

East Lindsey Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report 2007

Refreshed 2011

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

**East Lindsey District Council is writing with its Local Plan, which will eventually replace the East Lindsey Local Plan 1995 (alteration 1999) and will set out the strategy with regard to the way in which land is utilised and new developments are progressed.**

**Certain documents contained within the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that make up the Local Plan must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in line with regulations. The SA/SEA process aims to minimise adverse impacts and resolve, as far as possible, conflicting impacts the DPD outputs may have on sustainable development. The first stage of this process sets the scope of the appraisal by reviewing the policy framework in which the DPD sits and identifying the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the district. The key output of this process is the SA framework. This is a tool that will be used to appraise the emerging proposals and policies in each DPD prepared by East Lindsey District Council. This is underpinned by SA objectives that reflect the policy framework and the key sustainability issues within the district.**

**East Lindsey is the third largest district in the UK. Its population is spread among 200 settlements; there is no single dominating urban centre and much of the district is rural in its character. Skegness and Louth are the largest towns. The vast expanses of coastline and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide a high quality environment for wildlife and people. However, there are numerous sustainability issues to be addressed. The population of East Lindsey is characterised by out-migration of young adults and in-migration of retiring professionals. The resultant shortage of skilled workers is intensified by a lack of skilled employment opportunities, low wage levels and part time or seasonal employment. The economy has historically been based on agriculture and tourism, and now faces the challenge of diversifying in a sustainable manner. The district is a fairly 'healthy' place to live but does have a relatively high number of residents with long term health problems, which can be worsened by poor or limited access to healthcare facilities (e.g. as a result of dispersed settlements, inadequate public transport facilities and physical isolation for those without private transport). Access to green infrastructure (e.g. open green space, public parks and nature reserves) has an important role to play in delivering health benefits. Improving access to local and district services is also a key challenge and one that is constrained by the rural and dispersed nature of many settlements. Because of low incomes and rising house prices, some social groups are denied access to affordable and quality housing.**

**Climate change and changing weather patterns are probably one of the most important issues to be addressed, as the consequences of more regular and possibly extreme flood events along the coast and inland, and changes in water availability, could be significant. The LDF will seek to address this and other sustainability issues within the East Lindsey district.**

The SA objectives that have been developed are presented below:

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste.</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Ensure that local housing needs are met.</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for "healthy lifestyles"</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.</b>

The SA framework in which the objectives will sit will be used to test the emerging proposals and policies in each DPD to ensure they are developed in line with sustainability principles.

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# 1 Introduction

## Overview

1.1 East Lindsey District Council, the statutory Local Planning Authority for the district, is preparing the East Lindsey Local Plan.

1.2 As part of this process, East Lindsey District Council commissioned Faber Maunsell to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and provide an independent view of the emerging proposals and policies. In line with Government Guidance, the SA also aims to meet the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and will ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are taken into account in an integrated way. Integrating sustainable development in development plans is a key Government objective reflected in Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Communities:

*'Planning authorities should ensure that sustainable development is treated in an integrated way in their development plans. In particular, they should carefully consider the interrelationship between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development.'*<sup>1</sup>

1.3 This report presents the findings of the SA process so far and is part of a broader consultation on East Lindsey's LDF. *After the work on the Scoping Report was completed, the Council undertook to continue working on the Appraisal Part of the SA/SEA and has updated the Scoping Report to cover changes to the National Government approach, following the 2010 General Election, and subsequent changes this has made to organisations, documents and other matters that impact on the SA/Sea.* A wide range of consultees have already been involved in the initial stages of the SA process.

1.4 To help make it clearer, this report has been colour coded as set out below.

- Chapters (and other important information) that provide background and context to the SA process are highlighted in grey
- Chapters (and other important information) directly relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal process (stage A only) are highlighted in shades of blue
- Information within chapters that refers directly to Strategic Environmental Assessment is highlighted in purple.

## East Lindsey District Council's Local Plan

1.5 East Lindsey District Council is required to produce a Local Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Local Plan is made up of Local Development Documents (LDDs) and will set out the land use strategy for the district. It includes:

- Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- Local Development Scheme (LDS)
- Development Plan Documents (DPD) (i.e. Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Settlement Proposals and Proposal Map)
- Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) (optional)
- Local Development Orders and Simplified Planning Zones (optional)

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (paragraph 24)

*East Lindsey District Council's Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the preparation of the Local Plan*

- 1.6 East Lindsey's Local Plan will eventually replace the East Lindsey adopted Local Plan 1995 (alteration 1999). Some of the policies in the adopted Local Plan 1995 (alteration 1999) were 'saved' for three years from the introduction of the act in 2004 to provide the policy framework for the district.
- 1.7 East Lindsey District Council has prepared an LDS that sets out a 'project plan' to show which documents will be produced, in what order and when. The Council has also prepared its SCI that sets out how the Council will involve the public, groups and organisations in consultation on the different documents in the LDF. Both of the above documents can be viewed at <http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/LDF>.
- 1.8 The first DPDs being produced by East Lindsey District Council that will be subject to SA are:
  - The Core Strategy DPD; and
  - The East Lindsey Settlement Proposals DPD
- 1.9 The preparation of all DPDs will take account of East Lindsey District Council Cooperate Strategy. The key objectives (or ambitions) are set out below.

<b>Vision</b>					
<i>A District with healthy, prosperous, vibrant people and places</i>					
<b>Mission</b>					
<i>An efficient, entrepreneurial and effective local authority</i>					
	<b>Enabling and supporting PEOPLE</b>		<b>Shaping PLACES</b>		<b>Building PROSPERITY</b>
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>1. Enable people to get actively involved in their community</b>	<b>2. Improve equality of opportunity and life chances</b>	<b>3. Contributing to environmental sustainability and adapting to climate change</b>	<b>4. Developing and nurturing the character and viability of our towns, villages and rural areas</b>	<b>5. Helping to develop the right environment for a growing economy – building on current strengths and creating new business sectors</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>	1(a) Active, strong and resilient communities with the skills and capacity to improve wellbeing in their own communities 1(b) Well informed communities with the opportunity to influence decision making	2(a) Individuals and families in need, receive integrated support form ELDC and its partners 2(b) Inequalities are reduced in East Lindsey's communities 2(c) Services and information are available in a wide variety of ways that recognise the diversity of the district	3(a) Communities are fully aware of the potential impact of climate change on the district, and supported in adapting to change 3(b) Built and natural environments are enjoyed and valued by residents and visitors 3(c) A high quality and clean local environment	4(a) Planning policies and a Local Development Framework are in place that enable appropriate patterns of development, economic growth and a mix of housing 4(b) Housing needs are met by working in partnership with housing providers 4(c) A diverse district that is celebrated by residents, businesses and visitors	5(a) Strong and active business networks support an active and collaborative business sector 5(b) East Lindsey is recognised as a business destination with increased numbers of higher skilled job opportunities 5(c) Increased choice in the visitor economy with an extended season, and recognised for our traditional, cultural and green tourism

<b>We Will</b>	<p>1(i) keep residents well informed about what we do, how decisions are made, and how communities can safely so more themselves</p> <p>1(ii) provide more opportunities for residents, business and our partners to influence how our services are developed and delivered</p> <p>1(iii) support the transfer of assets to community ownership or management where this is an appropriate, sustainable cost effective option; and provide support to enable this to happen</p> <p>1(iv) focus community grants on projects that have a lasting benefit and promote resilience and self reliance</p> <p>1(v) support the voluntary sectors, encouraging the development of social enterprise to deliver local services</p> <p>1(vi) help communities to keep in touch with each other</p> <p>1(vii) encourage and support sustainable volunteering and harness local skills</p> <p>1(viii) support councillors to further develop their leadership role in the community</p>	<p>2(i) ensure that there we deliver universal services consideration is made of the diverse needs of the district</p> <p>2(ii) lobby to seek additional resources to support independent living in recognition of the specific needs of the community</p> <p>2(iii) work with partners to maximise external resources to support healthy lifestyles</p> <p>2(iv) take account of the rural nature of the district when delivering, designing or commissioning services in order to maximise accessibility</p> <p>2(v) to provide services to members of the community who are the most vulnerable and require help to meet basic needs</p>	<p>3(i) build resilience in our communities to minimise the danger of flooding and other emergency situations</p> <p>3(ii) ensure that coastal and inland flood risk remains high on the agenda of government departments and other agencies, and in our own policies</p> <p>3(iii) support local communities to reduce carbon emissions while securing year on year reductions in our own, and show leadership through demonstrating environmentally sustainable practices in how we carry out our businesses</p> <p>3(iv) ensure the delivery of an efficient and effective waste collection service that encourages recycling</p>	<p>4(i) create a more area based approach to service delivery in order to be more responsive to local need and opportunity</p> <p>4(ii) actively recognise the diverse needs of the coast, the Wolds, market towns and rural areas in the design and delivery of services</p> <p>4(iii) seek to maximise external resources to support our partners in addressing the housing needs of our community</p> <p>4(iv) develop and adopt supportive planning policies and LDF to support business development, growth and diversification</p> <p>4(v) support and enhance quality of life through appropriate regulatory regimes</p> <p>4(vi) robustly campaign for the provision of enhanced infrastructure to support business development, growth and diversification</p>	<p>5(i) aim to achieve a year on year increase in the district's visitor economy</p> <p>5(ii) work with partners to develop more choice in the type and level of training and skills available to people and businesses</p> <p>5(iii) support and develop a growing programme of events and festivals that add value to the economy, through seeking external funding and sponsorship</p> <p>5(iv) support town partnerships to enable them to become self-sustaining and contribute to the increased viability of their town</p> <p>5(v) in partnership with the business sector, organise business networking events and mechanisms</p> <p>5(vi) consider the economic impact of everything we do</p> <p>5(vii) aim to reduce the factors that restrict economic growth</p>
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## Sustainability Appraisal

### *What is SA and what will it cover?*

1.11 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development. Sustainable development is recognised internationally as:



*'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'*

- 1.12 The SA will appraise and assess from an early stage in the plan making process, the social, economic and environmental effects of policies and proposals for each DPD. It will aim to avoid or minimise adverse impacts and resolve, as far as possible, conflicting impacts. It will allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development as required by Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.13 The SA will integrate two separate appraisal processes as highlighted below (Table 1.1). The current Government guidance<sup>2</sup> for undertaking SA of DPDs and for SEA<sup>3,4</sup> advises that both processes can be combined, and it is this approach that has been adopted. SA will therefore refer to a single appraisal process.

**Table 1.1: Comparison SA and SEA (based on<sup>5</sup>)**

	<b>Appraisal process 1 - SA</b>	<b>Appraisal process 2 - SEA</b>
<b>Aim of the process is to...</b>	Promote sustainable development by understanding the effects of, and improving policies, strategies to deliver more sustainable outcomes.	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by assessing and mitigating negative environmental impacts.
<b>Emphasis of the process is on...</b>	Consideration (and where necessary balancing) of social, economic and environmental impacts.	Providing information on environmental impacts, consultation, documenting decisions.

*The appraisal process will also meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law). This is a distinct process that is concerned with providing a high level of protection to the environment through the integration of environmental considerations during the development of plans and programmes such as Local Development Frameworks*

You can read more about SA and SEA at the following link:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/what-is-a-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

### **Why is SA necessary?**

- 1.15 East Lindsey's DPDs must be subject to SA in line with the following legislation:
- The requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for a Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken of Local Development Frameworks
  - Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767: the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (Local Development Regulations)
  - The requirements under EU Directive 2001/42 (transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) for a

<sup>2</sup> ODPM (2005): 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) and Local Development Documents'.

<sup>3</sup> ODPM (2005): 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'.

<sup>4</sup> ODPM (2003): 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for Local Planning Authorities'.

<sup>5</sup> Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (2006): 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans'; and Therivel, R. (2006) 'Appropriate assessment of land use plans – Preparing for the coming storm', *Town and Country Planning*, June

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken of Local Development Frameworks

### **Guidance on Appraising Plans**

1.16 This SA has been carried out in accordance with the guidance set out in the following documents:

- ODPM (2005): Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) and Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
- ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

### **What is the process?**

1.17 SA is an integral part of the LDF process (see Figure 1.1, Appendix A) and will be undertaken in five stages as the DPDs are developed. SA stages A to E are summarised in Table 1.2. Stage A, which relates to this report, is highlighted blue.

1.18 You can read more about the SA process at the link in paragraph 1.13 above.

**Table 1.2: Summary of the SA process (stages A to E)**

<b>SA Stage</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b><i>SA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope (Scoping)</i></b>	The framework for appraisal is developed for consultation through review of relevant plans & programmes, identification of key sustainability issues, collation of baseline information and development of SA objectives. The outputs are presented in a SA Scoping Report (this document).
<b><i>SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</i></b>	Appraisals of alternative and preferred options associated with each DPD.
<b><i>SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></b>	Preparation of the SA Report for consultation (documents the findings of SA stages A and B).
<b><i>SA Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the Development Plan Document and the Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></b>	Consultation of SA Report (and DPD) and review and account taken of responses received
<b><i>SA Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Development Plan Document</i></b>	Finalise the monitoring arrangements to highlight specific performance issues, significant effects and lead to more informed decision making.

1.20 The SA process will aim to:

- Take a long term view of how the East Lindsey district is expected to develop
- Reflect global, national, regional and local issues and concerns
- Integrate sustainability objectives into sustainable planning policies
- Provide auditable, transparent and robust outputs that clearly demonstrate how the appraisal process has influenced the development of each DPD
- Allow information exchange between the SA process and DPD development from an early stage and throughout the plan making process

1.21 The SA process is meant to be a continuous, iterative process, which should inform and influence the development of the DPDs at each stage. The information collected and outputs produced as part of the SA process will therefore be regularly reviewed and updated throughout the production of each DPD.

### **Sustainability Appraisal Stage A: Scoping – Background**

1.22 In September 2006, East Lindsey District Council commissioned Faber Maunsell to carry out work on the SA for the then LDF. The SA project team comprises representatives from East Lindsey District Council and Faber Maunsell. Faber Maunsell undertook the scoping stage in close liaison with East Lindsey District Council representatives. A wide range of consultees were informally consulted on elements within this report including elected Council Members and organisational representatives. You can read more about the SA consultation process in Chapter 8.

- 1.23 The first stage of the appraisal process, Stage A, is now complete. This Scoping Report was subject to formal consultation.
- 1.24 Following work on the Scoping Report, the Council prepared a draft Core Strategy for consultation. The Core Strategy was produced on a “no growth” basis, due to difficulties at a regional level. The content of the Core Strategy was subject to SA by Faber Maunsell, and the SA was published for consultation purposes alongside the Core Strategy.
- 1.25 In May 2010, there was a change of national government and a number of key changes were made to the planning system that enabled the Council to move forward with creating policies for the future growth of the District. At the same time, a number of cuts were made to Council budgets across the Country. It was therefore decided that the Council would continue to carry out the SA in-house, using this Scoping Report and broad SA methodology produced by Faber Maunsell for the Council.
- 1.26 The information within this Scoping Report has reviewed and revised by the Council prior to any stage B appraisal work to:
- Update the information it contains to reflect changes to the Planning System and any changes to baseline information
  - Reflect the outcome of formal consultation
  - To ensure that only relevant information is presented and used for the appraisal of each DPD
- 1.27 All sustainability issues “scoped out” through this review process will be clearly documented with reasons for their removal (see Figure 1.2, Appendix A). Stage B scoping review updates will therefore include re-evaluation of:
- The SA objectives
  - The key sustainability issue topics, issues, effects and opportunities
  - The SA framework
- 1.28 The SA Scoping Report will remain a “live” document and will be updated (as appropriate) throughout the preparation and development of the DPDs.

### **Sustainability Appraisal Stage A: Scoping – Detail**

- 1.29 Stage A of the SA process consists of five subsidiary stages as set out in Table 1.3. Whilst each stage should be completed in turn, some tasks are closely linked and need to be undertaken simultaneously – in this case, stages A1 to A4 (area within the bold line). The links between stages A1 and A5 are shown in Figure 1.2, Appendix A).

**Table 1.3: Scoping Stage A – Sub-stages, key work elements and chapter reference**

Sub-Stages and Tasks	Description	Relevant Chapter of Scoping Report	
<b>Stage A: Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on the Scope</b>			
A1	Identification of relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and review of plans, programmes and SA objectives relevant to East Lindsey’s LDF</li> <li>• Identification of ELDC sustainability objectives</li> </ul>	Chapter 3 and Chapter 4
A2	Collection of baseline information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification, collection and review of relevant baseline data and information</li> </ul>	Chapter 5
A3	Identification of sustainability issues and problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the key sustainability issues within East Lindsey District</li> </ul>	Chapter 6
A4	Development of SA framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the appraisal framework</li> </ul>	Chapter 7
A5	Consultation on the scope of the SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal consultation with East Lindsey elected Council Members and organisational representatives</li> <li>• Preparation of the Scoping Report (this document) for formal consultation</li> </ul>	Chapter 8

**Scoping Timeline**

1.30 The scoping stage was undertaken between September 2006 and June 2007, but has been updated in 2011 and again in 2014. This involved:

#### *05 September 2006 to 31 October 2006*

- 1.31 An initial inception meeting was held between Faber Maunsell and representatives from East Lindsey District Council on 05 September 2006 to agree the approach and key elements to be included in the scoping study.
- 1.32 Throughout the rest of this period, information was collated and reviewed from a wide range of sources for:
- Stage A1 - Plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
  - Stage A2 - Baseline data and information
  - Stage A3 - Sustainability Appraisal issues for the East Lindsey District
  - Stage A4 - The Sustainability Appraisal Framework
- 1.33 The outputs formed the basis of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Version A) that was submitted to East Lindsey District Council on 31 October 2006.

#### *01 November 2006 to 01 December 2006*

- 1.34 Comments on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Version A) from East Lindsey District Council were discussed at a meeting with Faber Maunsell on 16 November 2006. The key revisions included:
- Stage A1 - A reduction in the number of Sustainability Appraisal objectives for the East Lindsey District from 18 to 13. This was achieved by merging similar objectives
  - Stage A3 - Revising the sustainability issues for the East Lindsey District to sustainability issue topics. It was agreed that the issues associated with each topic would be identified via consultation workshops in the first instance
- 1.35 The outputs formed the basis of the draft SA Scoping Report (Version B) that was submitted to East Lindsey District Council on 01 December 2006.

#### *19 January 2007*

- 1.36 One workshop was undertaken with Council Members on 19 January 2007 to consult on the draft sustainability objectives and the outline sustainability issue topics for the district. The consultation exercise was based on the findings of version B of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- 1.37 You can read more about the consultation process in Chapter 8 of this report.

#### *4 April to 3 May 2007*

- 1.38 Informal consultation by post with consultation packs was undertaken with a range of stakeholders during this period to obtain views on the draft sustainability objectives and the outline sustainability issues identified during the Council Members workshop.
- 1.39 You can read more about the consultation process in Chapter 8 of this report.

#### *June 2007 - Scoping Study Output*

- 1.40 The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Version B) was updated (Version C) to reflect comments made by elected Council Members, stakeholders and from ELDC forward planning representatives. Two sets of minor amendments were subsequently made to Version C. Version E of the Scoping Report formed the final draft '*Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*' to be issued for formal consultation during July and August 2007.

#### *December 2011 - February 2014*

- 1.41 The Scoping Report was refreshed in December 2011 to ensure that the contents were still up to date (Version F) and a further reassessment of the Scoping Report took place in late 2013/ early 2014 to reflect the significant changes that had been made to Planning Policy at a national level following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the associated overhaul of Government Planning policy and guidance. Other changes were made to reflect changes to other legislation and data sources; which particularly in respect of

Government data, had undergone a similarly significant overhaul (Version G). These changes have been purely factual, in terms of the changing advice and guidance within which the Local Plan exists. It did not change the process or the objectives against which future documents will be assessed.

### **Scoping Report Aims and Structure**

1.41 This report aims to provide relevant information to aid the reader understand how the SA framework has been developed. It is aimed primarily at local and regional authorities, national agencies, other competent authorities, and the public.

1.42 Further details setting out the structure and content of this scoping report are presented in Table 1.4.

**Table 1.4: Scoping Report Structure and Content**

<b>Scoping sub-stage</b>	<b>Scoping Report Chapter</b>	<b>Related Information</b>
-	<b>Chapter 1 'Introduction'</b> : provides project background and an overview of the Sustainability Appraisal process	Figure 1.1 and 1.2 – SA process diagrams (Appendix A)
-	<b>Chapter 2 'The Study Area'</b> : provides a summary of the study area; the District of East Lindsey	Figure 2.1: The Study Area (Appendix A)
A1	<b>Chapter 3 'Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Objectives'</b> : a summary of other relevant plans, programmes and objectives relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal is given	Table B1 (Appendix B)
A1	<b>Chapter 4 'Sustainability Appraisal Objectives'</b> : contains the sustainability objectives developed for the Sustainability Appraisal including decision making criteria	Table 4.1
A2	<b>Chapter 5 'Baseline Information'</b> : presents an overview of the key social, economic and environmental baselines features within the East Lindsey District	Table C1 (Appendix C) Baseline Figures 5.1 to 5.6 - (Appendix A)
A3	<b>Chapter 6 'Key Sustainability Issues – Social, Economic and Environmental'</b> : provides detail on the key sustainability issues relevant to the East	Table 6.1

	Lindsey District	
A4	<b>Chapter 7 'The Sustainability Appraisal Framework'</b> : sets out the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that will be applicable to each Local Development Framework document subject to Sustainability Appraisal	Table 7.1
A5	<b>Chapter 8 'Scoping Consultation'</b> : provides detail on all consultation undertaken (or to be undertaken) at this stage of the Sustainability Appraisal	Information form ELDC - (Appendix D) Consultation responses – (Appendix E)
-	<b>Chapter 9 'Sustainability Appraisal Report'</b> : this chapter describes the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process and summarises the structure and content of the Sustainability Report(s)	
-	<b>Glossary: this provides definitions of key terms (including technical terms)</b>	

## 2 The Study Area

### Chapter Overview and Structure

2.1 This chapter provides an outline of the East Lindsey District and the area covered by the Local Development Framework.

### The East Lindsey District – An Overview

- 2.2 The East Lindsey district is located on the east coast of Lincolnshire. It is the third largest district in the UK and the largest within the county with an area of 1,760km<sup>2</sup>. It shares a common boundary with four other local authority areas; Boston Borough Council to the south, West Lindsey and North Kesteven District Councils to the west and North East Lincolnshire Unitary Authority to the north.
- 2.3 Nearly half of the District's population live in the seven defined towns of Louth, Skegness, Mablethorpe, Alford, Horncastle, Spilsby and Coningsby / Tattershall. There are also around two hundred smaller villages and hamlets dispersed throughout the rural areas that dominate the district. East Lindsey is predominantly rural with about 95% of its area classed as being arable land. Around half of East Lindsey comprises low-lying, coastal floodplain less than 10 metres above sea level. This is reflected in much land falling within flood zones 2 and 3 as defined by the Environment Agency (i.e. land at risk of flooding from river and the sea). However, a significant proportion of the district does lie within Flood Zone 1 (i.e. outside the floodplain), including parts of Louth, Horncastle, Alford, Spilsby and Coningsby/Tattershall.
- 2.4 The population of the district is approximately 137,000 (2011 census). The district has an ageing population, with 25.98% of the population aged 65 and over (the highest in the East Midlands Region), and only 15.3% under the age of 16. The average age of the population is 45.8 years compared to the national average of 40 years.
- 2.5 Many people are moving to East Lindsey to retire and there is also a trend of people moving from outside the district into East Lindsey to take advantage of cheaper housing. However, East Lindsey has a high outward migration rate; particularly of young people.
- 2.6 East Lindsey lacks a frequent and reliable public transport service and many areas of the district are still without adequate bus services. Villages have also suffered a decline in services such as health clinics, banks and post offices.
- 2.7 The Lincolnshire Wolds 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (AONB) covers an area of approximately 560 square kilometres and extends across parts of East Lindsey, West Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire. The total area of the AONB within East Lindsey is 397 square kilometres. The district also has a rich and diverse natural heritage including inland and coastal sites and habitats that have nature conservation and geological value. This includes sites such as The Wash, Gibraltar Point and Bardney Limewoods. Area adjacent to the AONB are often of high landscape quality, including the area known locally as the 'Spilsby Crescent' which includes Snipe Dales Nature Reserve and Country Park and a series of important local wildlife reserves often characterised by alder carr woodlands and springline habitats.
- 2.8 Further detailed information on the key social, economic and environmental features within the East Lindsey and baseline characteristics affecting the District are presented in Chapter 4, Chapter 6 and Appendix C.



# 3 Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

Chapter 1: Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

3.1 This chapter presents a review of the relevant plans, programmes and policies for the district. The following sections are included:

- Review of plans, programmes, policies and sustainability objectives (Stage A1)
- Review Approach
- Links with other scoping tasks
- Limitations

## Review of plans, programmes, policies and sustainability objectives (Stage A1)

3.2 The SA needs to take into account the relationship between the Local Plan and the wider policy framework within which it sits. Furthermore, the contents of the Local Plan may influence (and have influence over) this policy framework. The SEA Regulations 2004 also require information on plans, programmes and other environmental protection objectives to be taken into consideration.

### ***The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]:***

- ***The "relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes" (Annex I(a))***
- ***"The environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation" (Annex I (e))***

3.3 The review also allows inconsistencies or conflicts between the Local Plan and the policy framework to be identified and addressed at an early stage in the SA process.

## Review Approach

3.4 Documents identified as being of relevance to the SA and the Local Plan have been collated and reviewed. These have been sourced from East Lindsey District Council and from other published sources. The key relevant objectives, indicators and targets have been recorded for each document. The results from this review can be found in Table B1, Appendix B.

## Links with Other Scoping Tasks

### ***SA Stage A1 - Sustainability Appraisal Objectives***

The relevant policy objectives from the review have been used to aid development of the SA objectives to ensure consistency within the wider policy framework (see Chapter 4 for further detail). The SA objectives have been incorporated within the SA framework. This 'linked' process is important as the SA objectives will be used to assess the policies and proposals within emerging DPDs.

3.5 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A1 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

## Limitations

3.6 The information provided in Table B1 (Appendix B) is not considered to be exhaustive. However, the information documented is considered to be the most relevant at this stage (review undertaken in September 2006 and updated in June 2007 – updated December 2011 and again in late 2013/ early 2014).

## 4 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Chapter 1: Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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### Chapter Overview and Structure

4.1 This chapter presents the SA objectives and explains how these have been developed. It includes the following sections:

- Development of SA objectives
- Approach
- Links with other scoping tasks
- Limitations

### Sustainability Appraisal objectives

4.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives are either measurable or non-measurable statements that define what is to be achieved in terms of sustainable development. Although objectives are not a specific requirement of the SEA Regulations 2004, they are a recognised way in which the effects of implementing the Local Plan documents can be measured, evaluated, compared and monitored.

***The SEA should consider the likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as - biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between the above issues.***

4.3 The SA framework in which the SA objectives sit will be used to test the emerging proposals and policies within each DPD. Sustainability Appraisal objectives are particularly important, as they will influence the formulation of DPD proposals and policies. The objectives will also be used to monitor the effectiveness of policies within the plan.

### Approach

#### **Development of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

4.4 The development of SA objectives has been considered as an additional task as part of SA stage A1. However, it is recognised that objective development cuts across other scoping stages e.g. stages A3 and A4.

4.5 The SA objectives presented in Table 4.1 have been developed to assess the social, economic and environmental acceptability of East Lindsey's DPDs.

4.6 The development of objectives took place as follows:

- Account was taken of relevant sustainability objectives contained within a range of relevant documents as identified in Chapter 3 (see Table B1 (Appendix B)).
- The key sustainability topics and issues identified as part of the scoping study were utilised to provide direction for objective development (see Chapter 6).
- The first set of draft objectives (18 in total) were revised post consultation with representatives from East Lindsey District Council. It was agreed that a key aim was to develop between 12 and 14 objectives; this was achieved by combining objectives reducing the total to 13 for consultation.
- Furthermore, it was agreed that SA objectives should "stand alone" and pursue just one objective theme rather than multiple themes. The rationale being that testing

DPD objectives/policies against a single SA objective rather than a multiple one would be much simpler. Five SA objectives were revised to adhere to this principle.

- Consultation comments from the workshop on 19 January 2007 and from postal consultation with stakeholders (undertaken in April and May 2007) have also been taken into account and objectives have been revised / added as appropriate.

4.7 A total of thirteen SA objectives have been developed (see Table 4.1) as a result of the scoping study (including consultation). These objectives have also taken account of those issues that need to be addressed by the SEA Regulations 2004. The SA objectives have been tested to identify any incompatibilities between them (see Table 4.2).

4.8 Although most objectives appear to be compatible or show no apparent links, some potential incompatibilities between objectives are evident, such as:

- Between objective 10 (housing) and between objectives 1, 2 and 3 (nature conservation, landscape / the historic environment and environmental quality respectively).
- Objective 4 (flooding) and objectives 1 and 2 (nature conservation and landscape / historic environment respectively) could have both positive and negative links i.e. classification is considered to be dependent on how flood risk management is implemented.
- Objective 5 (economic growth) and objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 (nature conservation, landscape / historic environment, environmental quality and flooding respectively) could have both positive and negative links i.e. classification is considered to be dependent on how economic growth might impact upon these features. An example might be pressure to construct a new business park to provide local employment within a floodplain that has nature conservation and landscape value.
- Objective 6 (developing brownfield land) and objectives 1 and 3 (nature conservation and environmental quality) could have both positive and negative links i.e. classification is considered to be dependent on the historic use of brownfield sites which may have developed important nature conservation value (if they have been left undisturbed for long periods of time) or may be contaminated from past uses.
- Objective 10 (housing) and objective 4 (flooding) could have both positive and negative links i.e. classification is considered to be dependent on where housing is located and how mitigation for flooding is designed and implemented assuming development takes place within a floodplain.

4.9 The objectives have been subject to consultation and now represent the objective to be used for the SA.

4.10 To ensure transparency, Table 4.3 has been included to show how the initial set of sustainability objectives that were informally consulted upon have been developed based upon stakeholder comments. The table is intended to provide a visual summary. Further detail of all informal consultation comments can be found in Appendix E. Formal consultation responses can be found in Appendix G.

### **Links with Other Scoping Tasks**

#### *SA Sub-Stage A1 - Review of Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives*

The SA objectives need to take into account of the information obtained during the review of other plans and programmes (Chapter 3 and Appendix B). This should ensure that the SA objectives are in line with international, national, regional and local plans, programmes and policies.

#### *SA Stage A3 - Key Sustainability Issue Topics (Social, Economic, Environmental and Natural Resources)*

The SA objectives reflect the key sustainability issues within the district of East Lindsey (Chapter 6).

4.11 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A1 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

### Stage A1 Limitations

4.12 During the development of the SA objectives, it was important to consider their relevance in terms of the overall deliverables of the DPDs and realistically, the influence that the SA may have on emerging proposals and policies. This is important as it would be inappropriate to set objectives that cannot be directly achieved by the LDF e.g. reducing the rate of heart disease.

**Table 4.1: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		SEA Topics
1	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.	Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity
2	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.	Landscape and Cultural Heritage
3	Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.	Air, Climatic Factors, Water, Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity, and Human Health
4	Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.'	Cultural Heritage, Water, Climatic Factors, Population, Human Health, Material Assets
5	Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.	Population and Human Health
6	Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	Material Assets, Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity, and Soil
7	Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	Population, Human Health and Climatic Factors
8	Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste	Population and Landscape
9	Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.	Population and Human Health
10	Ensure that local housing needs are met.	Population and Material Assets
11	Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.	Population and Material Assets
12	Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	Population and Human Health
13	Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.	All SEA topics

**Table 4.2: Internal Compatibility of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

1. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity	1. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity	2. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.	3. Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.	4. Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.	5. Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.	6. Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites	7. Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	8. Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste.	9. Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.	10. Ensure that local housing needs are met.	11. Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.	12. Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles"	13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.
2. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.	✓												
3. Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.	✓	✓											
4. Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.	✓	✓											
5. Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.	✓	✓	✓	✓									
6. Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	✓	✓	✓		✓								
7. Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.					✓								
8. Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste.			✓										
9. Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
10. Ensure that local housing needs are met.				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
11. Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.			✓				✓			✓			
12. Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		

Draft SA Objectives (pre-formal Consultation)	Council Members Workshop Group1	Council Members Workshop Group2	Council Members Workshop Group3	Natural England	Friends, Families and Travellers	English Heritage	The Rambler's Association	The Witham Third Drainage Board IDB	East Midlands Regional Assembly	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside	Campaign to Protect Rural England	Witham Fourth District IDB	Environment Agency	Wash Estuary Project	Draft SA Objectives (pre-formal Consultation)
1. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Blue	Grey	Grey	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	1. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity
2. To protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape, townscape and historic environment	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	2. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape, townscape and historic environment
3. To protect natural resources from unnecessary losses and pollution	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	3. Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution
4. To avoid where possible the risk of flooding	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	4. Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it can be avoided
5. To promote a healthy, growing, economy to support local communities	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	5. Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district
6. To promote the re-use of previously developed land and minimise the use of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	6. Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites

7. To maintain, improve and support suitable modes of transport that provide accessibility to key services, facilities and amenities																7. Improve accessibility to key services, facilities and amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access
8. To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse and recycling rates																8. Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste
9. To create and support viable, safe and vibrant communities																9. Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities
10. To ensure that housing needs are met locally																10. Ensure that housing needs are met locally
11. To promote the sustainable design, construction and operation of new development																11. Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new development
12. To provide for healthy lifestyles																12. Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles
13. New objective suggested for climate change																13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change

# 5 Baseline

Chapter 1 : Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	<b>Chapter 5 : Stage A2</b>	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

5.1 This chapter presents an overview of all the baseline information that has been collated as part of the scoping study. It includes the following sections:

- Baseline
- Approach
- Links with other scoping tasks
- Limitations
- Baseline Maps

## Baseline

5.2 An understanding of the existing social, economic and environmental characteristics of the East Lindsey district is essential to undertaking a robust SA. It will ensure that the DPDs will achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

5.3 The current situation can be understood by collecting baseline information that will provide a description of the existing features within this geographical area. The information collected will be used to provide a standard against which future predications can be made prior to the implementation of a particular DPD. The baseline information will be collected iteratively and will feed into all other stages of the scoping study e.g. stage A1 - SA objectives; stage A3 - identification of sustainability issues; stage A4 - the SA Framework.

***The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]:***

***"Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" and "the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected "(Annex 1 (b), (c)***

## Approach

5.4 A desk based literature search has been undertaken to collect baseline information most relevant to each SA objective. The key sustainability issues have also provided direction for sourcing baseline information. The development of objectives and collation of baseline data is closely linked and is considered to be an iterative process, as demonstrated by the updates that have taken place since the first Scoping Report was published.

5.5 Baseline information has been collected from a variety of sources, all of which are documented in Table C1 (Appendix C). This includes the relevant plans, programmes and policies identified in Chapter 3 and information obtained directly from East Lindsey District Council.

## Links with Other Scoping Tasks

*SA Sub-Stage A1 - Sustainability Appraisal Objectives*

*The 'sustainability' of the DPDs will be measured by assessing how predicted future changes in the baseline situation might affect the SA objectives; the development of the SA objectives is therefore linked to and related with*



*collation of baseline information. Issues highlighted within the baseline can also be used to determine whether the SA objectives are appropriate to assess the proposals and policies within the emerging DPDs*

*SA Stage A3 - Key Sustainability Issue Topics (social, economic, environmental and natural resources)*

The collection of baseline information is intrinsically linked to understanding and identifying the key sustainability issues (social, economic and environmental)

*SA Sub-Stage A4 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework*

The baseline will feed into the development of the SA framework i.e. it will help inform the proposed monitoring measures that the SA will need to incorporate in its production. The baseline data will need periodic review and updating in order to carry out this process effectively.

- 5.6 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A2 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

### **Limitations**

- 5.7 The baseline information collated is only as accurate as its source. Much of the original baseline was derived from Census data collected in 2001, this was updated from the 2011 Census, and other plans and programmes; in many instances, it was not possible to verify the accuracy of information.
- 5.8 The main gaps and limitations which have been identified concern the age of data used; it is thought that a significant quantity of data collated may be out of date. Other issues that have arisen include the lack of availability of quantitative data (e.g. the areas of designated sites, the total length of footpaths and cycle ways), in finding direct comparators to the East Lindsey data, and in obtaining tourism information.
- 5.9 The baseline information is quite generic to the district. Particular emphasis will need to be given during all appraisal work to ensure that only relevant information is utilised for each DPD.
- 5.10 Gaps and limitations in the baseline information have been highlighted in Table C1 (Appendix C).
- 5.11 Baseline maps are not available for all baseline themes. It has been agreed with East Lindsey District Council that maps included in this draft version of the Scoping Report will be added to throughout the development of the LDF.

### **Baseline Maps**

- 5.12 Baseline maps have been produced as part of the scoping study as visual aids. Maps have only been produced for 'baseline themes' where East Lindsey District Council has datasets. In some instances, their origin is from outside the Council and information may become out of date. The following maps are included at this stage (see Appendix A):
- Figure 5.1 – Statutory Designated Nature Conservation and Geological Sites and other features of ecological interest
  - Figure 5.2(a) – AONB's and Landscape Character Areas
  - Figure 5.2(b) – AONB's and Joint Character Areas
  - Figure 5.3 – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Register Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields
  - Figure 5.4 – Watercourses and Areas at risk from flooding
  - Figure 5.5 – Selected public services across the district
  - Figure 5.6 – Public Rights of Way (bridleways and footpaths)
  - Figure 5.7 – Historic Environment Records

# 6 Key Sustainability Issues: Social, Economic and Environmental

Chapter 1 : Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

6.1 This chapter presents the key sustainability issues that have been identified for the district of East Lindsey. It includes the following sections:

- What is a sustainability issue?
- How have sustainability issues been identified?
- Links with other scoping tasks
- The key sustainability issues

## What is a Sustainability Issue?

6.2 Identifying and understanding the key sustainability issues is an important part of the SA process. These issues are reflected in the SA framework and will have to be taken into consideration throughout the development of each DPD.

***The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]: "any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/42/EEC" Annex I (d)***

6.3 For the purpose of this scoping study, the key sustainability issues are considered to be ones where:

- There is broad agreement that an issue is important within the East Lindsey, based on baseline data, monitoring reports and consultation responses (including workshop outputs, informal consultation with stakeholders and comments from East Lindsey District Council representatives)
- Future issues that can be influenced by the LDF process
- The district is underperforming compared to targets (e.g. at a national, regional or local level)

## How have Sustainability Issues been identified?

6.4 Sustainability issues have been identified by:

- Review and analysis of a range of documents (various levels) and baseline monitoring reports
- Consultation outputs (Council Member workshop and informal stakeholder consultation exercise)
- Direct liaison with representatives from East Lindsey District Council

6.5 It is important to note that data and information from all sources has been assumed to be correct at the time of review (September 2006 to June 2007, followed by updates in December 2011 and again in late 2013/ early 2014).

## Links with Other Scoping Tasks

### *SA Sub-Stage A1 - Sustainability Appraisal Objectives*

The identification of the key sustainability issues has been closely linked to the process used to develop the SA objectives. This is particularly important as this will ensure that East Lindsey's 'key issues' are appropriately addressed during the production and appraisal of each DPD.

#### *SA Sub-Stage A2 - Baseline*

The key sustainability issues have been partly derived from information collated for the district (Chapter 5). This should ensure a robust approach throughout all subsequent stages of the SA process.

6.6 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A3 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

#### **The Key Sustainability Issues**

6.7 East Lindsey is a desirable place to live and overall has a healthy environment; its tranquillity is considered to be one of its major attractions. Most residents do experience a good quality of life. However, it does still present a number of challenges with regard to meeting overarching sustainability objectives.

6.8 With regard to geographical context, it is recognised that particular sustainability issues might be relevant to the whole of the district whereas others may be most relevant to specific areas.

6.9 For each sustainability issue discussed, the associated SA objectives have been highlighted to help the reader understand the rationale for the development of each SA objective.

**Table 6.1 Key Sustainability Issues (Social, Economic and Environmental)**

#### **Key SA Issues**

##### **Society (population and distribution)**

East Lindsey is the third largest district in the UK with a population of approximately 137,000 (2011 Census). There is no one single urban centre that dominates, but a number of relatively small towns such as Skegness (19,579 population), Louth (16,419 population), Mablethorpe/Sutton (12,531), Horncastle (6,815), Alford (3,459), Spilsby (3,045) and Coningsby/Tattershall (6,698). Less than 5% of the district is considered to be 'urban'. The rest is of a rural character (c. 95%) with more than 200 smaller scattered settlements dispersed amongst land utilised for agriculture. This geographical distribution of residents across such a large and relatively remote district poses some key challenges. These include physical isolation (e.g. for the elderly, those with impairments, and those without access to private transport), health problems (e.g. isolation is closely related to health of population and can lead to health/psychological issues), poor access to public facilities and amenities (e.g. health centres, education, open space, etc) and inadequate service provisions (e.g. the existing services are spread thinly across many fragmented settlements).

The population has grown slowly over the past 20 years (approximately 1% per annum) within which time, the demographic profile has altered. This is a result of high outward migration of young adults (e.g. those seeking opportunities for higher/skilled employment and/or education/training outside the district) and inward migration of those within the 50 to 80 year age group (e.g. those seeking a better quality of life as a result of comparatively lower house prices within the district, especially along the coast). There are also seasonal changes in population structure and distribution as a result of transient residents (e.g. seasonal workers in Skegness and Mablethorpe and tourists).

Rural isolation can be a problem but the area's rural charm and tranquillity is also a major strength that does need protecting in its own right. It is a key characteristic that attracts residents to move and / or visit the area.

#### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 7 and 9**

## **Society (health)**

The district is a fairly 'healthy' place to live. However, there are a relatively high number of households (c. 25.95%, 2011 census) with one or more residents with a long-term limiting illness. These residents are also more likely to incur social and economic impacts (e.g. physical isolation / reliance on benefits respectively). 8.2% defined their general health as "bad" or "very bad", and 12.97% were providing unpaid care for another person. These key health characteristics are exacerbated by an aging population and poor or limited access to healthcare facilities. (e.g. as a result of fragmented and dispersed settlements, inadequate public transport facilities and physical isolation for those without private transport or who are housebound).

Access to green infrastructure (e.g. public parks, nature reserves, public footpaths, children's play areas/parks etc) is also a key challenge for the district. Access to 'green space' has an important role to play in delivering health benefits and opportunities for additional health, leisure, recreation and green-space resources are required to maintain/enhance the health of residents. This links directly to quality of life. In the case of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, whilst there is an extensive rights of way network, there are comparatively few sites with open or amenity access e.g. Hubbards Hills, Red Hill Nature Reserve, (Snipe Dales outside of the AONB). There is scope for exploring redundant waste sites and less productive agricultural land for increasing multi-use space. Preference should be for exploring, safe guarding and developing strategic green corridors like the Louth Navigation and enhancing green-space in close proximity to settlements.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 12**

## **Society (quality of life)**

East Lindsey does not suffer from large scale social deprivation. However, there are localised 'pockets' where this is an issue and impacts on the quality of life for many residents. The English Indices of Deprivation (2010) identified Wainfleet St Mary, the Skegness area and the Mablethorpe area as the most deprived areas within the district (all three areas are in the bottom 10% nationally. Mablethorpe has five wards in the top 10% most deprived in the whole country). The Northern Parishes Area, Louth and the Coningsby/Tattershall areas were revealed to be the most affluent.

Incomes within East Lindsey are relatively low. In 2013 the gross weekly pay was recorded (NOMIS website) as being £469 per week in East Lindsey compared to £518 in England. Unemployment rates were 5.9% in East Lindsey in 2011 compared with 6% nationally. The fragmented nature of settlements can also result in residents spending a higher proportion of their income on accessing services and facilities whether by private or public modes of transport.

The decline and lack of accessibility to support services for all residents (e.g. petrol filling stations/post offices/garages/shops/doorstep deliveries etc) is a major issue within the district. It is particularly relevant to rural areas where some local residents may not have access to private or public transport. Innovative approaches are needed to help provide outreach services and reduce the population's current reliance upon car journeys to help create more sustainable communities.

Access to quality Green Infrastructure (GI) is a key issue facing the district. It is possible to create linkages with existing and new Rights of Way, and these factors are directly linked to improving quality of life. Inadequate facilities for children and young people such as play parks and sports pitches are particular issues in smaller settlements. A lack of appropriate facilities can also result in anti-social behaviour.

Crime in the district is relatively low. This is reflected by low crime rates in most categories of key offences. The distribution of crime within the district is most notably concentrated around the Skegness and Louth wards. Smaller areas are also concentrated around Mablethorpe and Horncastle. Theft, handling stolen goods, and

criminal damage made up over half of all recorded crime. There is a recognised seasonal pattern to crime rates in some areas with peaks occurring between the months of June and August inclusively i.e. the holiday season. This can result in coastal resorts and town centres being viewed as intimidating, particularly during the 'high' season (April to September). The Crime Perception Study (2001) suggested most respondents felt there should be a greater police presence on the streets. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour are key issues within the district and may be associated with a low police presence in some areas.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 7, 9, 12**

#### **Society (housing)**

Meeting the housing needs of present and future generations throughout the district is a long term challenge. It is one that needs to be linked closely to developing sustainable communities. Although there has been consistent housing growth across East Lindsey over the past 20 years, this has been driven by in-migration of those at retirement age. In-migration has had two effects. It has contributed to inflating house prices and has also led to the development of many retirement bungalows (particularly along the east coast).

The lack of affordable housing and in some instances, the lack of 'appropriate' housing (e.g. a lack of mixed use housing) has made it increasingly difficult for first time-buyers to purchase property. This has resulted in young adults moving away from their natal towns and villages and in many cases away from the district. In East Lindsey (2013), the average ratio for house price to annual earnings is 4.6x (although there will be places where this is much greater), so more than the 3.5x advocated through Government guidance. This means the average house price is unaffordable for residents of the District.

The pressure to increase housing densities to meet demand as availability of development sites decreases should be considered in relation to housing quality and design. Poor quality housing and inappropriate design (an issue in parts of East Lindsey) can lead to a loss of social cohesion, community engagement, increased crime and safety fears and loss of character/local distinctiveness.

There is a significant lack of sustainable houses being designed/constructed within the district. Developers should be encouraged to design and promote developments and houses that follow sustainable design principles and meet level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (2006) (e.g. zero carbon homes with energy and water saving efficiency measures). Consideration of sustainable communities should be at the forefront of new development designs to ensure that account is taken of issues such as character, safety and inclusion, diversity, ease of movement and sustainable buildings. Setting aside land for future growth is also a key issue. The national target of 60% for all developments to be completed on brownfield sites is unlikely to be achieved given the rural nature of the district. The quantity of brownfield sites needed simply do not exist. The national designation of brownfield sites doesn't fully fit with the rural characteristics of East Lindsey (e.g. there are a lot of farm buildings and yards within settlements that are clearly 'previously used' and are in sustainable locations but cannot be classed as brownfield land because they are agricultural buildings and do not meet the definition in PPS3).

There is also likely to be increasing pressure to limit development within river floodplains and also along the coast in coastal inundation zones due to flood risk. It is not sustainable to continue to place new development in areas at risk of flooding where it can be avoided and it is likely that the PPS25 Sequential Test will require much new development, and particularly 'more vulnerable' development such as housing, to be located in areas outside of the floodplain (i.e. in Flood Zone 1). Development in Flood Zones 2 and 3 should only be considered where there are no reasonably available sites in Flood Zone 1. Whilst much of the district does lie within Flood Zone 2 and 3, a significant proportion does lie within Flood Zone 1, including

parts of Louth, Horncastle, Alford, Spilsby and Coningsby/Tattershall. The location of new housing is a fundamental way of adapting to the impacts of climate change. Uncertainties regarding the future funding and provision of flood defences will have an impact on developments dependant on such defences e.g. in Mablethorpe and Skegness. The PPS25 Exception Test will also be required for all new housing developments within Flood Zone 3. This will mean that all sites will need to be able to demonstrate what wider sustainability benefits to the community will be provided by the development that will outweigh the flood risk.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 4, 6, 10, 11 and 13**

#### **Society (Public transport and access)**

The issue of access across the district (e.g. to local and district wide services and facilities) by residents is a significant one that cuts across many broader sustainability themes. Scheduled public transport services are absent in many areas, and many people rely on the Call Connect pre-bookable bus service. Many therefore rely on private access (e.g. cars). For those without private transport, poor access can be considered closely linked to issues such as health, physical isolation, recreation, quality of life, employment opportunities etc. This issue is particularly important for those living away from towns in more rural settlements (e.g. only 38 settlements of more than 200 in East Lindsey have direct bus access to a hospital). Public transport is also poorly utilised to travel to work within the district (e.g. less than 1.27% of commuters utilise public transport and 8.48% walk; this is most likely to be in urban areas).

The ability of the transport network to cope with evacuation in areas affected by flooding is also an issue. The issue of accessibility of new development and the capacity of the emergency services to evacuate occupants will play an important part in determining whether or not it can be considered 'safe'.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 4, 7 and 13**

#### **Economy (employment, economic independence, economic growth and diversification)**

The district has a low number of employees working full time (compared to regional and national figures). 10.68% of people are self employment (2011 census) which is higher than the nation average. A high proportion of residents classed as non-economically active (39.24%), the largest group of which are retired.

The two key industries within the district are agriculture and tourism. 9% of the population are employed in agriculture, other sectors include wholesale and retail, inc motor trades (18.8%), accommodation and food services (14.9%), public administration, education and health (28.2%), construction (4.2%) and manufacturing (11.1%). The strong reliance upon agriculture within the district, and the rapid changes in farming practices in recent years, has caused difficulties, particularly for those seeking alternative employment (e.g. due to lack of skills, opportunities to re-train, and lack of employment prospects). There is a significant reliance on seasonal work associated with the tourism industry. The coastal tourism industry itself faces challenges (including climate change (sea level rise) predictions and uncertainties regarding the future funding and provision of flood defences). There is the issue of the siting of caravans in areas at a high risk of flooding. Holiday or short let caravans are considered 'more vulnerable', as defined by PPS25 Table D2. This table also makes it clear that proposals for such development must be accompanied by a specific warning and evacuation plan. Opportunities to encourage 'appropriate' tourism away from the coast such as in the Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and waterways such as the Louth Navigation should be explored whilst considering the potential implications for landscape impacts, increased disturbance (to wildlife and residents) and loss of tranquillity etc (e.g. walking, cycling and horse-riding). To this end, 'green tourism' has a very significant role to play in East Lindsey as a way of attracting visitors to the district. For example expansion of

the Coastal Grazing Marshes (perhaps linked to sea rise change adaptation), the possibility of linking the AONB to green tourism and promotion of the more remote coastal areas with high nature conservation interest need to be explored.

It is recognised that the economy needs to diversify by attracting in-ward investment and also by diversification of existing industries, for example, conversion of farm buildings to employment/residential/tourism. These present a number of sustainability issues including potential landscape impacts, impacts on other businesses and pressure on local services.

A key challenge for the district is to improve access to employment centres, more varied employment/economic opportunities (including high profile/management opportunities) and good quality, diverse and affordable education/training. Residents within the district presently have limited opportunities to obtain new skills/jobs. This partly explains the outward migration of young adults in search of skilled employment/university education outside the district (e.g. the inward/outward commuting to the larger employment centres of Boston, Lincoln and Grimsby). The resultant shortage of skilled workers and employees with management capabilities presents a skills shortage that in turn can result in low inward investment and lack of inviting/attractive premises/shared services.

In summary, the overall skill base needs to diversify by providing opportunities for retraining those with redundant skills, providing routes for people to develop higher skills and by retaining those with advanced skills within the district (including graduates from Lincoln University) within a diversifying sustainable economy.

#### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 4, 5 and 13**

##### **Environment (biodiversity, nature conservation and geodiversity)**

The district has a rich and diverse natural heritage including inland and coastal sites and habitats that have nature conservation and/or geological value (of international, national, regional and local importance). This includes statutory and non-statutory designated sites (e.g. The Wash, Gibraltar Point, Saltfleetby to Theddlethorpe dunes and the Humber Flats, Marshes and coastline and Woodlands such as Bardney Limewoods and Kenwick woods; and wetland habitats such as coastal and floodplain grazing marsh).

Although sites of very high importance exist, generally biodiversity in the district reflects a low baseline condition and coverage of protected sites (away from the coast) is below the national average. Pressures to develop land in rural areas, adjacent to urban centres and along areas of the coastline are key issues. They require consideration and where possible, development should be located away from sensitive sites of local or regional importance (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) - those with national or international designations are unlikely to be affected due to their high level of protection). Where this is not possible, habitat enhancement schemes should be integrated into the design of proposed developments and due consideration given to priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species. It should be noted that there are important species that do not necessarily rely on 'traditional' habitats (e.g. bat species that may roost in derelict barns) and consideration should also be given to protected species and biodiversity with respect to less obvious development proposals that may have adverse impacts (e.g. those associated with brownfield sites). In line with this, the Biodiversity Duty, set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, states that conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them. This duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity should cover all development, not just those located on or near a sensitive site such as a LWS.

#### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 1, 2**

## **Environment (important landscapes)**

More than 95% of East Lindsey is rural and the predominant land use is agriculture. Built heritage and historic landscapes can be affected through possible demolition or loss of part of a structure or its grounds; increased visual intrusion, noise or vibration; changes in the original landscape; severance from linked features such as gardens, outbuildings etc or through the loss of amenity value. A historic landscape characterisation of the county has been carried out and there are key areas of historic landscape, such as the Coastal Grazing Marshes and the Wolds. The Lincolnshire Wolds, which covers a significant proportion of the district, is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The district cuts across four Joint landscape Character Areas.

Landscape changes are most likely to be local but cumulative impacts on habitats/wildlife and upon landscape character descriptions should be taken into consideration (e.g. to what degree is landscape change within a period of time acceptable?). Any development must demonstrate a high regard for local landscape character through suitable scale, siting, design and additional landscaping where required. Recreational development needs to be carefully balanced, especially as unlike National Parks there is no overriding statutory requirement for AONBs to satisfy this need. As stated in the legislation, 'the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses'. Thus it is important that tourism development is appropriate to the AONB.

The pressure for farm diversification has the potential for inappropriate development associated with the conversion of derelict farm buildings. Such development need to be carefully managed so as not to harm rural character, especially within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to give great weight to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside within AONBs in both their planning policies and in determining planning applications. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 reaffirmed the duties of local planning authorities with regard to protecting and enhancing AONBs, with a new requirement to produce and review, in partnership, AONB Management Plans. However, it is recognised that appropriate and sensitively designed small-scale developments could bring important economic and social benefits to often isolated communities. To this end, rural diversification needs to be supported, with an emphasis on high quality and appropriate renovations of redundant buildings. However, within the AONB, there needs to be a particularly high regard for the areas distinctiveness with only appropriate and sympathetic developments permitted.

One of the continuing challenges is helping to minimise the impact of proposed renewable energy projects, particularly wind turbines. Whilst many of these project proposals lie outside the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, they can have significant impacts upon landscapes from considerable distances (e.g. they have the potential to impact upon the views both to and from the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB). However, the evaluation of the visual impacts of developments such as wind farms should be carefully considered against the benefits to mitigating the causes of climate change.

On a similar note, landscape changes from potential new bio-crops such as Miscanthus need to be carefully considered as not all locations will be appropriate. In the case of Miscanthus for example, yields are often highest on low lying moist soils which may also have high biodiversity opportunities (e.g. for the recreation of wetland habitats such as wet pasture or wet woodland).

An additional planning issue of particular relevance to the AONB is telecommunication developments which by virtue of their height, scale and location have the potential for significant impact upon the landscape character of the area. Whilst there is a national requirement for individual operators to attain full coverage, existing local planning



policies seek to ensure that all considerations are taken into account when assessing individual applications. Although there are benefits of fast advancing technology for socio-economic reasons, any undesirable impacts upon the appearance and character of the area or its local amenities should be minimised. This includes ensuring operators thoroughly explore all site and mast sharing options, and undertake the necessary siting, design and appearance appraisals to minimise visual impact, including not only the masts and antennas, but also any ancillary buildings and services.

## **Issues reflect SA objectives: 2**

### **Environment (historic built environment and archaeology)**

East Lindsey has an important historic heritage reflected in the number of Scheduled Monuments (151), listed buildings (1,428 - 91 Grade I, 114 Grade II\* and 1223 Grade II), conservation areas (17), parks and gardens of special historic interest (6) and registered battlefields (1) (collectively referred to as Heritage Assets). In addition, there are thousands of records of registered sites of archaeological findings. The value of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings is significant and may also be associated with buried archaeological resources. Damage to important Heritage Assets (including their setting/context) and associated buried archaeological resources will be a key issue in some locations. There are also many unlisted Heritage Assets that are of local value. Demolition of such buildings is a key issue, as is their restoration which also raises the issue of sustainable development (e.g. retention of historic building character and integration of energy efficient design and technologies).

The Lincolnshire Wolds has a particularly high density of archaeological and historic features due to the longevity of settlement in the area. The Wolds have been described as a 'prime archaeological environment' and have a rich legacy of prehistoric sites including a high density of deserted medieval villages, long and round barrows. The area's rich heritage resource and cultural associations, especially with Alfred, Lord Tennyson, was an important factor in its designation as an AONB.

## **Issues reflect SA objectives: 2**

### **Environment (natural resources and pollution)**

Water resources and water availability will be key considerations for all new developments. Steps will need to be taken to ensure that appropriate designs are developed to reduce adverse impacts. Key issues include lack of water available to supply households and businesses and increased discharges from developments with associated implications for receiving waters. Initiatives to encourage water saving technologies (e.g. grey water recycling) and sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) on all developments should be positively encouraged. Certain elements of SUDS can benefit both people and biodiversity by reducing the risk of flooding and providing a wildlife resource. Also, water saving technologies may be particularly important in affordable housing schemes where residents may potentially be earning low incomes. New developments need to be considered in relation to existing demands for water within the district including commercial and industrial uses (e.g. water for irrigating crops), which are also likely to increase in the medium to long term. Water resources and changing demands for leisure activities also need to be taken into account (e.g. the proposed Louth Navigation as a leisure resource and gravel pits used for fishing and water sports).

Water resources are also a key issue with regard to wildlife with many important species being dependent on aquatic and wetland habitats. East Lindsey also has a high proportion of the nationally important chalk stream resource, which warrants special protection and enhancement.

The water quality of the district's rivers has slowly been improving over the past fifteen years according to Environment Agency figures. However, maintaining and

improving water quality is still a key consideration for coastal waters, rivers, drains and aquifers (e.g. nitrate loadings are relatively high due to intensive cultivation resulting in high nutrient loadings on many aquatic systems. More than 92% of rivers fall into this category). The Water Framework Directive (which focuses on protecting aquatic habitats, rather than other water uses) sets targets for all water bodies to achieve 'good ecological status' by 2015. These new stringent targets are challenging and East Lindsey has a number of watercourses classed as being at risk of failing to meet some of these targets (e.g. many rivers within the area are at risk of failing to meet nutrient (nitrate) objectives). This has important implications for existing land use management and potential future land use change that may result in new discharges to coastal and inland waters.

Light pollution from new developments, particularly in more rural areas/on the periphery of market towns, is also a key issue. It is of particular concern for the AONB where dark skies are an important element of the landscape and need protection. There are, however, pressures for increasing lighting in village locations to meet Health and Safety requirements. Improvements in technology are helping to facilitate improved lighting schemes that can minimise both energy use and light pollution.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 3 and 13**

#### **Environment (waste)**

Issues associated with waste removal are key and pressure upon existing landfill sites in the medium to longer term will increase in line with a decrease in their capacity. New developments should follow the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' principle through the design, construction and completion stages. For example, new homes can be designed with point of use re-cycling within the kitchen that is linked to external receptacles. New homes should also allow for space within the house and externally for appropriate recycling facilities.

The local plan has a positive role to play in encouraging appropriate uses for redundant waste sites which can, once made safe, provide important areas for biodiversity and recreation through well planned reclamation. In some cases such uses will need to be carefully balanced against alternatives such as recycling or composting facilities which can often be well screened within such sites.

### **Issues reflect SA objectives: 8, 11**

#### **Environment (climate change)**

Climate change is a global, national and local challenge and is a rapidly developing but highly complex issue requiring further research and specialist advice. A partnership approach is essential with strategic decisions required, not only at regional and national levels, but also crucially at the local level through well thought through spatial planning. Although the implications for East Lindsey will largely reflect those in most other areas of the UK the effects may be more pronounced in this region. East Lindsey is one of only a handful of Authorities in England where the land topography and scale and nature of defences is such that climate change induced sea level rise poses a significant long term risk to the coastal zone. Sustainability issues related to climate change cut across all three sustainability report themes (social, economic, and environmental). The challenges are numerous and only the key issues relevant to East Lindsey's LDF have been discussed.

Current predictions of the size and speed of climate change suggest that the 21st century is likely to see major impacts<sup>6</sup>; hotter and drier summers, drier springs and autumns and wetter warmer winters with more intense precipitation lasting for

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<sup>6</sup>Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Webpage

shorter periods of time<sup>7</sup>. Such weather patterns may lead to more regular and possibly extreme flood events (in the longer term).

There are three main sources of flooding within the district; from the sea, from rivers and from surface water flooding from drainage infrastructure (although other sources such as artificial water bodies and groundwater should be noted). Adapting to flooding and climate change is, in the Environment Agency's opinion, the most significant challenge being faced by East Lindsey District. The need to adapt spatially is vital, rather than an increased reliance on mitigation. Only once all other options have been fully explored should mitigation be considered.

Residents, buildings, and agricultural land are all vulnerable. The pressure for new developments (and economic diversification; regeneration of tourist areas) within recognised flood zones is a key issue here. For example, there are densely populated areas in the coastal flood zone (Mablethorpe and Skegness), and in urban flood zones (Louth and Horncastle). The requirement to consider flood risk, natural processes/systems and development as part of any proposed land use change (urban or rural) is key and alternative/innovative solutions to flood risk are required. These may include mitigation measures such as appropriate development design and sustainable drainage systems. This is especially important in East Lindsey given uncertainties over the future provision and funding of flood defences, and a predicted rapid reduction in the standard of protection afforded by defences over time (with no intervention) with sea level rise. In addition, if development cannot mitigate the risks to such a degree that it can be considered 'safe', it is unlikely to be supported by the Environment Agency.

There are also obvious challenges with regard to social disruption and economic impacts (e.g. reduction in house prices and increases in insurance premiums) associated with flooding. The inward migration of elderly people into areas with a high risk of flooding and the high proportion of residents with poor health or long-term health problems is a potentially serious cause for concern. Flood warning and evacuation measures are likely to be more difficult to manage for those with restricted mobility or who are particularly vulnerable. In addition, older people and those with health problems may find it more difficult to adapt to the consequences of a flood, including cleaning out and re-establishing their homes and the potential to be away from their homes for some time after an event.

Predicted weather changes combined with development and economic growth may also have implications for other environmental features. For example, water abstraction and availability (e.g. changes in supply and demand), water quality (e.g. decreased dilution of pollutants in rivers / increased concentrations of pollutants from developments) and agriculture and cropping patterns (e.g. cultivation of bio-fuels, changes in the types of crops that can be grown, new agricultural pests). Irrigation reservoirs to store excess winter water for use during drier periods are likely to increase (potential for landscape and visual impacts, especially in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB), and the creation of these reservoirs may be used for large scale wildlife habitat creation. In addition, more upstream flood storage areas may be required to protect vulnerable communities downstream.

Other environmental impacts that are relevant to East Lindsey include the risk of drought (e.g. dry soils will erode and clay soils shrink, damaging agricultural land and potentially damaging buildings as a result of subsidence). Lower river flows and higher temperatures will affect plants and animals that live in and around water, and activities such as angling that depend on them. Climate change has the potential to impact upon, and put pressure upon, habitats and species both habitats and species which, if isolated, will find it difficult to adapt. Green corridors and large scale habitat

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<sup>7</sup> Jonathon Newman, ADA presentation 2006 – Impacts of predicted climate change for management of aquatic vegetation.

recreation will become increasingly important to allow space for species and habitats to migrate in response to the stresses caused by climate change.

Promotion and realisation of renewable energy production technologies locally, such as wind farms and facilities for burning secondary bio-fuels, should be given consideration at strategic locations across the district. It should be noted however that bio-fuels may result in the loss of land utilised for food production, thereby conflicting with the need for sustainable communities in terms of local food production. Bio-fuel production should therefore concentrate on secondary bio-fuels (i.e. by-products of a food crop) as this will help maintain the existing area of agricultural land and contribute to renewable energy production. It is recognised however, that bio-fuel technologies are still in their infancy.

The development of all sites should take account of sustainable design principles such as those set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes (2006) (e.g. energy and water saving efficiency measures). Developers should also be encouraged to build houses to meet level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes in order to reduce the contribution of homes to climate change i.e. zero carbon homes.

**Issues reflect SA objectives: 3, 4, 13**

# 7 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Chapter 1 : Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

- 7.1 This chapter presents an overview of all the baseline information that has been collated as part of the scoping study. It includes the following sections:
- The SA framework
  - Approach
  - Links with other scoping tasks

## The Sustainability Appraisal framework

- 7.2 The SA framework is central to the appraisal process; it provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The framework includes the following elements:
- SA objectives and SA questions
  - SA indicators to measure/monitor achievement of targets and therefore the performance of the plan (where practicable)
  - SA targets to express objectives (where practicable)
- 7.3 The SA framework is a tool that will be used to assess how each DPD (as appropriate) promotes/supports sustainability. It will be used to cross-examine the contents of each DPD and to identify how specific sustainability issues have been, or need to be, addressed. It will also identify the key social, economic and environmental implications of emerging proposals and policies. It also links the SA objectives and SA questions with the key indicators. The key indicators will be used to measure the direction of change from the baseline conditions, and also to monitor the performance of each DPD. The relevant baseline information is tabulated in Chapter 5 and Table C1 (Appendix C).

## Approach

- 7.4 The SA framework (see Table 7.1) has been based on information collated and reviewed throughout the scoping study period. This includes:
- Existing relevant plans, programmes and objectives at the national, regional and local level (also used to develop SA objectives)
  - The present social, economic and environmental baseline situation for the district
  - The key sustainability issues within the district identified through consultation
- 7.5 It provides an overview of the SA questions, indicators and targets relevant to the situation in East Lindsey. It reflects an evolving evidence base against which each DPD will be appraised. Further scoping of the key issues relevant to each DPD and refinement of the SA framework will ensure that each appraisal concentrates on the most relevant issues and problems. The SA framework will be reviewed and updated for each DPD.

## **Sustainability Appraisal Questions**

- 7.6 SA questions have been developed for each SA objective. The primary purpose is to make each overarching SA objective specific to both the district of East Lindsey and to each DPD being appraised. The questions will be tailored for each DPD, and will also aid transparency in the assessment process. They clearly lay out key considerations, which need to be made by the assessor to enable proposals and policies within emerging DPDs to be appraised.
- 7.7 Sustainability questions have been developed to:
- Make each overarching objective distinctive to the district
  - Ensure relevant sustainability issues within the district are considered as part of the framework and therefore the appraisal process

## **Indicators and Targets**

- 7.8 An initial set of indicators and targets (where possible) have been identified for each of the SA objectives and question(s). The indicators and targets will be used to indicate adverse and/or beneficial change and ensure the appraisal is linked to quantified measures of performance.
- 7.9 The indicators and targets relate, where possible, to the baseline information collected so comparisons between the present situation in East Lindsey and that predicted for the future. This approach ensures that the indicators and targets are relevant to East Lindsey and the SA objectives.
- 7.10 It is important that indicators and targets are SMART:
- Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Relevant
  - Time bound
- 7.11 Further development of indicators and targets is likely to be necessary during the appraisal process.

## **Links with Other Scoping Tasks**

- 7.12 The SA framework links to all tasks undertaken as part of the scoping study and is based on the review of relevant plans and programmes, the SA objectives, the evolving baseline where indicators and targets are used to assess the progress of the district, and the key sustainability issues identified.
- 7.13 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A4 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

**Table 7.1: Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

<b>SA Objective</b>		<b>Sustainability Appraisal Questions Will the option / proposal:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Targets</b>
<b>Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone</b>				
<b>1. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.</b>  <b>(See Figure 5.1 in Appendix A)</b>	<b>Q1a</b>	Protect and provide opportunities for improving / enhancing sites designated for their nature conservation value / geodiversity value (local and national levels)?	Percentage of nationally designated sites in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Percentage of Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI, CWS, SINC etc) changed due to new development. Number of notified Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the district per year. Percentage of RIGS changed due to new development	Bringing into favourable condition, by 2010, 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites. Establish a biodiversity survey and monitoring programme by 2010 to fill identified gaps in knowledge. Zero proposals resulting in the potential loss or damage to designated sites.
	<b>Q1b</b>	Protect the habitats and species protected by International and UK law?	Number of new developments involving protected species mitigation schemes.	
	<b>Q1c</b>	Help achieve Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets?	Changes in area of BAP habitats as a result of development requiring planning permission. Contribution of local BAP targets through habitats created by developments.	Collate existing information on BAP habitats and species – producing an audit by 2010. Update the 2010 audit for 2015 to inform the next BAP review. All Local Development Frameworks relevant to Lincolnshire including policies that promote net gain for biodiversity and sufficiently robust Local Wildlife Site policies by 2010. Ensure that 50 events per year promoting the Lincolnshire BAP are organised by BAP partners by 2015.
	<b>Q1d</b>	Help to avoid / reduce the loss of / decline in seminatural habitats, agricultural habitats, urban habitats / geological resources?	Proportion of farmers entering into agri-environment schemes.	Encourage the uptake by farmers and land managers of Environmental Stewardship (and other similar schemes): all eligible land within the Entry Level Scheme by 2010.
	<b>Q1e</b>	Conserve species and protect the districts overall biodiversity?	Change in countryside quality including biodiversity, tranquillity, heritage, and landscape character.	Incorporate biodiversity conservation objectives into those plans that are undertaken by public bodies and utilities relating to land under their control by 2015.
<b>2. Protect and enhance the</b>	<b>Q2a</b>	Protect and provide opportunities to	Percentage of Joint Character Areas	Undertake review of Lincolnshire Wolds

<p><b>quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.</b></p> <p><b>(See Figure 5.2(a) and(b) and 5.3 in Appendix A)</b></p>		enhance the distinctive landscapes (e.g. Conservation Areas, Lincolnshire Wolds AONB) within the district?	showing no change or showing change consistent with character area descriptions. Number of design statements adopted. % of new developments in areas of land designated for its landscape quality or amenity value (AONB). Percentage of Conservation Areas with up to date Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.	AONB Management Plan.
	<b>Q2b</b>	Will it maintain and, where possible, increase the area of high-quality green infrastructure within the district – e.g. woodlands, public rights of way etc?	Area of green space per 1000 population. Number of new green infrastructure projects associated with new developments. % of ancient woodland lost to development.	An urban resident should be able to enter a natural greenspace of at least one 2 hectare site within 0.5 kilometres of their home; at least one 20 hectare site within 2 km of all residents; at least one 100 hectare site within 5 kms of all residents; and at least one 500 hectare site within 10 kms of all residents. National Playing Fields Association standard: 2.4ha per 1000 population. Increasing woodland cover 65,000 hectares by 2021. 20% increase by 2005 in public rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public. 0% of ancient woodland lost to development.
	<b>Q2c</b>	Will visual aspects / amenity be compromised?	Percentage of objections to a proposed development. % of new developments containing 'Landscape Management Plans'. Percentage of new developments that have undertaken landscape assessments or landscape appraisals.	
	<b>Q2d</b>	Provide opportunities to enhance the townscapes within the district – e.g. promotion of the repair and re-use of historic buildings?	Number of historic buildings restored. The number of proposals prepared that use landscape character to identify ameliorative measures. No of schemes accompanied by detailed landscape/townscape design.	
	<b>Q2e</b>	Maintain and Enhance the character /	Percentage of Conservation Areas with	



		distinctiveness of towns and villages (including conservation areas)?	up to date Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.	
	<b>Q2f</b>	Protect or enhance known features of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest, including their setting.	Number of Listed Buildings on the Listed Buildings at Risk Register (LBAR). Number of SMs (Scheduled Monuments) and other archaeological sites and % at risk.	
	<b>Q2g</b>	Protect areas associated with a known high risk archaeological resource where actual and / or quality / quantity of finds is not known e.g. features associated with buried archaeology?	Percentage of planning applications for which archaeological surveys are required prior to approval. Number of pre-application discussions regarding historic assets. Percentage of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies were developed and implemented.	
<b>3. Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.</b>	<b>Q3a</b>	Contribute to effective management of water resources (surface and ground waters) via a reduction in water consumption (domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural)?	Changes in demand for potable water for all purposes. Take up of domestic grey water recycling technology (residential, commercial etc). Number of water abstraction applications agreed / rejected by the Environment Agency. Quantitative water abstraction data from the Environment Agency. Number of irrigation reservoirs submitted for planning permission. % of new developments incorporating water efficiency measures.	Monitor the % of new developments that incorporate grey water recycling technology. (This should increase over time). For all new development to reduce its water consumption by 25% through such measures, in line with government objectives.
	<b>Q3b</b>	Will it contribute to effective management of water resources (surface waters) via storage of excess precipitation?	Number of irrigation reservoirs submitted for planning permission. % of developments including rainwater harvesting technology.	
	<b>Q3c</b>	Reduce diffuse and point source water pollution (e.g. from STWs, commercial, industrial and agricultural sources) and therefore contribute to 'good ecological status' for all water bodies.	Number of pollution incidents reported to and dealt with by the Environment Agency. Annual biological and chemical water quality data from the Environment Agency. Water Framework status updates for all water bodies.	Biological and chemical targets for rivers as defined by the Environment Agency. To reduce the levels of nitrate and phosphate in river water from agricultural sources to contribute to meeting the environmental objectives of

			The number of applications granted with appropriate investigations and remediation measures (where necessary) for sites with potential land contamination.	the Water Framework Directive by 2015. A target for all sites with the potential to be contaminated to be investigated should be imposed.
	<b>Q3d</b>	Protect the habitats and species reliant on the water environment e.g. in rivers, canals, lakes, ponds and adjacent areas of wetland habitats?	Changes in number and quality of habitats reliant on freshwater input and associated species.	
	<b>Q3e</b>	Avoid an increase in light pollutants, particularly in more rural areas and the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB?		
	<b>Q3f</b>	Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Total area of Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land.	To halt the decline of soil organic matter caused by agricultural practices in vulnerable soils by 2025, whilst maintaining, as a minimum, the soil organic matter of other agricultural soils, taking into account the impacts of climate change.
	<b>Q3g</b>	Encourage appropriate use of finite resources, waste reduction and re-use and recycling of material for all new developments (construction and operational phases)?	Proportion of construction waste to landfill. Proportion of construction waste reused and/or recycled. Amount of household and business waste and recycling effort.	Requires WCA's waste collection authorities to collect at least two separate recyclables as well as residual waste by 2010. Waste Strategy 2000 national targets to recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005, 30% by 2010 and 33% by 2015.
<b>4. Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.'</b>  <b>(See Figure 5.4 in Appendix A)</b>	<b>Q4a</b>	Will it minimise flood risk to people, property, agricultural land and other assets from rivers and from drainage infrastructure e.g. resulting from intense or prolonged precipitation?	Amount of 'More Vulnerable' development permitted in the floodplain. % of new dwellings permitted where the application of the Exception Test has been required' be monitored. Number of properties at risk of flooding. The number of new dwellings in the floodplain following the sequential approach to the vulnerability of development (as advocated in PPS25). Number of new developments within the floodplain. Number of planning permissions	Ensuring through effective flood awareness campaigns that 75% of residents in flood risk areas will take effective action to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. Zero applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice. The % of new dwellings permitted where the application of the Exception Test has been required.

			granted contrary to the Environment Agency's advice. Number of new developments incorporating sustainable urban drainage systems. Number of historic assets at risk from flooding.	
	<b>Q4b</b>	Will it minimise flood risk to people, property, agricultural land and other assets from coastal inundation e.g. via storm surges?	Number of properties at risk of flooding. Number of new development within the floodplain. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the Environment Agency's advice. Number of historic assets at risk from flooding.	Zero applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice. The % of new dwellings permitted where the application of the Exception Test has been required.
	<b>Q4c</b>	Increase flood risk to people, property, agricultural land and other assets downstream of the proposed development?	Number of properties at risk of flooding. The number of applications approved with an appropriate surface water drainage scheme. Number of historic assets at risk from flooding.	Ensuring through effective flood awareness campaigns that 75% of residents in flood risk areas will take effective action to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. 100% of all applications approved with an appropriate surface water drainage scheme.
<b>5. Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.</b>	<b>Q5a</b>	Promote sustainable economic growth?	Number of VAT registered businesses. Annual growth rate of GVA per capita. Net growth in business. Percentage of workforce who work within / outside the district.	
	<b>Q5b</b>	Contribute to a low carbon economy in accordance with the principles set out in the Stern Report (October 2006)?	Carbon footprint of each business.	
	<b>Q5c</b>	Provide diversity in the economy and encourage sustainable business development?	Amount of new business start ups (rural areas and market towns). Net growth in business. Number of sole traders/registrations. Vacancy levels (shops/Offices). Proportion of units in retail use.	
	<b>Q5d</b>	Encourage the rural economy and support farm diversification?-	Amount of new business start ups (rural areas and market towns).	
	<b>Q5e</b>	Assist the provision of appropriate	Net growth in business	

		land and premises for business activity?		
	<b>Q5f</b>	Support the growth of sectors that offer scope to reduce out-commuting, e.g. to Lincoln, Grimsby and Boston?	Number of economically active that live and work within the district. Number of economically active that commute to other employment centres.	
	<b>Q5g</b>	Improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?	Average weekly earnings. Unemployment level. Number of those from the agricultural (or other industries) that have re-trained.	
	<b>Q5h</b>	Improve opportunities for and access to, affordable education and training (basic skills, advanced skills)?	Increase in basic adult numeric, literacy and computer skills. Percentage of those who continue into higher education.	
	<b>Q5j</b>	Promote employment opportunities and the diversification of employment opportunities (including skilled opportunities – professional and managerial occupations) and reduce the outmigration of skilled workers?	Level of unemployment and employment rates. Average weekly earnings. % of people in rural wards in low income bands. Indices of deprivation in Mablethorpe and other market towns. Percentage of undergraduates retained within the district.	
	<b>Q5k</b>	Enable tourism opportunities to be exploited?	Number of new sustainable 'green' tourism opportunities.	
<b>6. Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.</b>	<b>Q6a</b>	Promote the efficient re-use of land and buildings for new developments and ensure that more dense developments well designed and are associated with good public transport systems to help achieve the most sustainable pattern and types of development?	Number of ha of brownfield land used for new housing developments. Number of ha of other land types used for new housing developments.	To increase the percentage of new housing development on previously developed land to meet with national sustainability objectives on a year on year basis with the aim of reaching a target of 40% by 2016 (local plan target) 60% of additional homes should be on previously developed land (national target)
	<b>Q6b</b>	Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Total area of Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land.	
<b>7. Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green infrastructure including the</b>	<b>Q7a</b>	Improve access to local services, facilities, places of employment and green infrastructure for all residents throughout the district?	Number of households in rural areas with access difficulties to key services etc. Number of households in urban areas	

<p><b><i>promotion of sustainable modes of access.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(See Figure 5.5 and 5.6 in Appendix A)</i></b></p>			<p>with access difficulties to key services etc.</p> <p>Proportion of households in rural areas within about 10 minutes walk of at least hourly bus service.</p> <p>Proportion of rural households within 30 minutes walking and/or bus access of a hospital.</p> <p>Changes in accessibility to key services etc across the district.</p> <p>Percentage of authority buildings with facilities for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Number of existing and new cycleways / pedestrian links etc.</p> <p>% of total length of footpaths/rights of way/greenways</p> <p>Access to open space / green infrastructure.</p> <p>Satisfaction with green infrastructure, cultural and recreational activities.</p> <p>Length of footpaths in favourable condition</p> <p>Number of new public transport, shared transport or innovative access schemes</p>	
	<p><b>Q7b</b></p>	<p>Provide improved and sustainable public modes of transport in both urban and rural areas and reduce the need to travel by car?</p>	<p>Percentage of residents with easy access to regular and reliable public transport services.</p> <p>Achieving sustainable levels of transport energy use and reducing transport greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Bus patronage levels.</p> <p>Number of schools implementing school travel plans</p> <p>Number of businesses implementing green travel plans.</p> <p>Proportion of people who travel to work by public transport, walking or cycling</p> <p>Proportion of children travelling to school by public transport, walking or cycling to work.</p> <p>Distances travelled to work</p>	

			Length of footpaths in favourable condition Number of new public transport, shared transport or innovative access schemes	
<b>8. Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste.</b>	<b>Q8a</b>	Reduce waste generated as part of all building programmes?	Amount of secondary/ recycled aggregates used compared with virgin aggregates. % of construction and demolition waste going to landfill.	
	<b>Q8b</b>	Reduce household waste?	% of household waste recycled/composted. Kilograms of waste collected per head of population.	
	<b>Q8c</b>	Increase waste recovery and recycling (domestic, commercial etc)?		
<b>9. Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.</b>	<b>Q9a</b>	Help achieve the most sustainable pattern and types of development with a view to developing sustainable communities?		
	<b>Q9b</b>	Improve the quality of life for communities by allowing residents to become actively involved in decision making at a local level?	Percentage of adults who feel included and able to take part in decisions / voluntary work that affects their local area i.e. active community participation.	
	<b>Q9c</b>	Maintain, enhance and create green infrastructure assets (e.g. green space) across the district accessible to the whole community?	Area of green space per 1000 population. Number of new green infrastructure projects associated with new developments.	An urban resident should be able to enter a natural greenspace of at least one 2 hectare site within 0.5 kilometres of their home; at least one 20 hectare site within 2 kilometres of all residents; at least one 100 hectare site within 5 kilometres of all residents; and at least one 500hectare site within 10 kilometres of all residents. National Playing Fields Association standard: 2.4ha per 1000 population.
	<b>Q9d</b>	Promote more diverse and cohesive communities?	Housing mix within a given locality Population structure within a given locality Interaction and opportunities for interaction within communities	
	<b>Q9e</b>	Improve the availability and	Percentage of households within 5 km	

		accessibility of key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc.) that also reduces the need to travel?	of food shops, post offices, cash points, child nurseries, primary schools, GP surgeries.	
	<b>Q9f</b>	Reduce the fear of crime, the actual levels of crime, antisocial behaviour and improve public safety?	Number of recorded crimes per 1000 population. Developments incorporating secure by design principles. Number of public disorder incidents per 1000 population. % residents who feel safe after dark. % residents who feel safe in the day.	
	<b>Q9f</b>	Promote and encourage design principles that positively reduce crime and antisocial behaviour?	The number of new developments incorporating secure by design principles.	
<b>10. Ensure that local housing needs are met</b>	<b>Q10a</b>	Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including affordable housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community?	Net additional dwellings for the current year. Numbers, types, tenures and locations of new houses. Density of dwellings (e.g. nos. at less than 30 per ha; nos. between 30 and 50 per ha; and nos above 50 per ha). Affordable housing completions.	
	<b>Q10b</b>	Enable first time buyers to purchase a home?	Affordable housing completions. Average house price. Average house price versus income.	
	<b>Q10c</b>	Ensure the adoption of sustainable construction and design principles in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes?	Number of sustainable homes with 'very good' or 'excellent' ratings	
<b>11. Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.</b>	<b>Q11a</b>	Contribute to a reduction in energy/resource consumption (e.g. domestic, commercial, and industrial).	Percentage of renewable energy utilised in new developments. Number / proportion of new buildings / developments meeting BREEAM standards. Number of new energy efficient buildings (SAP rating). Number of developments incorporating SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems). Take up of domestic grey water	

			recycling technology (residential, commercial etc).	
	<b>Q11b</b>	Lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources e.g. at domestic and commercial scales?	Capacity of renewable sources.	
	<b>Q11c</b>	Ensure all new housing incorporates at least some energy saving measures?	Number of new developments integrating renewable energy techniques. Percentage of renewable energy utilised in new developments.	
	<b>Q11d</b>	Lead to local developments built to a high standard of sustainable design?	Percentage of materials sourced within the local area. Gaining and maintaining a competitive advantage by improving resource efficiency, inter alia through the promotion of eco-efficient innovations Percentage of high quality sustainably designed buildings.	
	<b>Q11e</b>	Reduce waste generated as part of all building programmes?.	Proportion of construction waste to landfill. Proportion of construction waste reused and/or recycled. Amount of secondary/ recycled aggregates used compared with virgin aggregates. Number of waste sites and capacity	
	<b>Q11f</b>	Reduce household waste and increase waste recovery and recycling (domestic, commercial etc)?	Amount of household and business waste and recycling effort. Number of waste sites and capacity.	Requires WCA's waste collection authorities to collect at least two separate recyclables as well as residual waste by 2010. Waste Strategy 2000 national targets to recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005, 30% by 2010 and 33% by 2015.
<b>12. Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles"</b>	<b>Q12a</b>	Ensure that adequate health facilities and infrastructure is available for present and future generations?	GPs / dentists professionals per head of population.	
	<b>Q12b</b>	Ensure health facilities are accessible to all sectors of the community?	Percentage of households within x km of primary and secondary healthcare facilities (by private car). Percentage of households with access	



			to primary and secondary healthcare facilities via public transport.	
	<b>Q12c</b>	Reduce health inequalities across the district?	Mortality rates. Life expectancy.	
	<b>Q12d</b>	Promote healthy and active lifestyles?.	Prevalence of smoking. Prevalence of obesity Accessibility to open space / leisure facilities.	
	<b>Q12e</b>	Maintain, enhance and create green infrastructure assets (e.g. green space, recreation and sports facilities, semi-wild/rural places) across the district accessible to the whole community?	Area of green space per 1000 population. Number of after school sport clubs. Number of new sport and recreational facilities provided per population served. Satisfaction with green infrastructure assets e.g. sports and leisure, parks and open spaces.	An urban resident should be able to enter a natural greenspace of at least one 2 hectare site within 0.5 kilometres of their home; at least one 20 hectare site within 2 kms of all residents; at least one 100 hectare site within 5 kms of all residents; and at least one 500 hectare site within 10 kms of all residents. National Playing Fields Association standard:2.4ha per 1000 population.
<b>13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.</b>	<b>Q13a</b>	Minimise flood risk to people, property, agricultural land and other assets from the sea, from rivers and from surface water drainage infrastructure?	Number of properties at risk of flooding. Number of new development within the floodplain. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the Environment Agency's advice. Number of historic assets at risk from flooding.	Ensuring through effective flood awareness campaigns that 75% of residents in flood risk areas will take effective action to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. Zero applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice. The % of new dwellings permitted where the application of the Exception Test has been required.
	<b>Q13b</b>	Increase flood risk to people, property, agricultural land and other assets downstream of the proposed development?	Number of properties at risk of flooding. The number of applications approved with an appropriate surface water drainage scheme. Number of historic assets at risk from flooding.	Ensuring through effective flood awareness campaigns that 75% of residents in flood risk areas will take effective action to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. 100% of all applications approved with an appropriate surface water drainage scheme.
	<b>Q13c</b>	Contribute to effective management of water resources (surface waters) (e.g. storage of excess precipitation)?	Number of new flood storage reservoirs and / or water irrigation reservoir constructed. Number of abstraction licences issues by the Environment Agency.	% of new developments incorporating water efficiency measures. % of developments including rainwater harvesting technology.

			<p>Number of new water saving technologies incorporated into new developments that require planning permission.</p> <p>The number of flood storage areas with a long-term commitment to maintenance agreed through the planning system.</p>	
	<b>Q13d</b>	Promote appropriate energy production technologies at the district scale?	<p>Number of new energy project e.g. wind farms, bio-fuel plants etc.</p> <p>Renewable energy capacity installed by type.</p>	Renewables to supply 15% of UK electricity in 2020.
	<b>Q13e</b>	Contribute to a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases within the district?	<p>Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Reduction of CO2 emissions by the end user.</p>	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.</p> <p>To reduce UK's CO2 emissions by some 60% from current levels by about 2050.</p>

# 8 Consultation

Chapter 1 : Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 SA Stage A4	<b>Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5</b>	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

8.1 The following text provides an overview of all consultation undertaken during the scoping stage. The approach to all consultation was developed and agreed in liaison with East Lindsey District Council representatives. To aid clarity, the chapter has been split into the following sections:

- Consultation
- Approach
- Links with other scoping tasks
- Consultation outputs

## Consultation

8.2 Consultation is a legislative requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]:  
“...the authorities... which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes... shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report” (Article 5.4 and 6.3)

8.3 A five week period of formal consultation on the scope of the SA is required whereby the relevant statutory environmental bodies must be consulted. In addition, social and economic bodies should also be consulted as deemed appropriate by the local planning authority; consideration should also be given to community groups.

8.4 The three designated bodies to be consulted under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are:

- English Heritage (now Historic England)
- Environment Agency
- English Nature

8.5 Effective consultation is extremely important. Its key purpose is to ensure that organisations with statutory responsibilities, those with a specific interest in the Local Plan and the general public are all given ample opportunity to review and comment on the SA and Local Plan.

8.6 It is important that the approach adopted for consultation is effective so that responses received add value to final SA outputs. The approach and methodology for consulting with each type of consultee has been carefully thought out, planned and developed accordingly.

8.7 To this end, all consultation will aim to:

- Be inclusive, clear, transparent and auditable
- Proactively inform all stakeholders of the findings of the scoping study
- Encourage review of and invite comments from all stakeholders on the quality of the baseline information, sustainability objectives, key

sustainability issues (social, economic, environmental) and the SA framework

- Collate additional baseline information or additional sources / references to baseline information that may compliment the existing study outputs
- Identify potential information / data gaps and potential needs for future monitoring
- Identify any other key stakeholders

### Consultation Methods

8.8 There is a broad spectrum of consultation techniques that could be utilised to ensure that the above aims and objectives are met. For the purpose of this present scoping study, the following consultation approaches were adopted:

- Direct consultation with East Lindsey District Council representatives
- Stakeholder workshop and informal consultation exercise
- Formal consultation of the Scoping Report

8.9 Each of the above is discussed in detail in the following sections. Direct Consultation with East Lindsey District Council

8.10 Representatives from East Lindsey District Council have been consulted throughout the scoping stage. The primary purpose was to collate all available baseline information and data. A list of all information sources (reports, data, maps etc) provided by East Lindsey District Council can be found in Appendix D. Consultation with representatives of East Lindsey District Council included an Elected Member Workshops which was undertaken on 19 January 2007.

8.13 The workshop was divided into two parts:

**Part One** - This looked in detail at the proposed SA objectives presented in the Scoping Report. Each group were asked to discuss and document their views / comments on each of the following:

- The appropriateness / adequacy of each objective
- The number of objectives (e.g. too few / too many?)
- The balance of objectives across the four broad themes - social, economic, environmental
- Did the 'suite' of objectives cover all sustainability issues within the district?

**Part Two** - This looked in detail at the proposed sustainability issue topics identified during the scoping study. Each allocated group identified the key sustainability issues which they considered most relevant within East Lindsey and documented this information on proformas provided.

### Informal Stakeholder Consultation

8.14 Stakeholders were selected based on statutory requirements and also to ensure that a balanced and representative cross section of local agencies with a district wide remit was consulted. Table 8.1 below lists those consulted.

Table 8.1: Consultees

Workshop	Informal consultation by post cont...
All East Lindsey elected Council Members	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Informal consultation by post	Lincolnshire Area Ramblers Association
Lincolnshire County Council	Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

East Midlands Regional Assembly	Wash Estuary Project Manager
East Midlands Development Agency	The Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board
Environment Agency	Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board
Highways Agency	Woodland Trust
English Heritage	Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association Ltd
Community Council of Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils
Disability Lincs Ltd	Lincolnshire Compact
East Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust	British Wind Energy Association
Heritage Lincolnshire	Country Land & Business Association
Lincolnshire Development	Campaign to Protect Rural England
Lincolnshire Tourism	The Gypsy Council For Health, Education & Welfare
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	The Gypsy Council
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Joint Advisory Committee	Friends, Families & Travellers
Lincolnshire Sports Partnerships	Natural England - East Midlands Region

8.15 A consultation pack was provided to the stakeholders in order for them to comment on the draft SA objectives and the key sustainability issues for the East Lindsey district. Consultees were given a four weeks period to return any comments.

#### **Formal Consultation of the Scoping Report**

8.16 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the final draft scoping report was sent to all statutory consultees (see Table 8.1 above) and was published on the East Lindsey District Council website.

8.17 Faber Maunsell, in partnership with East Lindsey District Council, will undertake consultation of this Scoping Report and collate and analyse all responses prior to making any revisions. Links with other scoping tasks 8.20 Figure 1.2 in Appendix A shows the links between Stage A5 and all other stages of the SA scoping process.

#### **Consultation Outputs**

##### **Informal Consultation Outputs**

8.18 The outputs from the workshop have been utilised to inform the selection and wording of the SA objectives and to help identify the key sustainability issues most relevant to the East Lindsey district. The original informal consultation responses are provided in Appendix E.

##### **Formal Consultation Outputs**

8.19 The responses from the formal consultation period have been collated and documented within the final Scoping report / or those elements that are revised documented within the Sustainability Appraisal Report (scoping summary sections). The formal consultation responses can be found in Appendix G.

# 9 Next Steps: Sustainability Appraisal Report

Chapter 1 : Introduction	Chapter 2 : Study Area	Chapter 3 : SA Stage A1	Chapter 4 : Stage A1	Chapter 5 : Stage A2	Chapter 6 : Stage A3	Chapter 7 : SA Stage A4	Chapter 8 : SA Stage A5	Chapter 9 : SA Next Steps
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## Chapter Overview and Structure

9.1 This chapter presents a brief summary of the next steps to be undertaken in the SA process. It includes information on the following themes:

- Background to Stages B to E
- SA Reports

### Background to Stages B to E

9.2 Throughout the preparation of the SA of the various documents in the Local Plan, the Sustainability Framework in this Scoping Report (SA stage A) will be used to carry out stages B to E of the SA process. Table 9.1 presents the tasks involved in completing the SA of each document. Stage B and C are the next work elements that will be undertaken for East Lindsey's DPDs.

9.3 The SA Reports will build upon the Scoping Report and include details of impact prediction, evaluation, mitigation and monitoring of the sustainability effects of emerging proposals and policies for each DPD. The report will build on the key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 6 and the SA framework detailed in Chapter 7. All comments received during the formal consultation process will be included and addressed as appropriate.

Table 9.1: The Remaining Stages (B to E) of the Sustainability Appraisal

Tasks	
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
B1	Testing the objectives against the SA framework
B2	Developing options
B3	Predicting the effects of the plan
B4	Evaluating the effects of the plan
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
C1	Preparing the SA report
Stage D: Consulting on the Draft LDF Document and the SA Report	
D1	Public participation on the preferred option of the DPD and the SA report
D2(i)	Appraising significant changes
D2(ii)	Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
D3	Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the LDD	
E1	Finalising aims and methods of monitoring
E2	Responding to adverse effects