

Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan



Sustainability Assessment Scoping Report 2015 – 2035

Supplementary Document 1

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Section 1: Introduction

This document forms the scoping report for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan.

The four main statutory consultees with environmental responsibilities in England will be consulted alongside other parties with sustainability/environmental interests and those with local interests.

The purpose of the sustainability appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are incorporated into all levels of planning policy. Sustainability appraisal is a requirement of the EC directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC). This transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004, which applies to plans with significant environmental effects. The assessment of significance of environmental effects is usually undertaken through a screening assessment, which uses the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directives.

Neighbourhood Plans are a relatively new level of planning policy and as such a precedent has not been set as to their relative environmental significance. As neighbourhood plans can cover a large range of subjects including location of new development, it has been decided in this case to assume there will be a requirement for a sustainability assessment.

There is a case to assume there will be a requirement for a sustainability assessment.

Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plans are a function of the Localism Act 2011. The aim is for local communities to have greater control over what takes place in their area.

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council is leading the plan process. As part of the process a working group has been established and is made up of representatives of the local community and businesses. The working group has had and will continue to have input into the plan making process and help represent the views of local people in the plan making process.

The Welton-by-Lincoln plan must conform to higher-level policy. This means that it must conform to national, regional and local policy including the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan when adopted.

Due to the failure of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan being officially adopted, the number of houses and employment space is unknown.

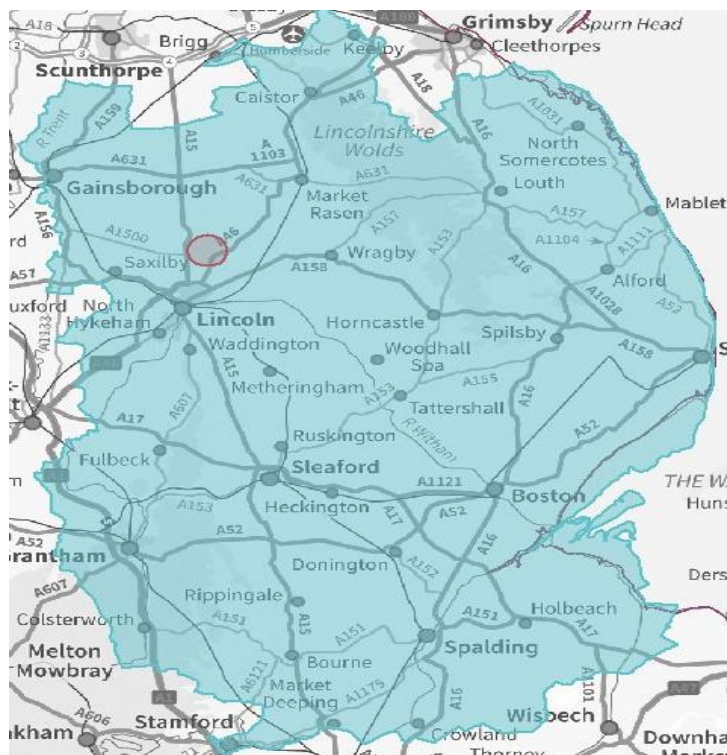


Fig 1.1 Welton-by-Lincoln in Context

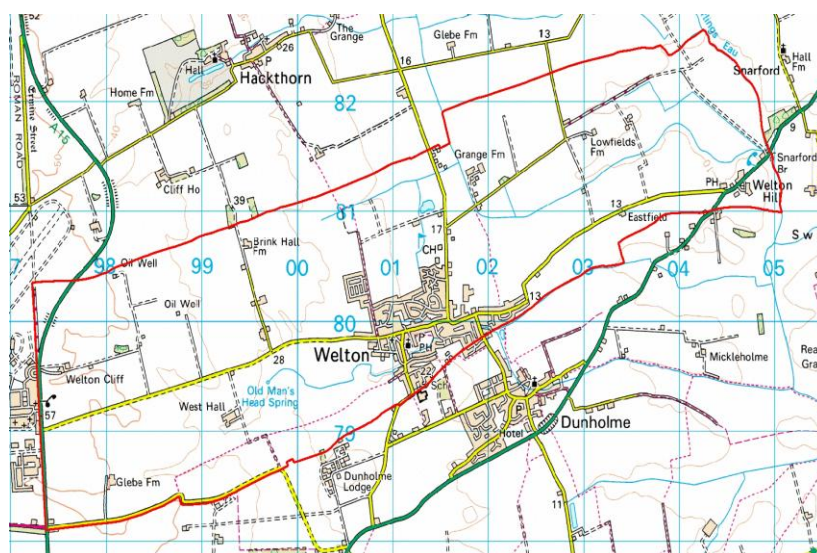


Fig 1.2 The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan

Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

Housing Objectives	
H01	To provide an appropriate amount of new housing to meet local needs, including a greater range of affordable housing as identified in the Welton & Dunholme Affordable Housing Needs Survey Report carried out in 2012 that gives preferential access to affordable new homes to people with strong local connections
H02	To provide a mix of housing types including smaller homes for older residents wishing to downsize and young singles, couples and families needing their first home
H03	To ensure that new development is of high quality in design, is built to a high sustainability standard and reinforces local distinctiveness
H04	To ensure the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change and flooding
Economy Objectives	
E01	Promote employment opportunities through small businesses and rural office space and tourism
E02	Expand retail and commercial facilities available in the village
E03	Improve communication facilities i.e. superfast broadband, to promote home working
Movement and Transport Objectives	
M01	Connect new housing into Welton with good pedestrian and cycle connections
M02	To position development within easy walking distance of bus stops, schools, health centre, shops and other village facilities
M03	To position new development in a way that current problems with congestion, parking and road safety are not exacerbated
Environment Objectives	
EN01	Co-ordinate green infrastructure in association with any new development
EN02	Provide more open public spaces in association with any new development
EN03	Improve existing public spaces in association with any new development
EN04	New developments to address flooding and drainage issues
EN05	Encourage energy efficient and sustainable development
Community Objectives	
C01	To preserve important assets such as the library, heritage sites, Village Hall, etc.
C02	Integrate new housing in Welton-by-Lincoln such that today's rural look and feel is maintained

Section 2: Methodology

The proposed methodology for the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan SA is set out in Table 1.1. The scoping report has involved undertaking the tasks in Stage A, culminating with a formal consultation. The methodology of Stage A is described below:

Stage A1 - Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives at national, regional and local levels that might influence the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage A2 – Collecting, baseline information. The early stages of the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan included a review of the existing evidence base, identifying a variety of sources including the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy, although now defunct, the information from the core strategy evidence base was felt to be relative to the plan.

Base line data has been collected for the criteria required by the SEA Directive and the UK SEA Regulations. The criteria are below: -

- Nature conservation
- Landscape
- Heritage
- Air and climate
- Water
- Soil
- Human population
- Human health
- Material assets which include transport, waste and infrastructure
- Education and skills
- Employment and jobs

This baseline data is reviewed to establish information on current situations and the location of any particularly sensitive areas.

Stage A3 - Identify sustainability issues and problems. Within the parish of Welton-by-Lincoln, certain sustainability issues are more significant than others, i.e. education and transport. All issues need to be highlighted in the sustainability appraisal. Issues were identified through the following:

- review of relevant National and local plan
- analysis of baseline data and trends
- consultation with local people

Stage A4 - Developing the SA framework. A sustainability framework has been developed that will be used during the next stage and we have reviewed the District Council Local Plan identifying a set of draft objectives.

The objectives may be refined further during the process of developing the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan as a result of consultation with local people and other stakeholders, together with any other additional or revised plans, policies and programmes coming forward.

Stage A5 - Consultation on the scope of the SA. This report will be sent to statutory consultees and others with interests in sustainability issues.

- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- West Lindsey District Council
- Lincolnshire County Council

Table 2.1 The different stages in the SA process

Stage A	Setting context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainable development objectives
A2	Collecting baseline information
A3	Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4	Developing SA framework
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B1	Testing the NP objectives against the SA frame work
B2	Developing the NP options
B3	Predicting the effects of the draft NP
B4	Evaluating the effects of the draft NP
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6	Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the NP
Stage C	Preparing the SA report
C1	Preparing the SA report
Stage D	Consulting on the draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal report
D1	Public participation on the SA report and the draft NP
D2	Assessing significant changes
D3	Adoption of NP. Making decisions and providing information
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the NP
E1	Finalising aims and methods of monitoring
E2	Responding to adverse effects

Section 3: Policy Context

Directive requirements:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programmes and relationships with other relevant plans and programmes”

“the environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member state level which are relevant to the plan or programmes and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”

Annex 1(a) and (e)

Introduction

This section provides a summary of relevant regional and local plans and programmes that could influence the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan, key aims, objectives identified from regional and local plans. These are incorporated into the SEA/SA framework and used to inform baseline data and the identification of key issues.

International plans or programmes have not been reviewed as it is assumed the relevant sustainability objectives within these documents have been incorporated into regional and local policy. The following strategies and plans have been reviewed and where appropriate incorporated within the SA framework objectives:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF has been reviewed for guidance on strategy due to the revoking of Regional and Local Plans.

The Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan has taken guidance from the following appropriate strategies:

- Strong economy
- Prosperous rural economy
- Sustainable transport
- Communication infrastructure
- High quality homes
- Good design
- Healthy communities
- Protecting green belt land
- Climate change
- Conserving and changing natural environments
- Conserving and changing historic environments
- Using sustainable materials

Regional Policy Context

East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009)

The East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009) has been reviewed for strategic regional guidance. The Coalition Government revoked Regional Plans in April 2013.

Summary of Climate Change Risks for East Midlands

This is a study of the impact climate change will have on people, places, businesses and services in the East Midlands.

Local Policy Context

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Strategy was withdrawn after the Government Inspector expressed concerns over the lack of a five-year housing supply. The joint councils have decided to produce a new plan entitled The Central Lincolnshire Local Development Scheme by 2016. However, the core objectives of the plan remain relevant and have been taken into account in developing the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan SA framework.

Central Lincolnshire Economic Growth Strategy 2012-2031

The key vision of the Central Lincolnshire Economic Growth Strategy is to develop economic growth alongside growth in housing and infrastructure. The Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan must accord with higher-level policies and will work with Central Lincolnshire officers to ensure that it reflects any changes from emerging policy.

West Lindsey Local Plan 2006 (WLLP)

Until the Central Lincolnshire Development Scheme has been adopted, the West Lindsey Local Plan (WLLP) remains the current adopted plan. The Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan will review the WLLP, adopt and be updated against the CLIPS strategies.

4th Lincolnshire Transport Plan 2013–2023

The Transport Plan was published in April 2013 and sets out 8 objectives that reflect transport aspirations. Included in this document are The Lincolnshire Walking and Cycling Strategies which set out to promote health and wellbeing to enrich the quality of life.

Central Lincolnshire Water Study 2010

The study reviews the effect the Central Lincolnshire Development Strategy will have on water usage, sewage and flooding. It sets out a series of actions relating to the development of water resources and efficiency of water usage.

Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study for Central Lincolnshire

This study identifies a series of strategic spatial areas across Central Lincolnshire (City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey) in order to meet primarily environmental, but also social and economic needs.

West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment 1999

This report highlights the effects that new development on the fringe villages in Lincolnshire will have on the natural rural landscape.

Community Lincs Affordable Housing Needs Survey Report for Welton-by-Lincoln and Dunholme May 2012

The survey and analysis of the local housing in Welton has shown evidence to warrant a scheme of 31 affordable houses to be developed in Welton-by-Lincoln. The survey also highlighted that if affordable housing was made available within Welton and Dunholme, an additional 10 people/households might wish to return to live within the parish.

The Lincoln Plan SA Framework has used the aims and objectives from these policy documents to develop the Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan.

Section 4: Sustainability Context

Directive requirement:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan or programme.”

“the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected”

Annex 1(b) and (c)

Baseline Information

This section of the report outlines a summary of the environmental baseline information for Welton-by-Lincoln and provides the baseline for predicting and monitoring the effects and help to identify sustainability problems.

Nature Conservation

There are no national level designations within the Welton-by-Lincoln parish boundaries. Within the district of West Lindsey there are national level designations. However, none of these is close to the Welton-by-Lincoln parish boundary and not likely to have any negative impact by development within Welton-by-Lincoln.

Local Level Designation

There are no local level designations within the Welton-by-Lincoln parish boundary.

Biodiversity

The land used for development should be least biodiverse. As many trees as possible should be kept. Perimeter hedges are often of environmental value and this value is frequently lost when they become part of gardens. As listed by DEFRA, the land surrounding Welton-by-Lincoln is a suitable habitat for Arable Assemblage farmland birds, which includes Corn Bunting, Gray Partridge, Lapwing, Turtledoves, Tree Sparrows and Yellow Wagtails.

Source DEFRA

Landscape

Welton-by-Lincoln is situated in the north cliff area of Central Lincolnshire. The landscape of this area has a strong north-south grain, influenced primarily by the presence of the Cliff, but also by the Roman Ermine Street that runs along the top of it. A map of parish boundaries in this Character Area shows that they all have the Roman road as an east or west boundary and are laid out perpendicular to it.

There are two lines of settlement parallel to the Roman road, one on each side, set back from it at a distance of approximately one mile. The villages are generally small, with a mix of modern and historic buildings. Modern developments are set within the historic pattern of the villages rather than forming discrete extensions. The buildings are generally constructed of local stone, readily found on the Cliff, with clay tile roofs. These settlements are connected to each other by linear, yet irregular, north-south aligned roads, and to the Roman road by occasional straight east-west aligned lanes with wide verges, which are likely to have been laid out in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries during the process of enclosure.

Many settlements derive their sense of place and identity to form distinct views, local landmarks and landscape features. New developments on the fringe of settlements tend to cut villages from their natural landscape setting and block local views. The extended villages which are within commuting distance of Lincoln have been affected in the past.

Heritage

Within the parish boundary of Welton-by-Lincoln there are 13 Grade 2 listed buildings¹, most of which are in the centre of the village.

- 10 Lincoln Road
- 2 gravestones at the east end of St Mary's Churchyard
Robert Camm d.1781 and his wife Elizabeth d.1788
- 7 Ryland Road
- Brink Hall Farmhouse
- Brook House
- Church of St Mary
- Cross at Church of St Mary
- Pidgeoncote at Ryland Farmhouse
- Village Pump
- Ryland Farmhouse
- Stonecliffe House
- Stonefaces, Sudbeck Lane
- War Memorial in St Mary's Church Churchyard

Source English Heritage

Air and Climate

Traffic and transport

Traffic travelling through and to the village centre is continually increasing. From 4042 people in Welton Ward, 50.79% of people drive to work. Many of the surrounding villages depend on Welton-by-Lincoln for doctors, shopping and other facilities. Hence, any new developments within Welton-by-Lincoln and surrounding villages will have a major impact on the traffic.

An increase in car journeys could have a negative impact on the air quality within the parish. Accessible public transport will play an important role in the air quality of Welton-by-Lincoln.

Travel to School

Welton-by-Lincoln has primary and secondary schools. William Farr CofE Comprehensive School pupils come from a large number of surrounding villages. This means that pupils are transported by private cars and buses through the village centre and twice a day the village centre is grid-locked with buses making difficult turnings near the Health Centre and local Co-operative store. The junction of Beckhall and Lincoln Road is also heavily affected at these times.

1094 out of 1598 pupils attending William Farr live within five kilometres of the school and travel to school by car or coach.

The next two nearest secondary schools are 5 miles away in Lincoln and 9 miles away in Market Rasen.

Source Headmaster William Farr

Air Quality Management

Welton-by-Lincoln does not currently have any Air Quality Management areas (AQMA).

West Lindsey District Council has not produced a local air quality strategy, but is involved in the development of a countywide Climate Change Strategy that is being drawn up by Lincolnshire County Council with partners, which will additionally bring about air quality benefits. The Council also continues to work with other Lincolnshire authorities on regional air quality issues through the Lincolnshire Environmental Protection Liaison Group.

The East Midlands Regional Strategy (March 2009) has a number of core objectives with regards to air quality; Policy 36 requires that the Local Development Framework and strategic public bodies should:

- Contribute to the reduction of air pollution
- Consider the potential impacts of development and increased traffic levels on air quality
- Consider the impacts of developments and increased traffic levels on nature conservation sites in the region and adopt mitigation measures to address these impacts

Flooding

Flooding can cause serious damage and have devastating effects. One in six properties in England currently faces the threat of flooding and the risk is set to increase with climate change. It is vital that we do all we can to avoid and reduce further impacts through careful planning and development.

There are two flood level two zones in Welton-by-Lincoln, one on the eastern side of the village. The first one runs from Ryland Road through to Hackthorn Road and the second is an area running alongside the left side of Cliff Road going out of the village towards the A15. The flood zone areas are shown in Fig 4.2

Water Quality

The Water Framework Directive came into force in December 2000, and was transposed into UK law in December 2003. The first principle of the WFD is to prevent deterioration in aquatic ecosystems. No deterioration means that a water body does not deteriorate from its current ecological or chemical classification and applies to individual pollutants within the water body.

There are two watercourses flowing through the Plan area. The Welton beck flows through Welton itself and an unnamed watercourse passes to the north of the village. Both watercourses are tributaries of the Barlings Eau. The Barlings Eau itself flows along the eastern boundary of the Plan area.

One of the aims of the WFD is for all rivers to achieve a target status of 'good'. The Barlings Eau does not meet all the required standards for 'good' and is classified as 'poor' overall. This is due to the poor status of one of the biological elements (phytobenthos – plants living near the river) as well as hydrology (low flows) and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

Any future development in the Plan area should be undertaken in such a way that the rivers should be protected.

Water Resources

There are several existing water abstraction licence holders in the Plan area, and any future development should be undertaken in such a way that does not adversely impact on existing licence holders.

Source Environment Agency Letter

Soil

Agricultural Land Quality

The developed area of Welton-by-Lincoln is surrounded by fields, which are used for a variety of agricultural purposes. Agricultural land is classified on a scale of 1 to 5 with grades 1, 2, 3a being classed as the “best and most versatile” (BMV) land for the purpose of agriculture. The land surrounding Welton-by-Lincoln is graded 2 and 3a.

Source DEFRA

Human Population and Health

Deprivation

The index of deprivation is a composite indicator used to compare deprivation. It is made up of a number of factors that contribute to deprivation including employment, income, education and access to services. Deprivation indicators are ranked such that 1 is most and 32,482 the least deprived. Welton-by-Lincoln is 32,158 in the ranking and therefore one of the least deprived areas in the country.

Source: - www.uklocalarea.com

Health data

Statistics show that people living in Welton Ward enjoy better health than those in the District, Regional and Nationally with 83.8% being in good or very good health as indicated in the following table:

		Welton Ward	West Lindsey Non-Metropolitan District	East Midlands Region	England Country
Very Good					
Health	Percentage	49	44	45.3	47.2
Good Health	Percentage	34.4	35.9	35.1	34.2
Fair Health	Percentage	12	14.7	14	13.1
Bad Health	Percentage	3.5	4.2	4.3	4.2
Very Bad					
Health	Percentage	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2

Table 4.1 Health in Welton-by-Lincoln

Source ONS Neighbourhood Statistics 2011

Material Assets

The following local facilities and services are shown in fig 4.3

- Health facilities
- Education facilities
- Community facilities

The village has a medical practice and a private dental surgery. Currently Welton Family Health Centre has a list of 9500 patients with 5 partner doctors and one locum covering an area of approx 135 square miles. With a village population of 4500, this means that half the patients come from surrounding villages. In a future NHS plan the surgery area is to be extended to cover a wider area. Not only will new developments in the village put greater pressure on the health facilities, but also any new developments within the surgery boundary will have a substantial effect.

There is one primary and one secondary school within the Welton Parish boundary. Welton St Mary's C.E. Primary Academy has places available in their lower age group classes.

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School has 1598 students aged 11 to 18 and available places are oversubscribed each year. The pupils come from a number of surrounding villages. Any new development within the village will have an effect on future pupils from the surrounding villages. They may have to be placed at other schools further afield.

The village has an outdoor sports complex at Manor Park. There are a number of grass football pitches, a floodlit 3G Artificial Grass Pitch, a bowls green and BMX/Skate Park. There are a total of three children's play areas in the village. A variety of activities take place in the village Hall:

- Monthly meetings of the University of the 3rd Age
- Weekly ballet classes
- After school clubs
- Exercise classes
- Bridge Club
- Parish Council meetings
- Concerts and Plays
- Craft and educational classes
- Luncheon Club for the elderly

Education and Skills

In Welton Ward 17% of people do not have any qualifications. This compares favorably with the East Midlands 24.7% and England 22.4%.

32% of the Welton Ward population has a level 4 qualification i.e. HNC, Degree or higher.

In 2013 William Farr CofE Comprehensive School achieved 76% of 5 or more A* to C grades. Higher achievement when compared with District (67.3%) and National (68%) levels.

	Welton	East Midlands	England
Total	4480		
No Qualifications	17.5%	24.7%	22.4%
Level 4 and above	32.1%	13.5%	27.3%

Table 4.2 Residents over 16 years old, education and skill levels in percentages

Source ONS Neighbourhood Statistics 2011

Employment and Jobs

The District of West Lindsey is mainly an agricultural area. Most people from Welton-by-Lincoln travel out of the village for their place of work to Lincoln or larger conurbations such as Nottingham and Leicester.

Unemployment is low compared with the rest of England with a rate of 2.27% ¹¹ a quarter of the national figure.

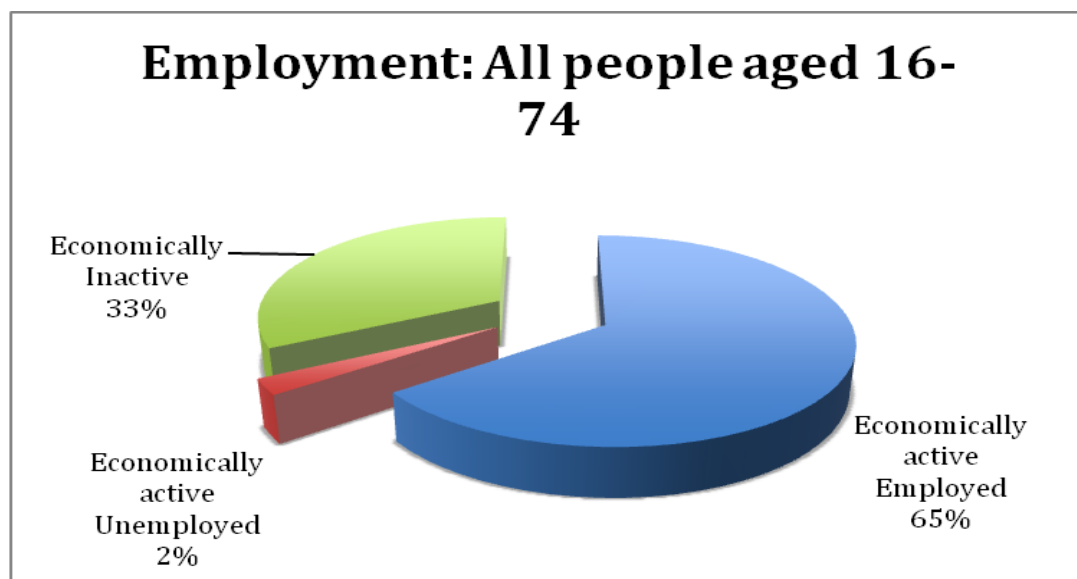


Figure 4.1 Employment in Welton-by-Lincoln

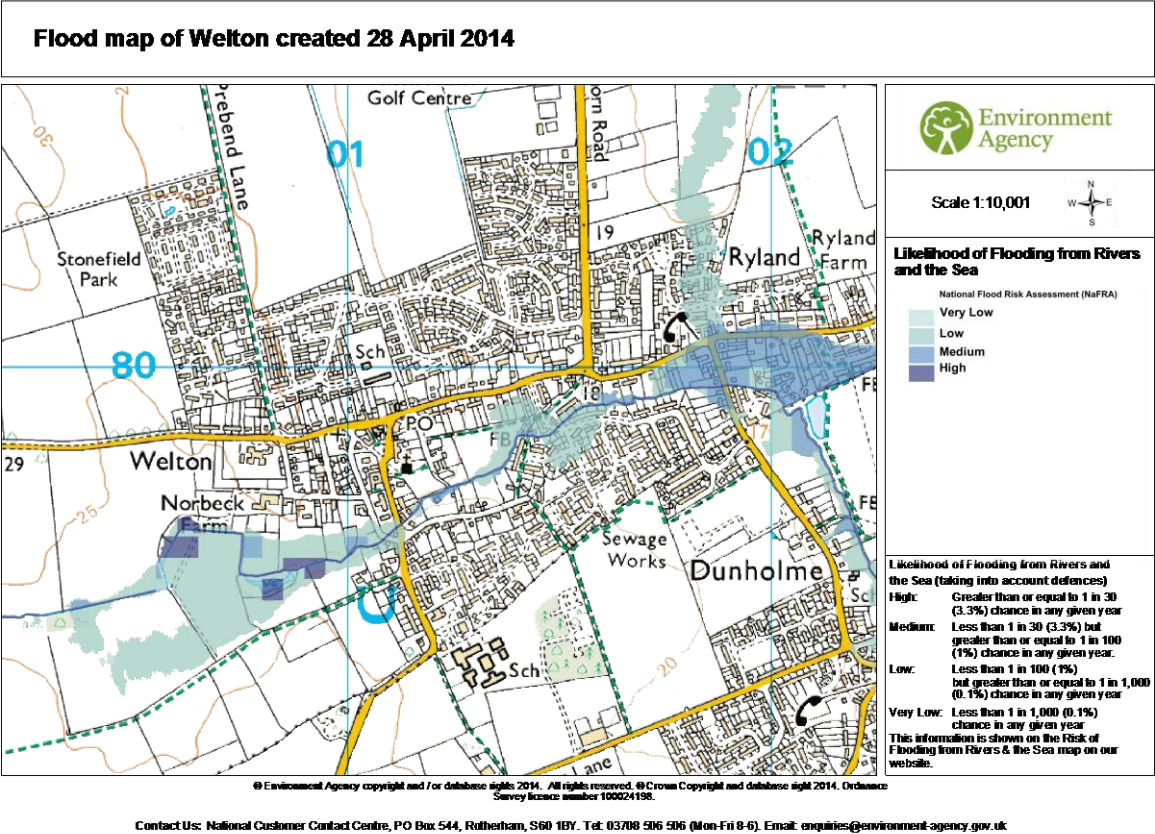


Fig. 4.2 Flood map of Welton-by-Lincoln



Figure 4.3 Map of Welton-by-Lincoln

Section 5 Issues, Problems and Trends

Directive requirement:

“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 [the ‘Birds Directive’] and 92/43/EEC [the ‘Habitats Directive’] (Annex 1(d))

The Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Scoping Report identifies the environmental issues and problems for the area. A number of these are relevant to Welton-by-Lincoln and are used as a basis for the issues and problems in tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3.

Issues of particular relevance to Welton-by-Lincoln were identified by:

- a) An analysis of the views and trends from the previous Parish Plan in 2007 and update 2010
- b) An analysis of statistics available from ONS, Affordable Housing Survey 2012
- c) A consultation with 22% of the adult population
- d) Consultation with Years 5 and 6 of Welton St Mary’s C.E. Primary Academy
- e) Senior Adult communities at Park House and Stonecliff Park
- f) Open Consultation Meeting 7th June 2014 with 70 people from the community

Source Welton-by-Lincoln Local Survey 2014

The baseline shows that Welton-by-Lincoln is located in a region of the country that needs to develop economically. The main industries of Lincolnshire are agriculture, tourism and engineering, although this has declined during the last two decades. The future is bright according to recent announcements for green energy hubs to be built in the Humber region. This could have a positive effect on the engineering industries based around Lincoln. The village has a low level of deprivation, higher than average incomes, low unemployment and lower than average levels of unqualified adults.

The Welton-by-Lincoln Neighbourhood Plan will seek to ensure that development which takes place in the village, meets sustainability objectives. Without the Neighbourhood Plan uncontrolled development could take place.

The environmental conditions could deteriorate in the following ways:

- Open spaces, areas of valued countryside and landscapes could be harmed
- traffic congestion could increase and road safety decrease
- issues with parking in the village could escalate to alarming proportions
- species and habitats of nature conservation importance could be threatened
- stress on diminishing water resources could increase
- amount of waste disposal to landfill could be greater

The West Lindsey Local Plan 2006 is the latest plan to work to, following the rejection of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will have an influence on the delivery, design and number of houses.

The need to reduce traffic and its consequential adverse effects on the environment, health and economy can indirectly be influenced to a limited extent by the Neighbourhood Plan.

The identification of sustainability issues has been shown in Section 4 of this report together with the evaluation of potential sites. The sustainability issues are grouped under Social, Environment and Economy as listed in Table 4.1.

Social Problems		Evidence
1	Shortage of affordable housing	The need for 31 affordable houses within Welton was identified in the Community Lincs Survey 2012. House prices within Welton-by-Lincoln have risen by £21,035 (11.3%), with the average house price in 2013 being £247,000. Young people cannot afford to live in the village.
2	Lack of appropriate sized houses	33% of those residing in the village are retired, many still living in large 3 or 4 bedroom houses. The main requirement is for smaller accommodation for elderly villagers wishing to downsize and also for young families. The Welton-by-Lincoln survey 2014 identified that the size and design of future housing remains a major concern.
3.	The needs of an aging population	As noted above Welton-by-Lincoln has an ageing population. This will place extra and different demands on local health, transport and housing requirements in the future.
4	Social exclusion from poor access to services and jobs	The village acts and will act as a primary supporter for surrounding villages. The health care services are oversubscribed and limited with 5 doctors for 9500 patients. Residents need to use private cars, as the public transport services do not match the requirements of employment. There is no bus service after 7.00pm or on Sundays and Bank Holidays.
5	Fear of crime and anti-social behavior	Welton-by-Lincoln is a safe place in which to live and concern about crime is not high. From the village survey 2014 the residents indicated a concern about anti-social behavior. Between January 2011 and January 2012 26 crimes were committed.

Table 5.2

Environmental Problems		Evidence
6	Protecting the landscape character and settings	The loss of distinctive landscape settings to settlements, to erosion of traditional rural landscape patterns and features. There could be further threats, such as the loss of semi-natural habitats (West Lindsey Landscape Assessment).
7	Loss of biodiversity	There are no key habitats listed in the West Lindsey Biodiversity Plan. In the Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan, the Biodiversity Plan states that there is land suitable for wetland habitat east of the village.
8	Road traffic and consequent adverse environmental, economical and safety impacts	Traffic in Lincolnshire increased by 12.34% between 2000 and 2012 (Department for Transport data). With the news of a renewable industry centre to be developed on the Humber. The subsequent effects will increase the traffic in Lincolnshire. Car ownership in Welton-by-Lincoln is high and at peak times traffic congestion occurs around school dropping off and picking up times and at the junctions with the A46 and A15.
9	Flood risks	There are three areas designated as flood risks in the village: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastfield Road and Ryland Road - Flood risk 3 • Ryland Road through to Hackthorn Road - Flood risk 2 • Fields to the left of Cliff Road - Flood risk 2
10	Risk of drought	Global warming is likely to result in periods of drought spanning more than one season or one year, presenting a potential threat to water supplies. Over the next 20 years the summer rainfall in this region is estimated to decrease by 16% (UK Climate projections for the East Midlands 2009)
11	Climate change	Climate change is a major challenge. It appears that little progress is being made in reducing CO ² emissions and those from the transport sector are increasing significantly. There is also little evidence of progress being made in the development of renewable energy resources

Table 5.3

Economic Problems		Evidence
12	Pockets of deprivation in an otherwise affluent area	<p>Welton-by-Lincoln is one of the least deprived areas in the country, ranking 32,158 on the index of multiple deprivation. Deprivation indicators are ranked such that 1 is most and 32,482 the least deprived.</p> <p>Unemployment is lower than the national average.</p>
13	Aging population structure	<p>One third (33%) of people residing in the village are retired. Young people either move away to work or are unable to afford to live in the village which is having the effect of undermining the vitality of the village. In West Lindsey 19.33% of the population were over 65 and this is expected to rise to 25.81% by 2025 (A Profile of the Elderly in West Lindsey 2009).</p>
14	Low skilled economy	<p>Traditionally, Central Lincolnshire's economy has been based on three main industrial sectors; agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. These industries tend to be low skilled and pay lower wages. There is also an increasing skills gap in Lincolnshire from 9% in 2005 to 11% in 2009. This could impact on the development of businesses in Central Lincolnshire, especially those seeking to move into higher added value markets.</p>
15	Road traffic congestion	<p>The traffic in Lincolnshire increased by 12.3% between 2000 and 2009. With a high car ownership, Welton-by-Lincoln experiences considerable congestion around the schools, village centre and the A46 and A15 junctions.</p>
16	Infrastructure necessary to support future growth	<p>The current village infrastructure such as parking facilities, health and social care, water supply, drainage, sport and leisure may not be adequate to support future development.</p>
17	Threats to the vitality and viability of the village	<p>The high cost of housing and an ageing population are a potential threat to the continuing vitality of the village.</p>

Section 6: Sustainability Framework

The sustainability challenges identified in Section 5 have been used to formulate the sustainability objectives to underpin the Welton-by-Lincoln sustainability framework.

This framework is linked to the Regional Core Strategy Framework devised by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Plan.

The framework will be used to evaluate various options for development in Welton-by-Lincoln and to direct the selection process and criteria used to evaluate potential development sites. In order to accord with the SEA regulations, the environmental effects of options and alternatives will also be tested. Particular consideration will be given to:

A. The extent to which the Neighbourhood Plan:

- establishes a framework of developments and other activities with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions of these developments
- complies with the Local Plan
- includes environmental considerations which promote sustainable development
- considers specific local environmental challenges such as flooding, protection of habitats and species

B. Particular impact on the areas within Welton-by-Lincoln that could potentially be affected by the proposals:

- magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected)
- the cumulative nature of the effects
- impact on adjacent communities
- risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

Sustainability Objectives

1	To help provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a satisfactory home
2	Improve accessibility for all those living in the village to health, education, recreation, cultural and community facilities and services
3	To help create a safe place for people and businesses to operate, to reduce anti-social behavior and reduce crime
4	To maintain and improve the health, wellbeing and community cohesion of those living in the village and support voluntary, community and faith groups
5	To protect and increase biodiversity levels and enhance green Infrastructure
6	To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural built environmental and archaeological assets and landscape character of the area, including the area's heritage and the local setting
7	To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • securing sustainable building practices that conserve energy, water resources and materials • maximise the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources • ensuring the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change
8	To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting potential harm to public wellbeing, environment and the economy
9	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available
10	To seek to minimize waste generation and encourage the re-use of waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery
11	To improve efficiency in land use and reduce development pressure on the countryside and natural resources/material assets, such as landscape, minerals, biodiversity and soil quality
12	To promote business growth and create high quality employment opportunities within the Central Lincolnshire area for local people
13	To develop a strong culture of enterprise, innovation and skills
14	To provide the physical conditions to support a diverse and modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies
15	To encourage small businesses, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy
16	To encourage the development of a buoyant sustainable tourism sector
17	To support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities to provide local services and solutions

Table 5.4

Appendix 1

Site Ranking Parameters	
1	Is the site unconditionally available for development in 1-5 years?
2	Is the site highly sensitive environmentally or ecologically?
3	Is the site a green field site?
4	Are there tree preservation orders in place?
5	Is the site of archaeological interest?
6	Does the site contain or adjoin any heritage assets?
7	Is the land graded 3a or higher?
8	Does the site have any infrastructure deficiencies?
9	Is the site free from flood risk?
10	Are the community health care facilities reasonably accessible?
11	Is a bus stop reasonably accessible?
12	Are shops reasonably accessible?
13	Are local schools reasonably accessible?
14	Will the impact of traffic be reasonable?
15	On how many sides does the site adjoin existing houses?
16	Are there obvious or other natural boundaries to the site?
17	How many homes can the site take?
18	Can the site take mixed development?
20	Is the site likely to provide employment within the village?
21	Is the site within an existing built up area?
22	Does the site have a history of planning objections?
23	Is the site adjacent or near hazardous components either natural or manmade?

