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Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

January 2019

Quality information

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan (FNP).
- 1.2 The FNP is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Once adopted, or 'made', the FNP will form part of the Local Plan for West Lindsey District,¹ and must be taken into account when deciding planning applications. The FNP must be in general conformity with the Local Plan. **Figure 1** shows the plan area.
- 1.3 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative effects and maximising the positives. SEA of the FNP is a legal requirement.²

Background to the FNP

- 1.4 The FNP has been in development since 2014, when the plan area was formally designated by West Lindsey District Council. Between 2014 and 2016 a range of initial evidence-gathering and engagement work was undertaken, culminating in a formal six week consultation in 2016. The consultation document notably presented two alternative locations for a 200 home extension to the village. Several consultants on a full draft plan then followed, most recently in late 2018, when a draft plan was published for consultation, notably proposing a 200 home extension to the north of the village.
- 1.5 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) was adopted in April 2017, covering West Lindsey as well as several other local authority areas. The CLLP identifies a need for Fiskerton to grow by 15% over the twenty year plan period, which equates to growth of c.80-85 homes, but also identifies the potential for a Neighbourhood Plan to allocate land for additional growth should there be demonstrable community support.

SEA explained

- 1.6 SEA involves a series of procedural steps, as prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations), which transposed into UK law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001). The three key steps are:
 1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'.
 3. The report is taken into account, alongside consultation responses received, when finalising the plan.
- 1.7 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with Step 1 of the SEA process. It is published in order to facilitate consultation on the SEA 'scope'.

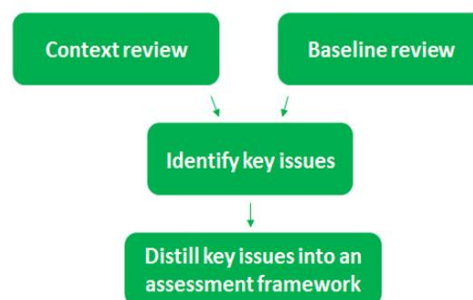
¹ See <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/west-lindsey-local-plan/>

² Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) requires that each Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Authority alongside either: A) an environmental report; or, B) a statement of reasons why SEA is not required, prepared following a 'screening' process completed in accordance with Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations ('the SEA Regulations'). The CNP was subject to screening in 2018, including through consultation, at which time it was determined that SEA is required. More information on the screening process is available at: http://www.waverley.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/1416/neighbourhood_planning.

This scoping report

- 1.8 This report presents a review of evidence and identifies key environmental/sustainability issues and objectives that, it is proposed, should fall within the scope of (and be a focus of) future assessment work.
- 1.9 This report is structured under the following series of thematic headings:³ Air Quality; Biodiversity; Climatic Factors (including flood risk); Health and Wellbeing; Historic Environment; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Landscape; Population and Community; Transportation.
- 1.10 Within each thematic chapter a review of evidence and initial analysis of issues is presented under three headings - policy context; current and future baseline - before a fourth heading presents a concise summary of key issues identified. A final heading then identifies one or more objectives that encapsulate the key issues identified.
- 1.11 It is proposed that the list of objectives established within this report serves as a methodological framework to guide future assessment. **Appendix 1** presents a summary of the proposed assessment framework.

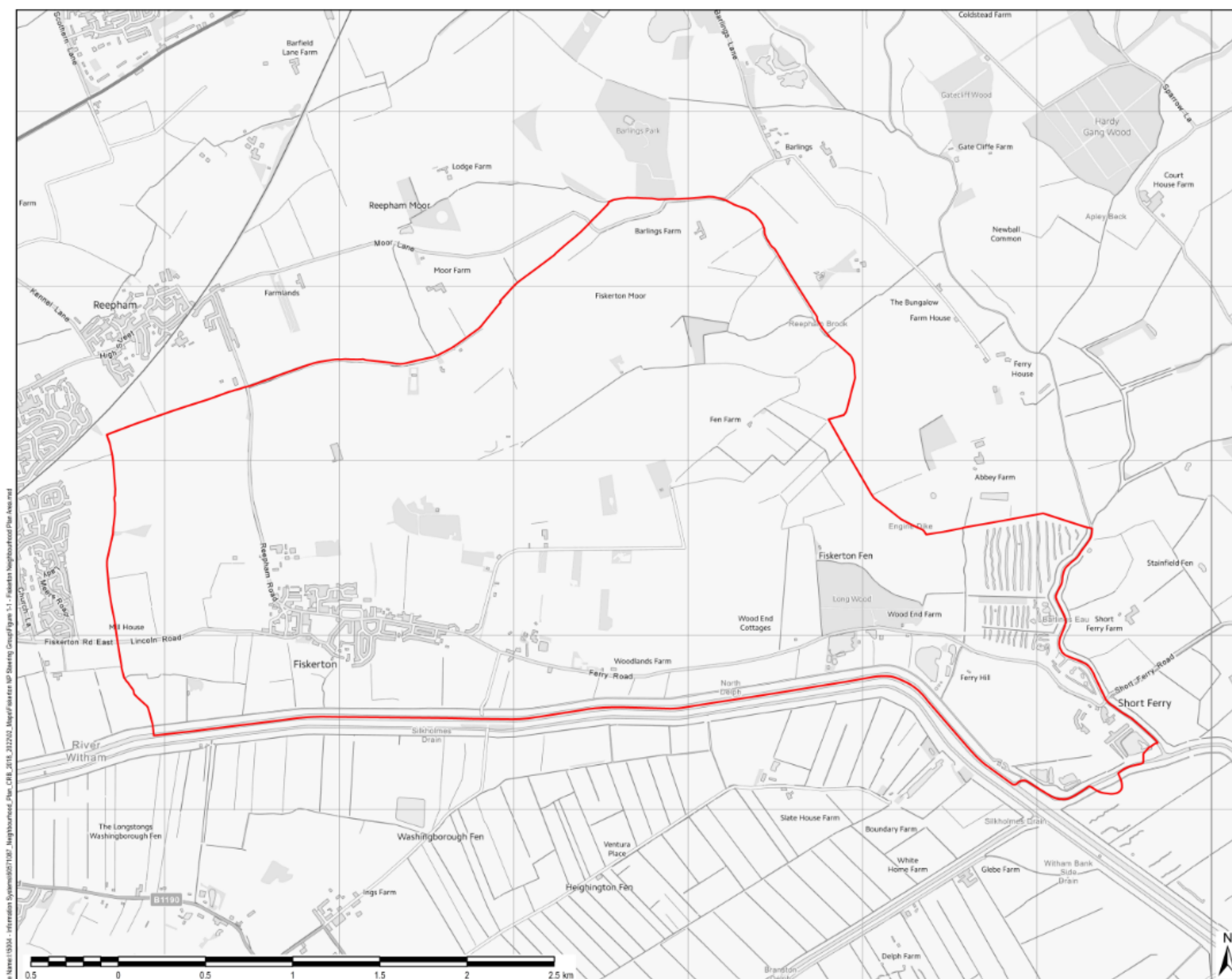
The scoping process



Consultation on this report

- 1.12 Comment is welcomed on any of the specific issues/objectives identified within this report, as are more general comments on the breadth and depth of topics / issues / evidence covered. The aim is to ensure that future assessment work is appropriately focused, efficient and effective. When making responses, consultees should be mindful of the remit and likely scope of the CNP, mindful of the context provided by the Waverley Local Plan.
- 1.13 Finally, consultees should be mindful that consultation on this report is not the 'last word' in respect of establishing the scope of future assessment work. Evidence-gathering will naturally remain 'live', and understanding of key issues and objectives will continue to evolve, taking account of the scope of options that will be a focus of assessment.

³ The thematic topic headings reflects the 'issues' suggested as potentially warranting attention as part of any given SEA process ("including... issues such as") within the SEA Directive (Annex 1(f)), as well as an initial understanding of the likely scope of plan issues/policies/impacts.



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Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

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FISKERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE FISKERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
FISKERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

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2. Air Quality

Focus

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

Context review

2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.'
- 'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.'
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁴ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the Air Quality SEA theme.

2.3 In terms of the local context, West Lindsey District Council is required to monitor air quality across the county under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.

2.4 Adopted in April 2017, the following objective within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relates to Air Quality SEA theme,

- Objective K – Pollution: To minimise pollution (air, noise and light) and improve air quality.

⁴ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 11/01/19]

Baseline review

Current baseline

- 2.5 At the time of its completion in June 2018, the Air Quality Annual Status Report ⁵(ASR) for West Lindsey confirms that there are no AQMAs within the district. The ASR also states that although there were observed increases in the annual mean concentrations of NO₂ at all of the monitored sites throughout the district, these concentrations did not exceed national air quality standards. Notably, the ASR concludes that there have been no recorded exceedances in air quality standards over the last 5 years.
- 2.6 In regards to air quality issues, the ASR acknowledges that the main sources of pollution are attributed to vehicle emissions from the existing road network, particularly the A15, A46 and A631.

Future baseline

- 2.7 Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the provision of new housing and/or employment land within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂, particularly along the main routes through the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, given the current low air quality baseline, this will have negligible impacts on air quality within a predominantly rural district without any substantial urbanised areas (as stated within the 2018 ASR).
- 2.8 Implementation of the aims, objectives and policies contained in the Local Transport Plan (discussed in Chapter 10) and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, present opportunities to continue to improve air quality within both the Neighbourhood Plan area and the wider district.

Key issues

- 2.9 At the time of its completion in June 2018, the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for West Lindsey confirms that there are no Air Quality Management Areas within the district.
- 2.10 In regards to air quality issues, the ASR acknowledges that the main sources of pollution are attributed to vehicle emissions from the existing road network, particularly the A15, A46 and A631.
- 2.11 Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

3. Biodiversity

Focus of Theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species

⁵ West Lindsey District Council (2018): 'Air Quality Annual Status Report', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/my-community/environment/air-quality-and-smoke-control/west-lindseys-review-and-assessment-of-local-air-quality/>> last accessed [15/01/19]

Context review

- 3.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁶ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.
- 3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity.'
 - 'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value[...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'
 - '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 the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'
 - 'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - i. Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - ii. Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.
- 3.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:
- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
 - Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
 - Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
 - Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.
 - Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem

⁶ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf last accessed [27/06/18]

⁷ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> last accessed [19/09/18]

services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*⁸.

- 3.4 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan⁹ sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:
- Using and managing land sustainably;
 - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
 - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
 - Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
 - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
 - Protecting and improving the global environment.
- 3.5 In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity SEA theme.
- 3.6 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Biodiversity SEA theme, including:
- Objective G – Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure: To conserve and enhance biodiversity across Central Lincolnshire and provide opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and the natural environment;
 - Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network; and
 - Policy LP21: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

Baseline review

Current baseline

European and Nationally designated sites

- 3.7 The Neighbourhood Plan area is not within the boundaries of a European or nationally designated site for biodiversity, and does not overlap with a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone for residential development.

⁸ DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed [19/0918]

⁹ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 19/09/18]

Locally important sites

- 3.8 The draft Neighbourhood Plan states that there are four Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) located either within or adjacent to Fiskerton, including the River Witham, Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve, Long Wood ancient and semi-natural woodland, and Willow Lodge Nature Reserve. There are also three Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including a patch of deciduous woodland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat located to the south of Barings Farm along with BAP priority habitats associated with Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve (directly to the west of Willow Lodge Nature Reserve), as shown in Figure 3.1.
- 3.9 Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve is located alongside the River Witham. This site is also recognised for its wildlife significance and forms part of a wider environmentally sensitive area along with the River and nearby ancient woodlands. The Fen is recognised for its important grasslands, bird species, wild flowers, waterways and lake, and reeds¹⁰, with the reeds supporting populations of protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) including the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and the greater water-parsnip (*Sium latifolium*). Long Wood ancient and semi-natural woodland and the Willow Lodge Nature Reserve are located within the setting of Fiskerton Fen, in the south western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Future baseline

- 3.10 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.
- 3.11 The Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them. It will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised both within the Neighbourhood Plan area and in the surrounding areas.

Key issues

- 3.12 There are four Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) located either within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the River Witham, Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve, Long Wood ancient and semi-natural woodland, and Willow Lodge Nature Reserve.
- 3.13 There are also three Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.14 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats include areas of deciduous woodland and areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.

¹⁰ Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (2019): 'Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/fiskerton-fen>> last accessed [16/01/19]

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance all biodiversity features.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the status of the locally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve, the River Witham, Long Wood, and Willow Lodge Nature Reserve?• Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats?• Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?• Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?

4. Climate Change

Focus

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk issues

Context review

4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below¹¹ :

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

4.2 The UK Climate Change Act¹² was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

4.3 The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

¹¹ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> last accessed [20/09/18]

¹² GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> last accessed [19/09/18]

- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page¹³.

4.4 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' and 'moving to a low carbon economy.' 'The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'
- 'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.'
- 'Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.'
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). 'Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'

4.5 The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁴ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).¹⁵

4.6 Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.¹⁶ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

4.7 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Climate Change SEA theme, including:

¹³ Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> last accessed [19/09/18]

¹⁴ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>> last accessed [19/09/18]

¹⁵ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

¹⁶ CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDS – making it happen' [online] available to access via <http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx> last accessed [19/09/18]

- Objective N – Climate Change Effects and Energy: To minimise the effects of climate change by developing the area's renewable energy resources, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, minimise energy usage, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the area.
- Objective O – Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk: To ensure Central Lincolnshire adapts to the effects of climate change, both now and in the future through careful planning and design of development, including reducing and managing the risk of flooding from all sources;
- Policy LP14: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk;
- Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living; and
- Policy LP19: Renewable Energy Proposals.

Baseline review

Current baseline

Contribution to climate change

- 4.8 In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that the district of West Lindsey has had consistently higher per capita emissions total in comparison to the national averages (see Table 4.1 below). West Lindsey has observed a 15.2% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012, which is higher than the reduction for Lincolnshire (15.0%) but lower than the reductions for the East Midlands (17.5%) and England (16.7%).

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012¹⁷

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
West Lindsey				
2005	2.4	2.7	2.7	7.9
2006	2.5	2.7	2.7	8.0
2007	2.3	2.6	2.7	7.6
2008	2.3	2.5	2.6	7.4
2009	2.1	2.3	2.5	7.0
2010	2.2	2.5	2.5	7.2
2011	2.1	2.2	2.5	6.7
2012	2.3	2.4	2.4	7.1
Lincolnshire				
2005	3.1	2.7	2.3	8.0
2006	3.0	2.7	2.3	8.0
2007	2.8	2.6	2.3	7.7
2008	2.8	2.5	2.2	7.5
2009	2.5	2.3	2.1	6.9
2010	2.7	2.5	2.1	7.2
2011	2.4	2.1	2.0	6.6
2012	2.5	2.3	2.0	6.8
East Midlands				
2005	3.3	2.6	2.1	8.0
2006	3.2	2.6	2.1	7.9
2007	3.0	2.5	2.1	7.6
2008	2.9	2.5	2.0	7.4
2009	2.6	2.2	1.9	6.7

¹⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates> 2005 to 2012 accessed on [14/01/19]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2010	2.8	2.4	1.9	7.0
2011	2.5	2.1	1.8	6.4
2012	2.5	2.3	1.8	6.6
England				
2005	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2006	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2007	2.8	2.4	1.7	6.9
2008	2.7	2.4	1.6	6.7
2009	2.4	2.2	1.5	6.1
2010	2.5	2.3	1.5	6.3
2011	2.3	2.0	1.5	5.7
2012	2.4	2.2	1.4	6.0

Potential effects of climate change

- 4.9 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team¹⁸. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.10 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios - 50th percentile) for the East Midlands during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows¹⁹:
- The central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 2°C and 3°C; and
 - The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of +0 to +10% in winter and -10% to -20% in summer.
- 4.11 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These include:
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
 - Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
 - Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;

¹⁸ The data was released on 26th November 2018: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [14/01/19]

¹⁹ Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available to access via: <<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps>> last accessed [17/01/19]

- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

Flood Risk

4.12 As shown in Figure 4.1 below, land to the south of the village is located within Flood Zone 3, which are areas at high risk from flood events. The draft Neighbourhood Plan states that the local community has experienced historic flooding issues during 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014. Nonetheless, the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Flood Zone 1, with these areas having a low flood risk potential.

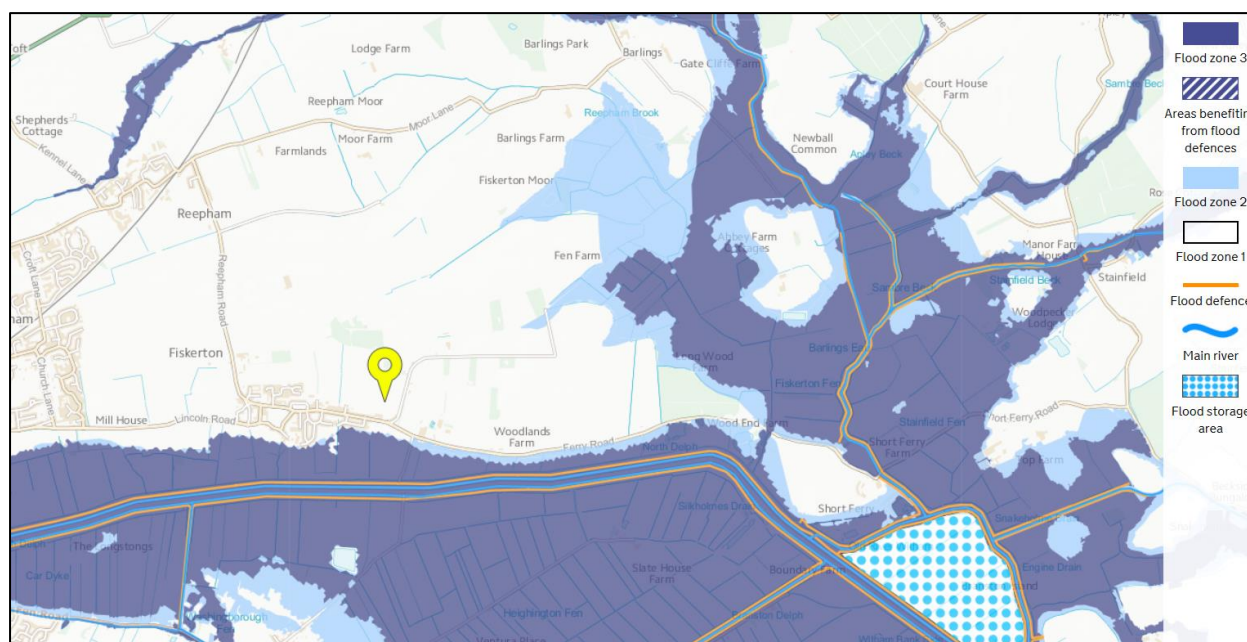


Figure 4.1: Flood Risk Zones in the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁰

4.13 Areas of Fiskerton are also subject to flooding from surface water runoff. Particularly, in prolonged wet conditions or heavy rain storms, certain areas of the village flood (as shown in Figure 4.2 below) and the existing drainage systems cannot cope. The draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan notes the following local concerns:

- There are several drains running from the village of Fiskerton, running south towards the Witham, some of which are regularly maintained. Over the last decade, ditching and drainage maintenance has not been carried out on other water courses in the village. This is mainly on land that is tenanted and the farm ditches have not been cleared out;

²⁰ Environment Agency (2019); 'Flood Map for Planning', [online map] available to access via: <<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>> last accessed [17/01/19]

- The County Council carry out highway gully maintenance, but do not always clear the blockages in curb drainage outlets;
- Residents of Holmfield have had some flooding issues in the past. To resolve this issue a drain running west to east was installed, and out-falling into the lagoon behind the village hall;
- Several residents in Ridings Close have installed some form of drainage in their gardens to try and resolve surface water flooding issues;
- There was a land drain installed in the field to the north of Ridings Close, prior to the properties being sold. This outfalls into the pond and the overflow outlets into a chamber on the roadside and then outfalls in the ditch on the south side of Ferry Road. This needs to be taken into consideration as part of any development of the land; however this current outlet cannot be used as part of any future development. Currently in heavy rainfall and when the ground is saturated, the pond overflows; and
- There is a poorly maintained ditch running south to Ferry Road, running between 1 Ridings Close and the end council house, this presumably outfalls under the road into the ditch on the south of Ferry Road. This ditch runs to The Old Tannery Diamond House, and then down towards the Witham. Again this has not been maintained for years and has willow trees growing in it, restricting the water flow.

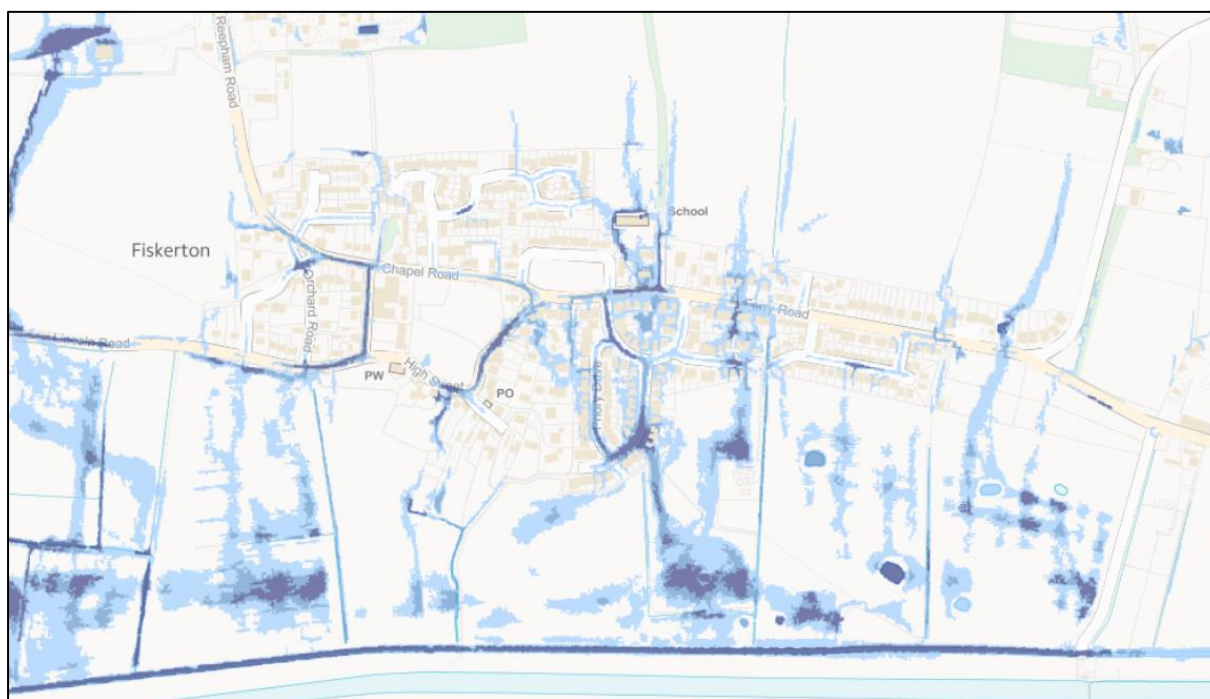


Figure 4.2: Surface Water Flood Risk in Fiskerton²¹

²¹ GOV.UK (2019); Long term flood risk information', [online map] available to access via: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>> last accessed [17/01/19]

Future baseline

- 4.14 In terms of climate change contribution, GhG emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in absolute levels of GhG emissions.
- 4.15 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including flooding), with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

Key issues

- 4.16 In relation to GHG emissions, West Lindsey has observed a 15.2% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012, which is higher than the reduction for Lincolnshire (15.0%) but lower than the reductions for the East Midlands (17.5%) and England (16.7%).
- 4.17 Source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that the district of West Lindsey has had consistently higher per capita emissions total in comparison to the national averages.
- 4.18 Land in the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Flood Zone 3, and is therefore at high risk of flooding. The local community has experienced historic flooding issues during 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014.
- 4.19 The existing settlement of Fiskerton is particularly susceptible to surface water flooding issues, particularly during prolonged rainfall events and during heavy storms.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?

-
- Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?
 - Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
-

5. Landscape

Focus

- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Visual amenity and sensitivities

Context review

5.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.'
- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for 'conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.'
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments 'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).'
- 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - iii. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
 - iv. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and
 - v. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'

5.2 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Landscape SEA theme, including:

- Objective H – Landscape and Townscape: To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the character and appearance of Central Lincolnshire's landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place;
- Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views;
- Policy LP22: Green Wedges; and

- Policy LP26: Design and Amenity.

Baseline review

Current Baseline

Protected landscapes

- 5.3 In the national context, the Neighbourhood Plan area does not overlap with the boundaries of a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and does not contain any Green Belt land.

National Character Areas

- 5.4 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. The Neighbourhood Plan area is predominately located within the 'Central Lincolnshire Vale' NCA, with land towards the southern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area within 'The Fens' NCA.
- 5.5 The 'Central Lincolnshire Vale' NCA's²² tranquil, rural and sparsely settled landscape is largely used for agricultural production, mainly for the growing of arable crops (principally cereals). Its dominant 'boulder clay' derived soils underlain by mudstone bedrock lead to seasonably waterlogged conditions which, under natural unmodified conditions, support wet grasslands and woodlands.
- 5.6 Comparatively, 'The Fens' NCA²³ is described as a distinctive, historic and human-influenced wetland landscape lying to the west of the Wash estuary, which is notable for its large-scale, flat, open landscape with extensive vistas to the level horizons. The open topography shapes the impression of huge skies which convey a strong sense of place, tranquillity and inspiration. Four major rivers (including the River Witham) drain into the Wash estuary and have artificial canalised courses that run straight for long distances and are bounded by high banks to contain the watercourse from adjacent fields.

Landscape character

- 5.7 At the local level, the East Midlands Landscape Character Assessment²⁴ (LCA) completed in April 2010 describes the variations in character between different areas and types of landscape across the region. It provides an evidence base for local development frameworks and plans, articulating what people perceive as distinctive and special about all landscapes in the East Midlands. Additionally, it also summarises the 'forces of change' and opportunities for 'shaping the future landscape' for each regional landscape character type (LCT).
- 5.8 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is located within two regional LCT groups, namely: Group 3 'River Valley Floodplains' and Group 4 'Lowland Vales', which include the following key characteristics (as outlined within the East Midlands LCA):
- LCT 3a: River Valley Floodplains (land in the southern half of the Neighbourhood Plan area, adjacent to the River Witham):
 - Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent LCTs;

²² Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile 44: Central Lincolnshire Vale (NE500)', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5902941076586496?category=587130> last accessed [16/01/19]

²³ Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile 46: The Fens (NE424)', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6229624?category=587130> last accessed [16/01/19]

²⁴ Natural England (2010): 'East Midlands Regional Landscape Classification Assessment', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5635681403535360?category=31019> last accessed [16/01/19]

- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
 - Predominance of pastoral land use;
 - Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlements or on former gravel extraction sites are notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
 - Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
 - Hedgerow and riverside trees (particularly alder, willow and poplar) important components of the landscape;
 - Limited settlement and development in rural areas; and
 - Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain.
- LCT4a: Unwooded Vales (majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area).
 - Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits;
 - Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment;
 - Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape;
 - Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow inundations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats;
 - Limited woodland cover; shelter banks and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
 - Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times;
 - Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern field-scapes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
 - Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.

Visual amenity

- 5.9 Views are an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process. Changes, such as development and landscape change can see these views degraded overtime.
- 5.10 Within more rural communities 'key' or important views normally include the views to and from focal points such as a church, windmill, large manor and estate houses, collection of trees, open spaces and along linear streets and lanes.
- 5.11 In this context, the draft Neighbourhood Plan contains five locally important viewpoints which contribute to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area (as shown in Figure 5.1, below), specifically:
- View 1: Looking from the village hall along Ferry Road towards the church tower;
 - View 2: Looking from High Street across the 'paddock' local green space towards the church tower, old manor house and a collection of mature and significant trees;
 - View 3: From Chapel Road towards the junction with Plough Lane, including a large horse chestnut tree and looking towards Jessamine Cottage;
 - View 4: From the Carpenter's Arms (public house) towards lower High Street and the collection of historic buildings, street pattern and hedgerow; and

- View 5: Looking towards the paddock and the Carpenter's Arms, to the older buildings along High Street;

Future baseline

- 5.12 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and villagescape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.
- 5.13 In the absence of the plan, inappropriate levels of development within the open countryside could negatively impact upon the special qualities and features which contribute to the distinctive character of the two regional LCTs which overlap within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Key issues

- 5.14 The Neighbourhood Plan area is predominately located within the 'Central Lincolnshire Vale' National Character Area (NCA), with land towards the southern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area within 'The Fens' NCA.
- 5.15 The East Midlands Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan is located within two distinctive regional landscape character types (LCT), namely: 'LCT3a: River Valley Floodplains' and 'LCT4a: unwooded vales'.
- 5.16 Five locally important viewpoints which contribute to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area have been identified in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the Central Lincolnshire Vales NCA? • Support the opportunities for shaping the future landscape of the LCTs which overlap with the Neighbourhood Plan area, in accordance with the East Midlands Landscape Character Assessment? • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and villagescape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?

6. Historic Environment

Focus

- Designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets
- Locally important heritage assets
- Historic character and evolution of the Neighbourhood Plan area

Context review

6.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Plans should set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- ‘When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss of less than substantial harm to its significance.’

6.2 The policies contained within Chapter 2 ‘Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes’ and Goal 6 ‘Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment’ of the Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’ directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

6.3 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England²⁵ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

6.4 Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England’s spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant, and should be read in conjunction with the others.

6.5 Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2016)²⁶ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

²⁵ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx> last accessed [20/0918]

²⁶ Historic England (2016): ‘Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1’, [online] available to download via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
 - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 6.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)²⁷ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process, and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.
- 6.7 Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)²⁸ provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:
- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
 - Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 6.8 Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)²⁹ outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.
- 6.9 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Historic Environment SEA theme, including:
- Objective I – Built and Historic Environment: To protect and enhance the significance of the buildings, sites and features of archaeological, historic or architectural and artistic interest and their settings, and ensure new buildings, spaces and places are designed to a high quality;
 - Policy LP25: The Historic Environment; and
 - Policy LP26: Design and Amenity.

²⁷ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

²⁸ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition', [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

²⁹ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment', [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

Baseline review

Current baseline

Historic character

- 6.10 Completed in 2011, the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment for the county of Lincolnshire classifies the region into distinctive HLC zones³⁰. The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Character Zone NCL1 'The Lincoln Satellite Settlements within the Northern Cliff Character Area' and Character Zone FEN1 'The Witham Fens', with the historic evolution of these zones described as follows within the HLC report:
- FEN1 'The Witham Fens' (land in the southern half of the Neighbourhood Plan area, adjacent to the River Witham):
 - There is evidence for the use of substantial parts of the character zone during the Roman period;
 - In the post Roman period, the low level of the natural water table caused the peat fen to shrink, leading to drainage problems. The former river channels, marked by heavier silty clay soils, were left standing above the now shrunken peat soils. They can still be seen to this day and are known as 'roddons';
 - There was probably very little or no settlement within the character zone during the early Medieval period, with any settlement comprising isolated buildings associated with seasonal use of the fens for grazing and salterns;
 - The character zone was subject to planned enclosure and drainage in the 18th and 19th centuries and most of this survives now, along with associated isolated farmsteads; and
 - The post WWII period saw the consolidation and enlargement of some fields within the character zone by the removal of hedged field boundaries, although this was fairly limited in extent because most field boundaries were also drainage ditches.
 - NCL1 'The Lincoln Satellite Settlements within the Northern Cliff Character Area' (majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area).
 - The nearby City of Lincoln was a major Roman settlement, and it is likely that this character zone formed part of its hinterland. Although there are no Roman remains to be seen above ground today, the modern Wragby Road (the A158), follows the course of a former Roman road;
 - After the Roman occupation, new settlements were established by Anglo-Saxon and Danish settlers. These were the forebears of most of the current settlements. Like most other Midland's settlements, these would have been set among two or three large open strip fields, with common grazing on land that was unsuitable for cultivation;
 - The Medieval landscape may have been influenced by the proximity of religious foundations, such as Barlings Abbey, whose holidays extended into the character zone;
 - The character zone was subject to planned enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries. This process removed the Medieval system of open field farming and common grazing, and replaced it with enclosed fields with a characteristic rectilinear form; and
 - The 20th century saw the amalgamation of fields to facilitate the use of mechanised techniques, or by the purchase of adjacent farmland by farmers looking to increase their holdings. The villages in the zone expanded greatly with the addition of new homes.

³⁰ Lincolnshire County Council (2011): 'Historic Landscape Characterisation: The Historic Landscape Character Zones', [online] available to download via: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/lincolnshire_hlc_2017/downloads.cfm> last accessed [17/01/19]

6.11 At the local level, the draft Neighbourhood plan describes the historic evolution of Fiskerton, which can be summarised as follows:

- The settlement lies on the northern side of the wide Witham valley with only two fields lying between the village and the present course of the river. The richness of the archaeological record in the valley, from Neolithic times onwards, has led archaeologists to see the Witham valley as second only to the Thames in archaeological importance.
- Two excavations in Fiskerton in 1981 and 2001 revealed a well-preserved Iron Age wooden causeway dating from about 457BC. The excavations produced a number of associated finds, including metal work and iron swords. Some of the finds are unique, such as the first steel axe found in Britain.
- Earlier, Bronze Age, activity is evidenced by finds in the core village area as well as in other parts of the parish. Such finds in the village include Bronze Age axes and burial mounds from the period have also been located near the village. The archaeological record continues into the Roman and later eras and shows evidence of farming, living and transport activities.
- The core of the present village is grouped around the area known today as the Manor Farm Paddock, an area of open space which forms the setting for the Church and Manor House, both of which are listed buildings (later discussed). Other important buildings are framed by the Paddock; regarded as the central feature and a primary contributor to village character.

6.12 Furthermore, the existing settlement of Fiskerton is split into two character areas (shown in Figure 5.1, above), with the draft Neighbourhood Plan stating the following:

- Character Area 1: Heart of the Village (Village Core): The Historic Core is characterised by low density, larger older buildings which have traditionally used more localised building materials. Examples of residential developments dating back to the 1700's survive around the parish. Built out of mainly stone and rubble, many of these properties have been subject to extensive alterations and extensions. The Church of St Clement is one of the only fully remaining earlier buildings within the parish.
- Character Area 2: Post WWII Developments: has been identified due to its varied mix of building types and styles. Located close to the historic core of the village, this area represents a common mix- distribution of developments that have occurred within many rural villages within Central Lincolnshire. Mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows within the grounds of earlier properties contribute significantly to the 'green' and 'wooded' appearance.

Designated heritage assets

6.13 Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Neighbourhood Plan area contains three nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990, including:

- Church of St Clement (Grade I):
- Jessamine Cottage (Grade II):
- Manor House (Grade II):

6.14 There are no scheduled monuments or conservation areas designated within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

6.15 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at

risk'. According to the 2018 Heritage at Risk Register for the East Midlands³¹, none of the heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Plan are at risk.

- 6.16 However, it is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether the two Grade II listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan are at risk.

Locally important heritage features

- 6.17 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are seen as important by local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value for local people.
- 6.18 Following a high level review of the Historic Environment Record for Lincolnshire³² (accessed via the Heritage Gateway), there are 102 records within Fiskerton parish, including:
- Bronze age features (barrows, metal work hoards, socketed hammer heads, and daggers);
 - Waterlogged remains from the River Witham;
 - Artefacts buried in fenland peat (including a roman skillet, paleo-environmental remains, roman pottery and bronze age spearheads);
 - Medieval and post-medieval finds; and
 - Locally important buildings and farmsteads.
- 6.19 Furthermore, Fiskerton Memorial³³ was dedicated in May 1995 to RAF Fiskerton 49 and 576 squadrons. There are two smaller memorial stones carrying poems which were dedicated in June 1997. Both squadrons operated at Fiskerton Airfield, which is located in the north western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area. During its operational life, the airfield contained over 400 buildings ranging from hangers to living quarters which supported a self-contained community home to 2,000 people³⁴. Now in disuse, with the majority of its former buildings demolished, the land is primarily used for arable and poultry farming.

Future baseline

- 6.20 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.
- 6.21 Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

³¹ Historic England (2018): 'Heritage at Risk Register for East Midlands', [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2018-registers/>> last accessed [15/01/19]

³² Heritage Gateway (2018): 'Historic Environment Record for Lincolnshire', [online] available to access via: <<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx>> last accessed [15/01/19]

³³ Fiskerton Parish Council (no date): 'Fiskerton Memorial', [online] available to access via: <<http://fiskerton-lincs.org.uk/home/local-history/the-memorial/>> last accessed [17/01/19]

³⁴ Fiskerton Airfield (no date): 'Timeline and the airfield today', [online] available to access via: <http://www.fiskertonairfield.org.uk/about_3.html> last accessed [17/01/19]

Key issues

- 6.22 Completed in 2011, the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment for the county of Lincolnshire classifies the region into distinctive HLC zones: FEN1 'The Witham Fens' and NCL1 'The Lincoln Satellite Settlements'.
- 6.23 The draft Neighbourhood Plan classifies the village of Fiskerton into two distinctive historic character areas, namely: the 'village core' and 'post WWII developments'.
- 6.24 There are three nationally designated listed buildings within the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Church of St Clement (Grade I), Jessamine Cottage (Grade II) and Manor House (Grade II).
- 6.25 It is currently not possible to determine whether the two Grade II listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan are at risk.
- 6.26 The diversity of locally important heritage assets and features in the Neighbourhood Plan area include artefacts from various periods (Bronze age, Iron Age, Medieval, post-Medieval, and Roman) as listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Lincolnshire, along with waterlogged remains from the River Witham, Fiskerton Memorial and Fiskerton Airfield.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings, including Fiskerton Memorial and Fiskerton Airfield? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the Lincolnshire HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies.

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus

- Quality of agricultural land
- Water resources and water quality

Context review

- 7.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy³⁵ presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.
- 7.2 Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:
- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
 - Promote the sustainable use of water;
 - Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;
 - Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
 - Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.
- 7.3 Key messages from the NPPF include:
- '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; and
 - recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.'
 - Prevent new or existing development from being '*adversely affected*' by the presence of '*unacceptable levels*' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate '*despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate*'.
 - 'Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.'

³⁵ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [29/06/18]

- 'Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.'
 - Planning policies and decisions should 'give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs', and 'promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.'
 - Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
 - Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
 - The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.
- 7.4 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.
- 7.5 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England³⁶, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper³⁷, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England³⁸ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.
- 7.6 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme, including:
- Objective J – Natural Resources (Water): To protect and enhance water resources and their quality in Central Lincolnshire;
 - Objective L – Natural Resources (Land Use and Soils): To protect and enhance soil and land resources and quality in Central Lincolnshire;
 - Objective M – Waste: To minimise the amount of waste generated across all sectors and increase re-use, recycling and recovery rates of waste materials; and
 - Policy LP16: Development on Land Affected by Contamination.

³⁶ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> last accessed [20/09/18]

³⁷ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf> last accessed [20/09/18]

³⁸ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf> last accessed [20/09/18]

Baseline review

Current baseline

Quality of agricultural land

- 7.7 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, a recent detailed classification has not been undertaken within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 7.8 In relation to the pre-1988 data provided by Natural England, all undeveloped land in the Neighbourhood Plan area is either 'Grade 2 (very good quality)' or 'Grade 3 (good to moderate quality)' according to the 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' national dataset³⁹. It is important to note however, that the national dataset is of very low resolution, and it is not an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Water environment

- 7.9 In regards to the water resources in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the Environment Agency's (EA) Catchment Data Explorer⁴⁰ highlights that the main watercourse in the parish is the 'Witham 1st and 3rd Internal Drainage Boards draining to the River Witham'. Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the overall classifications for the watercourse is 'moderate', with the reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) predominantly linked to the agriculture and rural land management sector⁴¹.
- 7.10 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. In this context, the south western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with a Zone II (Outer Protection) SPZ.
- 7.11 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The entire Neighbourhood Plan area is within a Surface Water NVZ, with the south western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area also within a Groundwater NVZ.

Future baseline

- 7.12 In the absence of the plan, a higher proportion of development has the potential to take place on Greenfield land. This is especially the case given the greater availability of such land in the plan area, along with the likely growth in the local population and economy across the district which will make such development attractive. Development in the plan area also has the potential to lead to the loss of some areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land, including Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land.

³⁹ Natural England (2011): 'Agricultural Land Classification map South West Region', [online] available to download via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/144017?category=5954148537204736>> last accessed [16/02/18]

⁴⁰ Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer', [online] available to access via: <<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>> last accessed [09/01/19]

⁴¹ Environment Agency (2019): 'Witham 1st and 3rd IMDs draining to the River Witham', [online] available to access via: <<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB205030062425>> last accessed [17/01/19]

- 7.13 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. The watercourse located within the Neighbourhood Plan area requires improvements to meet 'good' overall water quality classifications by 2027. Water quality has the potential to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and future physical modifications to waterbodies.

Key issues

- 7.14 Although a detailed agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken within the Neighbourhood Plan area, it is underlain by Grade 2 and Grade 3 land.
- 7.15 Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the overall classifications for the 'Witham 1st and 3rd Internal Drainage Boards draining to the River Witham' watercourse was 'moderate', with the reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) predominantly linked to the agriculture and rural land management sector.
- 7.16 The south western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with a Zone II (Outer Protection) Groundwater Source Protection Zone.
- 7.17 The entire Neighbourhood Plan area is within a Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), with the south western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area also within a Groundwater NVZ.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources

8. Population and Community

Focus

- Demographics: population and age structure
- Indices of deprivation
- Housing type and tenure
- Education, employment and economy
- Locally valued community assets

Context review

8.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; ‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.’
- To support the Government’s objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies ‘should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.’
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ and taking a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.

- 8.2 The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁴² warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.
- 8.3 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Population and Community SEA theme, including:
- Objective A – Housing: To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the Central Lincolnshire area;
 - Objective B – Employment: To create and improve access to high quality employment and training opportunities for everyone within the Central Lincolnshire area;
 - Objective C – Local Economy: To encourage and support a competitive , diverse and stable economy and to protect and enhance Central Lincolnshire's hierarchy of centres to meet the needs of residents and visitors;
 - Objective F – Social Equality and Community: To stimulate regeneration that maximises benefits for the most deprived areas and communities in Central Lincolnshire. To also ensure equitable outcomes for all, particularly those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion;
 - Policy LP1: A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development;
 - Policy LP2: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy;
 - Policy LP3: Level and Distribution of Growth;
 - Policy LP4: Growth in Villages;
 - Policy LP5: Delivering Prosperity and Jobs;
 - Policy LP6: Retail and Town Centres in Central Lincolnshire;
 - Policy LP7: A Sustainable Visitor Economy;
 - Policy LP10: Meeting Accommodation Needs;
 - Policy LP11: Affordable Housing;
 - Policy LP12: Infrastructure to Support Growth; and
 - Policy LP15: Community Facilities.

⁴² Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> last accessed [21/09/18]

Baseline review

Current baseline

Population

Table 8.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁴³

Date	Fiskerton	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
2001	932	81,849	4,172,174	49,138,831
2011	1,209	89,250	4,533,222	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	+29.7%	+9.0%	+8.7%	+7.9%

- 8.4 As shown in Table 8.1, the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area increased at a higher percentage between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to observed increases for West Lindsey, the East Midlands and England. Approximately 1.4% of the population of West Lindsey district live within the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Age structure

Table 8.2: Age Structure (2011)⁴⁴

	Fiskerton	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
0-15	17.4%	17.4%	18.5%	18.9%
16-24	5.8%	9.6%	12.1%	11.9%
25-44	22.3%	21.8%	25.9%	27.5%
45-59	21.2%	22.4%	20.5%	19.4%
60+	33.3%	28.8%	23.5%	22.3%
Total Population	1,209	89,250	4,533,222	53,012,456

- 8.5 Generally, there are a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the percentages for West Lindsey, the East Midlands, and England. In contrast, there are fewer residents within the younger age categories (0-16 and 16-24) in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national trends.
- 8.6 In regards to the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) the total for the Neighbourhood Plan area (43.5%) is broadly comparable with the district total (44.2%), but notably lower than the totals for the East Midlands (46.5%) and England (46.9%).

⁴³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table UV102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

⁴⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

Household deprivation

8.7 Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Table 8.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁴⁵

	Fiskerton	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
Household not deprived	42.7%	45.4%	42.8%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	36.3%	33.0%	32.4%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	18.2%	17.9%	19.6%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	2.4%	3.6%	4.8%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%

8.8 Based on the information presented in Table 8.3, a greater percentage of households are deprived within the Neighbourhood Plan area (57.3%) in comparison to the district total (54.6%). However, the Neighbourhood Plan area broadly aligns with the regional and national trends in this regard.

8.9 Out of the 57.3% of households which are deprived in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority are deprived in either one or two dimensions, similar to the regional and national trends.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

8.10 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.

⁴⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 - ‘Geographical Barriers’: relating to the physical proximity of local services
 - ‘Wider Barriers’: relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
 - ‘Indoors Living Environment’ measures the quality of housing.
 - ‘Outdoors Living Environment’ measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

8.11 Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:

- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

8.12 In this context, the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) ‘West Lindsey 011E’, which is ranked 20,283 out of the 32,844 LSOAs in England and is amongst the top 40% least deprived Neighbourhoods within the country. However, there are notable contrasts between the various IMD domains, summarised below in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4: IMD Domain Data for the ‘West Lindsey 011E’ LSOA⁴⁶

IMD Domain	Decile
Income Deprivation	Top 50% least deprived
Employment Deprivation	Top 50% most deprived
Education, Skills and Training	Top 40% most deprived
Health Deprivation and Disability	Top 40% most deprived
Crime	Top 30% least deprived
Barriers to Housing and Services	Top 10% most deprived
Living Environment Deprivation	Top 40% most deprived
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Top 40% least deprived
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index	Top 40% least deprived

⁴⁶ DCLG (2015): Indices of Deprivation Explorer’, [online] available to access via: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> last accessed [17/01/18]

Housing type & tenure

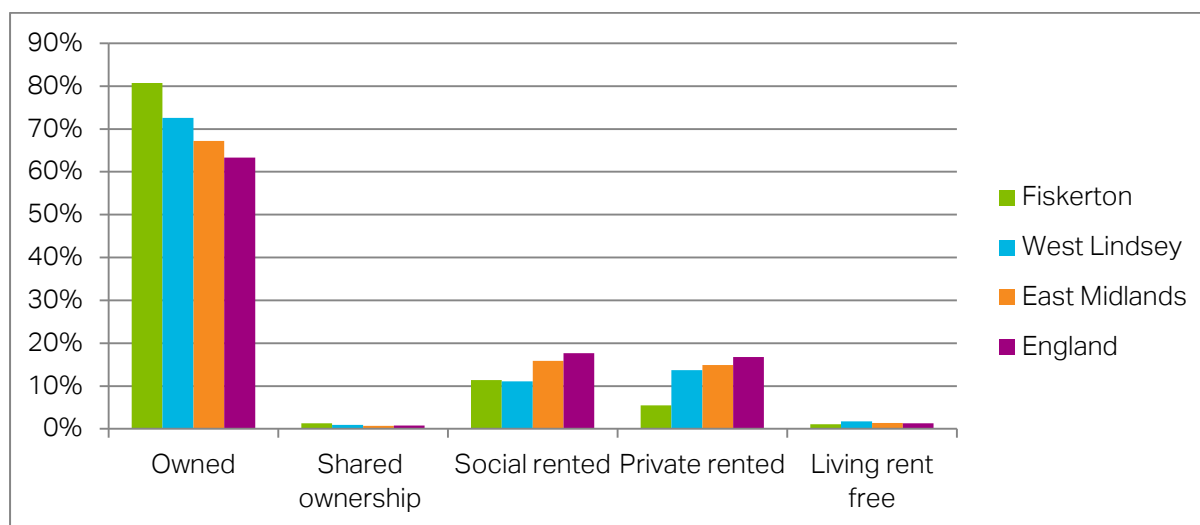


Figure 8.1: 'Tenure by Household' ⁴⁷

8.13 Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 80.7% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the regional and national trends. There are fewer residents within privately rented accommodation in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national totals. Comparatively, the total percentage of residents within shared ownership, socially rented accommodation or living rent free within the Neighbourhood Plan area (13.8%) is comparable to the total for West Lindsey (13.7%) but less than the totals for the East Midlands (17.9%) and England (19.8%). As shown in Figure 8.2 below, the dominant housing types in the Neighbourhood Plan area are detached properties.



Figure 8.2: Housing Types within the settlement boundary of Fiskerton (taken from the draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan)

⁴⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

Education

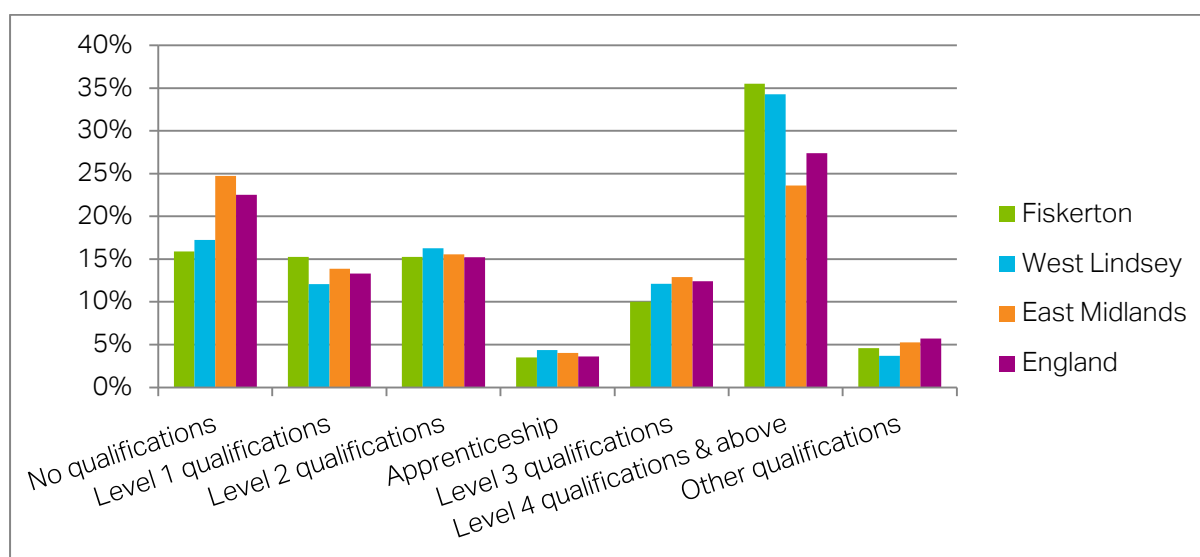


Figure 8.3: 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁴⁸

8.14 Based on the 2011 census data, 15.9% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, broadly aligning to the district total of 17.2%, but noticeably lower than the totals for the East Midlands (24.7%) and England (22.5%). Comparatively a higher percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have a Level 4 qualification and above when compared to the regional and national trends. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan area has a highly qualified working population.

Employment and economy

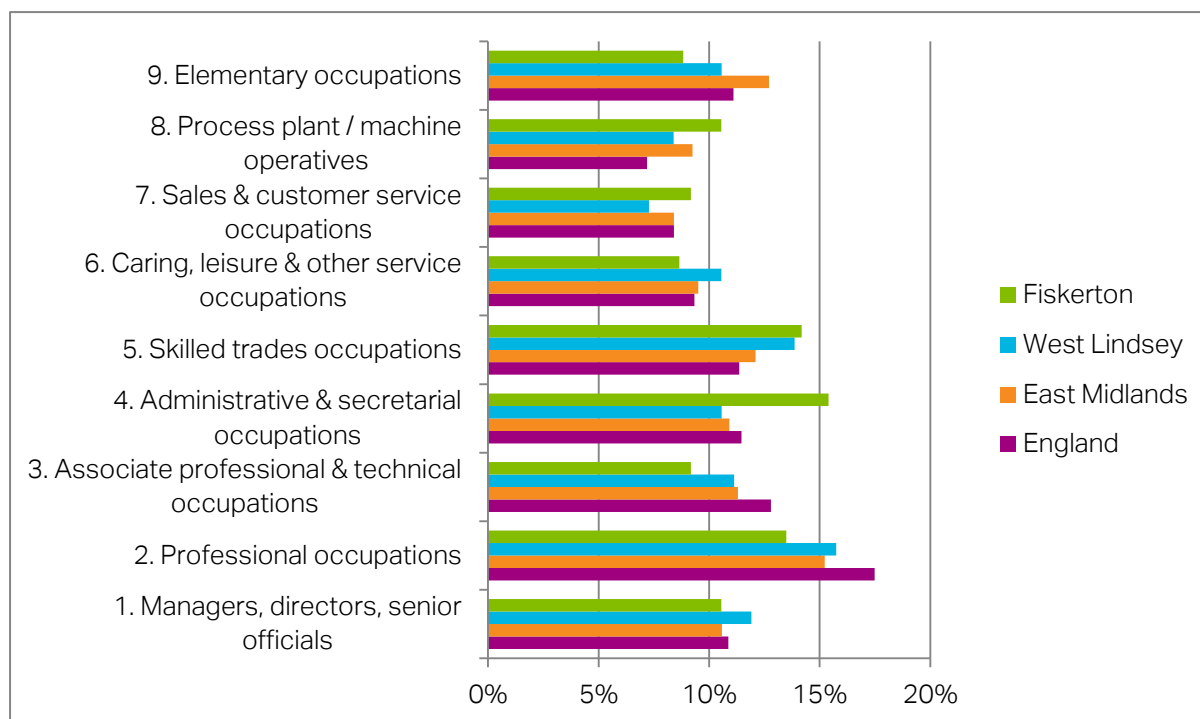


Figure 8.4: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment' ⁴⁹

⁴⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

⁴⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

- 8.15 In regards to employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents:
- Administrative and secretarial occupations (15.4%);
 - Skilled trades occupations (14.2%); and
 - Professional occupations (13.5%).
- 8.16 Overall, 43.1% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, higher than the totals for West Lindsey (40.2%), the East Midlands (38.2%) and England (40.3%).

Community assets

- 8.17 Fiskerton has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the Parish's sense of identity, including a village hall, scout hut, primary school, church, public house and play area.
- 8.18 Additionally, the following sites (shown in Figure 8.5, below) are recognised as locally important green spaces (LGS), where the area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value and/or biodiversity value:
- LGS1: The Paddock: an open green space of approximately 1.9ha that is owned by the Church Commissioners and is rented out for horse grazing. It provides important views of the Church, Manor House and Pub, along with providing a physical and visual connection with the surrounding landscape (which reinforces the rural nature of the village).
 - LGS2: The Crescent: an open green space of approximately 0.6ha with mown grass and mature trees. It provides a sense of space and beauty, and is well used by local residents for walking and relaxing.
 - LGS3: Land adjacent to Jessamine Cottage: an open green space of approximately 0.2ha which provides a small amenity space for the community and contributed to the rural setting to the approach of the village from Plough Lane.
 - LGS 4 & 5: Open areas to the north of Holmfeld estate: totalling an area of approximately 0.27ha, the sites provide recreational areas within a busy housing estate, and contain areas of mown grass, young shrubs and trees.
 - LGS 6: Ridings Pond: an open green space of approximately 0.21ha with a pond, trees and grasses which are managed for their wildlife potential (newt habitat and attracts a range of aquatic species, insects and birds).



Figure 8.5: Locally Important Green Spaces in Fiskerton (taken from the draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan)

Future baseline

- 8.19 As the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area continues to rise and age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community and economy of certain parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst also placing additional pressures to existing services and facilities.
- 8.20 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

Key issues

- 8.21 The population of the Neighbourhood Plan area increased at a higher percentage between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to observed increases for West Lindsey, the East Midlands and England.
- 8.22 A higher proportion of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the 60+ age category in comparison to the percentages for West Lindsey, the East Midlands, and England.
- 8.23 The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) 'West Lindsey 011E', which is in the top 10% most deprived decile for the 'barriers to housing and services' domain.
- 8.24 Fiskerton has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the Parish's sense of identity, including a village hall, scout hut, primary school, church, public house and play area.
- 8.25 There are six locally important green spaces (LGS) within Fiskerton which are demonstrably special to the community due to their beauty, historic significance, recreational value and/or biodiversity value:

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and wellbeing

Context review

9.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; ‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.’
- ‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.’
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

9.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁵⁰ (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

9.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

9.4 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme, including:

- Objective E – Health: To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and maximise health and wellbeing;

⁵⁰ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: < <https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf> > last accessed [24/09/18]

- Policy LP9: Health and Wellbeing; and
- Policy LP23: Local Green Space and other Important Open Space; and
- Policy LP24: Creation of New Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities.

Baseline review

Current baseline

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Lincolnshire

- 9.5 At the regional level, the 2017/18 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) overview for Lincolnshire provides a variety of statistics under the headings of 'Population and Demographics', 'Children and Young People', 'Adult Health and Wellbeing', 'Healthy Lifestyles' and 'Major Diseases', and includes the following key trends⁵¹:
- Hospital admissions for mental health conditions for children aged 0-17 years in 2016/17 was 68.9 per 100,000, lower than the national average of 81.5 per 100,000;
 - In 2016/17 almost two thirds of adults in Lincolnshire were overweight or obese, which is higher than the national average of 61.3% and the highest out of all districts in East Midlands;
 - 34.0% of children aged 10-11 were either overweight or obese, broadly aligning to the averages for East Midlands (33.5%) and England (34.2%); and
 - In 2016/17, Lincolnshire had fewer physically active residents aged 16 and over (63.1%) in comparison to the regional and national averages of 65.0% and 66.0%, respectively.
- 9.6 Completed in 2018 and reflecting the outcomes of the JSNA, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy⁵² (JHWS) for Lincolnshire outlines a variety of aims and themes which focus on the most important issues across the county, namely: mental health and emotional wellbeing (children and young people), mental health (adults), carers, physical activity, housing and health, obesity, and dementia.
- #### *Public Health Profile for West Lindsey*
- 9.7 Published in July 2018 by Public Health England, the public health profile for West Lindsey district outlines the following key trends⁵³:
- Life expectancy is 7.0 years lower for men and 6.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of West Lindsey in comparison to the least deprived areas.
 - The number of people who are killed or seriously injured on roads is worse than average; and
 - Lower totals of violent crime and the number of early deaths from cancer in comparison to the national averages.

⁵¹ Lincolnshire Research Observatory (2018): 'Health and Wellbeing in Lincolnshire 2017/18', [online] available to download via: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Joint-Strategic-Needs-Assessment.aspx> last accessed [15/01/19]

⁵² Lincolnshire County Council (2018): 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire', [online] available to access via: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/information-for-professionals/health-data-policies-and-publications/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/115339.article> last accessed [15/01/19]

⁵³ Public Health England (2018): 'Public Health Profile for West Lindsey District', [online] available to download via: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles> last accessed [15/01/19]

Health Indicators and Deprivation

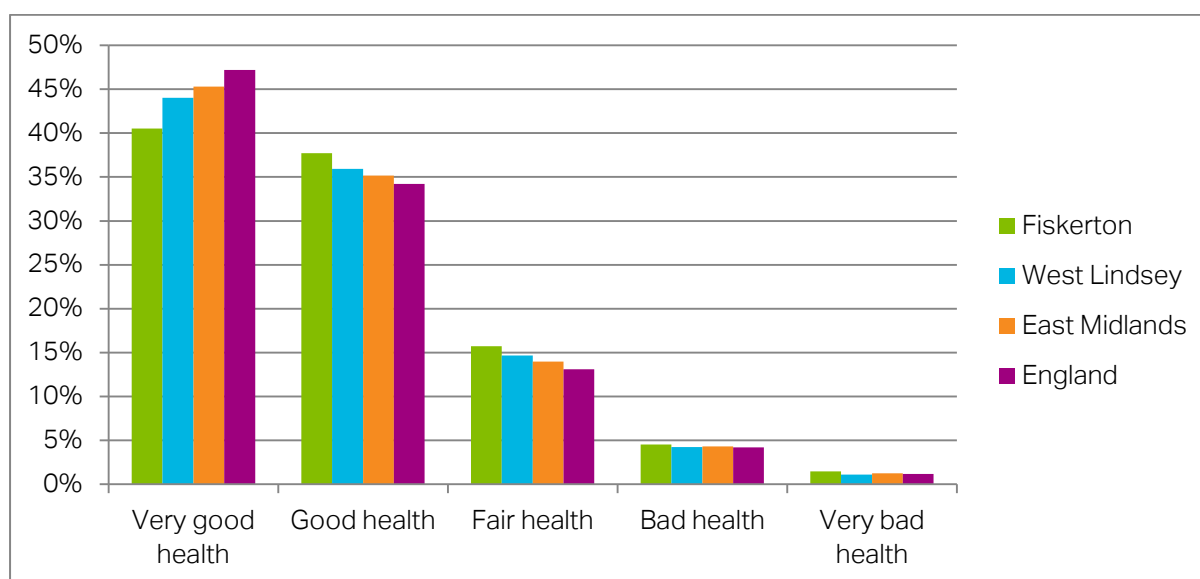


Figure 9.1: 'General Health'⁵⁴

9.8 Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 8. As highlighted in Figure 9.1, 78.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', which is lower than the totals for West Lindsey (80.0%), the East of England (80.4%) and England (81.4%). The number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area considering themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health' is 6.0%, broadly aligning to the regional and national trends.

Table 9.1: Disability

	Fiskerton	West Lindsey	East Midlands	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	10.8%	8.9%	8.7%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	10.8%	11.0%	10.0%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	78.4%	80.1%	81.4%	82.4%

9.9 Based on the 2011 census data, the total number of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' is higher than the regional and national trends observed in Table 9.1. Overall, 78.4% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their activities are not limited, which is lower than the regional and national trends.

Future baseline

9.10 Health and wellbeing levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health, and a low percentage of residents reporting that their activities are limited in some way. Nevertheless, the totals for the Neighbourhood Plan area are lower than the regional and national trends.

9.11 An ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area might place future pressures on health services in the area. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the long term.

⁵⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Health and Provision of unpaid Care 2011' (Table KS301EW)

- 9.12 In addition to the key issues outlined in the JSNA for Lincolnshire, obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, increasing the risks of heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

Key issues

- 9.13 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for Lincolnshire states that mental health and emotional wellbeing (children and young people), mental health (adults), carers, physical activity, housing and health, obesity, and dementia, are key issues facing the local population.
- 9.14 The 2018 public health profile for West Lindsey states that number of people who are killed or seriously injured on roads is worse than average.
- 9.15 78.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', which is lower than the totals for West Lindsey (80.0%), the East of England (80.4%) and England 81.4%.
- 9.16 Based on 2011 Census data, the total number of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' is higher than the regional and national trends.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? Address the key challenges identified in the JSNA for Lincolnshire, including mental health and obesity? Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?

10. Transportation

Focus

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Public transport networks
- Accessibility and car ownership
- Travel to work

Context review

- 10.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.
- 10.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:
- 'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
 - The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed
 - Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised
 - Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued
 - The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account
 - Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.'
 - 'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.'
- 10.3 Adopted in April 2017, the following objectives and policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036) directly relate to the Transportation SEA theme, including:
- Objective D – Transport and Accessibility: To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable travel modes (particularly public transport, walking and cycling); and
 - Policy LP13: Accessibility and Transport.
- 10.4 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended

by the Local Transport Act 2008. In this regard, the 4th Lincolnshire Transport Plan⁵⁵ (LTP4) covers the ten year period between 2013/14 and 2022/23 and aims to address the following three key challenges:

- Supporting growth and the local economy;
- Improving access to employment, training and key services; and
- Contributing to a healthier community.

10.5 The objectives of the LTP4 have been developed with regard to the overall vision for transport within Lincolnshire in 2030, which aims to ensure that:

- There is good inter- and intra- regional access to support a growing economy;
- There is a well-managed and safe road network to maximise the reliability of journeys and reduce the impact of traffic on communities;
- There is good access by a choice of modes to services, jobs and for leisure within Lincolnshire;
- Sensitive rural areas are managed in ways that retain, and where possible, enhance the value of the natural environment; and
- Streets in built-up areas are seen primarily as places where people can carry on their activities in a pleasant environment.

Baseline review

Current baseline

Road network and congestion

- 10.6 There is a network of 'C' roads which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area and connect to neighbouring settlements of Cherry Willingham and Lincoln (to the west via Lincoln Road and Fiskerton Road) and Reepham (to the north west via Reepham Road). Access to the strategic network is possible from the city of Lincoln (approximately 7km to the west of Fiskerton), and includes the A158, A46 and the A15.
- 10.7 In regards to congestion issues, in the older part of the village - around the Church and the paddock - the existing road network is hazardous due to the width of the roads. The draft Neighbourhood Plan notes that roads in the centre of Fiskerton become very congested at peak times. Additionally, excessive on-street parking in residential areas is inherently hazardous.

Rail network

- 10.8 The LTP4 acknowledges that the rail network across Lincolnshire is fairly limited, with just Grantham lying on the main inter-city network (the East Coast Main Line), although connections are also available at Newark, just outside of the county. Nevertheless, the LTP4 states that rail passengers continued to rise between 2004 and 2011, with an additional 400,000 passengers using the stations across the county.
- 10.9 The Neighbourhood Plan area is not connected to the national rail network. The nearest station is located within the City of Lincoln.

⁵⁵ Lincolnshire County Council (2013): '4th Lincolnshire Transport Plan', [online] available to download via: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/strategy-and-policy/local-transport-plan/34380.article> last accessed [15/01/19]

Bus network

10.10 The primary route through the Neighbourhood Plan area is the number 3 'Lincoln – Cherry Willingham – Fiskerton – Short Ferry'⁵⁶, which is operated by 'Stagecoach'. There are frequent, half-hourly services between Monday and Saturday (during the day), but the service does not operate on Sundays.

Cycle and footpath network

10.11 There are numerous Public Rights of Way (PROW) which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area, including bridleways and footpaths which link to the 'Viking Way' – a 235km long distance footpath which starts on the banks of the Humber, in the north, and winds its way through Lincolnshire to finish on the shores of Rutland Water. Fiskerton is located within Section 7 'Bardney to the edge of Lincoln'⁵⁷ of the route, which passes adjacent to the eastern boundary of the village (from Barlings Abbey) before reaching the River Witham, which it then borders to the west towards the city of Lincoln.

10.12 Additionally, the draft Neighbourhood Plan notes that Hall Lane, to the east of the village, is considered an important "green lane" that is frequently used by the community and wildlife. The Lane is part of the 'Fiskerton Walk'⁵⁸, a local route around the parish which is supported by the Lincolnshire Limewoods Project.

10.13 In terms of cycle trails, the Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 follows the route of the former Lincoln to Boston Railway Line – "The Water Railway" – extending from Lincoln alongside the River Witham and passing through the settlements of Washingborough, Fiskerton, Bardney and Southrey on the way to Kirkstead Bridge⁵⁹.

Availability of cars and vans

10.14 Based on the 2011 census data, 88.6% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for West Lindsey (84.9%), the East Midlands (77.9%) and England (75.0%). The total percentage of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area with access to at least two cars or vans is noticeably higher than the regional and national trends.

⁵⁶ Stagecoach (2019): 'Bus services operated by Stagecoach, Lincolnshire' [online timetable] available to access via: <<https://bustimes.org/operators/stagecoach-lincoln>> last accessed [17/01/19]

⁵⁷ Lincolnshire County Council (2017): Countryside Access: Viking Way', [online downloads] available to access via: <<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside/visiting/walking/viking-way/120966.article>> last accessed [17/01/19]

⁵⁸ Fiskerton Parish Council (no date): 'Fiskerton Walk', [online map] available to download via: <<http://fiskerton-lincs.org.uk/home/local-information/walk-around-fiskerton/>> last accessed [17/01/19]

⁵⁹ Sustrans (2019): 'National Cycle Network Routes', [online map] available to access via: <<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>> last accessed [17/01/19]

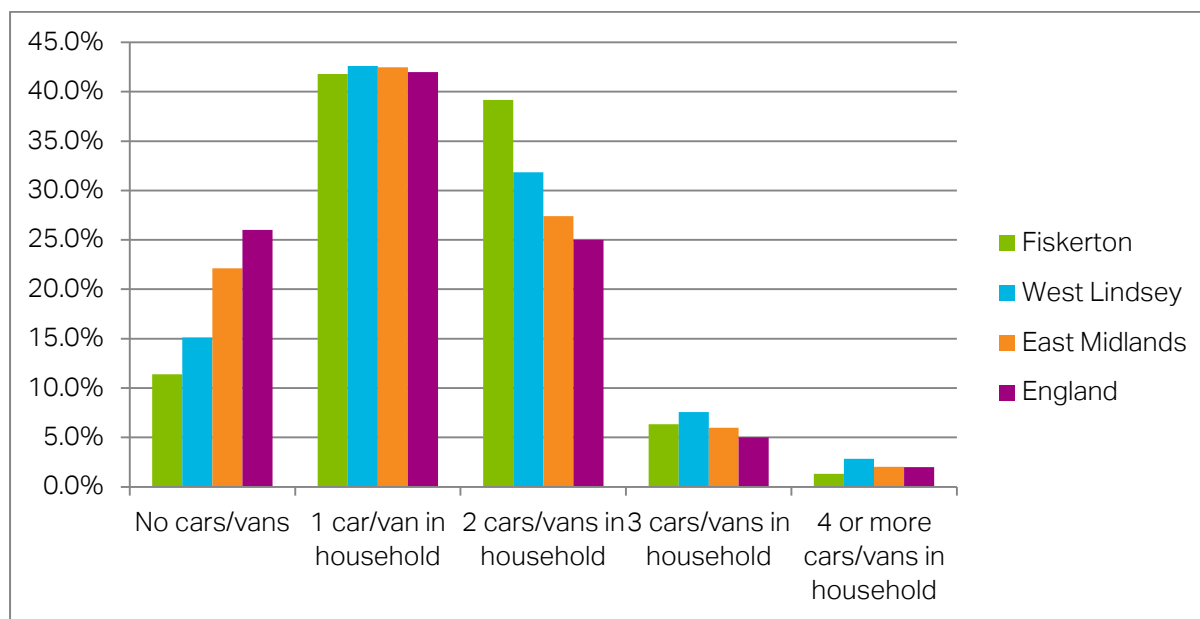


Figure 10.1: 'Car and van ownership'⁶⁰

Travel to work

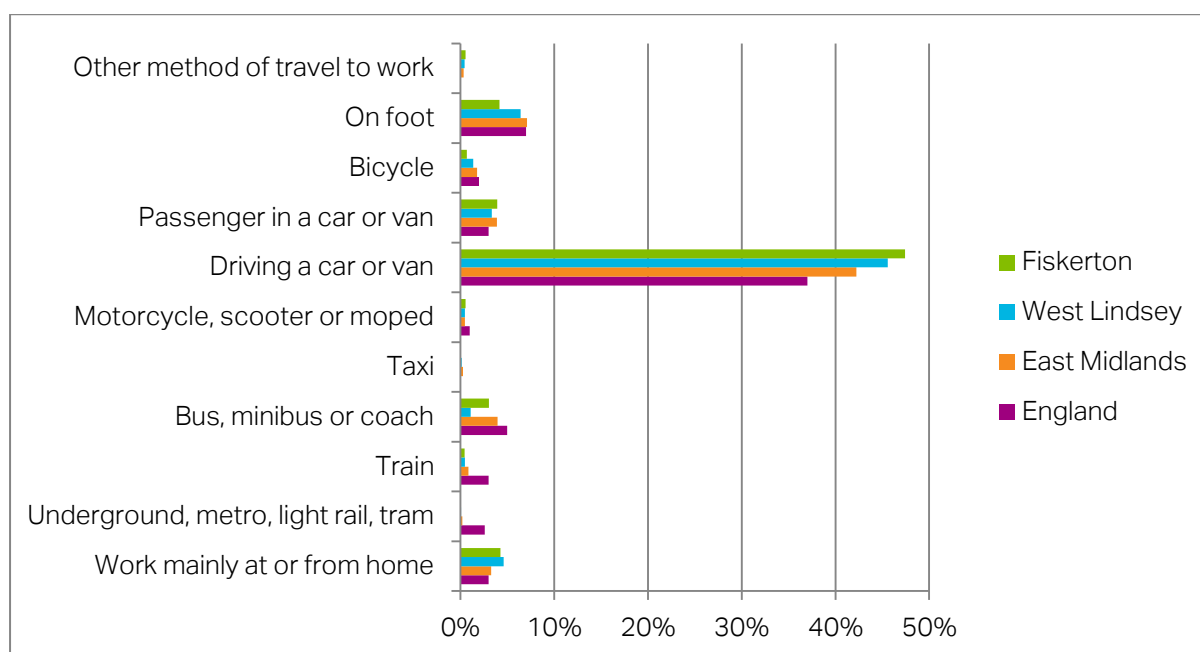


Figure 10.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁶¹

10.15 As shown in Figure 10.2, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (47.4%) which is higher than the totals for West Lindsey (45.6%), the East Midlands (42.2%) and England (37.0%).

10.16 Although the total percentage of the working population in the Neighbourhood Plan area choosing to walk or catch a bus, coach or minibus to work (7.2%) broadly aligns with the total for West Lindsey (7.5%), there is a noticeable contrast in comparison to the totals for the East Midlands (11.1%) and England (12.0%).

⁶⁰ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

⁶¹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

10.17 The draft Neighbourhood Plan states that residents in Fiskerton travel out of the village to their place of work in Lincoln, Gainsborough or to larger conurbations such as Nottingham and Leicester.

Future baseline

10.18 New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan area, principally at junctions on key routes.

10.19 Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the relative inaccessibility of the neighbourhood Plan area and the absence of a train station.

10.20 Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by the LTP4, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations.

Key issues

10.21 The Neighbourhood Plan area is not connected to the strategic road network. The nearest 'A' roads are accessible via the city of Lincoln, approximately 7km to the west of Fiskerton, and includes the A158, A46 and the A15.

10.22 In regards to congestion issues, in the older part of the village - around the Church and the paddock - the existing road network is hazardous due to the width of the roads.

10.23 Roads in the centre of Fiskerton become very congested at peak times. Additionally, excessive on-street parking in residential areas is inherently hazardous.

10.24 The Neighbourhood Plan area is not connected to the national rail network. The nearest station is located within the City of Lincoln.

10.25 The most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (47.4%) which is higher than the totals for West Lindsey (45.6%), the East Midlands (42.2%) and England (37.0%).

10.26 The draft Neighbourhood Plan states that residents in Fiskerton travel out of the village to their place of work in Lincoln, Gainsborough or to larger conurbations such as Nottingham and Leicester.

SEA objective(s)

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the key objectives within the Local Transport Plan 4 for Lincolnshire? • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

11. Next Steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 11.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process⁶²
- Screening;
 - Scoping;
 - Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
 - Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation;
 - Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')
- 11.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Neighbourhood Plan, including alternative spatial strategies for the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (the Neighbourhood Plan group) so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 11.3 Once the draft (submission version) plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 11.4 Following submission to West Lindsey District Council, and consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan will be put forward for Independent Examination.

Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 11.5 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 11.6 The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 11.7 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

Download and viewing details

- 11.8 The consultation period runs from **(insert dates)**. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Ryan Putt, AECOM
 - Email address: ryan.putt@aecom.com
- 11.9 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁶² In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

Appendix A: SEA Framework

Biodiversity

SEA objective

Assessment questions

Protect and enhance all biodiversity features.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support the status of the locally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including Fiskerton Fen Nature Reserve, the River Witham, Long Wood, and Willow Lodge Nature Reserve?
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats?
- Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?
- Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?
- Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?

Climate Change

SEA objective

Assessment questions

Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel?
- Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?
- Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?
- Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?
- Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?

Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?
- Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?
- Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?
- Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?
- Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?

Landscape

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the Central Lincolnshire Vales NCA? • Support the opportunities for shaping the future landscape of the LCTs which overlap with the Neighbourhood Plan area, in accordance with the East Midlands Landscape Character Assessment? • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and villagescape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?

Historic Environment

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings, including Fiskerton Memorial and Fiskerton Airfield? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the Lincolnshire HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? • Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to

	<p>minimise export of waste to areas outside?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption? • Protect groundwater resources

Population and Community

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

Health and Wellbeing

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Address the key challenges identified in the JSNA for Lincolnshire, including mental health and obesity? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
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- Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?
 - Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?
 - Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
-

Transportation

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

Will the option/proposal help to...

- Support the key objectives within the Local Transport Plan 4 for Lincolnshire?
 - Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
 - Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?
 - Facilitate working from home and remote working?
 - Improve road safety?
 - Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?
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