

North Lincolnshire Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report

Final

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Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BOP	Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way
DCO	Development Consent Order
DPD	Development Plan Document
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
HER	Historic Environment Record
LCA	Landscape Character Areas
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Sites
NCA	National Character Area
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NNR	National Nature Reserves
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPZ	Source Protection Zones
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Areas
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
WCA	Waste Collection Authority
WDA	Waste Disposal Authority
WNA	Waste Needs Assessment
WRZ	Water Resource Zone

Executive Summary

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) is in the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district. The Local Plan will set out the strategic priorities and detailed policies that will guide development in the area up to 2045.

The Plan will provide a framework for the future of the plan area. This Scoping Report has been prepared as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan.

The purpose of this report is to inform the SEA and plan-making process through the identification of potential significant environmental issues within the study area.

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a plan, with the aim of ensuring that sustainable development principles are integrated in the plan-making process. The purpose of this SA Scoping Report is to inform the assessment framework for the SA through the identification of significant environmental and socio-economic issues within the study area. This focuses the SA on the issues which are relevant to North Lincolnshire and if the effect on the environment is likely to be significant, whether positive or negative. Following a review of the current baseline, a future baseline is presented to identify key environmental, social and economic trends without the proposed plan. Using the key sustainability issues captured in the baseline desk study, an assessment framework was developed alongside a proposed scoring methodology. The Framework is comprised of a series of objectives and associated appraisal criteria and will be applied to the assessment of the Local Plan in the later stages of the SA.

The assessment approach has been developed, describing types of effects to be considered, and any transboundary effects. The next stage of the SA will be to undertake consultation with the statutory consultees identified (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency). The results of the consultation process will feed into future stages of the SA and Local Plan development.

This scoping report also sets out the next steps regarding the approach to SA, including consultations with the statutory consultation bodies within England identified above.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) is currently preparing a new Local Plan for North Lincolnshire. The Local Plan will set out the strategic priorities and detailed policies that will guide development in the area up to 2045.

Local Planning Regulations released in March 2026, enabled for the first time the production of Local Plans under the new national plan-making system under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) (LURA). There is no longer a requirement to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) whilst developing a Local Plan, however the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 remain in place, which means Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must still be carried out on Local Plans. As SEA has traditionally been engrained within the SA process, the Council will continue to discharge the SEA requirement this way. This means that the Plan will be assessed against a range of social, environmental and economic objectives. Longer term the Government intends to replace the requirement for SEA with a new impact assessment called Environmental Outcomes Reporting. Firm arrangements are not yet in place for the Council to follow this process.

The purpose of this report is to inform the SEA and plan-making process through the identification of potential significant environmental issues within the study area. This report will establish an appraisal framework which will be applied to the assessment of the Local Plan in later stages of the SEA. The SEA framework comprises a series of objectives and associated appraisal criteria that reflect the key sustainability issues identified in the baseline review.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a plan, with the aims of ensuring that sustainable development principles are integrated into the plan-making process.

In line with Government guidance, SA incorporates the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'SEA Regulations') which implements the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The Directive requires the formal assessment of plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment.

2 North Lincolnshire Local Plan

2.1 Policy context

The North Lincolnshire Development Plan comprises the Core Strategy (adopted in June 2011) together with ‘saved’ policies retained from the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted May 2003), the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) in March 2016, and the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan adopted in May 2016.

North Lincolnshire Council is now preparing a new Local Plan for North Lincolnshire, it will replace the saved policies from the 2003 Local Plan, the 2011 Core Strategy, the 2016 Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan. The Council published a Local Development Scheme in 2025, which set out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, came into force on 25 March 2026, and marks the start of the formal Local Plan preparation process under the Government’s new plan-making system. On 28 July 2026 the council published a [Notice of Intention](#) to commence Local Plan Preparation and a New Local Plan Timetable to replace the previous Local Development Scheme.

The new Local Plan will set out the vision, objectives and policies for the future development of the area and use of land, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure - as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.

2.2 Study area

North Lincolnshire is located within the Yorkshire and Humber region adjacent to the south bank of the Humber Estuary. It encompasses an area approximately 859km² and the 2021 Census recorded a population of 169,700 (Office for National Statistics, 2022), with just under half of the population living in Scunthorpe. Other main settlements in the area include Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Epworth, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey, Barrow-upon-Humber and Winterton.

The settlement pattern is strongly influenced by the underlying geology, which has given rise to a series of escarpments running north-south across the area, interspersed by the wide, flat river valleys of the Trent and Ancholme. The district is bounded to the north by the estuarine landscape of the Humber. The main land use is for agricultural farmland, which is of high quality, with more than half of it classified as ‘the best and most versatile land’.

The Trans-Pennine railway cuts across the centre of North Lincolnshire, connecting the eastern coastal areas with the wider Humber region to the west. The M180 is the principal route through the area, again connecting east and west, and passing through the largest urban areas of Scunthorpe, Brigg and South Killingholme. The A15 provides access to the north east of England and to the south, crossing the Humber Estuary at Barton-upon-

Humber, the only crossing point on the estuary. Several major ports are situated along the estuary.

The estuary is an important wildlife resource and is designated under UK legislation. It is experiencing pressures associated with port development and heavy industry, as well as 'coastal squeeze'. Other important wildlife sites include Crowle Moor and Hatfield Moor, which are also designated under UK legislation. Important areas of heritage in North Lincolnshire include the Isle of Axholme, located towards the western boundary of the area, and the Grade I Registered Historic Park at Brocklesby Park, laid out in the 1770s by Capability Brown.

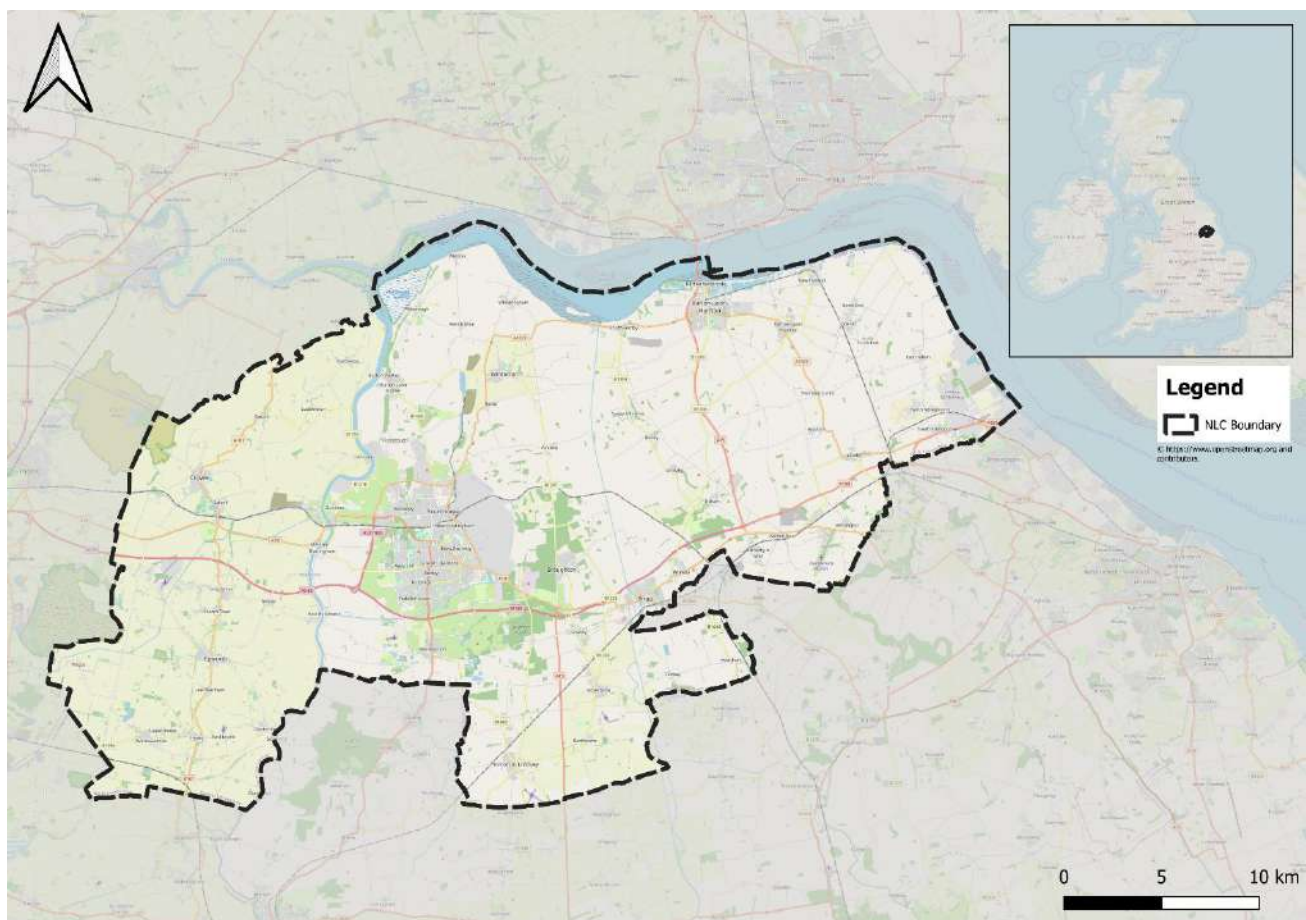


Figure 2-1: Study area for the SASEA assessment.

2.3 Key challenges

Through the preparation of the new North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2026-2045), the Council has identified a refreshed set of key challenges to shape emerging policies. The key challenges are outlined below:

- Creating healthy living environments and well-designed buildings as well as promoting physical activity.

- It is important that a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 education places are available to meet the needs of existing and new communities.
- Transport improvements over the plan period and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) require the Plan to incorporate a 'vision led' approach to transport.
- The Government has updated the NPPF (December 2024) to reflect their ambition to deliver 1.5 million homes in the next five years, and as a result the annual housing target for North Lincolnshire has increased significantly from 396 to 640 homes.
- North Lincolnshire is home to a wealth of natural environments ranging from the internationally important Humber Estuary to a number of nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest and nature reserves. It is essential that they are protected whilst equally not stifling the economic growth that is required.
- Protecting nature conservation sites from increased human activity as a result of additional housing growth, including recreational pressure, loss of 'functionally linked land', as well as additional pollution from road traffic.
- There is great importance in preserving and enhancing the historic environment and built heritage of local distinctiveness to North Lincolnshire, including the many listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, and local buildings of townscape merit. The Isle of Axholme's historic landscape and the Brocklesby Park and Garden are also noteworthy.
- The need to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to its inevitable effects, such as hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter, winters that increase flooding risks and the need to cool buildings.
- Ensuring that sufficient quality employment land is provided in accessible and sustainable locations.
- Ensuring that new retail development enhances the overall retail provision whilst protecting the area's town and district centres.
- Promoting and enhancing North Lincolnshire's tourism offer.
- Important mineral resources need to be safeguarded from inappropriate development. An up-to-date assessment of aggregate and non-aggregate minerals demand informing the tonnage that the Plan needs to provide for is required.
- An up-to-date waste needs assessment informing the tonnage that the Plan needs to plan for is required. Specific allocations and broad areas for waste management may be required.

3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Methodology

3.1 Overview of the SEA process

SA/SEA is an iterative process that is undertaken during the development of plans, programmes and strategies to ensure that any potential significant environmental effects arising from them are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers.

SA/SEA also requires the monitoring of any identified significant effects and for potential unforeseen effects once the plan/programme/strategy is implemented. The intention is that the SA is fully integrated into the plan-making process from the earliest possible stages, both informing and being informed by it. By identifying issues at an early stage, it is then possible to amend the policies/plans to ensure they are as sustainable as possible.

As outlined above, SA informs the decision-making process through the identification and assessment of both significant and cumulative environmental effects from a plan or programme, or its reasonable alternatives. Significant effects are defined as those that may cause substantial, potentially substantial adverse, or beneficial changes to the existing environmental baseline. In this case it involves assessing the North Lincolnshire Local Plan against a series of SA objectives.

Government guidance requires that Sustainability Appraisals should incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This SA Scoping Report has been prepared in compliance with these regulations.

In practice, SA and SEA follow very similar methodologies and therefore it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. For the remainder of this document SA refers to this combined approach.

Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations sets out the scope of the information to be provided across the SA process. Table 3-1 below identifies where in the SA process each requirement is met within this SA Scoping report.

Table 3-1: Requirements of the SA/SEA process as identified within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

SEA Regulations requirements	Where in the SA
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and its relationship with other relevant plans and programme;	SA Scoping Report (Section 4)
b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)
c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)

SEA Regulations requirements	Where in the SA
d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (a) (amended Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)
e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been considered during its preparation;	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)

Schedule 2 requirements (f) through to (j) will be addressed in the SA Environmental Report which is yet to be prepared.

3.2 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process

The SEA guidance sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed. This Scoping Report addresses Stage A of this process, wherein the context and objectives of the SA are identified, and the scope of assessment is determined. For the purposes of this assessment, stages A1 to A4 will be completed - stage A5 includes consultation on the Scoping Report which will be conducted as outlined in Section 9.1 of this document. Stages and tasks associated with B-E will be addressed in the SA Environmental Report which will be prepared in due course alongside the production of the NLC Local Plan.

Table 3-2: Stage A and associated tasks in the SA process.

Stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the SA
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	SA Scoping Report
(A1) Identify other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives	To establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed and to help identify SEA objectives.	SA Scoping Report (Section 5.x.1 of each baseline topic chapter and Appendix A)
(A2) Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)

Stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the SA
(A3) Identifying potential environmental problems	To help focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.	SA Scoping Report (Section 5)
(A4) Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.	SA Scoping Report (Section 7)

3.3 SA Scoping Methodology

3.3.1 Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environment

The relationship between various policies, plans, programmes, and environmental protection objectives may influence the Local Plan. The relationships are analysed to:

- Identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the SA process;
- Identify external factors that may have influenced the preparation of the Local Plan; and
- Determine whether the policies in other plans and programmes might lead to cumulative or synergistic effects when combined with policies in the Local Plan.

The plans and programmes that need to be considered include those at the international, national, regional and local scale. These are identified and evaluated in Section 4.

3.3.2 Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

SA guidance and the SEA Regulations identify a range of environmental and sustainability topics that must be considered during the assessment process. These topics are identified in Table 3-3 alongside the sustainability issues and indicators.

Baseline information has been collected in relation to each of these topics, many of which are inter-linked. A desk study was undertaken to identify baseline information, which was used to determine the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of the North Lincolnshire area. The information search included, but was not limited to, information from a range of sources including the following organisations:

- North Lincolnshire Council
- Natural England
- Office for National Statistics
- Historic England
- Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority
- Defra
- Environment Agency

Where information was available, key sustainability targets and objectives have been identified; established and predicted trends in the status or condition of environmental features have been described; and significant environmental and sustainability issues have been highlighted.

Sustainability topics to be covered in the SA are split into environmental, social and economic topics, as outlined in Table 3-3 below.

Table 3-3: Topics to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.

SEA Directive and SA guidance requirements	Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Air	Section 5.7	Air quality in relation to government objectives, measured levels of potentially harmful substances within the air.
Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)	Section 5.3	Designated nature conservation sites; protected and notable species and habitats; trends in condition and status.
Climatic factors	Section 5.8	Regional climate patterns; trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the sources of these emissions; mitigation measures and adaption to manage climate change.
Cultural heritage	Section 5.6	Protected and notable heritage features; pressures on heritage features (including changes to setting).
Population and human health	Section 5.9	Population trends and demographics; education; inequality and deprivation; accessibility; key trends and patterns in human health.
Landscape	Section 5.2	National and local landscape character; protected and notable landscapes; key local landscape features.
Material assets	Section 5.11	Critical infrastructure (including transport and other infrastructure), community services; and Green Infrastructure.
Soil	Section 5.5	Variety of rocks, minerals and landforms; the quantity and distribution of agricultural land including the highest quality soils; soil health and functions, designated geological sites; land contamination.
Water	Section 5.4	The availability/supply and quality of water. It considers in turn surface and

SEA Directive and SA guidance requirements	Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
		groundwater resources, chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources; flood risk.
Interrelationship between the above factors	N/A	The relationship between environmental features and issues.

3.3.3 Stage A3: Identifying environmental sustainability issues and problems

The identification of significant sustainability issues of direct relevance to North Lincolnshire is an important step in establishing an appropriate appraisal framework. Such issues have been identified directly through the baseline information review or identified by evaluating the relationship between the aims of the SA and the established environmental baseline.

3.3.4 Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

SA objectives are a key tool used to assess the potential positive and negative environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan. Together with associated appraisal criteria, they form an assessment framework that provides a means to predict, describe and analyse the effects that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan policies. The Plan options and policies will be appraised individually against each SA objective, thereby allowing environmental, economic, and social effects, in particular those which are significant, to be identified.

4 Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

4.1 Overview

As part of the SA process, an assessment of the integration of existing policies, plans and programmes on the Local Plan has been undertaken. This is required under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations:

- a. "the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
- b. the degree to which the plan or programme influences the other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
- c. the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development; environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
- d. the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)"

No list of plans or programmes can be definitive and as a result, all policies, plans and programmes which are considered relevant to the development of the Local Plan have been listed below and are detailed in Appendix A. Relevant policies, plans and programmes are described in further detail in the policy context section of each environmental topic in Section 5.

International:

- Aarhus Convention 1998
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC amended to 2009/147/EC)
- EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC)
- EU Convention for the protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992)
- EU Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) 2000
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement (2016)
- European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)
- EU Air Quality framework directive on ambient air quality (2008/50/EC, 2004/107/EC, 2015/1480/EC)
- Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
- EU Biodiversity strategy to 2030 (2020)

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (United Nations Environment Programme, 2022)

National:

- 25 Year Environment Plan (HM Government, 2018) and the Environmental Improvement Plan (First Revision, 2023)
- Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Climate Change Act 2008 (GOV UK, 2008)
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (GOV UK, 2017)
- Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (GOV UK, 2000)
- Environment Act 2021 (GOV UK, 2021)
- Environmental Protection Act (Gov UK, 1990)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Flood and Water Management Act (GOV UK, 2010)
- Housing and Planning Act (2016)
- Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) (GOV UK, 2023)
- National Design Guide (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2021)
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2020)
- National Planning Policy for Waste (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2014)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (GOV UK, 2006)
- Natural Environment White Paper (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2014)
- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024)
- UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy (National Infrastructure & Service Transformation Authority, 2025)
- UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030 (DAERA et al., 2025)
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (GOV UK, 1981)

Regional:

- Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2008)
- Anglian Water Resource Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2024)
- Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan (Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, 2024)

- Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan (Scott Wilson, 2010)
- River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2010)
- Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 (ARUP, 2025)
- Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2014-2030 (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, 2016)
- Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020 (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011)
- North and North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022)

Local:

- North Lincolnshire Housing Plan 2023-2028 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2023)
- Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2019)
- North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)
- North Lincolnshire Local Development Scheme Revised (North Lincolnshire Council, 2021)
- A Green Future (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025)
- North Lincolnshire Economic Growth Plan (2023-2028) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2023)
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan (North Lincolnshire Council, 2018)
- Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan (AAP) - North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (North Lincolnshire Council, Mott MacDonald, 2019)
- Lincolnshire Lakes Strategic Design Guide SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)
- Planning for Renewable Energy Development SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)
- Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)
- Planning for Health and Wellbeing SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)
- North Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)
- Gypsy and Traveller Household Formation and Growth Rates (Opinion Research Services, 2020)
- North Lincolnshire Open Space Study (North Lincolnshire Council, 2019)
- North Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Strategy (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020)
- Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document – North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)
- Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025)
- Onshore Oil & Gas Development in North Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)

- North Lincolnshire Conservation Area Appraisals (North Lincolnshire Council, n.d.)
- Interim Planning Guidance South Humber Gateway - Transport Contributions (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)
- Air Quality Action Plan (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024)

4.2 Identification of key themes and messages

The main themes, messages and objectives from the policies, plan and programmes review that are considered relevant to the SA are presented in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Identified key themes and messages relevant to the Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal topic	Key Themes
Landscape	Protection of landscape assets and characteristics; promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and National Landscapes; protection of local and historic landscape characters; employment of green infrastructure to enhance the landscape and to benefit people.
Biodiversity	Protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites and their qualifying features; restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, particularly those under threat; identification of roles and responsibilities to protect and enhance biodiversity including through the creation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Water	Protection of sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; improve management of the water environment to reduce risk of contamination of water resources; better regulation of land management, improve defences and identify areas for water storage to reduce the risk of flooding; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
Land	Contamination of pollutants and reduction in runoff to reduce impacts on environmental receptors; regeneration of brownfield sites above greenfield; exploration of secondary aggregates in place of primary aggregates; protection of sites with mineral resources from development, through Minerals Safeguarding Areas.
Historic	Conservation and enhancement of built environment and heritage assets; protection of historic landscapes and integration of heritage protection in development.
Climate	Reduction of future greenhouse gas emissions through provision of renewable energy and sustainable energy consumption; promotion of home improvements and energy efficiency opportunities in low-income households.

The themes, messages and objectives identified will provide an input into the process of identifying key issues and opportunities when developing the SA Framework.

4.3 Setting out assessment factors

Section 4 proposes the scope of the assessment; Section 7 outlines the SA Framework and Section 9 provides the methodology of the assessment. Section 10 sets out the next steps in the SA process.

4.4 Consultation on the scope of the SA

This Scoping Report has been prepared to consult with the statutory SEA/SA consultation bodies on the proposed scope of the SA, as outlined in Section 9.

This consultation and scoping exercise are the initial steps for environmental representation to influence the Local Plan. It will help to understand which environmental effects of the Local Plan are a concern and provides additional information which should be taken into consideration.

5 Environmental Characteristics and Key Issues

5.1 Introduction

This section covers information on the current environmental baseline in the study area and summarises the key information from the policies, plans and programmes which need to be considered in the SEA for each environmental topic. A desk-based study for baseline environmental data was undertaken to identify the key environmental characteristics, of which the findings are presented below. The study area has been defined as the North Lincolnshire administrative boundary (as shown in Figure 2-1 above).

5.2 Landscape and Visual Amenity

5.2.1 Policy context

Natural England has divided England into 159 distinct landscape areas, known as National Character Areas (NCAs). A combination of factors is used to define each NCA including landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. NCAs are commonly used to inform policy and planning decisions as well as monitoring changes in the landscape (Natural England, 2014).

A Landscape Character Assessment for North Lincolnshire was published in 1999 and was recently updated in 2022. This review captured the changes across the district in the 20 years since the original assessment and incorporates these changes into the details and characteristics of the Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types where required. The assessment also highlights Areas of High Landscape Value.

The NPPF (2024) outlines how planning policies should support conserve and enhance the natural environment, including aspects of the landscape. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services;
- Minimising the impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority of threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;

The NPPF (2024) sets out in Paragraph 20(d) that conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure should be set out within a strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places.

This includes the inclusion of trees in the landscape. Paragraph 136 of the NPPF outlines that trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, emphasising that new streets should be tree-lined and that new developments take every opportunity to integrate trees elsewhere, such as within parks and community orchards. Appropriate measures must be in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and existing trees must be retained where possible.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are orders made by local planning authority to protect the amenity of specific trees, groups of trees or woodland. This prohibits any destruction or damage to these trees without written consent from NLC. The legislation regarding TPOs is located within Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended and in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 (Legislation.gov.uk, 2012).

Local Green Spaces

Local Green Spaces are significant designations to the local community. The North Lincolnshire Local Plan Green Space Assessment was published in 2022 and gives the local community an opportunity to identify and protect demonstrably significant green spaces in their local area.

These are also covered within Neighbourhood Plans. For example, the Appleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan outlines the importance of green infrastructure for the neighbourhood and how this provides a natural life-support system for people and wildlife. The community has identified green spaces of particular local significance that should be protected because of their beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of their wildlife. There are six designated local green spaces in Appleby Parish.

Worlaby Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2038 also designates important local green spaces in the parish. Research conducted as part of the Plan development considered green open space and access to countryside in the village, and the most important aspect of the environment was the trees and green spaces. Within Worlaby Parish, there are numerous designated areas of green space, including 'The Hollows', a disused chalk quarry at the edge of the village that is managed as a calcareous grassland and meets Local Wildlife Site standards.

Responses to the Neighbourhood Plans of North Lincolnshire demonstrate the importance of local green spaces to the local community, and the management and protection of these areas must be considered throughout the SA process.

5.2.2 Current baseline

Landscape designations

There are no National Landscapes or Green Belt designations located within the study area. There are six National Character Areas identified across the Lincolnshire. These are as follows (Natural England, 2025):

- **Central Lincolnshire Vale (NCA 44):** a tranquil, rural and sparsely settled landscape which is largely utilised for agriculture, predominantly for arable crops. The soils underlain with mudstone bedrock support seasonably waterlogged conditions supporting wet grasslands and woodlands. There is a history of agricultural improvement transforming the land.
- **Humber Estuary (NCA 41):** several major rivers flow into the Humber, and it features stretches of intertidal habitats including mudflats, salt marsh, reedbed, coastal dunes and wetlands along the side of the estuary. The area is important for its dynamic geomorphological processes.
- **Humberhead Levels (NCA 39):** flat, low lying landscape dominated by agriculture, bounded by the Yorkshire Wolds and Northern Lincolnshire Esge with Coversands.
- **Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes (NCA 42):** wide coastal plain, bounded by the North Sea to the east. More recently this area has become predominantly arable following drainage was introduced in the second half of the 20th century.
- **Lincolnshire Wolds (NCA 43):** long narrow band of agricultural land dominated by a west-facing chalk escarpment approximately 50m high.
- **Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NCA 45):** a ridge of Jurassic limestone running from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary.

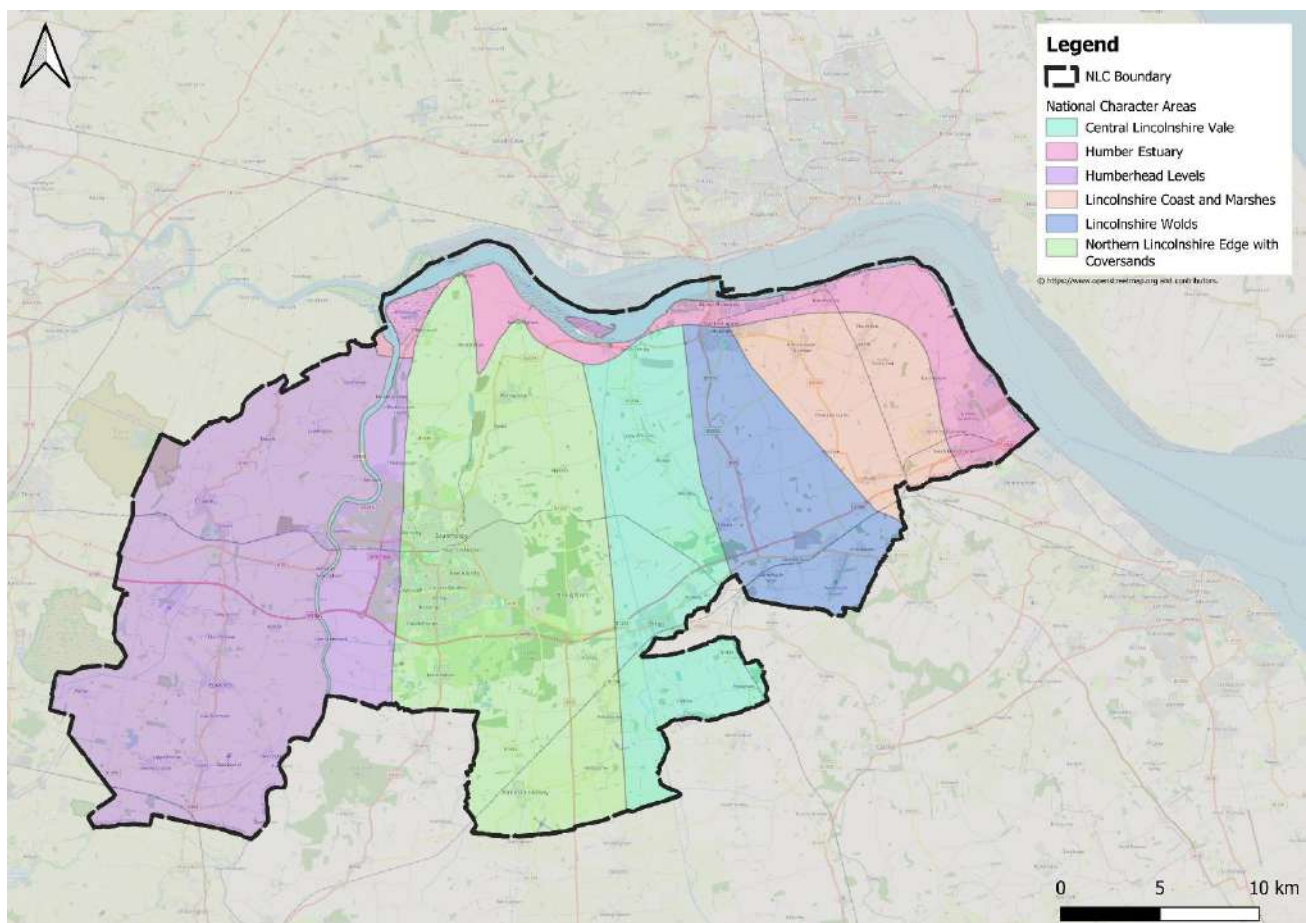


Figure 5-1: National Character Areas across North Lincolnshire.

The North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment identifies and describes the characteristics of North Lincolnshire's landscape. The settlement pattern closely follows the underlying geology, whereby the Lincolnshire Edge, the Lincolnshire Wolds, and Lincolnshire Drift, a series of escarpments running north-south across the district, are interspersed by the wide, flat river valleys of the Trent and Ancholme. The district is bounded to the north by the estuarine landscape of the Humber. Settlements tend to be concentrated on higher land of the escarpments, or on the scarp foot spring line, or on islands or ridges within the river valleys, such as the Isle of Axholme, or the spur of land within the Vale of Ancholme upon which Brigg now stands. The shores of the Humber also home large concentrations of industry and settlements (North Lincolnshire Council, 1999).

North Lincolnshire is split into six Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), These include the Trent Levels, Lincolnshire Edge, Vale of Ancholme, Lincolnshire Wolds, Lincolnshire Drift, and the Humber Estuary. These areas tend to be well defined to the west, where the scarp slopes have a marked influence of landscape character, and less defined to the east, where the gently graded dip slopes merge gradually with the valley or estuarine/coastal lowlands. Table 5-1 describes the LCAs of North Lincolnshire and provides summary information on their principal characteristics and key challenges. Within each of the LCAs are specific Landscape Character Types, these are shown below on Figure 5-2.

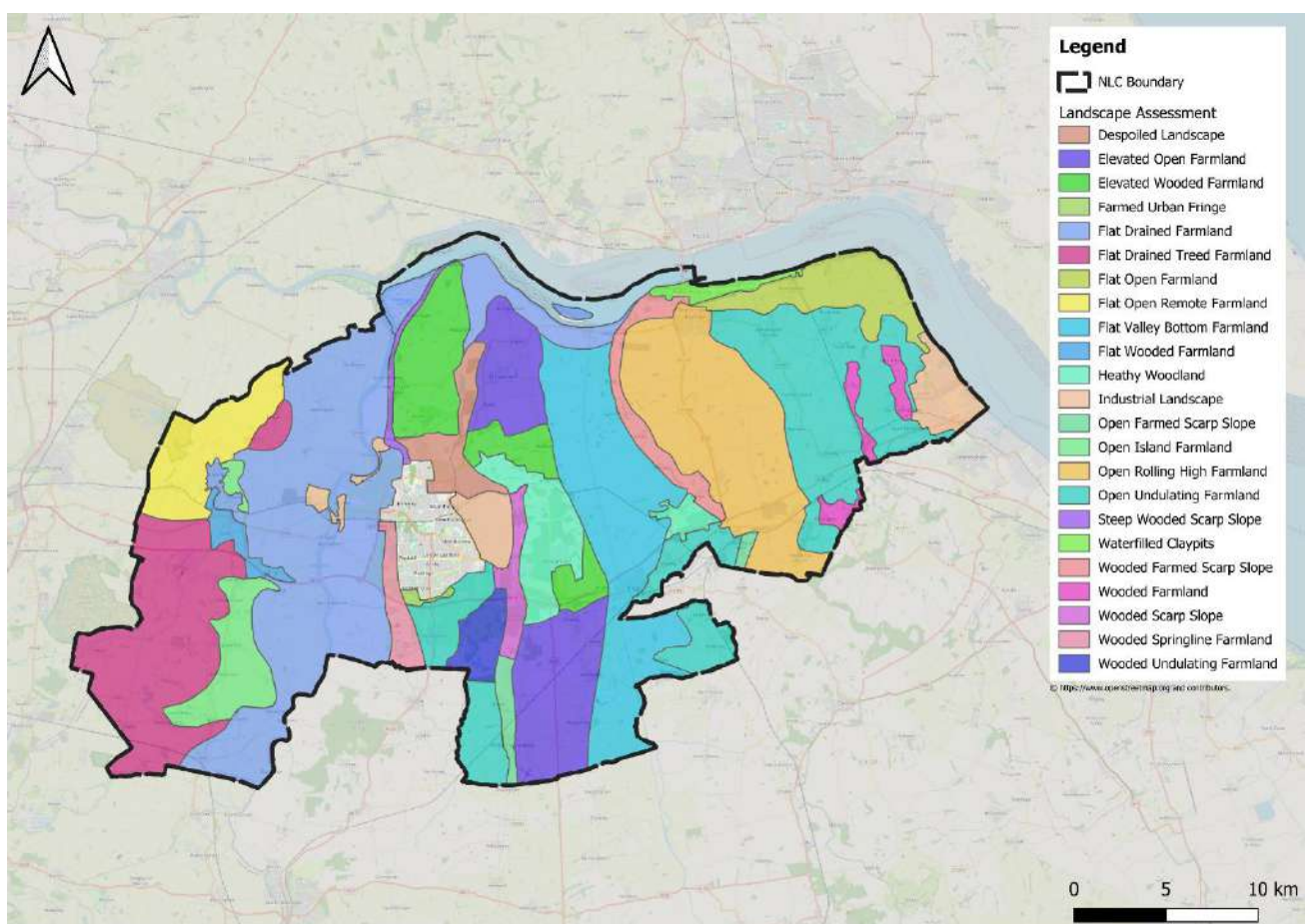


Figure 5-2: Local Landscape Areas in North Lincolnshire.

A number of LCAs have experienced change from a range of pressures (North Lincolnshire Council, 1999). These include urbanisation and the expansion of Scunthorpe; the increase in industry for European trade, particularly in the Killingholme area on the Humber Estuary; and developments such as the M180, A180(T), and A15. Modernised farming methods and the extraction of minerals have also impacted landscapes. Future pressures are likely to include further residential and economic developments, as well as the impacts of climate change.

Table 5-1: LCAs within North Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire Council, 1999)

LCA	Principal characteristics	Key challenges
Trent Levels	Flat, open floodplain landscape. Large open field structure defined by well-maintained drainage ditches. Open arable areas with occasional woodland copses, farmsteads, and overhead electricity pylons. Farming intensification has led to loss of hedgerows, which are generally badly maintained and gaping. Settlements found on higher ground or adjacent to River Trent. Expansive views with little diversity.	Pressure for reduction of the size and nature of historic open field strip systems due to agricultural development. Growth of Isle of Axholme settlements. The growth of Lincolnshire Lakes Development Site and other development sites. Industrial growth along Trent Wharves. Recreational development of riverside. New permissive paths and 'right to roam' could impact common areas. Sand and gravel, clay, and peat extraction at Haxey, Epworth and Owston Ferry, and Crowle, respectively. Depletion of groundwater impacting heathland and peat areas.
Lincolnshire Edge	Large scale escarpment landscape, mainly arable, with distinctive north-south scarp slopes. Complex landscape with arable farmland, scarp slopes, urbanisation in Scunthorpe, cover sands area of heath, blown sands habitat, and conifer woods. Farmland with open, rectilinear fields, with few boundaries. Historically significant Roman road to the east, Ermine Street follows a north-south route.	Further growth of Scunthorpe, and market towns such as Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton. Industrial growth surrounding Scunthorpe. All development sites other residential developments. Continued landfilling Roxby Gullet and other sites. Extraction of ironstone east of Yarborough and oil at Crosby Warren. Sand and gravel extraction at Flixborough and silica sand extraction at Messingham and Manton.

LCA	Principal characteristics	Key challenges
Vale of Ancholme	Broad, low lying, arable vale. Intensive arable field with remnant hedgerows and artificially drained soils. Pockets of pasture on heavier clays. Variable woodland cover. Sparsely distributed settlements concentrated on the elevated central ridge or floodplain edge. Traditional building materials like local brick. Quiet and rural character.	Farm amalgamation and agricultural efficiency. Growth of settlements such as the market town of Brigg. Industrial redevelopment around Brigg. Recreational development of River Ancholme. Pressure on heathland from groundwater depletion and 'right to roam'.
Lincolnshire Wolds	Rolling upland arable landscape of cohesive identity dissected by gently graded slopes. Pronounced scarp slopes to north and west, with a mixture of woodland, and sparsely settled spring line villages with views across Vale of Ancholme and Humber Estuary. Large rectilinear fields with clipped and degraded hedgerows, and hedgerow loss in places due to field amalgamation. Small blocks of woodland and shelterbelts often associated with farmsteads. Character best developed towards southern edge.	Increased demand for water resources may result in reservoirs or desalination infrastructure. Quarrying pressure, possibly to utilise quarries for landfilling. Farm diversification. Energy infrastructure such as transmission lines and wind farms.
Lincolnshire Drift	Gently undulating arable landscape with topography dipping from west (Lincolnshire Wolds) to north and east (Humber Estuary). Concentrations of larger settlements to north, with brick and pantile or occasional slate roof the local vernacular. Large scale rectilinear intensively farmed fields with pockets of smaller-scale historic landscape. Clipped hedgerows, some	Agricultural intensification, farm expansion, and diversification. Barton upon Humber and other main settlements such as Barrow upon Humber. Continued growth of Humberside Airport and associated business park, and industrial growth at North Killingholme airfield.

LCA	Principal characteristics	Key challenges
	degraded due to field amalgamation. Open landscape punctuated by medium-sized woodland blocks more common to central and southern regions. Landscape is degraded in many areas due to urbanisation, transmission lines, and industry.	
Humber Estuary	Flat, expansive, low-lying estuarine landscape. Sky and open views dominate, with changing character due to tides. Mudflats and salt marshes form where flood embankments allow, with internationally important wetland and coastal habitats. Reclaimed arable fields on well-drained soils, unbounded with dikes, drains and embankments. Hedgerow and tree cover is limited, though occasional dense mature woodland blocks are prominent. Urban and industrial complexes are significant, though further away is a sense of remoteness.	Further industrial growth in South Humber Bank. Recreational development of Humber riverside. Possible exploitation of clay reserves around Barton upon Humber and Barrow Haven. Possible pressures for land reclamation, dredging, seabed sand and gravel extraction, and construction of sea defences. The lower part of the market town of Barton upon Humber will have development pressures in relation to site regeneration.

North Lincolnshire does not contain any major landscape designations, such as National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), National Parks, or Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). However, there are landscapes of national importance. The Isle of Axholme is designated as an area of Special Historic Landscape Interest, detailed as a medieval landscape, with a strip of open fields and turbaries¹, according to the Local Plan (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011). This surrounds the market town of Epworth and covers the areas of Belton, Haxey and Westwoodside. Other market town settlements such as Brigg, Barton upon Humber, and Crowle are regarded to have a historic character built around historic centres, with associated heritage. Crowle Moors, in the Trent Levels LCA, is also stated in the Local Plan as nationally important.

¹ Turbaries are the ancient rights, or the land associated with, the right to cut turf (peat) for fuel.

Landscape Character Assessment Review

North Lincolnshire Council published a Landscape Character Review to update accounts of the condition and influences on land within the borough, and this acted as evidence for the new Local Plan. This found that recent work at Alkborough Flats, at the confluence of the Humber Estuary and River Trent, has helped to manage flood risk around the estuary and create new habitat to preserve the landscape. Tidal waters were allowed to flood a large part of the site which has impacted on the landscape character of this area.

In more recent decades, the diversity of landscape types in the area has been impacted by demands that society has placed on the landscape and its resources. These changes have occurred in three ways:

- **Loss of features** that provide colour, interest, shape and scale, e.g. a loss of hedgerows by field enlargement; loss of views; replacement of traditional agricultural buildings by modern 'off the peg' sheds; and infill of open space within rural villages.
- **Introduction of new features**, such as new housing, transmission lines, wind turbines, quarries, roads, new woodland etc.
- **Decline in quality** or state of repair of features of the landscape, e.g. dereliction of the urban fringe; neglect of hedgerows; loss of smooth rolling topography due to scrub invasion; and introduction of standardised suburban styles to a previously architecturally diverse settlement.

This is resulting in significant landscape pressures to North Lincolnshire and the wider area. Some notable changes include increasing demand and expansion of settlements and industrial areas; increasing demand and expansion of services such as roads, waste facilities and airports; various new kinds of countryside development; intensification of agricultural use; loss of woodlands and trees; and increase pressures generally on resources.

Demands are expected to increase in coming years, but is not considered to be detrimental if managed correctly. It is necessary to address change and mitigate the impacts accordingly.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

There are 355 TPO's located across North Lincolnshire, these include individual trees and groups designations, as shown in Figure 5-3. These are spread across the district with concentrations around Scunthorpe, south of Winterton and Saxby All Saints. The TPO with the largest area is located west of Broughton which is approximately 72.73ha.

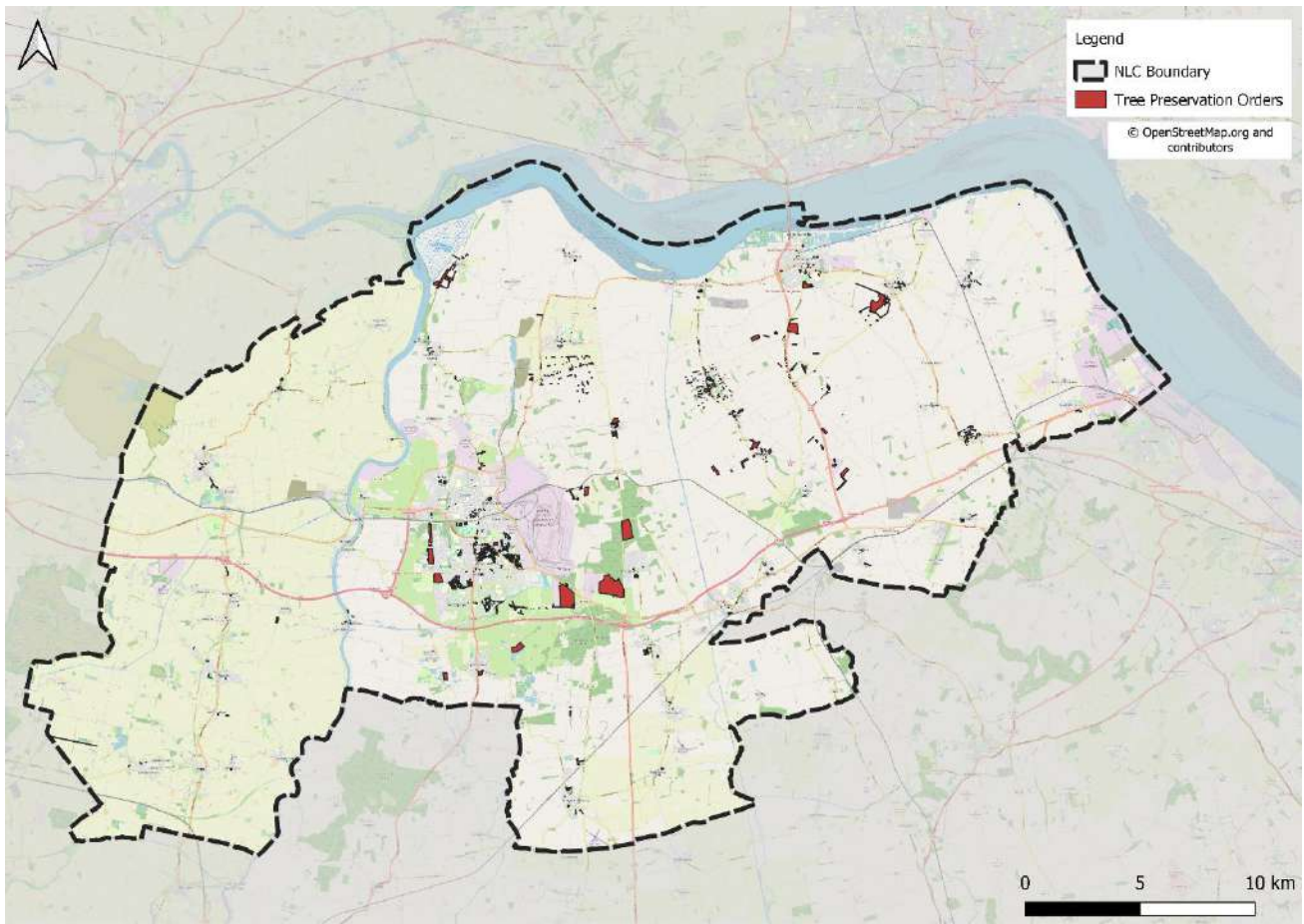


Figure 5-3 Tree Preservation Orders in North Lincolnshire.

Visual Amenity

Visual amenity is created through preserving a coherent and congruent landscape character, that maintains the townscape. This includes preservation of the historic landscape, which was outlined in the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project, completed in 2011.

The NPPF (2024) outlines that distinctive characters of towns should be reflected in strategic policies, with these policies looking at least 10 years ahead to meet the likely scale and type of development that is likely to be required. The NPPF states that planning policies should ensure developments are:

- Visually attractive because of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping.
- Sympathetic to local character and history, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change.
- Maintaining a strong sense of place to establish an attractive and welcoming place to live, work and visit.

5.2.3 Summary of key issues

The key issues concerning landscape and visual amenity across the district include:

- Changes in landscape and visual amenity associated with the regeneration, and continued industrial development including the airport, associated business park and extractive industries.
- Continued pressures on the landscape and visual amenity caused by intensification of agricultural practices, existing practices have resulted in the loss of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields.
- Maintaining and enhancing existing landscape amenity whilst delivering both employment and housing allocation for the Local Plan period.
- Climate change is likely to alter the condition and character of existing landscape due to increases in annual temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, which may affect vegetation cover and hydrological regimes.

5.3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

5.3.1 Policy context

The UK Government published its 25-Year Environment Plan in 2018 (25YEP), which sets out the government's overarching environmental goals relating to biodiversity and nature conservation including achieving a 'growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife' (Defra, 2018). The Environmental Improvement Plan, which is the First Revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, builds on the 25-year plan's vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress (Defra, 2023).

The Environment Act (2021) makes many components of the 25-Year Environment Plan statutory through legal requirements to restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity and halt the decline in species by 2030. The Act includes a requirement for all planning permissions granted in England to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain, with some exceptions (The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024).

As part of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, and underpinned by the Environment Act 2021, Defra and Natural England are bringing together partners, legislation, and funding to create the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) to restore and enhance England's wildlife-rich places. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are afforded protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This means that certain activities are prohibited and there are legal duties concerning how these areas should be managed and protected. This includes intentionally or recklessly damage, disturb, or destroy land known to be SSSI.

Under various Acts, protected nature sites in the UK include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated to conserve habitats and species listed on the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive). SACs are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA): protected areas for birds in line with European Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) and classified under multiple legislations including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- Ramsar sites: designated wetlands of international importance;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are afforded protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This means that certain activities are prohibited and there are legal duties concerning how these areas should be managed and protected. This includes intentionally or recklessly damage, disturb, or destroy land known to be SSSI; and
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are protected under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) was first published by national government in 1994 in response to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 developed this, and the 56 habitats and 943 species originally identified within the UKBAP evolved to become habitats and species of principal importance under section 41 of the NERC Act (also known as priority habitats and species). Paragraph 187 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity. Local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks should be safeguarded (para.192), and planning policies should recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services.

Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership published the 3rd Edition of Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan in 2011 (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011). The plan covered the period from 2011 to 2020, setting out the progress, vision, aims, and actions for biodiversity in Lincolnshire. Biodiversity Action Plans are being superseded by Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), a new system of spatial strategy set out in the UK's Environment Act 2021. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a tool designed to guide action for nature recovery. They were introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to help achieve targets in the Environmental Improvement Plan. In November 2020, the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) agreed to develop a combined LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire. The LNRS will supersede the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2011). The draft LNRS is expected to be consulted on in January 2026, with a plan to adopt the Strategy in June 2026. The LNRS will help guide mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and encourage farmers and land managers to explore the potential of their land for strategic nature recovery actions.

5.3.2 Current baseline

National and international designated nature conservation sites

North Lincolnshire supports three SACs (Hatfield Moor, Thorne Moor, Humber Estuary), two (Humber Estuary and Thorne and Hatfield Moors) and one Ramsar site (Humber Estuary) (shown on Figure 5-4 and Figure 5-5. Summary details of these sites are provided in Table 5-2. Key issues experienced at these sites include the impact of development, which causes direct impacts on habitat quality. This is due to a number of reasons including effects on water quality as a result of contaminated surface water runoff, and an increase in public access disturbing the habitats and species that are present at the sites.

Whilst both Hatfield Moor SAC and Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve (NNR) are located outside of the North Lincolnshire boundary, they overlap with designations which stretch into the study area and are therefore relevant to the environmental baseline.

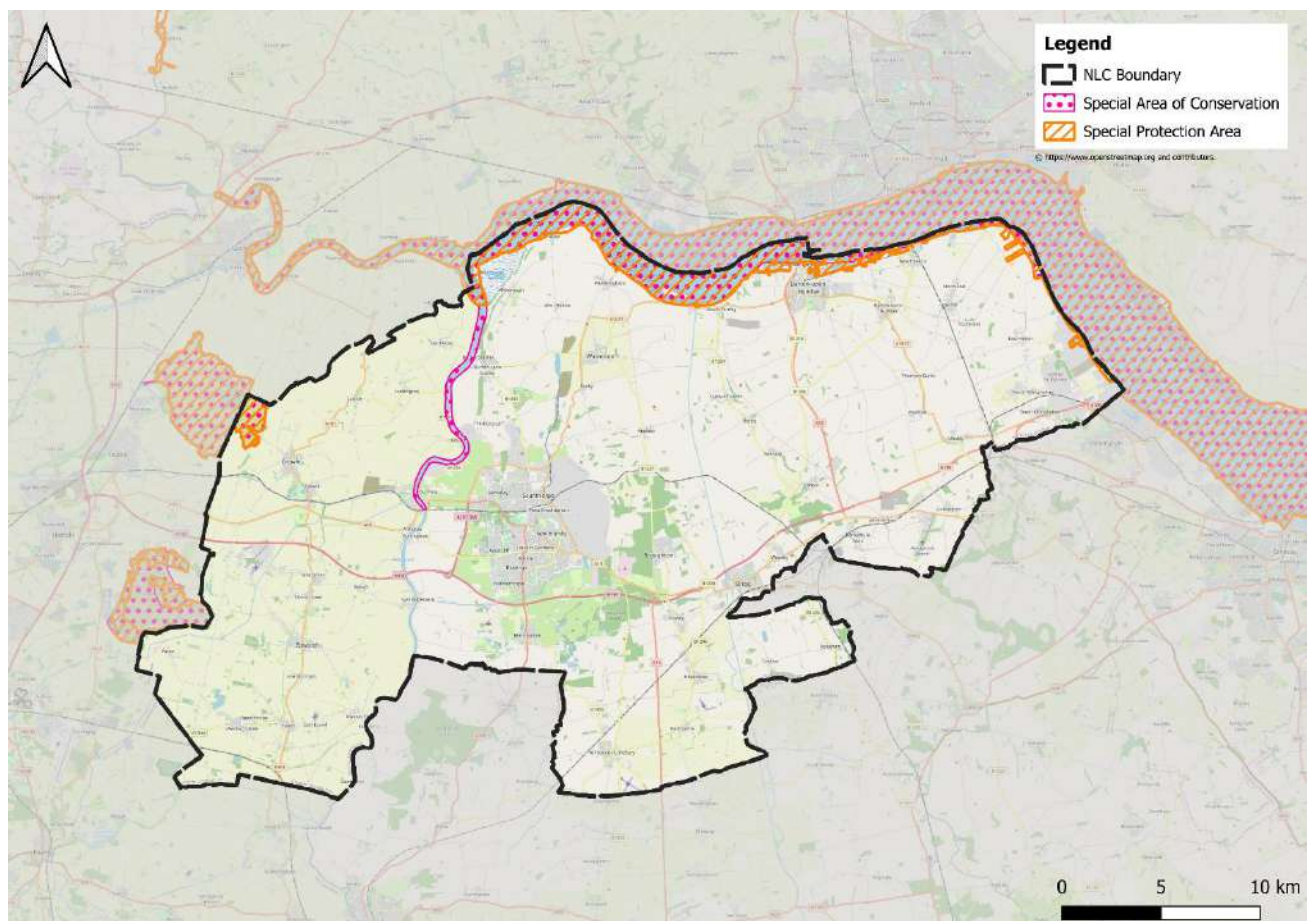


Figure 5-4: SACs and SPAs within the North Lincolnshire boundary.

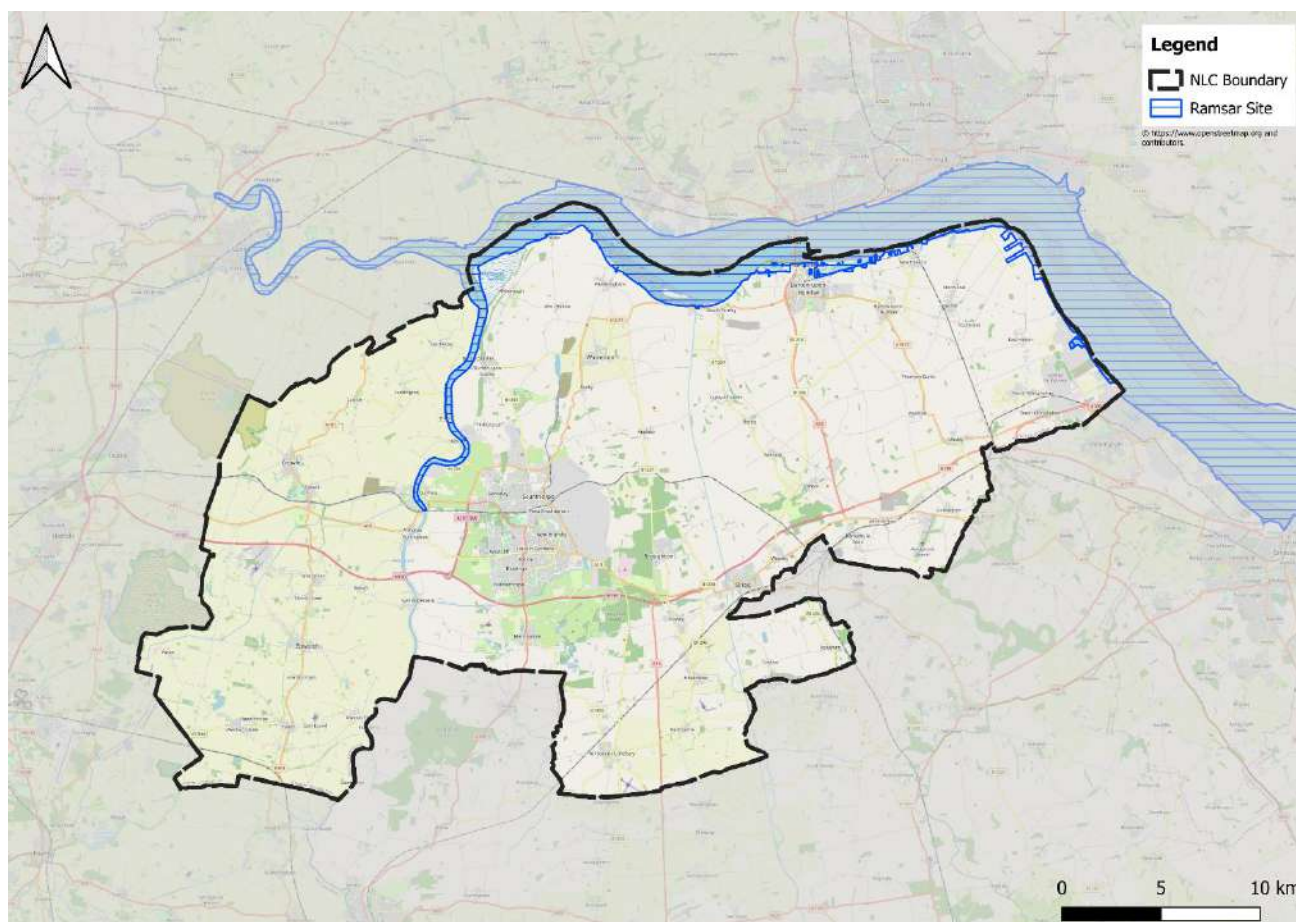


Figure 5-5: Ramsar site within the North Lincolnshire boundary.

Table 5-2: Designated sites within North Lincolnshire (Natural England, 2025; North Lincolnshire Council, 2011; Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011)

Site	Qualifying features	Key challenges
Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA and SACs	This site is of ornithological importance; it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> (Annex 1) in any season. It also contains lowland raised peat bog habitats of international importance.	• Water level management • Peat extraction • Development (Wind Farms)
Humber Estuary SPA, SAC, Ramsar	Supports internationally significant numbers of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Supports Britain's most south-easterly breeding colony of Grey Seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> . It also contains intertidal habitats of international importance.	• Coastal squeeze/ sea level rise • Pollution • Vegetation succession • Recreation • Development generally – for example proposed growth at the South Humber Bank Employment Site

The North Lincolnshire Council area also supports a range of nationally important wildlife sites. There are 27 SSSI designated within the District, which are mostly located within rural areas in the central and west areas of the District (as shown on Figure 5-6). Summary information on these sites is provided in Appendix B. Natural England assesses the condition of SSSIs and their constituent units and categorises them as favourable or unfavourable. With an unfavourable status classification, Natural England further determines if the trend of the SSSI unit is recovering or declining. SSSIs represent 4.9% of the total land area within North Lincolnshire. North Lincolnshire also supports two NNRs – Far Ings and Humberhead Peatlands (Appendix B).

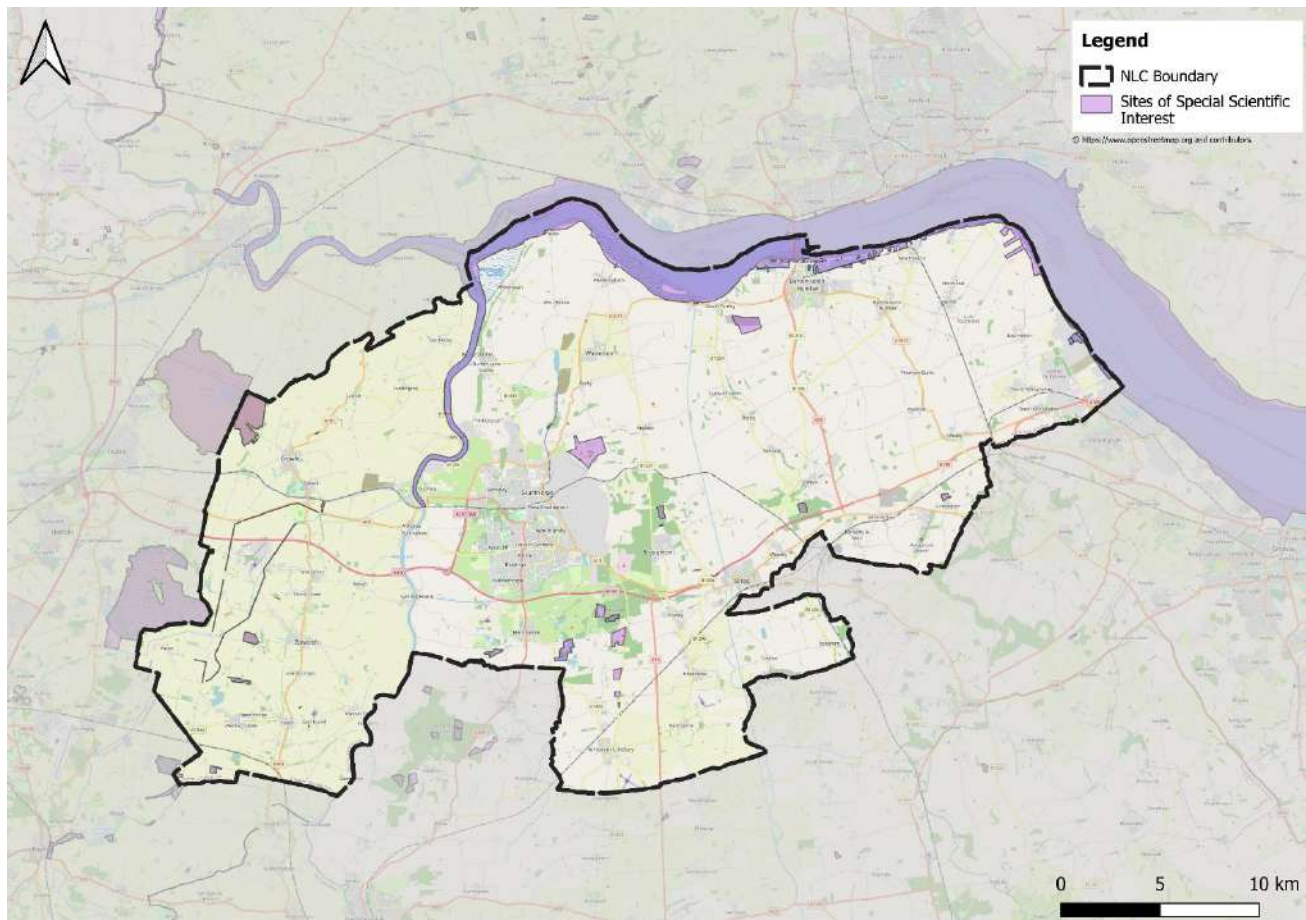


Figure 5-6: SSSI Sites within the North Lincolnshire boundary.

Local designated nature conservation sites

There are 70 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within North Lincolnshire and 190 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) (Figure 5-7). As described above, LNRs are statutory designations. LWSs are local designations which are afforded protection at a local authority level. There is some overlap between LNRs and LWS, with multiple being partially or fully designated as both. Both LNRs and LWS are spread across the district, with several adjoining LWS designations around Broughton.

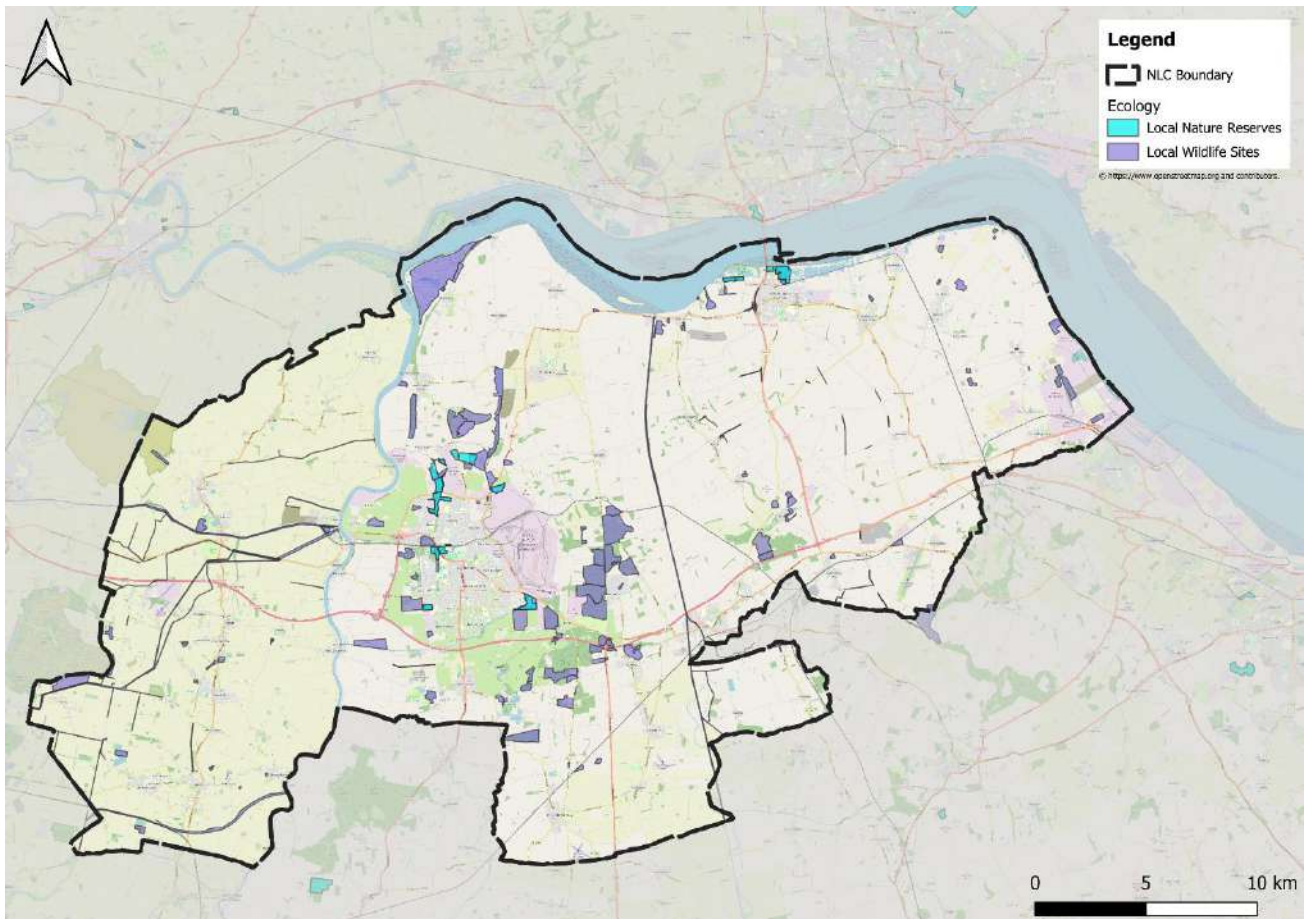


Figure 5-7: Local ecological designations across North Lincolnshire.

Notable habitats and species

The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 3rd Edition 2011-2020 (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011) contains 26 Habitat Actions Plans. These habitats cover a relatively small area, except for urban areas and coastal habitats.

The Lincolnshire BAP also contains Species Action Plans (SAP) for 12 priority species/groups of species in the region. Nine of these species/species groups are present in North Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011). These comprise:

- Bats
- Newts
- Seals
- Commercial Fish (Marine)
- Farmland Birds
- Freshwater Fish
- Urban Birds
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*

About half of these groups have declined in number over recent years (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011) as a result of increased impacts on the environment through

development and other anthropogenic pressures. Some (e.g. Grey Seal) have increased in the region.

Other protected species recorded in the region include Badger *Meles meles*, reptiles (Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara*), and Otter *Lutra lutra* (NBN Gateway, 2012; Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, 2015).

Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

In 2019, the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership created a Biodiversity Opportunity Map (BOM) for North Lincolnshire Council. This mapping shows the greatest opportunities for nature within the North Lincolnshire. Of the 4,368 identified opportunities, 3,232 are identified as 'Ecological network - opportunity for management' and 606 identified as an 'Opportunity for creation'. Many biodiversity opportunities are located in the buffer of Scunthorpe and adjacent to existing rivers.

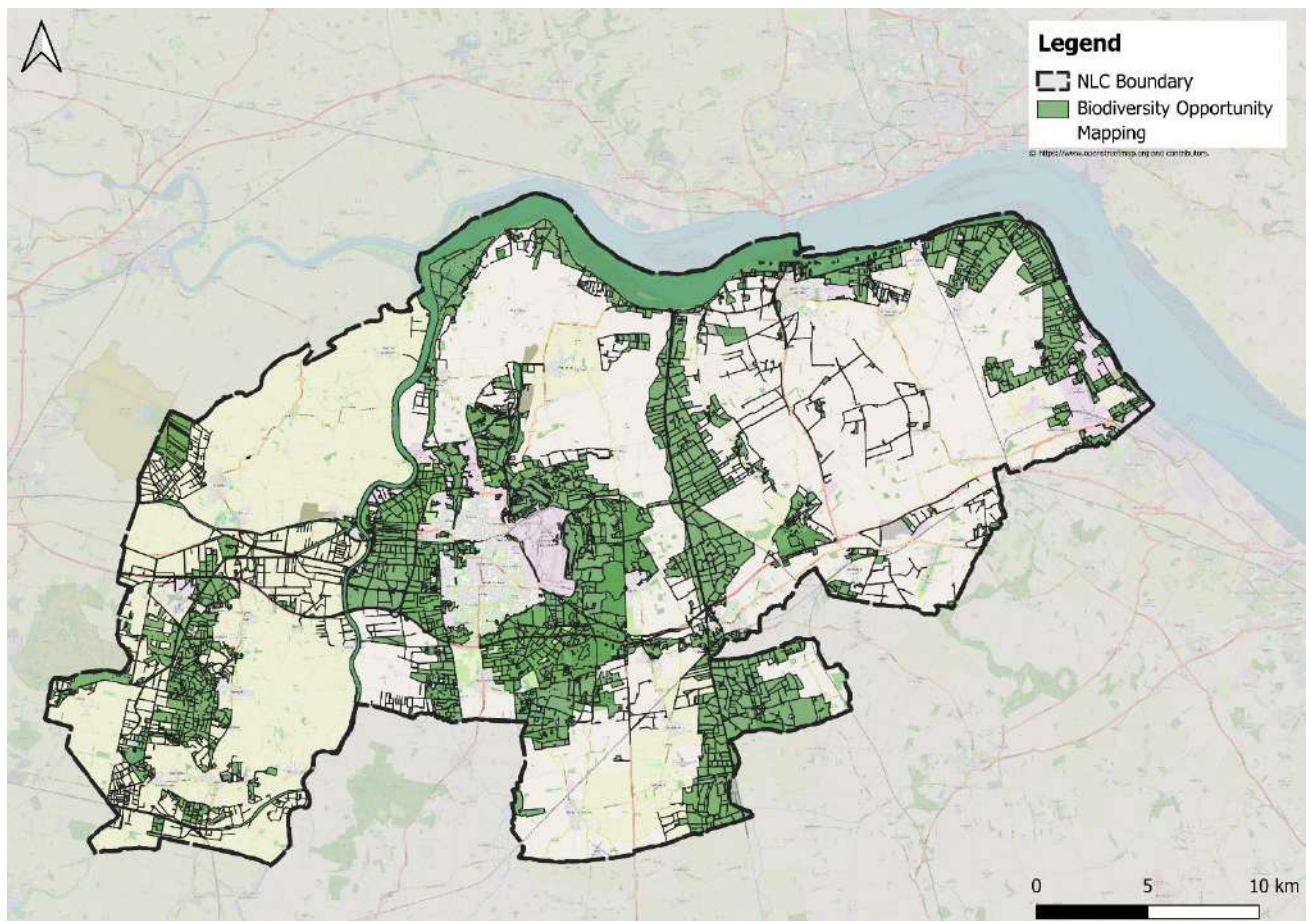


Figure 5-8: Biodiversity Opportunity Map for North Lincolnshire.

5.3.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning biodiversity, flora and fauna across the district include:

- Designated nature conservation sites are at risk of degradation as a result of increased housing and commercial development coupled with increased disturbance due to population growth.

- Effects of climate change will likely pose additional risks for species which may not be able to adapt to changing climatic conditions. In particular, sea level rise may impact on the Humber Estuary designated site and cause the loss of intertidal habitat.
- The effects of climate change pose a risk to flora, fauna and wildlife if they are unable to adapt to changing climate conditions. Increased development, fragmented habitat and lack of green corridors can reduce the ability for nature to adapt to changes.

5.4 Water Environment

5.4.1 Policy Context

The UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (HM Government, 2018) outlines goals for clean and plentiful water and to reduce risks of harm from environmental hazards. This is supported by the Environment Act (GOV UK, 2021) which outlines a legal duty for water companies that discharge sewage into rivers, waterways, and coastlines to secure a progressive reduction in the adverse impacts of discharge from storm overflows. Additional interim targets have been created in the Environmental Improvement Plan (HM Government, 2023) to help meet the long-term targets set out in the 25YEP.

The Environment Agency, as the environmental regulator of the water industry in England, regulates and works in partnership with water companies to ensure the nation has resilient and sustainable water supplies into the future. The National Framework for Water Resources 2025 is a national framework to set out strategic direction for work being carried out by regional water resource groups to outline approaches to meeting likely pressures on water resources (Environment Agency, 2025).

North Lincolnshire Council serve as the Lead Local Flood Authority and is responsible for managing flood risk from 'local' sources. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2016) details the preferred strategy for managing local flood risk arising from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. To support this, a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidance document was produced in 2025 to provide developers and designers with guidance on SuDS as part of planning applications. Given the increased risk of flooding in the future, development needs to be designed in a way that avoids increasing the flood risk to the site or surrounding area. SuDS manage water quantity and quality and provide biodiversity and amenity.

The Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) outlines the objectives under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to improve ecological status of water bodies, reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture and urban areas and manage abstraction and flow. The actions identified in the River Basin District (RBD) include improving flow modelling and pollutant monitoring, tightening discharge standards at sewage treatment works to protect sensitive areas and further investigation and implementation action to reduce river and groundwater pollution.

5.4.2 Current baseline

Surface water

The river network in North Lincolnshire is shown in Figure 5-9. The Humber Estuary is the largest water body within North Lincolnshire, bordering its north and eastern extent. The Humber Estuary drains a catchment area of 24,472 km², around 20% of the total land surface of England (Humber Nature Partnership, 2025). It has a large spring tidal range of 5.7m at Spurn and up to 7.4m at Saltend. At its widest point the estuary is 14km across and has an average depth of 6.5m, and covers 30,550ha. The deposited sediments maintain important habitats such as mudflats, sandflats and saltmarsh which are protected under legislation (listed in Section 4.1). The Humber Estuary is also an important industrial area and trade gateway.

The River Trent, which spans the county's western half, is tidal as it passes through North Lincolnshire, flowing south to north into the Humber. It is flanked on the sides by low-lying drained areas which are connected to the River Trent by a series of pumping stations. These control water movement and levels during high surface water and groundwater levels to reduce flood risk and water logging of agricultural land. Major tributaries to the west include rivers Idle and Torne, joining the River Trent at West Stockwith and Keadby respectively. Flows into the River Trent are artificially managed, with water pumped out of the tributaries during high tides or released by gravity at low tides. The smaller River Ancholme, to the east of the River Trent, flows from its source at Tealby to its outfall at South Ferriby. Downstream of Bishopbridge the river Ancholme channel has been canalised for navigation.

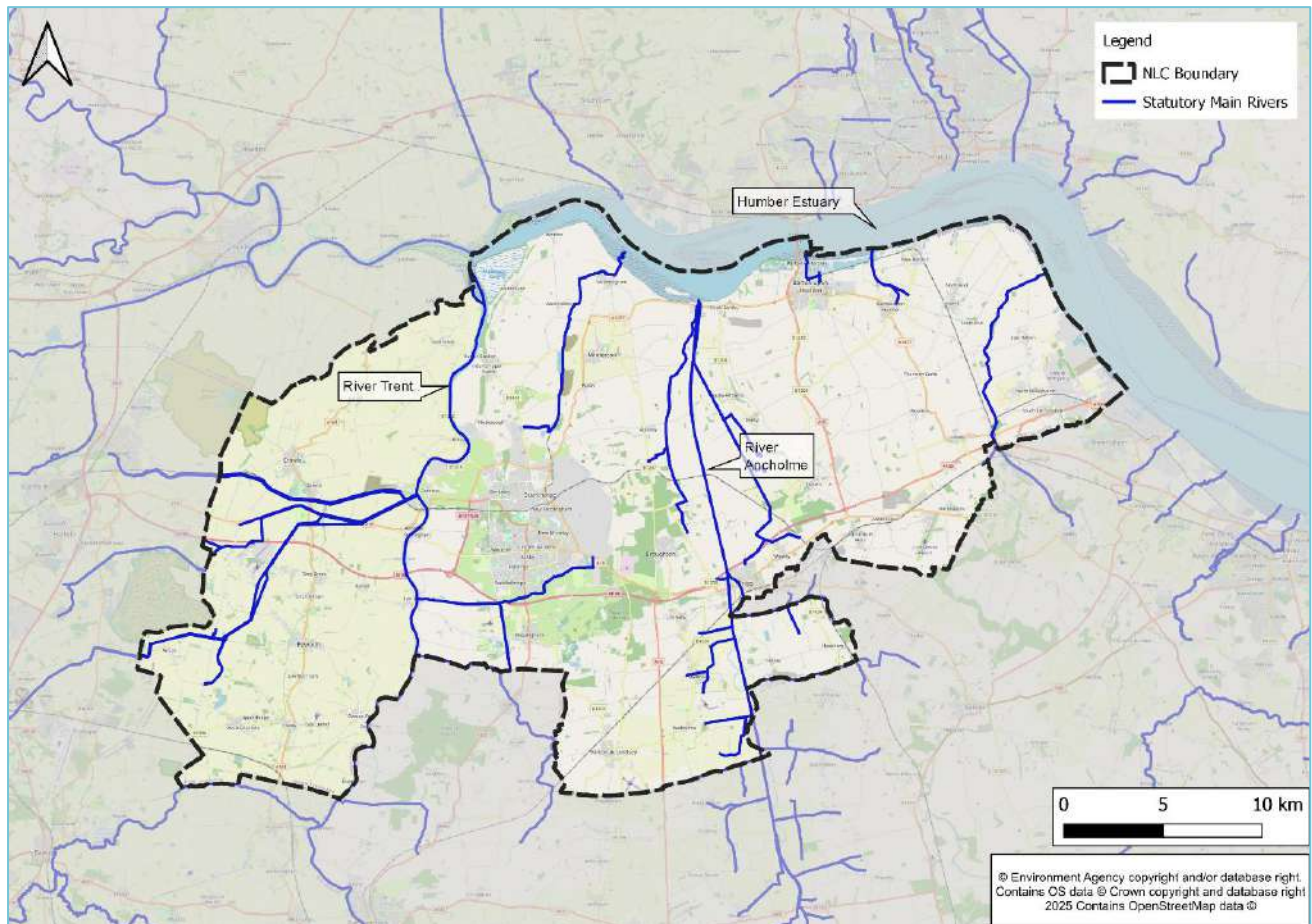


Figure 5-9: River network in North Lincolnshire.

Groundwater

The Water Framework Directive Cycle 3 identifies eight groundwater bodies in the North Lincolnshire county.

The majority of the county is underlain by aquifers designated as Principal, Secondary A, Secondary B and Secondary Undifferentiated. This means there are layers of rock or drift deposits that have high permeability and large water storage, providing a water resource across strategic and local scales. These aquifers provide drinking water for the local residents and water for industrial processing and farming. They also provide base flow for rivers in the area. The North Lincolnshire Chalk aquifer that underlies the eastern coastal area (from Barton-upon-Humber in the North to south of Grimsby) is the principal raw water source for the county.

The Environment Agency Ground Protection Policy 3 (GP3) and the WFD ensures that the sensitive aquifers are monitored/protected for pollution/contamination via a toolbox of systems including groundwater vulnerability maps and source protection zones (SPZs). There are several ground water SPZs in North Lincolnshire. These areas define where there is a risk of contamination to groundwater from any activities that might cause pollution, due to proximity to groundwater sources and groundwater flow. These exist

because much of North Lincolnshire is overlain by soils with intermediate to high leaching potential, which may represent a pathway for contaminants to reach groundwater.

Water resources

The NLC administrative area's water supply is provided by Anglian Water Services (AWS), Yorkshire Water (Environment Agency, 2024) and Severn Trent Water. The largest Water Resource Zone (WRZ) area of the administrative boundary lies east of the River Trent within Anglian Water's Central Lincolnshire WRZ. This area includes the town of Scunthorpe, smaller settlements (Brigg, Broughton, Winterringham, Winterton, Kirton in Lindsey, Burton upon Stather, Goxhill, Ulceby, Barrow-upon-Humber etc.), and industrial areas of Barton-Upon-Humber and South Humber Bank. The zone is served by a combination of North Lincolnshire Chalk aquifer, North Lincolnshire Limestone aquifer, and the River Trent, its tributaries, and the River Ancholme. The area to west of the River Trent, including the communities of Crowle and Epworth, is towards the south-eastern limit of Yorkshire Water's main WRZ. This zone is served by rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater sources, with integrated interzonal transfers.

Anglian Water abstracts water from the North Lincolnshire Chalk aquifer across several abstraction facilities. The Chalk aquifer in North Lincolnshire accounts for approximately 65% of Anglian Water's licensed groundwater abstraction (Anglian Water, 2022). The Environment Agency has expressed concern regarding the impact that abstraction has on chalk streams across the country. It is recognised that extended dry periods can result in low spring flows and saline intrusion along the south bank of the Humber Estuary (Anglian Water, 2022) which can result in low river flow, reduced dilution of pollutants, increased algal growth and loss of species (Lincolnshire Chalk Streams, 2025). A Section 20 Water Resource Management Agreement with the Environment Agency serves to protect the integrity of the North Lincolnshire Chalk aquifer during periods of naturally low groundwater levels (Anglian Water, 2022).

Project Groundwater was established in 2021 to address the gaps in understanding of groundwater and how it can be managed. The project is led by Lincolnshire County Council, engaging a range of stakeholders. The work is due to be completed in March 2027. To compensate for the shortfall in available groundwater, Anglian Water also abstract from surface water sources, using the Trent-Witham-Ancholme scheme and Great Eau transfer schemes.

In Lincolnshire Central WRZ, Anglian Water predict a Dry Year Annual Average increase of 64.4Ml/d in water demand between 2025 and 2050 in the baseline scenario and a supply deficit by the planning period 2027/28 in the baseline scenario, if no action is taken (Anglian Water, 2022). This deficit is due to population increase, commercial demand, and reduction in available water. Actions to address the supply deficit and manage demand includes reducing leakage, installing smart metering, improving water efficiency and managing demand.

Water quality

North Lincolnshire is within the Humber River Basin District and is served by the Humber RBMP. The RBMP covers a large area of 26,100km², extending from Leicester, north to Darlington, with over 10.8 million people living within the district (Environment Agency, 2015). The RBMP identifies the current water quality of the water bodies within North Lincolnshire and sets objectives for making further improvements to their ecological and chemical quality. The RBMP also identifies significant pressures on the water bodies within the region, which include issues such as physical modification, pollution, and changes to natural flow.

The majority of North Lincolnshire is located in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment to the east, with smaller proportions within the Lower Trent and Erewash, and Idle and Torne catchments, to the west. The Humber TraC catchment covers the Humber Estuary and River Trent and extends up the east English coast towards Middlesbrough. Within the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment (which extends beyond the North Lincolnshire administrative boundary), there are 33 rivers, canals, and surface water transfers, and 2 lakes, as summarised by the Environment Agency (Environment Agency, 2019).

Historically river quality has been assessed by the Environment Agency using a General Quality Assessment (GQA) scheme, for parameters including chemical, biological, nutrient and aesthetic qualities. The WFD has required this scheme to change, and 30 new parameters are now being monitored including ecological status and priority substances.

Using the GQA scheme, the rivers and watercourses in North Lincolnshire were shown to be of poor chemical quality; only 16% of rivers were considered to be good, which is significantly lower than the 91% target set by the Environment Agency by 2010 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2014a).

The WFD Cycle 3 2021, all 28 water bodies within North Lincolnshire were given a 'Does not require assessment' classification under Chemical Status (Environment Agency, 2021). This status is given to water bodies where the specific pollutants are found not to discharge into the water body in significant quantities. One water body was identified as having 'Bad' ecological status, two were identified as having 'Poor' ecological status, one was identified as having 'Good' ecological status and the remaining 24 water bodies were identified as having 'Moderate' ecological status. Bad ecological status for the Skitter Beck/East Halton Beck is attributed to poor agricultural land management, groundwater abstraction and physical modification. Since 2015, the Barrow Beck ecological condition has improved from 'Bad' to 'Poor'. Mercury and its compounds, Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) and cypermethrin are amongst the main substances causing all 28 water bodies to fail under Chemical Status. A summary of the WFD status of water bodies in North Lincolnshire is provided in Appendix C.

Flood risk

There is a significant amount of land within the Environment Agency's Flood Zone 3, as shown in Figure 5-10. This designates the area of land deemed to have a 1% (1

in 100) or greater annual probability of flooding from rivers or 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (Environment Agency, 2025).

Much of North Lincolnshire is flat and low lying which increases the likelihood of flooding from a range of source (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016). In 2014, 90,000ha of land was predicted to be susceptible to flooding, 85% of which was farmland (North Lincolnshire Council, 2014a). It is stated in the existing Local Plan that some new development will have to be within Flood Zone 3 to meet demand for new housing. This is contradictory to National Planning Practice Guidance which aims to steer new development to areas with a low risk of flooding (i.e. flood zone 1 - land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding).

Climate change induced sea level rise increases the risk of coastal flooding in the future. The Environment Agency outline a cumulative sea level rise between 2000 and 2125 of 1.15m for the Humber district in a Higher Central climate change scenario.

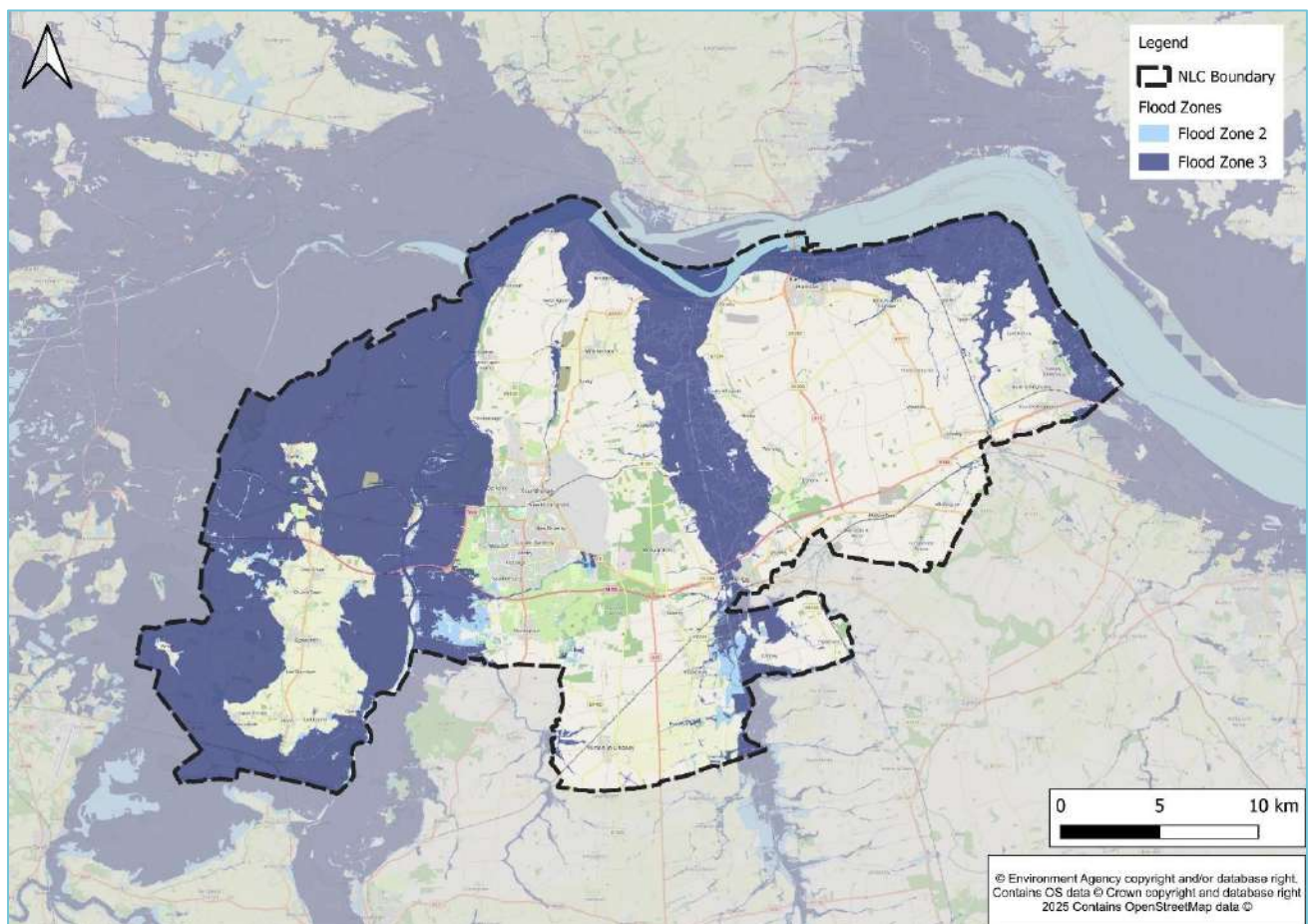


Figure 5-10: Location of flood zones in North Lincolnshire.

5.4.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning the water environment across the district include:

- Increases in water demand due to population increase, commercial demand, leakage, and possible scarcity of water supply due to climate change, are predicted to cause a water supply deficit in the future.
- The general ecological status of water bodies in North Lincolnshire is 'moderate', with the key causes of water pollution stemming from poor agricultural land management, groundwater abstraction and physical modification.
- Groundwater resources are over abstracted, with additional pressures from land contamination and risk of pollution. This issue is exacerbated by high leaching soils, which enable pollutants to reach underlying aquifers more easily. These resources are also vulnerable to pollution associated with contaminated land or new development.
- Large areas of North Lincolnshire are at high risk of flooding. Many of the existing areas at risk of flooding are expected to experience increased flood events due to sea level rise and increased rainfall intensity due to climate change.
- Urban development within North Lincolnshire has the potential to increase the amount of surface water runoff and cause increased flooding and increased contamination to water bodies receiving the runoff.

5.5 Land

5.5.1 Policy context

The 25 Year Environment Plan also sets out a long-term strategy to improve the quality of land and soil in England (HM Government, 2018). The strategy focuses on sustainably using and managing land, increasing resource efficiency, reducing pollution and waste and recovering nature and replenishing soil fertility. The Environmental Protection Act (Gov UK, 1990) remains a key piece of legislation for regulating contaminated land, providing information on identifying and remediating land that is a risk to the environment or human health.

The Safeguarding our Soils strategy was released in 2009, this report sets out a vision to sustainably manage and tackle degradation threats to soils in England by 2030. The three key threats soils face are erosion by wind and rain, compaction and organic matter decline. Soils store over 10 billion tonnes of carbon as organic matter and therefore, soils play a vital role in helping to tackle climate change.

Planning Practice Guidance 'Land affected by contamination' (2019) sets out how policies outlined in the NPPF are expected to be applied. This guidance and the need to adequately consider contaminated risks is echoed within many of the plan policies for local planning authorities (GOV.UK, 2019).

The Lincolnshire BAP (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011) is a regional framework covering 2011-2020. The plan outlines the importance of semi-natural habitat within the

county for habitat connectivity and biodiversity delivery. The plan is due to be replaced with the LNRS, which will provide clear biodiversity priorities for farmed landscape to direct sustainable land management.

5.5.2 Current baseline

Soils and geology

North Lincolnshire underlying solid geology predominantly consists of rocks dating from the Jurassic and Cretaceous period (North Lincolnshire Council, 2021). They dip regularly eastwards, arranged in continuous belts from north to south. There are also the limestone and chalk west escarpments of the Lincolnshire Wolds and Lincoln Edge, separated by valleys underlain by Jurassic clay. Overlaying the solid rock are glacial deposits of boulder clays, sands and gravels. Extensive deposits of sands and gravels derived from Bunter Sandstones further west beyond the Trent, which are known as cover sands, have built up against the Mercia Mudstone Group which form the Isle of Axholme due to easterly winds. The Humber Estuary has cut through the Jurassic and Cretaceous rock, and the estuary and flood plain is overlain by alluvial deposits. Much of these geological deposits and underlying bedrock is exploited for minerals, with associated changes to the landscape character within North Lincolnshire.

Agricultural land

The primary land use in North Lincolnshire is agricultural farmland, comprising 92% of land area. The quality of this land for agricultural purposes is graded under the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system. Approximately 58% of this land is classified as Grade 1 or 2 (see Figure 5-11). Only 16% of land in England is classified as Grade 1 or 2 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2014a). Grade 1 land is regarded as having no or very minor limitation to agricultural use, and a wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown with high yields. Grade 2 land is regarded as having minor limitations that effect crop yield, cultivation or harvesting.

Grade 1 to 3a land is classed as 'the best and most versatile land' and is protected under national and local planning policy. The NPPF states that "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;" (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

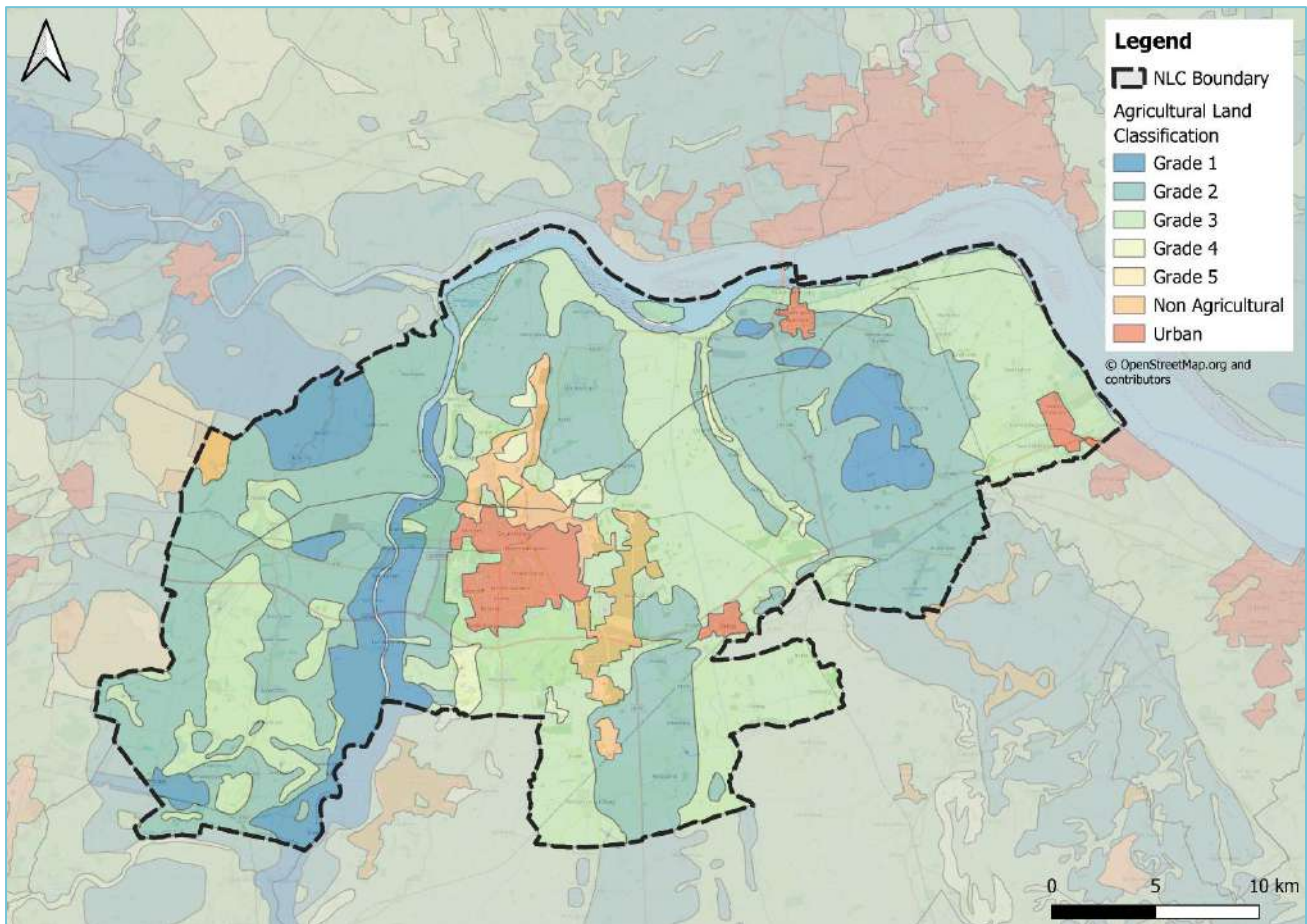


Figure 5-11: Agricultural land quality in North Lincolnshire.

Land contamination

Historic land contamination is primarily associated with the urban centres of Scunthorpe, Barton-upon-Humber and Brigg. Iron and steel industries in Scunthorpe manufacturing and its ancillary industries have left a legacy of potentially contaminated soil and land. Therefore, brownfield land in the area (Figure 5-12) is likely to be contaminated and require remediation if it is to be developed.

Areas of open cast mineral (ironstone) extraction have been backfilled with wastes. These landfill sites are both historic and operational (Figure 5-12). Power generation is the other predominant industry with the potential to give rise to contaminated land. Underlying groundwater is highly vulnerable to contamination due to the presence of aquifers and source protection zones associated with potable extractions.

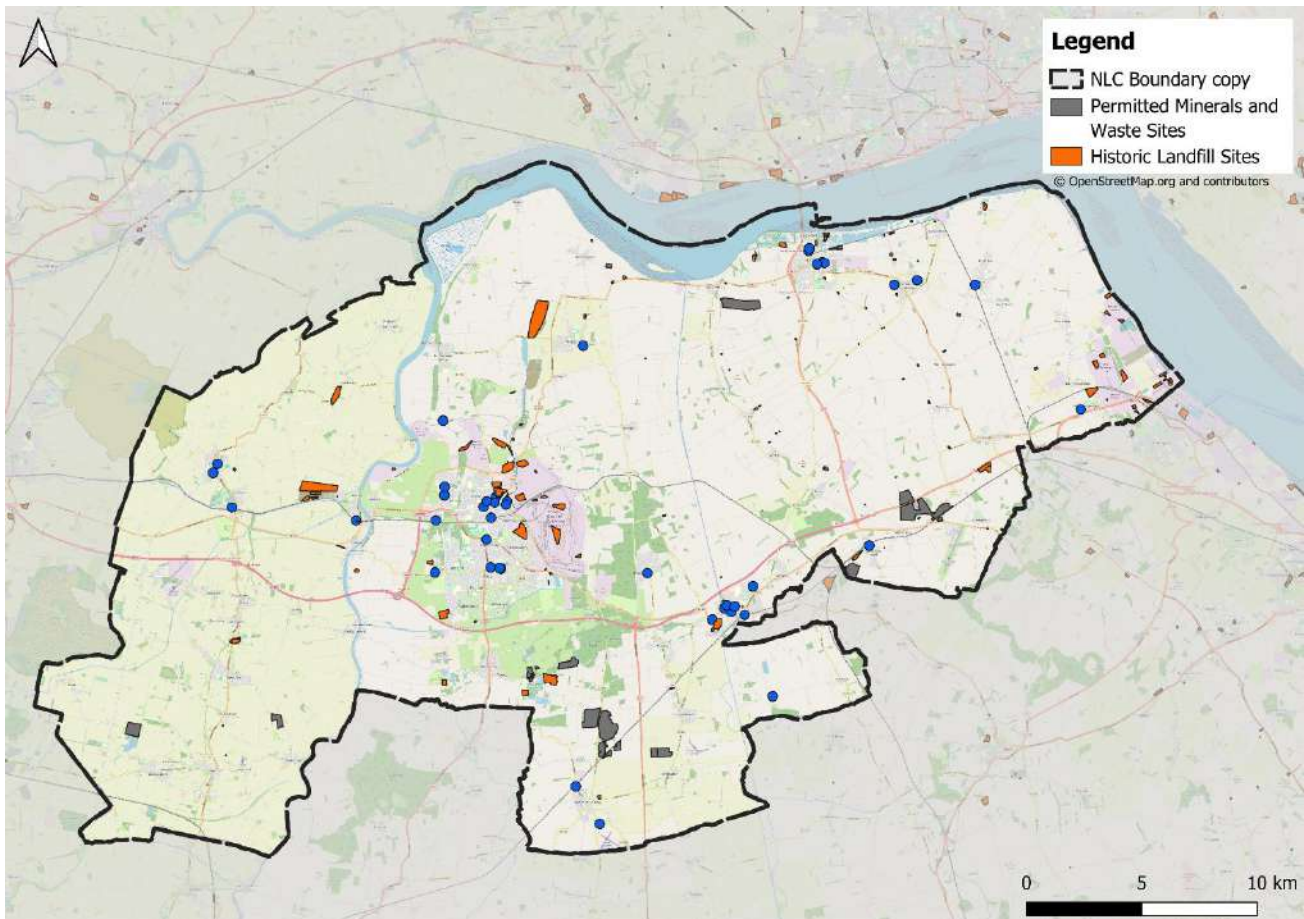


Figure 5-12: Land contamination and permitted waste and minerals sites in North Lincolnshire.

5.5.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning land contamination across the district includes:

- Development of brownfield land and land at risk of contamination could cause the release of contaminants into groundwater and surrounding soils. Any development on these sites should adequately deal with the contamination risk as to prevent harm to human health, property and the environment.
- There are large areas of Best and Most Versatile soils located within the district boundary. The Local Plan should consider how to safeguard and enhance areas of valuable soils whilst delivering housing and employment land requirements.
- Broadly, soil health is subject to declining condition caused by erosion, compaction and poor land management, which consequently impacts the productivity of the soils for agriculture and carbon stores.
- Continued industrial activities, including the power generation and extractive industries, risk giving rise to pollution incidents in the short term. This could be as a result of the release of chemicals or dust from quarrying.

5.6 Historic environment

5.6.1 Policy context

The Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) provides protection for monuments of national interest. This Act seeks to ensure the protection of Scheduled Monuments.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act (1990) provides protection to buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. The Act allows for the listing of buildings and designation of Conservation Areas. It also provides additional protection in relation to development: when considering applications with potential to affect a listed building, or its setting, special regard must be given to preserving the building, its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest it possesses.

The Historic Environment and Ancient Monuments Act (1953) makes provisions for the compilation of a register of gardens and other lands.

The NPPF (2024) provides guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It outlines that heritage assets, whether designated and non-designated, "are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations" (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

Planning Policy Guidance: Historic Environment (2019) refers to the principle that any planning decisions where Listed Buildings and their settings and Conservation Areas are a factor must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (sections 16, 66 and 72) as well as applying the relevant policies in the plan and NPPF.

5.6.2 Current baseline

Designated sites

There are 917 Listed buildings and 48 Scheduled Monuments located across North Lincolnshire. The Historic Environment Record (HER) records all known heritage assets, including archaeological sites, monuments and buildings including historic places and landscapes. This record includes both designated and non-designated heritage assets. There are over 8,200 records in the HER register in North Lincolnshire.

There are 17 conservation areas across the towns and villages of North Lincolnshire. They have been designated under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which safeguards and aims to enhance their special character. In these areas, planning applications may be required for some developments that may not normally need permission, including larger houses, industrial extensions, dormer windows, cladding external walls, satellite dishes facing a highway and illuminated advertisements. Demolition and tree felling or pruning within a conservation zone also requires permission from the council.

There are 21 assets located on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2024, 12 of which are Scheduled Monuments, two Conservation Areas and six Listed Buildings (Historic England, 2024). These are shown on Figure 5-13 and detailed in Table 5-3 below.

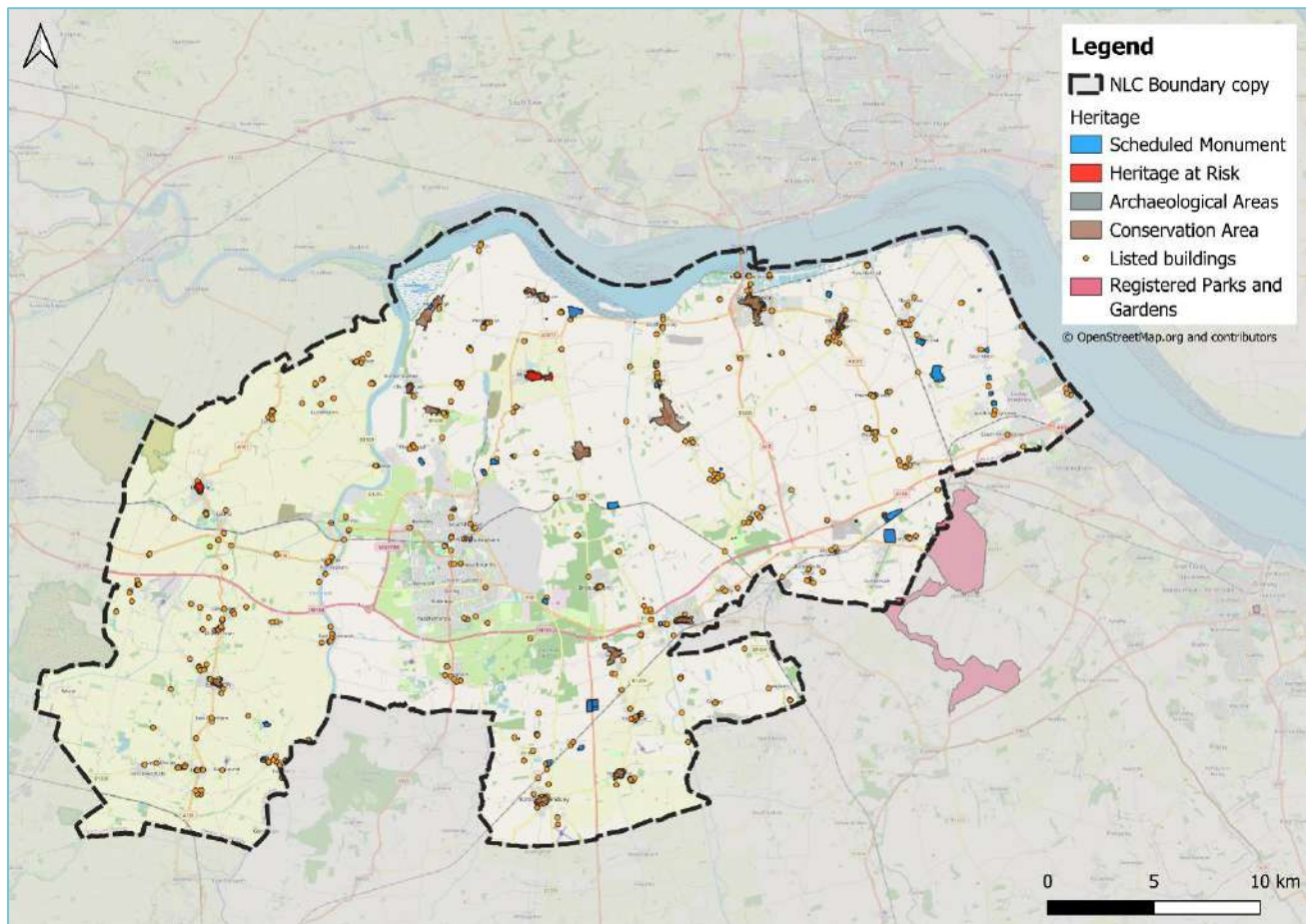


Figure 5-13: Designated heritage assets across North Lincolnshire.

The Archaeological Areas illustrated on Figure 5-13, are the Ancient Monuments as outlined in the adopted Local Plan. The plan also identified the wetland areas of the Ancholme Valley, the Trent Valley and the Humber coast as areas of archaeological potential. These areas are likely to have preserved organic finds and palaeo-environmental remains (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011).

Table 5-3: Assets on the Heritage at Risk Register in North Lincolnshire.

List Entry	Name	Type
1020024	Heavy Anti-aircraft gunsite 220m east of West Marsh Cottage	Scheduled Monument
1009346	Howe Hill bowl barrow	Scheduled Monument
1013627	Romano-British villa at Mount Pleasant Farm	Scheduled Monument
1005221	Romano-British settlement near Staniwells Farm	Scheduled Monument
1017487	Axholme Carthusian Priory and post-Dissolution garden earthworks, Melwood Park	Scheduled Monument
1005243	Old Winteringham Roman settlement	Scheduled Monument

List Entry	Name	Type
1016427	Yarborough Camp large univallate hillfort	Scheduled Monument
1007815	North Garth moated site and associated enclosures	Scheduled Monument
1008528	Hibaldstow Mill and walls to mill pond and wheel race, Ings Lane	Scheduled Monument
1005206	Roman settlement	Scheduled Monument
1005224	Money Field Roman site, Dragonby	Scheduled Monument
1005233	Roman site 400yds (370m) north east of Worlaby Church	Scheduled Monument
1017556	Kinaird motte and bailey castle	Scheduled Monument
4555	Crowle	Conservation Area
5073	Winterton	Conservation Area
1051598	United Reformed Church, Chapel Lane	Listed Building
1083706	Church of All Saints, Vicarage Lane	Listed Building
1103702	Church of All Saints, Church Lane	Listed Building
1161801	Church of St Mary, High Street	Listed Building
1346854	Manor Farmhouse, East Halton Road	Listed Building
1227927	Church of St Nicholas, Church Lane	Listed Building

Historic Landscapes

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project was completed in 2011 (Lincolnshire County Council, 2011). The HLC described the landscape of the historic county and investigated how human and natural activities have influenced and shaped the landscape over time. The Axholme Fens character zone (CON3) covers a 209km² area within North Lincolnshire, west of Scunthorpe.

5.6.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning the historic environment across the district includes:

- The HLC identifies historically significant landscapes, which are under pressure from human activity such as development and land use change.
- There are numerous heritage assets identified on the Heritage at Risk register, the Local Plan should consider opportunities to enhance and conserve these assets. These assets are likely to be more sensitive to pressures from development.
- Sensitive heritage assets, including those on the Heritage at Risk Register, may be more vulnerable due to pressures associated with climate change particularly in relation to flooding.

5.7 Air quality

5.7.1 Policy context

The Clean Air Strategy (2019) outlines the approach and plan for tackling all sources of air pollution, making our air healthier to breathe, and the plan for protecting nature and boosting the economy. (GOV.UK, 2019)

The Air Quality Regulations (as amended) (2002) set standards and objectives for seven pollutants that are associated with local air quality. The objectives are aimed at reducing the health effects of the pollutants to negligible levels. (Legislation.gov.uk, 2002)

North Lincolnshire Council recently released an Air Quality Action Plan (2024-2029) which outlines actions the Council will deliver in this period to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution. The Plan will be reviewed at least every five years and progress on measures set out within this Plan will be reported as part of the Annual Status Report (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024)

5.7.2 Current baseline

There is one declared Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in North Lincolnshire. This AQMA includes part of the town of Scunthorpe and an area east of Scunthorpe including the site of the steelworks. This designation relates to Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), and the source is identified as industrial. The AQMA covers approximately 1,958 ha and is shown on Figure 5-14 below.

The Council's Annual Status Report (2024) identifies the Integrated Iron and Steel Works located in Scunthorpe as a contributor to the PM₁₀ pollution. There are a number of different operators on the site, and the pollution arises from several sources (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024). Improvements have been made to air quality over time with amendments to the AQMA boundary in 2018. There remains several challenges for the Council in achieving improvements in air quality, as detailed in the Annual Status Report (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024):

- There are a number of companies which contribute to emissions of PM₁₀, several of these are regulated by both North Lincolnshire Council and Environment Agency. Managing pollution from several sources are more challenging as they require collaboration between multiple agencies.
- Majority of the Integrated Steelworks is regulated by the Environment Agency as opposed to the Council. This minimises the Council's involvement of regulatory control of emissions.
- The Council has no regulatory control over the monitoring and reduction at source of PAH (Benzo(a)pyrene (B[a]P)) emissions. The closure of Coke Ovens has however, reduced these emissions and is expected to continue as there are no longer any operational Coke Ovens at the Integrated Steelworks.
- The prevailing wind is in a southwest direction, which therefore impacts residential communities upwind of the Integrated Steel Works. The site has been

encouraged by the Council and the industry to monitor weather conditions and alter practices to minimise impact on communities.

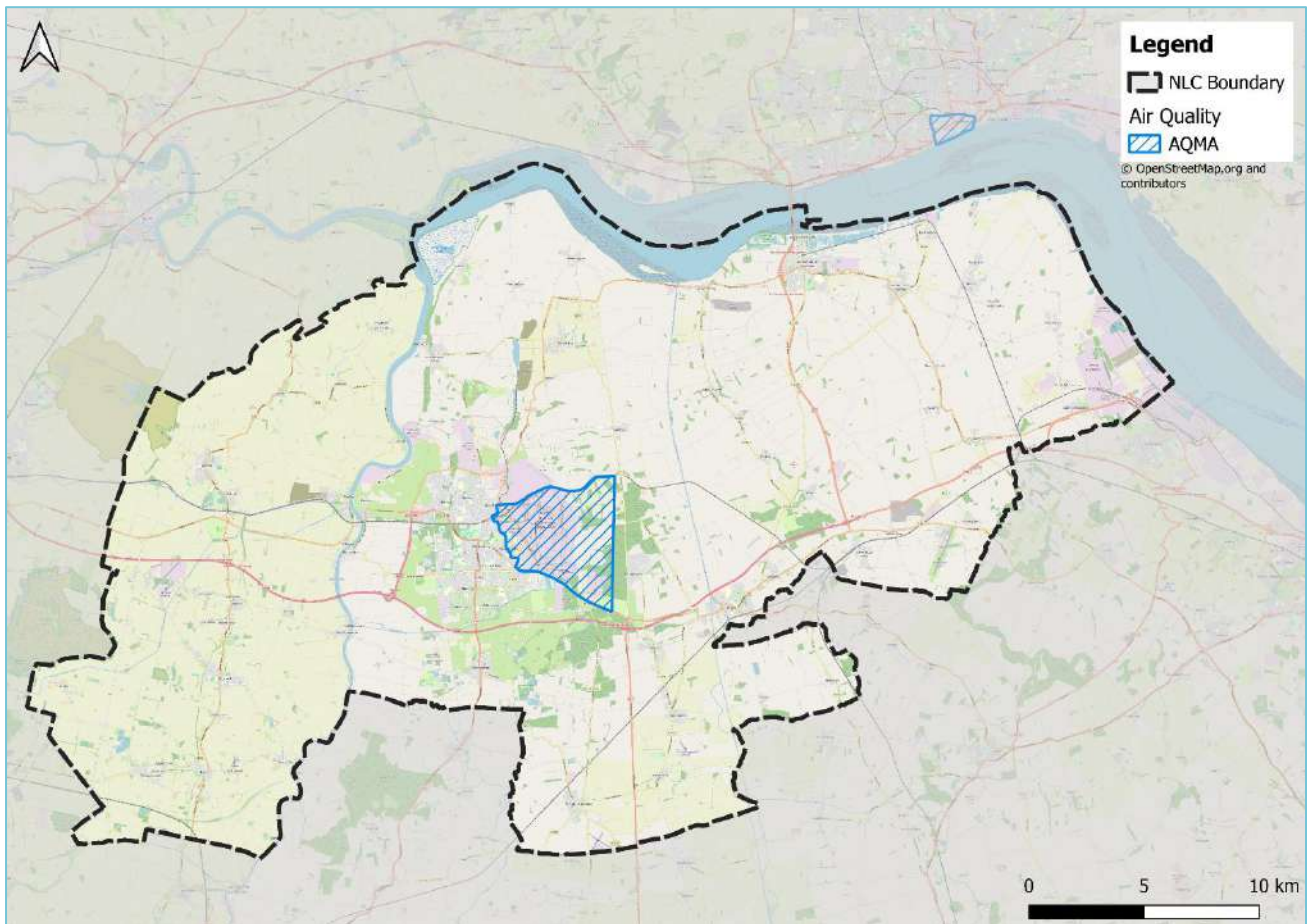


Figure 5-14: Air Quality Management Areas in North Lincolnshire.

5.7.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning the air quality in the district include:

- Greater pressures on air quality may occur in the future through increases in the population in North Lincolnshire, and associated development and increased traffic congestion.
- Continued emissions to air from manufacturing and extractive industries within North Lincolnshire are likely to impact existing poor air quality.
- Several economic development projects, such as the South Humber Gateway project (outlined in Section 5.10), will likely result in an increase of emissions.
- Deterioration in air quality may lead to the introduction of more AQMAs to address local impacts on air quality.

5.8 Climate

5.8.1 Policy context

Under the Climate Change Act (2008), the UK is legally obligated to achieve a 100% reduction in its carbon emissions compared to 1990 baseline levels by the year 2050 (commonly referred to as 'net zero').

The Climate Change Act outlines a five-year cycle of requirement which the UK must adhere to, relating to both climate mitigation and adaptation. These requirements include setting a series of legally binding five-year carbon budgets (restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions) designed to help steer progress towards the achievement of the overall net zero target (Legislation.gov.uk, 2008).

The UK government established the Climate Change Committee and its Adaptation Committee to provide synthesis the latest evidence and provide advice to the UK Government on climate change risks and opportunities, and to assess progress in adapting to climate change in England.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is a five-year assessment of the major risks and opportunities from climate change to the UK, including the challenges of climate change adaptation such as flood risk and other consequences. It serves to highlight the imperative nature of reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The most recent of which was the 3rd risk assessment published in 2022 (GOV.UK, 2022).

A Green Future is the Council's core environment strategy that aims to create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable North Lincolnshire. Underpinning the Green Future, is the Climate Change Action Plan. The overarching aim of the Plan is to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels, protect, enhance and restore local biodiversity from the profound impacts of climate change (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025a)

5.8.2 Current baseline

The Green Future strategy identifies carbon emissions from industry and commerce across North Lincolnshire as around 6.6 million tonnes. Total carbon emissions are over 7.4 million tonnes. Each year, the Council is responsible for approximately 12,000 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere each year, the overarching aim is for the Council to achieve 'net zero' by 2030 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025a).

North Lincolnshire is located within the Eastern England climate region, the mean annual temperature over the region varies from about 9.5°C to just over 10.5°C. Mean daily maximum temperatures range from just over 6°C to 8°C during the winter months and from 20°C to 23°C in the summer. Most of the eastern England receives less than 700mm per year and includes some of the driest areas in the country (Met Office, 2025).

The Met Office climate visualisation tool uses climate projections in 12km-square grids across the UK (BBC and Met Office, 2022). For Scunthorpe town centre climate projections indicate that:

In summer:

- Between 1991 to 2019, there were 3 days above 25°C per month. Should global temperatures rise by 2°C there could be 7 days, and with a 4°C rise there could be 15 days.
- The hottest day (40.3°C) recorded was in July 2022, recorded in Coningsby. With a 4°C rise, parts of the UK could see temperatures rise above 42°C.
- Between 1991 to 2019, there were 9 rainy days on average per month in summer. Should global average temperatures rise by 2°C, this could remain as 9 days a month, and with a 4°C rise it could be approximately 7 days.
- Between 1991 to 2019, 59mm fell in the Scunthorpe area, with a 2°C rise this could be around 68mm, and with a 4°C rise this could be about 64mm.

5.8.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning the climate across the district include:

- Should climate change predictions be realised, there is the potential for significant adverse effects on North Lincolnshire's infrastructure, public health, built heritage and natural environment.
- Species and habitat abundance will become threatened as a result of changing habitats, for example, drier soils and increased competition for water.
- Climate change is expected to also increase risk of soil erosion due to drier soils, which could impact on the productivity of agricultural land, aquatic ecosystems and air quality.
- Rainfall intensity and storm occurrence is expected to increase, increasing the risk of flooding. Severe flooding could impact on commercial, residential, transport and utility infrastructure, causing direct and indirect economic impacts. The increased surface runoff due to development, could lead to growing pressures on drainage and sewerage infrastructure.
- Potential conflict between renewable energy generation (including the South Humber Gateway) and other land uses, as well as issues in relation to impacts on landscape quality and character, recreation and amenity, and biodiversity.

5.9 Population and Health

5.9.1 Policy context

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 outlines specific duties for health bodies to have due regard to reducing health inequalities between people in England (Legislation.gov.uk, 2012).

The Equality Act (2010) established equality duties for all public sector bodies which aim to integrate consideration of the advancement of equality into the day-to-date business of all

bodies subject to the duty. The Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) regulations Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and open access land and ensures access to them.

The NPPF (2024) has an overarching purpose of achieving sustainable development. This includes a range of economic, social and environmental objectives. Chapter 8 of the NPPF promotes 'healthy and safe communities' with an emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility, it also includes certain requirements regarding open space, recreation, and local green space. Paragraph 20c of the NPPF also contributes to this, and suggests that strategic policies, as prepared by local planning authorities, should ensure there is adequate provision of community facilities, and work with local health providers and care commissioners in order to achieve this. Chapter 9 of the NPPF promotes sustainable transport, with an emphasis on providing opportunities to promote walking, cycling and use of public transport. Plans should ensure that developments set out a clear design vision and expectations and are developed with local communities, so they reflect local aspirations. They should ensure that developments will function well and add to the overall quality of the area over the lifetime of development (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

Planning Policy Guidance: Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space (2021) covers numerous topics including the need for local planning authorities to assess the need and opportunities for open space. It also states that PRoWs form an important part of sustainable transport links and therefore should be protected or enhanced where possible (GOV.UK, 2021a).

North Lincolnshire recently released a Health & Wellbeing Strategy in 2025 with the overarching vision for thriving people and place. This is underpinned by two key ambitions, to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy by 2030 and continue to narrow this gap to 2030, and increase healthy life expectancy by five years by 2035 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025).

5.9.2 Current baseline

Population

Population in North Lincolnshire is projected to increase from 170,085 people in 2022 to 170,621 people in 2032, which is less than a 0.1% increase. The median age in North Lincolnshire is projected to rise from 44 years in 2022 to 46 years in 2032. Compared with England, this is higher than the median age which is 41 years. In 2032, 25% of the population in North Lincolnshire are projected to be aged 65 years or over (ONS, 2025).

ONS population projections estimate that there will be 13,770 births (0.81% p.a) and 19,840 deaths (1.17% p.a) in the period leading up to 2032 (ONS, 2025). Therefore, overall birth rates are declining, but the population is expected to have a very minor increase due to net migration leading to an increase in approximately 7,200 people. The total population increase for the next decade in North Lincolnshire is expected to be less than 600 people,

around a 0.32% increase (ONS, 2025). There are differences in age and gender distribution of residents across the North Lincolnshire areas, broadly Scunthorpe demonstrates a younger than average population. Market towns and rural areas have older than average populations when compared to the district as a whole (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022).

The number of dwellings in North Lincolnshire has grown. In 2010, there was an estimated 73,000 dwellings, rising to 76,800 by 2020, an annual increase of 0.5% (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022).

Approximately 57% of the resident population in North Lincolnshire live in an urban area or town, with around 28% living in a rural town or fringe. Just 15% of the population live in a rural village or dispersed area (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022).

Health

The North Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy identified the ten medical conditions that cause most of the disability, injury and illness in the district for all ages and people include:

- Heart disease
- Covid-19
- Musculoskeletal conditions
- Respiratory conditions (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer
- Stroke
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Falls

The top risk factors (and contributory causes) identified in the strategy for these conditions and years of life lived with disability, illness or injury include food and nutrition, physical inactivity, tobacco and high alcohol use (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025).

The Joint Strategic Assessment of Health and Wellbeing in North Lincolnshire (2018) identifies the following strengths for the district in relation to broad health indicators compared to neighbouring authorities (North Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, 2018):

- Improved access to green spaces, outdoor facilities and acres of nature reserves per head of the population.
- Low levels of traffic and traffic related pollution.
- More affordable homes in the private and social rented sector.
- More quality homes in the social rented sector.
- Stable rates of employment.

The report also identifies the following challenges in achieving an overall health ambitions:

- Residents have indicated they generally make less use of the open spaces available for exercise and health compared nationally.
- The rural characteristic of the district results in car ownership and car use are more common. Fewer residents walk to work with a commute under 5km than the national average.
- Residents report low rates of walking compared to the national average. In 2015-2016, 70% adults reported they walked for at least 10 minutes once a week or more in the previous four weeks, compared to 81% nationally.
- The percentage of working days lost to sickness absence are above the national average.

Between 2011 and 2021, the number of residents described their health as 'very good' increased from 42.9% to 43.9% and those describing their health as 'good' fell from 36.0% to 35.9%. Residents describing their health as 'very bad' in 2021 was 1.2% which is similar to 2011 statistics. Those describing their health as 'bad' fell from 2.7% to 4.5% (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

Deprivation and Inequalities

The Indices of Deprivation measures relative levels of deprivation, which are averaged to local authority level. It considers unmet needs, or a lack of resources, relating to income, employment, education (including skills and training), health deprivation and disability, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. Areas are ranked in order of most deprived to least deprived (i.e. an area ranked '1' is the most deprived area).

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)² in England from most to least deprived. LSOAs in decile 1 fall within the most 10% deprived of LSOAs nationally and LSOAs in decile 10 fall within the least deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally.

The IMD general deprivation data, shown below on Figure 5-15 combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation (ONS, 2025). As shown below, the areas of most deprivation in the district are located around the town of Scunthorpe. There are clear higher deprivation deciles in LSOAs surrounding the centre of Scunthorpe. This is stark contrast to the very central boroughs, with some of the least deprived areas directly next to the most deprived areas. This presents clear deprivation inequality in the borough.

² A Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA), is a small geographic area used in England and Wales for statistical analysis, particularly for census data.

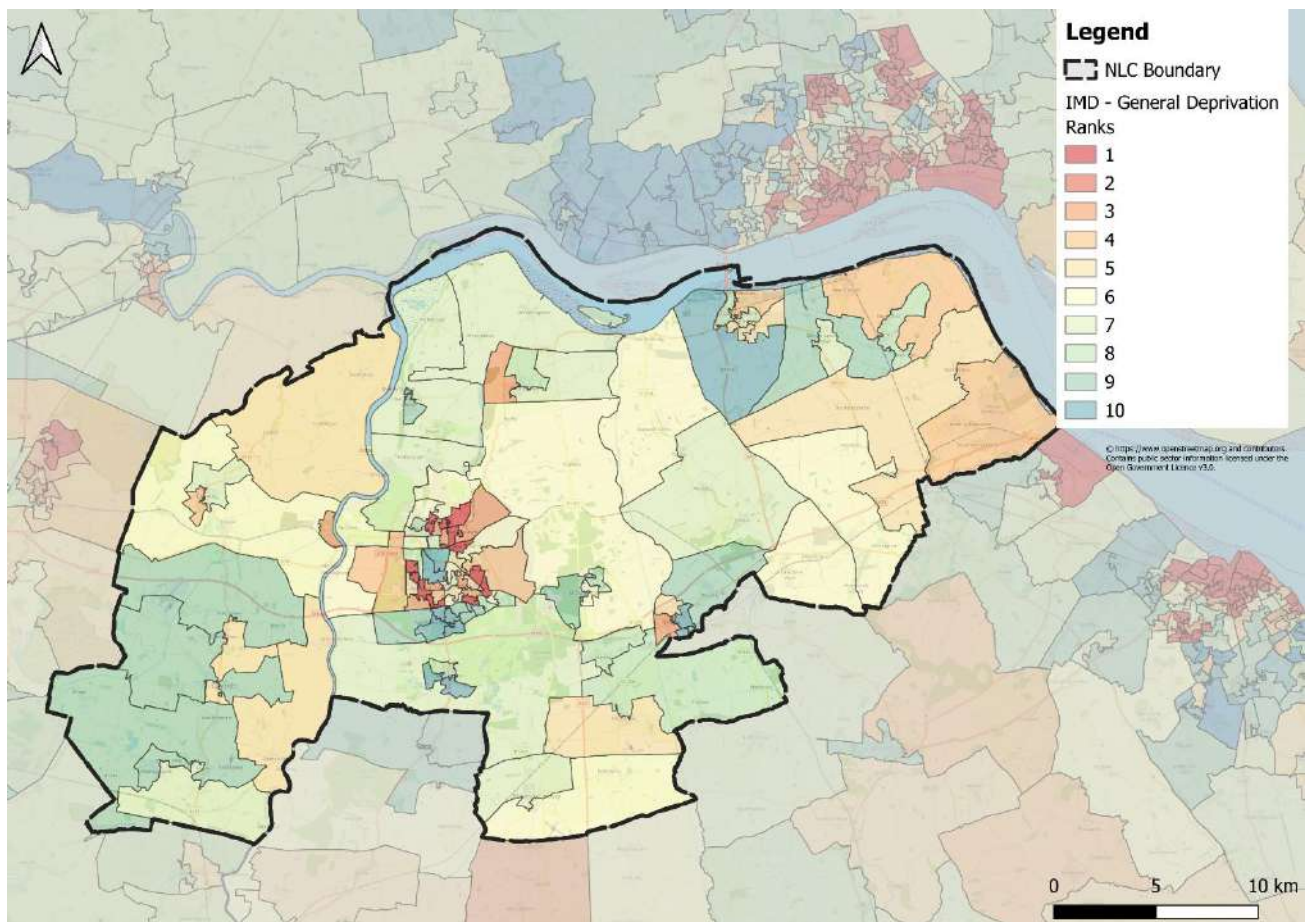


Figure 5-15: IMD General Deprivation across the district.

Income inequality

There is also clear income inequality across the borough. The central region around Scunthorpe is within the most 10% income deprived areas of the country, compared to rural areas which are within the least income deprived 10%. There is a stark income contrast across North Lincolnshire, but this does not seem to correlate with access to economic centres and towns. Of the 101 neighbourhoods in North Lincolnshire, 20 of them fall within the 20% most income deprived areas in England and are all located within the suburban area of Scunthorpe. In the most deprived neighbourhoods of North Lincolnshire, approximately 45% of people are estimated to be income-deprived, compared to only 3% in the least deprived neighbourhoods.

The 2019 the IMD found that in North Lincolnshire, 13.3% of the population was income deprived, making North Lincolnshire the 106th most income-deprived out of 316 local authorities.

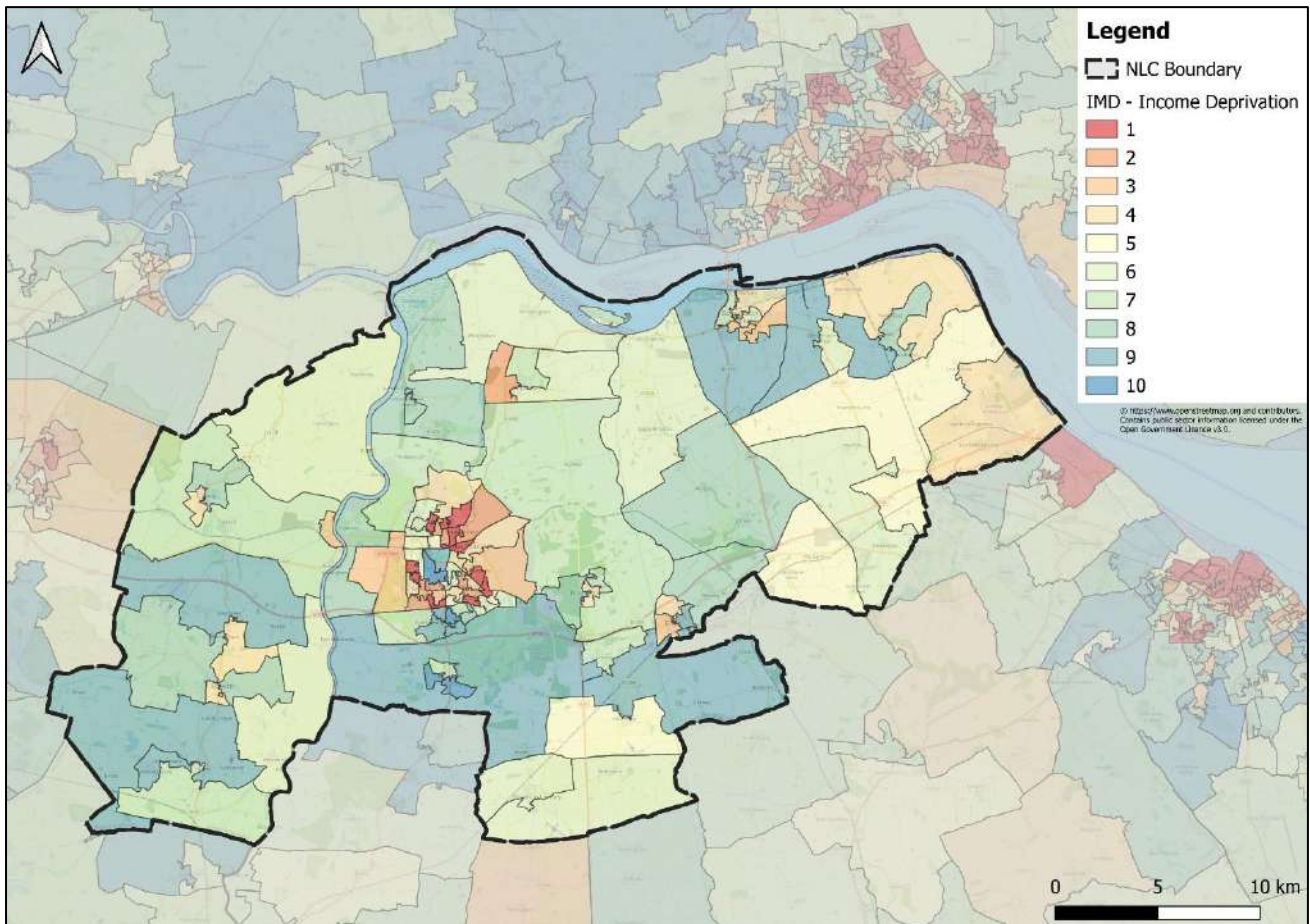


Figure 5-16. IMD map of Income Deprivation.

Geographical Barriers to Services

Figure 5-17 shows the 2025 IMD data for the Geographical Barriers to services. This is the physical proximity to local services made up of road distance to GPs, general stores, primary schools, and post offices. As shown below, the areas across the district experiencing most significant barriers to services are in more rural areas. With relatively fewer geographical barriers experienced in more urban areas. There are clear inequality across North Lincolnshire regarding access to services, but this is difficult to address due to rural locations and must take the demand from the population of each area into account.

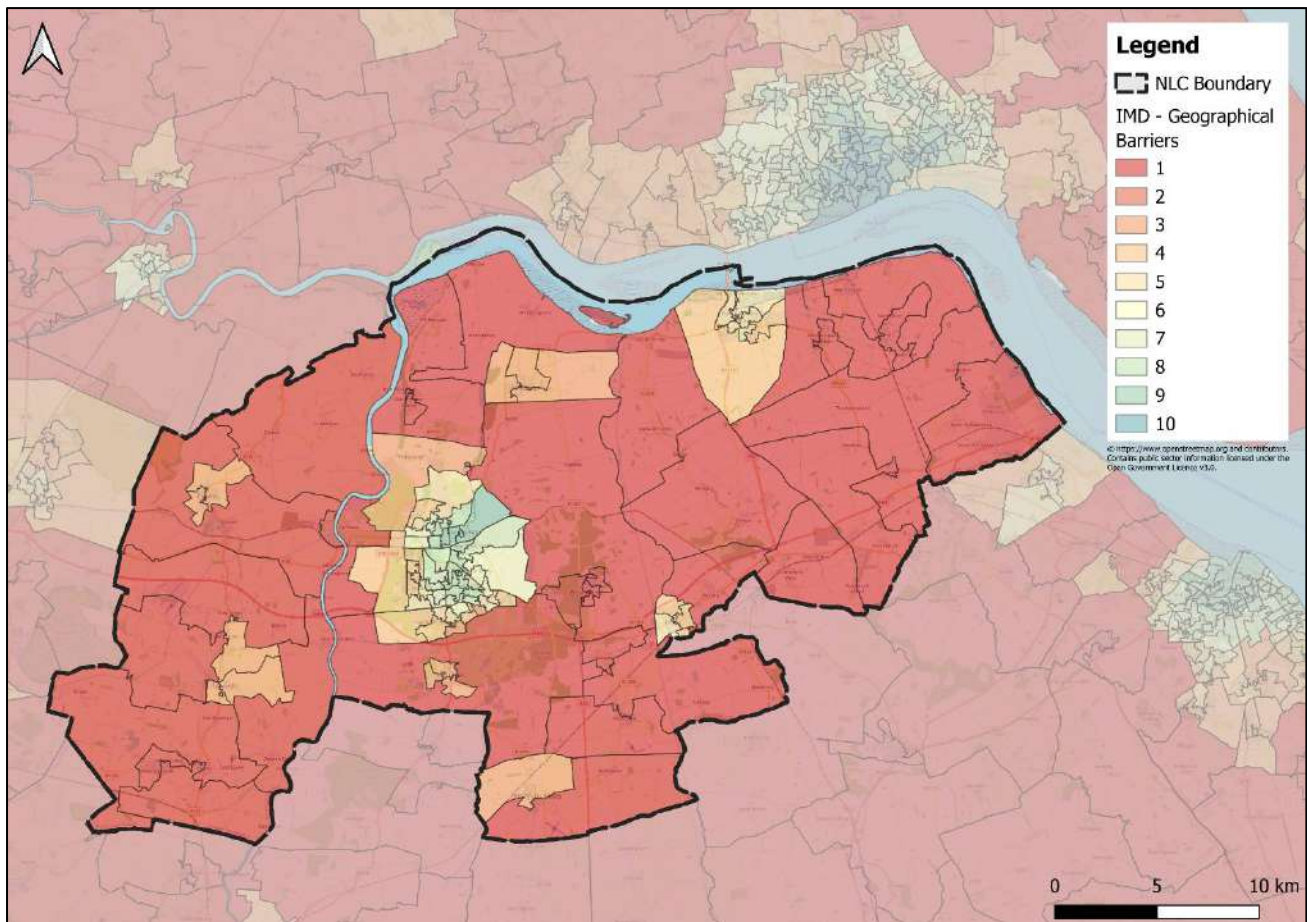


Figure 5-17: IMD Geographical Barriers to services across the study area.

Living Environment Deprivation

The IMD data (2025) assesses scores for the living environment in each LSOA. This is calculated by assessing the quality of the local environment, both indoors and outdoors. This includes aspects of the living environment such as access to green spaces, housing quality and the environmental quality of that area. This is presented in Figure 5-18 Figure 5-18. IMD Living Environment Deciles across the study area. and varies hugely across North Lincolnshire, presenting clear suggestions of inequality. Central areas surrounding Scunthorpe are generally within the higher deciles, including some suburban areas that fall within the top 10% of living environment scores.

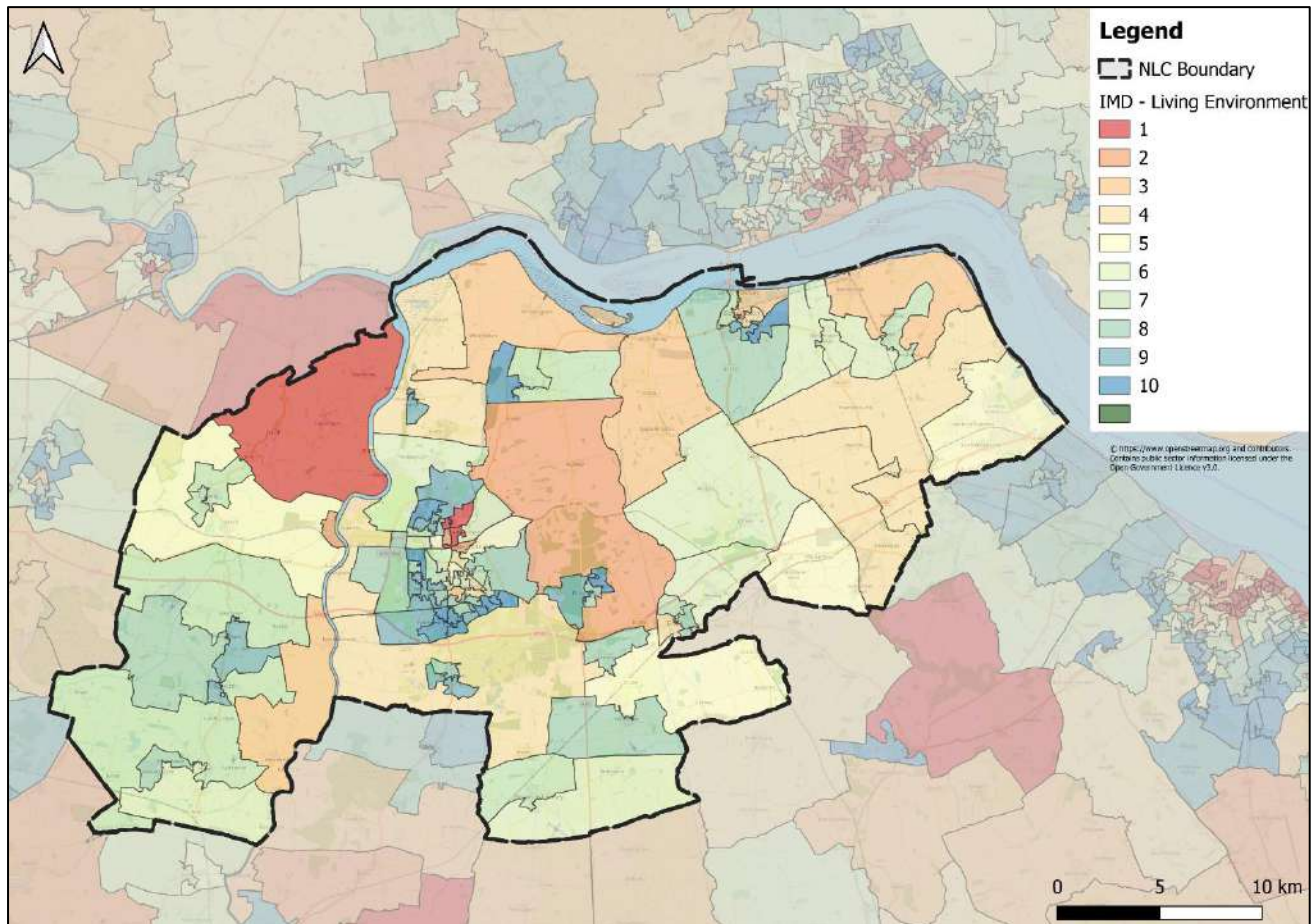


Figure 5-18. IMD Living Environment Deciles across the study area.

Housing

The North Lincolnshire Director of Public Health Annual Report (2023) found the following statistics in relation to housing in the district:

- 15.7% of households in the district are living in fuel poverty, higher than the national average of 13.1%.
- 40.2% of dwellings in the district have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C or above, lower than the national average of 46.6%.
- 0.7% of homes do not have central heating, the same as the national average.
- 29.2% of households in the district are occupied by a single person, just below national average of 30.1%.
- 17.2% of households in the district are private rentals, this is below the national average of 20.6%.
- There is an estimated six people assessed as homeless per 1,000 of the population in North Lincolnshire, slightly below the national average of 7.5 people per 1,000.

The predominant issues highlighted in the report relating to housing include increased rates of homelessness and increase in private landlords selling properties due to increases in mortgage rates. In addition, there has been an increase in families on the housing wait register who cannot access social housing due to rent arrears, and there is an increase in the number of families in high priority of need of housing.

A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2021) for North Lincolnshire Council was completed and identified 17 Gypsy or Traveller households which met the planning definition, and three undetermined households which may not meet this definition. No households were identified which did not meet the definition. The assessment identified a need for 13 pitches for households which meet the definition, and up to four for undetermined households. In relation to Travelling Show people, the assessment did not find a need for any plots for households which meet the definition.

Education

According to the Public Health Annual Report (2023), 21.8% of North Lincolnshire residents over 15 declared they had no qualifications which is higher than the national average. Approximately 61.9% of pupils in the district achieved a grade 4 or higher in Maths and English in 2022 to 2023. This is lower than the national average of 65.1%. This value was much lower for pupils on free school meals, or special educational needs.

5.9.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning population and health across the district include:

- Growing population will place increased demand on a range of community services and facilities and also increased competition for jobs.
- There are areas of deprivation that create disparity across North Lincolnshire, particularly relating to poor accessibility of rural areas.
- Across the district there are recorded low rates of walking than across the country. In particular, those who live a life with particular risk factors (such as disability, illness or injury include food and nutrition, physically inactivity, tobacco and high alcohol use) have poorer health outcomes.
- There are a number of health issues that affect the community, which increases the vulnerability of the population and places further demands on community health services and facilities.

5.10 Economy and Employment

5.10.1 Policy context

The NPPF (2024) sets out an overarching strategy for building a strong, competitive economy. The framework identifies the importance of setting out clear economic vision in planning policies, identifying strategic sites for local and inward investment and accommodating to changing needs and economic circumstances. The framework also identifies the importance of planning of policies and decision to:

- Enable sustainable growth of industries in rural and urban areas.
- Allow for diversification and development of agricultural business.
- Ensure that rural tourism and leisure developments to acknowledge, protect and enhance countryside character.
- Ensure the retention and development of local services and community facilities.

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership developed a Strategic Economic Plan covering up to 2030 (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, 2016). The strategy sets out the five priorities and drivers for growth across Greater Lincolnshire, which are:

- To drive the growth of the area's defining and strongest sectors which offer the most competitive advantage: agri-food; manufacturing and engineering; low carbon economy; tourism.
- To grow specific opportunities identified as future defining features in the area: health care and ports and logistics sectors.
- To drive growth by expanding new markets, modern telecommunication, infrastructure improvements and the skills of individuals and business owners at the forefront.
- To promote Greater Lincolnshire as a place for sustainable growth through improved transport infrastructure to connect with national and international markets.
- To recognise the need for new housing and to support balanced housing and economic development through the area's capacity to deliver high-quality growth.

North Lincolnshire Council published an Economic Growth Plan in 2023, which sets out the priorities for driving economic growth over five years (2023-2028) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2023). These priorities are outlined below:

- Priority 1: 'A place where people, places and products are connected globally to deliver sustainable economic growth'.
 - To be achieved through the development in national and international trade, investment in high quality infrastructure development and increased freedoms and flexibilities of policy and local level.
- Priority 2: 'A place where businesses and residents make positive changes to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable future for North Lincolnshire'.
 - To be achieved through investment into green energy, public transport and high-quality, sustainable homes, and through the development of open spaces, leisure and cultural activities.
- Priority 3: 'A place which enables and encourages businesses, residents and communities to achieve their full potential'.
 - To be achieved through improved access to skills and training; providing improved funding opportunities to small businesses.

5.10.2 Current baseline

In 2023, 77.3% of the population of North Lincolnshire aged 16 to 64 years were economically active (Office for National Statistics, 2024). In North Lincolnshire, the employment rate was 75.0% in 2023, a decrease of the 78.3% rate in 2022. However, North Lincolnshire Council is higher than the 74.2% employment rate across the region of Yorkshire and Humber (2024). The largest employment industry in 2023 was manufacturing, accounting for 24.0% of employment, which is higher than the Great Britain average of 7.5% in this industry (Nomis, 2025). In Great Britain, the manufacturing industry is in steady decline, dropping from 8.2% in 2015 to 7.5% in 2023.

The gross median weekly pay for full time workers in North Lincolnshire in 2024 was £677.00 which is below the Great Britain average of £729.60, despite manufacturing being considered a high-skilled and high paid field (Nomis, 2025). However, the median gross weekly pay was above the regional average of £670.80.

There are many areas in North Lincolnshire where economic growth is being facilitated. The South Humber Gateway, situated on the south bank of the Humber Estuary, is one of the largest strategic development sites front a deep-water estuary in the UK, covering almost 1,000 ha. There is significant investment potential in the area, with particular opportunities for renewable energy growth (Invest in North Lincolnshire, 2025). An example of economic investment and development on the South Humber Bank is Able Marine Energy Park. In 2020, North Lincolnshire Council received £4.3million investment from the Government's Getting Building Fund. The money has been directed to enabling the development of the Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP). This proposal aims to become an international centre for manufacturing and the assembly of wind turbines, estimated to provide between 3,000 and 6,000 jobs to the area. The Humber forms the UK's largest Enterprise Zone (EZ) already, which is set to more than double in size following the expansion (Humber Local Enterprise Partnership, 2025). Planning permission for AMEP Logistics Park was granted in July 2013, and a Development Consent Order (DCO) was granted for AMEP in December 2014. Since, initial works have begun, with AMEP welcoming its first occupiers and business makers in 2022 (Able, 2025).

The agri-food industry has been a longstanding important industry in North Lincolnshire. Over 12% of the UK's food supply, including 25% of its vegetables, are produced or processed in Greater Lincolnshire (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, 2016). Despite the high amount of agricultural farmland across North Lincolnshire (92%), there has been a fall in total farm labour in Lincolnshire since 2021, likely due to changes and mechanisation of agricultural processes.

The lack of diversity of employment opportunities in North Lincolnshire is evident across many sectors, including agriculture. As a large proportion of employment is in the manufacturing industry, which is in decline throughout the UK, this may be unsustainable. In June 2025, the Prax Lindsey refinery entered liquidation. Approximately 400 people are expected to be employed directly at the Prax site, with 1,000 others affected in the wider supply chain. The effects of this are expected to cause economic shock within the local

economy (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025). The Prax site has now been taken over by Phillips 66 and it remains to be seen what impact this will have on job numbers at the site.

5.10.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning the economy and employment across the district include:

- The manufacturing sector employs a much greater proportion of people compared to the national average. The sector is in decline which creates concerns for the sustainability of the manufacturing industry in North Lincolnshire.
- Total farm labour across Lincolnshire has been in decline and opportunities to diversify the industry should be encouraged.
- Gross weekly pay in North Lincolnshire is significantly lower than the national gross weekly pay, despite the high-skilled and high paid manufacturing industry in North Lincolnshire.

5.11 Material assets

5.11.1 Policy context

North Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan (2011) is a statutory document which sets out the local authority's vision for strategic transport, and how it will be delivered. This document is expected to be replaced by a new Integrated Transport Strategy, will include all modes of transport and shape transport improvements across the district in the future (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011a).

North Lincolnshire's Playing Pitch Strategy updated in 2023, which aims to review the requirements across the district for playing pitch provision. The update found that there has been increased demand in pitches for football, cricket and rugby union since 2020 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020).

5.11.2 Current baseline

Transport infrastructure

North Lincolnshire is served primarily by the M181, M180 and M18, which connect the area to the M62 Trans-Pennine route and the A1/M1 north-south route. The M180 serves as the principal route across North Lincolnshire, connecting the east and west of the area, and passing through the largest urban areas of Scunthorpe, Brigg and South Killingholme. The A15 Humber Bridge provides access to the north-east of England, crossing the Humber Estuary at Barton-upon-Humber, whilst the A15 also connects the area to the south, linking to Lincoln and the East Midlands. The Humber Bridge, the only crossing point on the estuary, provides a bottleneck, whilst the bridge tolls are an economic barrier to some people and businesses. The problems and challenges identified in the North Lincolnshire Transport Plan include:

- Localised congestion at peak times;

- Limited access to major employment sites, by sustainable travel modes; and
- Accident clusters at junctions, which are not located on North Lincolnshire's main roads.

The South Humber Gateway (SHG) is located on the south bank of the Humber estuary in North Lincolnshire. The gateway incorporates approximately one thousand hectares and presents a significant potential development area in the UK, with specific interest in emerging renewable energy industry. In the Humber Industrial Strategy document, the highlights include the South Humber Gateway Scheme, with £2.5m investment to upgrading the highways infrastructure, improving connectivity between the Port of Immingham, oil refineries and the strategic road network (Department for Business and Trade, 2025).

The district is served by four key railway lines, including a Trans-Pennine line providing direct links to the East Coast Main Line at Doncaster. There is significant rail freight movements through North Lincolnshire with over 20% of all UK rail freight passing through the area. Growth of freight at the port has generated additional rail traffic, this has caused congestion problems on lines to and from the South Humber Gateway (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011a).

The existing cycle network in North Lincolnshire includes a number of signed routes on roads and footpaths. The cycle routes on footpaths are either shared facilities or segregated from pedestrians. The remainder of off street routes are on specially designated cycle paths. Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 is part of the National Cycle Network that passes through the area and a further 13 other routes ranging from 6 to 50 miles in length have also been developed in North Lincolnshire, specifically for recreational cycling. In April 2013, the council completed the “Ridgeway” a six mile off road facility for pedestrians and cyclists. The route runs north from Manor Park in Scunthorpe to Bagmore Lane at Normanby. PRowWs are not common in rural areas limiting recreational experiences for walkers, cyclists, and riders in North Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011). The PRowW located across North Lincolnshire are shown on Figure 5-19.

The port of Immingham lies just outside the district and is one of the largest UK ports by tonnage, and handles approximately 46 million tonnes of cargo each year. The port is an important part of the supply chain for sustainable electricity generation. The rail infrastructure includes over 240 rail freight movements each week (Associated British Ports, 2025). Other port facilities in North Lincolnshire are located along the Humber Estuary at North Killingholme and New Holland Dock, as well as ports along the River Trent at Flixborough, Groveport and Gunness.

The Humberside Airport Business Park is located within the Humber Enterprise Zone, which is the largest zone in the UK. Further expansion of the business park is proposed, with additional office accommodation and warehousing.

Transport patterns

The North Lincolnshire Transport Strategy (2011 to 2026) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011b), sets out five Local Transport Goals for the area. These are to:

- Facilitate economic growth by targeting transport improvements in key development areas and along key strategic network corridors.
- Reduce transport related carbon dioxide emissions and protect and enhance the natural and built environment through sustainable transport solutions.
- Improve transport safety and security relating to death or injury from transport, in order to contribute towards safer and stronger communities.
- Provide equal opportunities through improvements in accessibility to key local hubs and services by sustainable modes of transport.
- Enhance people's health and wellbeing through the promotion of healthy modes of travel and provision of a high quality integrated transport system that contributes towards long term sustainable regeneration.

Most of the North Lincolnshire's bus services are operated from Scunthorpe Bus Station and are serviced by two main bus operators, Stagecoach and Hornsby Travel. Over the period of 2003/04 to 2012/13 there was a significant increase in the number of bus passengers from 2.8 million to 3.9 million respectively (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011).

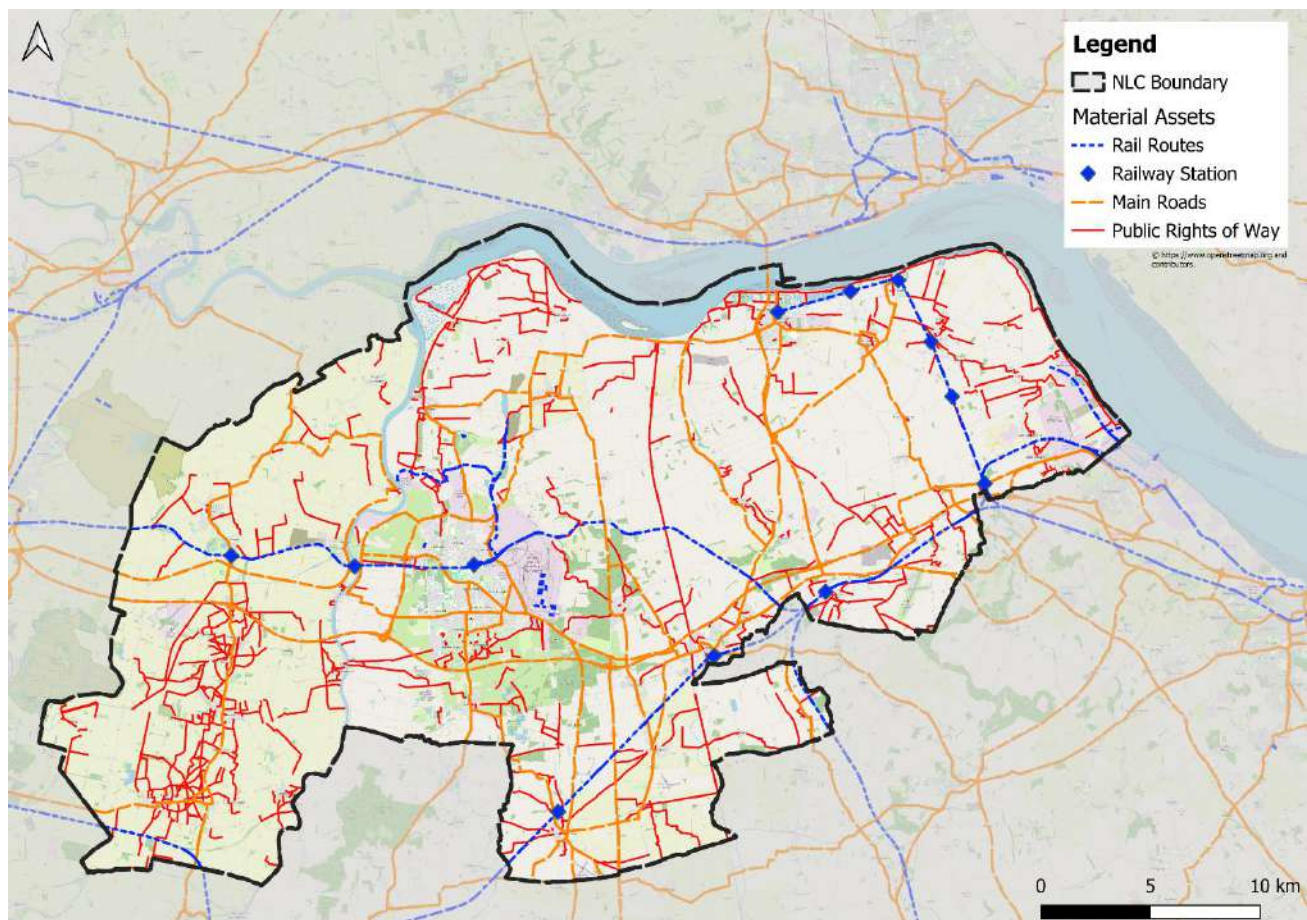


Figure 5-19: Road, rail and public rights of way located across North Lincolnshire.

Open Space

The North Lincolnshire Open Space Study (2019) identified the quantity of Open Space across the district by type. Table 5-4 details findings of this assessment.

Table 5-4: Quantity of Open Space in North Lincolnshire by Typology.

Typology	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Provision per 1,000 population (ha)
Parks and Gardens	66	279.22	1.64
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	66	1634.55	9.63
Amenity Greenspace	85	88.02	0.52
Outdoor Sports Facilities	69	215.14	1.27
Provision for Children and Young People (Stand Alone Provision)	54	8.47	*0.45
Provision for Children and Young People (Within Other Typologies)	78	9.18	0.45
Allotments	14	29.46	0.17
Churchyards and Cemeteries	46	47.76	0.28
Area total	400	2302.62	13.56
* Combined provision including sites within other typologies- calculated using the children's population aged 0-19 years.			

When assessing the quality of open spaces, only two typologies fell within the 'Below Average' category, these included Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Allotments. The report noted the key factor which affects the quality scores across the typologies was the quality of individual infrastructure elements or the lack of basic infrastructure such as signage, benches and bins. Regarding accessibility, for all typologies over 84% of respondents felt travel time was acceptable. The audit recommended that natural and semi-natural greenspaces in North Lincolnshire are not currently meeting all criteria in terms of quality and therefore improvements will be needed across different areas and typologies (North Lincolnshire Council, 2019).

Community services

North Lincolnshire provides a range of community services, including various community facilities (social, leisure and cultural), schools, hospitals and health clinics. The majority of these are largely centred in urban areas. Scunthorpe is the main service centre in the area. There are several community hubs established across the district, placed in central accessible locations in Asby, Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth, Riddings, Scunthorpe and Winterton. These Hubs provide community-led activities, health and

wellbeing support with a range of facilities including sport and leisure facilities, public libraries and community kitchens.

In addition, there are five allotment sites predominantly located in the outskirts of Scunthorpe, and seven leisure centres across the district. These are spread across numerous towns including Barton-upon-Humber, Crowle, Scunthorpe, Brigg, Riddings Winterton, and Epworth.

According to the North Lincolnshire website, regarding the Playing Pitch Strategy (updated 2023) there are 132 playing pitches across the district. These include pitches suitable for rugby, football, hockey, and cricket (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020b) .

5.11.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning material assets across the district include:

- As identified in the Transport Plan, there is some localised congestion on the road network during peak hours. Increased population and subsequent car usage is likely to exacerbate existing issues.
- There is limited sustainable travel modes in some of the more rural areas of the district, this includes access major employment sites. Further commercial developments as described in (Section 5.10) should be supported by sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
- Consider the enhancement and safeguarding of existing open spaces, to improve accessibility, quantity and quality of provision across the district.

5.12 Waste and minerals

5.12.1 Policy context

The Waste Framework Directive came into effect in 2008. The EU legislation promotes waste prevention and recycling, whilst maintaining the health of humans and the environment.

The National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW), published in 2014, sets out the importance of waste in sustainable planning. The NPPW is divided into five sections covering evidence, identifying the need for waste management facilities, identifying suitable sites/areas, determining planning applications and monitoring/reporting. It sets out the importance of resource efficiency, sustainable development and the importance for the public and businesses to take responsibility for waste. It is supported by the PPG for Waste which provides further detail on the implementation of waste legislation and policy.

The Resources and Waste Strategy (HM Government, 2018) sets out how the country will protect and preserve resources, through minimising waste, promoting efficiency of resources and shifting to a circular economy. The Strategy sets out a vision for policy, whereas the Waste Management Plan (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, 2021) focuses on the physical waste arisings and the management of them.

North Lincolnshire acts as both the Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) for municipal solid waste in North Lincolnshire. North Lincolnshire Council published a Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the Authority in 2012 (Mott MacDonald, 2012). The strategy uses life-cycle methodology and decision-making tools to guide waste management.

In 2020, a Local Waste Needs Assessment (WNA) was produced to identify the key waste issues that remain and to identify areas in which future facilities for waste would be required (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020). The WNA found that the existing waste streams would exceed capacity of existing facilities following 2026 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020a).

5.12.2 Current baseline

North Lincolnshire has an estimated landfill capacity of 14 million cubic metres with planning permission for waste disposal. There is a significant amount of imported waste from surrounding areas into North Lincolnshire. Data from the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) identifies that 2,948,757 tonnes of waste was received in permitted waste management facilities in North Lincolnshire in 2017. Of this, 915,634 tonnes (31%) of the waste originated in North Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020).

In North Lincolnshire, the household waste collected in North Lincolnshire increased from 85,092 in 2015/16 to 87,522 in 2016/17, which equates to approximately 510kg of waste collected per person. Of this household waste in 2016/17, 47.7% was recycled or composted, 45.2% was sent to landfill, and 5.1% was incinerated with EfW (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020). The proportion of recycled waste is down from 49.0% in 2015/16, but up from 43.1% in 2007/08.

In North Lincolnshire in 2017, 57,681 tonnes of hazardous waste were generated, a small percentage of the total. Agricultural waste arisings are to be managed by private sector and subsequently no strategic locations are required for this waste.

The North Lincolnshire Local Waste Needs Assessment (2020) identified that local authority collected waste streams will not be able to be accommodated after 2026, and therefore capacity needs to be monitored. For commercial and industrial waste streams there is the expectation that there is sufficient capacity depending on levels of recycling and composting. For construction, demolition and excavation waste there will likely be capacity within the Plan period for future waste. Regarding hazardous and agricultural waste, there is not expected to be a need to identify strategic locations for its management

Mineral deposits in North Lincolnshire consist of silica sand, chalk, limestone, clay and peat. There are also deposits of oil, gas, ironstone and aggregates such as sand and gravel. Significant mineral deposits in North Lincolnshire consist of (Harrison, D. J., et al, 2005)

- Chalk uplands of Lincolnshire Wolds
 - Upper Cretaceous age.
 - Used as aggregate such as fill and sub-base roadstone, lime production, steel manufacture, and agricultural use.

- Major quarries include South Ferriby (cement), Melton Ross (industrial applications including lime).
- Brick clay
 - Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group.
 - Epworth brickmaking has recently ceased.
 - Barton clay pits of glacial superficial deposits used to supply clay for brick and tile making industries (now a nature reserve).
- Messingham silica sand
 - Blown Sand deposits of Quaternary period.
 - Used for coloured glass in Yorkshire.
 - Workings have taken place since 1930s, though only the upper 2m of sand above the water table is removed today.
- Ironstone Gulleys
 - Frodingham Ironstone of Lower Jurassic age in Scunthorpe-West Halton area
 - Typically low grade of 25% iron.
 - Extraction ceased in late 1980s.
 - Now used for recreation, nature conservation, and waste disposal.
- Peat deposits on Goole and Crowle Moors
 - Blanket bogs with peat up to 4m thick.
 - Extraction has now ceased.
 - Restoration of area to habitat for nature conservation has begun.

There is a need to safeguard economically important deposits by maximising use of secondary and recycled material where possible, and to meet national, regional and local aggregate and non-aggregate supply requirements.

5.12.3 Key sustainability issues

The key issues concerning waste and minerals across the district include:

- Population increase and the increase in development will lead to increased household waste and a pressure on waste management facilities.
- Recycling in North Lincolnshire remains under 50% of the total waste arisings, the Plan should consider how to encourage recycling of waste where possible.
- There is a potential shortfall in the supply of waste sites for specific types of waste.
- Continued exploitation of the North Lincolnshire's mineral resources should seek to contribute to the social and economic needs of North Lincolnshire whilst also ensuring robust environmental protection.

6 Proposed Scope of Assessment

6.1 Introduction

The purpose of the scoping stage is to focus on the SA on the sustainability issues which are relevant to the North Lincolnshire Local Plan. The assessment will focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA must consider the likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects'.

The review of baseline information presented in Section 5 identified a range of sustainability issues across the North Lincolnshire. A summary of these issues is presented in Table 6-1 below.

Table 6-1: Key issues identified in the environmental baseline.

Topic	Key issues
Landscape and visual amenity	Changes in landscape associated with the regeneration, and continued industrial development including the airport, associated business park and extractive industries. Continued pressures on the landscape caused by intensification of agricultural practices, existing practices have resulted in the loss of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields. Maintaining and enhancing existing landscape amenity whilst delivering both employment and housing allocation for the Local Plan period. Climate change is likely to alter the condition and character of existing landscape due to increases in annual temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, which may affect vegetation cover and hydrological regimes.
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Designated nature conservation sites are at risk of degradation as a result of increased housing and commercial development coupled with increased disturbance due to population growth. Effects of climate change will likely pose additional risks for species which may not be able to adapt to changing climatic conditions. In particular, sea level rise may impact on the Humber Estuary designated site and cause the loss of intertidal habitat. The effects of climate change pose a risk to flora, fauna and wildlife if they are unable to adapt to changing climate conditions. Increased development, fragmented habitat and lack of green corridors can reduce the ability for nature to adapt to changes.
Water environment	Increases in water demand due to population increase, commercial demand, leakage, and possible scarcity of water supply due to climate change, are predicted to cause a water supply deficit in the future.

Topic	Key issues
	The general ecological status of water bodies in North Lincolnshire is 'moderate', with the key causes of water pollution stemming from poor agricultural land management, groundwater abstraction and physical modification. Groundwater resources are over abstracted, with additional pressures from land contamination and risk of pollution. This issue is exacerbated by high leaching soils, which enable pollutants to reach underlying aquifers more easily. These resources are also vulnerable to pollution associated with contaminated land or new development. Large areas of North Lincolnshire are at high risk of flooding. Many of the existing areas at risk of flooding are expected to experience increased flood events due to sea level rise and increased rainfall intensity due to climate change. Urban development within North Lincolnshire has the potential to increase the amount of surface water runoff and cause increased flooding and increased contamination to water bodies receiving the runoff.
Land	Development of brownfield land and land at risk of contamination could cause the release of contaminants into groundwater and surrounding soils. Any development on these sites should adequately deal with the contamination risk as to prevent harm to human health, property and the environment. There are large areas of Best and Most Versatile soils located within the district boundary. The Local Plan should consider how to safeguard and enhance areas of valuable soils whilst delivering housing and employment land requirements. Broadly, soil health is subject to declining condition caused by erosion, compaction and poor land management, which consequently impacts the productivity of the soils for agriculture and carbon stores. Continued industrial activities, including the power generation and extractive industries, risk giving rise to pollution incidents in the short term. This could be as a result of the release of chemicals or dust from quarrying.
Historic environment	The HLC identifies historically significant landscapes, which are under pressure from human activity such as development and land use change. There are numerous heritage assets identified on the Heritage at Risk register, the Local Plan should consider opportunities to enhance and conserve these assets. These assets are likely to be more sensitive to pressures from development. Sensitive heritage assets, including those on the Heritage at Risk Register, may be more vulnerable due to pressures associated with climate change particularly in relation to flooding.

Topic	Key issues
Air quality	Greater pressures in air quality may occur in the future through increases in the population in North Lincolnshire, and associated development and increased traffic congestion. Continued emissions to air from manufacturing and extractive industries within North Lincolnshire are likely to impact existing poor air quality. Several economic development projects, such as the South Humber Gateway project (outlined in Section 5.10), will likely result in an increase of emissions. Deterioration in air quality may lead to the introduction of more AQMAs to address local impacts on air quality.
Climate	Should climate change predictions be realised, there is the potential for significant adverse effects on North Lincolnshire's infrastructure, public health, built heritage and natural environment. Species and habitat abundance will become threatened as a result of changing habitats, for example, drier soils and increased competition for water. Climate change is expected to also increase risk of soil erosion due to drier soils, which could impact on the productivity of agricultural land, aquatic ecosystems and air quality. Rainfall intensity and storm occurrence is expected to increase, increasing the risk of flooding. Severe flooding could impact on commercial, residential, transport and utility infrastructure, causing direct and indirect economic impacts. The increased surface runoff due to development, could lead to growing pressures on drainage and sewerage infrastructure. Potential conflict between renewable energy generation (including the South Humber Gateway) and other land uses, as well as issues in relation to impacts on landscape quality and character, recreation and amenity, and biodiversity.
Population and health	Growing population will place increased demand on a range of community services and facilities, and also increased competition for jobs. There are areas of deprivation that create disparity across North Lincolnshire, particularly relating to poor accessibility of rural areas. Across the district there are recorded low rates of walking than across the country. In particular, those who live a life with particular risk factors (such as disability, illness or injury include food and nutrition, physically inactivity, tobacco and high alcohol use) have poorer health outcomes. There are a number of health issues that affect the community, which increases the vulnerability of the population and places further demands on community health services and facilities.
Economy and	The manufacturing sector employs a much greater proportion of

Topic	Key issues
employment	people compared to the national average. The sector is in decline which creates concerns for the sustainability of the manufacturing industry in North Lincolnshire. Total farm labour across Lincolnshire has been in decline and opportunities to diversify the industry should be encouraged. Gross weekly pay in North Lincolnshire is significantly lower than the national gross weekly pay, despite the high-skilled and high paid manufacturing industry in North Lincolnshire.
Material assets	As identified in the Transport Plan, there is some localised congestion on the road network during peak hours. Increased population and subsequent car usage is likely to exacerbate existing issues. There is limited sustainable travel modes in some of the more rural areas of the district, this includes access major employment sites. Further commercial developments as described in (Section 5.10) should be supported by sustainable transport infrastructure and services. Consider the enhancement and safeguarding of existing open spaces, to improve accessibility, quantity and quality of provision across the district.
Waste and minerals	Population increase and the increase in development will lead to increased household waste and a pressure on waste management facilities. Recycling in North Lincolnshire remains under 50% of the total waste arisings, the Plan should consider how to encourage recycling of waste where possible. There is a potential shortfall in the supply of waste sites for specific types of waste. Continued exploitation of the North Lincolnshire's mineral resources should seek to contribute to the social and economic needs of North Lincolnshire whilst also ensuring robust environmental protection.

6.2 Scoping of SA topics

Following a review of the environmental baseline data it has not been possible to scope out any of the assessment topics and sub-themes as there is the potential for significant impact in the district as a result of the implementation of the Local Plan.

7 Proposed SA Framework and Methodology

7.1 Introduction

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential sustainability issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key sustainability issues identified through the baseline information review. These objectives are supported by a series of criteria, which are used to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues and can be used to inform monitoring following the implementation of the Local Plan.

7.2 SA Objectives

The SA Framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The list below summarises the purposes and requirements of SA objectives, sub-objectives, and criteria:

- **Objective:** Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which environmental effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit for purpose.
- **Sub-objective:** Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental issues are considered by the assessment process.
- **Potential criteria:** Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the environmental objectives over time. They need to be measurable and relevant and ideally rely on existing monitoring networks.

7.3 SA Framework

The draft SA objectives are outlined in Table 7-1 below. These objectives are currently in draft form and can be refined or revised in response to comments received during the consultation phase of this SA Scoping Report. These objectives have been developed based on key considerations and potential effects identified in Section 5.

Table 7-1: SA objectives, sub-objectives and potential criteria.

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
Landscape		
1. Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of North Lincolnshire's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local character and sense of place.	Protect and enhance landscape character, and sensitive and special landscapes. Safeguard setting of settlements and locally important landscapes. Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. Promote schemes designed to enhance landscape and built character into new development. Minimise detrimental visual intrusion.	Change in quality of landscape character and condition. The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. Percentage of open countryside. Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
2. Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	Protect and enhance designated sites including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites, SSSIs, NNRs, LNRs and LWSs. Protect and enhance priority habitats and species. Contribute to the protection and creation of new priority habitats. Promote schemes which encourage biodiversity measures on farmland. Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats. Enhance community engagement with biodiversity. Encourage the protection and provision of green and open spaces.	Condition of designated sites. Planning applications refused/granted in designated sites and green corridors. Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. Completed development that has resulted in the loss or creation/restoration of priority habitats. Percentage of farmland with agri-environment schemes. New development sites delivering 10% or more Biodiversity Net Gain within the district. Number of biodiversity opportunity mapping areas considered for restoration.

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
Water Environment		
3. Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in North Lincolnshire's surface and groundwaters.	Contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources. Protect and where possible improve drinking water quality. Improve water quality in North Lincolnshire's watercourses. Enhancement and recreation of natural watercourses. Increase the use of SuDS.	Water quality of the District's watercourses including groundwater. Number of pollution incidents. Number of SuDS schemes installed. Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives. Percentage of water bodies achieving 'Good' ecological status.
4. Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	Minimise the risk of flooding to people and properties. Promote and increase the use of SuDS that result in Greenfield or better run-off rates. Only development appropriate to the Flood Zone shall take place.	Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans. Number of SuDS schemes installed. Number of flood defence schemes planned/approved. Planning/applications refused/granted due to flood risk concerns
Land		
5. Protect North Lincolnshire's important soil resources.	Reduce soil erosion and protect and enhance soil quality and quantity. Prevent the loss of Grade 1 and Grade 2 ALC land. Reduce contamination of soils from development, industry or agriculture. Promote the use of brownfield land for development where possible. Increase the remediation and regeneration of contaminated land.	Area of greenfield land affected by development. Areas of ALC Grade 1 and 2 lost to development. Area of ALC Grade 2 and Grade 3 land in the district. Number of land remediation schemes.
Air Quality		

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
6. Improve local air quality.	Maintain and improve local air quality. Promote measures that will remove the occurrence of AQMAs. Reduce the impacts on air quality from transport. Prevent/mitigate the generation of air pollution.	Rate of transport modal shift across North Lincolnshire. Exceedances of air quality objectives. Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions. Population living in AQMAs. Number of complaints received regarding odour nuisance.
Climate		
7. Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Deliver schemes that promote habitat and species resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change, particularly regarding coastal squeeze. Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency. Minimise the likely impacts of climate change through promotion of appropriate adaptation measures in new development. Promote the development of renewable energy generation.	Greenhouse gas emissions. New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating. Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources. Energy and water use per household. Condition of designated sites.
Historic Environment		
8. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	Conserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage features, their settings and the wider historic environment. Reduce the number of heritage assets at risk. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Conservation Areas and	Planning applications granted/refused that affect the designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. Loss or damage of heritage assets including the historic landscape. Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk and Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk registers.

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
	settlements. Promote high-quality design and heritage-led regeneration. Provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment. Increase the social benefit derived from the historic environment. Protect and enhance the character and appearance of historic landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	Number of heritage assets provided with interpretation and made accessible to the public. Number of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to and/or following planning approval. Number of archaeological reports and archives deposited with and added to the Historic Environment Record.
Population and Human Health		
9. Reduce deprivation and inequalities.	Increase community engagement and decision-making. Reduce poverty and social exclusion. Reduce crime and the fear of crime. Improve attainment levels in schools, and increase access to higher education. Increase accessibility between urban and rural areas. Reduce living environment inequalities across the borough. Reduce income and resource inequality across the borough.	Local and sub-regional measurements of deprivation. Life expectancy between wards. Crime rates. Self-reported measure of people's feeling of safety. Rates of participation of democratic processes. Inequality measures, such as education/attainment levels and wages. % Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) working age people in employment. % of high-quality green spaces. Number of trees. Access to higher income employment opportunities.

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
10. Promote healthy and active lifestyles in North Lincolnshire.	Maintain and increase access to high quality healthcare facilities. Promote active and healthy lifestyles. Promote recreational and leisure opportunities and access to open space. Increase regular participation in physical activities and sport.	Life expectancy rates. Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. All-age all-cause mortality rates. Number of people exercising regularly. Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
Economy and Employment		
11. Promote a sustainable economy, improve skills and employability, and diversify rural economy.	Promote retention of existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. Increase diversity in the range of job opportunities in rural communities. Ensure an adequate supply of a range of sites in terms of types and quality for employment uses. Improve access to opportunities for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population.	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. New business registration rates. Employment rates. Proportion of unemployed economically active people. Average earnings. Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above. Proportion of 18-24 year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C. No. of residents attending university. Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material Assets		

Objective	Sub-objectives	Potential criteria
12. Increase access to a wide range of services and facilities.	Improve availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including healthcare, education, retail and leisure. Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities. Maintain and enhance rural facilities. Increase voluntary and community infrastructure. Promote measures that reduce the need to travel and travel distances. Promote measures to reduce the need to travel by car.	Number of people with adequate access to key services (e.g. hospitals, health centres, residential homes, schools). Availability and accessibility of a range of community, cultural and leisure facilities. Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Number of public transport services and cycle routes created. % change in number of people using public transport.
Waste and Minerals		
13. Ensure sustainable management of North Lincolnshire's mineral resources.	Increase the retention of mineral workings for biodiversity, landscape and the general public. Maintain an appropriate landbank of important local mineral resources. Safeguard existing development from the environmental effects of mineral workings. Encourage the prudent use of mineral resources.	Number of years landbank for important local mineral resources and operations. Total aggregates extracted from within North Lincolnshire. Amount of mineral extraction areas restored for environmental protection. Total aggregates used within North Lincolnshire. Environmental incidents from mineral extraction facilities.
14. Ensure capacity is available to manage North Lincolnshire's waste.	Reduce waste generation. Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Encourage adherence to North Lincolnshire waste hierarchy.	Capacity of waste facilities within North Lincolnshire. Percentage of North Lincolnshire's waste managed by different methods.

7.4 Geographical and temporal scope of the SA

The geographical scope of the SA varies by SA topic. Immediate and direct impacts and effects will be identified within the study area (see Figure 2-1). Other direct (not immediate) impacts and effects will be considered over the distances which are relevant to those effects. This will be defined at the assessment stage.

The temporal scope of the SA will attempt to mirror the Local Plan and consider impacts up until 2045. It is not possible for the SA to assess potential effects accurately at these timescales, and it will rely on many assumptions. Assumptions, uncertainties, and limitations will be documented in the Environmental Report.

8 Assessment approach

8.1 Developing alternatives

The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the Local Plan and its 'reasonable alternatives'. To assess reasonable alternatives, the different strategy options for delivering the Local Plan will be developed and assessed at a strategic level against the above SA objectives and environmental baseline detailed in Section 5. The results of this assessment will be used to inform the decision-making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the Local Plan.

The Local Plan objectives and measures (in SEA terms called 'reasonable alternative ') are not yet sufficiently developed. Therefore, they will be assessed at a later stage, with details of each provided in the Environmental Report, as the Local Plan progresses through its different stages of production.

The SA will also consider a 'do nothing' scenario (i.e. how the situation would develop in relation to each environmental receptor without implementation of the Local Plan).

8.2 Types of effect to be considered

The Local Plan (including alternative options) will be evaluated in light of its potential cumulative, synergistic and indirect environmental effects on the different SA receptors selected for further assessment. The assessment of these environmental effects will be informed by the baseline data collected at this scoping stage, professional judgement and experience with other development plans related SAs as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends.

Throughout the assessment the following will apply:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts will be assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted;
- The duration of the impact will be considered over short, medium and long term;
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact will be assessed, such as impacts which can be mitigated against/restored over time; or completely irreversible changes to the environment; and
- In-combination effects will also be considered.

The significance of effects upon each of the SA objectives will then be evaluated and used to inform option selection. The significance of effects will be scored using the six-point scale summarised in Table 8-1 below. If there is high uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative) it will be scored as uncertain.

Where possible, the 'worst case' impact will be assessed and illustrated, with commentary how the effect may be better or improved through action.

Descriptors of each impact significance scoring have been provided in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1: Impact assessment key.

Impact significance	Description	Symbol
Significant positive effect	The option contributes to the achievement of the SA objective and is likely to deliver enhancements.	++
Minor positive effect	The option contributes partly to the achievement of the SA objective but not completely.	+
Negligible effect	There is no clear relationship between the option and/or the achievement of the SA objective.	0
Minor negative effect	The option partially detracts from the achievement of some of the elements of the SA objective.	-
Significant negative effect	The option detracts from the achievement of all elements of the SA objective.	--
Effect uncertain	It is uncertain how the option will impact the achievement of the SA objective.	?

8.2.1 Transboundary issues

For many authorities, the geographical scale of particular issues means that they relate closely to surrounding area. In this report, transboundary issues have been captured by the establishment of a 2km buffer zone. To help characterise the scope further, some of these 'transboundary' issues have been identified at a wider scale:

- At a regional scale, the Lincolnshire Central WRZ, Anglian Water predict an increase in water demand between 2025 and 2050 in the baseline scenario and a supply deficit by the planning period 2027/28 in the baseline scenario, if no action is taken.
- A number of international ecological designations are designated across the whole Humber Estuary, therefore, enhancement and conservation efforts should be across authorities.

8.3 SA Monitoring

Once the Local Plan is assessed, the suggested criteria (presented in the SA Framework, Table 7-1) will be reviewed to identify appropriate indicators and relevant SA monitoring for the strategy. The purpose of SA monitoring is to identify at an early stage any unexpected or different effects from those predicted by the SA and enable early intervention or mitigation of any adverse effects. The indicators will be reviewed for effectiveness at monitoring predicted effects and also uncertainties in the assessment, and targets will be identified where possible for each indicator a response or intervention would be needed.

9 Next steps in the SA process

9.1 Consultation

A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SEA Regulations require government bodies with environmental responsibilities to be consulted on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the final SA Report; and these bodies and the public need to be consulted on the final SA report.

The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that sustainability issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.

This draft Scoping Report was subject to a five-week consultation period from 13 February 2026 to 20 March 2026 with statutory consultation bodies within England (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency), in which the comments received will be considered in the Environmental Report. The Environmental Report will be the next output in the SA process, and it will document the assessment of the Local Plan against the SA objectives.

9.2 The Environmental Report

Following consultation period on the SA Scoping report, the Local Plan will be developed concurrently with the SA, following the framework outlined above. The results of this will be summarised in an Environmental Report. A proposed structure for the Environmental Report is outlined in the Table 9-1 below.

Table 9-1: Proposed structure of the Environmental Report.

Section	Information to be included
Non-Technical Summary	Non-technical summary of the SA process.
Methodology	Details of who carried out the SA, how, who was consulted, and when. Difficulties in collecting data or assessment.
Background	Purpose of the SA and integration with the Local Plan.
Baseline characteristics	Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies. Assessment matrix for each policy/option. How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives. Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver SA objectives.

Section	Information to be included
Sustainability Framework	SA objectives and appraisal criteria
Plan issues and alternatives	Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies. Assessment matrix for each policy/option. How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives. Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver SA objectives.
Implementation	Links to project environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc. Proposals for monitoring and reporting.

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A Appendix A: Plans, Policies and Programmes: Detailed Review

A.1 International

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Aarhus Convention 1998	Establishes several public rights, including access to environmental information held by public authorities, the right to public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters regarding community institutions and bodies.	The preparation process of the Local Plan and SA will need to have regard to the convention through ensuring effective public participation and ensuring the accessibility of environmental information relating to the plan.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	This Directive sets out a procedure that must be undertaken when assessing a plan or programme to which the procedure that must be undertaken when assessing a plan or programme to which the procedure applied.	The Local Plan should consider the procedures, and the SA should adhere to the requirements of this legislation.
EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC amended to 2009/147/EC)	The Directive's key objective is the conservation of wild birds and their habitats, including identifying Species Protection Areas (SPAs).	The Local Plan will need to have regard to the relevant UK legislation that has been transposed from these EU Directives.
EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC)	The Directive's key objective is to ensure the conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and wild fauna/flora.	The Local Plan will need to have regard to the relevant UK legislation that has been transposed from these EU Directives.
EU Convention for the protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992)	The Convention established legal standards for Europe to be met by national policies for the protection of archaeological assets. The revision makes conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies.	The Local Plan should have due regard to archaeological heritage through the development of its proposals.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
EU Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) 2000	This Convention is the first international convention to focus, specifically on landscape. It promotes landscape protection, management and planning and European co-operation on landscape issues. It highlights the importance of development landscape policies dedicated to the protection management and creation of landscapes and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.	The Local Plan will need to ensure the protection, management, and creation of landscape through its policy making and development strategy.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement (2016)	The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris agreement effectively supersedes the Kyoto Protocol (1997).	The Local Plan should help deliver carbon reductions locally to contribute to the achievement of the Paris agreement at a national and international level.
European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This strategy provides an EU-wide policy framework to deliver sustainable development, i.e. to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	The Local Plan needs to be built around these principles and the economic, social and environmental consequences of all the policies and sites need to be examined a coordinated manner through the Sustainability Appraisal.
EU Air Quality framework directive on ambient air quality (2008/50/EC, 2004/107/EC, 2015/1480/EC)	The EU Directive's key objective is the improvement and management of ambient air quality.	The Local Plan will need to have regard to the relevant UK legislation that has been transposed from these EU Directives.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)	Agenda signed in 2015, the 2030 Agenda takes all of the goals set by Agenda 21, and re-asserts them as the basis for sustainable development, and adds on 17 agreed goals revolving around the same concepts.	The Local Plan should consider the sustainable development goals, and they should be reflected in the SA as many relate to spatial planning.
EU Biodiversity strategy to 2030 (2020)	This strategy sets out ambitious goals to prevent biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems. Although the UK are no longer a part of the EU, the strategy provides useful policy for achieving international biodiversity goals relevant to UK policy. The key objectives include: • Protecting 30% of EU land and sea areas by 2030 • Restoring degrading ecosystems • Enabling nature-based solutions • Reducing pressures on biodiversity • Integrating biodiversity into urban planning, agriculture and forestry	The SA will incorporate objectives to protect and restore biodiversity, support ecological connectivity and embed nature-based solutions. The Local Plan should consider the objectives and aims of this strategy in the context of land-use management, sustainable development and provision of open space.
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (United Nations Environment Programme, 2022)	Framework which aims to halt and reverse nature loss. The framework consists of global targets to be achieved by 2030 and into the future to safeguard and sustainably utilise biodiversity.	The Local Plan should consider the measures as set out in this framework to support aims in relation to biodiversity.

A.2 National

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
25 Year Environment Plan (2018) The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (First Revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan)	The 25-Year Environment Plan sets out planned government action to deliver nature recovery. This covers several areas including climate change mitigation and adaptation, on which it outlines plans to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate climate change in all policy, programme, and investment decisions and implement an effective National Adaptation Programme. The Plan should help achieve targets set out in the plan including reducing risk harm environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The first revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25-year plan's vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.	Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure. New development should be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change. The Local Plan should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; avoid adverse impacts, and enhance where possible, biodiversity, air quality, landscape, and heritage; and not result in increased flooding of the district.
Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.	The aim of this regulation is to designate zones in which ambient air will be protected by limiting the concentrations of pollutants within them.	The Local Plan should prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air pollution. Policies should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location considering the likely effects of pollution on health, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological	Under this legislation Scheduled Monuments are protected based on their archaeological or historical interest.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan could negatively impact Scheduled Monuments and seek to mitigate or

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Areas Act 1979		minimise these impacts.
Climate Change Act 2008 (GOV UK, 2008)	The act established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. The act also sets requirements for the government which are fulfilled by the UK climate change risk assessment and the national adaption programme report.	To comply with UK legislation, the Local Plan should minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (GOV UK, 2017)	These regulations transpose the EU Habitats and Birds Directives into UK law, providing protection for nationally and internationally important habitats and species.	The SA should seek to maintain or enhance the quality of habitats and biodiversity and take regard of protected species and habitats when assessing the Local Plan.
Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006	These Regulations, which apply to England only, also set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Defra produced contaminated land statutory guidance in 2012 to explain how local authorities should implement the regime on contaminated land.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan has included measures relating to the identification of contamination risks and guard against land contamination.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (GOV UK, 2000)	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) gives a public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'open access land'.	The implications on rights of way, access and recreation should be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan.
Environment Act 2021 (GOV UK, 2021)	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.	The SA Framework and Local Plan should align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Environmental Protection Act (Gov UK, 1990)	The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 90) contains the key provisions in relation to the management of controlled waste. Part II of the EPA 90 deals specifically with the deposit of waste to land and associated offences.	The SA Framework should contain an objective in relation to waste minimisation. The Local Plan should consider how developments remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated land, where appropriate
Equality Act 2010	The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets for equality and access to amenities and facilities.
Flood and Water Management Act (GOV UK, 2010)	This Act was developed to improve flood risk management and develop measures to ensure water resources are managed effectively.	The implications of flood risk, and regional water resources should be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan. The SA Framework should include objectives and criteria which relate to flood risk and water resources.
Housing and Planning Act 2016	The Act makes provisions for Right to Buy, Pay to Stay, Starter Homes, and the private rental sector. It contains a range of measures to expand homeownership, reform housing management and the planning process, and increase housing supply to tackle the housing crisis.	The SA will not include an objective on housing as this is a key focus of the Local Plan. However, the Local Plan and SA should have regard to offering a diverse mix of housing tenure, including affordable homes.
Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) (GOV UK, 2023)	This Act was produced to incentivise the build of housing sites through a series of measures which include support for councils who fail to meet the necessary commitments.	To comply with UK legislation, the Local Plan should consider the implications of this Act on house-building principals.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
National Design Guide (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2021)	Whilst not strictly legislation, this guidance demonstrates how to achieve well designed places.	The Local Plan should consider this guidance, and where possible encourage its principles through policy.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2020)	This strategy sets out a vision for national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy across England until 2100.	The Local Plan and SA should consider how to embed resilience into both the policy and SA Framework.
National Planning Policy for Waste (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2014)	This Plan sets out the Government's ambition to move towards more sustainable approach to resource use and management.	The Local Plan and SA should consider measures which promote the sustainable re-use of materials and overall resource management.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024)	The NPPF, sets the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. This framework must be considered when preparing the development plan alongside international obligations and statutory requirements.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the NPPF throughout the Plan making process.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (GOV UK, 2006)	The Act establishes an independent body – Natural England – responsible for conserving, enhancing, and managing England's natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act makes provision in respect of biodiversity, pesticides harmful to wildlife and the protection of birds, and in respect of invasive non-native species. It alters enforcement powers in connection with wildlife protection and extends time limits for prosecuting certain wildlife offences.	The SA Framework should include an objective to minimise impacts to the natural environment.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024)	This policy sets out the government's planning policy in relation to Traveller Sites, in conjunction with the NPPF.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
The Carbon Plan (HM Government, 2011)	The Plan sets out the plan's for achieving the emissions reductions it has committed to including actions and milestones.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy (National Infrastructure & Service Transformation Authority, 2025)	A strategy setting out how the government's long term plan for economic, housing and social infrastructure to drive growth.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030 (DAERA et al., 2025)	This strategy draws upon the commitments made to achieving all 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the strategy including the relevant targets throughout the Plan making process.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (GOV UK, 1981)	The Act is the principal mechanism for providing legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Species listed in Schedule 5 of the Act are protected from disturbance, injury, intentional destruction, or sale. Other provisions outlaw certain methods of taking or killing listed species. This Act is brought up to date regularly to ensure the most endangered animals are on the schedule. The Act also improved protection for the most important wildlife habitats.	Some aspects of the Local Plan may have impacts on habitats and species. The SA should seek to maintain or enhance the quality of habitats and biodiversity and take regard of protected species and habitats when assessing the Local Plan.

A.3 Regional

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Strategy (AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited, 2012)	This assessment evaluated the environmental implications of revoking the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Strategy which previously provided strategic guidance on housing, climate change, transport and environmental protection. Concerns include the potential weakening of coordinated action on sustainability issues across the region. The assessment emphasises the importance for Local Plans to take a proactive role in addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, managing resources and promoting sustainable	The revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Strategy places greater responsibility on NLC's Local Plan to embed sustainable development principles, whilst protecting the environment.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
	development.	
Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2008)	This strategy sets out a long-term approach to managing tidal flood risk around the Humber Estuary, aiming to protect people, property and the environment. Key objectives include maintaining and improving flood defences, promoting climate change adaptation and improving land use planning in the context of flood risk management. The strategy focuses on engagement of stakeholders and encourages the creation of habitat alongside flood defence work.	The NLC Local Plan and SA should align actions with the priorities set out in the strategy. The Local Plan should steer development away from areas of high flood risk and incorporate flood resilience into spatial planning. The SA should include objectives to reduce flood risk, whilst supporting the natural environment.
Anglian Water Resource Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2024)	This plan outlines the water resources available across the Anglian Water WRZs. The plan identifies the availability and demand for water and from this outlines a strategy to account for any shortfalls. It outlines measures for reducing demand, reducing leakage and improving supply resilience whilst protecting the environment and supporting sustainable development.	The NLC Local Plan and SA should align actions with the priorities set out in the plan, ensuring development follows the requirements for sustainable development as set out in the water resource management plan.
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan (Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, 2024)	This plan outlines a strategic framework for addressing the and nature emergencies across Yorkshire and Humber. It focuses on four key goals: • Rapid emissions reduction • Climate adaptation • Nature restoration and protection • Inclusive transition	The Local Plan and SA should reflect and embed the plan's strategic actions and priorities for tackling climate and nature emergencies.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan (Scott Wilson, 2010)	This Shoreline Management Plan sets out the long-term strategy for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion between Flamborough Head and Gibraltar Point, considering natural processes and human intervention. It focuses on balancing the needs of the population, the natural environment and land, whilst addressing flood and erosion risk.	The SA and Local Plan should include objectives to minimise flood risk and adapt to climate change. The Local Plan should reflect and acknowledge the sections of coastline where future development should be avoided, to manage erosion and coastal flood risk.
River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2010)	This flood management plan includes a strategic overview of flood risk management across the River Trent catchment, which includes parts of North Lincolnshire. The plans key objectives include: - Reducing the consequences of flooding - Supporting communities to be more resilient - Enhance the natural environment - Sustainably managing land	The SA will integrate objectives on flood risk reduction and climate adaptation. The Local Plan should reflect policies and objectives outlined in the flood management plan. The Local Plan should incorporate flood risk assessment into planning decisions, restrict development in areas of high risk of flooding and make regard for the impact of climate change on development in North Lincolnshire.
Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 (ARUP, 2025)	This strategy aims to create a joint vision across the region and establish a 5-10 year investment plan. The strategy outlines an aim to accelerate renewable energy, to strengthen regional innovation and to place climate and nature resilience at the centre of the Humber regional growth and investment.	The Local Plan needs to be built around the objectives and consider the wider economic plan when guiding investing and developing NLC. The SA should reflect the aims and objectives of the economic plan to align with broader economic ambitions.
Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2014-2030 (Greater Lincolnshire Local	This plan sets out a long-term vision for driving economic growth and job creation across Greater Lincolnshire to 2030. The plan focuses on manufacturing, agri-food and renewables sectors, alongside improvements to infrastructure, housing and skills.	The Local Plan should reflect the aims of the SEP and ensure planning policy enables the growth of employment, sustainable transport and infrastructure, whilst protecting the environmental assets.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Enterprise Partnership, 2016)		
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020 (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2011)	This plan sets out objectives to conserve and enhance priority habitats and species, including across North Lincolnshire. Key objectives are to: • Protect and restore priority habitats • Maintain and enhance key populations and species • Integrate biodiversity into land-use planning • Promote ecosystem services	The SA will include objectives and indicators for biodiversity protection, habitat enhancement and biodiversity net gain. The Local Plan should reflect the BAP by steering development away from sensitive areas, requiring ecological assessments and securing BNG through strategic green infrastructure and habitat improvement.
North Lincolnshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2018)	This ROWIP is a strategic framework guiding how North Lincolnshire manages and improves its approximately 320 miles of public rights of way. The assessment identifies the success of existing PRow for meeting current and future needs and accessibility for people with disabilities. The objectives of the plan are to: • Improve condition and accessibility of the PRow network • Enhance connectivity • Encourage increased usage of PRow • Protect and enhance the environment	The SA will include objectives that promote sustainable transport, improve accessibility, support healthy lifestyles and enhance the environment. The Local Plan should support policies which safeguard existing rights of way for obstruction or loss, improve connectivity of the rights of way network, encourage walking and cycling as alternatives to other transport and integrate access to rights of ways into strategic planning and site allocations.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
North and North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022)	The SFRA aims to inform planning decision by assessing flood risk from all sources; provide an updated strategic evidence base for Local Plan and development guidance; generating comprehensive flood risk outputs and offering clear guidance to support policy development and decision-making.	The SA will integrate objectives on flood resilience and climate adaptation. The Local Plan must align with the SFRA by prioritising development in areas of the lowest flood risk, applying the Sequential, and where applicable, the Exception Test to inform policy. The Local Plan should embed policy on SuDS and flood mitigation in development.

A.4 Local

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
North Lincolnshire Housing Plan 2023-2028 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2023)	This plan outlines NLC's priorities for meeting housing needs between 2023-2028. It focuses on delivering high-quality, affordable and energy-efficient homes to support communities and promote health and wellbeing. The plan identifies the importance of regeneration, addressing homelessness and ensuring housing growth is placed in sustainable locations with suitable access to transport infrastructure.	The Local Plan should consider the housing plan in relation to its proposed housing provision.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Planning for Renewable Energy Development SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)	The SPD provides guidance to support the delivery of renewable energy projects in line with national and local planning policy. The main objectives of the guidance are to: - Encourage the development of a wide range of renewable energy - Ensure renewable energy developments are appropriately identified, taking into account the environment, landscape, visual and heritage impacts - Promote community engagement with renewable schemes	The SA should include objectives that would promote the reduction of emissions from National Networks and support the transition to a low carbon economy. The Local Plan should consider the requirement for renewable infrastructure.
North Lincolnshire Local Development Scheme Revised (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025)	Sets the timetable for preparing the new North Lincolnshire Local Plan to replace the Housing and Employment Land Development Plan Document, Core Strategy, Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan and saved Local Plan policies.	The scheme will guide the production of the Local Plan.
Planning for Health and Wellbeing SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)	This SPD aims to ensure that health and wellbeing are accounted for in planning and development design. The objectives include promoting active lifestyles through open spaces, improving access to health services and healthy food, reducing health inequalities and creating safe environments and communities.	The Local Plan should embed the objectives of this SPD into planning policy, to create strong communities within NLC. The SA should include objectives that promote the accessibility of open spaces and health facilities.
North Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (North	This plan sets out a long-term vision for a safe, reliable and sustainable transport system that improves economic growth and quality of life in NLC. The key objectives of the plan are to: Reduce transport related carbon emissions	The SA should include objectives that would promote the reduction of emissions from vehicles and support the transition to a low carbon transport system. The Local Plan should ensure that new

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Lincolnshire Council, 2011)	Enhance road safety Support sustainable development	development is well connected to sustainable transport networks. The Local Plan should support infrastructure improvements that enhance accessibility to sustainable transport, reduce car usage and contribute to improved air quality.
North Lincolnshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, October 2021 (Opinion Research Services)	This assessment identifies the current and future accommodation needs for Gypsy and Traveller sites in North Lincolnshire. It highlights the importance in providing sites with access to essential services.	The NLC Local Plan and SA should consider the requirements for delivering suitable Gypsy and Traveller sites.
North Lincolnshire Open Space Study (North Lincolnshire Council, 2019)	This study outlines the availability, quality and accessibility of open space across NLC, assessing the current and future needs of the county.	The document should be used to form the Local Plan, to ensure the strategic approach allows for the future provision, maintenance and enhancement of open space across NLC.
North Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Strategy (North Lincolnshire Council, 2020)	This strategy assesses the current and future needs for playing pitches across NLC, ensuring the sufficient quality, quantity and accessibility of sports facilities. The strategy supports healthy lifestyles and inclusive access to recreational spaces. The strategy promotes the protection and enhancement of existing facilities, informed planning for	The Local Plan should support the delivery of high-quality and accessible sports facilities through appropriate identification and design standards. The SA will include objectives to promote health and wellbeing, achievable partially through the

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
	new provision and sustainable management of facilities to meet the needs of the growing population of NLC.	access to recreational facilities and open spaces.
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2019)	The SHELAA identifies the amount and the general locations of land for possible future development in the district, including an Employment Land review. This will help the Council to ensure that attempts to meet the Government's priority of delivering more homes are not constrained by the lack of availability of housing.	The document should be used to inform housing policy the NLC, and the SA should be aware of housing availability and meeting housing needs.
North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)	This strategy sets out the long-term spatial vision for NLC, up to 2026. The strategy promotes sustainable growth by guiding development to key areas, protecting the environment and supporting economic regeneration. Key objectives include delivering affordable housing, enhancing green transport, developing low carbon initiatives (e.g. renewable energy) and conserving natural and historic environments.	The Local Plan should align with the Core Strategy's focus on directing development to key areas, promoting low-carbon infrastructure and protecting environmental and historic environments. The SA will include objectives on sustainable growth and climate resilience.
A Green Future (North Lincolnshire Council, 2025)	This strategy sets out NLC's vision for a greener, more sustainable future, with the aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions, enhance biodiversity and improve quality of life for locals. The strategy supports sustainable growth while protecting natural assets, aligning with wider environmental and health objectives.	The strategy will guide NLC in their policies for development, guiding the location, scale and sustainability of development.
North Lincolnshire Economic	This draft plan outlines NLC's approach to driving economic growth between 2023 and 2028, focussing on inward investment, innovation and sustainable development.	The Local Plan should consider economic priorities identified within the plan to determine key investment opportunities.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Growth Plan (2023-2028) (Draft) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2023)		
Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan - North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (North Lincolnshire Council, Mott MacDonald, 2019)	The Lincolnshire Lake AAP outlines the long-term vision and development strategy for the area up to 2026. The plan aims to deliver net gains in flood resilience, ecological value and public amenity.	The SA will include objectives relating the sustainable growth, biodiversity conservation and health and wellbeing. The Local Plan should align with the AAP's emphasis on flood resilience and the integration of multifunctional green spaces to support healthy and climate-adapted communities. The Local Plan should emphasise the requirement for developers to adhere to guidance outlined in the AAP.
Lincolnshire Lakes Strategic Design Guide SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)	This SPD provides detailed design principles to guide the delivery of sustainable development in the Lincolnshire Lakes growth area. The key objectives are to: • Create attractive and safe neighbourhoods; • Integrate the development into the surrounding landscape, ensuring suitable green infrastructure exists; and • Support sustainable transport by improving public transport connections and improving walkable routes.	The SA will include objectives for high-quality, climate-resilient design and sustainable transport. The Local Plan will need to reflect the SPD's objectives on flood resilient layouts, sustainable transport, green infrastructure and energy efficiency.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development SPD (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)	The SPD provides guidance to support the delivery of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) development projects in line with national and local planning policy. The main objectives of the guidance are to: • Encourage the development of a wide range of renewable energy; • Ensure renewable energy developments are appropriately identified, taking into account the environment, landscape, visual and heritage impacts; and • Promote community engagement with renewable schemes.	The SA should include objectives that would promote the reduction of emissions from National Networks and support the transition to a low carbon economy. The Local Plan should consider the requirement for renewable infrastructure.
Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document – North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)	This plan identifies specific sites for housing and employment development to support to delivery of the Core Strategy. Its key objectives are to: • Allocate sufficient and deliverable land to meet housing and employment needs; • Ensure that new development is located in sustainable locations with access to services, infrastructure and transport; and • Protect the environment by avoiding the development of areas of ecological importance or at high risk of flooding	The SA will include objectives relating the sustainable growth and biodiversity conservation. The Local Plan should align with the Housing and Employment Land Allocation development plan's objectives and seek to identify suitable land on the basis of low flood risk and suitable access to provisions.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
SuDS and Flood Risk Guidance Document (North Lincolnshire Council, 2017)	This document encourages development to be placed in areas at lowest risk of flooding within NLC and promotes the use of SuDS in new development, as an opportunity to reduce flooding and create biodiversity and amenity.	The Local Plan and SA should consider potential flood risk in relation to sites identified in the plan. The plan should outline the importance and implementation of SuDS in new development.
Onshore Oil & Gas Development in North Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire Council, 2016)	The documents provides planning guidance to manage proposals for oil and gas exploration, appraisal and production with NLC. The key objectives are to: Ensure onshore oil and gas development is suitably located and designed to minimise environmental, landscape, heritage and community impacts Safeguard human health and local infrastructure Protect sensitive environmental receptors including water Align with national policy	The SA will include objectives on climate resilience and mitigation and environmental protection. The Local Plan will be required to carefully assess proposals for fossil fuel extraction against environmental and social criteria. The Local Plan should ensure that it includes clear guidance on managing potential impacts on air, water, landscape and environmental quality, as well as human health. The Local Plan should also support transition to renewable and low-carbon energy sources, ensuring that extraction of resources does not undermine long-term climate objectives.
North Lincolnshire Conservation Area Appraisals (North Lincolnshire Council, n.d.)	The Conservation Area Appraisals identify the architectural and historic importance of conservation areas within NLC. They provide guidance on preserving and enhancing heritage assets.	The Local Plan should acknowledge the historic environment of NLC and include policies that protect historic assets and their special character. The SA should identify the wider benefits that conservation of the historic environment can provide.
Interim Planning Guidance South	This report outlines the framework for securing contributions to deliver transport infrastructure improvements in the South	The SA will include objectives on sustainable transport and sustainable economic growth.

Plan, policy or programme	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SA / Local Plan	Implications for the SA / Local Plan
Humber Gateway - Transport Contributions (North Lincolnshire Council, 2011)	Humber Gateway. Its key objectives are to: • Ensure new development contributes to the cost of necessary transport infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth, • Promote efficient and sustainable movement of goods and people; and • Enhance connectivity to employment areas.	The Local Plan should support transport infrastructure for the South Humber Gateway and mitigate its impact on the local transport network.
Air Quality Action Plan (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024)	The plan sets out actions to meet the following aims: • Bring Scunthorpe AQMA air quality into compliance; • Reduce emissions for industrial and non-industrial sources; • Work collaboratively with the Environment Agency and operators of permitted installations to share knowledge and evidence; and • Improve general air quality across NLC.	The Local Plan should seek to include objectives on improving air quality and reducing pollution exposure. The Local Plan should reflect the priorities and actions in the AQAP, by producing supporting measures that reduce transport and development emissions.

B Appendix B: National designations for nature conservation in North Lincolnshire (Natural England, 2017a)

Site	Location	Interest features	Condition
Haxey Turbary SSSI	South West	A former Bog, this site now comprises a mixture of birch woodland and open wet heathland. Key species present include Saw-sedge <i>Cladium mariscus</i> , Royal Fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i> , Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i> and Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> .	Unfavourable - Declining: 86% Unfavourable - No Change: 14%
Kirmington Pits SSSI	East	A nationally important quaternary site with archaeological remains. The site is important for the study of the Quaternary period with 30m of glacial and interglacial deposits.	Favourable: 87% Unfavourable - Declining: 13%
Cleatham Quarry SSSI	South	A limestone quarry of the Jurassic age with characteristic limestone flora. Species present include Broomrape <i>Orobanche elatior</i> , Bee Orchid <i>Ophrys apifera</i> , Blue Fleabane <i>Erigeron acer</i> and Pyramidal Orchid <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> . The rare Chalk Carpet Moth <i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria</i> is also present at its northern range limit.	Unfavourable - Recovering: 100%
Messingham Sand Quarry SSSI	South	The site comprises open water, wetland and woodland and supports a rich invertebrate community. The rare Pillwort <i>Pilularia globulifera</i> is amongst the significant species present. 13 Species of dragonfly are found here and the site is a stronghold for the Scarce-Vapourer moth <i>Orgyia recens</i> .	Favourable: 16% Unfavourable - No Change: 77% Unfavourable - Declining: 7%
Manton and Twigmoor SSSI	South	The site comprises heathland, sand dunes grassland and wetland. The geology is Oolitic limestone. The site contains the only population of Cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i> in South Humberside.	Favourable: 92% Unfavourable - Recovering: 8%
Messingham Heath SSSI	South West	The principal habitat type is Coversand Heathland, a threatened habitat comprising dry heath and scattered birch. Key species include the Grayling butterfly <i>Hipparchia semele</i> and extensive lichen/ moss cover e.g. <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> .	Unfavourable - Recovering: 100%

Site	Location	Interest features	Condition
South Ferriby Chalk Pit SSSI	North East	The site geology comprises Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous rocks with a rich <i>Amoeboceras rosenkrantzi</i> Zone ammonite assemblage. The site is locally important for rocks of <i>A. rosenkrantzi</i> Zone age. It is a study site for Upper Oxfordian paleogeography. A number of rare brachiopods are present.	Favourable: 100%
Broughton Far Wood SSSI	Centre	The site comprises limestone flora, mixed woodland and open grassland. Key species present include Dropwort <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> , Wild Basil <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> , Horse-shoe Vetch <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> and Twayblade <i>Listera ovata</i> , Small-leaved Lime <i>Tilia cordata</i> , Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i> and Wych Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i> .	Favourable: 92% Unfavourable - No change: 8%
Cliff Farm Pit SSSI	South	The site is the best example of Kirton Shale Member of the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation. This geology is restricted to North Lincolnshire. Coral fauna is present within the rocks.	Favourable: 100%
Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI	North West	The site comprises alder carr, willow scrub, fen and open water. Locally uncommon plant species are present. The wet alder woodland supports sedges and ferns. The site holds the nationally rare Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris thelypteroides</i> .	Favourable: 48% Unfavourable - Declining: 52%
North Killingholme Haven Pits SSSI	North East	Here, saline lagoons support significant populations of wintering waterfowl. The site holds the rare polychaete worm <i>Alkmaria romijni</i> , the prawn <i>Palaemonetes varians</i> , the molluscs <i>Hydrobia ventrosa</i> and <i>Hydrobia neglecta</i> and the bryzoan <i>Conopium seurati</i> . There are significant populations of lagoonal species on site.	Favourable: 74% Unfavourable - No Change: 26%
Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI	South West	A former marsh and wetland. The at times acidic network of drains criss-crossing an agricultural landscape support Ivy-leaved Duckweed <i>Lemna trisulca</i> and Various-Leaved Pondweed <i>Potamogeton gramineus</i> . Intermediate Water-starwort <i>Callitriche hamulata</i> and Floating Club-rush <i>Eleogiton fluitans</i> are also present along with reed beetles, including <i>Donacia clavipes</i> and <i>D. simplex</i> (nationally scarce). Finally, the site supports Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> .	Unfavourable - Declining: 83% Favourable: 17%

Site	Location	Interest features	Condition
Risby Warren SSSI	Centre	A heathland site/significant inland dune system and notable example of the surface morphology and dune forms of windblown sand deposits. Acidic and calcareous grassland, broadleaved scrub and coniferous plantation are also present.	Unfavourable - Recovering: 4% Unfavourable - Declining: 96%
Epworth Turbary SSSI	South West	Relict peat vegetation with local significance. Birch woodland, heathland and fen habitats are present. Bog rosemary <i>Andromeda polifolia</i> is found here which is an uncommon plant for this habitat at its south-eastern limit.	Unfavourable - No Change: 100%
Humber Estuary SSSI	North	Habitats present include intertidal mudflats and sandflats, coastal saltmarsh, saline lagoons, sand dunes and standing water. The site is a nationally important for coastal geomorphology (Spurn) with Late Pleistocene sediments. The site supports 22 wintering waterfowl and nine passage waders. It also supports a breeding colony of Grey Seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> .	Favourable: 39% Unfavourable - Recovering: 4% Unfavourable - No change: 14% Unfavourable - Declining: 23% Not Recorded: 20%
Conesby (Yorkshire East) Quarry SSSI	West	The site boasts the only exposure of Frodingham Ironstone. Bivalves and echinoderms are present in the rock. Stellare and Denotatus subzones of the Upper Sinemurian contain nationally important fauna including ammonites. It is an important study site nationally and internationally.	Unfavourable - No Change: 100%
Broughton Alder Wood SSSI	Centre	A locally scarce habitat with an herb rich understorey. Fen species include Skullcap <i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> , Yellow Loosestrife <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> and Valerian <i>Valeriana Officinalis</i> . There is also a rich carpet of mosses.	Favourable: 100%
Rush Furlong SSSI	South West	This hay meadow is unfenced and a relic of former agricultural systems. Adder's-Tongue Fern <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> , Green-winged Orchid <i>Orchis morio</i> and Quaking Grass <i>Briza media</i> are present.	Favourable: 100%
Hewson's Field SSSI	South West	This site is locally important as an area of neutral unimproved grassland which is traditionally managed for hay. The grass mix is diverse with a typical herb community including Pepper-saxifrage <i>Silaum silaus</i> , Burnet Saxifrage	Favourable: 100%

Site	Location	Interest features	Condition
		<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> , Green-winged Orchid <i>Orchis morio</i> and the Adder's-Tongue Fern <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> .	
Belshaw SSSI	South West	A disused railway now supporting neutral grassland with Greater Yellow-rattle <i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i> . The site boasts several rare and protected species at a National level.	Unfavourable - No Change: 100%
Castlethorpe Tufas SSSI	South	An important research site for the Quaternary period. Preserved biological remains are present including fossilised pollen and shells. The site is of national importance.	Favourable: 100%
Eastoft Meadow SSSI	North West	An herb rich hay meadow with Green-Winged Orchid <i>Orchis morio</i> , Burnt-tip Orchid <i>O. ustulata</i> and Adder's-tongue Fern <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> , the latter of which is locally rare. Traditional Management continues on site.	Favourable: 100%
Wrawby Moor SSSI	South East	The site supports coversand communities. Habitat present includes late successional heathland (birch woodland), species rich marsh, ponds and drainage ditches. Heath Bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> , Ground Ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> and Three-nerved Sandwort <i>Moehringia trinervia</i> are present.	Unfavourable - Recovering: 38% Favourable: 62%
Hatfield Moors SSSI	South West	A remnant lowland raised bog and nationally rare habitat. The habitat unusually formed on nutrient deficient gravels. The site supports locally rare species including Cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i> , Bog Myrtle <i>Myrica gale</i> and Bog Rosemary <i>Andromeda polifolia</i> . It is internationally important for Nightjars and nationally important for invertebrates.	Favourable: 1% Unfavourable - Recovering: 92% Unfavourable - No Change: 7%
Thorne Crowle and Goole Moors SSSI	North West	The largest extent of lowland raised mire in England. The site supports nationally rare insects including the Bog Bush Cricket <i>Metrioptera brachiptera</i> , Vapourer moth <i>Orgyia recens</i> , the bug <i>Globiceps woodreffeii</i> , and the beetle <i>Bembidion humerale</i> . A nationally important population of breeding Nightjars is also present.	Unfavourable - Recovering: 15% Unfavourable - Declining: 78% Unfavourable - No Change: 3% Favourable: 4%

Site	Location	Interest features	Condition
Haxey Grange Fen SSSI	South West	The site comprises fen, unimproved neutral grassland, willow scrub and woodland. It is a locally important primary fen habitat with significant vertebrate communities. A diverse and nationally important population of ground beetles is present including <i>Blethisia multipunctata</i> , <i>Bembidion obliquum</i> <i>Bembidion gilvipes</i> and <i>Acupalpus dorsalis</i> . The locally rare plant Common Meadow-rue <i>Thalictrum flavum</i> is also present.	Unfavourable - Declining: 100%
Far Ings NNR	North East	These former clay pits are now in-filled with water within which reedbeds have developed. The site is a flight path for migratory birds and supports meadow and scrub habitat. It is managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.	N/A
Humberhead Peatlands NNR	North West	Collectively Thorne, Goole, Crowle and Hatfield Moors. The site is significant and nationally important as the largest area of lowland raised bog. It supports significant populations of breeding Nightjar and 5,000 species of plants and animals (predominantly insects).	N/A

C Appendix C: WFD classification of water bodies within North Lincolnshire

Water body Name	Water body reference	Ecological Status (2019)	Chemical Status (2019)	Hydromorphological designation	Status change since 2015
Humber TraC Catchment					
Humber Upper	GB530402609203	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	Heavily Modified	No change
Humber Middle	GB530402609202	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	Heavily Modified	No change
Humber Lower	GB530402609201	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	Heavily Modified	No change
Barrow Clay Pits	GB560402916600	Good	Does not require assessment (2022)	Artificial	Declined (chemical)
North Killingholme Haven Pits	GB560402916700	Moderate	Does not require assessment (2022)	Artificial	Declined (Chemical)
Louth Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment					
Ancholme from Bishopbridge to the Humber	GB104029067520	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
Barrow Beck	GB104029067605	Poor (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	Improved
Black Dyke (trib of Ancholme)	GB104029061890	Poor (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	Declined
Hibaldstow area Catchment (trib of Ancholme)	GB104029061930	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change

Water body Name	Water body reference	Ecological Status (2019)	Chemical Status (2019)	Hydromorphological designation	Status change since 2015
Kettleby Beck	GB104029067510	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
N Kelsey Beck Catchment (trib of Ancholme)	GB104029061940	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
North Beck Drain	GB104029067575	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	No change
Skitter Beck / East Halton Beck	GB104029067655	Bad (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	No change
Winterton Beck from Source to the Humber	GB104029067660	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Idle and Torne					
Ferry Drain / Warping Drain Catch (trib of Trent)	GB104028058240	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	Improved
Ferry Drain Catchment (trib of Trent)	GB104028058241	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	No change
Hatfield Waste Drain Catchment (trib of Torne/Three Rivers)	GB104028064330	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	Improved
North Soak Drain Catchment (trib of Torne/Three Rivers)	GB104028064350	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change

Water body Name	Water body reference	Ecological Status (2019)	Chemical Status (2019)	Hydromorphological designation	Status change since 2015
R Torne / Three Rivers from Mother Dr to R Trent	GB104028064340	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
River Idle from River Ryton to River Trent	GB104028058110	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
S Lev Engine Dr / Upper Warping Drain Catch	GB104028058430	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
Lower Trent and Erewash					
Adlingfleet Drain Upper Catchment (trib of Trent)	GB104028064310	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
Bottesford Beck Catchment (trib of R Trent)	GB104028064290	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	No change
Eau from Source to Northorpe Beck	GB104028057970	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Manton Sewer Catchment (trib of Eau)	GB104028057991	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Paupers Drain Catchment (trib of Trent)	GB104028064300	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	artificial	No change
R Trent from	GB104028058480	Moderate (2022)	Does not require	artificial	No change

Water body Name	Water body reference	Ecological Status (2019)	Chemical Status (2019)	Hydromorphological designation	Status change since 2015
Carlton-on-Trent to Laughton Drain			assessment (2022)		
River Eau from Kirton Lindsey Trib to R Trent	GB104028058000	Moderate (2022)	Does not require assessment (2022)	heavily modified	No change

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