

NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT - FACT SHEET 3

Introduction

- The National Planning Policy Framework states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment as well as ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.
- This fact sheet examines the progress on environmental and recreational schemes/facilities. However, owing to staff shortages and those that remained focussing on the preparation of the new South East Lincolnshire Local Plan some data for South Holland is not available.

What has been achieved?

Biodiversity: We value biodiversity because of the ecosystem services it provides, such as flood defence and clean water; and the contribution that it makes to well-being and sense of place. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity in South East Lincolnshire is therefore imperative.

European or International Designations: The Wash - which has Ramsar, Special Protection Area (SPA), and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation - adjoins the areas of Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council. Ramsar's, SPA's and SAC's are designated under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC and EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC respectively.

National Designations:

- The Wash is also protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). Cowbit Wash and Surfleet Lows SSSI's are also located in South East Lincolnshire. SSSI's are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act* 1981 and their condition is monitored by Natural England. The Wash SSSI is currently deemed to be 67.98% favourable, 31.61% unfavourable–recovering and 0.41% unfavourable–declining. However, both Cowbit Wash and Surfleet Lows SSSI's are considered to be in favourable condition. The situation is therefore it is the same as in 2015/16.
- There are three Local Nature Reserves in the area– The Vernatts, Havenside Country Park and The Shrubberies (LNRs are designated under Section 21 of the *National Parks and Access to Countryside Act* 1949 by the relevant local authority).
- Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore are Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserves.

Non-Statutory sites: There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) that have been designated by the two authorities (coordinated by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature

Partnership). At present, South East Lincolnshire has 82 Local Wildlife Sites, 64 (78%) of which are considered to be in positive management. This is a slight increase from 2015/16.

	LWSs	LGSs	Local Sites	Sites in Positive Management	
				Number	Proportion
Boston	26	1	27	23	85%
South Holland	56	0	56	41	73%

Source: Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, 2016/17

Heritage Assets: South East Lincolnshire retains a rich and irreplaceable heritage from the generations of people who have made the area their home. In 2016/17, the area contained the following designated historic assets:

- 24 Conservation Areas
- 43 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 1,026 Listed Buildings (45 Grade I, 60 Grade II* and 921 Grade II)

There are many pressures on the historic environment, in both urban and rural areas, particularly from development. As a consequence of these pressures, the area's assets are not all in an acceptable condition. The table below identifies the number and percentage of historic assets on Historic England's *Heritage at Risk Register 2017*. A notable point is that the percentage of conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments and Grade I and II* listed buildings 'at risk' in South East Lincolnshire is above the national average. However, the percentage of registered parks and gardens 'at risk' is below the national average, compared to England.

	Boston Borough	South Holland District	England
Registered Parks and Gardens (Number and %)	0	0	96 (6%)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Number and %)	2 (14%)	4 (14%)	2,480 (12%)
Conservation Areas (Number and %)	2 (18%)	2 (15%)	512 (6%)
Grade I and II* Listed Buildings (including places of worship at risk) (Number and %)	6 (1%)	7 (11%)	1,257 (4%)

Source: Historic England

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation: Recreational facilities, including outdoor play space, informal open space and supporting recreation facilities, e.g. club houses and changing rooms, are not only important to local communities for their recreational amenity but also for their impact on the quality of the environment. In high density new housing developments where gardens are smaller, open space and recreation facilities are particularly important. Both Councils therefore require developers to either contribute towards providing new open space within their development or – mostly in the case of smaller sites - to pay a

financial contribution to be used to enhance the quantity and/or quality of open space in the locality.

Public Open Space Sites in South East Lincolnshire

Type	Number of Sites	Comment
Parks and gardens	6	
Natural and semi natural greenspace	40	This includes recently planted woodland
Amenity greenspace	443	Much of this is small grassed areas on housing developments
Provision for children and young People	131	These are equipped play grounds
Outdoor sports facilities	164	This includes school grounds that are not open to the public
Allotments	18	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	78	
Civic Space	1	
Green Corridors		536 Km of Public Rights of Way ¹
Total	880	

Source: Boston Borough Council

Climate Change Mitigation: To meet the challenges of climate change, both Councils are committed to ensuring new developments seek ways to reduce CO₂ emissions and increase the use and supply of renewable energy.

The most recent figures (for 2017) show that Boston Borough's total CO₂ emissions were 4.6 tonnes per capita whilst South Holland's stood at 5.4. This was broadly similar to the emissions for other districts in Lincolnshire. Both areas have seen a positive overall fall in emissions since 2005 where per capita emissions were 8.0 and 8.7 respectively.

South East Lincolnshire CO₂ Emissions 2005-2017

	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
BBC 2005	187	157	120	469	58.6	8.0
BBC 2006	186	158	121	469	59.8	7.8
BBC 2007	181	155	121	460	61.0	7.5
BBC 2008	180	153	115	451	62.2	7.2
BBC 2009	162	139	111	416	63.4	6.6
BBC 2010	168	150	111	433	64.5	6.7
BBC 2011	145	131	110	387	64.6	6.0
BBC 2012	162	140	108	411	64.9	6.3
BBC 2013	151	135	107	395	65.8	6.0
BBC 2014	137	113	109	360	66.5	5.4
BBC 2015	123	110	112	345	66.9	5.2

¹ Data from Lincolnshire County Council during the SA Scoping consultation exercise

BBC 2016	105	105	114	325	67.7	4.8
BBC 2017	98	98	117	312	68.5	4.6
SHDC 2005	286	225	184	715	81.7	8.7
SHDC 2006	278	230	189	716	83.2	8.6
SHDC 2007	270	226	191	703	84.5	8.3
SHDC 2008	281	224	180	701	86.0	8.2
SHDC 2009	248	206	173	644	87.0	7.4
SHDC 2010	251	222	176	664	87.9	7.6
SHDC 2011	227	194	173	605	88.4	6.8
SHDC 2012	269	205	169	653	88.5	7.4
SHDC 2013	258	198	170	635	89.2	7.1
SHDC 2014	247	168	172	596	90.4	6.6
SHDC 2015	208	162	177	556	91.2	6.1
SHDC 2016	189	156	182	534	92.5	5.8
SHDC 2017	175	142	183	508	93.3	5.4

Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change 2005-2017

The following table identifies the amount of renewable energy developments/installations that are existing, proposed with planning permission and proposed without planning permission in the South East Lincolnshire area. It provides details on the potential capacity (MW), homes supplied and electricity generated (GWh).

Existing and Projected Renewable Energy Development

Place	Capacity MW	Number of homes supplied	CO2 Tonnes saved	Annual electricity generated GWh
Existing				
Bicker Fen wind farm	26.0	14,592	37,466	61.7
Deeping St Nicholas wind farm	16.0	8,980	23,056	37.9
Gedney wind farm	12.0	6,735	17,292	28.5
Tydd St Mary wind farm	14.0	10,000	Unknown	33.1
Boston Landfill Scheme	1.3	2,761	Unknown	10.9
Staples anaerobic digester	3.0	N/A	Unknown	23.7
Long Sutton PV	2.75	619	1,027	2.38
Fen Road PV	1.4	315	522	1.2
Leverton Ings PV	12.0	2,705	5,800	10.4
Nowhere Farm PV	8.1	1,826	3,025	7.03
Penguin Foods PV	1.5	338	560	1.3
Kirton Solar PV	3.2	721	1,194	2.78
Grange Farm PV	12.7	2,863	4,742	11.03
Installed domestic PV under FIT	16.33	3,681	6,097	14.2
Installed non-domestic PV under FIT	11.2	N/A	4,182	9.73
Installed domestic wind	0.23	0.13	0.23	0.54

under FIT				
Installed non-domestic wind under FIT	1.3	N/A	1,322	3.1
Installed non-domestic AD under FIT	4.9	N/A	Unknown	41.16
Installed non-domestic Micro CHP	0.001	N/A	Unknown	8.4
Boston gasification plant	10.5	23,306	Unknown	88.2
Decoy Farm PV	5.0	1,127	1,867	4.3
Decoy Farm AD	1.8	Unknown	Unknown	15.1
Manor Farm AD	1.5	Unknown	Unknown	12.6
SUB TOTAL	166.711	80,569	108,152	429.25
Proposed with Planning Permission				
Friths Solar PV	28.0	6,312	10,455	24.3
Fendyke Solar PV	17.6	3,967	6,572	15.3
SUB TOTAL	45.6	10,279	17,027	39.6
Total	212.31	90,848	125,179	468.85

Flood Risk: The Lincolnshire Coastal Study (2010) cautioned against allowing major housing development in the area's Red, Orange and Yellow (ROY) flood hazard zones. The following table provides a description of the five flood-hazard zones used in the Lincolnshire Coastal Study.

Flood hazard classification

Degree of coastal flood hazard	Hazard Rating	Colour on mapping	Description of hazard
None	Little or no hazard	White	Little or no hazard (from coastal flooding)
Low	Low hazard	Green	Caution, low risk to people
Moderate	Danger to some	Yellow	Risk to the vulnerable, such as children, the elderly and the infirm
Significant	Danger for most	Orange	Risk to most, including the general public
Extreme	Danger for all	Red	Extreme hazard, danger to all, including the emergency services

Source: Defra and Environment Agency, 2008

In 2016/17, there were multiple planning applications for the development of residential properties granted permission within South East Lincolnshire's ROY flood hazard zones. The table below identifies the number of housing permissions and completions For Boston Borough in all the different zones for 2016/17.

Number of housing permissions and completions across South East Lincolnshire in all of the different flood zones for 2016/17

	Permissions BBC	Permissions SHDC	Total	Completions BBC	Completions SHDC	Total
White	78	N/A	78	24	N/A	24
Green	44	N/A	44	6	N/A	6

Yellow	16	N/A	16	22	N/A	22
Orange	284	N/A	284	136	N/A	136
Red	158	N/A	158	164	N/A	164
Total	580	N/A	580	352	N/A	352

Flood hazard mapping undertaken as part of the Lincolnshire Coastal Study (2010) revealed that very little of Boston Borough, especially Boston town itself and its immediate environs, is free from designation as either a red, orange or yellow flood hazard zone. In the case of South Holland, over half of the district is free from these three designations. The South Holland data is not available for this year but owing to the different proportions of land designated as red, orange and yellow flood hazard zone normally the majority of permissions and completions within ROY zones are in Boston Borough.

The table on the following page shows the number of new planning permissions that were granted contrary to Environment Agency advice during 2016/17.

Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency Advice 2016/17

	Flooding	Water Quality	Total
Boston Borough	9	0	9
South Holland District	3	0	3

Source: Environment Agency

A greater number of planning permissions were granted against Environment Agency advice in Boston Borough than South Holland.