

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER PLACES
CABINET MEMBER**

ELSHAM CHALK QUARRY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To enhance the council's suite of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) by declaring a new LNR at Elsham.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has declared a number of LNRs to date. Recently, we have worked with Elsham Parish Council on a further potential site to a point where it could now be declared as an LNR.
- 2.2 Elsham Chalk Quarry is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) of about 11.4 hectares. It is important for remnants of calcareous grassland. This is a priority habitat which occurs where grassland grows over chalk or limestone. Key species found here include salad burnet, autumn gentian, rough hawkbit, crosswort, greater knapweed, common spotted orchid and bee orchid. The quarry also displays similar geology to the nearby Elsham Chalkpit North Local Geological Site (LGS).
- 2.3 In the past, important habitats have been covered with spoil and planted with trees. This reduced the value of the site for wild flowers. However, Elsham Parish Council has now acquired the land. This brings a new opportunity for local people to manage the site for wildlife and quiet recreation. The adjacent road verge is also a LWS and will be included in the LNR.
- 2.4 The council has a target of 2.0 hectares of LNR per 1,000 people by the year 2018. Declaring the proposed LNR will contribute to the target.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The recommendation is for the Cabinet Member to formally approve the declaration of the Elsham Chalk Quarry LNR.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Adopting the recommendation offers the following benefits:

- Conservation of calcareous grassland
- Conservation of broadleaved woodland
- Local Wildlife Site becomes positively managed, improving council's performance.
- Community involvement in nature conservation.
- Increased educational value of the suite of LNRs
- Create habitat network with neighbouring sites
- Provides an LNR where there is currently a gap in the network
- Improved local performance of hectares of LNR per 1,000 people by 2018.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1. Financial

5.1.1 The Environment Team already budgets for work on LNRs. The new LNR will be managed largely by community groups. These groups can obtain grants for site management.

5.1.2 There are currently around 4700 volunteer hours of work on LNRs and Alkborough Flats every year.

5.2. There are no further resource implications to highlight.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 We consulted Natural England on the proposals. They welcome the proposals for a new LNR. They would like further dialogue as details of site management are agreed. They encourage public access and education on LNRs.

7.2 The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust welcomes the proposal for a new LNR.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

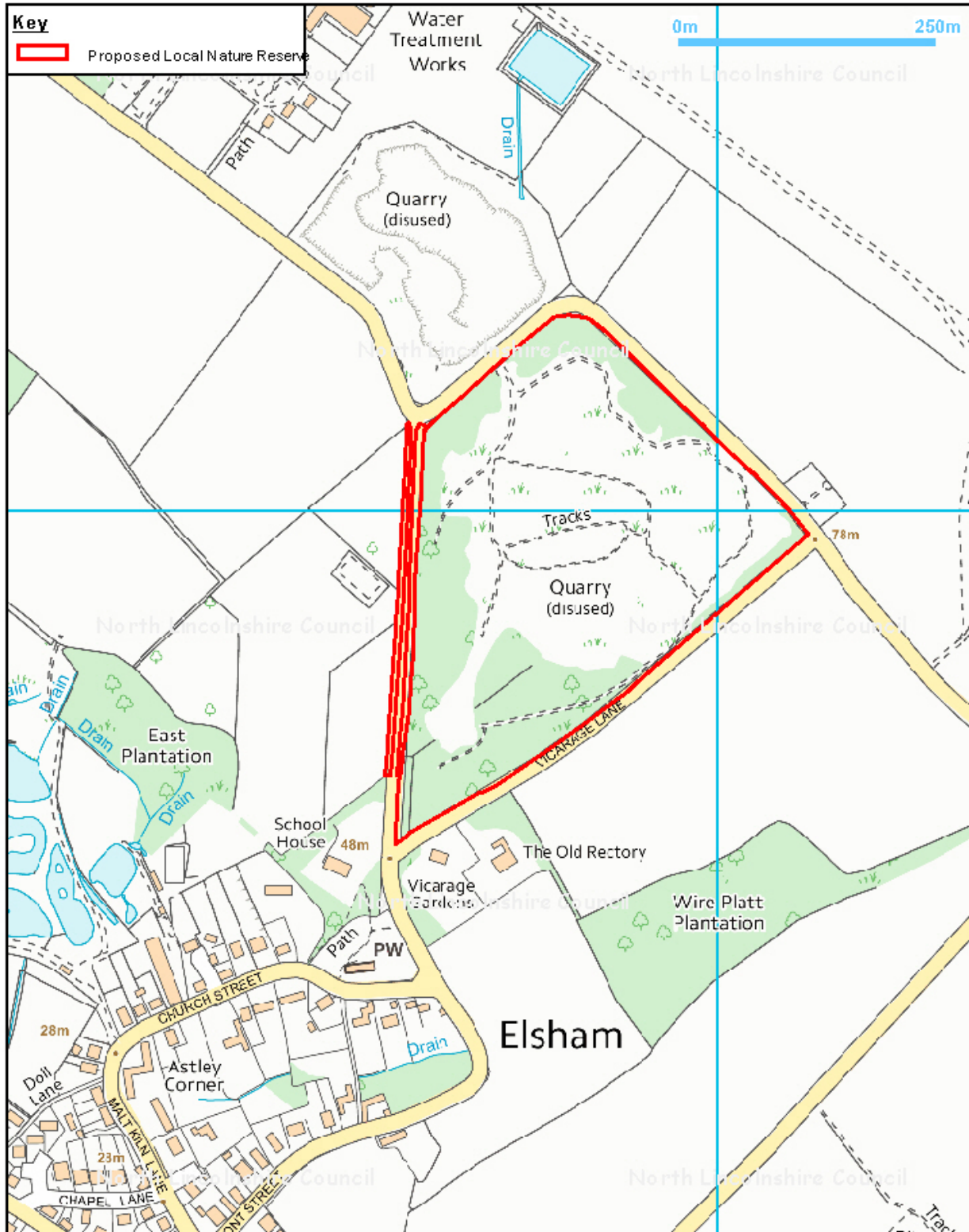
8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the declaration of a new Local Nature Reserve at Elsham Chalk Quarry, as shown on the attached map.



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report None

Appendix- Map of Proposed Local Nature Reserve.



Title: Elsham Chalk Quarry Local Nature Reserve		Drawing No:	Version: 1
Drawn by: Andrew Taylor	Date: 07/02/2017	Scale @A4 1:5000	
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