



Chalk Streams of Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
Navigation Warehouse
Riverhead Road
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 0DA

Cell: 01507 609740
Fax: 01507 608851
Website: www.lincswolds.org.uk
E-mail: ruth.snelson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Dear Editor

Media Release – The Bowland Award 2012

Contact: If you would like to have further information on this media release, please call Ruth Snelson, Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Officer on 01507 609740 or ruth.snelson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) has been the successful winner of the 2012 Bowland Award at this year's National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) Conference. The Bowland Award is awarded annually by the NAAONB for "the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)".

To link in with the 2012 NAAONB's Conference theme "Shaping nature at a landscape scale", the Board called for nominations for projects that demonstrate landscape scale conservation through partnership working.

The LCSP is a partnership project of the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (LWCS), Natural England, the Wild Trout Trust and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The LCSP project officer attended the Conference along with the staff of the LWCS to promote the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and the chalk streams.

The Award was jointly presented to Phil Smith from the Environment Agency and Councillor Lewis Strange, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Cllr Strange said "I am delighted that the LCSP has received this year's prestigious Bowland Award and it is national recognition of this dynamic and progressive initiative that uses best practice in enhancing and raising the profile of chalk streams. I feel that recognition should be made to the Wolds team at Louth, especially Ruth Snelson, who has worked very hard on this project".

NAAONB Chairman, Cllr Peter Stevens said " The LCSP is a very worthy winner of the Bowland Award and it is fitting that this year's recipient is a project that has contributed an outstanding environmental contribution to the well-being of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB actively promoting and delivering landscape-scale conservation through partnership working. I congratulate them on their achievements".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) was formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales. Its membership is largely composed of representatives from local authorities whose boundaries include AONBs and who are concerned to improve their management and funding arrangements. Its Annual Conference provides an opportunity for the AONB Family to join together and address issues of current concern. See: www.landscapesforlife.org.uk
- There are 46 AONBs in the UK.
- AONBs cover 18% of England and Wales. The smallest is the Isles of Scilly, a mere 16 sq km, the largest is the Cotswolds totalling 2,038 sq km.
- The Bowland Award, a hen harrier bronze, is awarded annually for **the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

Previous recipients have been:

- 1999 - Professor Gerald Smart
 - 2000 - The Rt. Hon The Lord Renton of Mount Harry
 - 2002 - Ray Woolmore
 - 2004 - Richard Butler
 - 2005 - The Rt Hon Alun Michael MP
 - 2006 - The Countryside Agency
 - 2007 - Professor Adrian Phillips CBE
 - 2008 - Simon Hooton
 - 2009 - Mike Taylor OBE
 - 2010 - Butterfly Conservation
 - 2011 – The Gower Society
- The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project was established in early 2004, and brings together a partnership of organisations that are actively working together to conserve and enhance the nationally important chalk stream resource within Lincolnshire. The Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Natural England, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, the Wild Trout Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ensure that the core objectives of the project are met, namely; increased understanding, environmental improvements, and awareness raising.
 - The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally important and protected landscape. Chalk Streams are

highlighted within the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan as a key point of action.

- Chalk rivers have been identified as a priority habitat under the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The BAP is the UK's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (The Rio Earth Summit), and commits a detailed plan for the protection of threatened resources.
- The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) is a dynamic and progressive initiative that uses best practice in enhancing and raising the profile of chalk streams. The project has contributed an outstanding environmental contribution to the well-being of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) actively promoting and delivering landscape-scale conservation through partnership working.

The LCSP is a group of government, private and charity organisations. In 2003 the partners had a vision to restore this rare Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 'priority' habitat found throughout the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The group worked with limited resources before committing to employ a member of staff in 2006 to lead and drive the project to deliver the vision, 'Lincolnshire's chalk streams should be protected or restored to a quality which sustains the high conservation value of their wildlife, healthy water supplies, recreation opportunities and their place in the character and cultural history of the AONB landscape and wider areas'.

In addition to securing habitat improvements on chalk springs and streams, as part of a landscape-scale approach, the strength of the project has been in drawing together professionals, volunteers, community groups, anglers, landowners and farmers to make a difference on the ground. Examples of the types of habitat improvements made are installation of riffles, cattle drinking points, log flow deflectors, re-grading banks, hedgerow maintenance and planting of riparian plants.

Since 2006 the project has implemented active management on over a quarter of the total length of chalk streams and their tributaries within the AONB landscape. The project has been successful in receiving financial contributions from the partners and in applying for funding to restore the AONB chalk streams, receiving a total of over £439,492 from both public and private sector sources, in addition to the in kind contributions from communities, landowners and farmers.

The future is for the LCSP to continue to be self-sustaining and work with a wide range of partners to raise awareness, deliver on-the-ground habitat improvements, instill best practice with land management and continue to bring in funding to the AONB.