

# LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

## PROVISION OF RESPONSES TO PLANNING AND OTHER CONSULTATIONS

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has traditionally played a significant role in making the case for wildlife and wild places in the context of development. The Trust also identifies and promotes opportunities for making Lincolnshire richer in wildlife through involvement in forward planning and in connection with developments. There is now widespread recognition of the value of restoring ecological networks as well as protecting important wildlife sites.

The Trust does not have the resources to provide advice on every proposal that may affect wildlife in the historic County of Lincolnshire and has determined to adopt a strategic approach to direct limited resources more effectively.

The following statement defines Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's position on engaging with and responding to planning consultations (development control/management and forward planning) and consultations from other bodies on plans and projects.

1. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will prioritise and manage its engagement with the planning system<sup>1</sup> and consultations from other bodies through application of the following criteria:
  - 1.1. The Trust will engage in planning casework and consultations on other plans and developments where:
    - (i) proposals are likely to have significant direct or indirect impacts<sup>2</sup>, either alone or in combination with others, on land owned and/or managed by the Trust; on designated sites<sup>3</sup> or non-designated sites that meet Lincolnshire Local Wildlife Site criteria;
    - (ii) proposals are either likely to significantly prejudice, or assist, in the delivery of landscape-scale (Living Landscape) initiatives to restore ecological networks;
    - (iii) proposals offer opportunities to significantly enhance biodiversity and contribute to green infrastructure.
  - 1.2. Responses will not normally be made to applications that may affect small numbers of protected species outside designated sites as published guidance is widely available.
2. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will review weekly planning lists and consider applications against the above criteria.
3. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will consider other developments, for example when alerted by concerned members of the public, and will respond where appropriate. Advice will be given to the public on how they can engage in the planning process where there are concerns for habitats or species.

**Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust**  
**May 2012**

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<sup>1</sup> Engagement with the planning system includes forward planning (e.g. commenting on Local Authority Local Plans) and development control work (e.g. commenting on individual planning applications).

<sup>2</sup> *Significant impact* is used here to describe impacts that are likely to adversely affect *either* species or habitats for which a site is a nature reserve and/or a designated site; *or* biological (or other) processes and systems that are central to the integrity, structure and function of a site.

<sup>3</sup> Designated sites include locally important Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) (or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)), Local Geological Sites (LGSs) (or Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGSs)), nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or internationally important Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites).