

Appendix A. Relevant policies from Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

Policy S1: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

The spatial strategy will focus on delivering sustainable growth for Central Lincolnshire that meets the needs for homes and jobs, regenerates places and communities, and supports necessary improvements to facilities, services and infrastructure.

Development should create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive communities, making the most effective use of previously developed land and enabling a larger number of people to access jobs, services and facilities locally.

Development should provide the scale and mix of housing types and a range of new job opportunities that will meet the identified needs of Central Lincolnshire in order to secure balanced communities.

Decisions on investment in services and facilities, and on the location and scale of development, will be assisted by the Central Lincolnshire Settlement Hierarchy.

The hierarchy is as follows:

1. Lincoln Urban Area

To significantly strengthen the role of Lincoln, both regionally and within Central Lincolnshire, and to meet Lincoln's growth objectives and regeneration needs, the Lincoln urban area (defined as the current built up area of Lincoln, which includes the City of Lincoln, North Hykeham, South Hykeham Fosseyway, Waddington Low Fields and any other developed land adjoining these areas) and the sites allocated in this Local Plan on the edge of the Lincoln urban area will be the principal focus for development in Central Lincolnshire, including housing, retail, leisure, cultural, office and other employment development. In addition to sites being allocated in the Local Plan or a neighbourhood plan, development proposals in accordance with *Policy S3* and other relevant development plan policies will be viewed positively.

2. Main Towns

To maintain and enhance their roles as main towns, and to meet the objectives for regeneration, Sleaford and Gainsborough will, primarily via sites allocated in this Local Plan and any applicable neighbourhood plan, be the focus for substantial housing development supported by appropriate levels of employment growth, retail growth and wider service provision. In addition to sites being allocated in the Local Plan or a neighbourhood plan, development proposals in accordance with *Policy S3* and other relevant development plan policies will be viewed positively.

3. Market Towns

To maintain and enhance their roles as market towns, Caistor and Market Rasen will be the focus for significant, but proportionate, growth in housing, employment, retail and wider service provision. This growth will primarily be through sites allocated in this Local Plan and any applicable neighbourhood plan. In addition to sites being allocated in the Local Plan or a neighbourhood plan, development proposals in accordance with *Policy S3* and other relevant development plan policies will be viewed positively.

4. Large Villages

Large villages are defined as those with 750 or more dwellings at 1 April 2018. To maintain and enhance their role as large villages which provide housing, employment, retail, and key services and facilities for the local area, the following settlements will be a focus for accommodating an appropriate level of growth via sites allocated in this plan. Beyond site allocations made in this plan or any applicable neighbourhood plan, development will be limited to that which accords with *Policy S4: Housing Development in or Adjacent to Villages* or other policies relating to non-residential development in this plan as relevant.

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Bardney	Heighington	Scotter
Billinghay	Keelby	Skellingthorpe
Bracebridge Heath	Metheringham	Waddington
Branston	Navenby	Washingborough
Cherry Willingham	Nettleham	Welton
Dunholme	Ruskington	Witham St Hughs
Heckington	Saxilby	

5. Medium Villages

Medium villages are defined as those with between 250 and 749 dwellings at 1 April 2018. Well connected or well served medium villages may receive some limited growth through allocations in this plan in order to achieve a balance between ensuring the vitality of the village and protecting the rural character. Beyond site allocations made in this plan or any applicable neighbourhood plan, development will be limited to that which accords with *Policy S4: Housing Development in or Adjacent to Villages* or other policies relating to non-residential development in this plan as relevant.

Bassingham	Greylees	Nocton
Blyton	Harmston	North Kelsey
Brant Broughton	Hawthorn Avenue ('Little Cherry')	Potterhanworth
Brookenby	Helpringham	Reepham
Burton Waters	Hemswell Cliff	Scampton (RAF)
Cranwell RAF	Ingham	Scothern
Cranwell Village	Lea	Sturton By Stow
Digby	Leasingham	Sudbrooke
Dunston	Marton	Tealby
Eagle	Middle Rasen	Waddingham
Fiskerton	Morton	Welbourn
Great Hale	Nettleton	Wellingore

6. Small Villages

Small villages are defined as those with between 50 and 249 dwellings at 1 April 2018. Well connected or well served small villages may receive some limited growth, primarily through allocations in this plan in order to achieve a balance between ensuring the vitality of the village and the rural character. Beyond site allocations made in this plan or any applicable neighbourhood plan, development will be limited to that which accords with *Policy S4: Housing Development in or Adjacent to Villages* or other policies relating to non-residential development in this plan as relevant.

Anwick	Hemswell	Scotton
Ashby de la Launde	Holton le Moor	Scredington
Aubourn	Kexby	Searby
Aunsby	Kirkby Green	Silk Willoughby
Beckingham	Kirkby La Thorpe	Snitterby
Bigby	Knaith Park	South Kelsey
Bishop Norton	Langworth	South Kyme
Boothby Graffoe	Laughterton	South Rauceby
Branston Booths	Laughton	Southrey
Burton	Leadenham	Spridlington
Canwick	Lissington	Springthorpe
Carlton Le Moorland	Little Hale	Stow
Chapel Hill	Martin	Swallow
Claxby	New Toft	Swarby
Coleby	Newton On Trent	Swaton
Corringham	Normanby By Spital	Swinderby
Doddington	North Carlton	Tattershall Bridge

Dorrington	North Greetwell	Thorpe On The Hill
East Ferry	North Kyme	Threekingham
East Stockwith	North Owersby	Timberland
Ewerby	North Scarle	Torksey
Faldingworth	Norton Disney	Upton
Fenton	Osournby	Walcott
Fillingham	Osgodby	Walesby
Glentham	Owmby By Spital	Wickenby
Glentworth	Rothwell	Willingham By Stow
Grasby	Rowston	Willoughton
Great Limber	Scampton village	Wilsford
Hackthorn	Scopwick	

7. Hamlets

For the purposes of this Local Plan, a hamlet is defined as a settlement not listed elsewhere in this policy and with dwellings clearly clustered together to form a single developed footprint*. Such a hamlet must have a dwelling base of at least 15 units (as at 1 April 2018). Within the developed footprint* of such hamlets, development will be limited to single dwelling infill developments or development allocated through a neighbourhood plan.

8. Countryside

Unless allowed by:

- a) policy in any of the levels 1-7 above; or
- b) any other policy in the Local Plan (such as Policies S4, S5, S34, or S43) or a relevant policy in a neighbourhood plan, development will be regarded as being in the countryside and as such restricted to:
 - that which is demonstrably essential to the effective operation of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation, transport or utility services;
 - delivery of infrastructure;
 - renewable energy generation; and
 - minerals or waste development in accordance with separate Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents.

* The definition of "developed footprint" as used throughout this policy is provided in the Glossary.

Policy S2: Growth Levels and Distribution

The housing requirement for Central Lincolnshire is 1,102 dwellings per year, and 24,244 dwellings over the plan period of 2018-2040.

This baseline will be used for Five Year Housing Land Supply calculations, Housing Delivery Test purposes and any other such similar calculations.

The economic vision and strategy of this plan is to seek to facilitate the creation of 24,000 new jobs over the plan period, 2018-2040. To help facilitate that target, and ensure the provision of new homes is in balance with job creation, this plan aims to facilitate the delivery of 1,325 dwellings per year, or 29,150 dwellings over the Plan period.

In order to facilitate all of the above, this Plan identifies a sufficient supply and mix of sites to not only meet its identified housing requirement and its economic vision jobs growth target, but also sufficient supply to meet the housing needed should the economic vision be successfully delivered.

Such a supply and mix of housing and employment sites have been provided in this Plan to broadly meet the following spatial strategy:

- a. **Lincoln Strategy Area** – around 64% of the supply, delivered through a combined strategy of (and in priority order):
 - i. urban regeneration;
 - ii. sustainable urban extensions to Lincoln; and
 - iii. growth at settlements which serve, and are serviced by, Lincoln.
- b. **Gainsborough** - around 12% of the supply, delivered through a combined strategy of urban regeneration, sustainable urban extensions and sites at nearby and well-connected villages.
- c. **Sleaford** – around 12% of the supply, delivered through, primarily, a strategy of sustainable urban extensions and on other urban sites and sites at nearby and well-connected villages.
- d. **Elsewhere** – around 12% of the supply will come forward in settlements elsewhere, primarily located at the market towns and in well-connected villages and villages with a good range of services present.

Policy S10: Supporting a Circular Economy

The Joint Committee is aware of the high energy and material use consumed on a daily basis, and, consequently, is fully supportive of the principles of a circular economy.

Accordingly, and to complement any policies set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan, proposals will be supported, in principle, which demonstrate their compatibility with, or the furthering of, a strong circular economy in the local area (which could include cross-border activity elsewhere in Lincolnshire).

Policy S11: Embodied Carbon

All development should, where practical and viable, take opportunities to reduce the development's embodied carbon content, through the careful choice, use and sourcing of materials.

Presumption against demolition:

To avoid the wastage of embodied carbon in existing buildings and avoid the creation of new embodied carbon in replacement buildings, there is a presumption in favour of repairing, refurbishing, re-using and re-purposing existing buildings over their demolition. Proposals that result in the demolition of a building (in whole or a significant part) should be accompanied by a full justification for the demolition. For non-listed buildings demolition will only be acceptable where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that:

1. the building proposed for demolition is in a state of such disrepair that it is not practical or viable to be repaired, refurbished, re-used, or re-purposed; or
2. repairing, refurbishing, re-using, or re-purposing the building would likely result in similar or higher newly generated embodied carbon than if the building is demolished and a new building is constructed; or
3. repairing, refurbishing, re-using, or re-purposing the building would create a building with such poor thermal efficiency that on a whole life cycle basis (i.e. embodied carbon and in-use carbon emissions) would mean a lower net carbon solution would arise from demolition and re-build; or
4. demolition of the building and construction of a new building would, on an exceptional basis, deliver other significant public benefits that outweigh the carbon savings which would arise from the building being repaired, refurbished, re-used, or re-purposed.

Applications within the countryside relating to the re-use or conversion of existing buildings will only be acceptable where they also meet the requirements of Policy S5, S34, or S43 as applicable.

Major development proposals:

All major development proposals should explicitly set out what opportunities to lower a building's embodied carbon content have been considered, and which opportunities, if any, are to be taken forward.

In the period to 31 December 2024, there will be no requirement (unless mandated by Government) to use any specific lower embodied carbon materials in development proposals, provided the applicant has at least demonstrated consideration of options and opportunities available.

From 1 January 2025, there will be a requirement for a development proposal to demonstrate how the design and building materials to be used have been informed by a consideration of embodied carbon, and that reasonable opportunities to minimise embodied carbon have been taken. Further guidance is anticipated to be issued by the local planning authorities on this matter prior to 1 January 2025.

Policy S14: Renewable Energy

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is committed to supporting the transition to a net zero carbon future and will seek to maximise appropriately located renewable energy generated in Central Lincolnshire (such energy likely being wind and solar based).

Proposals for renewable energy schemes, including ancillary development, will be supported where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the following considerations are, or will be made, acceptable. To determine whether it is acceptable, the following tests will have to be met:

- i. The impacts are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity; geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape; and highway safety and rail safety; and
- ii. The impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and
- iii. The impacts are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, shadow flicker, air quality and traffic;

Testing compliance with part (i) above will be via applicable policies elsewhere in a development plan document for the area (i.e. this Local Plan; a Neighbourhood Plan, if one exists; any applicable policies in a Minerals or Waste Local Plan); and any further guidance set out in a Supplementary Planning Document.

In order to test compliance with part (ii) above will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of robust evidence of the potential impact on any aviation and defence navigation system/communication, and within such evidence must be documented areas of agreement or disagreement reached with appropriate bodies and organisations responsible for such infrastructure.

In order to test compliance with part (iii) above will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of a robust assessment of the potential impact on such users, and the mitigation measures proposed to minimise any identified harm.

For all matters in (i)-(iii), the applicable local planning authority may commission its own independent assessment of the proposals, to ensure it is satisfied what the degree of harm may be and whether reasonable mitigation opportunities are being taken.

Where significant adverse effects are concluded by the local planning authority following consideration of the above assessment(s), such effects will be weighed against the wider environmental, economic, social and community benefits provided by the proposal. In this regard, and as part of the planning balance, significant additional weight in favour of the proposal will arise for any proposal which is community-led for the benefit of that community.

In areas that have been designated for their national importance, as identified in the National Planning Policy Framework, renewable energy infrastructure will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would be appropriate in scale, located in areas that do not contribute positively to the objectives of the designation, is sympathetically designed and includes any necessary mitigation measures.

Additional matters for solar based energy proposals

Proposals for solar thermal or photovoltaics panels and associated infrastructure to be installed on existing property will be under a presumption in favour of permission unless there is clear and demonstrable significant harm arising.

Proposals for ground based photovoltaics and associated infrastructure, including commercial large scale proposals, will be under a presumption in favour unless:

- there is clear and demonstrable significant harm arising; or
- the proposal is (following a site specific soil assessment) to take place on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and does not meet the requirements of Policy S67; or
- the land is allocated for another purpose in this Local Plan or other statutory based document (such as a nature recovery strategy or a Local Transport Plan), and the proposal is not compatible with such other allocation.

Proposals for ground based photovoltaics should be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain will be maximised in the scheme taking account of soil, natural features, existing habitats, and planting proposals accompanying the scheme to create new habitats linking into the nature recovery strategy.

Additional matters for wind based energy proposals

Proposals for a **small to medium single wind turbine**, which is defined as a turbine up to a maximum of 40m from ground to tip of blade, are, in principle, supported throughout Central Lincolnshire (i.e. the whole of Central Lincolnshire is identified as a broad area potentially suitable for such a single turbine), subject to meeting the above criteria (i)-(iii) and the requirements of national planning policy. Under this paragraph, no dwelling or other operation (e.g. a farm or a business) may have more than one turbine at any one time in the curtilage of that dwelling or other operation.

Proposals for **medium (over 40m from ground to tip of blade) to large scale wind turbines (including groups of turbines)** will, in principle, be supported only where they are located within an area identified as a 'Broad Area Suitable for Larger Scale Wind Energy Turbines' as identified on the Policies Map and (indicatively) on Map 2. Such proposals will be tested against criteria (i)-(iii) and the requirements of national planning policy.

Medium to large scale wind turbines must not be within 2km of a settlement boundary of a settlement identified in the Settlement Hierarchy. However, where a proposal is within 2km of any residential property, the following matters will need careful consideration as to the potential harm arising:

- Noise
- Flicker
- Overbearing nature of the turbines (established by visual effects from within commonly used habitable rooms)
- Any other amenity which is presently enjoyed by the occupier.

In this regard, no medium to large scale wind turbine within 700m of a residential property is anticipated to be supported, and proposals between 700-2,000m will need clear evidence of no significant harm arising.

For the avoidance of doubt, any medium to large scale wind turbine proposals outside of the identified Broad Area Suitable for Larger Scale Wind Energy Turbines should be refused.

Decommissioning renewable energy infrastructure

Permitted proposals will be subject to a condition that will require the submission of an End of Life Removal Scheme within one year of the facility becoming non-operational, and the implementation of such a scheme within one year of the scheme being approved. Such a scheme should demonstrate how any biodiversity net gain that has arisen on the site will be protected or enhanced further, and how the materials to be removed would, to a practical degree, be re-used or recycled.

Policy S15: Protecting Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Development should not significantly harm:

- a) the technical performance of any existing or approved renewable energy generation facility;
- b) the potential for optimisation of strategic renewable energy installations;
- c) the availability of the resource, where the operation is dependent on uninterrupted flow of energy to the installation.

Policy S16: Wider Energy Infrastructure

The Joint Committee is committed to supporting the transition to net zero carbon future and, in doing so, recognises and supports, in principle, the need for significant investment in new and upgraded energy infrastructure.

Where planning permission is needed from a Central Lincolnshire authority, support will be given to proposals which are necessary for, or form part of, the transition to a net zero carbon sub-region, which could include: energy storage facilities (such as battery storage or thermal storage); and upgraded or new electricity facilities (such as transmission facilities, sub-stations or other electricity infrastructure).

However, any such proposals should take all reasonable opportunities to mitigate any harm arising from such proposals, and take care to select not only appropriate locations for such facilities, but also design solutions (see Policy S53) which minimises harm arising.

Policy S17: Carbon Sinks

Existing carbon sinks, such as peat soils, must be protected, and where opportunities exist they should be enhanced in order to continue to act as a carbon sink.

Where development is proposed on land containing peat soils or other identified carbon sinks, including woodland, trees and scrub; open habitats and farmland; blanket bogs, raised bogs and fens; and rivers, lakes and wetland habitats*, the applicant must submit a proportionate evaluation of the impact of the proposal on either the peat soil's carbon content or any other form of identified carbon sink as relevant and in all cases an appropriate management plan must be submitted.

There will be a presumption in favour of preservation of peat and other carbon sinks in-situ. Proposals that will result in unavoidable harm to, or loss of, peat soils or other identified carbon sinks will only be permitted if it is demonstrated that:

- a) the site is allocated for development; or
- b) there is not a less harmful viable option to development of that site.

In any such case, the harm caused must be shown to have been reduced to the minimum possible and appropriate, satisfactory provision will be made for the evaluation, recording and interpretation of the peat soils or other form of carbon sink before commencement of development.

For peat soils that are to be removed, the soils must be temporarily stored and then used in a way that will limit carbon loss to the atmosphere.

Proposals to enhance peat soils and protect its qualities will be supported. Proposals to help strengthen existing, or create new, carbon sinks will be supported.

Carbon Sequestration

The demonstration of meaningful carbon sequestration through nature based solutions within a proposal will be a material consideration in the decision-making process. Material weight in favour of a proposal will be given where the net situation is demonstrated to be a significant gain in nature based carbon sequestration as a consequence of the proposal. Where a proposal will cause harm to an existing nature based carbon sequestration process, weight against such a proposal will be given as a consequence of the harm, with the degree of weight dependent on the scale of net loss.

* Please refer to Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat 2021 (NERR094) (Natural England), which identifies 'reliable', 'long term' and 'important' carbon sinks and to the maps in 'Central Lincolnshire Local Plan: Climate Change Evidence Base Task L – Peat Soil Mapping' (documents CLC011 and CLC012 in the local plan evidence base).

Policy S20: Resilient and Adaptable Design

Heat resilience

In order to prevent and minimise the impacts of overheating in the built environment, applicants must demonstrate, commensurate with the scale and location of the proposal, consideration of:

1. How the design of the development minimises overheating and reduces demand on air conditioning systems, including considering:
 - a) orienting buildings to maximise the opportunities for both natural heating and ventilation and to reduce wind exposure; and
 - b) measures such as solar shading, thermal mass and appropriately coloured materials in areas exposed to direct and excessive sunlight;In considering the above, the balance between solar gain versus solar shading will need to be carefully managed.
2. The potential to incorporate a green roof and/or walls to aid cooling, add insulation, assist water management and enhance biodiversity, wherever possible linking into a wider network of green infrastructure; unless such roof space is being utilised for photovoltaic or thermal solar panels; or on a whole life cycle basis, it is demonstrated that a lower specification roof has a significantly lower carbon impact than a green roof; or the nature of the development makes it impracticable to incorporate a green roof.

Adaptable design

Applicants should design proposals to be adaptable to future social, economic, technological and environmental requirements in order to make buildings both fit for purpose in the long term and to minimise future resource consumption in the adaptation and redevelopment of buildings in response to future needs. To meet this requirement, applicants should undertake the following, where applicable:

3. Allow for future adaptation or extension by means of the building's internal arrangement internal height, detailed design and construction, including the use of internal stud walls rather than solid walls to allow easier reconfiguration of internal layout. Residential proposals which meet, as a minimum, Building Regulations M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) standard would be deemed to have complied with this criterion;
4. Identification on floor plans of internal space with potential to accommodate 'home working': this may include bedrooms where there is more than 1 bedroom proposed;
5. Provision of electric car charging infrastructure (*see Policy NS18*);
6. Infrastructure that supports car free development and lifestyles;
7. Having multiple well-placed entrances on larger non-residential buildings to allow for easier subdivision; and
8. Is resilient to flood risk, from all forms of flooding (*see Policy S21*).

Policy S21: Flood Risk and Water Resources

Flood Risk

All development proposals will be considered against the NPPF, including application of the sequential and, if necessary, the exception test.

Through appropriate consultation and option appraisal, development proposals should demonstrate:

- a) that they are informed by and take account of the best available information from all sources of flood risk and by site specific flood risk assessments where appropriate;
- b) that the development does not place itself or existing land or buildings at increased risk of flooding;
- c) that the development will be safe during its lifetime taking into account the impacts of climate change and will be resilient to flood risk from all forms of flooding such that in the event of a flood the development could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment;
- d) that the development does not affect the integrity of existing flood defences and any necessary flood mitigation measures have been agreed with the relevant bodies, where adoption, ongoing maintenance and management have been considered and any necessary agreements are in place;
- e) how proposals have taken a positive approach to reducing overall flood risk and have considered the potential to contribute towards solutions for the wider area; and
- f) that they have incorporated Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management into the proposals unless they can be shown to be inappropriate.

Protecting the Water Environment

Development proposals that are likely to impact on surface or ground water should consider the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Development proposals should demonstrate:

- g) that water is available to support the development proposed;
- h) that adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development. Non mains foul sewage disposal solutions should only be considered where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that connection to a public sewer is not feasible;
- i) that they meet the Building Regulation water efficiency standard of 110 litres per occupier per day or the highest water efficiency standard that applies at the time of the planning application (*see also Policy S12*);

- j) that water reuse and recycling and rainwater harvesting measures have been incorporated wherever possible in order to reduce demand on mains water supply as part of an integrated approach to water management (*see also Policy S11*);
- k) that they have followed the surface water hierarchy for all proposals:
 - i. surface water runoff is collected for use;
 - ii. discharge into the ground via infiltration;
 - iii. discharge to a watercourse or other surface water body;
 - iv. discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain or other drainage system, discharging to a watercourse or other surface water body;
 - v. discharge to a combined sewer;
- l) that no surface water connections are made to the foul system;
- m) that surface water connections to the combined or surface water system are only made in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that there are no feasible alternatives (this applies to new developments and redevelopments) and where there is no detriment to existing users;
- n) that no combined sewer overflows are created in areas served by combined sewers, and that foul and surface water flows are separated;
- o) that development contributes positively to the water environment and its ecology where possible and does not adversely affect surface and ground water quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;
- p) that development with the potential to pose a risk to groundwater resources is not located in sensitive locations to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;
- q) how Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management to deliver improvements to water quality, the water environment and to improve amenity and biodiversity net gain wherever possible have been incorporated into the proposal unless they can be shown to be impractical;
- r) that relevant site investigations, risk assessments and necessary mitigation measures for source protection zones around boreholes, wells, springs and water courses have been agreed with the relevant bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency and relevant water companies);
- s) that suitable access is safeguarded for the maintenance of watercourses, water resources, flood defences and drainage infrastructure; and
- t) that adequate provision is made to safeguard the future maintenance of water bodies to which surface water and foul water treated on the site of the development is discharged, preferably by an appropriate authority (e.g. Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Water Company, the Canal and River Trust or local Council).

In order to allow access for the maintenance of watercourses, development proposals that include or abut a watercourse should ensure no building, structure or immovable landscaping feature is included that will impede access within 8m of a watercourse, or within 16m of a tidal watercourse. Conditions may be included where relevant to ensure this access is maintained in perpetuity and may seek to ensure responsibility for maintenance of the watercourse including land ownership details up to and of the watercourse is clear and included in maintenance arrangements for future occupants.

Policy S28: Spatial Strategy for Employment

In principle, employment related development proposals should be consistent with meeting the following overall spatial strategy for employment.

The strategy is to strengthen the Central Lincolnshire economy offering a wide range of employment opportunities focused mainly in and around the Lincoln urban area and the towns of Gainsborough and Sleaford, with proportionate employment provision further down the Settlement Hierarchy (see Policy S1).

Aligned to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy, and as a key component of the Midlands Engine, there will be significant growth in a number of sectors, most notably agri-food, manufacturing, business services and the visitor economy, including accommodation and food services.

Land has been made available in appropriate locations in this plan to meet the strategic needs identified in Central Lincolnshire. Strategic Employment Sites (SES), and existing Important Established Employment Areas (IEEA) will be protected for their importance to the economy. Employment development will mainly be directed to these SES and IEEA and at Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) as part of mixed use communities being created.

Elsewhere, policies will seek to protect Local Employment Areas (LEA) to help ensure there are jobs and services available to meet the local needs of the community and to allow enterprises to flourish at suitable sites across Central Lincolnshire.

Outside of existing employment areas and allocated sites, economic development will typically be limited to small-scale proposals which satisfy the requirements of Policy S33 or Policy S34.

Policy S29: Strategic Employment Sites (SES)

The following sites are categorised as SES:

Ref	SES Site name	Gross site size (ha)	Land undeveloped at January 2022 (ha)	Status (January 2022)
E1	Teal Park, North Hykeham	36	28.85	Outline planning permission granted for the whole site. Siemens Phase 1 and 2 completed and other plots benefiting from reserved matters consents.
E2	Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (LSIP), Lincoln	11.5	7.77	Brownfield site for redevelopment. Planning consent on plot by plot basis as per masterplan. A series of outline applications have been approved. LSIP phase 2 is partially built. A further full application has been approved and has started for the enabling works.
E3	St Modwen Park, Witham St Hughs	22.3	11.72	Masterplan approved, with planning permissions granted and being implemented across the site.
E4	Somerby Park, Gainsborough	11.6	11.0	Planning application for storage and distribution centre submitted in December 2021.
E5	Sleaford Enterprise Park	14.7	14.7	Hybrid application to deliver site infrastructure and development plots granted in March 2021 for the whole site.
E6	Hemswell Cliff Business Park Extension	26	26	Detailed pre-application now underway for development of full business park plus additional land take.
Total		122.1	100.04	

Part 1:

SES will meet large scale investment needs that requires significant land take. Proposals for the development of SES should be progressed through an agreed masterplan which includes a travel plan and associated infrastructure to promote sustainable modes of travel for the site as a whole wherever possible prior to or alongside a planning application. Small scale, ancillary and/or piecemeal development that prevents or otherwise detracts from the delivery of large scale investment on an SES will be refused.

SES will primarily be developed for B2 and B8 Use Classes. Other business development under E(g) Use Class (i.e. for offices, research and development, or other industrial processes) will also be acceptable, though the local planning authority may seek to apply conditions limiting the ability to change use to other uses within Use Class E without the need for planning permission.

Part 2:

Where planning permission is required, proposals which would result in the loss of business uses under B2, B8 and E(g) Use Classes will not be permitted, unless:

- a) The proposed use will generate employment; and
- b) The proposed use, either alone or combined with other existing or proposed uses, would not adversely affect the role of the employment area or introduce conflict between uses; and
- c) The proposal will have adequate parking provision and will not result in any other unacceptable impact upon amenity; and
- d) Evidence is provided clearly demonstrating that the site has been appropriately marketed for a continuous period of 12 months or more without successful conclusion on terms that reflect the lawful use and condition of the premises – this evidence will be considered in the context of local market conditions and the state of the wider national economy.

Development under other E Use Classes, beyond E(g), will only be acceptable where the sequential test against the network and hierarchy of town centres as defined in Policy S35 is passed or where the proposed use can be shown to be clearly ancillary to existing uses on the site and will not prevent or otherwise detract from the delivery of large scale investment at the site.

Other employment generating uses, beyond those described above, will only be acceptable where the proposed use can be shown to be clearly ancillary to existing uses on the site and the proposal will not result in an unacceptable impact on the functioning of the SES.

Part 1 and Part 2 note: In the event that the Use Classes Order changes during the life of this Plan, then the closest new Use Classes to those previously categorised as B2, B8, E(g) and E Use Classes as a whole will apply for the purpose of applying the above policy, provided such new Use Classes are reasonably similar to the ones being replaced. Should no similar replacement new Use Classes arise, then the description of B2, B8 and E Use Classes as at the date of the adoption of this plan will apply for the purpose of applying this policy, and appropriate conditions or similar mechanisms will be used to enforce such provisions.

Policy S30: Employment Allocations on Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs)

The following SUEs will make significant contributions to employment land in accordance with the specific SUE Policies S69-S71.

Ref.	Sustainable Urban Extension	Approx. employment provision (ha)
COL/ABB/001	Lincoln North East Quadrant	5
COL/BOU/001	Lincoln Western Growth Corridor	20
NK/CAN/003	Lincoln South East Quadrant	7
NK/NHYK/001	Lincoln South West Quadrant	5

WL/GAIN/015	Gainsborough Southern Neighbourhood	4
WL/GAIN/001	Gainsborough Northern Neighbourhood	7
NK/SLEA/015	Sleaford West Quadrant	3
Total		51ha

Policy S31: Important Established Employment Areas (IEEA)

IEEA make a substantial contribution to the Central Lincolnshire economy. They are defined as sites located in tiers 1-4 of the Settlement Hierarchy in Policy S1 (Large Villages and above), on sites of 2ha or more and have at least 8,000sqm of ground floor space and with five or more units occupied by different businesses. The following are categorised as IEEA:

Ref.	Important Established Employment Area	Location
E8	Allenby Industrial Estate	Lincoln
E9	Great Northern Terrace	Lincoln
E10	Long Leys Road	Lincoln
E11	Outer Circle Road	Lincoln
E12	Sunningdale Trading Estate	Lincoln
E13	Chieftain Way Industrial Estate	Lincoln
E14	Waterside South	Lincoln
E16	Monks Way Site	Lincoln
E17	Spa Road East	Lincoln
E18	LN6 Industrial Area	North Hykeham
E23	Gateway Park South	Hykeham
E20	Sleaford Road Industrial Estate	Bracebridge Heath
E19	Gainsborough Industrial Area, Marshall Way.	Gainsborough
E26	Sleaford Industrial Area, Pride Parkway	Sleaford
E20	Caistor Industrial Area, North Kelsey Road	Caistor
E21	Market Rasen Industrial Area, Gallamore Lane	Market Rasen
E28	Heckington Industrial Area, Station Road.	Heckington
E27	Metheringham Industrial Area, The Moorlands	Metheringham
E22	Saxilby Industrial Area, Saxilby Road	Saxilby
E25	Camp Road Industrial Estate	Witham St Hughs

Part 1:

In IEEA, employment floor space will primarily remain in B2 and B8 Use Classes and other business development under E(g) Use Class (i.e. offices, research and development, or other industrial processes).

Proposals for additional floorspace in B2 and B8 Use Class will be supported in principle.

Other business development under E(g) Use Class will also be acceptable and the local planning authority may seek to apply conditions limiting the ability to change use to other uses within Use Class E without the need for planning permission.

Part 2:

Where permission is required, proposals which would result in the loss of business uses under B2, B8 and E(g) Use Classes will not be permitted, unless:

- a) The proposed use will generate employment; and
- b) The proposed use, either alone or combined with other existing or proposed uses would not adversely affect the role of the employment area or introduce conflict between uses; and
- c) The proposal will have adequate parking provision and will not result in any other unacceptable impact upon amenity; and
- d) Evidence is provided clearly demonstrating that the site has been appropriately marketed for a continuous period of 12 months or more without successful conclusion on terms that reflect the lawful use and condition of the premises – this evidence will be considered in the context of local market conditions and the state of the wider national economy.

Development of other E Use Classes, beyond E(g), will only be acceptable where the sequential test against the network and hierarchy of town centres as defined in Policy S35 is passed or where the proposed use can be shown to be clearly ancillary to existing uses on the site.

Other employment generating uses beyond those described above will only be acceptable where the proposed use can be shown to be clearly ancillary to existing uses on the site.

Non-employment generating proposals will not be acceptable in IEEA unless they are directly linked to existing employment uses on the site.

Part 1 and Part 2 Note: See the same note in Policy S29, which equally applies to this policy.

Policy S43: Sustainable Rural Tourism

Development proposals within villages named in the Settlement Hierarchy in Policy S1 that will deliver high quality sustainable visitor facilities including (but not limited to) visitor

accommodation, sporting attractions, and also including proposals for temporary permission in support of the promotion of events and festivals, will be supported where they:

- a) contribute to the local economy;
- b) benefit both local communities and visitors;
- c) respect the intrinsic natural and built environmental qualities of the area;
- d) are appropriate for the character of the local environment in scale, nature and appearance; and
- e) would not result in highway safety or severe traffic impacts.

Development proposals for tourism uses, wildlife related tourism and visitor accommodation in the countryside will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:

- f) part E of Policy S5 has been satisfied; or
- g) locations within settlements are unsuitable for the scale and nature of the proposal or there is an overriding benefit to the local, or wider, economy and/or community and/or environment for locating away from such built up areas and the proposal will not result in harm when considered against other policies in the plan; or
- h) it relates to an existing visitor facility which is seeking redevelopment or expansion and is of a scale, form and design appropriate to its location.

New visitor accommodation in the countryside may be restricted by means of planning conditions or a legal agreement which permits holiday use only.

The conversion or redevelopment of hotels and guest houses and any other forms of visitor accommodation to permanent residential accommodation will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the existing tourism use is no longer viable through a thorough and proportionate marketing exercise lasting not less than 12 months.

Policy S47: Accessibility and Transport

Development proposals which contribute towards an efficient and safe transport network that offers a range of transport choices for the movement of people and goods will be supported.

All developments should demonstrate, where appropriate, that they have had regard to the following criteria:

- a) Located where travel can be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes maximised;
- b) Minimise additional travel demand through the use of measures such as travel planning, safe and convenient public transport, car clubs, walking and cycling links and integration with existing infrastructure;
- c) Making allowance for low and ultra-low emission vehicle refuelling infrastructure.

Delivering Transport Related Infrastructure

All development proposals should have regard to the IDP, and, where necessary contribute to the delivery of the following transport objectives, either directly where appropriate (such as the provision of infrastructure or through the contribution of land to enable a scheme to occur) or indirectly (such as through developer contributions as set out in Policy S45).

For Strategic Transport Infrastructure:

- d) Improve and manage the strategic highway infrastructure for a range of users and increased capacity where appropriate and viable;
- e) Improve and manage the wider road infrastructure to benefit local communities including through the use of traffic management and calming initiatives where appropriate on rural roads, and key transport links in the towns and villages;
- f) Deliver opportunities for improved road and rail interaction, and avoiding impacts upon level crossings;
- g) Improve, extend and manage the strategic cycling network for a range of users;
- h) Support the enhancement of existing or proposed transport interchanges;
- i) Improve and manage the strategic highway infrastructure, wider road infrastructure and public rights of way network to deliver biodiversity net gain, including improved connectivity and extent of green infrastructure guided by local nature recovery strategy; and
- j) Explore opportunities to utilise waterways for transport, particularly freight.

For Public and Community Transport Infrastructure and Services:

- k) Assist in the implementation of infrastructure which will help all communities in Central Lincolnshire, including people living in villages and small settlements, to have opportunities to travel without a car for essential journeys;
- l) Improve the integration, efficiency, accessibility, safety, convenience and comfort of public transport stations, including both rail and buses;
- m) Deliver flexible transport services that combine public and community transport, ensuring that locally based approaches are delivered to meet the needs of communities;
- n) Assist in bringing forward one or more mobility hubs in the Lincoln area.

To demonstrate that developers have considered and taken into account the requirements of this policy, an appropriate Transport Statement/ Assessment and/ or Travel Plan should be submitted with proposals, with the precise form dependent on the scale and nature of development and agreed through early discussion with the local planning or highway authority and external bodies where relevant.

Any development that has severe transport implications will not be granted planning permission unless deliverable mitigation measures have been identified, and arrangements secured for their implementation, which will make the development acceptable in transport terms.

Policy S53: Design and Amenity

All development, including extensions and alterations to existing buildings, must achieve high quality sustainable design that contributes positively to local character, landscape and townscape, and supports diversity, equality and access for all.

Good design will be at the centre of every development proposal and this will be required to be demonstrated through evidence supporting planning applications to a degree proportionate to the proposal. Design Codes may be produced for parts of Central Lincolnshire or in support of specific developments. The approach taken in these Design Codes should be informed by the National Model Design Code and where these codes have been adopted, developments will be expected to adhere to the Code.

Proposals for new buildings should incorporate the Design Principles for Efficient Buildings in Policy S6 at the centre of design.

All development proposals will be assessed against, and will be expected to meet the following relevant design and amenity criteria. All development proposals will:

1. Context

- a) Be based on a sound understanding of the context, integrating into the surroundings and responding to local history, culture and heritage;
- b) Relate well to the site, its local and wider context and existing characteristics including the retention of existing natural and historic features wherever possible and including appropriate landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area;
- c) Protect any important local views into, out of or through the site;

2. Identity

- a) Contribute positively to the sense of place, reflecting and enhancing existing character and distinctiveness;
- b) Reflect or improve on the original architectural style of the local surroundings, or embrace opportunities for innovative design and new technologies which sympathetically complement or contrast with the local architectural style;
- c) Use appropriate, high quality materials which reinforce or enhance local distinctiveness;
- d) Not result in the visual or physical coalescence with any neighbouring settlement nor ribbon development;

3. Built Form

- a) Make effective and efficient use of land that contribute to the achievement of compact, walkable neighbourhoods;
- b) Be appropriate for its context and its future use in terms of its building types, street layout, development block type and size, siting, height, scale, massing, form, rhythm, plot widths, gaps between buildings, and the ratio of developed to undeveloped space both within a plot and within a scheme;
- c) Achieve a density not only appropriate for its context but also taking into account its accessibility;
- d) Have a layout and form that delivers efficient and adaptable homes in accordance with Policy S6 and Policy S20.

4. Movement

- a) Form part of a well-designed and connected travel network with consideration for all modes of transport offering genuine choices for non-car travel and prioritising active travel and where relevant demonstrate this through evidence clearly showing connectivity for all modes and a hierarchy of routes (also see Policy S47 and Policy S48);
- b) Maximise pedestrian and cycle permeability and avoid barriers to movement through careful consideration of street layouts and access routes both within the site and in the wider context contributing to the delivery of walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods in accordance with Policy S48;
- c) Ensure areas are accessible, safe and legible for all including people with physical accessibility difficulties;
- d) Deliver well-considered parking, including suitable electric vehicle charging points, with appropriate landscaping provided in accordance with the parking standards set out in Policy NS18 and Policy S49;
- e) Deliver suitable access solutions for servicing and utilities;

5. Nature

- a) Incorporate and retain as far as possible existing natural features including hedgerows, trees, and waterbodies particularly where these features offer a valuable habitat to support biodiversity, aligned with policies in the Natural Environment chapter of the Local Plan;
- b) Incorporate appropriate landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area, maximising opportunities to deliver diverse ecosystems and biodiverse habitats, strengthening wildlife corridors and green infrastructure networks, and helping to achieve wider goals for biodiversity net gain, climate change mitigation and adaptation and water management;

6. Public Spaces

- a) Ensure public spaces are accessible to all, are safe and secure and will be easy to maintain with clear definition of public and private spaces;
- b) Form part of a hierarchy of spaces where relevant to offer a range of spaces available for the community and to support a variety of activities and encourage social interaction;
- c) Be carefully planned and integrated into the wider community to ensure spaces feel safe and are safe through natural surveillance, being flanked by active uses and by promoting activity within the space;
- d) Maximise opportunities for delivering additional trees and biodiversity gains through the creation of new habitats and the strengthening or extending wildlife corridors and the green infrastructure network in accordance with policies in the Natural Environment chapter;

7. Uses

- a) Create or contribute to a variety of complementary uses that meet the needs of the community;
- b) Be compatible with neighbouring land uses and not result in likely conflict with existing uses unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that both the ongoing use of the neighbouring site will not be compromised, and that the amenity of occupiers of the new development will be satisfactory with the ongoing normal use of the neighbouring site;
- c) Not result in adverse noise and vibration taking into account surrounding uses nor result in adverse impacts upon air quality from odour, fumes, smoke, dust and other sources;

8. Homes and Buildings

- a) Provide homes with good quality internal environments with adequate space for users and good access to private, shared or public spaces;
- b) Be adaptable and resilient to climate change and be compatible with achieving a net zero carbon Central Lincolnshire as required by Policies S6, S7 and S8;
- c) Be capable of adapting to changing needs of future occupants and be cost effective to run by achieving the standards set out in Policy S20;
- d) Not result in harm to people's amenity either within the proposed development or neighbouring it through overlooking, overshadowing, loss of light or increase in artificial light or glare;
- e) Provide adequate storage, waste, servicing and utilities for the use proposed;

9. Resources

- a) Minimise the need for resources both in construction and operation of buildings and be easily adaptable to avoid unnecessary waste in accordance with Policies S10 and S11;
- b) Use high quality materials which are not only suitable for the context but that are durable and resilient to impacts of climate change in accordance with the requirements of Policy S20;

10. Lifespan

- a) Use high quality materials which are durable and ensure buildings and spaces are adaptive; and
- b) Encourage the creation of a sense of ownership for users and the wider community with a clear strategy for ongoing management and stewardship.

Development proposals will be expected to satisfy requirements of any adopted local design guide or design code where relevant to the proposal.

Policy S54: Health and Wellbeing

The potential for achieving positive mental and physical health outcomes will be taken into account when considering all development proposals. Where any potential adverse health impacts are identified, the applicant will be expected to demonstrate how these will be addressed and mitigated.

The Central Lincolnshire authorities will expect development proposals to promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and thus contribute to reducing health inequalities. This will be achieved by:

- a) Seeking, in line with the Central Lincolnshire Developer Contributions SPD, developer contributions towards new or enhanced health facilities from developers where

development results in a shortfall or worsening of provision, as informed by the outcome of consultation with health care commissioners;

- b) In the case of development of 150 dwellings or more, or 5ha or more for other development, developers submitting a fit for purpose Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the application or master planning stage where applicable, and demonstrating how the conclusions of the HIA have been taken into account in the design of the scheme. The HIA should be commensurate with the size of the development;
- c) Development schemes safeguarding and, where appropriate, creating or enhancing the role of allotments, orchards, gardens and food markets in providing access to healthy, fresh and locally produced food; and
- d) Ensuring quality green infrastructure provides adequate access to nature for its benefits to mental and physical health and wellbeing and potential to overcome health inequalities.

Proposals for new health care facilities

Proposals for new health care facilities should relate well to public transport services, walking and cycling routes and be easily accessible to all sectors of the community. Proposals which utilise opportunities for the multi-use and co-location of health facilities with other services and facilities, and thus co-ordinate local care and provide convenience for the community, will be particularly supported.

Policy S56: Development on Land Affected by Contamination

Development proposals must take into account the potential environmental impacts on people, biodiversity, buildings, land, air and water arising from the development itself and any former use of the site, including, in particular, adverse effects arising from pollution.

Where development is proposed on a site which is known to be or has the potential to be affected by contamination, a preliminary risk assessment should be undertaken by the developer and submitted to the relevant Central Lincolnshire Authority as the first stage in assessing the risk of contamination.

Proposals will only be permitted if:

- it can be demonstrated that the site is suitable for its proposed use;
- layout and drainage have taken adequate account of ground conditions, contamination and gas risks arising from previous uses and any proposed sustainable land remediation and
- there are no significant impacts on future users, neighbouring users, groundwater or surface water.

Policy S57: The Historic Environment

Development proposals should protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment of Central Lincolnshire.

In instances where a development proposal would affect the significance of a heritage asset (whether designated or non-designated), including any contribution made by its setting, the applicant will be required to undertake and provide the following, in a manner proportionate to the asset's significance:

- a) describe and assess the significance of the asset, including its setting, to determine its architectural, historical or archaeological interest; and
- b) identify the impact of the proposed works on the significance and special character of the asset, including its setting; and
- c) provide a clear justification for the works, especially if these would harm the significance of the asset, including its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against public benefits.

Development proposals will be supported where they:

- d) protect the significance of heritage assets (including where relevant their setting) by protecting and enhancing architectural and historic character, historical associations, landscape and townscape features and through consideration of scale, design, architectural detailing, materials, siting, layout, mass, use, and views and vistas both from and towards the asset;
- e) promote opportunities to better reveal significance of heritage assets, where possible;
- f) take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing non-designated heritage assets and their setting.

Proposals to alter or to change the use of a heritage asset, will be supported provided:

- g) the proposed use is compatible with the significance of the heritage asset, including its fabric, character, appearance, setting and, for listed buildings, interior; and
- h) such a change of use will demonstrably assist in the maintenance or enhancement of the heritage asset; and
- i) features essential to the special interest of the individual heritage asset are not harmed to facilitate the change of use.

Development proposals that will result in substantial harm to, or the total loss of, a designated heritage asset will only be granted permission where it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss, and the following criteria can be satisfied:

- j) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- k) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- l) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- m) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

Where a development proposal would result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, permission will only be granted where the public benefits, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use, outweigh the harm.

Where a non-designated heritage asset is affected by development proposals, there will be a presumption in favour of its retention, though regard will be had to the scale of any harm or loss

and the significance of the heritage asset. Any special features which contribute to an asset's significance should be retained and reinstated, where possible.

Listed Buildings

Permission to change the use of a Listed Building or to alter or extend such a building will be granted where the local planning authority is satisfied that the proposal is in the interest of the building's conservation and does not involve activities or alterations prejudicial to the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building or its setting.

Development proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will, in principle, be supported where they make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of the Listed Building.

Conservation Areas

Significant weight will be given to the protection and enhancement of Conservation Areas.

Development within, affecting the setting of, or affecting views into or out of, a Conservation Area should conserve, or where appropriate enhance, features that contribute positively to the area's special character, appearance and setting, including as identified in any adopted Conservation Area appraisal. Proposals should:

- n) retain buildings/groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and ground surfaces and architectural details that contribute to the character and appearance of the area;
- o) where relevant and practical, remove features which have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area;
- p) retain and reinforce local distinctiveness with reference to height, massing, scale, form, materials and plot widths of the existing built environment;
- q) assess, and mitigate against, any negative impact the proposal might have on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and landscape; and
- r) aim to protect trees, or where losses are proposed, demonstrate how such losses are appropriately mitigated against.

Archaeology

Development affecting archaeological remains, whether known or potential, designated or undesignated, should take every practical and reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their significance.

Planning applications for such development should be accompanied by an appropriate and proportionate assessment to understand the potential for and significance of remains, and the impact of development upon them.

If initial assessment does not provide sufficient information, developers will be required to undertake field evaluation in advance of determination of the application. This may include a range of techniques for both intrusive and non-intrusive evaluation, as appropriate to the site.

Wherever possible and appropriate, mitigation strategies should ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision must be made for preservation by record according to an agreed written scheme of investigation submitted by the developer and approved by the planning authority.

Any work undertaken as part of the planning process must be appropriately archived in a way agreed with the local planning authority.

Policy S58: Protecting Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford's Setting and Character

All development proposals should contribute to the realisation of the following key principles:

Lincoln

- a) Protect the dominance and approach views of Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and uphill Lincoln on the skyline;
- b) Protect Lincoln's distinct built heritage and townscape character as set out in the Lincoln Townscape Character Assessment;
- c) Respect Lincoln's unique character and setting and relationship with surrounding villages by maintaining and enhancing a strategic green infrastructure network around and into the City, including Green Wedges (see Policy S63) to protect the City's green character and to maintain the setting and integrity of surrounding villages;
- d) Proposals within, adjoining or affecting the setting of the 11 Conservation Areas and 3 historic parks and gardens within the built up area of Lincoln, should preserve and enhance their special character, setting, appearance and respect their special historic and architectural context;

- e) Support the development of art, cultural and leisure assets and facilities, such as the Collection, the Theatre Royal, the Engine Shed, Arboretum and Whisby Nature Park, and improve access to such assets and facilities; and
- f) Do not detract from the open character of Lincoln's Brayford Pool and waterways, protecting and enhancing them as a major focal points in and through the City.

Gainsborough

- g) Take into account the Gainsborough Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Gainsborough Town Centre Heritage Masterplan;
- h) Protect and enhance the landscape character and setting of Gainsborough and the surrounding villages by ensuring key gateways are landscaped to enhance the setting of the town, minimise impact upon the open character of the countryside and to maintain the setting and integrity of surrounding villages.

Sleaford

- i) Take into account the Sleaford Masterplan, Sleaford Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal, Sleaford Town Centre Regeneration SPD and any subsequent guidance;
- j) Protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the Castle Site, Market Place, the Bass Maltings, Money's Mill and Yard, Handley Monument and Northgate, through sensitive development and environmental improvement;
- k) Protect important local views of Sleaford, including the Bass Maltings complex and its setting, from both within and outside the town;
- l) Support the development of art, cultural and leisure assets and facilities within or close to the town centre, and improve access to such assets and facilities, such as The Hub (the National Centre for Craft and Design);
- m) Protect and enhance the River Sleas Navigation Corridor as a major focal point for the town, optimising its use and value for recreation, tourism and biodiversity, and taking into account the opportunities identified in the Sleaford Urban Opportunities Study;
- n) Support the development of the Sleaford East West Leisure Link as the key component of the Sleaford Urban Green Grid in accordance with the Sleaford Masterplan and Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Study and take opportunities to deliver improvements to the wider Green Infrastructure network.

Policy S59: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

The Central Lincolnshire Authorities will safeguard green and blue infrastructure in Central Lincolnshire from inappropriate development and work actively with partners to maintain and improve the quantity, quality, accessibility and management of the green infrastructure network.

Proposals that cause loss or harm to the green and blue infrastructure network will not be supported unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on green infrastructure are unavoidable, development will only be supported if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided.

Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green and blue infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design from the outset. Where new green infrastructure is proposed, the design and layout should take opportunities to:

- a) incorporate a range of types and sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and environmental features that are appropriate to the development and the wider green and blue infrastructure network to maximise the delivery of multi-functionality;
- b) deliver biodiversity net gain and support ecosystem services;
- c) respond to landscape/townscape and historic character;
- d) support climate change adaptation and resilience including through use of appropriate habitats and species; and
- e) encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

Development proposals must protect the linear features of the green and blue infrastructure network that provide connectivity between green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways and waterways, and take opportunities to improve and expand such features.

Development will be expected to make a contribution proportionate to their scale towards the establishment, enhancement and on-going management of green and/or blue infrastructure by contributing to the development of the strategic green infrastructure network within Central Lincolnshire, in accordance with the Developer Contributions SPD.

Policy S60: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity

All development should:

- a) protect, manage, enhance and extend the ecological network of habitats, species and sites of international, national and local importance (statutory and non-statutory), including sites that meet the criteria for selection as a Local Site;
- b) minimise impacts on biodiversity and features of geodiversity value;

- c) deliver measurable and proportionate net gains in biodiversity in accordance with Policy S61; and
- d) protect and enhance the aquatic environment within or adjoining the site, including water quality and habitat.

Part One: Designated Sites

The following hierarchy of sites will apply in the consideration of development proposals:

1. International Sites

The highest level of protection will be afforded to internationally protected sites. Development proposals that will have an adverse impact on the integrity of such areas, will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the NPPF.

Development proposals that are likely to result in a significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other proposals, on any internationally designated site, must satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations (or any superseding similar UK legislation). Development requiring Appropriate Assessment will only be allowed where it can be determined, taking into account mitigation, that the proposal would not result in significant adverse effects on the site's integrity.

2. National Sites (NNRs and SSSIs)

Development proposals should avoid impact on these nationally protected sites. Development proposals within or outside a national site, likely to have an adverse effect, either individually or in combination with other developments, will not normally be supported unless the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the adverse impacts on the features of the site and any adverse impacts on the wider network of nationally protected sites.

3. Irreplaceable Habitats

Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy will be delivered.

4. Local Sites (LNR, LWS and LGS)

Development likely to have an adverse effect on locally designated sites, their features or their function as part of the ecological network, will only be supported where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss, and the coherence of the local ecological network is maintained. Where significant harm cannot be avoided, the mitigation hierarchy should be followed.

Part Two: Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

All development proposals will be considered in the context of the relevant Local Authority's duty to promote the protection and recovery of priority species and habitats.

Development should seek to preserve, restore and re-create priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Where adverse impacts are likely, development will only be supported where the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh these impacts. In such cases, appropriate mitigation or compensatory measures will be required.

Part Three: Mitigation of Potential Adverse Impacts

Development should avoid adverse impact on existing biodiversity and geodiversity features as a first principle, in line with the mitigation hierarchy. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort where there is no alternative.

Development will only be supported where the proposed measures for mitigation and/or compensation along with details of net gain are acceptable to the Local Planning Authority in terms of design and location, and are secured for the lifetime of the development with appropriate funding mechanisms that are capable of being secured by condition and/or legal agreement.

If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused.

Policy S61: Biodiversity Opportunity and Delivering Measurable Net Gains

Following application of the mitigation hierarchy, all development proposals should ensure opportunities are taken to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity features proportionate to their scale, through site layout, design of new buildings and proposals for existing buildings with consideration to the construction phase and ongoing site management.

Development proposals should create new habitats, and links between habitats, in line with Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity and Green Infrastructure Mapping evidence, the biodiversity opportunity area principles set out in Appendix 4 to this Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (once completed), to maintain and enhance a network of wildlife sites and corridors, to minimise habitat fragmentation and provide opportunities for species to respond and adapt to climate change.

Proposals for major and large scale development should seek to deliver wider environmental net gains where feasible.

Biodiversity Net Gain

The following part of the policy applies unless, and until, subsequently superseded, in whole or part, by national regulations or Government policy associated with the delivery of mandatory biodiversity net gain arising from the Environment Act 2021. Where conflict between the policy below and the provisions of Government regulations or national policy arises, then the latter should prevail.

All qualifying³⁰ development proposals must deliver at least a 10% measurable biodiversity net gain attributable to the development. The net gain for biodiversity should be calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric.

Biodiversity net gain should be provided on-site wherever possible. Off-site measures will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that, after following the mitigation hierarchy, all reasonable opportunities to achieve measurable net gains on-site have been exhausted or where greater gains can be delivered off-site where the improvements can be demonstrated to be deliverable and are consistent with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

All development proposals, unless specifically exempted by Government, must provide clear and robust evidence for biodiversity net gains and losses in the form of a biodiversity gain plan, which should ideally be submitted with the planning application (or, if not, the submission and approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development commences will form a condition of any planning application approval), setting out:

- a) information about the steps to be taken to minimise the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the onsite habitat and any other habitat;
- b) the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat;
- c) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat following implementation of the proposed ecological enhancements/interventions;
- d) the ongoing management strategy for any proposals;
- e) any registered off-site gain allocated to the development and the biodiversity value of that gain in relation to the development; and
- f) exceptionally any biodiversity credits purchased for the development through a recognised and deliverable offsetting scheme.

Demonstrating the value of the habitat (pre and post-development) with appropriate and robust evidence will be the responsibility of the applicant. Proposals which do not demonstrate that the post-development biodiversity value will exceed the pre-development value of the onsite habitat by a 10% net gain will be refused.

Ongoing management of any new or improved onsite and offsite habitats, together with monitoring and reporting, will need to be planned and funded for 30 years after completion of a development.

Policy S66: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

Development proposals should be prepared based on the overriding principle that:

- the existing tree and woodland cover is maintained, improved and expanded; and
- opportunities for expanding woodland are actively considered, and implemented where practical and appropriate to do so.

Existing Trees and Woodland

Planning permission will only be granted if the proposal provides evidence that it has been subject to adequate consideration of the impact of the development on any existing trees and woodland found on-site (and off-site, if there are any trees near the site, with 'near' defined as the distance comprising 12 times the stem diameter of the off-site tree). If any trees exist on or near the development site, 'adequate consideration' is likely to mean the completion of a British Standard 5837 Tree Survey and, if applicable, an Arboricultural Method Statement.

Where the proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of:

- a) ancient woodland; and/or
- b) the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland,

permission will be refused, unless and on an exceptional basis the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

Where the proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order or a tree within a Conservation Area, then permission will be refused unless:

- c) there is no net loss of amenity value which arises as a result of the development; or
- d) the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

Where the proposal will result in the loss of any other tree or woodland not covered by the above, then the Council will expect the proposal to retain those trees that make a significant contribution to the landscape or biodiversity value of the area, provided this can be done without compromising the achievement of good design for the site.

Mitigating for loss of Trees and Woodland

Where it is appropriate for higher value tree(s) (category A or B trees (BS5837)) and/or woodland to be lost as part of a development proposal, then appropriate mitigation, via compensatory tree planting, will be required. Such tree planting should be on-site wherever possible and should:

- e) take all opportunities to meet the six Tree Planting Principles (see supporting text); and
- f) unless demonstrably impractical or inappropriate, provide the following specific quantity of compensatory trees:

Trunk diameter(mm) at 1.5m above ground of tree lost to development	Number of replacement trees required, per tree lost*
75 - 200	1
210 - 400	4
410 - 600	6
610 - 800	9

810 - 1000	10
1000+	11

* replacement based on selected standards 10/12 cm girth at 1m

New Trees and Woodland

Where appropriate and practical, opportunities for new tree planting should be explored as part of all development proposals (in addition to, if applicable, any necessary compensatory tree provision). Where new trees are proposed, they should be done so on the basis of the five Tree Planting Principles. Proposals which fail to provide practical opportunities for new tree planting will be refused.

Planting schemes should include provision to replace any plant failures within five years after the date of planting. Planting of trees must be considered in the context of wider plans for nature recovery which seeks to increase biodiversity and green infrastructure generally, not simply planting of trees, and protecting / enhancing soils, particularly peat soils. Tree planting should only be carried out in appropriate locations that will not impact on existing ecology or opportunities to create alternative habitats that could deliver better enhancements for people and wildlife, including carbon storage. Where woodland habitat creation is appropriate, consideration should be given to the economic and ecological benefits that can be achieved through natural regeneration. Any tree planting should use native and local provenance tree species suitable for the location.

Management and Maintenance

In instances where new trees and/or woodlands are proposed, it may be necessary for the council to require appropriate developer contributions to be provided, to ensure provision is made for appropriate management and maintenance of the new trees and/or woodland.

Hedgerows

Proposals for new development will be expected to retain existing hedgerows where appropriate and integrate them fully into the design having regard to their management requirements.

Proposals for new development will not be supported that would result in the loss of hedges of high landscape, heritage, amenity or biodiversity value unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh the loss and this loss can be clearly demonstrated to be unavoidable.

Development requiring the loss of a hedgerow protected under The Hedgerow Regulations will only be supported where it would allow for a substantially improved overall approach to the design and landscaping of the development that would outweigh the loss of the hedgerow. Where any hedges are lost, suitable replacement planting or restoration of existing hedges, will be required within the site or the locality, including appropriate provision for maintenance and management.

Policy S67: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy.

With the exception of allocated sites, significant development resulting in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be supported if:

- a) The need for the proposed development has been clearly established and there is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and
- b) The benefits and/or sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect such land, when taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and
- c) The impacts of the proposal upon ongoing agricultural operations have been minimised through the use of appropriate design solutions; and
- d) Where feasible, once any development which is supported has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use (this condition will be secured by planning condition where appropriate).

Where proposals are for sites of 1 hectare or larger, which would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, an agricultural land classification report should be submitted, setting out the justification for such a loss and how criterion b has been met.