

NE Lincolnshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Shadow Habitats Regulations
Assessment

Final Report

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Abbreviations

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NEIRF	Natural Environmental Investment Readiness Fund
NELC	North East Lincolnshire Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System

Executive Summary

This report contributes to North East Lincolnshire Council's legal obligation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations of 2010 (as amended) to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its plans for effects on European Sites.

North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) has developed a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for the County. As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 they are responsible for the management of local flood risk, including from surface runoff, ground water and flooding from ordinary watercourses (smaller rivers and streams).

Before a plan can be adopted, the 'competent authority' (NELC) needs to demonstrate that the plan would have no significant effects on European Sites' integrity to the satisfaction of Natural England. An uncertain result is not acceptable and is treated as adverse until proven otherwise.

European Sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species. Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 are also included following Government Policy.

There are no European Sites located within North East Lincolnshire. There are two SPAs, one SAC and one Ramsar site located within 15km of the strategy area:

- Humber Estuary SPA (UK9006111)
- Humber Estuary SAC (UK0030170)
- Humber Estuary Ramsar (UK11031)
- Greater Wash SPA (UK9020329)

Due to the high-level and strategic nature of the objectives and measures proposed, and the lack of proposals for physical works on the ground in the vicinity of European Sites, all of the LFRMS objectives and measures have been screened out for likely significant effects on the European Sites

Therefore, the screening assessment can conclude that the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS will not have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans/strategies, on the European sites listed above.

As no likely significant effects have been identified, there is no need for Appropriate Assessment.

It is therefore concluded that the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS can be adopted with no adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites.

It should be noted that if the LFRMS objectives and measures are amended, or additional objectives and measures are included, then further HRA screening should be undertaken.

1 Introduction

This report details the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) that has been developed by North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), as part of their responsibility as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). It is intended to identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects of implementing the strategy on European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites) within and around North East Lincolnshire.

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) document provides NELC information to assist in their consideration of whether the proposed strategy will have likely significant effects on European Sites, and in ascertaining any adverse effects on their integrity. NELC are the Competent Authority in respect of Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations (as amended). This document can be described as a 'shadow' HRA, providing the necessary information to NELC with which to make their assessment (pursuant to Regulation 63(2) of the above Regulations).

1.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 determined the need for flood risk to be managed within the framework of National Strategies for England and Wales and within the Local Strategies for each Local Flood Authority Area. The national strategy for England sets out the principles for flood risk management and which organisations are responsible for implementation.

In accordance with the national strategy for England, LLFAs have been allocated responsibility for developing independent LFRMSs to address sources of local flooding. Each LFRMS identifies which local organisation is accountable for managing flood risk and establishes partnership agreements, as well as undertaking an assessment of flood risk and developing plans/ actions, for tackling these risks.

NELC as a LLFA has a responsibility to produce a LFRMS to manage water within the County to address local flooding issues. The NELC LFRMS sets out the overall objectives to manage flooding within the County, prepared in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). The purpose of the Strategy is to define and monitor local flood risk management in North East Lincolnshire, and in doing so fulfils the duty required in Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for the LLFA. It identifies three objectives that outline the strategy to manage local flood risk and puts forward associated actions/measures that will promote successful delivery of the strategy.

1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.2.1 Legislative Context

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019), also known as the 'Habitats Regulations', provide legal protection to habitats and species of national importance. The regulations also secure an ecological network of protected sites, consisting of SACs and SPAs. Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention] 1971) are given the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs.

Prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU, SACs were designated and protected under domestic legislation transposed from European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive), and SPAs under European Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Together these sites formed a European-wide Natura 2000 network of protected sites. Since 31 December 2020, SACs and SPAs within the UK no longer fall within the Natura 2000 network, and instead form a National Site Network. SPAs and SACs continue to be referred to collectively as 'European sites' within the context of the Habitats Regulations, reflecting their international importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

SACs and SPAs within the National Site Network are also still designated for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and criteria listed under the Birds Directive, and it is these Annex I habitats, Annex II species and Birds Directive Criteria against which assessments under the Habitats Regulations are still made.

It is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations that where a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site "the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

Therefore, for all plans that are not wholly directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of the site's qualifying features, a formal Screening for any Likely Significant Effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on a European site is required. This Screening Assessment is based on available ecological information on the designated site(s), other plans, projects, and policies relevant to the area and details of the proposed plan.

If the Screening Assessment concludes that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the site(s), or that such an effect cannot be ruled out (adopting a precautionary approach) an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. An Appropriate Assessment involves an assessment of the potential effects of the plan on the

conservation objectives of the site(s). If significant effects are identified, avoidance measures or mitigation to reduce impacts can be applied.

If it cannot be concluded that the plan will not adversely impact upon the integrity of the site(s), the development will not be able to proceed without further conditions and/or assessment. The plan will need to prove that all alternatives have been considered and that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) that outweigh the potentially damaging impacts that the plan may have before it can proceed. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

Plans, such as the NELC LFRMS, are required to undergo HRA if there is the potential for significant impacts, and they are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. As the Plan is not connected with or necessary to the management of SACs, SPAs, or Ramsar sites, it is necessary to undertake a HRA of the Plan.

2 HRA Methodology

2.1 Introduction

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of plans/strategies to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan/strategy development, with the emerging objectives, measures/actions continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan/strategy is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or ‘in-combination’ with other plans. This is usually undertaken in consultation with Natural England and other appropriate consultees.

2.2 HRA Process

The HRA will follow a four-stage process, based on that detailed in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance Planning for the Protection of European sites: Appropriate Assessment (2006) and subsequent Government Guidance on the Use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (2019). These stages are described in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: The HRA Process

Stage/Task	Description
HRA Stage 1: Screening	<p>This process identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and determines whether these impacts are likely to be significant.</p> <p>If no likely significant effect is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If a likely significant effect is identified, stage 2 is commenced.</p> <p>Following the People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of stage 2.</p> <p>However, any changes to early drafts of a plan, for example the removal of a policy with likely significant effects, are considered as pre-screening decisions. The HRA formal Screening is undertaken prior to the adoption of the Plan. Therefore, any changes on earlier iterations of the draft plan are in effect changes to the essential features or characteristics of the plan itself and are therefore (usually) not considered to be avoidance measures requiring consideration at Stage 2.</p>

Stage/Task	Description
<p>HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment</p>	<p>This assessment determines whether a project or plan would have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.</p> <p>This assessment is confined to the effects on the important habitats and species for which the site is designated (i.e. the qualifying interests of the site).</p> <p>Appropriate Assessments, in line with CJEU: Case C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála, must also consider impacts upon habitats and species within or outside of a site boundary if they support a qualifying feature and could impact upon the conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>If no adverse impact is determined, the project or plan can proceed.</p> <p>If an adverse impact is identified, Task 3 is commenced.</p>
<p>HRA Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives and adverse impacts remain (Mitigation and Alternatives)</p>	<p>Where a plan or project has been found to have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site, potential avoidance/mitigation measures or alternative options should be identified.</p> <p>If suitable avoidance/mitigation or alternative options are identified, that result in there being no adverse effects from the project or plan on European sites, the project or plan can proceed.</p> <p>If no suitable avoidance/mitigation or alternative options are identified, as a rule the project or plan should not proceed. However, in exceptional circumstances, if there is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' for the implementation of the project or plan, consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In this case, compensatory measures must have to be put in place to offset negative impacts (stage 4).</p>
<p>HRA Stage 4: Compensatory measures</p>	<p>Stage 4 comprises an assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project should proceed.</p>

Other guidance documents have been used to help inform the methodology of this assessment, including:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. DTA Publications
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2018)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2007)
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Teoranta (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018)

2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

The principles of 'screening' are applied to a plan/strategy or its components to allow the assessment stage to focus on those aspects that are most likely to have potentially significant or adverse effects on European sites, as well as shape the emerging strategy. Screening aims to determine whether the plan will have any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects. A plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if it is not possible (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the likelihood that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; an effect will be 'significant' if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

Screening can be used to 'screen-out' European sites and plan components from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g. if sites or interest features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and/or sensitive) to the outcomes of a plan due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).

To undertake screening of the LFRMS, it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the strategy area likely to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives.
- Describe the strategy and its aims and objectives and also those of other plans or projects that in-combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites.
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites.
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

2.3.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine no significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an appropriate assessment (HRA Task 2).

2.3.2 Mitigation, Avoidance and Protective Measures

Following the People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

2.4 HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment Methodology

2.4.1 Appropriate Assessment and Mitigation - HRA Tasks 2 and 3

For those European sites screened into the HRA, it is necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment to explore the potential adverse effects on their integrity and develop measures to avoid these effects entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impacts sufficiently that effects on the European sites are rendered effectively insignificant.

The stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment are to:

- Explore the reasons for the European designation of the "screened in" European sites.
- Explore the environmental conditions required to maintain the integrity of the "scoped in" European sites and become familiar with the current trends in these environmental processes.
- Gain a full understanding of the LFRMS and consider each measure within the context of the environmental processes – would the measures lead to an impact on any identified process?
- Decide whether the identified impact will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.
- In reference to ECJ case C-462/17 (Nov 18) *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala*, the Appropriate Assessment needs to include all typical habitats and species present within and outside of the boundaries of the European site, if they are necessary for the conservation of the habitats and species listed for the protected area.
- Identify other plans that might affect these European sites in combination with the LFRMS and decide whether there are any adverse effects that might not result from the strategy in isolation will do so in-combination.
- Develop measures to avoid the effect entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impact sufficiently such that its effect on the European site is rendered effectively insignificant.

In evaluating significance, JBA Consulting has relied on its professional judgement, which will be further reinforced through consultation with Natural England, as the LFRMS develops.

2.5 Consultation

It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body (i.e. Natural England). This HRA will be subject to consultation with Natural England, alongside the draft LFRMS.

3 European Sites

3.1 Introduction

As discussed in Section 1.2.1, European sites collectively form the National Site Network. The objectives of the National Site Network are to:

- a) maintain at, or where appropriate restore habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive to a favourable conservation status in their natural range (so far as it lies in the United Kingdom's territory, and so far as is proportionate).
- b) contribute to ensuring, in their area of distribution, the survival and reproduction of wild birds listed in Annex I to the new Wild Birds Directive which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory and regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in that Annex which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory, and so securing compliance with the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

The National Site Network consists of:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - these are designated to protect those habitat types and species that are considered to be most in need of conservation (excluding birds).
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - these are designated to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and also regularly occurring migratory species.

Although not included in the legislation, as a matter of policy, Ramsar sites in England and Wales are protected in the same way as European sites, and therefore considered in the HRA process. The vast majority are also classified as SPAs and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). All SPAs and terrestrial SACs in England and Wales are also designated as SSSIs under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

For simplicity in this report, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively referred to as European sites.

3.2 European Sites in and Around North East Lincolnshire

Best practice guidance suggests that sites occurring within a wider area of approximately 10km to 15km from the boundary of the area directly affected by a plan/strategy should be identified and assessed as part of the HRA screening process, in addition to those sites located within the plan/strategy area. However, it is important to consider the possibility of impacts for any European site which might be affected, whatever their location, given the activities included in the plan/strategy and their range of influence. This may extend some distance from the area within the immediate influence of a plan/strategy. For this LFRMS a buffer of 15km has been applied as it is considered that no pathways, including hydrological connections, exist that would impact upon any European sites beyond this extent.

There are no European Sites located within North East Lincolnshire. There are two SPAs, one SAC and one Ramsar site located within 15km of the strategy area. These sites are listed in Table 3-1 below and the locations shown in Appendix A Figure A-1.

Table 3-1: European Sites Within and Adjacent to the County of North East Lincolnshire

Designation	Name of Site
SPA	Greater Wash (UK9020329)
	Humber Estuary (UK9006111)
SAC	Humber Estuary (UK0030170)
Ramsar	Humber Estuary (UK11031)

Detailed information on these sites, including their qualifying features and conservation objectives are provided in Appendix B Table B-1.

3.3 Potential Hazards to European Sites

3.3.1 Introduction

Flood risk management (including the construction of flood defences and maintenance works) can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction and transportation.

This section identifies the potential hazards to European sites adjacent to the County of North East Lincolnshire which may arise as a result of the implementation of the LFRMS, and then goes on to identify the types of hazards to which the qualifying features present within the sites are particularly sensitive.

3.3.2 Hazards to Sites

The European sites adjacent to North East Lincolnshire are mostly comprised of marine, river and other wetland sites and therefore the potential hazards identified in Table 3-2 are based on those identified in the Environment Agency's EU Habitats Directive Handbook, however local conditions have also been considered during the hazard identification process.

Table 3-2: Potential Hazards to European Sites

Potential Hazard	Description
Changes in hydrological regime	These are changes to existing hydrological processes (e.g. changes to flow rates) that may alter the present characteristics of the European site.

Potential Hazard	Description
Changes in water levels or tables	Flooding, or altered water levels, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species, through drying out of water dependent habitats or by making water levels higher than the species present can tolerate. Additionally, changes to groundwater may adversely impact on these habitats.
Changes in water quality	Activities which may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills as a result of flood risk management activities, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
Changes to surface water flooding	Activities which may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding which may affect riverine, floodplain and other habitats. For example, ponding, intense rainfall or summer storms, or risks increased by impermeable surfaces.
Competition from invasive non-native species	Hydrological impacts as a result of flood risk management measures may cause introduction or spread of invasive non-native species, particularly plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even the complete loss of native communities.
Disturbance	Activities (construction or maintenance) which can adversely impact on the qualifying features of the site directly (physical disturbance) or indirectly (visual or noise), causing sensitive birds and other fauna to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour.
Habitat fragmentation	Flood events, or flood risk management measures such as defence construction, result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat.
Habitat loss	Loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site, for example, as a result of defence construction.
Habitat/community simplification	Changes to environmental conditions as a result of flood risk management measures may result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
Turbidity and siltation	Construction activities or changed flooding/hydrological regimes may increase turbidity within water environments and can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.

3.3.3 Qualifying Features and Sensitivity to Hazards

The qualifying features, conservation objectives and pressures of each European Site adjacent to North East Lincolnshire are outlined in Table B-1 in Appendix B. Each of these qualifying features was assessed for its sensitivity to the potential hazards outlined in Table 3-2. It must be noted that during the assessment of the potential impacts of the LFRMS on a European site, all of the potential hazards will be considered.

The assessment concluded that all of the qualifying features for the following sites were sensitive to all hazards outlined above:

- Humber Estuary SPA (UK9006111)
- Humber Estuary SAC (UK0030170)
- Humber Estuary Ramsar (UK11031)
- Greater Wash SPA (UK9020329)

4 Screening Assessment

4.1 Introduction

This section considers the objectives and measures in the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS and identifies whether or not they have the potential for likely significant effects on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans. The results of the screening are given in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1: Screening of LFRMS Objectives and Measures

LFRMS Objectives	LFRMS Measures	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European Sites
Objective 1: Climate Resilient Places - Working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change	By 2040, NELC will, where possible, minimise carbon emissions in undertaking flood risk mitigation works in order to meet North East Lincolnshire Council’s goal of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 as set out in the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap.	No – this measure relates to partnership working to deliver a separate scheme (Net Zero) in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions
	By 2030, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust will use the Natural Environmental Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) in order to expand current environmental initiatives and support new investment into the natural environment in North East Lincolnshire.	No - this measure relates to funding
	North East Lincolnshire Local Planning Authority in consultation with RMAs will encourage SuDS retrofit on brownfield sites and enhanced green infrastructure to mitigate the existing flood risk to urban areas.	No – this measure relates to development of SuDS and Green Infrastructure in urban areas which is unlikely to impact upon any European Sites
	By 2026, NELC LPA and LLFA will encourage the use of nature-based solutions and reduction of carbon emissions by setting out in the planning system guidance and NELC requirements for use of SuDS and nature-based solutions for new development to incorporate these in preference to hard engineering in NE Lincolnshire.	No - this measure relates to changes in planning system guidance

LFRMS Objectives	LFRMS Measures	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European Sites
	By 2030, NELC LLFA will increase the uptake of green infrastructure on new and existing development in order to maximise biodiversity net gain and water quality by working with the Green Infrastructure in Greater Lincolnshire (GIGL) scheme.	No - this measure relates to partnership working to increase resilience through use of green infrastructure
	By 2023, NELC will establish and monitor the ongoing maintenance of SuDS by working with the Doncaster, Immingham, and Grimsby (DIG) surface water resilience project in order to assess resource requirements and install SuDS that will be functional and efficient for longer.	No - this measure relates to partnership working to share information and improve efficiency of existing SuDS
	The North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Board will identify funding opportunities in North East Lincolnshire by sharing information of upcoming grants and working with wider stakeholders including the RFCC.	No - this measure relates to funding
	NELC will continue to maintain existing traditional drainage infrastructure and new SuDS infrastructure in NE Lincolnshire in order to preserve functionality and efficiency.	No - this measure relates to maintenance of existing infrastructure and schemes
	The North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Board will maximise the benefits of funding through partnership working and identifying opportunities to work together to achieve common goals in reducing local flood risk and increasing local flood resilience.	No - this measure relates to partnership working

LFRMS Objectives	LFRMS Measures	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European Sites
<p>Objective 2: Today's growth and infrastructure and resilient in tomorrow's climate - Making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change</p>	<p>By 2030, the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Board will undertake a coordinated approach to flood risk mitigation works through consideration of the objectives and requirements within all relevant plans and strategies when undertaking flood defence works, development or future environmental changes in the Humber Estuary.</p>	<p>No – this measure relates to the approach to be taken when carrying out works.</p> <p>It is recommended that the following measure should acknowledge the Humber Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar and ensure any works avoid significant adverse impacts on their qualifying features and site integrity.</p>
	<p>By 2030, North East Lincolnshire Council LLFA will lead Property Flood Resilience schemes where appropriate, to mitigate the risk of flooding to individual properties, applying to local sources of funding in order to address the flood risk to key residential areas in North East Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>No – this measure relates to small-scale Flood resilience schemes at properties</p>
	<p>The Local Planning Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority will work with developers through the planning process and provision of pre-application advice to achieve biodiversity net gain and encourage use of green infrastructure and SuDS in all new developments across North East Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>No - this measure relates to updates in guidance regarding the use of green infrastructure, biodiversity net gain and SuDS</p>
	<p>Anglian Water will invest £12 million to improvements to the drainage and wastewater network between 2025-2050 as set out in the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan.</p>	<p>No – this measure relates to funding in relation to delivery of an existing plan</p>

LFRMS Objectives	LFRMS Measures	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European Sites
	<p>The North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Board will improve understanding of local flood risk from reservoirs and use this alongside planning considerations, through the use of updated reservoir inundation mapping.</p>	<p>No - this measure relates to data acquisition and recording to improve knowledge</p>
	<p>By 2025, as part of the Grimsby study, Anglian Water will assess the efficiency and capacity of water infrastructure across North East Lincolnshire and identify actions to address limitations across the North East Lincolnshire area.</p>	<p>No - this measure relates to identifying actions required to improve infrastructure</p>
	<p>Planners will work with internal and external Risk Management Authorities to reduce flood risk, where suitable, when redeveloping brownfield sites.</p>	<p>No – this measure relates to partnership working and sharing information</p>
<p>Objective 3: A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change - Ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change, and know their responsibilities and how to take action</p>	<p>By 2030, the Lead Local Flood Authority will improve the resilience of communities responding to flooding by engaging with communities and the National Flood Forum to support new emergency flood plans so that residents know how and when to respond in flood events in North East Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>No – this relates to on-going support of flood exercises and emergency plans</p>
	<p>Following flood events, the Lead Local Flood Authority alongside the Environment Agency will work with homeowners and insurers to look to build back better, to fund future mitigation works and encourage flood resistance and resilience.</p>	<p>No - this relates to working with others to repair flood damage to properties and promote future resistance and resilience to flooding</p>
	<p>By 2025, the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Board and Local Planning Authority will consult with the EA on planning applications in the floodplain to seek to reduce displacement of flood risk.</p>	<p>No - this measure relates to consultation on flood risk</p>

LFRMS Objectives	LFRMS Measures	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European Sites
	By 2025, RMAs will encourage the next generation of RMAs to support future resource by working with higher education programmes and placement providers to influence and tailor course content to the requirements of local flood risk management and make contacts for attendees to consider the career path.	No - this measure relates to increasing awareness of local flood risk and career opportunities
	The Local Resilience Forum will continue to increase community flood resilience by encouraging residents to sign up for flood warnings, where suitable to increase preparedness and resilience during flood events in NE Lincolnshire.	No - this measure relates to on-going assistance with regards to flood response and promotion of flood warning services

4.2 In-Combination Effects

As it has been assessed that the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS will have no effect on any European site alone, then there is no requirement for an in-combination assessment.

5 Screening Assessment Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion

The LFRMS sets out the overall objectives to manage flooding within Lincolnshire (Table 4-1). The purpose of the Strategy is to define and monitor local flood risk management in North East Lincolnshire, and in doing so fulfil the duty required in section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for the LLFA. The three objectives of the Strategy set out a vision as to how local flood risk will be delivered and managed by NELC as LLFA, and all other Risk Management Authorities as well.

Due to the high-level and strategic nature of the objectives and measures proposed, and the lack of proposals for physical works on the ground in the vicinity of European Sites, all of the LFRMS objectives and measures have been screened out.

Therefore, the screening assessment can conclude that the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS will not have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans/strategies, on the following European sites:

- Greater Wash SPA (UK9020329)
- Humber Estuary SPA (UK9006111)
- Humber Estuary SAC (UK0030170)
- Humber Estuary Ramsar (UK11031)

As no likely significant effects have been identified, there is no need for Appropriate Assessment.

It is therefore concluded that the North East Lincolnshire LFRMS can be adopted with no adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites.

It should be noted that if the LFRMS objectives and measures are amended, or additional objectives and measures are included, then further screening should be undertaken.

A European Sites within and adjacent to the County of North East Lincolnshire

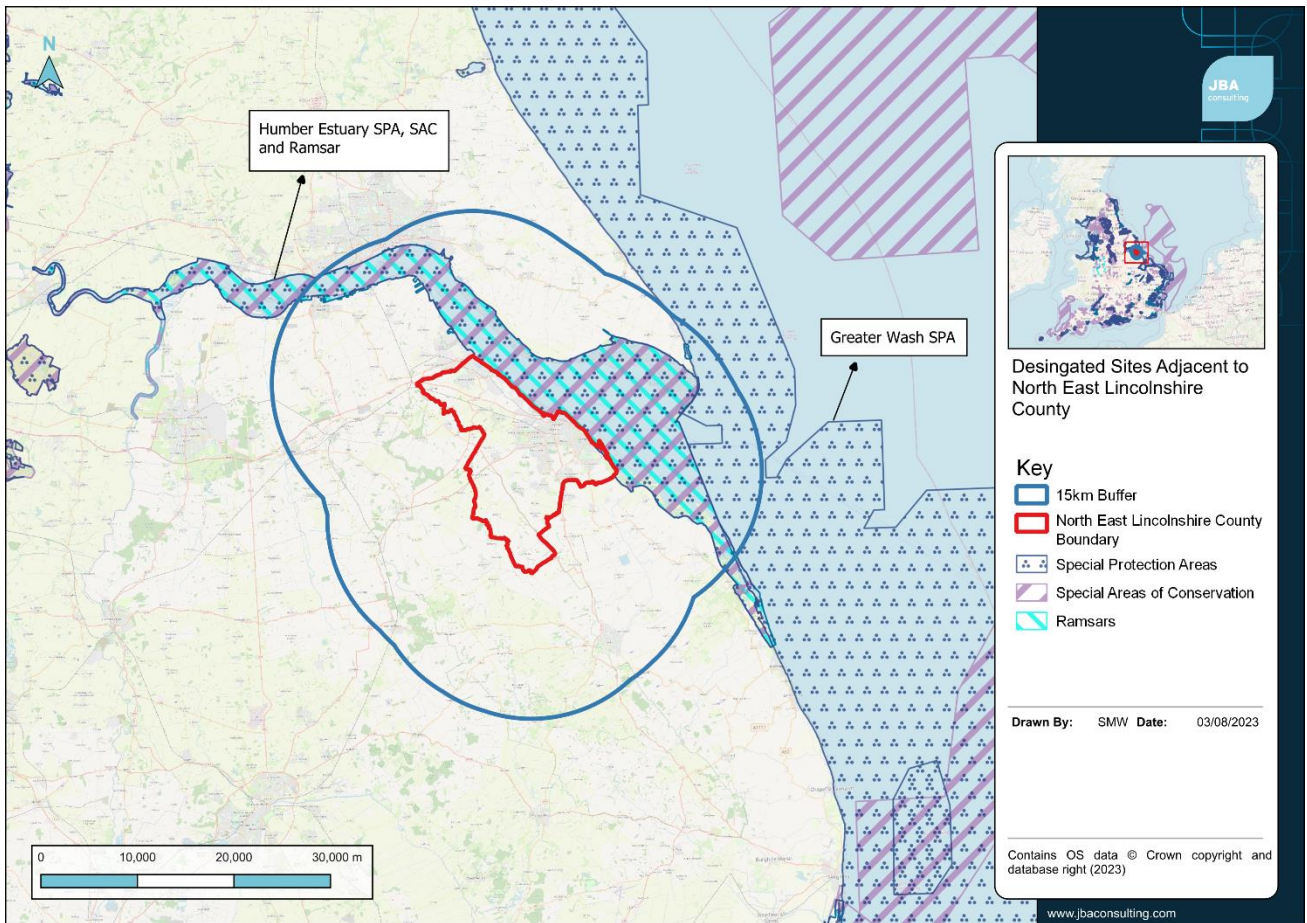


Figure A-1: Relevant European Sites

B Details of European Sites adjacent to the County of North East Lincolnshire

Table B-1: Relevant European Site Details (Information from JNCC and Natural England)

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
Greater Wash SPA (UK9020329)	<i>Gavia stellata</i> ; Red-throated Diver	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	G01 - Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities D03 - Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions C03 - Renewable abiotic energy use H03 - Marine water pollution F02 - Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
	<i>Melanitta nigra</i> ; Common Scoter		
	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> ; Little Gull		
	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich Tern		
	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> ; Common Tern		
	<i>Sternula albifrons</i> ; Little Tern		
Humber Estuary SPA	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Great	Ensure that the integrity of	K01 -

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
(UK9006111)	Bittern	<p>the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	Abiotic (slow) natural processes
	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ; Common Shelduck		I01 - Invasive non-native species
	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ; Avocet		G01 - Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; European Golden Plover		M02 - Changes in biotic conditions
	<i>Calidris canutus</i> ; Knot		M01 - Changes in abiotic conditions
	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ; Dunlin		
	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ; Ruff		
	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ; Black-tailed Godwit		
	<i>Limosa lapponica</i> ; Bar-tailed Godwit		
	<i>Tringa totanus</i> ; Common Redshank		
<i>Branta bernicla</i> Brent Goose			

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
	<i>Numenius arquata</i> Curlew		
	<i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye		
	<i>Tringa nebularia</i> Greenshank		
	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Grey Plover		
	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Lapwing		
	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Mallard		
	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Oystercatcher		
	<i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard		
	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Ringed Plover		
	<i>Calidris alba</i> Sanderling		
	<i>Athya marila</i> Scaup		
	<i>Anas crecca</i> Teal		

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> Turnstone		
	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> Whimbrel		
	<i>Anas penelope</i> Widgeon		
	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Green Sandpiper		
	<i>Anser anser</i> Greylag Goose		
	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> Little Egret		
	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Pink-footed Goose		
	<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler		
	<i>Grus grus</i> Crane <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ; Avocet		
	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little Tern		
	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Great Bittern		

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
	<p><i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian Marsh Harrier</p> <p><i>Circus cyaneus</i> Hen Harrier</p>		
<p>Humber Estuary SAC (UK0030170)</p>	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of 	<p>M01 - Changes in abiotic conditions</p> <p>E02 - Industrial or commercial areas</p> <p>J02 - Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>H02 - Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</p> <p>K01 - Abiotic (slow) natural processes</p>

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> Grey Seal	qualifying species, and - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Humber Estuary Ramsar (UK11031)	<i>Limosa lapponia</i> Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Calidria alpina</i> Dunlin <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Golden Plover <i>Calidris canutus</i> Knot <i>Tringa totanus</i> Redshank <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Shelduck	There are currently no conservation objectives for Ramsar sites. The Humber Estuary SPA and SAC conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.	M01 - Changes in abiotic conditions E02 - Industrial or commercial areas J02 - Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions H02 - Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) K01 -

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
	Waterbird assemblage		Abiotic (slow) natural processes
	<i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit		K01 - Abiotic (slow) natural processes
	<i>Calidris alpina</i> Dunlin		I01 - Invasive non-native species
	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Golden Plover		G01 - Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
	<i>Calidris canutus</i> Knot		M02 - Changes in biotic conditions
	<i>Tringa totanus</i> Redshank Estuary		
	<i>Epidalea calamita</i> Natterjack Toad		
	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey		
	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey		

Species in bold are not listed on the SPA citation but occur at site levels of more than 1% of the national population according to the most recent Humber Estuary Wetland Bird Survey 5-year average count

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