flood of new visitors come into the area. There is a strong contrary argument that with careful management the area could and should be more widely publicised to help sustain its viability.

Sustainable recreation and tourism initiatives within the area could provide a much-needed boost to the local economy, including opportunities for farm diversification projects and the careful re-use of redundant buildings. An enhanced image and greater recognition of the value and interest of the AONB could have wider benefits for the surrounding market towns and coastal resorts, increasing their attraction as places to visit, to locate businesses and to live.

Key issues for the managing interpretation, access, recreation and tourism:

- Raising the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds as a place to visit, enjoy and appreciate.
- Balancing an increase in visitors with the Wolds sense of tranquillity and isolation.
- Developing an appropriate tourism/recreation infrastructure.
- Exploring opportunities to develop links with the surrounding market towns and neighbouring tourist venues.
- Enhancing partnership working to aid the promotion and interpretation of the Wolds.
- Promoting its cultural assets.
- Promoting walking, cycling and horse riding.

6.2 Interpretation – Awareness Raising

Interpretation has an important role in raising the profile of the AONB. It can enhance residents’ and visitors’ enjoyment of the area, whilst a well-informed public is more likely to respect the area it is visiting.

In 2001/02 The Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy was developed for both the AONB and the wider Wolds Character Area with the aims of:

1. Providing a framework of objectives and purposes for the interpretation of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
2. Stimulating interest in providing high quality and well planned interpretation facilities and services in the area.
3. Identifying the desired target audiences (markets) for new interpretation facilities and services.
4. Suggesting a number of specific interpretation projects that could be developed and implemented in the future.
5. Identifying a role for the different stakeholders in the area in providing, promoting and maintaining interpretation facilities and services.

The Strategy was subsequently endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC and led to the creation of the ‘Interpretation Sub-Group’ (Appendix 2) to co-ordinate interpretation and promotional matters across the AONB.
Policy:

IP  To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors’ and residents’ enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities as guided by the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities, 6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism and 7.2 Transport in the Wolds)

Objectives:

IO1  To provide visitors and residents with a greater understanding of what makes the Lincolnshire Wolds a special place.

IO2  To strengthen the profile of the AONB by highlighting the area’s unique landscape character and ‘sense of place’.

IO3  To provide interpretation facilities and services that can be marketed to visitors and residents.

IO4  To encourage residents to become involved in the interpretation and promotion of their area for visitors.

Actions: See IA1-11 on table 3
6.3 Access, Recreation and Tourism

The Wolds AONB has an extensive network of public rights of way including the long distance footpath the Viking Way, Sustrans Cycle Route and other promoted trails. These provide residents and visitors with some of the best opportunities to discover its hidden delights. However, many of the footpaths, bridleways and country lanes appear to be seldom visited and this sense of rural isolation is arguably one of the Wolds biggest appeals.

Access to the wider Wolds is fairly restricted as, unlike other chalk upland areas in the country, much of the area is cultivated and in private ownership. Red Hill Nature Reserve, Hubbards Hills, Snipe Dales Country Park and Willingham Woods are the exceptions. The lack of public open space, especially for village communities, did feature as a concern in the community consultations and needs to be addressed. CSS access agreements have helped increase provision and the Open Access mapping process, initiated by the CRoW Act, may do likewise. The establishment of the northern Local (Countryside) Access Forum and development of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans will enable further consultation to raise awareness of both landowner and public interests including those of various user groups e.g. walkers, horse riders, cyclists, mountain bikers and recreational vehicle users.

Shooting, hunting and fishing, often associated with the larger estates in the Wolds, provides important local and visitor recreation opportunities and helps boost the rural economy. The large country shows like Brocklesby, local fairs such as the Tathwell Art Fair and other unique curiosities like the Tetford Scarecrow Festival also prove popular.

Limited research has been undertaken on the number and profile of people currently using the AONB for access, although the Lincolnshire Tourism Model 1999 survey provided some insights into the recreation and tourism opportunities of the wider Wolds. The study identifies total visitor numbers (where known) for the wider Wolds as 281,291 and includes the market town attractions on the edge of the Wolds. The survey estimated that 156,000 tourist trips were taken to the Wolds area in 1999, providing an estimated 600,000 overnight stays.

Section 6.1 highlighted the main issues for managing access, recreation and tourism in the Wolds. There is wide agreement that the existing infrastructure for recreation and tourism is under-developed across the area, although the neighbouring market towns provide an important link to additional services and attractions. Cadwell Park Motor Racing Circuit, Market Rasen Racecourse, Lincolnshire’s country shows, historic Lincoln and the popular coastline with its increasing scope for ‘eco-tourism’ provide further opportunities for raising awareness of the Wolds as a tourist/recreation destination. Access, recreation and tourism can make an important contribution to the local economy, helping to support jobs and services, but will need to be carefully managed if it is to develop successfully and in keeping with the needs of the AONB.

Policy:

ARTP To develop and promote access, recreation and tourism appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

Objectives:

ARTO1 To develop ‘best practice’ to demonstrate and promote access, recreation and tourism compatibility with the AONB intrinsic qualities. (See also Sections 4.3 Earth Heritage, 4.4.1 Archaeology and 4.4.2 Built Heritage)

ARTO2 To maximise access opportunities for all visitors and residents of the AONB, improving provision for quiet recreation. (See also Sections 4.2.2 Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland, 4.2.4 Woodlands and Beech Clumps, 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 5.2 Thriving Communities)

ARTO3 To provide co-ordinated, accurate and up-to-date information on the access, recreation and tourism opportunities within the Wolds AONB. (See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)
ARTO4 To promote and develop the principal market towns as gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds. *(See also Section 6.2 Interpretation)*

ARTO5 To develop joint promotion and marketing initiatives to raise the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. *(See also Sections 5.1 Farming in the Wolds and 6.2 Interpretation)*

ARTO6 To identify gaps in current access, recreation and tourism provision and support measures to improve the infra-structure where compatible with the AONB. *(See also Section 7 Sustaining the Wolds)*

Actions: See ARTA1-18 on table 3

**Key Related Plans and Strategies (Interpretation, Access, Recreation and Tourism)**

Destination East Midlands - East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010
Local Authorities Tourism Strategies
The Lincolnshire Agenda
Lincolnshire Tourism - A Sharper Focus
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy
Market Towns Initiative
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Local Heritage Initiative
Regional Economic Strategy
‘Think Farming and Food’, Action Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food in the East Midlands
Rights of Way Improvement Plans
Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative
Townscape Heritage Initiative
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands
England Forestry Strategy
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent
Structure and Local Development Plans

(See Appendix 7)
7. Sustaining the Wolds

There is wide consensus that the Lincolnshire Wolds is a living and working landscape that should not be preserved in aspic. Equally, there is wide acknowledgement for the need to ensure that any development is not detrimental to the landscape and character of the AONB, which is of national importance. The strong rural character of the Wolds, the extensive open views and dark night skies are particularly vulnerable to inappropriate development.

7.1 Planning

Local authorities perform a key role in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB through their forward planning and development control powers. As described in Section 2.6 all Structure, Local and Minerals/Waste plans include specific policies on development in the AONB. Planning policies include a general presumption against development in the open countryside unless it is either small scale and supportive of the local economy (e.g. renovation of farm buildings), or there is a proven national interest and a lack of alternative sites (e.g. quarrying and telecommunications development).

However new development, carefully sited, thoughtfully planned and well constructed, can complement and enrich local distinctiveness within the AONB. It is important to ensure that the best use is made of existing buildings within the area. The Lincolnshire Residential Design Guide, Village/Parish Design Statements and other best practice guides provide opportunities to assist developers and construction companies in understanding and meeting AONB requirements.

The planning issues referred to below were a recurring theme of the public consultations (see Appendix 5) which demonstrated that there is an apparent lack of public confidence in the planning process, matched by real frustration and concern that planning procedures are becoming less fair, open and understandable:

- Proliferation of often unsightly telecommunication masts and their associated infrastructure.
- Poor design and build of some developments, including village infilling and farm and cottage renovations.
- Growing impact of light pollution.
- Negative view of planning restrictions which are seen to be limiting socio-economic development.
- Lack of affordable housing for local people and key workers.
- Renovation/development of redundant farm buildings.
- Potential impact of development and land use change on sites adjacent to the AONB.
- Wind farms – pros and cons.
- House builders/developers utilising formulaic national designs.

Policy:

**PP** To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and special character. (See also Sections 4.4.2 Built Heritage and 5 Living and Working in the Wolds)

Objectives:

**PO1** To promote local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality design in new development and re-development.

**PO2** To encourage and support the sensitive conversion of traditional buildings to new viable uses to support local businesses and communities.

**PO3** To encourage the formulation of planning policies for affordable housing for local people and key workers, subject to need and where consistent with AONB objectives and LA planning policies.
PO4  To minimise damage to the AONB landscape as a result of mineral working and associated activity.

PO5  To promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB.

Actions: See PA1-7 on table 3

Key Related Plans and Strategies (Planning)

Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG 8)
EEC Rural Development Regulation
East Midlands Planning Charter
Structure and Local Development Plans
Planning Policy Guidance – PPG’s 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 25
Lincolnshire Design Guide for Residential Areas
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan
Supplementary Planning Guidance

(See Appendix 7)
7.2 Transport in the Wolds

A good transport network is essential to the future well-being of those living in the AONB to enable appropriate development and promotion of the area for tourism, recreation and business use. The settlement pattern across the Wolds is dispersed, with numerous small hamlets/villages, isolated dwellings and an absence of any large towns making the running of public transport services inherently demanding due to the diverse routes and complex timing requirements.

Links to the surrounding market towns are very important for those living in the AONB. There is an extensive network of roads, but many are narrow and rural in nature. The public transport service is limited, but improving. Two CallConnect Plus zones operate in the southern half of the Wolds and provide an invaluable connection to a regular InterConnect bus service between Lincoln and Skegness and is an invaluable service for elderly and non-car families. The community consultations highlighted time and again that the rural transport issues highlighted below are important for residents and visitors alike:

- Limited transport infrastructure.
- Sparse public transport links, especially in the northern half of the AONB.
- Lack of an integrated public transport network.
- Increasing loss of rural character through proliferation of urban style road development.
- Road safety issues, particularly dangerous driving.
- Increase in commuting.
- Continued loss and neglect of traditional road signs across the AONB.

There is strong anecdotal evidence that traffic in the countryside can be both a deterrent and a hazard to recreational users, especially for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Those who are inexperienced or less confident can easily be discouraged from using the highway network. The provision of designated Quiet Roads in consultation with highway authorities could overcome this problem and help to maintain the rural charm and character of the area.

Policy:

TWP To encourage and support the development and promotion of an integrated transport network, which respects the AONB landscape and character and addresses local community needs.

Objectives:

TWO1 To encourage integrated public and community-based transport schemes that can help to improve the links between communities within the AONB and the surrounding market towns. (See also Sections 5.2 Thriving Communities and 6.2 Interpretation)

TWO2 To support and encourage traffic management that will promote safe and attractive walking, cycling and riding in the AONB.

TWO3 To encourage transport infrastructure improvements to support appropriate tourism development, ensuring schemes are sympathetic to the landscape and character of the AONB.

TWO4 To encourage a consistent approach to the use of road signage, furniture and maintenance to promote and respect the character of the AONB whilst being aware of the need to sign in order to address road safety issues.

Actions: See TWA1-11 on table 3
Key Related Plans and Strategies (Transport in the Wolds)

Community Strategies
East Midlands Planning Charter
Planning Policy Guidance - Countryside (PPG 7)
Planning Policy Guidance - Development Plans (PPG 12)
Planning Policy Guidance - Transport (PPG 13)
Rights of Way Improvement Plans
Quiet Roads Initiative
Structure and Local Development Plans
Supplementary Planning Guidance
Lincolnshire Rural Transport Partnership

(See Appendix 7)
8. Partnerships in the Wolds

Consultation and collaboration with the Wolds’ communities, landowners and wider public has been a vital step in the production of this Plan. Its future success is reliant upon close working between all public bodies, organisations, community groups, landowners and individuals with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The increasing demands upon the landscape and the diverse range of changes in the area call for an increasing input from all sectors of the community.

The existing JAC (Appendix 1) will play a key role in continuing to formulate consensus and co-ordinate the management of the many different functions and activities across the AONB. Partnership membership has recently been increased to include wider regional and economic partners to reflect new demands and opportunities on the area. Joint working provides the best opportunity for successfully protecting and enhancing the strategic interests of the AONB through sharing expertise, pooling resources, establishing synergies and developing long-term commitment. The production of this Plan has served to identify existing and future areas of joint working between local authorities and leading government agencies including the Countryside Agency, Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission.

It is important that the Plan complements other key related plans, strategies and initiatives (Appendix 7) and wherever possible policies and objectives have sought to complement these. Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent has helped to raise the profile of the Lincolnshire Wolds both regionally and nationally and served to highlight the socio-economic needs of the area. As a result the East Midlands Development Agency have worked with the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service to establish a Sustainable Development Fund to support innovative local business and community projects in the AONB. The Lincolnshire Partnership, Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture, Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative and recent establishment of the Local (Countryside) Access Forum provide exciting avenues for future partnership development.

Partnership Management Statement

All agencies, organisations and communities will work in partnership to protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

(Note: This partnership management statement is an overall statement of intent for all partners involved in the ongoing delivery of the policies, objectives and resulting actions of this Plan.)
9. Making it Happen – Implementation, Monitoring and Review

9.1 Implementation

It is intended that the policies and objectives set out in the Management Plan will be embraced and acted upon by all those organisations and individuals that have a role to play in the management of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB – in short everyone. This includes landowners, voluntary organisations and interest groups, local authorities, parish councils, statutory agencies, regional bodies and Government agencies.

The fundamental purpose of the Plan is to encourage integrated action by all who have an active interest in the management of the area. The subsequent Action Plan sets out a detailed five year programme of work activity to help us work towards our objectives and overriding policies across five themes:

1. Protecting the Wolds
2. Living and Working in the Wolds
3. Discovering the Wolds
4. Sustaining the Wolds
5. Partnerships in the Wolds

The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee have a key role to play in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service in overseeing the promotion and implementation of the Plan and the following Action Plan (Table 3). The monitoring procedures will enable us to measure the success of the Plan where it matters most – on the ground. Lead partners will help support the JAC, LWCS and the local authorities with the co-ordination and implementation of the Action Plan.
9.2 Monitoring

The publication of the Plan is not the end of the process but marks a continuous commitment to manage the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Monitoring both the condition of the AONB and the implementation of the Plan will be essential if we are to assess its success. The current evidence base for the area is generally poor, and AONB specific data is limited. Some inroads are being made through the development of a Lincolnshire Wolds GIS system, to help collate existing data from a variety of sources. The Regional Observatory may be helpful for socio-economic data in the future and the proposed development of a Lincolnshire Biological Record Centre could help to assist future biological monitoring in the AONB.

9.2.1 Condition Monitoring

A variety of ‘condition indicators’ have been identified in Table 4 to help monitor important elements of the AONB. These have been selected from a nationally recommended list of monitoring indicators recommended by the Countryside Agency and will enable comparisons with similar areas on a regional and national scale. The indicators will help to establish baseline data over the following areas: countryside and landcover; cultural and vernacular; ecology and environment; and socio-economic and quality of life themes.

These ‘State of the AONB’ indicators have been selected on both suitability and current availability for collection. Where limited data is currently available for the Wolds AONB as a specific unit, this has been included within Table 1 and it is proposed that data collection for indicators will commence during the early years of the Plan. The early collation of trend data, for example from relevant census and defra sources will be a priority to help assess long-term trends. The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service will help to co-ordinate the development of condition monitoring with a number of partners identified in Table 4 providing relevant databases.

9.2.2 Performance Monitoring

Performance monitoring is necessary to monitor progress of the Plan. An annual work programme will be established from the five-year Action Plan for both the Lincolnshire Wolds JAC and LWCS. These will be reviewed annually, reporting progress on specific actions and identifying where additional resources may be required.

Policy:

**MP** To monitor the Management Plan activities and condition of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

Objectives:

**MO1** To monitor the performance of the action plan.

**MO2** To monitor the condition of the AONB.

Actions: See MA1-3 on table 3

9.3 Management Plan Review
In addition to the annual review of the Action Plan, the CRoW Act requires that AONB Management Plans be reviewed and renewed at intervals not exceeding five years. A formal review of the Plan will commence during 2007/08 to enable effective participation and consultation with partners and stakeholders.
# Appendix 1 – Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Membership

## Core Funding Members:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Countryside Agency (CA)</td>
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<td>Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)</td>
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<td>East Lindsey District Council (ELDC)</td>
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## Members:

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<td>British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)</td>
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<td>Country Land and Business Association (CLA)</td>
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<td>Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)</td>
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## Advisory Organisations:

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<td>East Midlands Development Agency (emda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire Development (LCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Office East Midlands (GOEM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2 - Role of the Joint Advisory Committee, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and Sub-groups

Role of the Joint Advisory Committee - JAC

- To develop as an active partnership.
- To pool resources and expertise including National and Regional Agendas.
- To co-ordinate activities delivered across the Wolds including identifying adverse activities.
- Joined up delivery of members’ services by advising their constituent authorities on proposals/policies for the Wolds.
- To oversee the production of a new management plan, adopt it and keep under regular review.
- To identify opportunities and make recommendations for new initiatives.
- To agree and adopt the annual work programme.
- To receive, adopt and distribute the annual report.

Role of the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service - LWCS

- To give the AONB an identity, positive image and increased status.
- To obtain increased funding and resources for the AONB.
- To keep under review and refine the Management Plan.
- To co-ordinate the monitoring of change and development in the AONB.
- To establish a database for the AONB.
- To prepare technical and planning reports and act as secretariat to constituent local authorities and on joint advisory committee for the Wolds.
- To liaise with local community and interested individuals in respect of “AONB-related” issues, providing practical and specialist advice where appropriate.

Role of the Officer Working Group - OWG

- A steering group for the LWCS setting production targets, funding levels for projects and budget limits.
- To provide technical support to the service.
- To clear all technical reports prior to distribution.
- To support the LWCS Manager in setting annual work programmes and managing their delivery.
- To support the LWCS Manager in the production and delivery of a five-year Management Plan.

Role of the Joint Management Group - JMG

- To identify and review the statutory duties placed on the Local Authorities in relation to the AONB, and where appropriate to ensure the LWCS delivers against these duties on behalf of the LA’s.
- To core fund the LWCS (in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement).
- To manage the LWCS accounts.
- To Identify the Local Authority conditions attached to funding for incorporation into Management Plan and annual work programme.

Role of the specialist sub-groups

- To be set up as and when required with a clear remit and a set of outcomes to achieve.

(Note: There is currently an Interpretation Sub-Group (ISG) for promoting and implementing the Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy and other projects that can help raise awareness and understanding of the Wolds.)
Appendix 3 - Local Landscape Character Areas

North-West Scarp

The prominent north west scarp is a dramatic feature of the Lincolnshire Wolds affording distant views across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The slopes provide a steep and hummocky appearance with attractive spring-line villages at the foot of the scarp. The area is rich in wildlife with rough pasture, scrub and woodland dominant within the valleys.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Prominent scarp slope with extensive views west
- Rough pasture with some wet flushes
- Picturesque villages sited along the spring-line (e.g. Claxby, Nettleton, Tealby, Walesby)
- Industrial heritage (e.g. Iron stone mining in Nettleton, paper making in Tealby)
- The Caistor High Street ancient trackway and associated tumuli
- Ridge-top clumps of beech
- Ornate late medieval churches and other distinctive buildings using Claxby Ironstone (e.g. Nettleton) and Tealby Limestone (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Sparse farm settlements

Key local issues identified:

- Proliferation of telecommunication masts on the highly visible ridgeline
- Impact of large agricultural structures
- Impact of chalk quarrying
- Threats to nature conservation, especially rough pasture and wet flushes
- Parking and visitor pressure in villages close to the Viking Way (e.g. Tealby, Walesby)
- Decline in woodland and beech clumps

Chalk Wolds

The chalk wolds is a large open plateau of rolling hills and secluded valleys. The topography of this part of the Wolds is striking and is testimony to the last glaciation when ice sheets and meltwater dramatically altered the landscape. Large arable fields and characteristic changing crop patterns dominate the plateau top and contrasts markedly with the numerous valleys with their lush pastures and wooded slopes. The area has the highest concentration of deserted and shrunken medieval villages within the AONB.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Open rolling arable farmland on gently dipping plateaux
- Wooded and lush inward-facing valleys and dry valleys
- Attractive nucleated villages, often of Saxon or medieval origin (e.g. Rothwell, Hatcliffe, Thoresway)
- Enclosure roads (drovers roads) with wide verges and characteristic hedgerows
- Small plantation woodlands and beech clumps of the 18th and 19th centuries
- Isolated chalk grassland
- Deserted medieval villages (e.g. Beesby, East Wykeham)
- Archaeological sites on the plateau (e.g. tumuli, barrows)
- Manors and parkland (e.g. East Ravendale)
- Geomorphological and geological sites (e.g. Hubbard’s Hills, Welton le Wold)
- Localised old enclosed landscape (e.g. north-eastern corner of the AONB)

Key local issues identified:

- Impact of disused wartime airfields, transmission lines, radio masts and huge straw stacks
- Loss and decline of chalk grassland
- Loss and decline in quality of hedgerows
- Decline in quality of beech clumps and other woodland
- Impact of arable practices on archaeological features
Abandonment of some of the more remote farms and cottages
Lack of awareness of the unique geomorphology
Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments)

Ridges and Valleys of the South-West

The ridges and valleys landscape is enormously complex with prominent chalk ridges bisected by deep combes and wide river valleys. The area is one of the most attractive within the Wolds with a patchwork of pastoral and arable fields, woodland, hedgerows, country estates and parkland, and attractive rivers and streams.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Dramatic views south from the Bluestone Heath Road and Nab Hill - Hoe Hill ridge
- Mixed pattern of arable and pastoral farming
- Herb rich roadside verges
- Rich marginal and aquatic habitats of the River Bain, Lyme and Calecby Beck
- Old mixed hedgerows
- Sole example of a semi-natural chalk woodland (e.g. Tetford Wood)
- Characteristic villages – often rectangular in form and houses widely built of brick (e.g. Tetford)
- Historic parkland and country houses (e.g. Stenigot, Harrington, Langton)
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson birth place and childhood home at Somersby
- Archaeological interest on the ridges (e.g. barrows, tumuli, cultivation terraces)
- Early medieval churches and moated sites (e.g. Somersby, Bag Enderby, Brinkhill, Langton)
- Wet alder carr woodlands (e.g. Salmonby carr, New England Valley)

Key local Issues identified

- Lack of awareness about historic and cultural associations
- Development issues including telecommunications masts and oil exploration
- Threat to grassland habitats
- Inappropriate management of roadside verges
- Loss of local village services
- Heavy coastal traffic and potential road modernisation schemes (e.g. A158, Gunby Corner)

South-East Claylands

The gentle ridge of the south-east claylands dips gently west before merging with the flat marshlands beyond the AONB. This is the most heavily wooded part of the Wolds where large blocks of woodland are interspersed with cultivated fields. The area has an isolated and remote feel. The ridge-top salters’ roads, spring-line villages and archaeological features are evident here.

Key local AONB features identified:

- Views across the Middle Marsh to the coast
- Extensive oak-ash woodland (e.g. Maltby, Haugham, Burwell, Willoughby, Welton Woods)
- Attractive spring-line villages (e.g. Little Cawthorpe, Muckton, South Thoresby, Welton le Marsh)
- Ancient sea cliff on eastern ridge, broken by glacial meltwater valleys (e.g. Skendelby Psalter, Well Vale)
- Ridge-top roads and their associated archaeology (e.g. long and round barrows)
- West-east salters’ roads
- Wetland flushes and springs

Key local Issues identified:

- Sand, gravel and chalk extraction
- Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments, grain silos)
- Impact of conifer planting
- Development issues on prominent ridgelines (e.g. telecommunication masts)
Appendix 4 - Questionnaire Results (summary)

During April—July 2003, residents and visitors to the Lincolnshire Wolds completed our “Wolds News” Questionnaire.

Which of the following special features of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB contribute most to its natural beauty?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open hill tops and sweeping views</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooded slopes and valleys</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive villages</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient lanes and trackways</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmed landscape</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide grass verges</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological and historic features</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River valleys</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geological features</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downland</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you value most about the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenery and views</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and quiet</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, etc</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive villages</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming life</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locally sourced food and drink</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrounding market towns</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic features</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor attractions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural connections</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the following current issues should be of most concern to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of scenic beauty through changes to landscape features (loss of woodland, neglect of hedgerows, reduction in grazing etc)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of unsightly development, (poorly designed buildings, telecommunication masts, pylons etc)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline in wild plants and animals</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline in village services, including public transport</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to rural way of life</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainties in farming and possible impact on the landscape</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased intrusion from noise and light pollution</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of historic and archaeological features</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information about places to visit, and facilities</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low regional/national profile as a tourist venue</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor pressure in popular locations</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which of the following activities do you undertake most frequently within the Wolds AONB?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting villages and churches</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking at wildlife</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating out at pubs and tea rooms</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car tours</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting local attractions</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organised walks and rides</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting /shooting</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How can we best protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevent unsightly development</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the rural communities</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support sustainable farming</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop environmental/landscape enhancement projects</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise awareness of the Wolds</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve public transport and other rural services</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage farm diversification</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote appropriate tourism and recreation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are the most important social and economic issues for The Wolds communities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local employment</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local services (schools, shops, public transport)</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat to rural way of life</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of traditional rural crafts</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General ageing population</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you value most about the Wolds surrounding market towns?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locally distinctive shops</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular markets</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural events</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools/educational opportunities</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facilities</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports/leisure facilities</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you think the Wolds AONB boundary needs to be reviewed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questionnaire Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin of Questionnaire</th>
<th>Age Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>0-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show or event</td>
<td>18-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>26-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 5 – Wolds AONB Community Consultation (Executive Summary)

Prepared by Roger Parsons, independent consultant, September 2003

1. Introduction

1.1 During the summer of 2003 an independent consultation exercise was undertaken culminating in a series of village meetings in July at Tetford, Binbrook, Rothwell, Skendleby and Goulceby.

1.2 The community consultation focused on local people, and was open-ended and wide-ranging. Contributors were encouraged to talk through issues that they saw as relevant to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

1.3 Underpinning every aspect of this consultation is the importance of the beauty, tranquillity and significance of the AONB, both in terms of geology, archaeology, history, wildlife and the working agricultural landscape.

2. Analysis of the Comments

2.1 In order to present the comments as clearly as possible, the convention of a PEST Analysis has been used to display responses. This gathers the information under four headings, Political, Economic, Social and Technological. An additional category has been introduced to extend this familiar analysis to include Environmental matters relating to the AONB.

3. Findings and Recommendations for Action

While keeping the PESTE format, this section will be further subdivided into "Findings" and "Recommendations". The Findings section highlights the comments made by contributors and the Recommendations section sets out options for consideration.

4.1 Political

Findings:

Planning: A recurring theme of this consultation is apparent lack of public confidence in the planning process, matched by real frustration and concern that planning procedures are becoming less fair, open and understandable.

Policing: Rural Policing was raised at most meetings, with fears expressed over the low density of police cover and the perceived frequency of rural crime. This view has been countered by the Police establishment, but public concern remains strong.

Housing: Affordable Rural Housing remains a very important issue. Local young people cannot afford highly-priced houses and they drift into the towns or further afield. Within many communities there are fewer young people to keep things going, fewer people willing and able to play a part in taking their communities forward.

Recommendations:

- Planning: The issue of consistency, transparency and public confidence in the planning process needs to be addressed.

- Rural Policing: Public concerns at perceived shortcomings need to be seen to be addressed and improvements made which will promote confidence and trust.

- Housing: The issue of affordable and appropriate housing needs to be kept under review. Where viable options can be identified, the JAC may be able to assist in a number of ways, to highlight local needs and advise on the location and type of housing.
4.2 Economic

Findings:

Employment and Tourism: Employment and Tourism are key economic issues in the Wolds AONB. Support for businesses and the need for a sympathetic approach to the planning needs of local employers was mentioned by a number of local business-people.

Agriculture: Some contributors expressed the hope that changes in the agricultural sector, in particular the CAP, may offer important new opportunities, especially such schemes as CSS and the ERDP. Climate change may also have an influence on the future of agricultural development.

Transport: Rural transport was highlighted time and time again as a key issue for residents and visitors alike. How successful would an integrated rural transport system be? The issue is complex and involves encouraging people out of their cars and onto a network with which most are no longer familiar and which has a history of unreliability.

Access to Advice and Information: It was clear from many discussions that communities often find it difficult to identify where to turn for specific information.

Recommendations:

- **Employment:** The management plan could consider the issue of support for local employers; local businesses such as pubs, shops and holiday facilities for example; and self-employment in traditional occupations and also in more technological sectors.

- **Tourism:** Village Services: Good access to local information on transport and accommodation is needed. Strategies and funding are needed to support village "packages" for visitor services, such as car parks, toilets and information centres.

- **Agriculture:** The JAC is uniquely placed to identify and encourage projects in the agricultural sector which would promote visitor access to the countryside to archaeological sites or areas of biological importance within the AONB.

- **Integrated Rural Transport:** The issue is closely linked to employment, education, health and recreation, and including trades and businesses based on tourism, equestrian pursuits and cycling.

- **Advice and Information:** Perhaps the most significant contribution that can be made by the JAC and the LWCS is to act as a "brokerage" for information and support in grant applications.

4.3 Social

Findings:

Quality of Life: The issue of "rural isolation" underlies many of the comments made during the consultation. There is a need to make sure that the communities of the Wolds have the opportunity to remain viable and have their perspective taken into account.

Scenic Beauty: Again and again people have referred to the positive aspects of living in the Wolds, the community spirit, the quiet and beauty of the villages and landscape, the skies, the wildlife. This is matched with concerns over where their young people will be able to settle, the lack of employment opportunities for them and the limitations of public transport, if indeed it is available. In relation to scenic beauty, several people identified poor quality lighting as an issue and favour lighting which is less intrusive and prone to polluting the night sky.

Access to the Countryside: Although responsibility for footpaths falls outside the direct responsibility of the Countryside Service, this issue was one of the most frequently raised topics and is clearly linked to the enjoyment of the area for local people and visitors.
Road Safety: The issue of dangerous driving was mentioned on a number of occasions as a cause for concern and as having a negative impact on the local quality of life and the attractiveness of the area for visitors.

Community Involvement: There is regret at the loss of many community facilities, the village post office and shop for example, key centres of community contact. Facilities for young people and children are often very limited. Overall there was an impression given that fewer people were willing and able to play a part in community development.

Recommendations:

- Quality of Life: Both the JAC and the Countryside Service could play a key role in identifying and negotiating new community opportunities.

- Scenic Beauty: The management plan should recommend policy with regard to light pollution within the AONB, making it clear that a low glare, low pollution regime should be adopted and that any future street lighting is adopted in relation to specific community needs.

- Access to the Countryside: Options include routes for permissive paths and bridleways, cycleways, circular routes, sign posts and the associated linkups with public transport.

- Road Safety: One area where positive action might be taken would be in relation to safely-located viewpoints and stopping places; the management plan could review this and make recommendations.

- Community Involvement: The management plan will need to set out how best to strengthen such communication, to inform and assist communities to organise themselves to plan and implement schemes that meet their future needs, be it opportunities for the older residents, young people, children, visitors or special interest groups.

4.4 Technological

Findings:

Computer Technology: Fast Internet access is key to a great deal of home-based small businesses and could offer significant new opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises across the AONB, with schools and individuals benefiting from this resource too.

Wind Farms: [and to a lesser extent, pylons, radio masts and similar hardware] remain a topic for debate in the light of current developments. Opposing views have been expressed, some love the turbines, others hate them! Much still needs to be learned about the costs and benefits.

Recommendations:

- Computer Technology: The management plan should consider specific position statements on ICT [Information and Communication Technology], including Broadband and Internet Access in the AONB.

- Wind Farms: As now, the JAC and Countryside Service can highlight the landscape value of the AONB and assess the potential impact that any proposed scheme may have on the character of the Wolds.

4.5 Environmental

Findings:

Protection of the Landscape: Protecting and enhancing the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB remains the principal objective for Wolds residents, visitors and the Countryside Service and its partners.
Biodiversity: Past experience has made many people aware of the loss of wildlife and habitats in the AONB. Biodiversity is a term with which people are now more familiar and there is a desire to see a greater variety of wildlife thriving in the Wolds.

Habitats - Protection and Restoration: Although sometimes expressed in rather simplistic terms, the need to protect and encourage wildlife, in particular by protecting local habitats, is a message which seems well understood.

Hedges and Trees: Most people enjoy trees and believe tree planting to be a good thing, but there is also a need to foster a better understanding of where to plant trees [i.e. not on scarce native grassland] and how best to manage native species.

Pollution: Fly tipping, litter and related pollution were highlighted as cause for concern, and very harmful to the image of the Wolds AONB, as was the lesser problem of graffiti.

Protected Sites: Several people expressed the need to protect threatened places, in particular archaeological sites such as “lost villages”, landscape features such as green lanes [often damaged by 4-wheel-drive vehicles] and places of biological importance such as roadside verges.

Recommendations:

- Protection of the Landscape: Action points and objectives for protecting and enhancing natural beauty of the Wolds landscape are essential.

- Biodiversity: The management plan could include guidelines for protection and reinstatement of hedges and grassland, including roadside verge areas. It should make the case against the planting of non-native material [cultivated bulbs for example] and the need to work within the framework of Wildlife Law and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

- Habitats: There could be a review of policies and strategies in relation to habitat protection and management in the light of future changes in agricultural practice and climate change.

- Hedges and Tree Protection: The issue of tree planting and management should be reviewed, as woodland should be considered as only one of many conservation options for native habitats.

- Pollution: The management plan should mention the issue of litter, fly tipping, graffiti and related pollution, with a recommendation that a policy of prompt remedial action and, where appropriate, prosecution, should be followed.

- Protected Sites: There should be a policy framework within the management plan to cover the protection and management of archaeological and geological sites, nature reserves and historic locations and "view points." There is great potential here for identifying, protecting and highlighting such resources.

4.6 Conclusion:

The forthcoming management plan for the AONB has the primary focus of protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The findings from the community consultations have highlighted many of the social and economic issues that currently affect the Wolds communities, or may do in the future. Some of these issues inevitably fall outside the brief of the JAC. The challenge will now be to ensure a future that will sustain and enhance both the landscape and the communities of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

[© August 2003. Final version 12/9/03. This Executive Summary was prepared for the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service by Roger Parsons, MinstF. - an independent Lincolnshire-based consultant with many years experience of rural development work]
Appendix 6 - Glossary and Technical Terms

Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALSF</td>
<td>Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AONB</td>
<td>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAP</td>
<td>Biodiversity Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BeC</td>
<td>Beech Clumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>British Trust for Conservation Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Countryside Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMS</td>
<td>Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Common Agricultural Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCL</td>
<td>Community Council of Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>Country Land and Business Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPRE</td>
<td>Campaign to Protect Rural England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRoW Act</td>
<td>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS</td>
<td>Countryside Stewardship Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defra</td>
<td>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMV</td>
<td>Deserted Medieval Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EH</td>
<td>English Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELDC</td>
<td>East Lindsey District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emda</td>
<td>East Midlands Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emraf</td>
<td>East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>English Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERDP</td>
<td>England Rural Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC</td>
<td>Forestry Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWAG</td>
<td>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GL</td>
<td>Groundwork Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Genetically Modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOEM</td>
<td>Government Office East Midlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTL</td>
<td>Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISG</td>
<td>Interpretation Sub-Group (of JAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAC</td>
<td>Joint Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMG</td>
<td>Joint Management Group (of JAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAF</td>
<td>Local (Countryside) Access Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCC</td>
<td>Lincolnshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBAP</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>LE</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAP</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LERAP</td>
<td>Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides</td>
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<td>LNR</td>
<td>Local Nature Reserve</td>
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<td>LSP</td>
<td>Local Strategic Partnership</td>
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<td>LT</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>LWCS</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWT</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAFF</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MapInfo</td>
<td>Map Information System (computerised)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAAONB</td>
<td>National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NELC</td>
<td>North East Lincolnshire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFU</td>
<td>National Farmers Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Nitrogen monoxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPAC Act</td>
<td>National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWG</td>
<td>Officers Working Group (of JAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAWS</td>
<td>Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG</td>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRV</td>
<td>Protected Roadside Verge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Ramblers’ Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACoL</td>
<td>Regeneration Across Communities of Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDS</td>
<td>Rural Development Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RES</td>
<td>Regional Economic Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFF</td>
<td>Regional Forestry Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIGS</td>
<td>Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROWIP</td>
<td>Rights of Way Improvement Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTP</td>
<td>Rural Transport Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTPO</td>
<td>Rural Transport Partnership Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Sport England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Scheduled Monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNCI</td>
<td>Site of Nature Conservation Importance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>Sulphur monoxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPG</td>
<td>Supplementary Planning Guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP</td>
<td>Sub-regional Strategic Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSSI</td>
<td>Site of Special Scientific Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPO</td>
<td>Tree Preservation Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRiL</td>
<td>Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLDC</td>
<td>West Lindsey District Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix 6 - Technical Terms

#### Technical Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADAS</strong></td>
<td>A research based consultancy to rural and land-based industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agri-environment Scheme</strong></td>
<td>Land-based schemes that provide financial incentives for land managers to adopt environmentally beneficial land management practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ancient woodland</strong></td>
<td>A site that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 and which has not been cleared or replanted (except natural regeneration).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan)</strong></td>
<td>The document that ensures everyone can help protect and enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of achievable actions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barrows</strong></td>
<td>An ancient mound associated with burials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calcareaeous</strong></td>
<td>A type of grassland that is rich in calcium carbonate (lime) and is therefore chalky. It supports specific vegetation types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combes</strong></td>
<td>Valleys formed by glaciation processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coppice</strong></td>
<td>To cut, at ground level, all stems of trees/shrubs to stimulate new, multi-stemmed growth. Also refers to an area that has been managed in this way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dissemination</strong></td>
<td>To spread ideas and information as widely as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversification (farm)</strong></td>
<td>To vary and expand the type of operations within a farm business, e.g. supplement farm income by other enterprises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DMV – deserted medieval village</strong></td>
<td>An abandoned settlement that dates from the Middle Ages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drovers roads</strong></td>
<td>Routes that were used to move flocks and herds between grazing pastures, markets and settlements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Escarpmont</strong></td>
<td>A long steep slope at the edge of a plateau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geomorphology</strong></td>
<td>The physical features of the surface of the earth, such as rivers, valleys etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Glacial and Periglacial activity</strong></td>
<td>The landscape features created by the presence of, and by adjoining, ice sheets in the past glaciations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hedge laying</strong></td>
<td>To cut and lay stems of a hedge in such a way that it will regenerate and continue to grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpretation</strong></td>
<td>The art of communicating the significance of places and features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landmark trees</strong></td>
<td>Individual and small clumps of trees that are conspicuous within the landscape and add to its distinctive character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nucleated</strong></td>
<td>A village or settlement with a strong central part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pollard</strong></td>
<td>To cut, at 3–4 metres above ground level, branches of a tree to stimulate new, multi-stemmed growth out of the reach of browsing animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRV - Protected Roadside Verge Scheme</strong></td>
<td>A verge that is deemed worthy of protection and active management under the scheme set up in 1960 between Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Lincolnshire County Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Set-aside</strong></td>
<td>Farmland taken out of food production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socio-economic</strong></td>
<td>The interaction of social and economic factors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statutory undertaker</strong></td>
<td>An organisation, required by law, to undertake certain duties, e.g. public utilities companies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable</strong></td>
<td>That social, economic and environmental needs can be met without depletion of natural resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Synergy</strong></td>
<td>Interaction and co-operation of individuals and organisations to work more effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Lincolnshire Partnership</strong></td>
<td>Public and private bodies uniting under the banner to implement an integrated communication and marketing campaign.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 7 – Key Related Plans, Strategies and Initiatives

An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire – S Bennett and N Bennett, 1993
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies – Environment Agency
Community Strategy for East Lindsey, Draft – East Lindsey Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Countryside Stewardship Targeting Statement 2003 - defra
Destination East Midlands - East Midlands Tourism Strategy 2003-2010 - emda
East Midlands Planning Charter – East Midlands Regional Local Government Association 1999
EEC Rural Development Regulation
England Rural Development Programme - defra
Quiet Roads Initiative – The Countryside Agency
The Lincolnshire Agenda – Lincolnshire Enterprise 2003
Lincolnshire Charter for Agriculture and Horticulture Implementation Plan – Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture 2003
Lincolnshire Rural Transport Partnership – Action Plan 2000
Lincolnshire Tourism – A Sharper Focus
Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy – Lincolnshire County Council 2001
Lincolnshire Wolds Natural Area Profile – English Nature 1997
Lincwoods Objective 5b Project 1999 – 2002 - ADAS
Local Heritage Initiative - The Countryside Agency (ongoing)
Market Towns Initiative - The Countryside Agency (ongoing)
North East Lincolnshire Community Strategy – North East Lincolnshire Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Planning Policy Guidance - Development Plans (PPG 12)
Planning Policy Guidance - Historic Environment (PPG 15)
Planning Policy Guidance – Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)
Planning Policy Guidance – Development and Flood Risk (PPG25)
Protected Landscapes in the East Midlands: Joint Statement of Intent – defra 2003
Regional Economic Strategy Destination 2010 – emda 2003
Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG 8) 2002 and revised draft 2003
Rights of Way Improvement Plans - Local Highway Authorities (ongoing)
RIGS Handbook – UK RIGS 1999 onwards
Roadside Tree Clumps in the Lincolnshire Wolds (Chalk Wolds) - Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, 1998
Tastes of Lincolnshire Initiative
The Lincolnshire Partnership
Townscape Heritage Initiative
West Lindsey Community Strategy, Draft – West Lindsey Local Strategic Partnership 2003
Structure and Local Development Plans

East Lindsey Local Plan, District Wide Policies – East Lindsey District Council 1999
East Lindsey Local Plan, Settlement Proposals – East Lindsey District Council 1995
Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan – Lincolnshire County Council 1991
Lincolnshire Structure Plan, Policies Proposed for Adoption – Lincolnshire County Council 1998
Lincolnshire Waste Local Plan, Preliminary Consultation Draft – Lincolnshire County Council 2003
North East Lincolnshire Local Plan – North East Lincolnshire Council 2003
West Lindsey Local Plan First Review, First Deposit Draft – West Lindsey District Council 2003
Your Environment? A Sustainable Future for East Lindsey – East Lindsey District Council 1999
Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan – Lincolnshire County Council 2000
North East Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan – North East Lincolnshire Council 2000
Rural Tourism Development Area Partnership – West Lindsey District Council 2000
Transport Strategy, Draft – East Lindsey District Council 2004
Appendix 8 – Bibliography/Further Information

The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape - Countryside Commission, 1993 (CCP414).

(See also key related plans and strategies Appendix 7)

Key Websites for Further Information:

www.countryside.gov.uk Countryside Agency
www.defra.gov.uk Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.emda.org.uk East Midlands Development Agency
www.english-heritage.org.uk English Heritage
www.english-nature.org.uk English Nature
www.forestry.gov.uk Forestry Commission
www.go-em.gov.uk Government Office for the East Midlands
www.lincswolds.org.uk Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
www.aonb.org.uk National Association of AONBs
www.nfu.org.uk National Farmers Union
www.odpm.gov.uk Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Appendix 9 - Acknowledgements

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their contribution in the preparation of the Management Plan:

Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee:

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Cllr P M Harness  
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Rob Lawton  
Mike Leary  
Barbara Locke  
Terry Miller  
Barrie Neville  
Rod Newborough  
David Pocklington  
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Matthew Ross  
Cllr Mrs S E Roy  
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Mr C S Warr  
Jon Watson  
Graham Weaver  
Darren York  
Jayne Young  

Lincolnshire Development  
Lincolnshire Tourism  
North East Lincolnshire Council  
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
Government Office East Midlands  
West Lindsey District Council  
Lincolnshire County Council  
Ramblers’ Association  
National Farmers Union  
Country Land and Business Association  
English Heritage  
East Midlands Development Agency  
Countryside Agency  
East Lindsey District Council  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Forestry Commission  
Countryside Agency  
West Lindsey District Council  
North East Lincolnshire Council  
Community Council of Lincolnshire  
Churches Together in All Lincolnshire  
Sport England  
Forestry Commission  
East Lindsey District Council  
Environment Agency  
Lincolnshire County Council  
Country Land and Business Association  
National Farmers Union  
Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire  
West Lindsey District Council  
English Nature  
Lincolnshire County Council  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group  
Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Lincolnshire County Council  
English Nature  
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers  
Lincolnshire Tourism  

Continued…
Appendix 9 – Acknowledgements (continued)

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Simon Fisher    National Farmers Union
Robert Goodison    Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Sarah Grundy    Lincolnshire County Council
Graham Haddock    Forestry Commission
Jenny Haynes    Campaign to Protect Rural England
Alison Hirst    Environment Agency
Jean Howard    Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire
Paula Judson    Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
Ian King    North East Lincolnshire Council
Jim Lennon    Countryside Agency
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Chris Miller    Lincolnshire County Council
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Neil Pike    Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
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