

# North Lincolnshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

**Addendum Report: Gypsy and Traveller Site  
Focused Consultation**

March 2024

Prepared for:  
North Lincolnshire Council  
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# Contract

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This report describes work commissioned by North Lincolnshire Council, by an instruction dated 2nd March 2017. The Client's representative for the contract was James Durham of North Lincolnshire Council. Laura Thomas of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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## Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

GIS	Geographical Information System
Ramsar	The intergovernmental Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971
SAC	Special Area of Conservation, protected under the EU Habitats Directive
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SI	Site Investigation
SPA	Special Protection Area for birds, protected under the EU Habitats Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

North Lincolnshire Council is currently preparing a new single Local Plan for North Lincolnshire. The Local Plan will set out a long-term vision, planning policies, and site allocations for the authority area up to 2038.

The Publication Draft (produced to fulfil Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) was consulted on between October and December 2021, with an addendum to this consulted on in May 2022. This Publication Draft of the Local Plan was the preferred strategy for development that was submitted for Examination in November 2022, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Since this date, the Inspectors have been reviewing the documents, asking initial questions and for the Council's proposed modifications an exploratory meeting was held on 23rd January 2024, to discuss procedural matters. One of which was provision for gypsies and travellers. The Local Plan was not meeting needs in relation to Gypsy and Traveller site allocations. North Lincolnshire Council therefore undertook further work and identified a new Gypsy and Traveller site to be allocated in the Plan. The Inspectors now require the site to be consulted on prior to the examination progressing to matters, issues and questions and hearing sessions.

Due to the proposed additional site allocation, it is now necessary to undertake further Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment to accompany the forthcoming consultation and update the draft Local Plan SA/HRA. This report is provided as an addendum to the SA and HRA undertaken for the draft Local Plan submitted for Examination, and should be read in conjunction with the original documents.

## 1.2 Updated Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation

To meet identified needs, a 0.9ha Gypsy and Traveller site allocation is proposed, under policy H6-1, at a site to the east of Mill Lane, Brigg, immediately north of and adjacent to the existing Gypsy and Traveller site 'Mill View'. The site is currently available for development and could accommodate approximately 17 permanent residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. A minimum of six of these pitches are to be delivered in the first five years of the Plan period.

A drainage ditch defines the southern boundary of the site and a railway line is detached from the site but located to the east. The site is laid to grass and is part of a wider field that separates the existing residential development and Gypsy and Traveller site on the eastern side of Mill Lane. An industrial area, Grade II Listed Former Windmill and further Gypsy and Traveller accommodation (River View) are located on the opposite side of Mill Lane to the south-west. Highway access to the site can be gained from Mill Lane. Vehicle access points

will need to be agreed by the Local Highways Authority. The site is located in Flood Zone 2/3(a) (Fluvial).

Proposed Policy H6-1 that allocates land east of Mill Lane, Brigg as a Gypsy and Traveller site requires that the following assessments are undertaken as part of its development:

### **Access and highways**

Vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access points connecting to Mill Lane will need to be agreed with the Local Highway Authority.

Good footpath and cycle provision should be delivered throughout the site, linking the development with the existing adjacent Gypsy and Traveller site and to the local services and facilities.

### **Biodiversity and landscaping**

An Ecological Appraisal and possible Ecological Impact Assessment will be required at the planning application stage. The survey should focus on bats but take into account the possible presence of other protected species such as breeding birds.

Any existing trees and hedges around the boundary shall be retained and enhanced.

A comprehensive landscaping scheme, including biodiversity enhancement is required.

### **Heritage**

A Heritage Assessment will be required to demonstrate that the development will have no adverse impact on the historic environment, specifically the Grade II Listed Former Windmill to the south-west.

### **Flood, drainage and water management**

A site-specific flood risk assessment will be required to determine the nature and scope of any mitigation necessary and demonstrate that safe development can be achieved on the site without increasing flood risks elsewhere.

A detailed drainage assessment will be required as part of any planning application to demonstrate the development has a positive impact on the local drainage system.

### **Contamination, noise, and odour**

This site is not known to contain contaminated land. However, the site may be subject to environmental constraints including potential adverse impact from contamination, noise, odour and light associated with the nearby industrial site and historic landfill at the nearby former British Sugar site. Prior to submission of a planning application for development it will be necessary to carry out assessments for contamination, noise, odour and light so that appropriate design criteria and mitigation measures can be considered.

### **Utility and service provision**

Early engagement will be required with the utility and service providers in order to establish available supply capacity to the site and, depending on the type of proposed development, what reinforcement will be required.

The site must provide residents with access to an amenity block, through either private amenity facilities on all pitches or a communal amenity building.

### Implementation

Development of Policy H6-1 is to be brought forward by the developer. The delivery of the site is expected in the first ten years of the plan period.



Figure 1-1: Site Location



## 2 Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

### 2.1 Introduction

Plans such as North Lincolnshire's new Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which is a legal requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (2004 SI 1633), known as the 'SEA Regulations'. The SA, incorporating a SEA, assesses the potential social, environmental and economic effects of the plan's proposals together with other 'reasonable alternatives' considered by the Council.

This addendum report will assess the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of the proposed site allocation made under Policy H6-1.

### 2.2 Methodology

The methodology followed can be found in section 3 of the SA produced for the draft Local Plan (JBA Consulting, 2021a):

[https://m.northlincs.gov.uk/public/localplan/evidence/North%20Lincolnshire%20-%20Publication%20Draft%20-%20Sustainability%20Appraisal%20Draft%20Report\\_V0-6.pdf](https://m.northlincs.gov.uk/public/localplan/evidence/North%20Lincolnshire%20-%20Publication%20Draft%20-%20Sustainability%20Appraisal%20Draft%20Report_V0-6.pdf)

### 2.3 Results

The results of the SA assessment for site allocation H6-1 are detailed in Table 3-1. This uses the same GIS-based assessment as detailed in the SA for the draft local plan (JBA Consulting, 2021a).

This assessment shows that, in general site H6-1 scores low or very low in terms of the social, environmental and economic impact of the site. The exceptions to this are that the site is over 1.3km from a primary school and several kilometres from the further education colleges in Scunthorpe and so has a very high/high social impact in relation to community facilities. The site also falls in Flood Zone 3 and so has high impact in relation to this criterion.

Table 2-1: SA Assessment for site H6-1

Site Ref:	SA Site Assessment Criteria																												
H6-1	Community facilities												Environmental features																
	SAC1	SAC2	SAC3	SAC4	SAC5	SAC6	SAC7	SAC8	SAC9	SAC10	SAC11	SAC12	SAC13	SAC14	SAC15	SAC16	SAC17	SAC18	SAC19	SAC20	SAC21	SAC22	SAC23	SAC24	SAC25	SAC26	SAC27	SAC28	SAC29
	GP Surgery	Health Centre	Dentist	Community Centre	Primary School	Secondary School	Further Education Facility	Town Centre	Employment Centre	Railway Station	Bus Stop	Cycle Route	Open Space	Sports Facilities	Public Rights of Way	Community Recycling Centre	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	Nationally Designated Wildlife Site	Ancient Woodland	Locally Designated Wildlife Site	Local Geological Site	WFD Surface Waterbody	Flood Zone	Source Protection Zone	AQMA	Mineral Resources	ALC Grade	Greenfield Land
H6-1	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green

## 2.4 Alternatives Considered

A key component of a SA involves assessing the policies and site allocations within the plan, as well as any reasonable alternative policies and site allocations considered in order to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved. Throughout the plan-making process, reasonable alternative policies and sites have been considered, and this has also been the case in relation to the identification of an additional site to fulfil the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

In order to do this, and in building on the work of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) (North Lincolnshire Council, 2021), North Lincolnshire Council (2023) conducted a site assessment, following a prescribed methodology, to assess a number of potential Gypsy and Traveller sites. The GTAA identified Scunthorpe, Brigg and Barton upon Humber as areas where Gypsy and Traveller sites should be located due to the number of repeat encampments in these general areas. Following on from this it was decided to look primarily at Brigg and Barton upon Humber.

A total of 13 potential gypsy and traveller sites have been sourced by considering the suitability of recycled housing sites for Gypsy and Traveller use that were previously discounted for housing use. The 12 alternative sites considered were therefore:

- Land at Caistor Road, Barton upon Humber
- Land west of Gravel Pit Road, Barton upon Humber
- Melrose Farm, Barrow Road, Barton upon Humber
- Former Public House, Scawby Road, Brigg
- Land at Castlethorpe, Brigg
- Land east of Scawby Road (Power Station), Brigg
- Land north of Scawby Road (west of A18), Brigg
- Land north of Scawby Road (east of A18), Brigg
- Land off Wrawby Road, Wrawby, Brigg
- Layby north of A18, Brigg
- Layby south of M180, Brigg
- Land at Station Road, Brigg

A similar assessment process was applied to the 13 sites as is undertaken during the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), with a range of factors for suitability considered, including flood risk, nature conservation sensitivity, heritage importance, air quality levels, transport access, accessibility to local services and utility/infrastructure provision, amongst other criteria. This assessment is undertaken in two stages, and following stage one of the process, three sites were discounted due to highways issues; these sites are therefore not considered reasonable alternatives and have therefore not been included in the assessment of alternatives within this SA addendum. The three discounted sites are Land at Castlethorpe, Layby north of A18 and Layby south of M180, all in Brigg. Table 2-2 provides an assessment of alternative sites proposed to deliver the required Gypsy and Traveller site need in terms of the SA objectives detailed in JBA Consulting (2021a).



Table 2-2: Assessment of alternative sites

Site Ref:	SA Site Assessment Criteria																												
	Community facilities												Environmental features																
	SAC1	SAC2	SAC3	SAC4	SAC5	SAC6	SAC7	SAC8	SAC9	SAC10	SAC11	SAC12	SAC13	SAC14	SAC15	SAC16	SAC17	SAC18	SAC19	SAC20	SAC21	SAC22	SAC23	SAC24	SAC25	SAC26	SAC27	SAC28	SAC29
H6BAR-1	Red	Red	Red	Light Green	Red	Light Green	Red	Light Green	Yellow	Red	Light Green	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
H6BAR-2	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
H6BAR-3	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Red
H6BRG-1	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green
H6BRG-3	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red

Site Ref:	SA Site Assessment Criteria											Environmental features																		
	Community facilities																													
	SAC1	SAC2	SAC3	SAC4	SAC5	SAC6	SAC7	SAC8	SAC9	SAC10	SAC11	SAC12	SAC13	SAC14	SAC15	SAC16	SAC17	SAC18	SAC19	SAC20	SAC21	SAC22	SAC23	SAC24	SAC25	SAC26	SAC27	SAC28	SAC29	
H6BRG-4	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	
H6BRG-5	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
H6BRG-6	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	
<b>H6BRG-9 (H6-1)</b>	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
H6BRG-10	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	

This assessment of alternatives shows that the sites in Barton upon Humber have a very/high social impact due to their location on the outskirts of the town, meaning they are a considerable distance from community services and infrastructure, such as GP surgeries, schools, the railway station and town centre. They are also located on Grade 2 agricultural, greenfield land.

Of the sites in Brigg, those further away from the town centre score similarly to the Barton upon Humber sites, with a very high/high social impact due to their distance from local services and location on Grade 2 agricultural, greenfield land. H6BRG-9 (the selected site H6-1) and H6BRG-10 adjacent to the railway station score very similarly to each other, with the only significant differences being that H6BRG-9/H6-1 is located a considerable distance from the nearest primary school and is located in Flood zones 2 and 3, whereas H6BRG-10 is located in close proximity to a locally designated nature conservation site, and so has a higher environmental impact in relation to this criterion. However, overall, site H6BRG-9/H6-1, in comparison to the alternative sites considered, generally has a low or very low impact in relation to the criteria assessed.

## **2.5 Conclusion**

This addendum to the Sustainability Report has assessed the likely social, environmental and economic impacts of the Gypsy and Traveller site allocation made under policy H6-1 of the North Lincolnshire emerging Local Plan. It has considered a number of alternative sites, and determined that site H6-1, in general, has the lowest impact in terms of social, environmental and economic impacts. Whilst one other site (H6BRG-10) scored similarly, it was not taken forward as the preferred site as its achievability was uncertain.

## 3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum

### 3.1 Introduction

To support the development of the Local Plan, North Lincolnshire Council carried out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in line with requirements set out by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). The purpose of this assessment was to ensure that appropriate consideration was given to the protection of the national site network of nature conservation sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and, as a matter of Government Policy, also Ramsar sites) during the preparation of the Local Plan.

This addendum report will assess the potential impacts of the site allocation made under H6-1 on the national site network, alone and in-combination with other plans and projects.

### 3.2 Methodology

The methodology followed can be found in section 2 of the HRA produced for the draft Local Plan (JBA Consulting, 2021b):

<https://m.northlincs.gov.uk/public/localplan/evidence/North%20Lincs%20Local%20Plan%20Publication%20Draft%20HRA%20V2.3.pdf>

### 3.3 European Sites

The European Sites under consideration in this addendum report are those screened into the assessment undertaken as part of the HRA for the draft Local Plan (JBA Consulting, 2021b). These sites are:

- Humber Estuary SAC
- Humber Estuary SPA
- Humber Estuary Ramsar
- Hatfield Moor SAC
- Thorne Moor SAC
- Thorne and Hatfield Moor SPA

Full details of the sites, their interest features, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives can be found in the HRA undertaken for the draft Local Plan (JBA Consulting, 2021b).



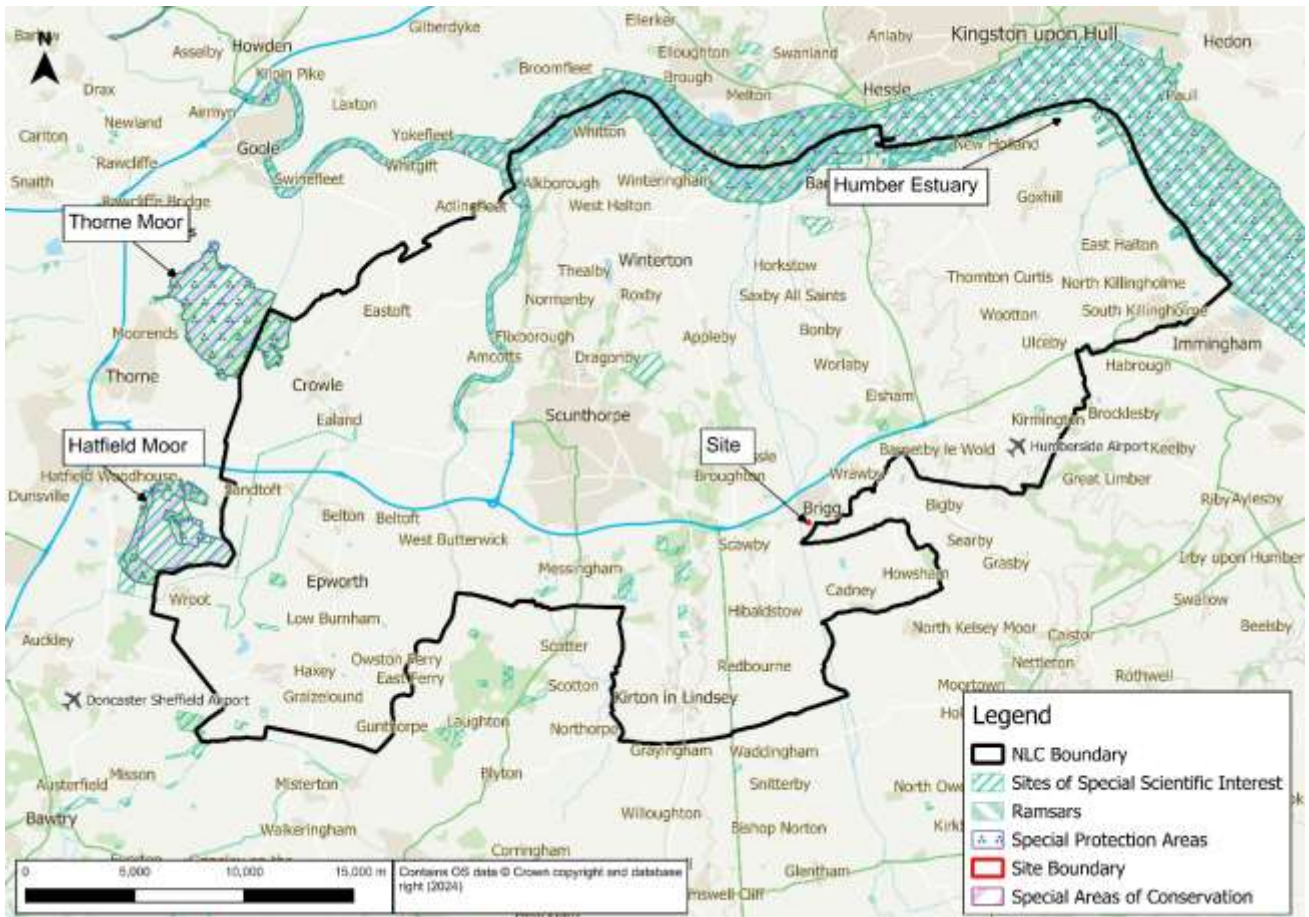


Figure 3-1: Site location in relation to designated sites

### 3.4 Screening Assessment

To determine whether the site allocated under H6-1 could result in a likely significant effect on the sites listed in section 3.3 a screening assessment was undertaken taking into account the location of the potential site allocation in relation to each of the European sites and potential pathways of impact. An assessment of whether the site could also provide functionally linked land for species for which the European sites are designated was also undertaken. The results of this screening assessment are provided in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1: Screening Assessment for site H6-1

Site Reference	Location/ Settlement	Site Name	Humber of Pitches	Site Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
H6-1	Brigg	Land east of Mill Lane, Brigg	17	0.9	<p>This site is over 14.7km from the nearest European site (Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and consequently no potential impact pathways have been identified. It is located beyond the distance of 14.7km which Caals et al. (2023) identify as being the zone of influence where site allocations may have a likely significant effect on European Sites (i.e. the 75th percentile straight-line distance from home postcode to the survey location on the Humber Estuary). Consequently, an increase in recreational pressure from this site allocation is not considered significant. Furthermore, this site is not considered to provide functionally linked land to the Humber Estuary as it is located within 200m of an existing residential area, and enclosed on two sides by hedgerows. It is also too distant (25km) from Thorne and Hatfield Moors to provide functionally linked land for Nightjar.</p>	Out

### **3.5 In-combination Assessment**

The in-combination assessment undertaken as part of the HRA for the draft Local Plan (JBA Consulting, 2021b) is considered valid for the assessment of the likely significant effects on policy H6-1. No new policies, plans or projects have been identified that could result in in-combination effects in conjunction with the development of the Gypsy and Traveller site allocated under H6-1.

### **3.6 Conclusion**

H6-1, a new site identified as being required during the examination process to meet the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller site allocation, has been screened out from resulting in likely significant effects on all sites detailed in section 3.3, both alone and in combination with other plans or projects. There is therefore no requirement for further Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken specifically in relation to this site allocation.

## References

Caals, Z., Saunders, P. and Bishop, E. (2023) Humber Estuary Visitor Surve 2023. Report by Footprint Ecology.

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[https://m.northlincs.gov.uk/public/localplan/evidence/North%20Lincolnshire%20-%20Publication%20Draft%20-%20Sustainability%20Appraisal%20Draft%20Report\\_V0-6.pdf](https://m.northlincs.gov.uk/public/localplan/evidence/North%20Lincolnshire%20-%20Publication%20Draft%20-%20Sustainability%20Appraisal%20Draft%20Report_V0-6.pdf) [date accessed 23rd March 2024]

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