

Green Investment in Greater Lincolnshire

Local Planning Authority Perspective

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

www.northlincs.gov.uk

Our Local Plan Policies say:

..Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for.

All development should:

- ...minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity; and
- seek to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and geodiversity.

The Council [...] will facilitate the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the District's biodiversity and geological interest of the natural environment. This includes seeking to enhance ecological networks and seeking to deliver a net gain on all proposals, where possible.

..create opportunities to retain, protect, restore and enhance features of biodiversity value, including priority habitats and species;

Development proposals should seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity value of land and buildings, and minimise fragmentation and maximise opportunities for connection between natural habitats.

..by ensuring that all development proposals shall provide an overall net gain in biodiversity, by:
[...] maximising the opportunities for restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats and species of principal importance;

But what do we get?

Before:



- Bare Ground
- Ephemeral / Short Perennial
- Grassland – Flower-rich
- Hard Standing
- Scattered Trees
- Scrub – Continuous & Scattered
- Tall Ruderal

- A mosaic of habitats.

After:



- 10-20% of land is building or sealed surface.
- Small gardens with fences and amenity grassland.
- A few trees proposed.
- Bat bricks and nest boxes are described as “Biodiversity enhancements.”

BUT- overall there is a net loss of biodiversity value- unless off-site habitat is created or enhanced.

Before:



- Ephemeral / Short Perennial
 - Rough Grassland
 - Hard Standing
 - Scattered Trees
 - Scrub – Continuous & Scattered
 - Tall Ruderal
 - Wetland
- A mosaic of habitats.

After:



>90% of land is building or sealed surface (Industrial units and car parking)
A few trees proposed.

AGAIN- overall there is a net loss of biodiversity value- unless off-site habitat is created or enhanced.

An improved approach to Biodiversity Net Gain...

Mitigation Hierarchy-

“where possible, biodiversity units should be delivered on site. Those that cannot viably be delivered on site should be delivered locally, according to a local plan or strategy.”

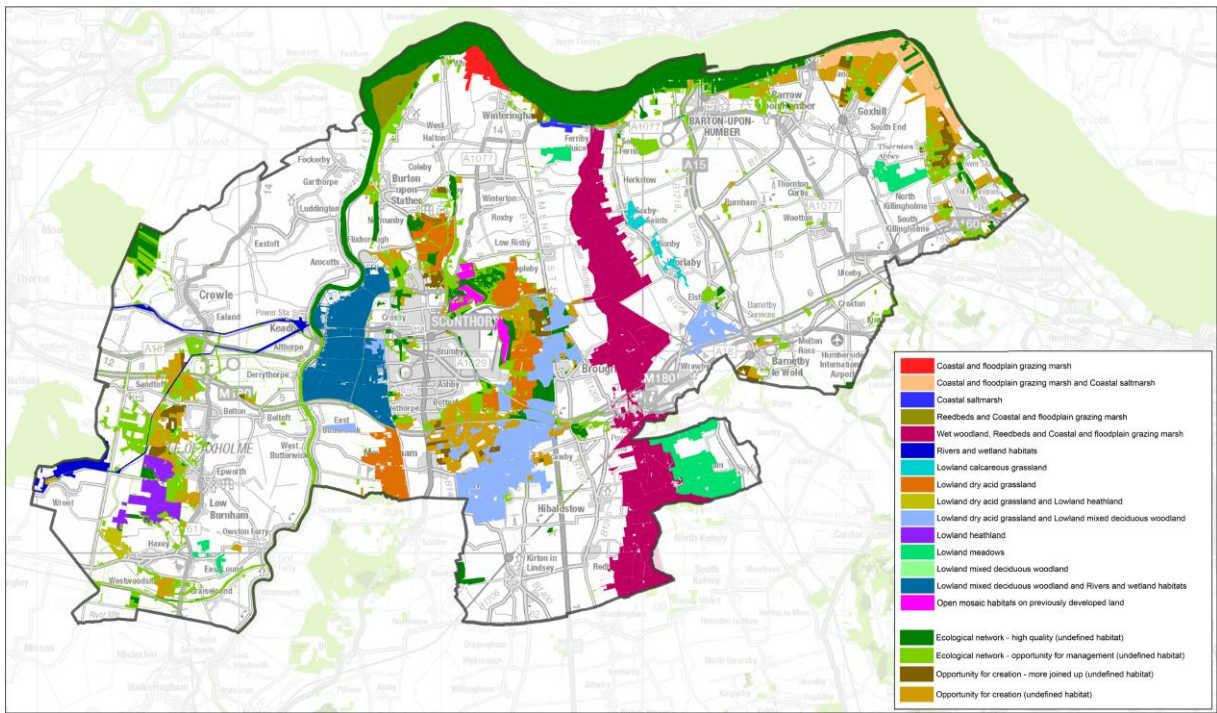
Defra Consultation, 2018

“On the one hand we want more bigger, better, more connected nature-rich places, on the other we want to improve the environments around where people are living,”

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, 2022

BUT – It may not be possible to deliver all biodiversity units on-site, so what do we expect to see in off-site delivery?

North Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping
Habitat opportunities

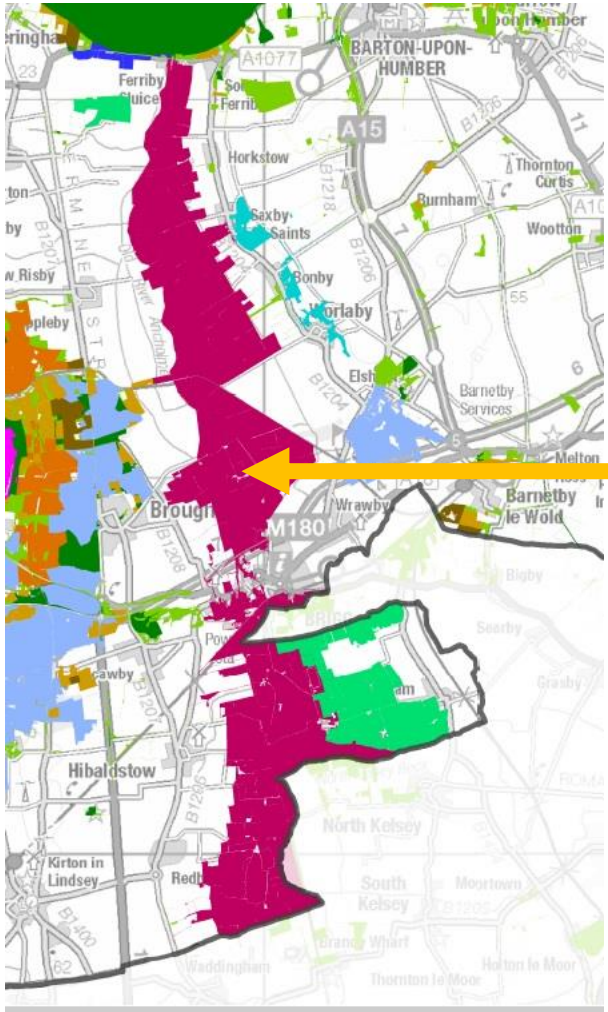


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Map created: 11/06/2019

Created by: CB

..the right habitats in the right place.



Ancholme Valley Living Landscape

Appropriate habitats include:

- floodplain grazing marsh
- wet woodland
- reedbed.

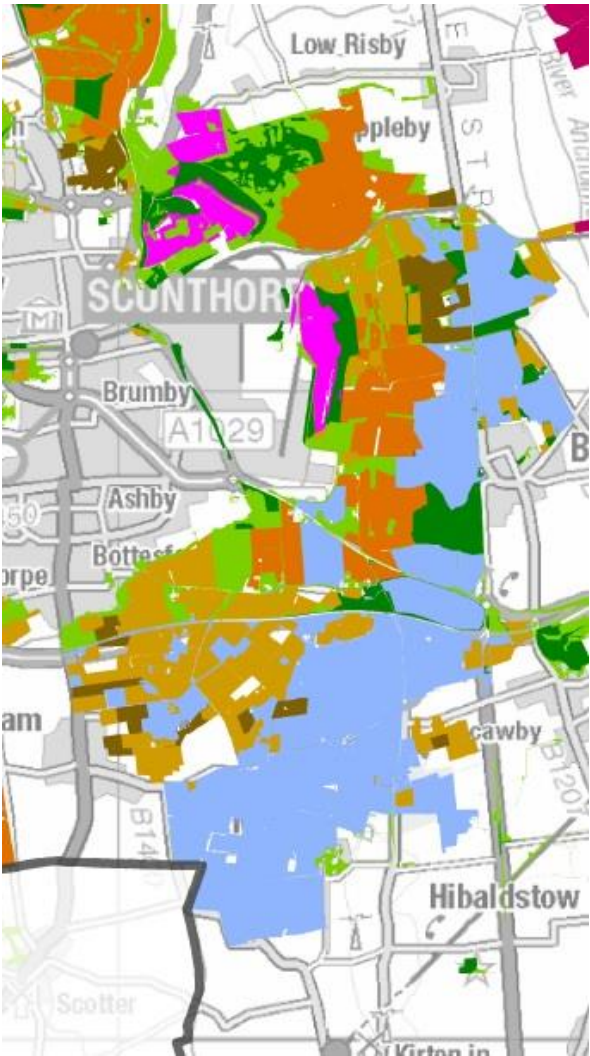
Lawton Principles:

More

Bigger

Better

Joined



Northern Lincs Edge

Appropriate habitats include:

- acid grassland
- open mosaic habitats
- mixed broadleaved woodland

Lawton Principles:

More

Bigger

Better

Joined

Link to District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts



Photos: Natural England

Challenges:



Plate 4.1 – The Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland) pre-clearing (L) and post clearing (R).

Photos: Crow Ecology

1. Avoiding the incentive to trash sites:

The BNG baseline will be the habitat value before clearance

Precautionary principle applies.

Challenges:



2. Replacement habitat must be like-for-like or better.

We need a good portfolio of providers, with a range of geological, soil and hydrological conditions.

Challenges:



3. Finding sites and creating and maintaining habitats for 30 years.

We need a vibrant offsetting market with a good portfolio of providers.

Challenges:



4. Setting the financial value of biodiversity units will be key

- Too low, and it will not be possible to create and maintain habitat for the money available.
- Too high, and developers will be unwilling or unable to pay and necessary development will become unviable.

Challenges:



5. The funding available needs to cover the whole process from site acquisition to habitat creation, long term management, monitoring, reporting, remedial actions & enforcement.