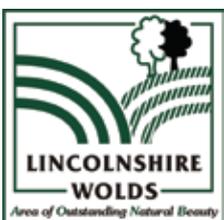
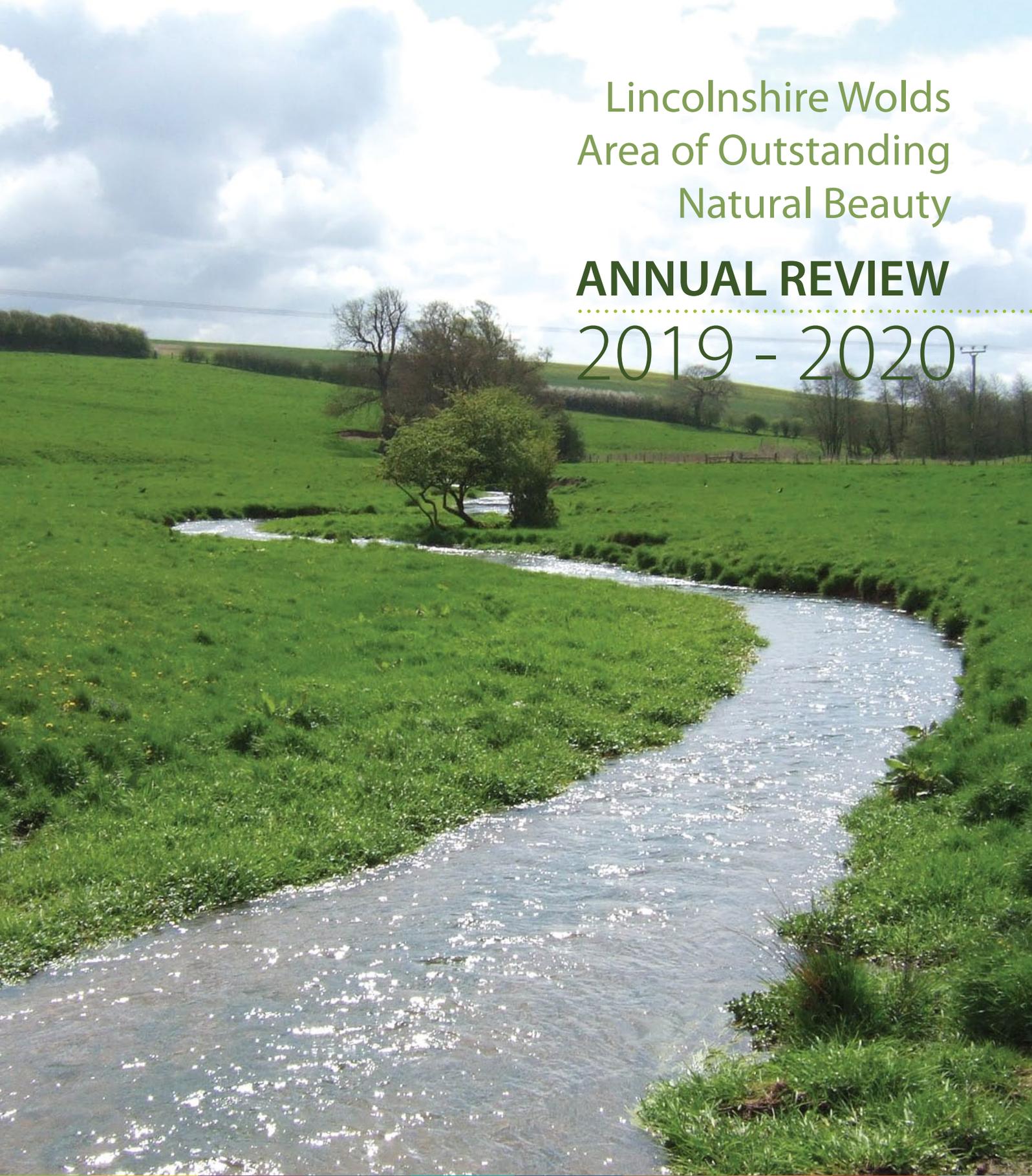


Lincolnshire Wolds
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

ANNUAL REVIEW
.....
2019 - 2020



Landscapes
for life
.org.uk

{ LINCOLNSHIRE
WOLDS
One of the
AONB Family

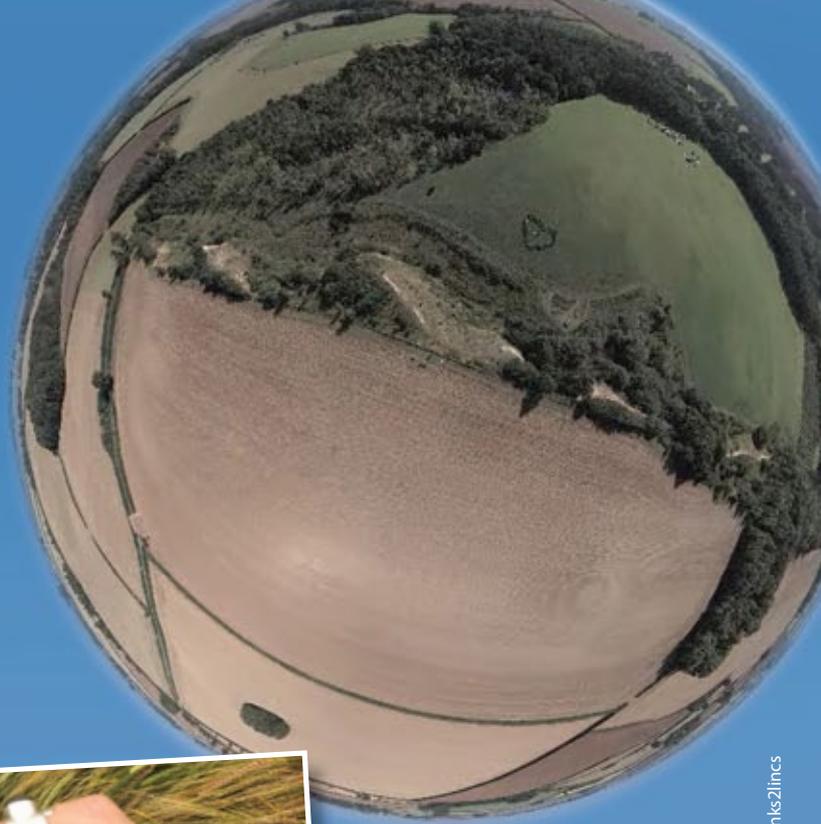
2019-2020 The Best Bits

National Moment

The LWCS organised the 'Part of the Heart' event in September 2019 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act which paved the way for the legislation to create the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The LWCS would like to thank all volunteers, friends and partner organisations who came out to enjoy the great weather and activities and created a heart to show how much they love the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.

Visit the Discovering page of the LWCS website, Landscapes for Life Week to view the video.



© links2lincs



Chairman's Foreword



I write this as we enter unprecedented challenging times with the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis currently unfolding. Our priority at this time has been very much on keeping work colleagues, family and friends safe, whilst operating in partnership to

support those that are most isolated and vulnerable, or have become unwell.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (AONB Team) has offered their services to help the emergency response, whilst continuing to work professionally in dealing with ongoing environmental and rural management issues.

It is in this context that I have pride in endorsing, on behalf of the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), this twelve month summary of

activity undertaken to help protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds for all. Currently (Spring 2020) we work with our national and local partners in promoting the simple message of: "Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives".

As and when restrictions lift, and we return to a new normal, the AONB partnership will do all it can to help secure future investment and support to best aid the rural communities and businesses of the Lincolnshire Wolds; working to secure and enhance its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage for its residents, workers and visitors alike. The family of AONBs has much to offer in terms of sustainable land management – for the nation's future social, economic and environmental wellbeing and prosperity.

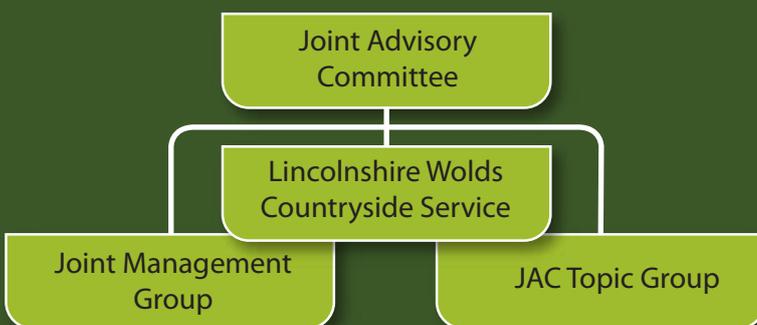
Stuart Parker

Chairman,

Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (AONB Partnership; working collaboratively with the National Association for AONBs).

Working in Partnership

The Lincolnshire Wolds has an established Joint Advisory Committee (JAC): 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 is instrumental in developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing the AONB Management Plan.



Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service - LWCS (AONB Unit) as at 31st March 2020:

Stephen Jack

LWCS Manager

Helen Gamble

Project Officer

David Rodger

Project Officer

Ruth Craig

Project Officer (Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project - LCSP)

Will Bartle

Monitoring Officer (LCSP)

Claire Harrison

Administration and Technical Assistant

Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds

Biodiversity

Protecting, enhancing and promoting biodiversity within the AONB happens throughout all work streams, including engagement with our local communities, farmers, and land managers/operators. The LWCS input has commonly taken place on a strategic level, especially via work with key partners such as the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP). A focus has been on ecosystem services, biodiversity opportunity mapping, nature recovery and regular input to relevant habitat action groups and the GLNP Nature Strategy.

Geodiversity

There has been continued promotion of the geodiversity of the AONB including visits to key sites, by leading walks and events, and working with the GLNP Geodiversity Group.



Orchards

This three year pilot has continued with five orchards surveyed and one public event attended with partners at the National Trust at Gunby Apple Day. Specialist advice was provided for a further six sites and new contacts have been made to extend good practice beyond the AONB.

Layers of History

This three year project, developed by Heritage Lincolnshire and partly funded by LWCS, has drawn to an end. Projects in the AONB focussed on South Ormsby and Hainton Estates - enabling volunteers to investigate their local historic landscapes, acquire new skills and build new friendships along the way. Activity included geophysical surveys, a digital reconstruction and film, and the production of interpretation panels. Layers of History attracted 141 volunteers to events in the Wolds, 50 of whom live locally. The project finished in early 2020.

Lincolnshire Long Barrows Project

Long barrows in the AONB are a particularly important group of sites and at risk from the pressures of modern cultivation. Over the past two years, the LWCS has contributed to the Lincolnshire Long Barrows Project, led by Historic England. Some 100 sites have been reassessed, through a combination of geophysical survey and excavation, with the results revealing important details on the current condition and extent of the monuments - as well as throwing light on their constructional histories and wider landscape context.

Traditional Roadsigns in Lincolnshire (TRiL)

During 2019-20, facilitated by the TRiL Steering Group, the LWCS has helped to refurbish a further 12 historic roadsigns in the AONB.

Farmstead Assessment Project

This is an on-going project to survey and record historic farmsteads in the Lincolnshire Wolds. The data will form the basis of a written guide for these important buildings to help inform sympathetic design and management.



In 2019-20, SURVEYS and TRAINING DAYS were held at Ashby Puerorum, South Ormsby, Sixhills and Orford. Also SIX INSPIRATIONAL TALKS were organised, attracting a total of 35 VOLUNTEERS.

Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project

A Stronger Partnership

- The Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Projects (LCSP) has a new Strategic Action Plan 2019-24 launched in July 2019. A huge thank you to all the partners for helping.
- The LCSP now has a Biodiversity Opportunity Map to identify priority areas on the chalk streams to focus efforts and future funding.
- The LCSP welcomed several new partner organisations to the group.



Community

The LCSP are keen to work with communities to improve their Lincolnshire chalk stream habitat and so were pleased to join over 30 enthusiastic residents in the village of Goulceby in May 2019. A few hours of hard work later (and some soggy little feet) the chalk stream was flowing freely again with increased light reaching the river bed. Great work everybody!

Slowing the Flow

The LCSP has been working with the Environment Agency and the local farming community on the River Waring trialling new methods to slow the flow of surface water into the chalk stream. Natural Flood Management is fast becoming popular in helping to reduce flooding. With the successes seen on the River Waring, the LCSP are investigating options with landowners in the River Rase Catchment.

	Events/Sites	People
Education	9	259
Shows	8	2078
Talks	6	157
Volunteers	12	122
Riverfly Volunteers	37	40



Visit the LCSP 'Contact Us' page for social media links

Living & Working in the Lincolnshire Wolds

Community

A significant part of the LWCS work is to provide encouragement and support to communities who are exploring ways to help protect, enhance and promote the AONB. Our support for local community projects has continued with over 25 visits undertaken to provide advice and support on the planning, funding and delivery of a range of local projects.

Three Parishes Hedgerow Project

The training continues for keen local volunteers with a focus on the historic and natural aspects of hedgerows and their trees.



LWCS have been supporting Brinkhill History Group's field walking and finds analysis project, as they have discovered more about their village.

Advisory visits and landowner liaison

Over 43 visits to farmers and landowners have been undertaken, including nine key meetings and events to review a range of issues to support and develop sustainable farming practices. For all consultative work, the LWCS look at key issues relating to landscape, nature conservation and access, often undertaken alongside advice from other key partners. During 2019-20, the LWCS commented on three Woodland Management Plans and two Felling Licence Applications.

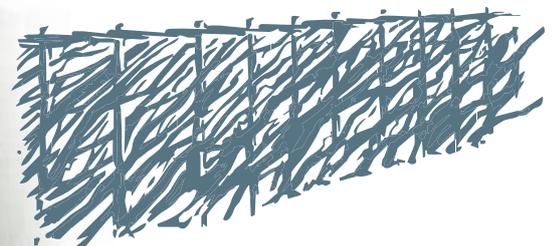
Working Together

The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) has 18 farmers taking part, covering 8,500 ha along the Bluestone Heath Road corridor. By working together, there will be delivery of multiple benefits for the AONB and for land managers themselves. A further four events were held this year, including a well-attended guided walk for the public, led by members to showcase the best that farming in the AONB has to offer.

A specific grant was established for the landowners in the Lincolnshire Wolds CSFF, to provide a legacy of the work undertaken.

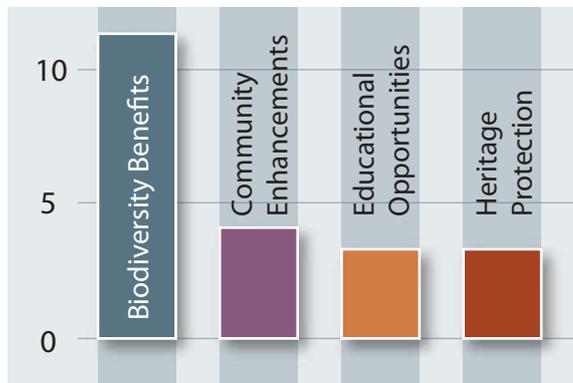
12 Hedgerow restoration projects resulted in **1,827m** of hedgerow restored

460m Planted, **481m** Laid
295m Coppiced, **591m** Gapped up
37 New Hedgerow Trees Planted

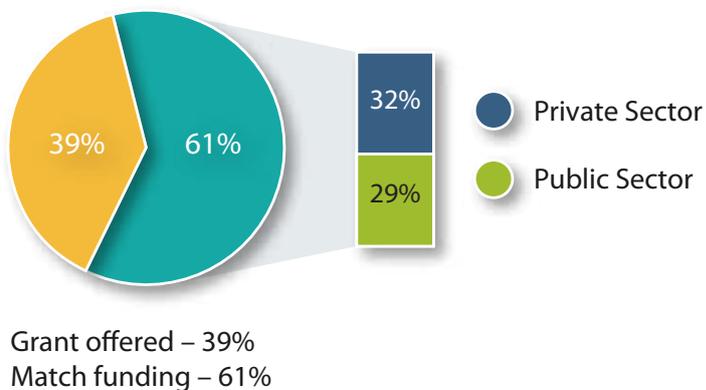


Living & Working in the Lincolnshire Wolds

2019-2020 Themes



Total cost of work undertaken **£82,979**
Total grant offered **£32,079**



As ever, the ongoing contributions that the AONB grant schemes bring to the Wolds are invaluable in maintaining a thriving, high quality landscape and supporting local communities and businesses.



Discovering the Lincolnshire Wolds

Guided Walks, Events and Shows

10 GUIDED WALKS

led with 204 walkers, and numerous dogs joining in



EIGHT EVENTS

and shows were attended, engaging with over 3,000 people.

FIVE TALKS were given to interested groups, with 103 people attending.



DIGITAL INTERFACE

During 2019-20, over **45,000** visits were made to the AONB website, www.lincswolds.org.uk with 88% of these new visitors. The AONB twitter account **@LincsWoldsAONB** had **2,689** followers.

37 of the LWCS Wolds Walks were uploaded to a new digital format utilising the independent website www.visorando.co.uk. Work is progressing on the bespoke app.

Walking Festival

2019 saw the 15th Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival (LWWF) take place, with a varied programme delivered by partner organisations and, most importantly, volunteer walk leaders. Launched at Legbourne, 119 walks were led over the 16 day Festival, cumulating in the finale at Scrivelsby Estate. Over 2,700 participants joined in with the walks, enjoying the Lincolnshire Wolds countryside, heritage, geology, wildlife and the hospitality and refreshments provided by local communities along the way. The LWWF is undergoing a major revamp and will return in a new format in 2021 with a focus on recreation for all.



Education

In early 2020, the LWCS led two Grow courses, a programme for personal development and learning. Participants study the history and concepts of the subject, and also learn through hands-on experience.

Maps through the Ages

Delivering the history and everyday application of navigation and map reading, the LWCS started with the historical development of maps and navigation techniques. This was followed by a series of practical map reading sessions in the field to help secure the basic skills for undertaking countryside walking with confidence.

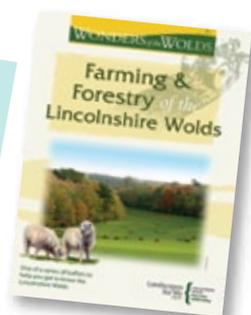
Riverside and Hedgerow

The LWCS and LCSP delivered a two day workshop to 15 participants on the importance of hedgerows and waterways as an environmental and historic resource, followed by practical teaching of surveying and management techniques relating to both habitats.



Publications

A new leaflet was published, **Farming and Forestry of the Lincolnshire Wolds**, the sixth in the Wonders of Wolds series of informative leaflets. Reprints of ten of the popular self-guided Wolds Walks routes were undertaken. The 2020 edition of the **Making the Most of the Lincolnshire Wolds** leaflet was revised and reprinted.



Churches Festival

The Lincolnshire Wolds and Coast Churches Festival (LWCCF) built on the previous success of Horncastle Churches Festival. Held over two weekends, 861 volunteers opened the doors of 40 churches and hosted 9,000 visits. The LWCCF held a conference at St James', Louth, where 72 volunteers discovered more about the Festival and undertook training in public relations and promotions, caring for churchyards, keeping churches open and welcoming visitors.

Developing the Lincolnshire Wolds

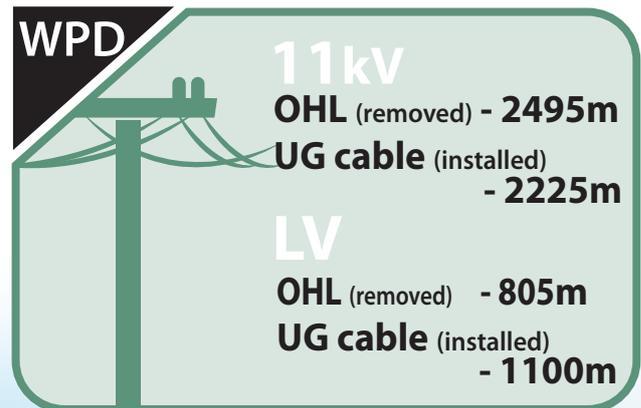
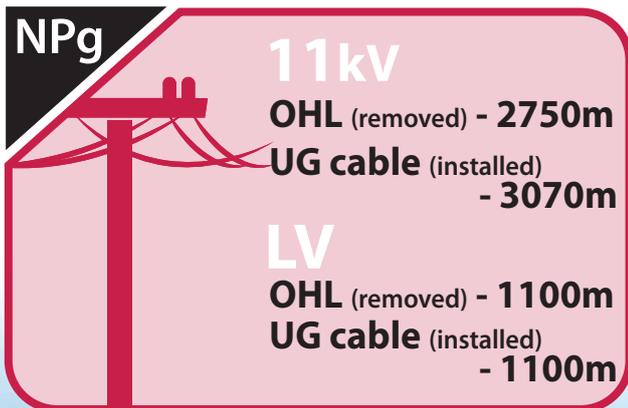
Strategic Policy and Planning

The LWCS has continued to respond on a wide range of strategic plans and development proposals to help ensure the sustainable development of the Wolds and the protection and enhancement of the AONB's nationally important natural beauty. This has included over 30 responses on a wide range of planning applications and five reviews of public rights of way orders. The statutory Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan (2018-23), National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plans provides the framework for the LWCS independent observations.



Undergrounding

The LWCS continue to work with Northern Powergrid (NPg) and Western Power Distribution (WPD), to visually improve the Lincolnshire Wolds via the Protected Landscapes Working Groups.



Partnership in the Lincolnshire Wolds

Local Partnerships

The LWCS work 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.



Over the past 12 months the LWCS and the LCSP have maintained and developed links with **31 local partnerships and initiatives**, ranging from the Ancholme Catchment Partnership and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum, Lincolnshire Wolds and Market Towns Tourism Group and two Walkers are Welcome Steering Groups.

National Partnerships

The LWCS team regularly participates in a number of events organised through the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) to share skills and training opportunities with our colleagues from other AONBs.

Staff attended the 2019 Landscapes for Life Conference, held in Colchester and hosted by Dedham Vale AONB and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnerships. The theme was 'Outstanding Landscapes, Outstanding Beauty' with a series of key note speakers and workshops reviewing the current pressures facing our family of AONBs.

There was a focus on the opportunities presented through Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, the Glover Protected Landscapes Review and potential benefits through forthcoming legislative changes (most notably the Agriculture Bill and Environmental Bill). The impacts of various Brexit scenarios on the agri-environment sector, and our rural communities and businesses, framed much of the discussion. The conference concluded with NAAONB Chief Executive Howard Davies making the Colchester Declaration (#Declaration4Nature). This is our collective pledge for nature: to protect what remains and restore what has been lost.

The NAAONB has linked with other national organisations to help take help forward the 27 recommendations of the Glover Review with

priorities to include:

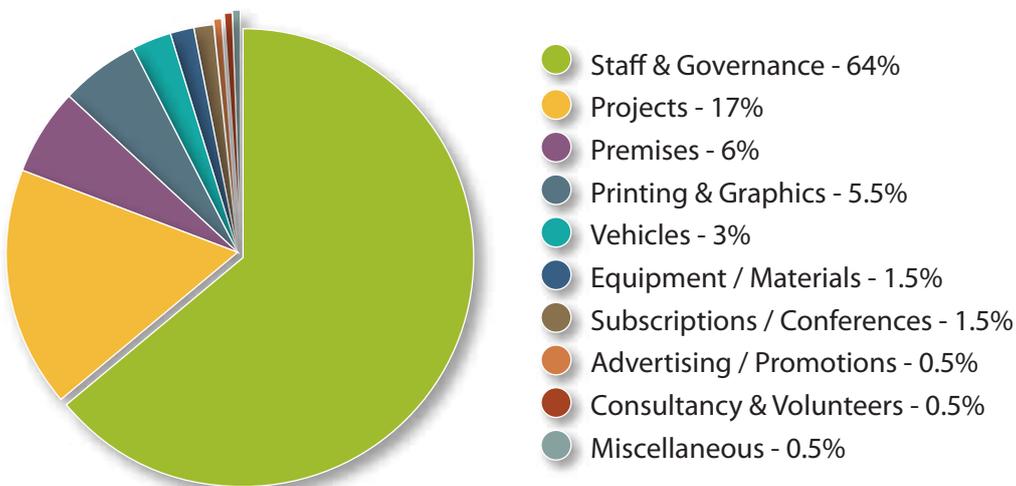
- Positioning AONBs and National Parks as central to nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Improving diversity and access for everyone to designated landscapes
- Strengthening the duty of regard in the planning system, and
- Increasing resources for designated landscapes.

The LWCS has worked closely with the NAAONB throughout the period, with highlights including: positive dialogue to aid and inform the Glover Review; active participation in the National Moment - Heart in the Landscape event (21st September); and engagement in the Taking the Lead (Future Landscapes Project) initiative to help explore and develop staffing skills and networks.



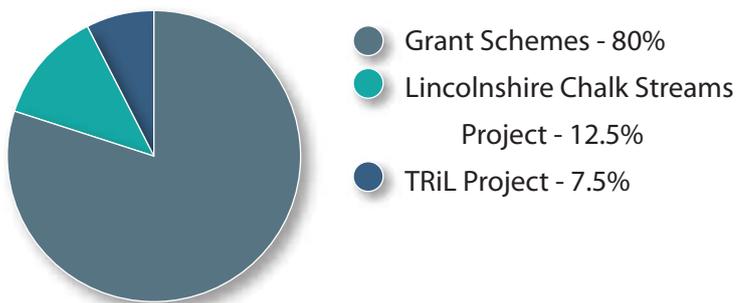
Partnership in the Lincolnshire Wolds

Core expenditure 2019 - 20: £240,342

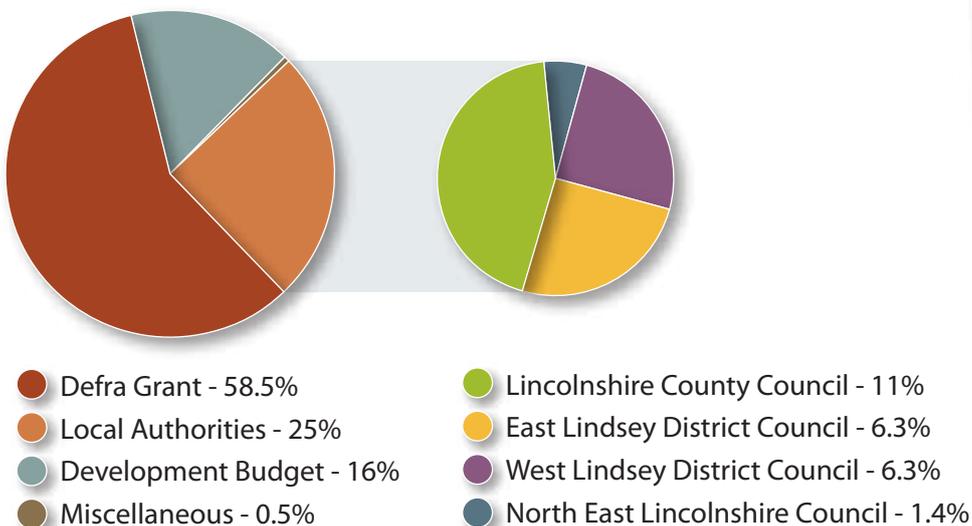


Thank you to the key funders Defra, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and West Lindsey District Council. Support from local authorities is very much welcomed by the AONB Partnership and ensures we can continue to secure 75% match-funding from Central Government.

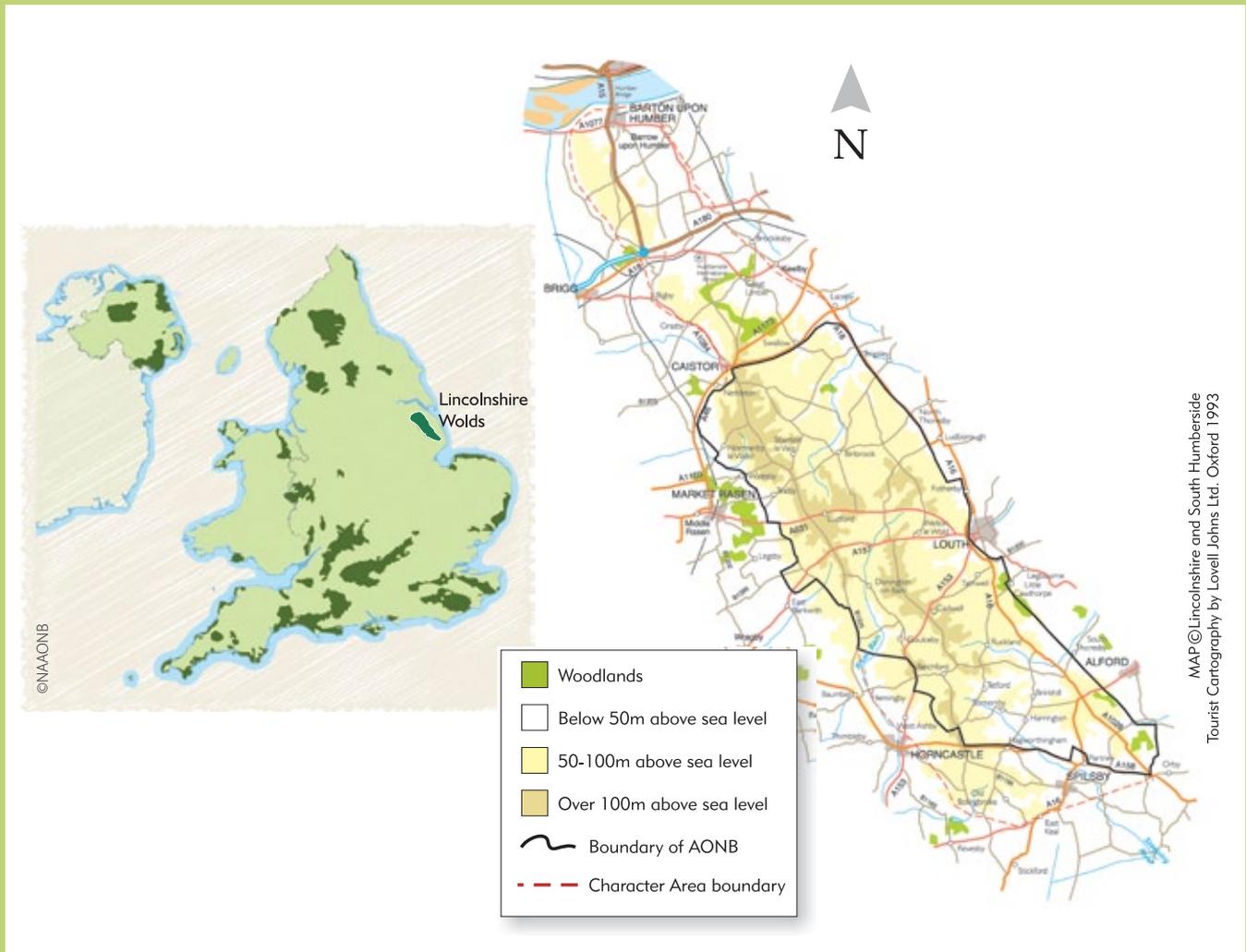
Project expenditure: £40,189



Total Income (Core and Project funding) 2019 - 20: £280,776



Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



MAP © Lincolnshire and South Humberside Tourist Cartography by Lovell Johns Ltd. Oxford 1993



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